

# The First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2014

## *Please pray for those in special need of prayer.*

Peg Torma, Betty Porterfield, Alec Hitt, Ernie Nichol, Thomas Waters, Travis, Carol O'Dowd, Amber Hoyt Phraner, Valerie, Angel, Carmen, Raymond Bivens, Jr., Helen Pratti, Agnes Henry, Rose Gunderson, Ronnie Hunter, and Robert Bivens.

## **Reconciliation: Saturday at St. John 3 pm.**

## **December 8 ~ Immaculate Conception Masses**

St. Peter: 8 am & 6 pm

St. John: 9:30 am & 7:15 pm

## **Advent Reconciliation**

**Communal Reconciliation\*** will be held:

7 pm December 10-- St. Peter; December 17--St. John

**Individual Reconciliation\*\*** will be held:

7 pm December 11-- St. Peter; December 18--St. John

## **Annual O'Connor Hospital Parade**

O'Connor Holiday Parade on December 6 at 11 am.

## **Advent Mass Schedule**

Monday, December 15:	7 pm St. John
Tuesday, December 9, 16:	8 am St. Peter 9:30 am, 7 pm St. John
Wed., December 10:	8 am, 7 pm* St. Peter 9:30 am St. John
December 17:	8 am St. Peter 9:30 am, 7 pm* St. John
Thursday, December 11:	8 am, 7 pm** St. Peter 9:30 am St. John
December 18:	8 am St. Peter 9:30 am, 7 pm** St. John
Friday, December 12, 19:	7 pm St. John

## ✦ **OFFERINGS** ✦

	<u>Offertory</u>	<u>Human Dev.</u>
St. John:	\$ 1,436	\$ 373
Holy Family:	205	76
St. Peter:	1,406	468

## **Delhi Living Nativity**

The Annual Living Nativity presented by the First Presbyterian Church as a gift to the community and as a reminder of the true meaning of the Christmas season will be on December 22 & 23, 6:30 to 8 pm. Interested in a part? Call Nancy at First Presbyterian, 746.2155.

## **Family Perspective** by Bud Ozar

The Gospel tells us to "Be watchful." This comes natural to families: parents are watchful of their children's health, grades, and friends; children are watchful of parental moods. The Gospel encourages us to use this ability to see God acting in the innocence, tenderness, love, and forgiveness of your family. "Be watchful," the Lord is already with you.

## **Bakers Needed for the Fourteenth**

Bakers are needed for St. John's coffee hour on Sunday, December 14. Items may be left in the kitchen in the Parish Hall.

## 🕯 ***Advent Contemplation*** 🕯

It is easy to fall into a routine, forgetting that Jesus is with us and will come again. Perhaps this Advent we will reach beneath our routine ~ beneath even the routine of our anxieties ~ and discover anew who it is for whom we truly hunger.

## **Parenting Pointers** by Susan Vogt

As we begin a new liturgical year with Advent, discuss with your family one new habit each of you would like to develop between now and Christmas. Let lighting a candle on your Advent wreath be a time to remind you of your resolve to begin again to become a better person.



## **Embellish Your Advent Wreath**

An Advent wreath customarily has three purple candles, symbolizing penance and waiting, and one pink candle (third Sunday) representing hope. This year you might consider adding a different colored pillar candle in the center of the ring each week: first week-- blue for Old Testament prophets, who heralded the coming of the Messiah; second week-- white for the angel Gabriel, who announced the virgin birth; third week-- green for the shepherds, who were watching their flocks in the field; fourth week-- gold for the Magi, who brought their precious gifts to the Christ child.

## **Advent Speaker Series 2014**

Our Churches will have more people come through our doors at Christmas. As we prepare for Christ, let us prepare ourselves and for the coming of our families. St. Ambrose's Parish in Latham is offering 'Preparing for Christ, Preparing for Our Families, Preparing to Evangelize' at 7 pm (6 pm on the 11<sup>th</sup>):

December 4: *God Sent His Son*, Tom Acemoglu

December 11: *When Our Families Stop Going to Church*, Bishop Scharfenberger

December 18: *Reach Out to Others with Your Faith*, Father Anthony Barratt

Lord, help us to wait with patience  
and anticipation, not caught up  
in the rush of the season,  
but resting in your  
ever-present love.

## **The Season of Advent**

This Season of Advent makes our journey toward Christmas more meaningful by revealing our deepest longings and greatest hopes, and teaching us to focus all our desires on Jesus Christ. Advent celebrates three dimensions of Christ's coming:

- into the world some two thousand years ago,
- into our hearts right now, and
- in His coming at the end of time.

As you journey through this Advent season, you will begin to understand Jesus more fully and recognize that His birth began our redemption and that His return in glory will complete it. Advent draws together the joy of His arrival as a helpless babe with the hope of His return when evil will finally be eradicated from our world.

Advent also presents us with three companions for our journey who will speak to us about matters of the heart ~ about *longing*, *fulfillment*, and *hope*. The first of these companions . . . next week.

★ **Bishop's Appeal:** [thebishopsappeal.org](http://thebishopsappeal.org) ★

## **Marriage Moments** by Susan Vogt

Be watchful! Be alert!

You do not know when the time will come.

Mark 13:33

Death is not a welcome thought for anyone, but sad as it is, all of us will face death. Are there any endearing words you want to say to your beloved... don't wait.