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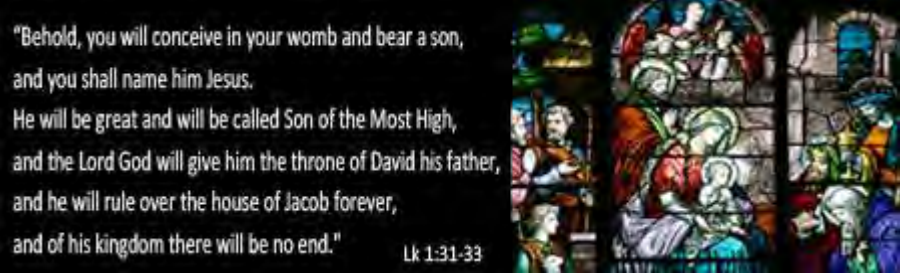
March

17 **Diocesan Bereavement Conference, Uniondale**

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"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Lk 1:31-33

December 2011

During this beautiful season of Advent we are reminded by Pope Benedict XVI that "Like the Church as a whole, the Christian family is called to welcome, radiate and demonstrate the love and presence of Christ in the world." It is through the dedication of each of you, working within your various parish ministries to the family, that ongoing formation and support radiates the love of Jesus Christ to so many people.

Registration for our **Annual Diocesan Bereavement Conference**, which is scheduled for March 17, 2012, will begin during the first week in January. The brochure will be available on our website and you will be able to view the description of the 41 workshops that will be available to you in the area of specific loss, spirituality and support, workshops for caregivers and so much more. Fr. Anthony Stanganelli will be our keynote speaker and speak on the theme "Blessed Are You..."

Our next **Family Ministry Network meeting** will be held on Thursday, January 19 at St. William the Abbot Parish, Seaford at 10:00 a.m. All parish volunteers and parish staff members are invited to attend these network meetings. The flyer with additional information will be posted on our [website](#) during the first week of January.

[Bereavement Training \(Part I\)](#) will be offered on Monday evenings beginning January 30 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Brigid's parish.

Please mark your calendars for an **infant Baptism facilitator training** that will be offered on Saturday mornings, January 21 and 28 from 9:30 a.m. to noon at St. Frances de Chantal Parish in Wantagh. The flyer and

registration form will be available online beginning the first week of January.

The next training workshop for "[Baby Steps in Family Faith](#)" (a post Baptism/parenting program) will be held on Wednesday, January 25 at St. Lawrence the Martyr in Sayville.

For all involved in marriage preparation ministry please note that we are offering [Cana II sessions](#) (for couples who have been married, annulled and remarrying in the Catholic Church). These sessions will be held on the weekends of January 21/22, March 3/4 And July 21/22, 2012.

So as we await the birth of Jesus and the Christmas season with all the hope it brings let us reflect on the following words, "May we be enlightened by a ray of the light that comes from Bethlehem, the light of he who is 'the greatest' and made himself small, he who is 'the strongest' but became weak." (Pope Benedict XVI).

Peace,
Kathleen Logan
Associate Director-Family Ministry