

Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2016

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Thursday

St. Peter ~ 8 am and 6 pm
St. John ~ 9:30 am and 7:15 pm

St. Peter Advent Reconciliations

St. Peter's Communal Reconciliation will be held Wednesday the 6th at 7 pm, & Individual Reconciliation will be on Thursday the 7th at 7 pm.

March for Life Bake Sale

A bake sale will be held at St. Peter next weekend to raise funds for the March for Life trip to Washington, DC in February. Please take a few minutes after the 5:30 and 9:30 Masses to pick up some delicious goodies to take home.

Book Group Wednesday

The Book Club will meet this Wednesday the 7th at 2 pm at Hilda's Place. Our next book is The Hawk and the Dove by Penelope Wilcock. Looking for new members, please join us!

Cartons for the Franciscans

Please save your empty egg cartons and place them in the container provided in Father Willis Hall. The secular Franciscans need them for their food bank and would greatly appreciate them. This is an ongoing collection so don't throw those egg cartons out! Thank you.

~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

Vocations Brochure

Please pick up the newest **Vocations** brochure. Inside you will meet our newest seminarians (please keep them in your prayers!), stories about Sam Bellafigliore and Father James Ebert, as well as enjoy an excerpt from 33 Days to Merciful Love, by Father Michael Gaitley.

Parenting Pointers Susan Vogt

"Welcome one another, then,
as Christ welcomed you." Romans 15:6

As we approach Christmas, many families will be planning family gatherings. What a joy it usually is to reunite with relatives, but some families are separated by war, forced immigration, or ill will. Does your family have a black sheep you need to make amends with? Does our country welcome all on our shores?

THE EVOLUTION OF CHRISTMAS

Christmas did not come early in the development of Church celebration. Origen (185-254 CE), one of the greatest Christian theologians, notes that only sinners celebrate birthday, not saints. Thus, only three birthdays are celebrated in the Roman calendar: the births of Jesus, Mary, and John the Baptist. Christmas was eclipsed by Holy Week and Easter initially because death was regarded as the real "birthday" into eternal life for Christians.

The first traces of a liturgical feast of Christmas are found in Egypt around 200 AD, but the celebration of Christmas was not common in the early Church until the mid-fourth century. It was originally celebrated on January 6 along with the Epiphany, but gradually it became a separate feast on December 25. (Some early Church fathers viewed that date as the actual day of Christ's birth, but it would have been improbable for a census to be held or for shepherds to be in the fields at night during that time of the year.)

Star of Bethlehem Movie

The Star of Bethlehem movie will be shown at the Kopernik Observatory and Science Center, 698 Underwood Road, Vestal, on Friday, December 9 and 16. This fascinating documentary unlocks the mystery of the Star of Bethlehem by relating scientific knowledge about astronomy and historical clues from the bible. Doors open at 6:30 pm, and the movie begins at 7 pm. Admission: \$5 adults, \$3 seniors/students, [\$16 family max], includes telescope viewing after movie (if clear). Check out kopernik.com.

Gift Giving Ideas

Have you given enough sweaters, toys, slippers, tech items, etc. to relatives and friends who have more than they need?

Consider giving peace on earth, an end to hunger, preservation of the environment, or education for a child in honor of those 'hard-to-buy-for' people in your life. Samaritan's Purse and Heifer International have gifts starting at \$5 for Gospel booklets, baby chicks for \$14, a bicycle to enable a preacher to travel further for \$100, wool-bearing animal for \$80, honeybees w/hive for \$30, \$500 for a cow, and up to \$2,200 for a child's life-saving surgery.

The best part of helping the less fortunate, Heifer International and Samaritan's Purse will mail your Christmas card for you!

heifer.org / 888.548.6437
samaritanspurse.org / 800.353.5957

Marriage Moments Susan Vogt

Many parents put a small treat in their children's shoes the night before St. Nick's Day, December 6. Consider putting a treat in your spouse's shoe (a Hershey kiss, a love note, a coupon for a favor like a backrub, or a chore you will relieve your spouse of tomorrow).

Upcoming Fellowships

Please stop in for some pre-holiday cheer!

December 11 St. Peter coffee hour
December 18 St. John coffee hour
& cookie exchange

Family Perspective Bud Ozar

Like John the Baptist, every parent "prepares the way of the Lord" in the hearts of their children. Advent is a good time to ask: "Do I help or hinder my children to know Jesus?"

Bible Journey

Sunday, December 4, at St. John, 5 pm.

Week 13

1-- Deut 5:1-6:25; Luke 7:11-35; Ps 68:19-35; Prov 11:29-31
2-- Deut 7:1-8:20; Luke 7:36-8:3; Ps 69:1-18; Prov 12:1
3-- Deut 9:1-10:22; Luke 8:4-21; Ps 69:19-36; Prov 12:2-3
4-- Deut 11:1-12:32; Luke 8:22-39; Ps 70:1-5; Prov 12:4
5-- Deut 13:1-15:23; Luke 8:40-9:6; Ps 71:1-24; Prov 12:5-7
6-- Deut 16:1-17:20; Luke 9:7-27; Ps 72:1-20; Prov 12:8-9
7-- Deut 18:1-20:20; Luke 9:28-50; Ps 73:1-28; Prov 12:10

Week 14

1-- Deut 21:1-22:30; Luke 9:51-10:12; Ps 74:1-23; Prov 12:11
2-- Deut 23:1-25:29; Luke 10:13-37; Ps 75:1-10; Prov 12:12-14
3-- Deut 26:1-27:26; Luke 10:38-11:13; Ps 76:1-12; Prov 12:15-17
4-- Deut 28:1-68; Luke 11:14-36; Ps 77:1-20; Prov 12:18
5-- Deut 29:1-30:20; Luke 11:37-12:7; Ps 78:1-31; Prov 12:19-20
6-- Deut 31:1-32:27; Luke 12:8-34; Ps 78:32-55; Prov 12:21-23
7-- Deut 32:28-52; Luke 12:35-59; Ps 78:56-64; Prov 12:24

*O comfort My people and calm all their fear,
And tell them the time of salvation draws near.
O tell them I come to remove all their shame.
Then they will forever give praise to My name.*