

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 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

Christmas Pageants Sunday

The youth of our parishes' faith formation programs will present Christmas pageants after the Sunday Masses today: St Peter's pageant will immediately follow 9:30 Mass and the St John the Baptist pageant will immediately follow 11:15 Mass.

All are invited to stay and watch this short retelling of the Nativity story.

Coffee Hour at St. John

Stop by after Mass on Sunday to enjoy lively fellowship and wonderful baked items!

St. Peter Adoration

There will be no Adoration Tuesday, December 26.

Christmas Week Mass Change

No Masses will be celebrated on Tuesday, December 26. There will be Masses on Wednesday and Thursday at 8 and 9:30 am.

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.

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

Marriage Moments Susan Vogt

Ways to Turn Your Beloved Off No. 6 -- Let the busyness of Christmas preparations blind you to the gift of your relationship: Don't let shopping or decorating or worries keep you from treasuring the presence of your beloved.

Life-Giving Gift Ideas for Christmas

CRS.org: Want a creative gift idea which will have a long-lasting impact? Catholic Relief Services has gift ideas that have the power to change of lives of people facing hunger and poverty, and will show your loved ones just how much you care!

Just a few gifts available: \$25 provides health exams for 12 children; \$60 buys two pigs to help increase farmers' earnings; \$80 buys one lamb or kid which aids farm families diets and income; \$165 buys a survivors kit for girls rescued from trafficking providing a month's supply of food, medicine, bedding, clothing, etc.

Pick your gifts online and dedicate a special card for your gift recipients notifying them of your life-giving gift!

Samaritan's Purse.org: For life-transforming gifts which spread the hope of the Gospel, Samaritan's Purse has 42 gifts of hope. Some ways to touch people's lives: \$25 (share the \$2,500 cost) to repair an entire home of a persecuted Christian; \$75 to save the lives and improve the health of mothers and their babies (\$9 to feed a hungry baby for a week); \$25 (share the \$250 cost) to provide treatment for children with crippling birth defects or injuries; \$100 provides emergency medical care after a catastrophic event. Also gifts for our military personnel as well as gifts your kids can give.

*Make straight the way of God within,
And let each heart prepare a home
Where such a mighty Guest may come!*

There will be no Masses on January 1.

Walton Food Bank

Needed items to drop at St. John or United Presbyterian: spaghetti, pasta, & sauces, tuna fish, egg noodles; soups: vegetable, chicken noodle, tomato, cream of mushroom, Ramen noodle etc.

If you would like to make a donation, please make your check out to: Walton Food Bank. You may put your check in the offertory basket or mail directly to 58 East Street, Walton.

Next volunteer month: March

Special Invitation

Experience the joy of the birth of Emmanuel at the annual living nativity at First Presbyterian Church in Delhi on December 22 and 23 from 6:30 to 8 pm. Immerse yourself in the music and true meaning of Christmas. Please bring a donation for the Delhi Food Bank.

Family Perspective Bud Ozar

The Gospel reports: "There is one among you whom you do not recognize." It is hard to believe Christ is present in a family with crazy schedules, suppers that start too late and end too early, cars that do not start, misunderstandings, frustrations, piles of laundry, unmatched socks, and stretched food budgets. The list is endless. The words spoken at Mass, "The Lord is with you," are not a hope, they are a fact.

Taizé Prayer in Delhi

Taizé Prayer will be held at St. James Church on December 21. A service of song, silence, and contemplation, Taizé prayer is held every third Thursday of each month at 7 pm at different churches. Come and rest in the peace and tranquility of this blessed season.

Help Available

Know someone suffering from a past abortion? There is hope and healing available: sistersoflife.org. Women: 866.575.0075/email: hopeandhealing@sistersoflife.org & men: 877.586.4621/email: Lumina@postabortionhelp.org.

ADVENT PROGRAM

December 19 at 7pm -- St. Mary, Oneonta:

Taize Prayer (Reconciliation begins at 5:30pm).

Parenting Pointers Susan Vogt

Where does God live? Ask your child. Perhaps each of you can draw a picture of God's home. Is God in the sky, in nature, inside you, even in your enemy? YES! Help your children recognize God as an omnipresent Holy Spirit, who makes everything they see, hear, and touch sacred. You too.

Gaudete Sunday

Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent, is so called from the first word of the Mass Introit, "Gaudete in Domino semper" expressing the joy of expectation, and gives its name to the day. Advent originated as a fast of forty days in preparation for Christmas commencing on the day after the feast of St. Martin on November 12. This Sunday, therefore, makes a break (like Laetare Sunday during Lent) about midway through a season signifying the nearness of the Lord's coming. As we wait for the coming of Christ, a rose-colored candle is lit on the Advent wreath as a reminder that our waiting will not be in vain.

In both the Office and Mass throughout Advent, continual reference is made to our Lord's second coming. This is emphasized on Gaudete Sunday, and it is further marked by a new Invitatory, the Church no longer inviting the faithful to adore merely "The Lord who is to come" but calling upon them to worship and hail with joy "The Lord who is now nigh and close at hand" (Isaiah 9 describing the Lord's coming and the blessings that will result.)