



‘Encounter Emmanuel’

Letter from the Director of Discipleship & Evangelization

Advent. It is an exciting, yet very busy time of year. Four weeks filled with preparing for the Christmas Season by putting up our Christmas decor, baking goodies, shopping for gifts to put under the tree along with ringing in the New Year. But as Christians, it is also a time to pause. To sit in silence and wonder again as a child. This Advent & Christmas Seasons, we hope your hearts and home are filled with the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love that only Christ can gift. To help you encounter these gifts in a personal way, we invite you to journey with us through the book called ‘Encountering Emmanuel’ by Heather Khym. This book provides short daily meditations, reflection questions and a prayer to help you open your heart more fully. It can be read in the comfort of your own home or as a small study group. More information on this opportunity can be found inside of this newsletter.

Another way we hope to help you prepare for Christmas this Advent is through our next pastorate ‘Encounter’ event. The event will be held Wednesday, December 4th at Holy Name of Jesus in Watertown starting at 6:30pm. Presenters, Ryan and Jen VanLaecken will share their personal testimony on how they continue to encounter Christ through giving their yes. This event will also include an hour of Adoration with beautiful praise and worship music by Eric Gallagher from Sioux Falls. We really hope you will join us for this special evening. For parents attending the event, there will also be activities for your K-6th grade students. 7th-12th grade students are welcome to attend the event with you or help with the K-6th activities. We pray that you will mark your calendars and plan to attend with your family. Our January event is scheduled for Wednesday the 8th. Please watch weekly bulletins, the website and Facebook for more information on this event.

As we enter into what is a joyful time of year for most of us, may we also not forget those in our pastorate that may be struggling with the loss of a loved one, sickness, or difficult upcoming changes. May we all take some extra time this Advent & Christmas Season to increase our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving for those we are blessed to call our family.

Missy Baumberger, Pastorate Director of Discipleship & Evangelization

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Youth Formation

SCHEDULE

Dec. 4th- Encounter
Advent Retreat Night
at Holy Name of Jesus



Dec 7th- Advent Service Project w/
Brothers & Sisters Behind Bars at
Holy Rosary Auditorium

Dec. 8th/11th- 8th Week of
K-10th Faith Formation

Dec. 15th- Communal Penance
Service at Holy Name of Jesus

Dec. 15th/18th- 9th Week of
K-10th Faith Formation

Dec. 22nd to Jan. 1st-
NO CLASS Christmas Break

**NOTE: St. Henry students to begin
classes on Wed. evenings.**

Jan 4th- Ave Maria Youth Group Ski
Trip in Sioux Falls

Jan 6th- Service Project
Opportunity, Watertown Banquet
with the KOC

Jan. 8th- Encounter
Event at Immaculate
Conception



Jan. 12th/15th- 10th Week of
K-10th Faith Formation

Jan. 19th/22nd- 11th Week of
K-10th Faith Formation

Jan. 26th/29th- 12th Week of
K-10th Faith Formation

Jan. 29th- Letters due
to Bishop DeGrood for
Confirmation (Wtn.)



Feb 8th- Valentine's Dinner
Encounter Event (No youth
activities this month)

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) Update

To prepare for the season of Advent, the CGS children are working with maps of the land of Israel, learning the names and locations of Nazareth, Bethlehem, and Jerusalem. This time of year, we also focus on the infancy narratives: the annunciation, the visitation, the nativity and adoration of the shepherds, the adoration of the Magi, and the presentation in the temple.



Ave Maria Youth Ministry

Advent Service Project

December 7th at Holy Rosary Auditorium
Hear testimony from Stacy Hendricks, the founder of Brothers & Sisters Behind Bars while making Christmas goodies for those the ministry serves. Open to 9th-12th graders.



Daily Mass at 8:30am
Rosary at 9:00am
Breakfast & Social at 9:30am
Testimony & Service at 10:00am

Advent Family

Activity: Jesse Tree

Jesse Tree is a way of preparing for Advent by journeying through the stories on Jesus's family tree. Each day of Advent, read a Bible story about someone on Jesus's family tree and hang an ornament symbolizing the story on your Jesse Tree. As you decorate your tree, you'll see how God prepared for Jesus to be born through many generations (Faithward).

Scan the QR code for
resources to begin your
own Jesse Tree.



Ave Maria Youth Group

Ski Trip & Cathedral Tour

January 4th in Sioux Falls

This trip is open to high school students in Ave Maria Pastorate. The students will be traveling to Sioux Falls to tour the Cathedral then heading to Great Bear Ski Resort to ski and connect with other youth in our pastorate. Please email gtschakert@avemariapastorate.org to be notified when more details are available.



