

#CYJ24

ROM 12:12

TONGUES OF FIRE

MAY

HOPE IN MERCY

MAR

RUN, JUMP & SHOUT. BUT DO NOT SIN

JUN

REJOICE IN HOPE

JAN

CHEERFUL GIVER

JUL

SEP

LOVE IN ACTION

FEB

HOPE IN LOVE

DEC

REJOICE IN JOY

EATING THE SON

APR

DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU

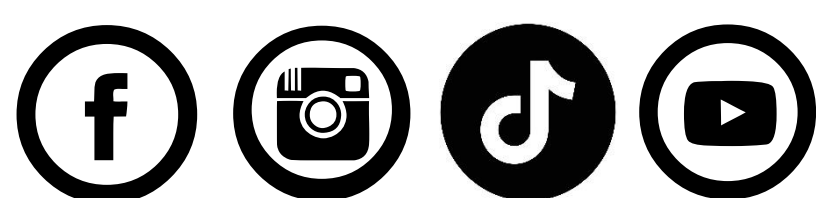
OCT

ROOTS OF JOY

NOV

MY SPIRIT REJOICES

AUG



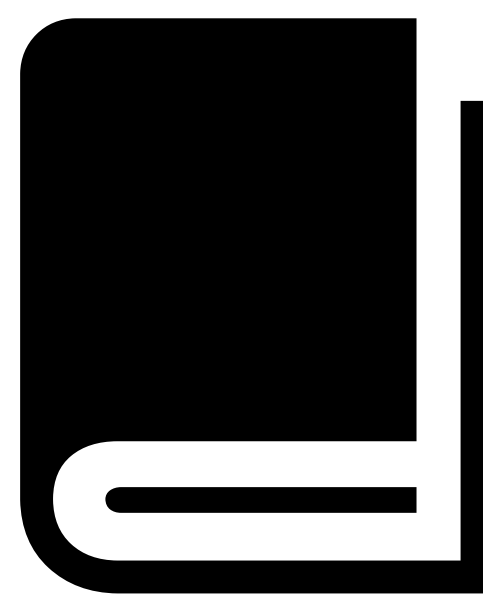
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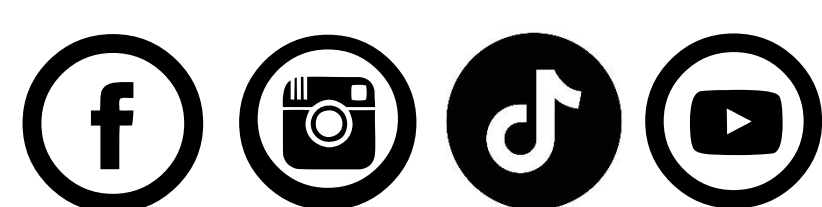
ROM 12:12

KEY SCRIPTURE PASSAGE



"REJOICING IN  
HOPE"

Rom 12:12



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ROM 12:12

## INTRODUCTION

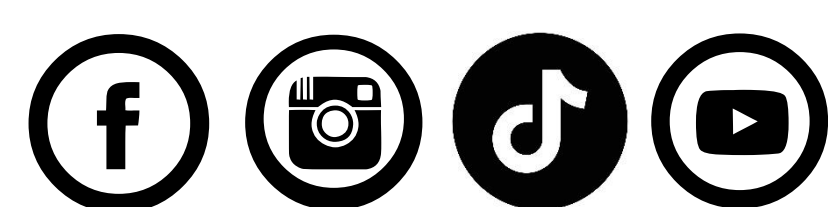


Each year, the Pope selects a pastoral theme of focus for the Youth of the Church. The purpose of each theme, quoted from Scripture, is to invite young disciples across the world to live their faith as authentic pilgrims journeying with Jesus, in the Spirit, to the Father's house. This tradition is rooted in the World Youth Day (WYD) initiative instituted by Pope St. John Paul II in 1985. Each year, WYD was to be celebrated on Palm Sunday until Pope Francis moved it to the annual Feast of Christ the King in 2020. Every 2 to 3 years, a large inter-continental version of WYD is celebrated in a host country selected by the Pope. The next one will be in Lisbon, Portugal, from 1 to 6 Aug 2023. Between these main gatherings, WYD is celebrated on local level.

By embracing the Pope's selected themes in the spirit of pilgrimage young people have an opportunity to enrich our spiritual lives by engaging with the Word deeply, exploring resources that can enlighten us, sharing our faith with fellow youth, embracing mission as young agents of evangelisation, deepening our personal relationships with Jesus in our private and communal spaces of prayer, and experiencing conversion into ever-better versions of ourselves for God's glory.

Below is the monthly theme card for January 2024, "Rejoice in Hope". The key theme of 2024 was launched on the feast of Christ the King, 26 Nov 2023, and is taken from the Rom 12:12, "Rejoicing in hope". This is the theme we will be exploring this year. The purpose of every sub-theme is to deepen our exploration of this key theme through scriptural reflections, resources and various activities. Throughout the coming year detailed theme cards and other materials will be broadcast to parishes and on our social media platforms. We will seek to interact with youth from a diversity of backgrounds and invite them to share their stories with us on these same platforms.

We eagerly invite the participation of all young disciples and challenge you to make more!



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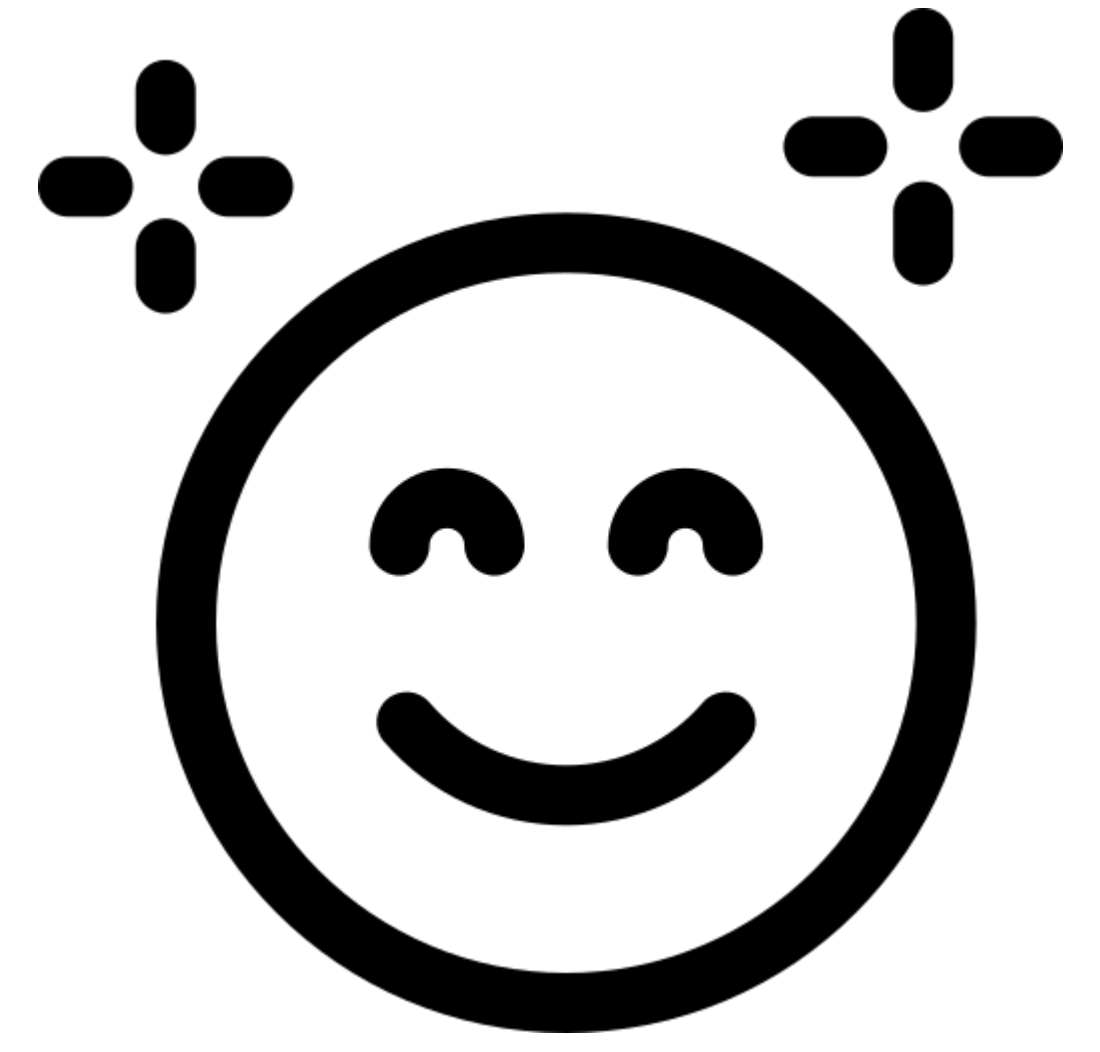


