



In his book, *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis writes “Our most important task as Christians is to invite believers to a renewed, personal encounter with Jesus Christ, and I ask you to do this unfailingly each day.” In support of this request, Bishop Mark Bartchak has initiated a new program within our Diocese from Renew International called *Arise Together in Christ*, a parish-centered process of spiritual renewal and evangelization that invites us:

- To develop a closer relationship with Christ,
- To deepen our faith,
- To grow in community, and
- To reach out in service to others.

This program provides a total renewal experience for the parish by spiritually transforming people through the proven model of small-group faith sharing. It also offers parish enrichment opportunities and encourages works of charity and social justice.

These small groups will gather for five six-week seasons, starting this October, followed by a Lenten season, another Fall season, another Lenten season, and a final Fall season. Each of these seasons has a major gospel theme that is broken down into weekly themes. Renew International will provide time-proven booklets for each season, to lead the small groups in prayer, Scripture passages, faith-sharing discussions, and possible community service. The focus for the 2018 fall session will be *Encountering Christ Today*.

Prayer is essential to this process of spiritual renewal called *ARISE Together in Christ*. We invite you to join in praying the Diocesan Arise Prayer each day. Please take some time and pray with your family as our parish together with our entire diocese enters into this time of spiritual renewal. *ARISE* prayer cards are available near the *ARISE* poster in the gathering space. Please help yourself.

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