

Department of
Evangelization & Catechesis

Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith
Living our Catholic Faith in the World
November 29, 2017 Edition

The Pastoral Exile is Over – Move Back begins November 28:



The renovation of the Pastoral Center is almost complete. The staff of the Pastoral Center and Catholic Charities will begin the move back at the end of business on Tuesday, November 28. Our computer network and phone system will be unavailable beginning Wednesday, November 29 through Friday, December 1. The staff of the Evangelization & Catechesis Department will continue to work throughout these days. To reach Justin or me please contact us on our cell phones or by e-mail:

- John Gaffney – 515-490-7176 – jgaffney@dmdiocese.org
- Justin White – 571-289-7826 – jwhite@dmdiocese.org

Sherri will not be able to be reached by phone or e-mail during the return to the Pastoral Center. Offices should return back to normalcy sometime on Monday, December 4 or Tuesday, December 5 at the latest.

Xt3 Advent Calendar Free Digital Advent Calendar App from the Archdiocese of Sydney:

Known for a number of great apps, including one for Lent, Xt3 has developed an app for Advent! Each day you will see a new feature, including a daily reflection and bible quote, as well as a multimedia item of interest. You will only be able to view the calendar features up to the present date. The first calendar feature will appear on December 3, 2017, the first Sunday of Advent. *Xt3.com and the Xt3 Advent Calendar is an evangelization project of the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney.*

Learn more at this link: <http://www.xt3.com/advent/>

You can find the free app on iTunes and Google Play. This is a great product for parents to use at home with their children.



Speaking of Advent Resources:

There are some other wonderful resources available for your families from our colleagues in the

publishing world:

- **Loyola Press Advent Resources Page** - Featuring content ranging from the history of Advent to family activities to lesson plans for the classroom and family prayers, this page is a great place to find a number of resources all on one page. Link is <https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/advent>
- **USCCB's Advent Resources & Calendar Page** - Great resources ranging from the blessing of an Advent wreath to an Advent calendar featuring Lectio Divina for the Sunday readings as well as various activities throughout Advent structured around the daily theme: Read, Reflect, Pray, and Act. Link is <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/advent/>
- **The Religion Teacher Activities & Resources** - A treasure trove of tried and true activities for catechists ranging from printables, games, worksheets, videos the Jesse Tree and much, much more. Link is <https://www.thereligionteacher.com/advent-activities/>
- **Opening the Word from Formed** - This program offers prayer and insights for the Sunday Readings. Featuring a variety of experienced presenters including Dr. Tim Gray, Jules Miles, Dr. Scott and Annie Powell, Dr. Edward Sri, and Dr. Ben Akers, the videos are designed to facilitate thought and discussion for personal faith formation or in the context of a group meeting. Personal Prayer Journals and a group Leader's Guides are also available to make the most of these Sunday Readings. A subscription is required. Link is <https://formed.org/study/59c57b0c02ccf9c411269e23/lesson/59b1cae92a3902a418a887eb>
- **Youth Ministry Advent Disciple Groups from Y Disciple** - Through an exploration of the mystery of the Incarnation, the Virgin Birth, and the events surrounding the arrival of Jesus, this Advent study offers an opportunity to experience the joy of the true meaning of Christmas. This is a wonderful resource for youth ministry and those preparing for Confirmation. Link is https://formed.org/study/57f7c58958df5dc02171dba7?utm_campaign=Social%20Sharing&utm_source=twitter&userShared=b0f2988779f14429a355ba3acb9dd9c9&utm_medium=57f7c58958df5dc02171dba7

Share the Journey Activities & Reflections for Advent – Spotlight on the Holy Family-Migrant Family – A Journey Through Advent:

During Advent to prepare our hearts for Christ's coming. We pray and reflect individually, with our families and in our faith communities. This year, we celebrate Advent during the *Share the Journey* campaign led by Pope Francis, which calls the Church around the world to reach out to our immigrant and refugee neighbors. As we reflect on how Mary and Joseph welcomed Jesus into the world in a stable, we remember in a special way families who are on the road around the world looking for shelter—especially during the winter months.

Resources include:



- Activities such as a Las Posadas Toolkit and a “Walk with Mary” idea from the Archdiocese of Washington
- Videos
- Prayers in English and Spanish
- Digital Reflections in English and Spanish
- An opportunity for families to purchase *Share the Journey* socks which helps support Catholic Relief Services’ work with immigrants and refugees.

The Link is <https://www.sharejourney.org/resource-library/advent-toolkit/>

National Conference for Catechetical Leadership Partners with Sony Pictures on the movie *The Star*:



A small but brave donkey named Bo yearns for a life beyond his daily grind at the village mill. One day he finds the courage to break free, and finally goes on the adventure of his dreams. On his journey, he teams up with Ruth, a loveable sheep who has lost her flock and Dave, a dove with lofty aspirations. Along with three wisecracking camels and some eccentric stable animals, Bo and his

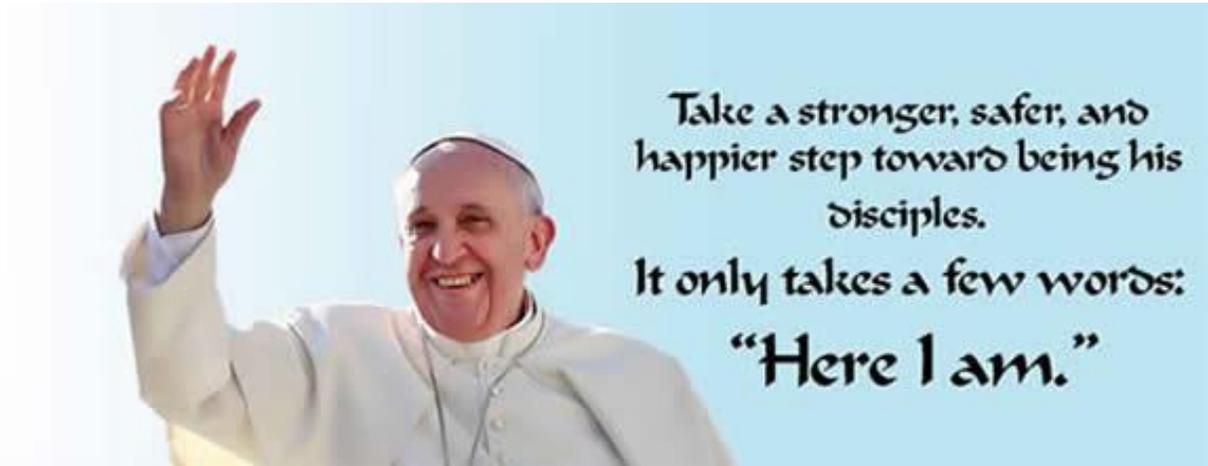
new friends follow the Star and become unlikely heroes in the greatest story ever told – the first Christmas. **The Star will be in theaters beginning November 17, 2017.**

NCCL offers a variety of wonderful Catholic resources inspired by the movie for use in your religious education and Catholic school classrooms as well as for parents working with their children. The link for the resources is http://origin-flash.sonypictures.com/ist/thestar_resources/thestar_nccl_curriculum.pdf.

You will find lessons on:

- The Christmas Story
- Divine Providence
- Friendship
- Prayer
- Las Posadas
- Vocation

Check it out today and you will be very surprised. NCCL is the national professional conference for those who serve the Church in any aspect of lifelong formation in faith. Contact John Gaffney at jgaffney@dmdiocese.org for more information about membership benefits.



Take a stronger, safer, and
happier step toward being his
disciples.

It only takes a few words:

“Here I am.”