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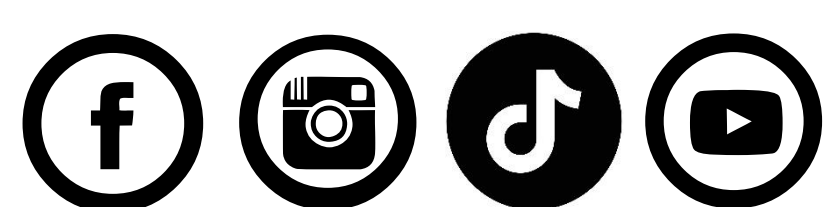
ROM 12:12

JAN

# Rejoice in Hope



IT'S A NEW YEAR AND A NEW BEGINNING. WITH HOW MUCH HOPE ARE YOU EMBARKING ON YOUR 2024 JOURNEY? IN WHAT LIES YOUR HOPE? DOES THIS BRING YOU AUTHENTIC AND LASTING JOY? YOU HAVE A CALLING AND A PURPOSE IN JESUS. STEP UP. GOD'S GLORY AWAITS YOU!



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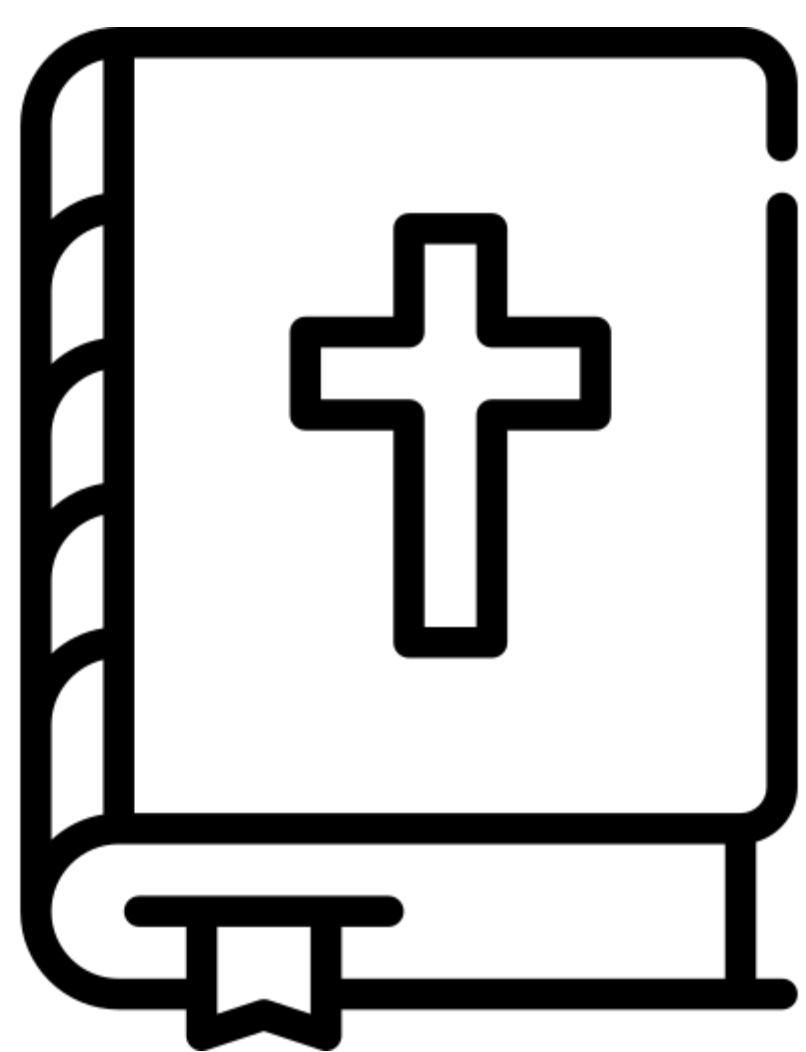
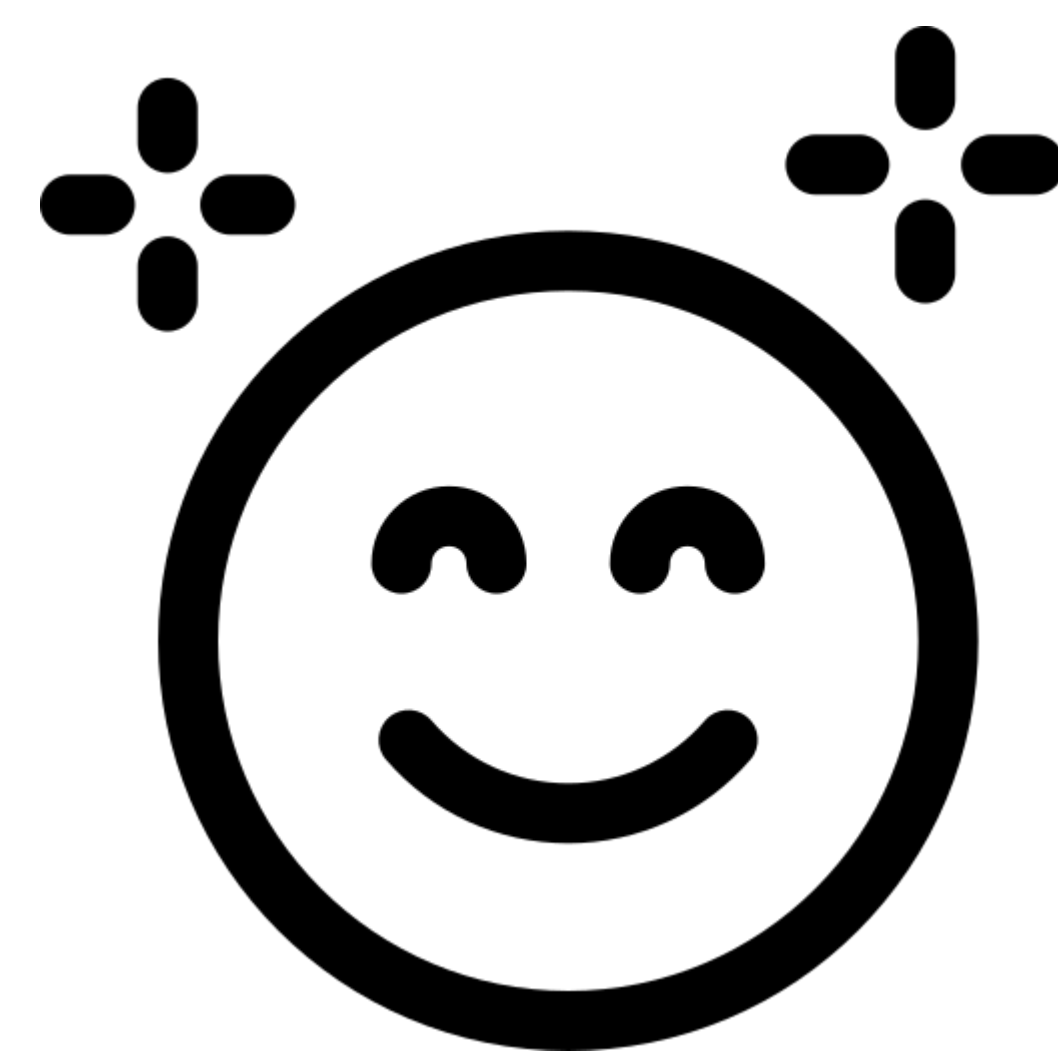


