



# ECC ENGAGE

*Holy Family      St. Lawrence      St. Pius X*

## Responding to Our Synod Goals to Build a Vibrant Worshipping Community

### While we are home

#### Keeping Sunday Sacred

Although there is currently dispensation from attending Sunday Mass because of Covid-19, there are still many ways we can give ourselves and our families to the Lord on Sunday.

#### [Keep Sunday Sacred](#)

When we are all able to safely return to Mass, we should remember the Mass is the number one way God feeds us each and every week. Not thinking that we "have to go" but rather how fortunate that we can go!

At mass we encounter the true presence of God in the most real way. When we approach the Mass with deep faith or yearning for it, we will be left with a longing and desire for more.

#### Recommended Readings: Racial Justice

"In the face of racism, Catholics must [hunger for justice as we hunger for the Eucharist](#)." (America Magazine, The Editors, ).

- ◆ Massingale, Bryan. *Racial Justice and the Catholic Church*. Orbis Books, 2010.
- ◆ Magee, Rhonda V. *The Inner Work of Racial Justice*. Tarcherperigree, 2019.
- ◆ Whitehead, Colson. *The Nickel Boys*. Penguin Random House, 2019.

**Evangelization** - *"Jesus wants evangelizers who proclaim the good news not only with words, but above all by a life transfigured by God's presence."* -- Pope Francis

#### Tips for Evangelizing:

1. Invite somebody to church. This is especially effective during Advent, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost and Ordinary Time.
2. Participate in a Catholic or ecumenical Bible study or faith sharing group.
3. Make time for others. Be accessible to them.
4. Say grace at meals...with Sign of the Cross wherever you are.
5. Call someone who is lonely.
6. Try spiritual reading or meditation to prepare yourself to be a natural evangelist.
7. Help children learn more about God [Books for Children](#).

#### Building a Vibrant Parish

**Christ Our Hope Campaign** kicks off this month. Pray for guidance in considering how you can support the Campaign that will help us accomplish some of the goals of our Parish Synod Action Plan. Specifically, we are focused on greater engagement with youth; expanded, accessible faith formation for adults; and greater lay participation in ministries among other activities and events. Please know that if you have to choose between the Campaign or Bishop's Appeal and your offertory gifts, the Bishop advises that you focus on your parish needs. Graciously accept calls from parish volunteers who will reach out to explain more about the campaign.

#### Communication

Once again, we remind you to keep Informed and keep in touch! The [Essex Catholic Community website](#) will help you keep up-to-date on spiritual resources during this time away from Church - not away from God! 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.

## Back to School with Jesus

**Keeping it Cool:** It's going to be stressful for everyone getting back to school. It's a time to take Jesus to school. Some kids will do much better than others with all the transitions. It's a time to be alert to intentional or unintentional bullying.

Children should remember that all human life is sacred. Nobody has the right to harm someone else, physically or emotionally. We should respect everyone for who they are as God is their creator. Bullying somebody says that we are not respecting those who God made.

## Seasonal Liturgy

### Not so Ordinary Time

From Christmas to Pentecost the liturgy highlights the central mysteries of the Paschal Mystery: the incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension of Christ, and the descent of the Holy Spirit. *Ordinary Time*, on the other hand, take us through the life of Christ. This is the time of conversion, living the life of Christ.

*Ordinary Time* is a time for growth and maturation, a time in which the mystery of Christ is called to penetrate ever more deeply into history. The goal, toward which all of history is directed, is represented by the final Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ in November just before Advent begins.

### August/September Feast Days

August 10	St. Lawrence
August 15	Feast of the Assumption
August 21	St. Pius X
August 27	St. Monica
August 28	St. Augustine
Sept 5	St. Teresa of Calcutta
Sept 8	Our Lady's Birthday
Sept 14	Exaltation of the Cross
Sept 21	St. Matthew the Evangelist
Sept 27	St. Vincent de Paul

# Listen & Learn

## Adult Faith Formation: Small Prayer Groups

Our Religious Education coordinators, John McMahon and Emma Goff, lead a small scripture group focused on each week's Gospel. Participants are not theologians, not experts on scripture, but parishioners who want to learn a bit more about their faith and share thoughts with other Catholics. It is stimulating, prayerful and engaging. Would you like to organize or join such a group? You can meet weekly, monthly or whatever meets the groups' needs. There are resources available to create lively and inspiring discussions. Just email [ecc.engage@gmail.com](mailto:ecc.engage@gmail.com) to start planning a group now!

*"I find this scripture [group] so helpful in exploring and growing in my Faith with a group of accepting, caring people. It is a blessing and a joy." Judy*

*"It feels good to better understand the Bible passages, to learn from each other and to come to know our fellow parishioners." Sue and Frank*

## Q & A About Our Faith

### Q: How Do Faith and Reason Work Together

**A:** God created us with an intellect for us to understand the truth. Sometimes it is hard to understand what we cannot see and our faith enables us to believe what Christ has told us. Faith and reason work together to understand the mysteries of our faith. St. Augustine said: "I believe in order to understand and I understand in order to believe."

### Q: Why is the Rosary considered one of the best prayers?

**A:** Our Lady of Fatima ended her initial message with the direction, "Pray the Rosary every day, in order to obtain peace for the world, and the end of the war." Fatima's Sister Lucia describes how she believes that after the Holy Mass, praying the Rosary — taking into account its origin, the prayers in it, and the mysteries of the Redemption we recall and meditate on for each decade — "is the most pleasing prayer we can offer to God and one which is most advantageous to our own souls. If such were not the case, Our Lady would not have asked for it so insistently." (*excerpted from National Catholic Register, November 19, 2017*)

**CONTACT US at [ECC.Engage@gmail.com](mailto:ECC.Engage@gmail.com)**

with your suggestions for addressing the priorities of the  
Synod: Evangelization, Building a Vibrant Parish and  
Communications