

FIRE STARTERS



"Listen to me, my youngest and dearest [children], know for sure that I do not lack servants and messengers to whom I can give the task of carrying out my words, who will carry out my will. But it is very necessary that you plead my cause and, with your help and through your mediation, that my will be fulfilled."

– Our Lady of Guadalupe

During this Year of Awakening, we want to empower the teens to light hearts on fire through Fire Starters. All parishes are invited to host Fire Starter nights to invite youth to encounter the living God and join in prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Our hope is that youth ministries are able to host Fire Starter nights in their parishes to pray in solidarity with other youth ministries who are saying the same prayers across the diocese. We invite you to make these nights your own and tailor them to the needs of the youth in your parish. May the Holy Spirit light the hearts of your youth on fire!

Each Fire Starter night should include the following elements:

- Time in Adoration in front of the Blessed Sacrament
- Praying a decade of the Rosary in front of the Blessed Sacrament
- Praying the Lighting Hearts on Fire Prayer

Some other elements you can include in Fire Starters are:

- Have the youth minister, pastor or deacon give a witness talk about Our Lady of Guadalupe and the Year of Awakening (see the back for talking points)
- Have Praise and Worship music playing during Adoration
- Have the Sacrament of Reconciliation available

We encourage parishes to host Fire Starters Nights in solidarity with other parishes on the following weekends:

March 29 – March 31 (First Joyful Mystery)

May 3 – May 5 (Second Joyful Mystery)

July 12 – July 14 (Third Joyful Mystery)

We encourage you to join us for Diocesan Events on (more information to come):

Saturday, September 21 (Fourth Joyful Mystery)

- Walking Pilgrimage

Friday, November 1 (Fifth Joyful Mystery)

Parishes are welcome to collaborate and work with one another to host Fire Starter Nights. If these dates do not work for your parish, we encourage you to host a Fire Starter night on a night that works for your community.

Have questions? Need additional resources? Check out www.LightingHeartsOnFire.org or contact youth.ministry@diometuchen.org for more.

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Fire Starter Night 1, March 29 – March 31: Preaching Points

If you need more help or resources to explain to the youth what this year is all about, check out www.LightingHeartsOnFire.org. On March 29, parishes in our diocese will be celebrating 24 Hours for the Lord. Consider taking your youth to one of these parishes for an adoration hour.

- Introduce the youth to Our Lady of Guadalupe and the Diocesan Consecration.
 - o Show them an image (possibly from the Parish's Traveling Kit) or go to www.LightingHeartsOnFire.org for more information on her. You can also show some of the movie before beginning Adoration.
 - o Read directly or take points from *Why a Consecration?*, *Why a Marian Consecration?*, and *Our Lady of Guadalupe?* from www.lightingheartsonfire.org underneath the "Why?" tab.
- Read the story of the Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38). Gabriel asks Mary if she will bear the Son of God.
- Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to St. Juan Diego, an Aztec convert to Christianity. St. Juan Diego recognized her as Mary, the mother of God through what she was wearing. The Aztec people communicated through a codex, similar to emojis we use to communicate today. When Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to St. Juan Diego, he was able to tell that she was important because of what she was wearing:
 - o She is dressed in blue. Blue was reserved for royalty in the Aztec culture. Only queens and kings were allowed to wear it.
 - o She is pregnant and a virgin. For the Aztecs, the hair down means that a woman is a virgin. The black ribbon around her waist symbolizes that she is pregnant.
 - o Her dress is covered with flowers. However, the Lotus Flower only appears once. You can find it on Mary's womb. In the Aztec codex, the Lotus Flower is a symbol of God.
- Through these and other symbols, St. Juan Diego knew that this woman was Mary, the Mother of God, appearing to him with Jesus, who is God, in her womb.
- Like in the Annunciation and in the apparition, Mary humbly brought Christ into the world. In this year of awakening, our diocese is asking Mary to bring Christ to us in a new way. Let us humbly ask Mary to pray for us and our need.
- "Mary, help us encounter Christ in a new way tonight as we sit before Him, who is fully present in the Eucharist. Help us light a fire in our own hearts and communities and help us bring Christ to others in a new way in this year of Awakening."

Close with Light Hearts on Fire Prayer or with a decade of the Rosary – whichever is best for your audience