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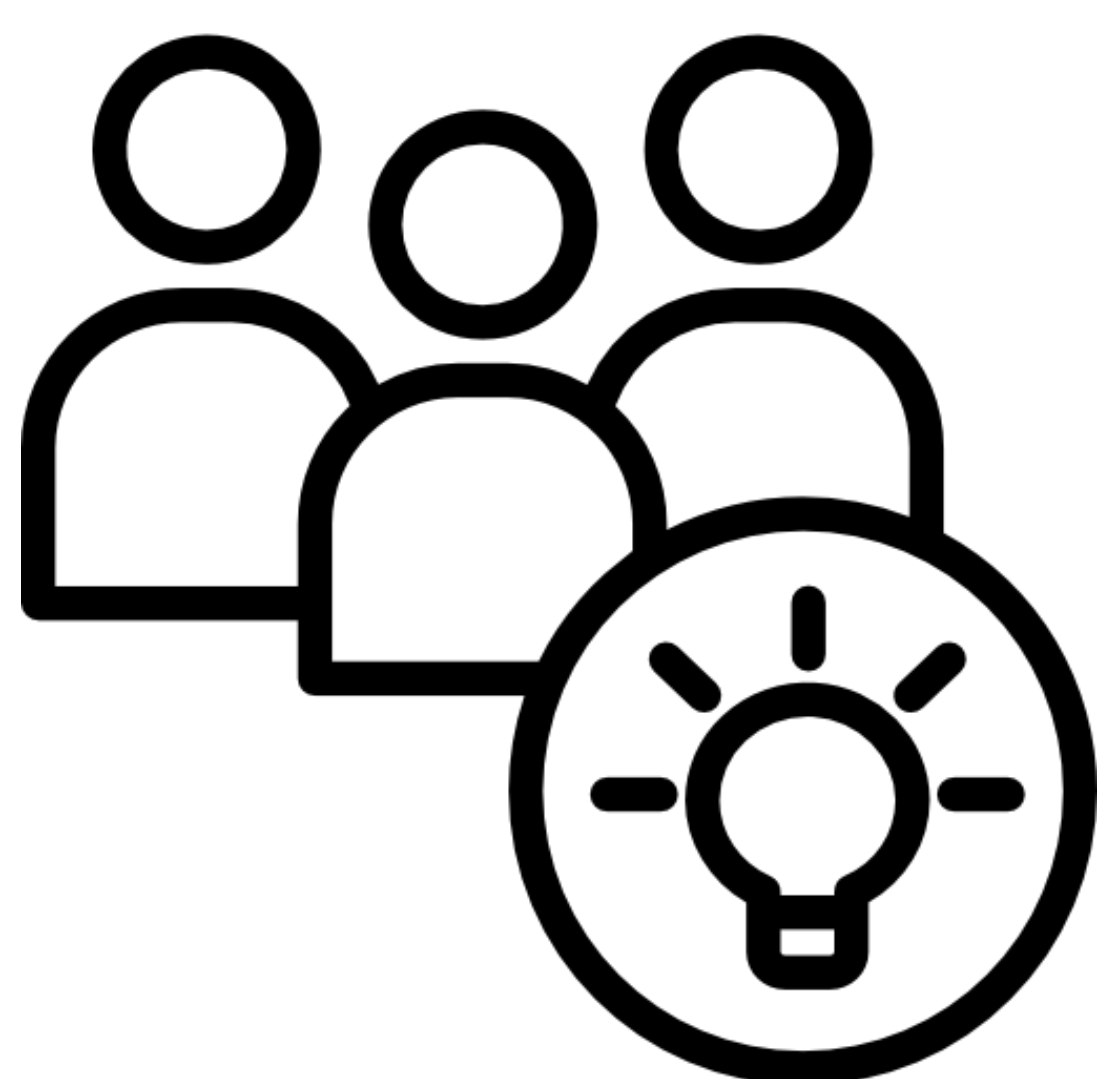
# Rejoice in Hope



