

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2017

~ *Weekday Masses* ~

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

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

Thursday: No am Masses
6 pm ~ St. Peter
7:15 pm ~ St. John

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

Immaculate Conception December 7 & 8

Thursday Vigils: St. Peter-6 pm, St. John-7:15 pm

Friday Masses: St. Peter-8 am, St. John-9:30 am

St. Peter Advent Reconciliations

St. Peter's Communal Reconciliation will be held Tuesday, December 5, 7 pm, and Individual Reconciliation will be on Wednesday, December 7, 7 pm.

St. John Advent Reconciliations

St. John's Communal Reconciliation will be held Monday, December 11, 7 pm, and Individual Reconciliation will be on Wednesday, December 13, 7 pm.

Book Group Christmas Luncheon

The annual Christmas luncheon will be held Thursday the seventh beginning 12:30 pm at CuGinos.

Christmas Pageants

The youth of our parishes' faith formation programs will present Christmas pageants on Sunday, December 17. St Peter's pageant will be immediately following the 9:30 Mass in Delhi & the St John the Baptist pageant will immediately follow the 11:15 Mass in Walton. All are invited to stay & watch this short retelling of the Nativity story.

St. John Adoration Holy Hour

St. John's Adoration Holy Hour will be held 6 to 7 pm during the winter months.

Bring Your Questions!

All parishioners are welcome to the "Conversation, Questions, and Answers" with Father Golding on Tuesday, December 12, at 7 pm in Father Willis Hall hosted by our Knights of Columbus. Light refreshments provided.

Deck the Halls

The Environmental Ministry at St. Peter will be decorating the Church on Saturday, December 9, from 9 to 11 am if you would like to join them & lend a hand.

Blood Drive

A blood drive is scheduled for this Thursday, December 7, from 11:30 am to 5:30 pm at United Presbyterian, East and North Streets. For an appointment (required), please call 800.REDCROSS.

Star of Bethlehem

The Star of Bethlehem movie will be shown at the Kopernik Observatory & Science Center at 698 Underwood Road in Vestal, on Friday, December 1 and 8. 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. Admission: \$5 adults, \$3 seniors/students, \$16 family max., (Kopernik members are free). Cost of tickets includes telescope viewing after the movie (if clear). Call 607.748.3685 or www.kopernik.org for more information.

Colchester Food Bank

Requested needed items to drop at Holy Family: cans of pasta, tuna, stew, chili, pasta sauce; fruit, jelly, graham crackers, spaghetti.

Marriage Moments Susan Voigt

Advent has begun. Each day try to notice one act of helpfulness or kindness that your beloved does. Do not take each other for granted.

Family Perspective 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 and actions. The Gospel encourages us to use this ability to see God acting in the innocence, tenderness, love, and forgiveness of family. "*Be watchful,*" the Lord is already with you.

Christmas Light Show

Our Lady of Martyrs Shrine is holding a drive through Christmas Light Show: "*Light the Knight*" December 8/9 and 15/16 from 6 to 9 pm. Revel in the wonderful light display, warm up with cocoa and cookies, your kids can participate in free arts and crafts, and do some of your Christmas shopping in the gift shop. Donation: \$5 per car.

Parenting Pointers Susan Voigt

Although too often Advent is considered as the Christmas shopping season, our Church reminds us that it is a time to "Be watchful! Be alert!" During Advent this year each day watch your child and note one kind, joyful, or positive act.

Prepare Ye For Christmas

Remember getting ready for Christmas when you were a child? From decorating the tree to baking cookies, each moment brought you excitement and joy. Make this Advent season different by signing up for the Best Advent Ever free email program today: bestadventever.com/almostchristmas.

During a season where distractions pull us away from our focus on the coming of Jesus at Christmas, enjoy the daily inspirational videos, real life stories of hope, and practical tips to help keep you anchored on Emmanuel while journeying through this Advent.

Bishop's Appeal

Deficits: St. John the Baptist: \$9,187
St. Peter's Church: 4,067

ADVENT PROGRAMS

December 17 at 7pm -- St. Vincent, Cobleskill:

Bishop Hubbard's reflections on the writings of Pope Francis. Please bring a non-perishable food item.

December 3 at 5 pm -- Sacred Heart, Stamford:

1) "Come Open the Gifts of Advent" Bring a dish-to-pass for the potluck dinner.

2) **December 11-13** at 7 pm, Advent Mission: with Penance Service, 12th; Anointing Service, 13th.

3) **December 5** at 6 pm, Living Rosary. Pizza after.

December 5, 12, 19 at 7 pm -- St. Mary, Oneonta: Taize Prayer (Reconciliation begins at 5:30 pm).

Advent ~ He is Coming!

The word *advent* means *coming*. during the four week Advent season that begins our Church year, we prepare for the coming of Jesus by remembering His birth in Bethlehem (past), anticipating His coming in glory (future), and by celebrating His coming to us in word and sacrament (present).

The Church has appointed scriptures for Advent that tell of God's coming in Christ. This Sunday focuses on the coming of Christ at the end of time - the second coming or *Parousia*. The second and third Sundays focus on the coming of Christ today, to us and to our world. The fourth Sunday focuses on the coming of Christ in history as a child born in Bethlehem.

As we journey through Advent, preparing ourselves for the way God continually comes to us, we are reminded once again that our God is a God of surprises, and no matter how settled and sure we are in our expectations, God always does something new. Thus through our reading, prayer, and sharing with others we will learn more about who our God is and what He wants to do in our lives through the presence of Jesus, who comes once again into our midst.