



CULMINATING CELEBRATION!

Rediscover Jesus

BOOK DISCUSSION PROGRAM FOR LENT, 2016

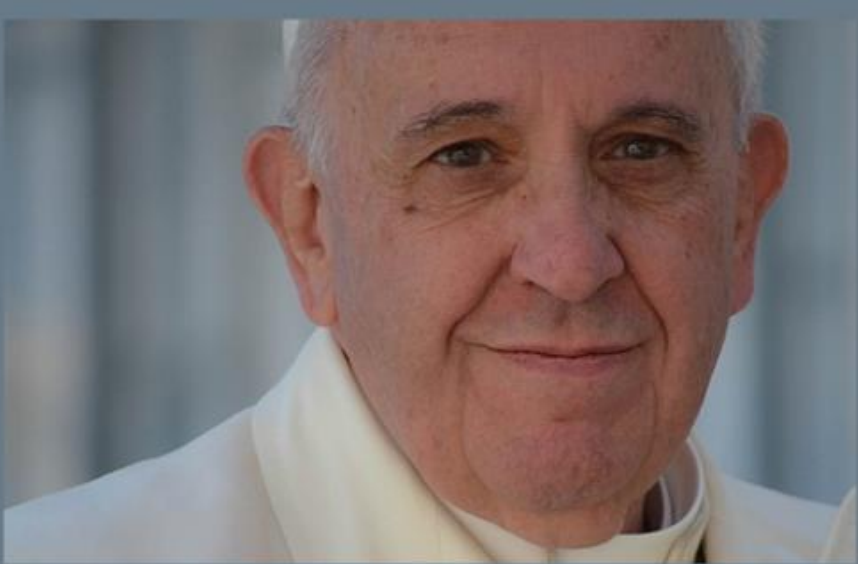
CHURCH OF ST. ANN

Thank You!

- ▶ **Our dedicated coordinating/hosting team:** Fr. John McHugh, Ann DiStefano, Joan Gould, Mike Gould, Mark Hamel, Deacon Tim Healy, Kris Martino, Sue Ollestad, Sarah Purple, Valerie St. Jean, Lisa Stevens, Lysa Termeer, & Angela Tollis.
- ▶ **Our wonderful liturgy team,** who thoughtfully wove the Rediscover Jesus themes into the prayers, music, homilies, and environment.
- ▶ **Our speakers, who inspired and challenged us:** Karen Finocchio, Jane Ellen Peregrin, Rev. Dr. Joseph Cheah, Lisa Stevens, Dr. Mary Beth Bruder, Annie Bruder, Martina Seminara, Michael Deckers, Lysa Termeer, Deacon Jeffrey Sutherland, Nancy Casey, June Bryant, Mary Lou Connors, Sr. Jerilyn Hunihan, & Shawn George.
- ▶ **Our Small Group leaders,** for their willingness, dedication, enthusiasm and flexibility.
- ▶ All those who did the unsung but vital **hospitality ministry** of greeting, refreshments, setup & cleanup.

The Church of St. Ann Celebrates **THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY**

Dec 8th, 2015 – Nov 20th, 2016



Pope Francis declares Holy Year for Mercy

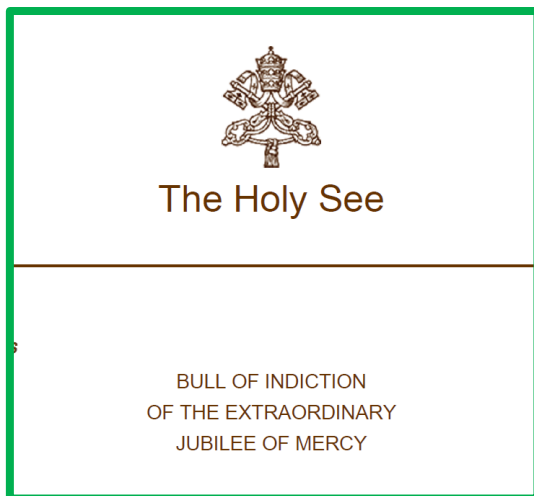
"Be merciful as your Father is merciful."
(Luke 6:36)