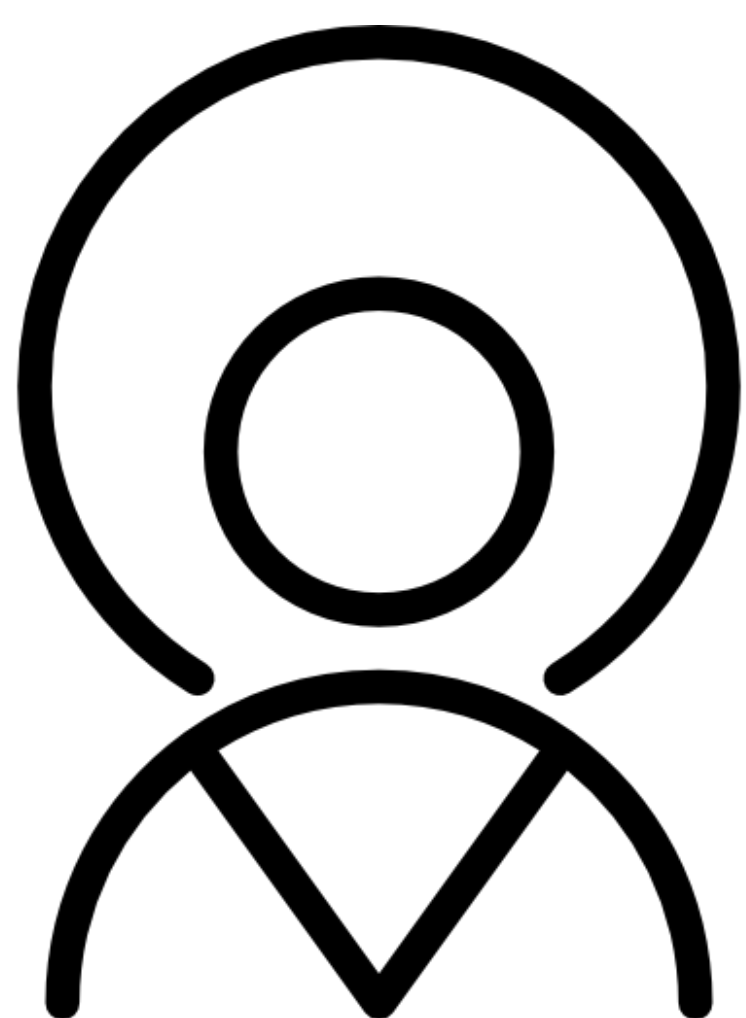
THEMATIC BIBLE PASSAGES



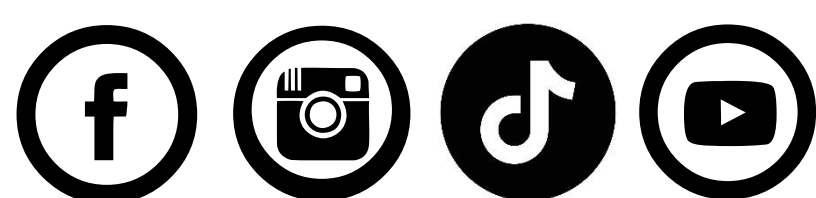
RESOURCE MATERIAL



ACTIVITY IDEAS



SAINT OF THE MONTH



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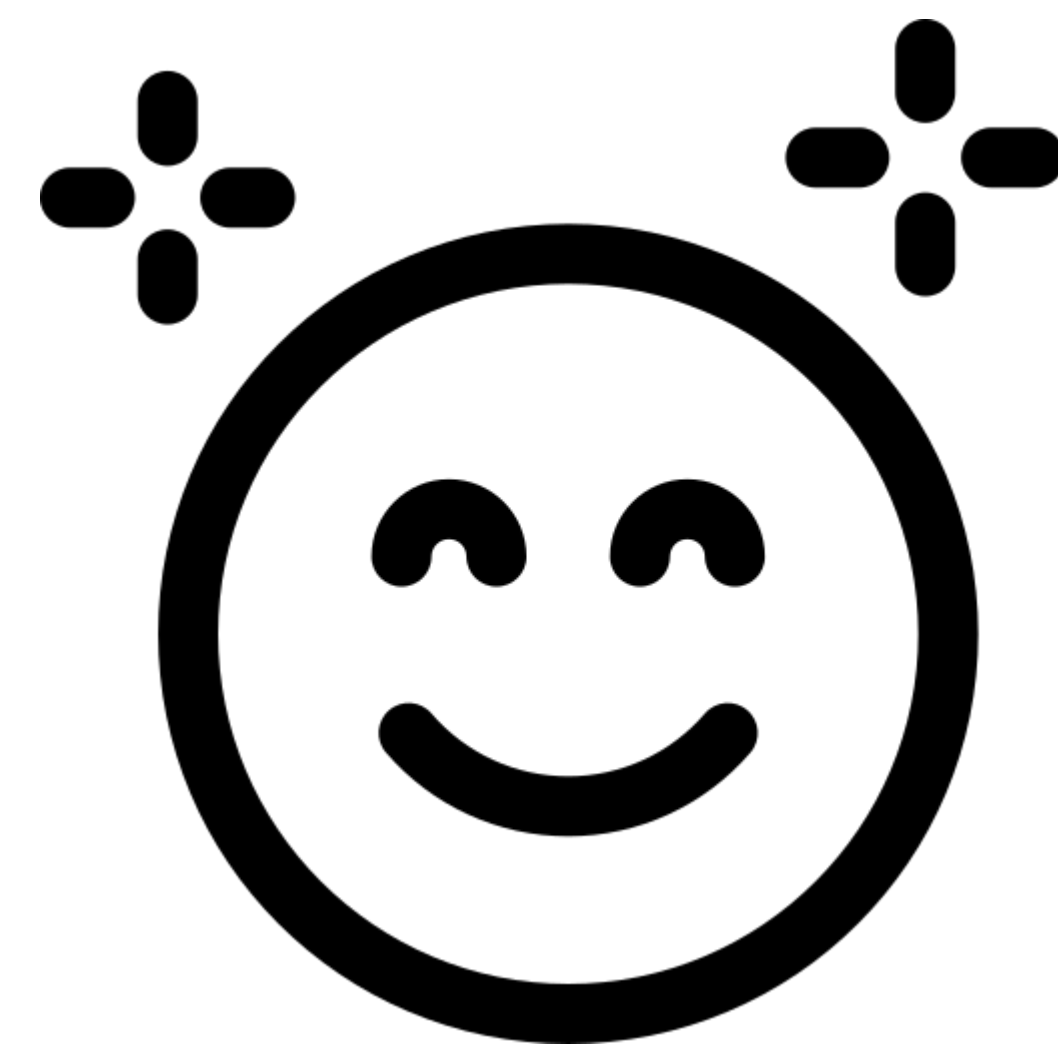
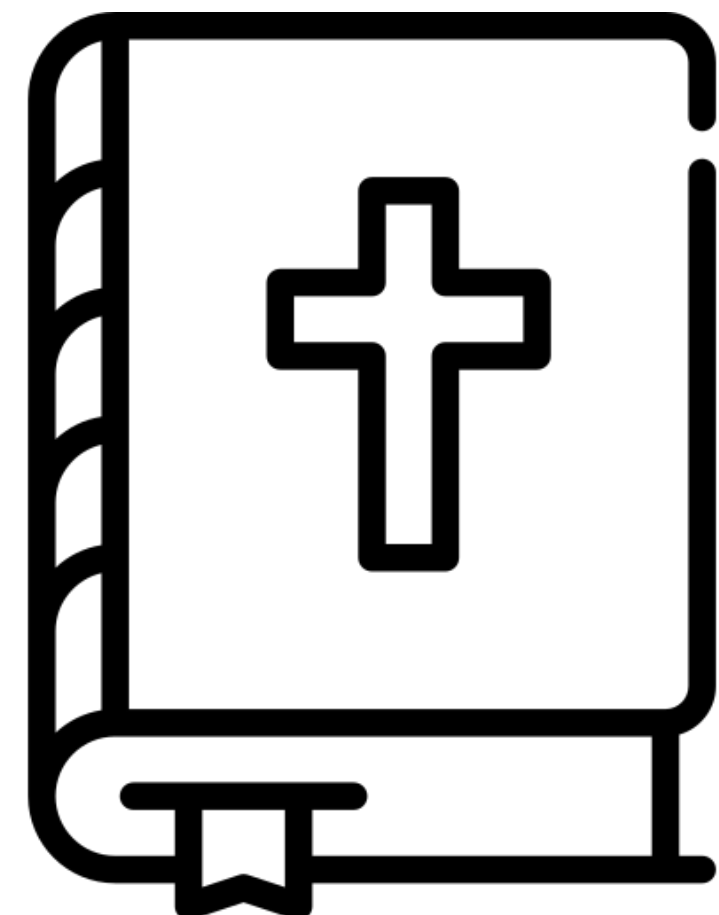


