

ADVENT AWAKENINGS

Bulletin Announcements

Advent Awakenings: Take the time

NOTE: Please feel free to write your own announcements. It is helpful to have a regular place in the bulletin so people know where to look. Provide information about *Advent Awakenings* two to four weeks before Sign Up Sunday, so that people are ready for the invitation when it comes. The idea is to whet appetites and let them know something wonderful is coming and that they will not want to miss it. You can adapt these to your parish; put a contact name and number as well.

Four weeks before sign-up

As Advent approaches, so do all the real and imagined obligations that go along with getting ready for Christmas. The shopping, wrapping, decorating, and planning are jammed into personal schedules that are already too busy. Take a breather with *Advent Awakenings: Take the Time*, a faith-sharing program from RENEW International. Sign Up Sunday will be coming soon. Look for it!

Three weeks before sign-up

We've all seen the signs and bumper stickers that crop up in December: "Keep Christ in Christmas," "Jesus is the Reason for the Season." These messages remind us that the commercial frenzy that precedes Christmas often smothers the religious significance of the holiday. This year, step out of the whirlwind with *Advent Awakenings: Take the Time*, a faith-sharing program from RENEW International. Consider being part of a small group that will gather in four weekly sessions and sharing what we really are waiting for during the Advent season – the coming of the Savior. Look for the posters and flyers that will give you the dates for Sign Up Sunday.

Two weeks before sign-up

Each year during Advent we have an opportunity to renew the fervor with which we await the Lord who came among us as a child and who will come again in glory. Consider joining a faith-sharing group to experience the season in a new way with *Advent Awakenings: Take the Time* from RENEW International. This is a wonderful opportunity to join a small group of your fellow parishioners in making the weeks before Christmas meaningful. When you're invited on Sign Up Sunday, take a chance. You'll be glad you did.

One week before sign-up

Next week is Signup Sunday/Weekend for *Advent Awakenings: Take the Time* from RENEW International. Small Christian Communities will gather to learn, pray, and share on the true meaning of Advent. Please join us once a week for four weeks to remember in community what we are anticipating during this season, and connect with others as we journey in faith? By taking part in *Advent Awakenings: Take the Time*, you can set aside the distractions of shopping and decorating and focus on the true significance of the season and share it with your families. You will be blessed; you will be a blessing! Register today by calling _____ or emailing _____.