

# HORIZON

*'From the rising of the sun to its setting let the name of the Lord be praised' Psalm 113:3*

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## **Easter**

“The Lord has indeed risen” (Luke 24:34). “The joy of the resurrection renews the whole world”. The truth of these words will soon be heard in the Liturgy celebration of Easter. How will His resurrection renew each of us this Easter season? The truth and the power of the resurrection touch and change our lives. We are called to be open to the power of Jesus’ resurrection so that He can continue the work of renewing the whole world.

In this Year of St. Paul, we learn much from St. Paul’s exposition of Jesus’ death and resurrection. He tells us that “if Christ has not been raised from the dead, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain” (1 Corinthians 15:14). The truth of the Gospel, preaching, and lived experience of our faith rests in Christ being raised from the dead, our hope for resurrection to follow. Some of us struggle in the Christian life, wondering if the suffering in the world and being Christian is worth it. This hope for resurrection after our suffering comes from the power and grace of the sacrament of Baptism. As St. Paul writes: “We were buried therefore with Christ by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4). Through the sacrament of Baptism, we have the power and the grace to live the Christian life. It is this grace from our Baptism that helps us to walk by faith, not by sight, to walk in the newness of light, not darkness, that is, to overcome sin, darkness, anger, violence, greed, etc. so as to be the hope of resurrection to others. It is by the witness of our joy, love, trust, faith that we help others to be drawn into the power and glory of the resurrection.

## ***What Have You Done with Your Baptism?***

Many will be baptized or be received fully into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. The rest of us will renew our Baptismal Promises calling to mind again the great gift given to us to be called children of God, to be followers of Jesus Christ, and to proclaim the Good News. We might ask ourselves, “What have we done with the call and gifts of the Holy Spirit given to us through Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist (the Sacraments of Initiation). This might be an opportunity for Small Community faith-sharing groups or to those who have been recently baptized to share some of these questions:

- How old were you when you were baptized? Do you know your Baptismal date? Who baptized you?
- In what church, city/town, state, and or country were you baptized?
- What are three things you know or remember about your Baptism? Or what are three things that you were told by your parents, Godparents, relatives, and/or friends who were there when you were baptized?
- Describe any keepsakes of your Baptism that you still have today (i.e. Baptismal certificate, photos, gown, stole, candle, crosses, books, special gifts)? What do these keepsakes mean for you today?
- What have you done with your Baptism? How has the meaning of your Baptism changed over the years? How have you experienced Baptism as a call to evangelize?
- How are you different because you are a baptized Catholic?

# Why Catholic?



You are strongly encouraged to attend the **Faith Formation Workshop: Gospel Values for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century** which will be held throughout the Diocese from April 20-26. The workshop will focus on Biblical Justice, Catholic Social Teachings, Charity and Justice and will give some practical applications of how we as Catholics can bring these Gospel Values into the world. **Anyone** and **Everyone** especially those in your Small Community faith-sharing groups is invited to attend the workshop.

A few reminders:

- **Number of Groups and Participants in your Small Community Faith-Sharing groups** (if you have not submitted them).
- **WC Year III Books** to be returned to my office by **Wednesday, April 1**. (Make sure you have enough books for the Fall session. I will only keep 10 books in my Office).
- **Registration** for the Workshop will be **Friday, April 3**.

## Faith Formation Workshop

<u>City</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Day and Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Massena	Trinity Catholic School	Monday – 4/20/09	7 - 9pm
Lake Placid	St. Agnes School	Tuesday – 4/21/09	7 - 9pm
Plattsburgh	St. Peter's Emmaus Hall	Wednesday – 4/22/09	1:30 - 3:30pm; 7 - 9pm
Malone	Holy Family School	Thursday – 4/23/09	7 - 9pm
Watertown	IHC-Intermediate	Saturday – 4/25/09	10am – 12 noon
Lowville	St. Peter's Church Hall	Sunday – 4/26/09	1pm-3pm



## Year of St. Paul

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has published **Celebrations of the Word in the Year of St. Paul: Meditations of Pope Benedict XVI**. Each chapter is arranged as a celebration of the Word of God; each reading from St. Paul is followed by a spiritual comment of the Holy Father taken from his homilies, addresses, and audiences, and from the statements on which Pope Benedict XVI had meditated on the writings of St. Paul. The themes include: *On the Way to Damascus, The Work of Grace, Christ at the Center of Our Life, The Mystery of the Cross, Adoption as Children, Freedom and Responsibility, Christ in Us, In the Attitude of Jesus Christ, The Experience of Faith, Saved in Hope, Love, the Heart of the Church, Proclaiming the Gospel*. The booklet can be purchased from the USCCB for \$7.95.

## Eucharistic Procession



**Please mark your calendars!** On the Feast of Corpus Christi, Sunday, June 14, St. Mary's Cathedral will host a Diocesan-wide celebration of the Eucharist and will formally mark the end of the Year of St. Paul. Bishop Robert J. Cunningham will be the celebrant of the 11:00 Mass. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will follow until 2:30. An outdoor procession of the Blessed Sacrament will begin at 2:30. Following the procession, there will be Solemn Vespers. A reception will follow Vespers. A plenary indulgence may be obtained providing all the requirements are fulfilled.

## Resources

**St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology** is a non-profit research and educational institute that promotes life-transforming Scripture study in the Catholic tradition. This was founded by Dr. Scott Hahn. This maybe a helpful tool for those who desire more Scripture study ([www.salvationhistory.com](http://www.salvationhistory.com)).