

Diocese of Des Moines
Evangelization &
Catechesis



Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith
Living our Catholic Faith in the World
April 2, 2014 Edition

Chrism Mass is Friday April 11 at 7:00 pm at Saint Ambrose Cathedral:

This is the annual gathering of the diocese! It is a surprisingly joyful celebration near the end of the penitential season of Lent, as together we celebrate our baptismal call to participate in the ministry of Jesus Christ. It's a beautiful celebration of the pastoral and sacramental life of the diocese. If you haven't been to the Chrism Mass, make this year your first!

Bishop Pates presides with the priests of the diocese concelebrating. The oils for the sacraments are blessed and taken to the parishes. The Chrism Mass is perfect for teenage confirmation youth and sponsors, for RCIA catechumens and candidates, for expectant parents whose children will be baptized, for those who struggle with or have overcome serious illness--and for everyone!

This is a wonderful pre-Holy Week activity for families, Confirmation candidates and sponsors, as well as teen ministry.

Attached please find a guide, albeit from a diocese in Ontario Canada, on the Chrism Mass that you can use with your children/teens and parents.

Under the Influence of Jesus – The Transformative Experience of Encountering Christ Recorded Webinar:

Recently I participated in an excellent webinar by Joe Paprocki, Loyola Press, which enthusiastically answers yes to the question if people can be transformed today by Jesus?

The webinar explores some of the major themes found in Joe's new book *Under the Influence of Jesus: The Transforming Experience of Encountering Christ*. Themes such as the kingdom of God, the cross, the Resurrection, sin and conversion. He also provides insights on characteristics that surround a changed heart and a new life by accepting the message that Jesus is Lord and that we are now a new creation.

There are 5 You Tube videos. Below is the link to the web page and then when watching the webinar you will see an icon for playlist and it will show you the other four video. The Webinar is about 1 hour long. This is a great resource to prepare you in advance of Easter and especially Pentecost.

Under the Influence Webinar Link: <http://catechistsjourney.loyolapress.com/webinars-2/>

Resurrection Rolls – Back By Popular Demand:

I have shared with a few colleagues an activity I have done with young children for years and they asked that I provide it this week in Growing Disciples. Resurrection Rolls is a wonderful activity at a parish or a home activity for parents. It is very easy and helps children connect that where once something had shape and substance can disappear right before our own eyes.

Ingredients:

- 1 can refrigerated crescent roll dough
- 8 large marshmallows
- Melted butter
- Cinnamon
- Sugar

Instructions:

- Give each child one triangle shaped section of crescent roll. This represents the tomb.
- Each child takes one marshmallow which represents the body of Christ.
- Dip the marshmallow in the butter and roll in cinnamon and sugar mixture. This represents the oils and spices the body was anointed with upon burial.
- Lay the marshmallow on the dough and carefully wrap it around the marshmallow.
- Make sure all seams are pinched together well. (Otherwise the marshmallow will "ooze" out of the seams)
- Bake according to package directions. Tell the story of Holy Week to the children while baking and cooling.
- Cool

- Break open the tomb and the body of Christ is no longer there!!
- Celebrate God's love!

Questions local teens have about their Catholic faith:

Recently I have been spending a great deal of time visiting with high school students about their faith. Each time I ask them to give me a few questions that they have about being Catholic that doesn't make sense to them. Up through Easter I will share these with you. Perhaps your teens and pre-teens have similar questions? Perhaps by knowing these questions, we can boost formation in younger grades to help answer these questions before they become teens or pre-teens?

1. How do you have a relationship with God? It is hard enough trying to have a conversation with someone you can see and feel.
2. Why does God make human beings in his image? Why doesn't he give the same intelligence to animals?

3. If I love my boyfriend/girlfriend, what is wrong with having sex before marriage? What if I don't want to have a contract dictate my life?
4. Is Natural Family Planning scientific or do mistakes happen often?
5. Why can't women be priests and deacons?

Anima Christi Prayer (referenced by Joe Paprocki in the Webinar):

Anima Christi
Soul of Christ, sanctify me.
Body of Christ, save me.
Blood of Christ, inebriate me.
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
O Good Jesus, hear me.
Within your wounds hide me.
Permit me not to be separated from you.
From the wicked foe, defend me.
At the hour of my death, call me
and bid me come to you
that with your saints I may praise you
For ever and ever.

Amen