

Buzz Report

Office of Spirituality and Formation for Mission & Ministry

December 2021



From the Desk of Sr. Kathy

Dear Friends:

I pray that the Advent season is a time for all of us to grow closer to God as we await his Son's coming. When I think of Advent, three P's come to mind: we **Prepare**, we **Pray** more intensely and we **Praise** God on December 25th each year for loving the world so much that He sent his only Son, Jesus to show us the true meaning of Love.

Advent is about letting God come to us. We do the letting and God does the coming. The entire mystery of our faith is that God is not reluctant to come into an unusual relationship (like Mary and

Joseph's) or to be born in the poverty of a makeshift stable. We are tempted to prepare for Advent by cleaning everything up first – in effect, saving ourselves first. Our opening to Advent is to realize we need saving and to accept the saving love of our God.

Are you aware of what you are experiencing? That is the first Advent question. If we ruminate on that question, then the Isaiah reading will sound so good to our ears. Are we the people “who walk in darkness” or have “thick clouds” over us? Is the way before us full of valleys and hills? Does it seem like we are in a desert? Are there wild beasts out there who are ready to devour us? Have we been guilty of some things we aren't proud of? Have we lost touch with who we really want to be? Has our fidelity become a bit shabby? Then, Isaiah proclaims that our God is ready to come and save us. And none of the things that we see as barriers even matter to God.

Advent is not a passive season. No, we have work to do. However, it is different from what we first think it is. It starts with understanding what our preparation is. If we haven't prepared our hearts to be open to asking for salvation, we'll never shout, beg, plead, “Come, Lord Jesus!” Our work is to become who we are. Advent is a humble season, a season of self-awareness.

Second, we are invited by the Church to pray more intensely. Take an extra 15 minutes to pray in your prayer space at home. The liturgical readings are an excellent way to pray and prepare. Light a candle, just breathe in and out slowly, ask the Holy Spirit to open your mind and heart to hear God's *dabar*, Hebrew for “Word.” Reread the reading, then chew on what word or phrase brings you comfort, what phrase challenges you, and third, what you can carry with you through your day to live out God's word in your life with your family, friends, and co-ministers.

I pray your Advent is blessed and you experience the deep joy and peace of Christmas.

Sr. Kathy Adamski, OSF

Global News

Pope Francis' Apostolic Journey in December

On December 2, the Holy Father embarked on a 5-day Apostolic Journey to Cyprus, Greece, and the island of Lesbos beginning December 2. Pope emeritus Benedict XVI last visited Cyprus in 2010. These visits are efforts by the Holy See aimed at strengthening ties between the Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches. The Pontiff will meet with Catholic leaders as well. As has been the case in the past, Pope Francis met with refugees and immigrants, followed by an ecumenical prayer at the Catholic Church of the Holy Cross in Nicosia, a unique parish church where Mass is celebrated in eight different languages.

See the Pope's full itinerary [here](#).



Vatican Releases Christmas Liturgy Schedule

On December 13, the Vatican published the list of Pope Francis' liturgies for the Christmas season. The schedule begins with what many people refer to as "midnight Mass" although the Mass has not been celebrated at midnight at the Vatican since 2009.

[Click here for the full schedule.](#)



National News

The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church

The document *The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church* was developed and approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and authorized for publication.

Watch a free two-hour [online course](#), presented by Bishop Andrew Cozzens, on the new document! [Click here](#) to access the course.

[The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church.pdf](#)



Local News

Synod On Synodality

WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU! For our participation in the Synod on Synodality, we like to hear from a diverse population which accurately represents the Diocese of Charleston and the state of South Carolina.

Many of you have already attended a Listening Session for the Synod hosted by your home or a neighboring parish. Since October, there have been over 40 Synod Listening Sessions held through the diocese. Please click [here](#) to view the remaining scheduled sessions or ask your pastor regarding scheduling a session at your parish. You do not need to attend a Listening Session in order to participate in the Synod survey and represent your diocese.

IF YOU HAVE NOT YET TAKEN THE SURVEY, CLICK [HERE](#) FOR ENGLISH AND [HERE](#) FOR SPANISH.

After the survey answers have been populated an executive report will be written and posted on the website for the [Office of Spirituality and Formation for Mission](#) in late March. The report will consist of the number of people who completed the survey, their ethnic background and age, as well as major themes that were heard during the Listening Sessions.

As discussed by a global webinar held in November, a major component of the Synod on Synodality is the need for follow-up after the Synod is complete. Knowledge gained from the diocesan survey will be used to identify the needs of our local Church and serve as a resource for our new Bishop.



FOR A SYNODAL CHURCH
COMMUNION | PARTICIPATION | MISSION

Virtual Faith Formation Classes in 2022

The Diocese of Charleston, through the Office of Spirituality and Formation for Ministry, has partnered with the University of Dayton to offer virtual faith formation classes to parish ministry leaders, including Catechists, Youth Ministers, RCIA Team Members, Parish Staff and Volunteers. Classes are available in both **English** and **Spanish**. Please contact Sr. Kathy Adamski, OSF in the Office of Spirituality and Formation for Ministry to apply for tuition assistance.

kadamski@charlestdiocese.org or 843.261.0498.

