

Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2015

Please pray for the soul of Adam Oles.
May he rest in the peace of our Lord.

☞ Daily Mass Change ☜

Daily Masses will be celebrated Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday this week. No Masses on Thursday.

St. Peter Advent Reconciliation

St. Peter's Communal Reconciliation will be held this Wednesday the 16th at 7 pm, and Individual Reconciliation will be on Thursday, December 17, at 7 pm.

~ Advent Mass Schedule ~

Mondays: 7 pm ~St. John

Tuesdays: 8 am ~St. Peter
9:30 am & 7 pm ~St. John

Wednesdays: 8 am ~St. Peter
9:30 am ~St. John

Thursdays: 8 am ~St. Peter
9:30 am ~St. John

☞ Feeding the Birds for St. Francis ☜

Saint Francis wanted all creation to celebrate the birthday of Jesus. It was his desire that all mayors and Lords of Castles issue a decree that would require the scattering of grain on the roads on Christmas so that our friends, the birds, might have something to eat.

The Secular Franciscans, who strive to follow Christ in the footsteps of Saint Francis, ask you to use this token of a gift (located at the back of St. John) to feed the birds on Christmas Day ~ in the example of Saint Francis of Assisi.

OFFERINGS

	Offertory	Fuel
St. John:	\$1,678	\$516
Holy Family:	359	223
St. Peter:	1,677	643

☞ Origins of Advent ☜

Advent began sometime after the fourth century as a time of preparation for Epiphany, not in anticipation of Christmas. It celebrates the manifestation of Christ by remembering the visit of the Magi and the baptism of Jesus. At this time new Christians were baptized and received into the faith, and so the early Church instituted a 40 day period of fasting and repentance.

Later in the sixth century, Pope St. Gregory the Great was the first to associate this season of Advent with the coming of Christ. Originally it was not the coming of the Christ-Child that was anticipated but rather the second coming of Christ.

In the Middle Ages the Church had extended the celebration of Advent to the familiar form we know today. The early weeks are rich with the prophecies of Isaiah, reminding us to wait and prepare for the coming Messiah. Later the pace quickens, and we focus more directly on the events leading up to Jesus' birth.

☞ Baby Bottles Due ☜

Children are a gift from the Lord,
they are a reward from Him
Psalm 127:3

Please return the Knights of Columbus baby bottles by December 27 and place in their boxes located in the entranceway of Church. Thank you for your donations.

Christmas Eve Masses: 4 pm at St. John
5:30 pm at St. Peter
Christmas Masses: 8 am at Holy Family
9:30 am at St. Peter
11:15 am at St. John

Parenting Pointers

Susan Vogt

The last days before Christmas can be hectic: concerts, cooking, creating gifts ... As the nights grow longer, a candle can be your friend. Light the third Advent candle tonight, and pause, gaze, take a deep breath. Let the pause refresh & calm you.

☞ Star of Bethlehem Movie ☜

The Star of Bethlehem movie will be shown at the Kopernik Observatory, 698 Underwood Road, Vestal on Friday, December 18, at 7 pm. This fascinating documentary unlocks the mystery of the Star of Bethlehem by relating scientific knowledge about astronomy and historical clues from the Bible.

Cost: \$5/adults, \$3 seniors/students (\$16 family max). Information: 607.748.3685.

☉ God, in this time leading up
to the celebration of Jesus' birth,
teach us to go against the current.

to strip ourselves,

to be humble and giving,

to listen and be silent,

to go out of ourselves,

granting space to *Four beauty,*

the source of true joy. Amen

What Then Should We Do?

Expectation was high for the Messiah's coming; in fact, many asked John the Baptist whether he was the Messiah. He explained to the crowds who gathered, his water was no match for the fire of the Holy Spirit to come.

John issued a warning, however: "every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." This prompted the worried listeners to ask, "What then should we do?"

While John's directions were specific, the meaning is relevant today: share with anyone who has none; take only your fair share; be satisfied and just and honest. We are to prepare for the Lord by creating "good fruit" from all that He has given us.

- Do I represent Jesus' teaching in my interactions with my children, my family, friends, and neighbors?
- Do I live with the integrity of a follower of Christ?
- Am I preparing my heart for the birth of Jesus?

In your Advent prayer, ask yourself, "What then should I do?" When you act with the intention of preparing for the Messiah, the possibilities for the fruit that you might bear are endless. With God, nothing is impossible!

Family Perspective

Bud Ozar

The Gospel tells us to SHARE! This Christmas resist the pressure to give token gifts. Instead, use those funds to give necessities to the poor. If our impoverished brothers and sisters are not on our gift list, we have missed the point of Christmas.