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ROM 12:12

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# Rejoice in Hope



PS 30:5

ROM 5:1-5

JOHN 16:22

PS 4:7

1 PETER 1:8-9

PS 5:11

PS 16:11

ROM 14:17

PS 32:11

PHIL 4:4

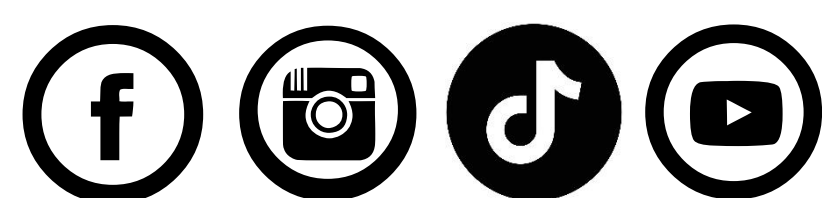
ROM 15:13

JER 29:11

1 PET 1:13

ROM 15:4

EPH 1:18



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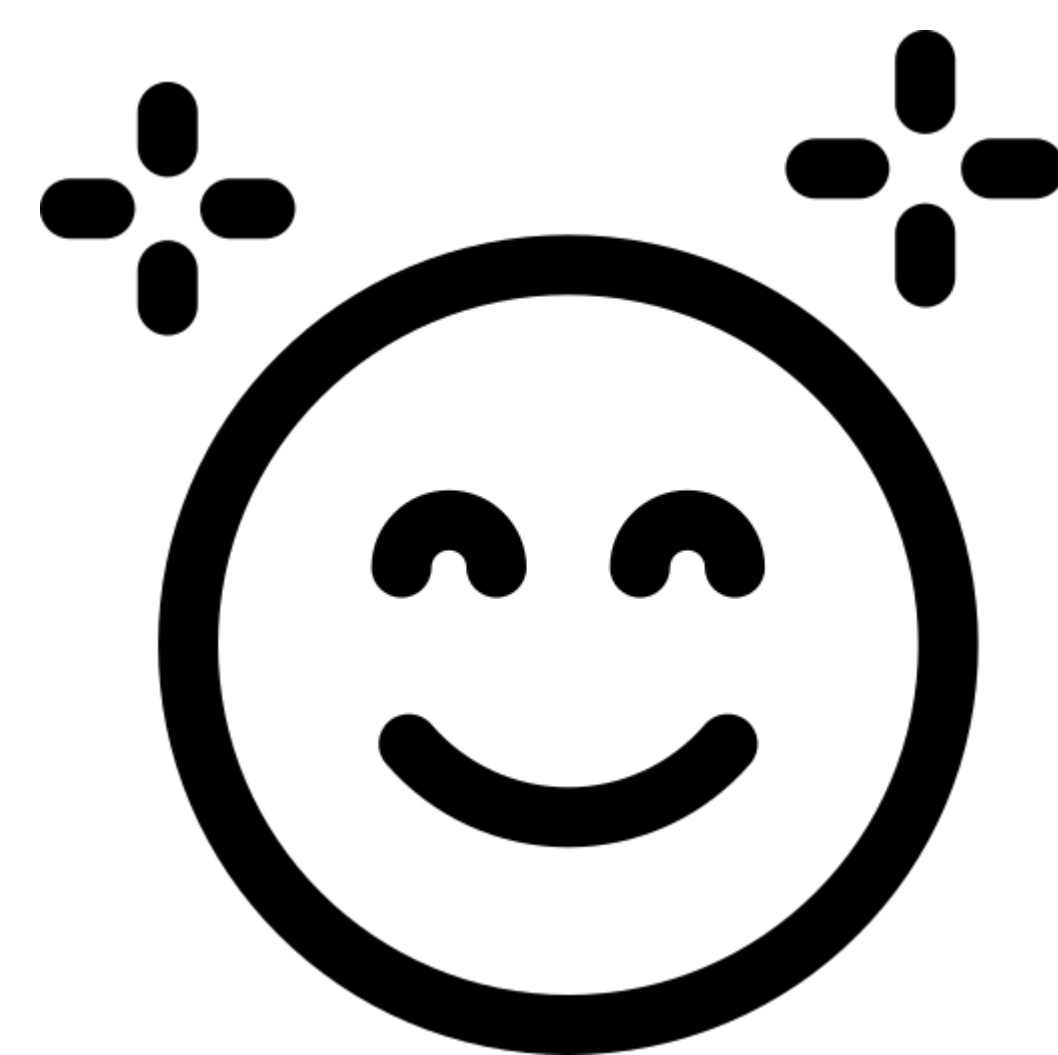
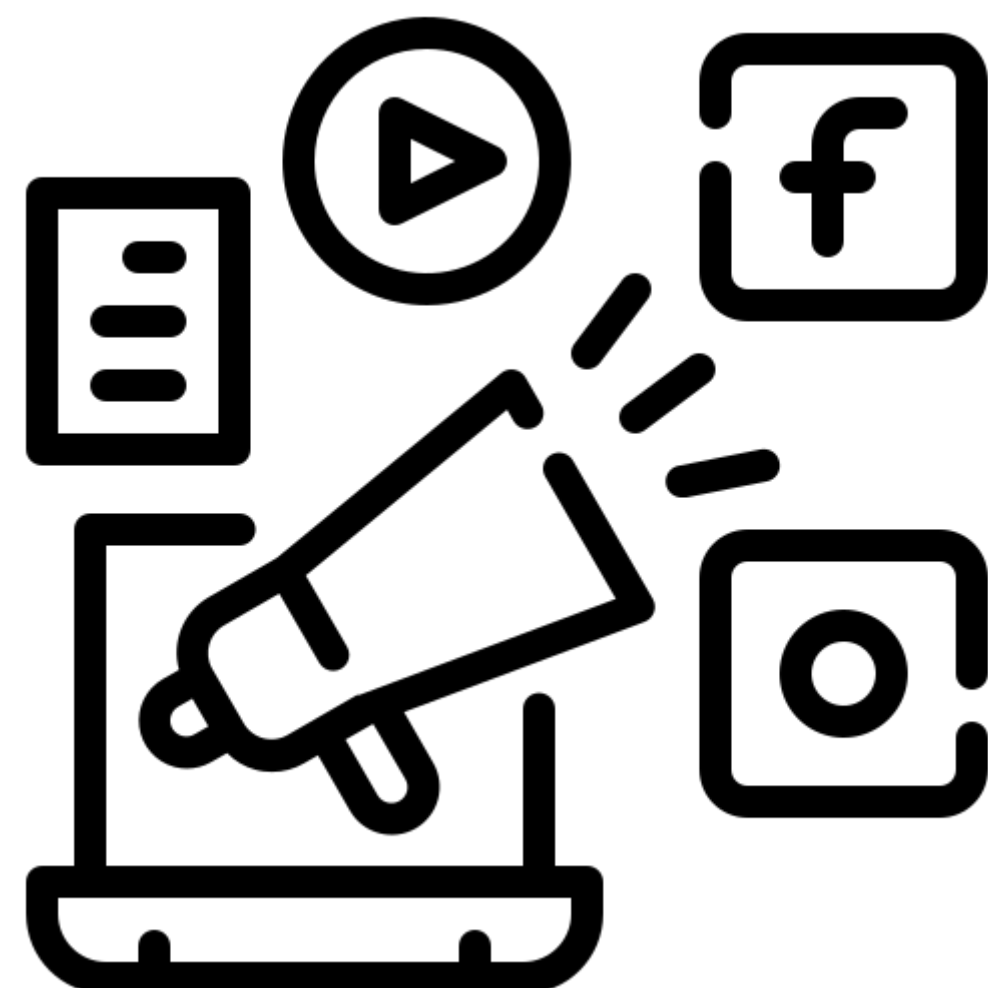


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# Rejoice in Hope



## TO READ

[Pope's diocesan WYD message: In dark times, hope](#) by Vatican News

[Hope & Joy in the Young Church](#) by Catholic Apostolic Center

[Christian Joy is Based in Hope](#) by Catholic News Agency

[Virtue Ethics: Joy & Hope](#) by Jesuits West

[Hope doesn't always "feel good"](#) by LifeTeen

## TO LISTEN/WATCH

[Finding Joy and Hope in Challenging Times](#) by Discerning Hearts

[Spiritual Joy and Hope - A "Lord of the Rings" Spiritual Retreat w/ Fr. Timothy Gallagher](#) by Discerning Hearts

[Joy: A Christian Virtue](#) by Catholic Answers

[Why Joy is More Christian Than Happiness](#)

by Ascension Presents

[Having Joy in Uncertainty & Hope in the New Year](#) by Ascension Presents

[Joy](#) by Bible Project

[Hope](#) by Bible Project

## TO READ MORE

[38th WYD Message](#) by Pope Francis

[Christus Vivit \(Christ is Alive!\)](#) by Pope Francis

[Catechism of the Catholic Church](#) (Par #1817)

[YouCat](#) (#308)

