

AT-HOME ADVENT RETREAT, 2020

In the parish bulletin (Nov, 22nd), you will see an invitation from Terry O'Donnell to participate in a Prayer exercise during Advent called **Lectio Divina**.

In addition, there is another option that you may wish to experience- an AT-HOME RETREAT - inspired by Pope Francis' current image of our Church as a **Field Hospital**....hospitals set up in the fields of war time. By this image, Francis is asking us all to think differently about ourselves within our parish. As he says in one of his writings, instead of the Church at large being locked into small things, in small-minded rules, he is asking us to see our fellow parishioners as carrying wounds that seek healing; and the responsibility we all have to warm the hearts of the faithful in our midst.

He goes on to say, "It is useless to ask a seriously injured person if he/she has high cholesterol or blood sugar. What you need to do is heal their wounds. We must....." (and this is a very significant word he has been using).....as parishioners, we must ACCOMPANY people".

The retreat material does not have any direct relationship to Christmas. **But it is hoped, and there is every possibility, that what you experience during the retreat, will take you to a place in yourself that will open up your own spiritual birth canal for Jesus to come forth, and be welcomed into your life experience in a special way.**

And so, for those at home not in a position to attend Mass at this time of COVID-19, yet would like to participate in an **AT-HOME retreat** for THREE WEEKS of Advent, please locate the following:

*the page **A FIELD HOSPITAL: Pope Francis' image of the Church** which can orientate you towards the elements of the retreat.

*a set of three Spiritual exercises...one exercise per week....

*To enable your desire to share your retreat experience, you will have an option *to sign-up for a weekly group time **OR** *select from a list a spiritual companions from the Lawson parish someone with whom you can have a one-on-one by an agreed connection [telephone, teleconference] or location.

Please see below for Retreat Offerings, options of GROUP-time and place, and how to reach a spiritual companion.

Contact Details as given.

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Please either select a group-time OR a Spiritual Companion if you are happy to share your AT-HOME retreat experience.

Please make the appropriate contact to confirm time & place.

1) SANTA MARIA HALL. **Group Option,**

.....contact Leonard Blahut, 0405-916-326 or leonard.usa@me.com.

Three **THURSDAYS** (Dec. 3, 10, 17)10am - 11am
.....7:15pm - 8:15pm

Three **FRIDAYS** (Dec. 4, 11, 18)7:15pm - 8:15pm

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2) **Spiritual Companions**....there are EIGHT persons available to meet for 30 min/week to discuss your personal retreat experience. Please .....contact Leonard Blahut, 0405-916-326 or [leonard.usa@me.com](mailto:leonard.usa@me.com), who will link you up to an available Companion.

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*For those who would like to participate in **LECTIO DIVINA**contact Terry O'Donnell, 0430-209-415

.....SANTA MARIA HALL, **Saturdays** of Advent, 3:00pm
Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12, 19

Sincerely, Leonard Blahut.