Registration for Cycle 1 of 2022 runs through January 12 with classes beginning January 17.

[2022 Calendar of Courses](#)

[Yearly Planning Schedule of Courses](#)

[Click here for more information.](#)

Virtual Faith Formation Interest Survey

To assist in the planning of future virtual faith formation partnerships between the Diocese of Charleston and the University of Dayton, please take a moment to take this very brief [survey](#).

Online Faith Formation classes
Clases de formación en la fe en línea

JANUARY 17
17 DE ENERO
2022

English

- Learn on your schedule
- Certificate programs
- Advanced instructors

Español

- Aprenda en su horario
- Programas de certificado
- Profesores de calidad

Catholic Men's Conference - Savannah, Georgia

Registration is now open for this inspirational day you won't want to miss! "Into the Breach: Living an Authentic Male Spirituality" will take place on Saturday, January 29, 2022, at St. James Catholic Church, Savannah, GA from 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. featuring best-selling authors and radio hosts Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers and Jon Leonetti.

Please share with your male relatives, friends, neighbors, and coworkers as all are welcome!

[For registration, additional details, and schedule.](#)

SAVE THE DATE Catholic Men's Conference

Into the Breach: Living an Authentic Male Spirituality



Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers is known as the "Dynamic Deacon". He is a powerful and passionate evangelist and preacher, whose no-nonsense approach to living and proclaiming the Catholic faith will challenge and inspire.

Saturday, January 29, 2022
St. James Catholic Church
Savannah, GA
7:30am – 5:00pm

For registration and conference details, go to our website
<https://www.stjamesav.com/mens-conference/>



Jon Leonetti is a best-selling author and radio host who conveys a message of lasting fulfillment in Jesus Christ. Through Jon's presentations and parish missions, thousands of Catholics each year discover the freedom Christ offers by way of his life and love.

Factoid

CARA to Interview Catholic Families with Faithful Catholic Adult Children

The Father Peyton Family Institute has commissioned the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) to conduct a research study to learn more about Catholic families in the United States who have successfully raised children to be faithful Catholic adults. CARA is an independent social science research center that focuses on Catholicism and the Catholic Church.

If you think your family might be qualified and are interested in participating, please click [here](#). All participants in these groups will receive a financial incentive as a thank you for their time.



Movie of the Month

Little Women (1994 Adaptation)

Ranked #17 on the Rotten Tomatoes list of 65 Best Christmas movies, this 1994 adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's classic, the March sisters confront growing pains, financial shortages, family tragedies and romantic rivalries in mid-19th-century Massachusetts. Jo (Winona Ryder) struggles for independence and sometimes clashes with her beloved mother and her sisters Meg, Amy, and Beth. She also contends with their cranky Aunt March, their impulsive neighbor Laurie (Christian Bale) and kindly linguistics professor Friedrich Bhaer (Gabriel Byrne).

[View the complete list here.](#)

Little Women (1994) Trailer #1 | Movieclips Classic Trailers



Book of the Month

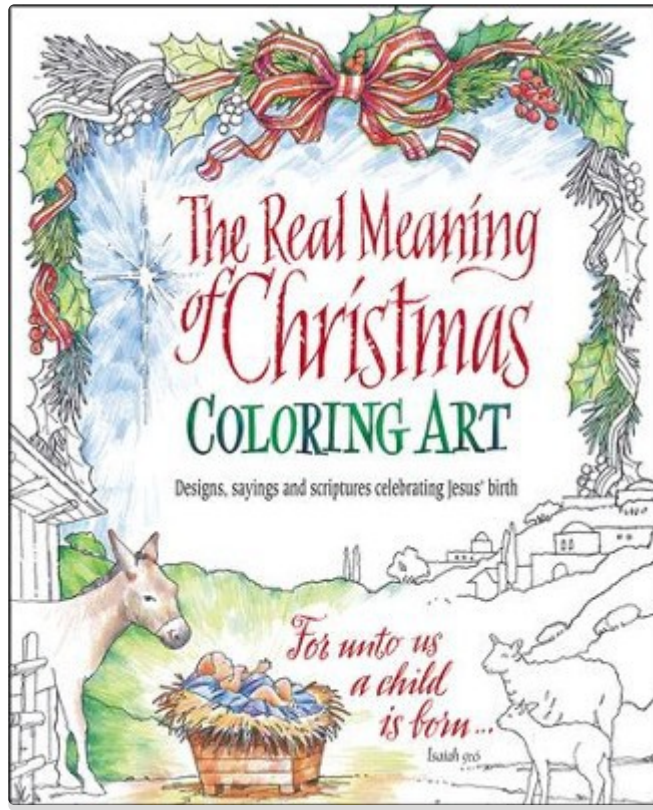
Christmas Coloring Books for Adults

Dr. Scott M. Bea, PsyD, along with the Cleveland Clinic, shares [three reasons](#) why adult coloring books can relax your brain.

1. Attention flows away from ourselves.
2. It relaxes the brain.
3. Low stakes make it pleasurable.

“Adult coloring requires modest attention focused outside of self-awareness,” Dr. Bea says. “It’s a simple activity that takes us outside ourselves in the same way cutting the lawn, knitting or taking a Sunday drive can all be relaxing.”


Shop for them at [Christianbook.com](#).




ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
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