THERE'S A LOT MORE WHERE THESE CAME FROM! **GOOGLE** WITH THE **GHOST!**

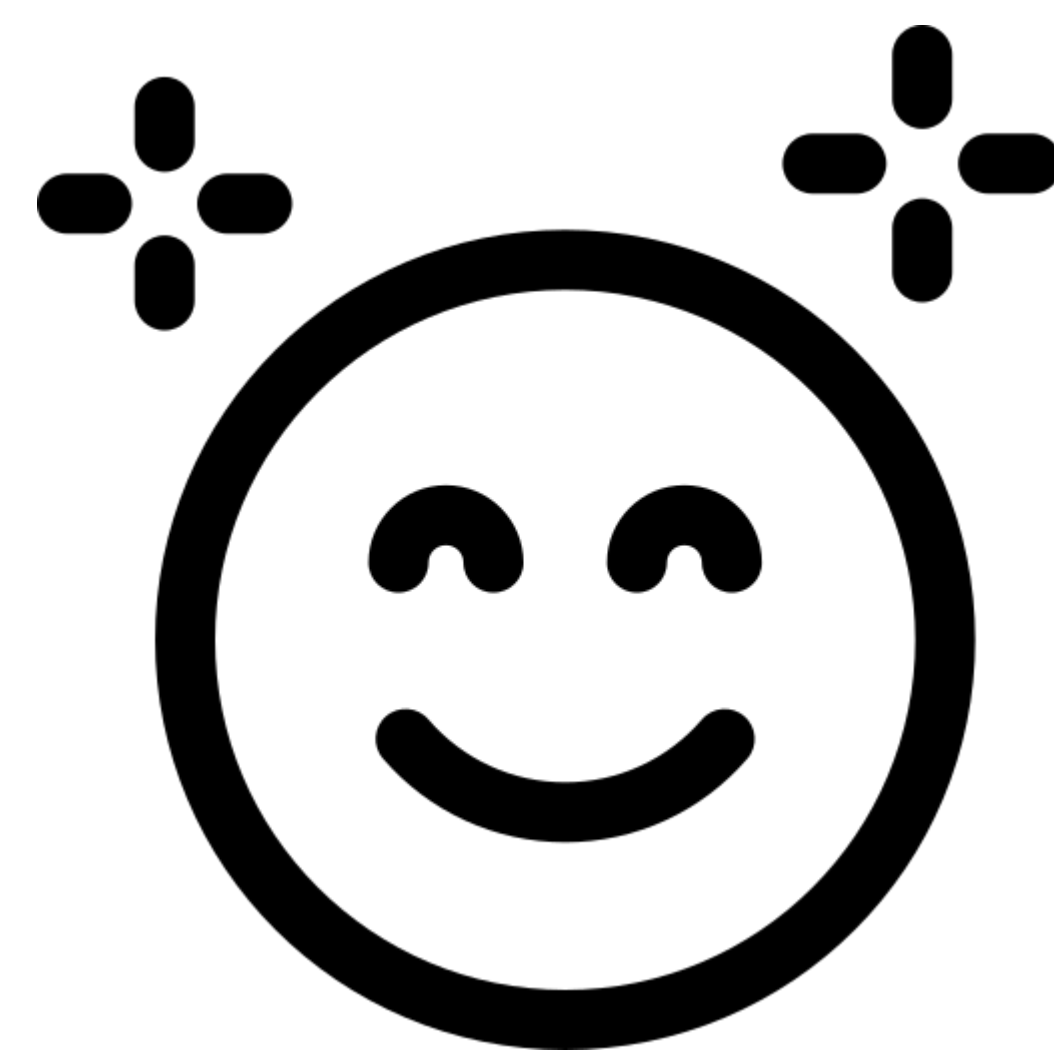
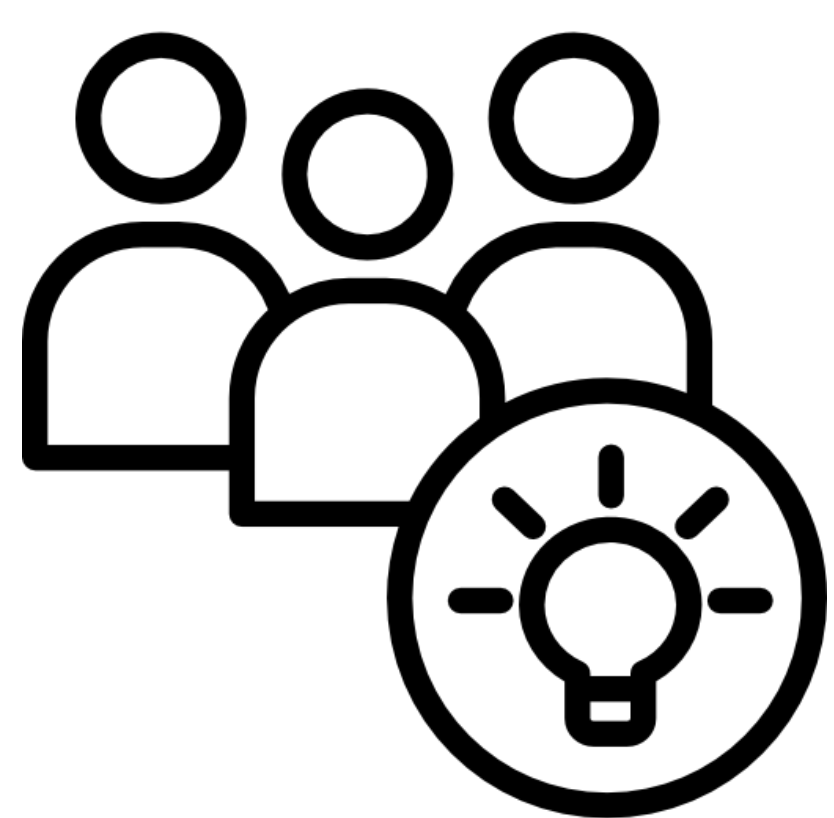


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## PARISH

1. Organise a simple retreat focused on themes of joy and hope. Speak to your parish priest about preparing presentations or getting a guest speaker. Recruit youth to share stories of their own journeys in hope and joy. Plan a special prayer liturgy focused on seeking hopeful joy. Speak to your priest about including Adoration and Confession. Another option is to organize a Silent Retreat.
2. Do a virtual Novena to the saint of the month (St. Therese of Lisieux) or another saint selected by your youth group, e.g. your parish/group patron saint or patrons of hope and joy such as St. Jude, St. Philip Neri and St. Martha. Use your youth group social media platforms to promote and maximise participation.
3. Prayerfully explore the thematic Bible passages during your youth gatherings. This can also be done through WhatsApp groups or other social media platforms.
4. Plan your youth gatherings for the month around the given theme. Explore some of the resources provided and seek more with the help of your parish priest or catechists.

## PRIVATE

1. Examine your own interior posture of hope and joy.
2. Do a private novena to the saint of the month or a saint of your choice.
3. If you haven't already, try making the Rosary a regular prayer/mediation practice.
4. Consider seeking spiritual direction.
5. Try to attending Mass daily or more than once a week.
6. Reflect on the thematic scriptures and resources privately.

