



# DIOCESE OF WINONA-ROCHESTER

## YOUTH MINISTRY AND FAITH FORMATION MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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### QUICK LINKS:

NOVEMBER 2021



### MARRIED COUPLES RETREAT

Are you and your spouse looking for a way to strengthen your marriage?

Join us on the Merciful Love Married Couples Retreat on Feb. 18-19, 2022 in Lanesboro, MN. Cost is \$75 per couple (lodging not included, each couple will book their own lodging).

The retreat begins at 6pm Friday and ends 8pm on Saturday with meals included. Talks are based on the importance of Divine Mercy in Marriage. For more info, click [HERE](#) and feel free to invite others to attend!



### NET CONFIRMATION RETREATS

NET (National Evangelization Team) is offering multiple Confirmation Retreats at the NET Center in West St. Paul:

- Nov. 13-14
- Dec. 11-12 (8th grade only)
- Jan. 22-23
- Feb. 12-13
- Mar. 12-13
- Mar. 26-27

For more information or to schedule a retreat, visit [netusa.org](http://netusa.org).



### DISCIPLESHIP QUAD INFO MTG.

If you are interested in growing in your faith with three others in 2022, come hear Discipleship Quads at St. James Coffee Dec. 7th at 7:30pm in Rochester. We can empower you to invite three people to start a quad study in January or you could possibly get matched with people there!

Contact Susan Windley-Daoust at [swindley@dowr.org](mailto:swindley@dowr.org) for more information.

# THE NECESSITY OF RETREAT



As church employees or volunteers, we are used to planning retreats and encouraging others to go on retreat, but we aren't always great about making time for ourselves to retreat.

Just as we won't find time to pray unless we make time to pray, we won't find time to retreat unless we make time to retreat. The Lord is inviting you to "come away with Him," whether that's physically going somewhere to be away from the hustle and bustle of the day or simply making time throughout your week to retreat. Perhaps there is a retreat or retreat-like experience listed in this issue that will perk your interest. That may be the Holy Spirit inviting you to consider registering (wink, wink).

If you are an introvert like me, there are many silent retreats available at various retreat centers nearby. Two in particular that stick out to me are Pacem et Terris in Isanti, MN (click [HERE](#)) and Broom Tree in Irene, SD (click [HERE](#)). Our next FIRE Meeting will be a day retreat (see below) to offer you a quicker option to retreat during Advent.

Your parish should allow some paid time for you to be on retreat, so I encourage you to check with your pastor to make this a priority. We cannot give what we do not have! Jesus is waiting to lavish many gifts and blessings upon you, so don't make Him wait too long...

## THE PRAYING FAMILY

As Mother Teresa famously said, "The family who prays together stays together." The Office of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry and the Office of Life, Marriage, and Family are piloting a family prayer initiative inviting 3-5 parishes to partner with us. Partnership includes a "starter kit" during the Lenten season for families to pray at home together and ways to follow up with your families who are using the kit. It will also include connection points to the Sunday Mass, as the foundation of family ministry is Mass and prayer. If your parish would like to be a part of this pilot program, please contact Dana at [dpetricka@dowr.org](mailto:dpetricka@dowr.org). There is also a new resource for the family praying together during Advent called [Project Nazareth](#) from the Archdiocese of Boston. Please share these free resources with your families in English [HERE](#) or in Spanish [HERE](#).



## FROM CHRISTENDOM TO APOSTOLIC MISSION FIRE RETREAT

Join us at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Owatonna, MN for our FIRE Retreat "From Christendom to Apostolic Mission" based on [the book by Msgr. James Shea](#) from the University of Mary in Bismarck, ND. This retreat will reflect on the world is at today regarding the transmission of faith and will build us up as evangelists in this ever-changing world. As a gift to you, the first 25 registrants will receive "Rejoice!" by Fr. Mark Toups, which is an Advent reflection journal on finding your place in the Advent story. If you register before Nov. 11 or 12, I will deliver your journal to you at the Sexual Identity Training if you are attending. Otherwise, I will mail or deliver it before Advent. This journal is a companion to guided meditations which can be found at [rejoiceprogram.com](http://rejoiceprogram.com).

Register for the FIRE Retreat [HERE](#).

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