

ReConnect: a 21 Day Spiritual Challenge!

Dear St. Francis Parishioner,

It's hard to believe that we are embarking on another Advent season in preparation for Christmas.

Keeping Advent special is always a challenge and particularly so in these crazy days. Yet, if we have learned anything from the pandemic, it is that we need others in our lives: people to share the struggle, to walk prayerfully with us in times of trial, and be there to rejoice in moments of celebration. In short, a strong and vibrant life of faith requires active participation in the parish family!

I know that many parishioners are still somewhat fearful of the pandemic and are keeping their distance from our community. Please be assured that here at St. Francis we are doing everything to ensure that we play our part in keeping everyone safe and are constantly in touch with the local health department for guidance and direction. Let us remember how far we have come in the past year in dealing with and responding to the Covid-19 Virus.

But the need for spiritual nourishment and fellowship remains and here at St. Francis, your spiritual home, we are planning to use the upcoming Advent season to respond to that need. Beginning this Wednesday, we are launching ***ReConnect: 21 Day Spiritual Challenge*** of prayer and action with the goal that together we can all grow in faith and strengthen our bonds of community. Our hope is that this Challenge will remind us that being part of a parish is not an optional extra but an essential part of an authentic faith life. You are a parishioner here at St. Francis, not because you are registered, but because you come here to be spiritually nourished and fed. Here is your family of faith!

Here's how ReConnect will work: Each day you will receive an email containing a short meditation, based on the daily scriptures together with a list of 4-5 options to choose from to allow you to reflect more deeply on your faith that day and how it could be put into practice, especially during the Advent season. These options will change daily and may include family activities, videos, readings, music, links to learn about the lives of saints, or an invitation to help a local service organization, to name a few. Finally it will have our ***ReConnect Prayer***.

Your Participation is key! It is said that it takes 21 days for a practice to become a habit. As a registered parishioner you will automatically receive the daily email. My hope is that you will open it and allow the Holy Spirit to guide your heart to respond to it. We pray that it will enhance your Advent journey and where necessary strengthen your relationship with your parish family.

So go on--commit to the Challenge! Join your fellow parishioners to ReConnect and share the invitation with family and friends. You might be amazed at what you experience, how it might provide spiritual renewal for you and your family, and change your life!

***Yours in Christ,
Fr. James***

ReConnect with your faith and community today, tomorrow -- and yesterday! If you miss a day, go back and check out all prior challenge days [HERE](#) on our website. We are all imperfect children of God, so let's KEEP TRYING! To further reconnect with St. Francis Parish, please contact the parish office at 734-821-2100 or via email parishoffice@stfrancisa2.org. We look forward to reconnecting with you!