**Tip:** THE HOLY SPIRIT TAKES CREATIVITY TO THE HIGHEST LEVEL!



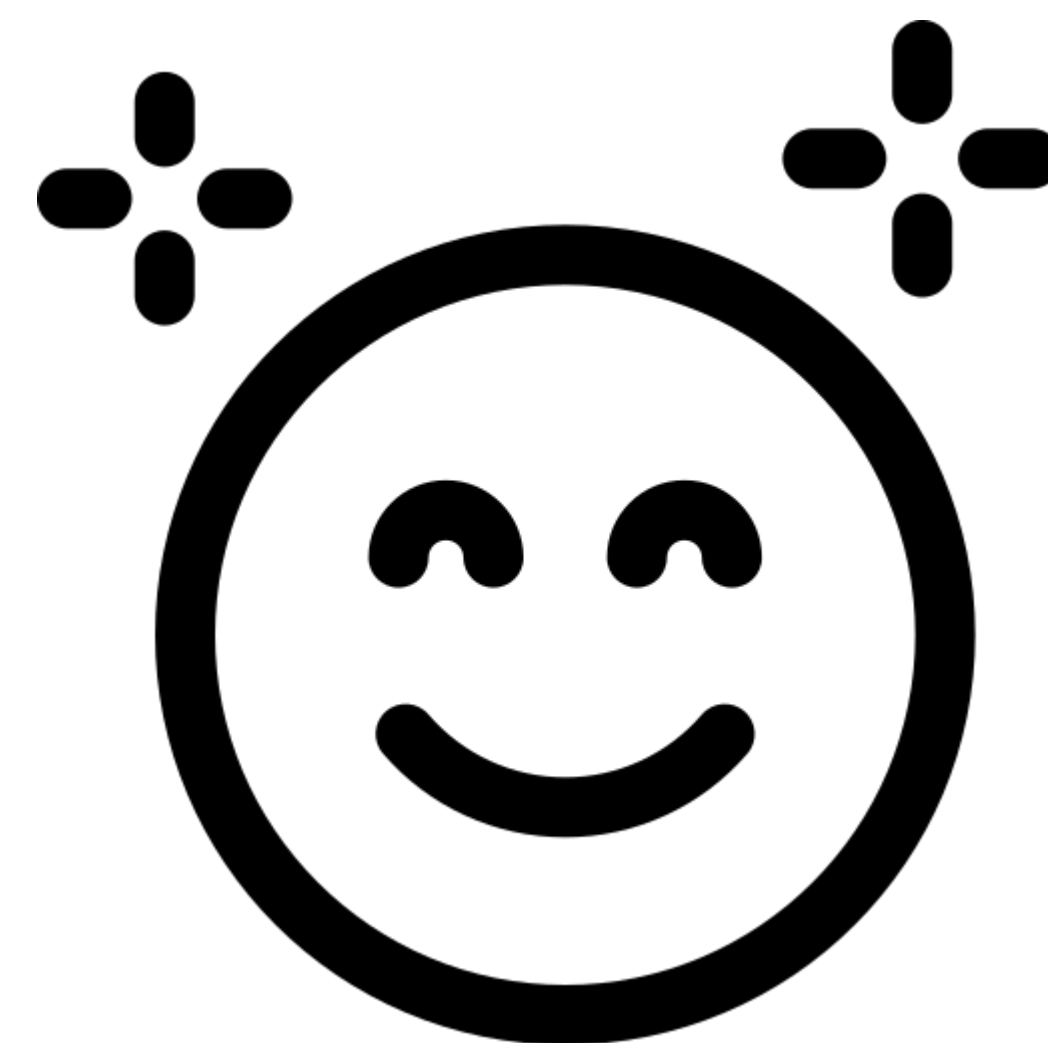
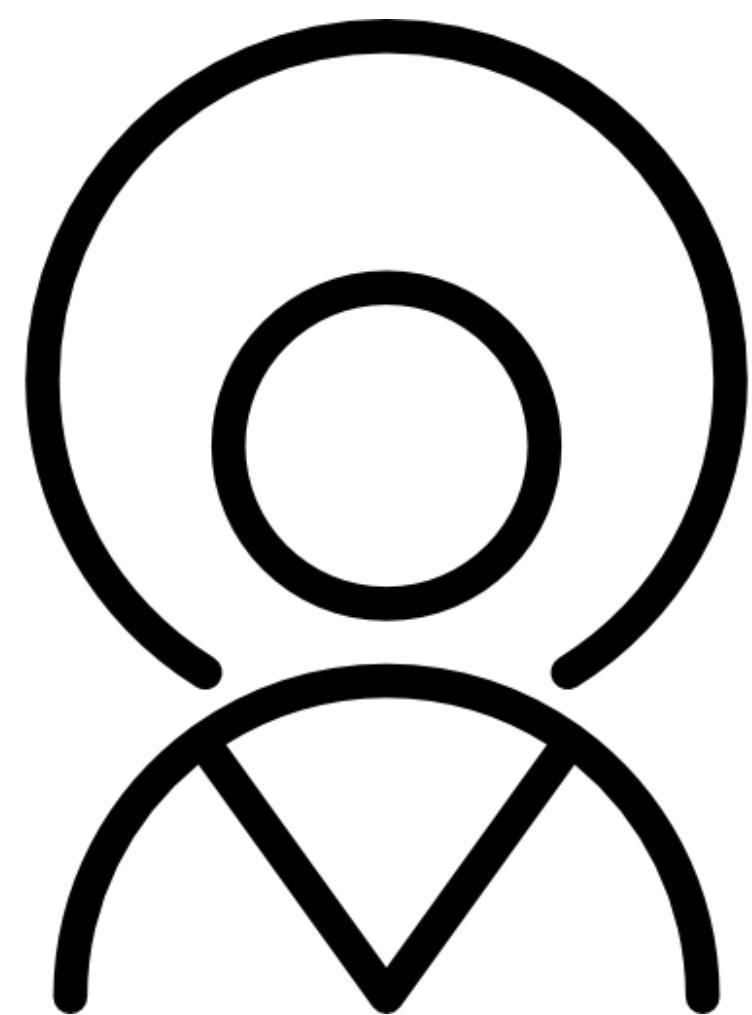


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## ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX (THE LITTLE FLOWER)



Saint Theresse of Lisieux as a novice at age 16 (Carmelite Archives of Lisieux)



This young saint of the month was selected due to her **untouched joy in her afflictions**.

### PRAY WITH ST. THERESE

[Pray More Novenas](#)

[Angelus Press](#)

[Hallow](#)

[Pray Catholic Novenas](#)

### GET TO KNOW THERESE!

[The Society of the Little Flower](#)

[Catholic Online: Saints & Angels](#)

[Franciscan Media](#)

[Catholic Minute](#) (Top 10 quotes)

[Bishop Robert Barron](#)

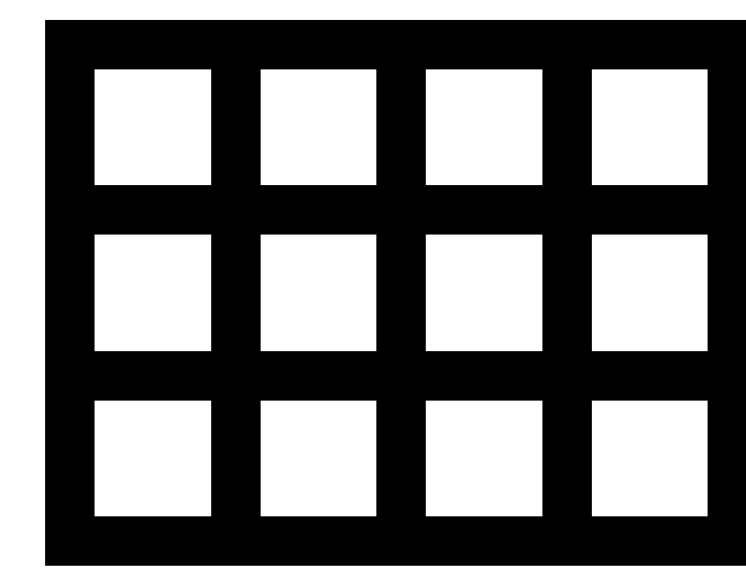
[GabiAfterHours](#)



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## PARISH & DEANERY EVENTS



Some of the theme cards include dates of key Archdiocesan events (see definition card below for clarity). We encourage parish and deanery youth leaders to keep these dates open and devise your own year plans around them. Listed below are proposed parish and deanery activities for consideration and planning. Note that these are basic key events and not exhaustive. Smaller activities will be suggested as monthly theme cards are released, and deaneries and parishes are encouraged to be prayerful, creative and diligent in organising activities and gatherings.



