



ECC ENGAGE

ESSEX CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Holy Family St. Lawrence St. Pius X

2020

New Year's Resolutions

Include Prayer!

Prayer, the act of lifting one's mind to God, is an essential part of our lives.

- Commit yourself to increasing your devotion to Mary to increase your faith and trust in Jesus Christ. Say the Rosary!
- Put spiritual reading on your list to make progress in your walk with God.

Recommended Reads:

- *Jesus a Pilgrimage*, James Martin, SJ; a visit to the Holy Land
- *Consoling the Heart of Jesus*, Michael E. Gaitley, MIC; a conversation with Christ
- *By What Authority?*, Mark Shea, a former Evangelical convert to Catholicism
- *Rome Sweet Home*, by Scott and Kimberly Hahn, Catholic convert.

Let's build a **sharing library**! If you have a spiritual reading book you are willing to share with others, please drop it off at your parish office. Thanks!

Did You Know?

There are 24 "Catholic" churches that are all in communion with one another, are all **within** the Catholic Church and all recognize the **primacy of the pope**. The Roman (Latin) Catholic Church is referred to as the Western Church. The other 23 Catholic Churches, referred to as Eastern Churches, e.g., Armenian, Alexandrian and Syrian rites, have their own traditions and forms of liturgy, yet retain the same basic liturgical structures and theology as seen in the West.

Evangelization

SAVE THE DATE!

Light of the World Retreat April 2020

One of our three Synod initiatives is **Evangelization**. Light of the World Evangelization Ministries (LOTWEM) will help us begin the transformation to a truly evangelizing parish. As LOTWEM states:

"Parishes need a strategy for evangelization. We provide a solid foundation for a game-changing evangelization process at your parish. We provide the first two stages of the evangelization process ...then help you build out the other stages."

Mark your calendars for **April 24—27** (Friday evening, all day Saturday & Sunday and Monday evening). It is a commitment, but well-worth the personal and spiritual rewards. The Retreat will stimulate and richly impact ECC's evangelization goals.

Responses from LOTW retreats at local parishes: *thought it was wonderful; would highly recommend it; really, really enjoyed it; lots of faith sharing.*

Building a Vibrant Parish

At two meetings in December members of various ministries met to discuss two of our Action Plan goals: **Hosting a Ministry Fair** at each church and **Enhancing our Sunday Experience**. See page 2 for recommendations on the Sunday Experience. The full minutes of these two meetings can be found on the parish website on the ECC Engage page.

Communication

Keep Informed and keep in touch! The Essex Catholic Community website will help you keep up-to-date on parish events, access ministry schedules and find out about on-going ministry activities and opportunities for becoming more involved in the life of the parish. Let us hear from you about any questions, ideas or suggestions you may have to make our parish a special place to worship and grow our faith.

<https://essexcatholic.vermontcatholic.org>

Listen & Learn

Enhancing the Sunday Experience

Parishioners met in December to discuss ways to make our Saturday/Sunday Mass experience something very fulfilling.

- Enlist a “prayer partner” sharing a prayer request at first greeting
- Have music recognizable and repeatable. Singing is prayer!
- Use the Homily time – or before Mass – to explain a part of the Mass.
- Preach/discuss the sacraments, saints, what is important for people to understand their faith better.
- Focus on a particular theme for a month and accompany with hand-outs, web presence, perhaps after Mass small group discussions.
- Collaborative planning of themes for liturgical seasons coordinating decorations, music, homilies.
- Plan a Welcome Home event for those seeking to renew their faith and help with the changes that have happened in the Mass.

Committee goals are:

- Activate Sacred Liturgy Committee
- Prepare Welcome Brochure
- On-going training for Ministries
- Focus on Youth/Family involvement
- Acquire enhanced listening devices

Can we do it - YES WE CAN!

If you are interested in joining this committee or the Ministry Fair committee, contact us at:

ECC.Engage@ gmail.com



Adult Faith Formation

Celebrating the Saints Series

Tuesday, Jan 21: Dr. Damien Costello on Black Elk; Monday, Jan 27: Monsignor Lavalley on St. Teresa “the little flower”; Monday, Feb 3: Monsignor Routhier on Brother Dutton
7:00 - 8:30 pm Holy Family Parish Hall

The Pivotal Players – Influential Historical Catholic Figures Dates TBD

*If you have seen Bishop Barron’s **The Mass** or **Catholicism** series, this program presents the inspiring stories of famous Catholic scholars, artists and theologians with historical, theological, political and spiritual perspectives.*

(See Bulletin for details on all programs)

Parenting for Faith

We know that as parents and grandparents we are partners with our Youth Faith Formation programs to share our faith with those we love so much. Please share some of the ways that you have helped your children know and love Jesus.

Pope Francis recently reminded us that faith is not about rules and teachings, it is about a relationship—a relationship with God, with our neighbor and with ourselves ([see link https://www.ncronline.org/news/vatican/francis-chronicles/faith-relationship-not-set-rules-pope-says-angelus](https://www.ncronline.org/news/vatican/francis-chronicles/faith-relationship-not-set-rules-pope-says-angelus) for source). Relationships are not something you learn about so much as something you experience. That's why people often say that faith is caught, not taught.

Children's faith depends first of all on what they experience in the home—what they see, hear and feel there. For this reason the Church calls parents the “first witnesses” to faith. What children experience in the home reveals to them what their parents believe about life and our relationship to God, others and the world. Like the old adage says, “actions speak louder than words.”

(Waterloo Catholic Faith Formation Office, Waterloo, IA)

Learn More About Parenting for Faith: <https://waterloocatholics.org/will-our-children-have-faith>

CONTACT US

with your suggestions and ideas for addressing our Synod priorities of Evangelization, Building a Vibrant Parish and Communications at ECC.Engage@gmail.com