

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2017

~ *Weekday Masses* ~

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

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

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

Advent Reconciliations at St. John This Week

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

Christmas Pageants

The youth of our parishes' faith formation programs will present Christmas pageants next Sunday, December 17. St Peter's pageant will immediately follow 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 and 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" program with Father Golding this Tuesday, December 12, at 7 pm in Father Willis Hall hosted by our Knights of Columbus. Enjoy insightful and enlightening conversation along with light refreshments.

"The season of Advent restores this horizon of hope, a hope which does not disappoint because it is founded on God's Word. A hope which does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints! He is faithful!"

~ Pope Francis

Offertory Envelopes?

Please contact either office if you would like to have weekly offertory envelopes OR if you receive them and no longer use them.

St. Lucy, Patron Saint of the Blind

As we celebrate the feast day of St. Lucy this Wednesday, the Xavier Society for the Blind, founded in 1900 to assist blind and visually impaired people learn about, develop, and practice their faith, continue to reach out with their service.

With an existing catalog of over 1,400 braille and audio titles, they provide inspirational, spiritual, and religious reading materials in braille, audio and/or large print to the blind and visually impaired community of faithful free of charge, including:

- monthly readings, prayers, and responses for the Sunday Mass and selected Feast Days and Solemnities;
- faith formation textbooks for children and adults;
- many popular titles related to the Catholic Church, religion, and spiritual themes.

If you know a family member, friend, or parishioner who could benefit from the above, visit their website-- xaviersocietyfortheblind.org, email at info@xaviersocietyfortheblind.org, or call 800.637.9193.

Christmas Light Show Last Weekend

This is the last weekend to experience the drive through Martyrs Shrine Christmas Light Show: "Light the Knight" from 6 to 9 pm. Revel in the wonderful light display, warm up with cocoa and cookies, kids can participate in free arts and crafts, and Christmas shop in their gift shop. Donation: \$5 per car.

Delhi Food Bank

Some needed items to drop at St. Peter or United Ministry: soup, crackers, canned fruit and vegetables, mac 'n cheese, pasta.

On-Going Pastoral Care Enrichments

In Pastoral Care Ministry you often meet the tears of those whom you serve. How can these tears be a source of healing for those we minister to? Attend the January 27 mini-presentation, "Christ Reveals Himself in Tears" to explore how to see Christ through the lens of tears, and how they can be a source of healing.

This session will be video-conferenced to St. Mary's Church in Oneonta 9 am to noon on Saturday, January 27, (check-in: 8:30 am). Register: online at [portal.rcda.org:81/Pastoral Care Registration](http://portal.rcda.org:81/Pastoral%20Care%20Registration); call: 518.641.6818 by January 12.

Marriage Moments Susan Vogt

Are you ready? It is a common question as Christmas approaches, but these are sobering times with natural disasters multiplying and the threat of nuclear war present. Being ready depends on how you live today. Make today a day worthy of your life. Talk this over.

Family Perspective 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, which makes a difference ~ give forgiveness.

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.

Parenting Pointers Susan Vogt

What does it mean to conceive a child? Whether you are the mother or father, it means your life is forever changed. It is the start of enduring love and sacrifice for another being put in your care. Pause today and ponder your creative role.

ADVENT PROGRAMS

December 11-13 at 7 pm-- Sacred Heart, Stamford:
Advent Mission: with Penance Service, 12th;
Anointing Service, 13th.

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

December 17 at 7 pm -- St. Vincent, Cobleskill:
Bishop Hubbard's reflections on the writings of Pope Francis. Please bring a non-perishable food item.

Advent ~ Kairos

The Greek word *Kairos*, translated into English as "time," refers to uncommon time, within which uncommon events occur. *Kairos* is God's time. Because there was no way of knowing, in the unchronicled time of God, when the Lord will return, Christians are admonished to "watch!"

Believers who are watching, as admonished three times in last Sunday's Gospel, are like the servants in the parable who remain behind when the owner of the house leaves to travel abroad. The servants are not to wait idly for the owner's return, nor are Christians to wait idly until the Lord returns. Christians are exhorted to stand the "watch" and not be caught asleep. The day of the Lord is not simply something that will happen at the end of time. Rather, we need to be watchful to see how every day of our faith lives is the day of the Lord.

Advent is the season for believers to patiently watch and wait for the God of surprises. God is always simultaneously present and elusive.