Why *Rediscover Jesus?*



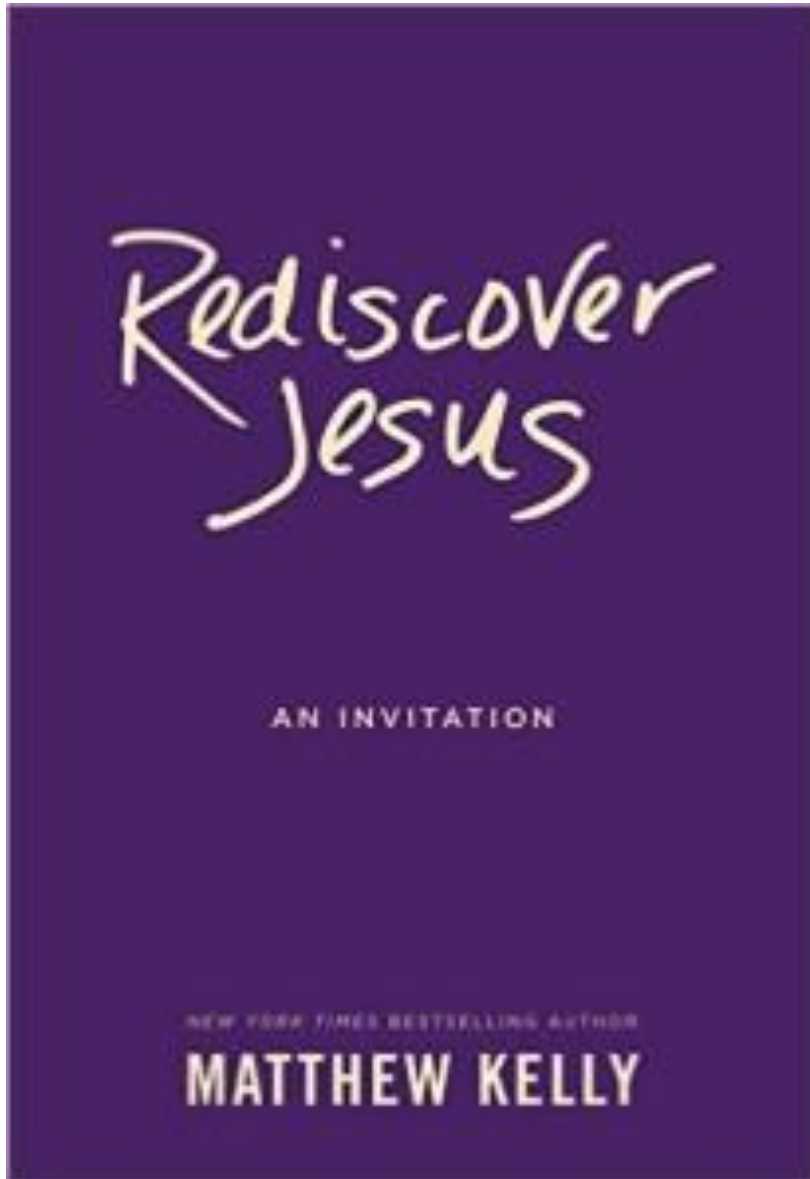
“Jesus Christ is the face of the Father’s mercy” (MV)



**What better subject to reflect on during
Lent than mercy personified:
JESUS!**

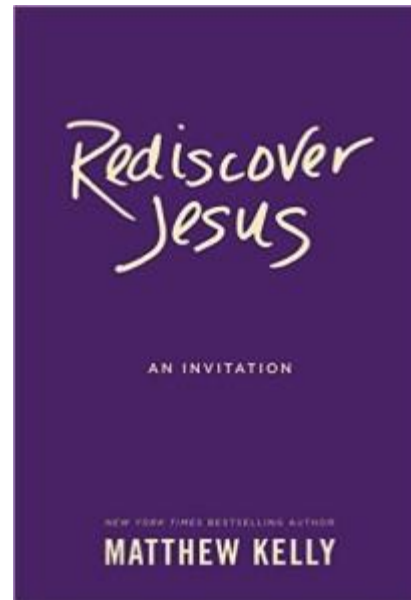
Don't Give Up Chocolate this Year –

▶ **READ, GATHER, ACT!**



- 1) WHO DOES JESUS SAY HE IS?
- 2) WHO DO **YOU** SAY JESUS IS?
- 3) WHO DOES JESUS SAY **YOU** ARE?

Preparing 1200 books!





Some of Lysa Termeyer's fabulous design work!

Gather!

- ▶ **Small Groups – 20!**
- ▶ **Parish Gatherings**
 - ▶ Sundays at noon
 - ▶ Mondays at 7:15pm
- ▶ **Parent Gatherings** – while the kids are in class
 - ▶ K-8 Parents, at Avon Middle School
 - ▶ Confirmation Parents, at St. Ann's
- ▶ **Online Discussion Forum**

SMALL GROUPS



Small Groups





Small Groups

LARGE GROUP GATHERINGS

- ▶ **Parish Gatherings in Fr. Bennett Hall**
 - ▶ Sundays at noon
 - ▶ Mondays at 7:15pm

