

Diocese of Worcester  
*Office of Ongoing Priestly Formation*  
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## REMINDER

### Advent Afternoon of Recollection Priests of the Diocese of Worcester

Thursday, December 7, 2017

1:30 – 4:00 P.M.

St. Joseph's Abbey  
167 North Spencer Road  
Spencer, Massachusetts

Arrival between 1:30 – 1:45 P.M. at the Guest House  
Office of None begins at 2:00 P.M.

No Registration Required

“Christmas is an event which is renewed in every family, parish and community which receives the love of God made incarnate in Jesus Christ. Like Mary, the Church shows everyone the “sign” of God: the Child whom she bore in her womb and to whom she gave birth, yet who is the Son of the Most High, since he ‘is of the Holy Spirit’ (Mt. 1:20). He is truly the Savior, for he is the Lamb of God who takes upon himself the sin of the world (cf. Jn. 1:29). With the shepherds, let us bow down before the Lamb, let us worship God’s goodness made flesh, and let us allow tears of repentance to fill our eyes and cleanse our hearts... He alone, he alone can save us. Where God is born, hope is born. He brings hope. Where God is born, peace is born. And where peace is born, there is no longer room for hatred and for war.”

His Holiness Pope Francis

“Christmas is a privileged opportunity to meditate on the meaning and value of our existence. The approach of this Solemnity helps us on the one hand to reflect on the drama of history in which people, injured by sin, are perennially in search of happiness and of a fulfilling sense of life and death; and on the other, it urges us to meditate on the merciful kindness of God who came to man to communicate to him directly the Truth that saves, and to enable him to partake in his friendship and his life. Therefore let us prepare ourselves for Christmas with humility and simplicity, making ourselves ready to receive as a gift the light, joy and peace that shine from this mystery.”

His Holiness Benedict XVI, Pope Emeritus

*“Jesus summoned those whom he wanted  
and they came to him that they might be with him”  
Mark 3:13-14*