Please remember to share your year plans, promotion materials and info with the Youth Dept. as we would like to share and promote your activities in our social circles!

### DEANERY YOUTH MASS

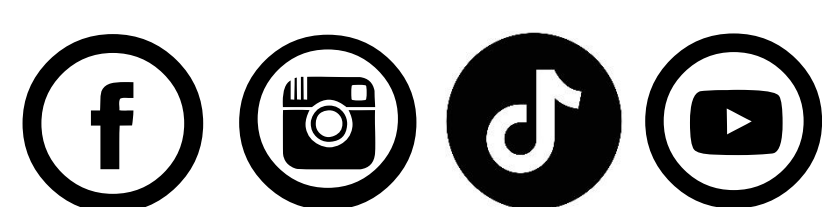
Youth Mass remains a highlight and has proven to be a powerful and empowering spiritual encounter for young people. Whether celebrated on its own or as part of other deanery activities (as listed below), we invite the Deanery Youth Forum (DYF) of every deanery to plan this celebration and welcome all youth within your respective deaneries.

### YOUTH DAY (JUNE 16)

Deaneries have celebrated vibrant youth day events over the years filled with creative uniqueness. As a lead-up to AMOF, we invite DYF's to make Youth Day celebrations celebrated on June 16 a priority. This day can include multiple activities such as Youth Mass, spiritual formation activities, listening circles, culture and sport activities, fundraising initiatives (e.g. raffles, food and merchandise sales), etc. Our virtual connections via social media make this a multi-centred occasion by which we are apart yet one in this celebration. Looking forward!

### WORLD YOUTH DAY (CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY)

Pope Francis has moved the annual global Youth Day celebration to the feast of Christ the King each year. Since our local Youth Day celebrations are celebrated in June (AMOF JOZI & June 16), we invite Parish Youth Forum (PYF) leaders to work with their respective parish pastoral councils (PPC's) in planning a special parish Youth Mass for this feast. Mass can be followed by fun and fellowship activities facilitated by the youth for all parishioners. This celebration also serves as a launching platform for the upcoming theme of the following year.

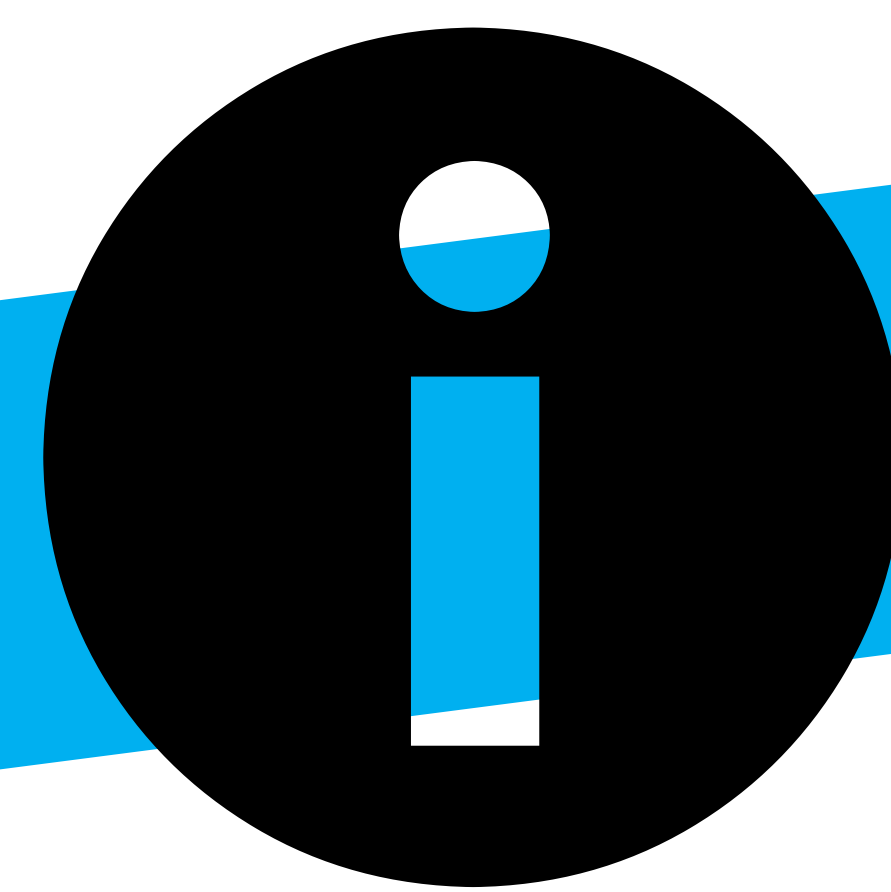


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## DEFINITIONS

### **CYJ = CATHOLIC YOUTH JOZI**

The archdiocesan catholic youth body. #CYJ23 refers to all things pertaining to the youth of the Johannesburg archdiocese. The year is specified, as a key theme (usually a scripture verse) is at the core of all events, gatherings and resources that will be produced in that year. The 'CYJ Mass' is a celebration open to all youth during which we give thanks for the year behind us and consecrate that before us to Jesus.

### **AYF = ARCHDIOCESAN YOUTH FORUM**

The AYF refers to the archdiocesan body of parish youth leaders, i.e. all Parish Youth Forum (PYF) chairpersons. This can be viewed as a youth version of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council (APC). The 'AYF Encounter' is therefore a leadership platform by which we aspire to form, inform, inspire and connect parish youth leaders.

### **PYF = PARISH YOUTH FORUM**

The Parish Youth Forum (PYF) consists of all parish youth. PYF leaders are referred to as the 'PYF Executive'.

### **DYF = DEANERY YOUTH FORUM**

The Deanery Youth Forum (DYF) consists of the chairpersons and secretaries of every PYF in a given deanery. Deanery leaders are elected from the DYF to form the 'DYF Executive'.

### **WYD = WORLD YOUTH DAY**

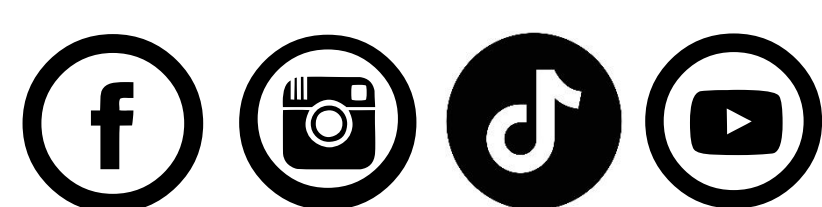
World Youth Day is celebrated every year across the world on the feast of Christ the King. One particular large gathering is celebrated every three years in a selected host country. The next large gathering ('WYD2023') will in be Lisbon, Portugal from 1-6 Aug.

### **AMOF = ARCHDIOCESAN MEETING OF FAMILIES**

One of our newest and biggest archdiocesan events, now officially hosted by the Youth department in collaboration with the Marriage & Family Life and Evangelisation departments. 'AMOF JOZI' has been instituted as the official youth event that will be celebrated each year in June (youth month). This event is by the youth, for the church!

### **ALC = ARCHDIOCESAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

Another new and large archdiocesan event hosted by the Evangelisation department in collaboration with the Youth and Marriage & Family Life departments. ALC has been instituted as the official leadership formation event that will be celebrated each year on the Saturday before World Mission Sunday. This event is for all church leadership and welcomes aspiring leaders.



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