INSPIRING SPEAKERS

Connecting faith & mercy to life

- ▶ **PARISH GATHERINGS** - every Sunday at noon and Monday at 7:15pm (snowdate – Tues, 7:15pm)
 - ▶ Feb 14/15: **Karen Finocchio** – meal ministry to ImmaCares Shelter
 - ▶ Feb 21/22: **Fr. Joseph Cheah** – serving in Haiti, Burma
 - ▶ Feb 28/29: **Mary Beth Bruder, Annie Bruder, Martina Seminara, Michael Deckers** – ministry to the homeless; serving children & others with disabilities
 - ▶ Mar 6/7: **Nancy Casey & June Bryant** – nurse ministry & the connection between spirituality and healing
 - ▶ Mar 13/14: **Mary Lou Connors & Sr. Jerilyn Hunihan** – the challenges/rewards of prison ministry
 - ▶ Mar 20/21: **Shawn George** – making time for prayer amidst the busyness of life



Karen Finocchio

Co-leads meals program and collection of items to support ImmaCares Shelter, Hartford

You'd be amazed at the people who find themselves homeless. One young man was a graduate from Avon High School. They each have a story. They are people in trouble, and are so grateful for a warm meal and a safe place to stay.

Parish Gatherings





Fr. Joe Cheah

- + **Mission trip to Haiti**
- + **Sponsorship of an orphanage in Burma**

Living in the US, we don't completely understand the poverty, or the danger in these places.

"In Burma, the men are taken by the government to serve as porters for the military. When they become too slow or too weak, they are killed."

"There is even discrimination against the orphans, based on their complexion."

"You can't send money directly – the government opens all the mail, and the nuns will be punished."

Parish Gatherings





Guest Speakers

- + Annie Bruder
- + Mary Beth Bruder
- + Martina Seminara
- + Michael Deckers

"I am different, but we're all different! Isn't that what a parish is - different people coming together to worship Jesus?" *Martina Seminara*



Guest Speakers

“In the eyes of God, we are unique and created with a purpose.”

“When I read the prologue of *Rediscover Jesus*, ‘Are You Jesus?’ it hit me, in my job, when I’m helping people I’m being Jesus to them!”

Michael Deckers

June Bryant & Nancy Casey

Nurses/Nurse Educators



Exploring the
connection
between
spirituality and
healing





Women's Prison Ministry

"I learned so much from the women who came to our prayer group. 'Father God,' they would begin, and then talk to God like a friend. How beautiful."

"It's so easy to judge, but so many of the women could be your neighbor – 'the girl next door' – who made a bad choice. Yes, there must be consequences for breaking the law, but we need to focus on rehabilitation – building people back up so they can leave prison and live better lives."

Mary Lou Connors



Sr. Jerilyn Hunihan

Prison Ministry for Incarcerated Men

“You should see the look on their faces when the men take a note from the Box of Hope. Your words – even though they don’t know you – give them hope and value.”

Inmate Art





Mark Hamel

Viewing prisoner
artwork

Parish Gatherings





Shawn George



“Pause...
Breathe...
Pray”

“Instead of puddles of joy, seek
an ocean of happiness.”

HOW:

- 1) Sit with God in His Word.
- 2) Keep a gratitude journal...





Parish Gatherings

Building Community

Making Connections

Fostering a Sense of
Belonging

INSPIRING SPEAKERS

Keeping it real for today's families



Valerie St. Jean
Coordinator of K-8 Faith Formation

- ▶ **K-8 PARENT GATHERINGS** – at AMS, during the children's classes at 9am & 6pm
 - ▶ Feb 21: **Lisa Stevens** – How parents' faith can help their children thrive
 - ▶ Feb 28: **Lysa Termeer** – What family life with Christ as our first priority could look like
 - ▶ Mar 20: **Shawn George** – Making time for prayer amidst the busyness of family life



Lisa Stevens

Lisa was away from the Catholic church for a while, and went to worship elsewhere. "It was a great church with good people, but something was missing – the sacraments!"

"Parents want their children to have faith, but they need to nurture their own faith, too."





Lysa Termeer

“What we want for our kids (to be kind, patient, generous, etc.) is what we need to become ourselves.”

“Being a parent forces you to be a better person.”

“Kids are a mirror. They show us our faults.”

“We are our kids’ role model. Jesus is our role model.”





Shawn George



“Pause...
Breathe...
Pray”

“Instead of puddles of joy, seek
an ocean of happiness.”

HOW:

- 1) Sit with God in His Word.
- 2) Keep a gratitude journal...



INSPIRING SPEAKERS

Keeping it real for today's families



*Joan Gould, Confirmation and
Youth Ministry Coordinator*

- ▶ **CONFIRMATION PARENT GATHERINGS** – at Church, during the children's classes
 - ▶ Feb 14: **Jane Ellen Peregrin**– head of the Guidance Department at Simsbury High School
 - ▶ Feb 28: **Deacon Jeffrey Sutherland**– science teacher and girls tennis coach at Northwest Catholic

RAISING TEENS IN FAITH

Jane Ellen Peregrin



Confirmation Parent Presentation

Encouraging parents
and teens to disconnect
from technology so they
can connect with each
other.



