

Most Blessed Sacrament Parish is embarking on an exciting program entitled ARISE Together in Christ. This program is a three-year, parish-centered process of spiritual renewal and evangelization that enables people to deepen their faith, develop a closer relationship with Christ, grow in community, and reach out in service to others. Our parish, along with the entire Archdiocese of Boston, is beginning this process at this time. We are joining the already 5 million participants in 13,000 parishes across the country, which are already involved in the program.

The ARISE process applies the spirituality of Christ to all areas of life. It emphasizes people living in good relationship with one another, as they make concrete applications of the gospel to their life situations. Individuals will join together to focus on how their relationship with God impels them to reach out to others in faith and service. All participants will be encouraged to connect their faith with their daily life.

ARISE Together in Christ is an offshoot of Renew International which is a canonically-recognized Catholic organization based in Plainfield, NJ, in the Archdiocese of Newark. RENEW International has been revitalizing parish life in over 150 dioceses in the United States, and has touched the lives of 25 million people through the renewal process. As the name implies, it also reaches many thousands of people outside the United States, having served people in 23 countries, across six continents and in 44 languages. The process is to enliven our parish and build community.

During the spiritual journey offered by the ARISE program, parishioners will be guided through five distinct periods of time (called Seasons), each of which lasts six weeks. The first season will occur in the fall of 2008 (just before Advent), the second during Lent of 2009 and then three more during successive fall and spring seasons. Each season will have a basic gospel theme. Parishioners will experience these weekly themes by studying literature relative to the upcoming week's gospel in small faith-sharing communities that meet in homes or other designated locations throughout each 6-week Season. Through reading and discussing Holy Scripture, we will explore and reflect on how we can bring Jesus and His teachings into our own lives.

Father Coughlin has convened a group of parishioners led by Mary Ellen Sestito to begin the spiritual path laid out by the ARISE process and participate in the formal training sessions offered by RENEW International. This group will be responsible for the implementation of the ARISE program here at Most Blessed Sacrament Parish. You are welcome to contact any member of this group at the following telephone numbers or e-mail addresses with questions about the program or if interested in being part of this implementation process:

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