

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2014

Please pray for those in special need of prayer:

Melissa, 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 Gunder-son, Ronnie Hunter, and Robert Bivens.

December 8 ~ Immaculate Conception Masses

St. Peter: 8 am & 6 pm

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

Communal Reconciliation*

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

Individual Reconciliation**

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

<i>Advent Mass Schedule</i>		
	St. Peter	St. John
Monday, December 15:		7 pm
Tuesday, December 9, 16:	8 am	9:30 am/7 pm
Wednesday, December 10:	8 am/7 pm*	9:30 am
December 17:	8 am	9:30 am/7 pm*
Thursday, December 11:	8 am/7 pm**	9:30 am
December 18:	8 am	9:30 am/7 pm**
Friday, December 12, 19:		7 pm

Bakers Needed for the Fourteenth

Items for St. John's coffee hour next Sunday the fourteenth may be left in the kitchen in the Parish Hall.

Daily Advent Meditations

Please take a copy of *Five Minutes with the Word* located at the back of Church. This pocket-size book is a wonderful way to ponder the birth of our Lord based on the Mass readings.

★ **Bishop's Appeal:** thebishopsappeal.org ★

✦ OFFERINGS ✦

St. John: \$2,357

Holy Family: 296

St. Peter: 1,052

Bishop's Appeal

	<u>Pledges</u>	<u>Families</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Deficit</u>
St. John:	49	176	\$10,106	\$13,057
St. Peter:	45	118	12,634	9,679

The Carpenter Tools of Joseph

Joseph is the perfect complement to the Blessed Mother~ both of them built a house for the Messiah. Mary was a carpenter in her own right, fashioning an interior space for the Lord to dwell with her many God-given tools of spirit. Joseph built a house using tools of wood and iron. If Mary's soul magnified the Lord, Joseph did so with his hands.

As we strive to emulate Mary's soul in 'magnifying the Lord,' we cannot forget that God also calls us to use our physical tools to serve the Christ.

🕯️ **Advent Contemplation** 🕯️

Jesus promised that whenever a group of people gathers in prayer, He will be there with them. The early Church took that promise literally. The first disciples had been used to having Jesus physically among them; then, after His ascension, they often struggled to know what Jesus would want them to do. Their formula for every occasion and difficulty:

Jesus' invitation to gather in His name.

As Christians, we still need to take that same promise literally. Christian life is not sustained only by private acts of prayer, justice, and virtue, it is sustained in a community.

St. Ambrose's Parish, Latham Advent Series

Preparing for Christ, Preparing for Our Families, Preparing to Evangelize

December 11: *When Our Families Stop Going to Church*, Bishop Scharfenberger, 6 pm

December 18: *Reach Out to Others with Your Faith*, Father Anthony Barratt, 7 pm

Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Why is it so hard to forgive yet so easy to get even? Listen to John the Baptist in the Gospel and repent of the anger and ugly feelings, which block your ability to forgive. This Christmas give a gift that makes a difference.

Lord Jesus,

You alone can satisfy the deepest longings of the human heart. Through baptism, You have claimed us for Yourself, but too often we live as if we belong only to ourselves. May this season of Advent remind us that You have blessed us so that in gratitude we may live the Gospel more faithfully.

As we prepare to celebrate the miracle of Your Incarnation, may we attend to the needs of our sisters and brothers, the Body of Christ, in our midst. Amen

Parenting Pointers by Susan Vogt

With Christmas approaching, this is a good time to talk with your child about selecting one (or several) toys to pass on to other children. It is consistent with the "one in ~ one out" principle for keeping a simple home. It does not have to be a favorite, but it should be something they think will bring joy to another.

The Season of Advent

The great Prophet Isaiah foretold the coming of the promised Messiah and His kingdom. Isaiah's words are remembered especially during Advent because of his confident hope that God would restore the faithful remnant of Israel to live as God's renewed covenant community in their land:

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and shall name Him Immanuel . . . Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.

Isaiah is not dreaming when he proclaims the wondrous fruit of lifting the valleys and flattening the hills nor is the prophet being a fatalist when he describes later the suffering servant as one who is "spurned and avoided, a man of suffering, accustomed to infirmity."

If we make such straight and level paths, the Lord may enter our lives and our world directly.

Marriage Moments by Susan Vogt

Do not be afraid.

Luke 1:30

An angel, Mary, a life-changing message: it is almost too surreal to believe. What is our take-away? Ponder the angel's greeting to Mary (above). What do my beloved and I worry about? Remember: *Nothing is impossible with God.*

Book Group Christmas Dinner

The Book Group will be gathering for our Christmas dinner this Monday the eighth at 4 pm at Gucignos. We will be discussing "Stitches."

Thank you to all who stepped up to help as volunteers and/or donated items for the annual Delhi Community Dinner! It was a huge success due to community's efforts.