

# Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2016



~Advent Daily Mass This Week~

Monday:	7 pm ~ St. John
Tuesday:	8 am ~ St. Peter 9:30 am & 7 pm ~ St. John
Wednesday:	8 am ~ St. Peter 9:30 am ~ St. John
Thursday:	8 am ~ St. Peter 9:30 am ~ St. John

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

## Coffee Hour & Cookie Exchange

Remember to stop by after Mass on the 18<sup>th</sup> at St. John the Baptist for some pre-holiday cheer and warm fellowship.

## Bible Journey

Today the 18<sup>th</sup> at St. John beginning 3 pm.  
Readings on back cover for Weeks 15 & 16.

## Egg Cartons

The Franciscans have been blessed with an overwhelming response to their request for egg cartons for their food bank; and due to this tremendous response for empty egg cartons, they do not have enough storage space for further donations. God bless you for your kindness.

## Family Perspective Bud Ozar

The child born to Joseph and Mary was named 'Emmanuel,' which means "God is with us." Every child is a sign of God's continuing presence in our lives.

### ADVENT

The believing Christian celebrates an Advent with multiple meanings. Each of these meanings ultimately leads to generally applicable religious principles and problems. Therefore Advent is precisely the liturgical season in which the interior religious tension of our time is most conspicuously revealed.

The season of Advent is, first of all, the time of man's original religious instinct. Never will we experience our primeval homesick yearning for God more actively and alertly than in this season. It is the time of the God-seeker. The original longing within every human heart is a great impulse toward the hidden and distant God, a longing to wander in that far-off, forgotten homeland of the soul. That longing is what the Church expresses, both in her inner attitude and in the liturgy of this season.

Advent has a great historical meaning to the believer, the grateful remembrance of the millennia of God's gracious care that has led man to the fulfillment of this longing for Him. Thus the season the Advent clearly reveals the basic meaning of all human events and historical developments: man's way to God, guidance by God, fulfillment in Christ.

The believing Christian celebrates Advent in the context of liturgy. By taking part in the inner life of the Church, he expresses within himself, within his life, the original religious and historical meaning of Advent. He lets himself be caught up in that "fullness of time," which is both actually present and always returning, within the Church of Christ.

The threefold meaning of Advent basically expresses the entire intrinsic meaning of Christianity: the relation and vocation of all people to God, as well as guidance and providential direction through God; the redeeming fulfillment in Christ, and the continuation and application of the redemption through the Church of Christ.

~ Father Alfred Delp, SJ

## Disaster Mental Health Committee

The reconvening O'Connor Committee will have their first meeting on December 28 from 1:30 to 2 pm in the Annex, (across the street from O'Connor Hospital). Please feel free to attend if you think you would like to be a part of the committee. The meeting will cover working on the response protocol for an emergency and assessing those interested in taking part in future disaster mental health trainings.

For information: Emily Taggart, 746.0344.

## Tree Blessing

Lord our God,  
we praise You for the light of creation:  
the sun, the moon, & the stars of the night.  
We praise You for the light of Israel:  
the Law, the prophets, & the wisdom  
of the Scriptures.

We praise You for Jesus Christ, Your Son:  
He is Emmanuel, God-with-us,  
the Prince of Peace,  
who fills us with the wonder of Your love.

Lord God,  
let Your blessing come upon us  
as we illumine this tree.  
May the light & cheer it gives  
be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts.  
May all who delight in this tree  
come to the knowledge & joy of salvation.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

## Parenting Pointers Susan Vogt

As Christmas approaches help your children prepare by urging them to choose at least one of their possessions to give away to someone who would love to have it and who needs it more than they do.

Let us open our hearts to receive  
the grace of this Advent season,  
which is Christ Himself,  
whom God our Father has revealed  
to the entire world.

Where God is born, hope is born,  
Where God is born, peace is born.

And where peace is born,  
there is no longer room for hatred & for war.

God alone can save us & free us  
from the many forms of evil  
& selfishness in our midst.

Let us welcome into our lives God's mercy,  
which Jesus Christ has bestowed on us,  
so that we in turn can show mercy  
to our brothers & sisters.

In this way, we will make peace grow!

~ Pope Francis

## Retreat

The Priory Retreat, Chestertown 518.494.3733

Directed Silent Retreat... January 13-15

Spend time in silence, freed from obligations and social pressures ~ what a wonderful way to begin 2017! Meet daily with your spiritual director, who will listen to and walk with you during your stay. \$225

Come if you wish to spend a day, afternoon, or the whole weekend.

Quiet Weekend... January 27-29

Disconnect from the distractions of the world and spend time in solitude and contemplation while enjoying God's beauty and the grace of winter silence.

\$65/single, \$80/double; meals: \$5 - \$15.