Deacon Jeffrey Sutherland

Confirmation Parent Presentation

Just spending time together as a family is so important, especially for families with teens.



Shoes for Haiti

“Without shoes, children in Haiti can’t go to school and have a better life. Imagine, because of YOU donating a pair of shoes, the life of a child in another part of the world can be changed. YOU do it!”

Mary Lou Connors, *The Shoe Lady*

Parent Gatherings





First Communion Retreat Mass

“We are the
hands and feet
of Jesus!”

ACT

READ → GATHER → **ACT**



- ▶ “How much I desire that the year to come will be steeped in mercy, **so that we can go out to every man and woman, bringing the goodness and tenderness of God.**” (MV, 5)

HOW?

Redeemer Jesus

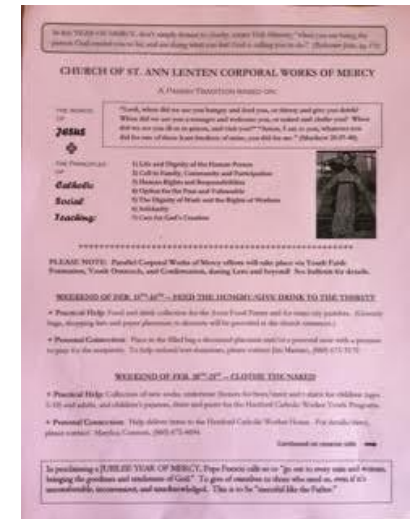
POINT TO PONDER: Whenever you are tempted to judge someone, turn your attention to seeing that person as a child of God.

VERSE TO LIVE: "Who are you to judge your neighbor?"
JAMES 4:12

QUESTION TO CONSIDER: How will your key relationships improve if they are free from judgment?

PRAYER: Jesus, make me aware just before I am about to fall into judging someone, and give me the grace to stop myself.

DO THE
**CORPORAL
WORKS OF
MERCY**
AT
CHURCH





Shelter the Homeless

“This is overwhelming! ImmaCares is going to be amazed at the generosity!”

Karen Finocchio



ImmaCares

Our donations in their new home at the shelter!

The staff was overwhelmed at the generosity this year.



Corporal Works of Mercy

Jeff Rose, helping
transport the
“Feed the Hungry”
donations to the
Food Pantry

WORSHIP

WITH A DEEPER RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS, HAVE A RICHER EXPERIENCE OF HOLY WEEK

- ▶ Wed, Mar 23, 7:30pm **Tenebrae**
- ▶ Thurs, Mar 24, 7:30pm **Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper**
- ▶ Fri, Mar 25, **Good Friday 9am & 3pm Prayer Service**
- ▶ Sat, Mar 26, **Holy Saturday Easter Vigil, 8pm**



Sunday, March 27: EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD!
Masses at 7:30am, 8:45am, 10:00am, 11:30am

Week 1: Jesus as Obedient Servant

▶ JESUS, **OPEN OUR HANDS**, THAT WE
MAY GIVE OURSELVES FREELY IN
SERVICE TO OTHERS, LIKE YOU DO

Week 2: Jesus and Human Dignity

▶ JESUS, **OPEN OUR EYES**, THAT WE MAY
SEE OURSELVES AND OTHERS AS YOU
DO – AS BELOVED CHILDREN OF GOD

Week 3: Jesus' Priorities

- ▶ JESUS, **OPEN OUR MINDS** TO THINK LIKE YOU DO, PUTTING THE MARGINALIZED FIRST

Week 4: Jesus as Communicator


▶ JESUS, **OPEN OUR LIPS** TO SPEAK
THE TRUTH IN LOVE, AS YOU DO.

Week 5: To Love Like Jesus

▶ JESUS, **OPEN OUR HEARTS** TO
LOVE OTHERS UNCONDITIONALLY,
LIKE YOU DO

Week 6: Jesus and Prayer

▶ **JESUS, OPEN OUR EARS TO**
HEAR YOU CALL TO MEET WITH
YOU DAILY IN PRAYER



**More to come
for the
Year of Mercy
at
St. Ann Church!**

**TO JOIN THE
YEAR OF MERCY
PLANNING TEAM,**

CONTACT ANN DISTEFANO,

AMES.DISTEFANO@GMAIL.COM;

(860) 463-7495



Corporal Works of Mercy

FEED the Hungry
GIVE DRINK to the Thirsty
CLOTHE the Naked
VISIT the Sick
SHELTER the Homeless
VISIT the Imprisoned
BURY the Dead

Spiritual Works of Mercy

ADMONISH the Sinners
RETRACT the Scandalous
COUNSEL the Doubtful
COMFORT the Distressed
BEAR WRATHFUL Fairly
FORGIVE all Injuries
PRAY for the Living and the Dead