

ON EAGLE'S WINGS

APCL Newsletter December/January



APCL

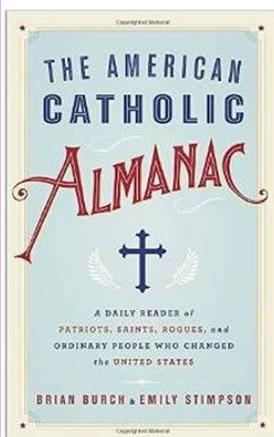
Association for
Parish Catechetical Leaders



Membership: APCL is a membership of 71, strong and growing. Have you registered yet? To do so, visit: <http://www.apclindy.org/register-now>

Looking for an event? What to invite others to your event? In our efforts to help one another find and share events, we have created a page on our website to share what is available within our Archdiocese. Visit our new page at <http://www.apclindy.org/events-1> to see what's available or to complete a form to post your event.

Resource Highlight: *The American Catholic Almanac*



Check out this new book by Emily Stimpson and Brian Burch!

What do Buffalo Bill, John F. Kennedy, Vince Lombardi, Dorothy Day, Fulton Sheen, and Andy Warhol have in common?

They're all Catholics who have shaped America.

In this page-a-day history, 365 inspiring stories celebrate the historic contributions of American men and women shaped by their Catholic faith. From famous figures to lesser-known saints and sinners, *The American Catholic Almanac* tells the fascinating, funny, uplifting, and unlikely tales of Catholics' influence on American history, culture, and politics. Spanning the scope of the Revolutionary War to Notre Dame football, this unique collection of stories highlights the transformative role of the Catholic Church in American public life over the last 400 years.

Did you know? January 22 is the National Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. Visit the USCCB website Prayer & Worship page for resources.

Our Mission:

United in Jesus Christ and in the Catholic Traditions, we are catechetical leaders who support, challenge and enrich one another and collaborate to further effective faith formation in the local and global church.

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The Year of Mercy has Begun!

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the Vatican have webpages with resources for the Year of Mercy, for example: a hymn, parables of mercy, plenary indulgences, & pilgrimage information. Visit:

<http://www.archindy.org/holyyearofmercy/> and

<http://www.im.va/content/gdm/en.html>



Epiphany Home Blessing

On Epiphany, many families celebrate by blessing their home. They gather to ask God's blessing on their home and on those who live there or visit it. It is also an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest! A traditional way of doing this is to use chalk to write above the home's entrance, **20 + C + M + B + 16**. The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The + signs represent the cross, and 2016 is the year. See <http://w.carmelites.net/news/chalking-door-epiphany-house-blessing-2015/> for further instructions and corresponding prayers.



Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/APCLCouncil>

Winter Prayer

Lord,
 In the midst of Winter, when the days are cold
 and wind can pierce
 ...remind us of the warmth of your love.
 In the midst of Winter, when days are short,
 dawn comes late, and dusk arrives early
 ...remind us that in the darkness your light still
 shines.
 In the midst of Winter, when the flowers of
 spring still lie hidden in the earth, when leaves
 are off the trees, and the world can seem bleak
 ...remind us that Easter is but a short time
 away.
 And when in our lives we feel as if we are expe-
 riencing a season of winter, reach out to us with
 the power of your resurrection so that we may
 feel the warmth of your love and see
 your light that alone can take away
 the darkness of our soul.
 Amen.



The resource pictured above is posted at: <http://www.ottawacspa.ca/school-councils/resources/resources-prayers.html> Various prayers are available.

Upcoming Sainly Celebrations

December 3 St. Francis Xavier
 December 4 St. John of Damascus
 December 7 St. Ambrose
 December 8 Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary
 December 9 St. Juan Diego
 December 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe
 December 13 St. Lucy
 December 14 St. John of the Cross
 December 21 St. Peter Canisius
 December 25 Nativity of the Lord - Merry Christmas!
 December 26 St. Stephen
 December 27 Feast of the Holy Family
 December 28 Feast of the Holy Innocents
 December 29 St. Thomas Becket
 December 31 St. Sylvester
 January 1 Mary, the Mother of God
 January 2. Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen
 January 3 Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord
 January 4 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
 January 5 St. John Neumann
 January 6 St. Andre Bessette
 January 7 St. Raymond Penyafort
 January 10 Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
 January 13 St. Hilary
 January 20 Saints Fabian & Sebastian
 January 21 St. Agnes
 January 23 St. Vincent
 January 25 Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul
 January 26 Saints Timothy & Titus
 January 27 St. Angela Merici
 January 28 St. Thomas Aquinas

Come join us at Winter Retreat—February 1-2 at Spring Mill State Park with Dr. John Wood & Simply RC



Sunday, January 31 – Arrival at Spring Mill Inn with Check-in at 4:00PM. (Meals will be on your own.) Spend time with other Catechetical Leaders or simply “be” for a quiet evening of relaxation.

Monday, February 1 – Awaken and enjoy a delicious breakfast buffet provided by Spring Mill Inn before travelling to nearby St. Mary’s in Lawrence County (transportation is provided). Once at St. Mary’s, *Dynamic Catholic* speaker Dr. John Wood will enlighten and engage us in conversation, with music provided by Simply RC. The day will include time for quiet prayer and a group activity. You will enjoy an evening back at Spring Mill Inn, with options to gather together for a social and hospitality in the Elm Room, to appreciate the other amenities offered at the Inn, or enjoy the grounds.

Tuesday, February 2 – Check out of the Inn and travel back to St. Mary’s for breakfast and a morning of prayer, including Adoration and Benediction. The retreat will conclude by noon.

Cost: \$150 for double occupancy or \$175 for single occupancy.

Register Online by January 16 at: <http://www.apclindy.org/springmill> & send in payment (directions are on the website).

The resource pictured below can be found online and printed and shared with permission. She uploads a new calendar each month. Visit her blog here: <http://www.reallifeathome.com/>

10 January Activities for Catholic Families

Many January saints taught others, such as Sts. John Bosco, Elizabeth Ann Seton, Angela Merici, and Thomas Aquinas. In their honor, learn a Bible verse, prayer, or activity to teach others about your faith.

Go star gazing to celebrate Epiphany. Have the children to find the brightest stars in the sky. Discuss how the wise men might have felt while they were traveling to meet the new King, Jesus.

To celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord (Sunday after Epiphany), share pictures and keepsakes of your children’s baptisms with them. Tell them about the events and emotions of that day.

Make a beautiful, decorative sign or piece of art work with Jesus’ name on it to honor the **Most Holy Name of Jesus** (January 3rd).

Attend Mass on the **solemnity of Mary, Mother of God** (Jan. 1st) - It’s a Holy Day of Obligation!
 Coloring Page for the Day:
www.catholicprintablesonline.com/mary-and-baby-jesus-coloring-page/

Try to learn to juggle like St. John Bosco (Jan. 31st) did to entertain people.



Make or buy a King Cake to mark Epiphany. If your kids are old enough for it to be safe, hide a coin, bean, or baby Jesus figure inside. The one who finds it can wear a crown that you buy or make.

Celebrate New Year’s Day (or Eve) with your family. Make it a memorable day with fun, treats (maybe even sparkling juice), and family togetherness.

Do an **Epiphany Home Blessings** by writing 20+C+B+M+14 above your front door in chalk. You can search for more details or use those shared here:
<http://lovedfamily.blogspot.com/2012/01/feast-of-epiphany.html>