Second Grade Sacraments

Dates to Remember

Holy Name of Jesus

First Reconciliation Retreat, Dec. 11th
First Reconciliation, Jan. 22nd
First Communion, April 27th at 10:30am

Immaculate Conception

First Reconciliation Retreat, Dec. 18th
First Reconciliation, Jan. 29th
First Communion, Apr. 27th at 2:00pm

Blessed Sacrament

First Communion, May 4th at 8:30am

Holy Rosary

First Reconciliation, Feb. 22nd at 10:00am
First Communion, May 3rd at 5:30pm

St. Henry

To Be Determined

St. Mary

To Be Determined

St. Michael

First Communion, April 27th



Confirmation

Reminders

- Dec. 18th Wtn Confirmation Names/Saint Form is due
- Jan. 22nd Wtn Confirmation class will meet **w/ sponsors** at HNJ Parish Center Gym
- Jan. 29th Letters due to Bishop DeGrood for Wtn Confirmation students
- Confirmation rehearsal will be March 26th at 6:30pm at IC Church
- Confirmation is scheduled for March 30th at 1:30pm at IC Church

Confirmation Retreat

February 22nd, 2024

Save the Date for the Ave Maria Confirmation Retreat held at Immaculate Conception Church. Sponsors will be required to attend. More details to come.

Adult Formation

Prayer Opportunities

Adoration

3:00-4:00pm Holy Hour with
Father Christopher Hughes:

Dec 1st Holy Rosary, Kranzburg
Dec 8th Immaculate Conception, Watertown
Dec 29th Holy Rosary, Kranzburg
Jan 5th Holy Rosary, Kranzburg
Jan 12th Holy Rosary, Kranzburg
Jan 19th Holy Rosary, Kranzburg
Jan 26th Immaculate Conception, Watertown

Adoration every Wednesday 7:30am until
6:50am Thursday Immaculate Conception
(If you would like to be notified of changes, please
contact icoffice@avemariapastorate.org to be added
to the Flocknote group.)

Rosary

Rosary Prayer Group meets every Monday at
9am in the Immaculate Conception Chapel.
Rosary prayed following daily Mass on the
first Wednesday of each month at St. Michael,
Clark.

Confession

Communal Penance is scheduled for 2:00pm
on December 15th at Holy Name of Jesus
Parish in Watertown. See the bulletin or
website for additional opportunities.



Highlight: Advent Resource

Encounter Emmanuel this advent through daily reflection, art and meditation. 'Encountering Emmanuel' by Author Heather Khym, co-host of the Abiding Together podcast, book study is perfect for individual or group use. Suggested donation for the book is \$10. To request a book or inquire about a small group opportunity call 605. 878.2055 or email mbaumberger@avemariapastorate.org.

Encounter Nights

December Encounter: 'Encountering Emmanuel' Advent Retreat

On December 4th at 6:30pm, we will welcome Ryan and Jen VanLaecken as our featured speakers. We invite you to join us to hear how God is using their 'yes' to encounter Him at a deeper level. We will also welcome Suscipe Worship, an apostolate out of Sioux Falls, that will lead us in a time of praise and worship to prepare our hearts for the season of Advent. The event will be held at Holy Name of Jesus. Youth will meet at the Holy Name of Jesus Parish Center for activities.

January Encounter:

January 8th, more details to come!

February Encounter: Pastorate Valentine's Dinner

Saturday, February 8th. No activities for the youth. More details to come.

'He Is Stable'- Grief Event

Dec 10th at 6:30pm, Immaculate Conception

This event is an evening of prayer and encouragement for those who are experiencing grief due to the loss of a loved one. The evening will include presentations about finding the light of Christ in the midst of grief. Warm your heart and soul with a candlelit ceremony, cookies, cider and the anticipation of Christmas. Registration is required. www.thelourdescenter.com



Women's Discipleship

Women's Group Opportunities:

- **SHE Shall Be Called Women** study meets Wed., 8:45-10am in the IC Parish Hall. The study will end in the middle of December and restart in January. If you would like to be added to the Flocknote for notifications, please email gtschakert@avemariapastorate.org.
- Tuesday at 4:30pm in the Holy Name Jesus Angelus Center.

Couple's Formation

Young Couples Group

This group meets every other week and is aimed at young married couples. Childcare is available, however we ask that you provide a small stipend in exchange. To learn more & to register, please contact Shelby at (605) 237-9691.

Couple's Retreat at Broom Tree- March 7-9th, to learn more, visit <https://www.broom-tree.org/retreats/scheduled-retreats>

Men's Discipleship

That Man is You! Men's Group

The men's group meets every Thursday at 6:30am in the Immaculate Conception Church Hall. Last scheduled Fall session is December 4th. Spring session will begin Feb 6th.

Young Men's Group

Are you searching for deeper purpose, brotherhood and a stronger faith? Join us as a group of young Catholic men, 18-29, striving to live out our faith more fully. Weekly meetings begin Monday, Dec 2nd at 7:00pm in the IC Parish Center. Contact Ryan Hanten at (605) 881-0683 with questions.

Christmas Mass Times



Holy Name of Jesus, Watertown

Christmas Eve- 4:30pm, 7:30pm
Christmas Day- 8:30am

Blessed Sacrament, Florence

Christmas Eve- 6:00pm

St. Henry, Henry

Christmas Eve- 6:00pm

St Michael, Clark

Christmas Day- 9:00am

Immaculate Conception, Watertown

Christmas Eve- 4:00pm*, 6:00pm
Christmas Day- 9:00am

Holy Rosary, Kranzburg

Christmas Eve- 4:00pm
Christmas Day- 9:00am

St. Mary, Bryant

Christmas Eve- 4:00pm



*Children's Choir

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