

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2017

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

There will be no Masses
on January 1.

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.

St. Peter Adoration

There will be no Adoration Tuesday, December 26.

Mass

Watch Mass live on our Diocesan website, rcd.org, Sundays at 9:30 am. If you have cable, watch on EWTN. If you have cable through Margaretville Telephone, Mass is on at 6:30 am each Sunday.



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.

Colchester Food Bank

Some needed items to drop at Holy Family or Colchester Food Bank: peanut butter; boxes of mashed potatoes, stuffing. Thank you for your continued support and care.

Family Perspective _____ Bud Ozar

Question: What do you call a family, which began with an unmarried pregnant teen and had a twelve year old son, who ran away from home and was eventually executed as a criminal?

Answer: HOLY! Two Gospel lessons: 1) No matter what is happening in your family, "The Lord is with you." 2) "Do not be afraid" for "nothing is impossible with God."

Marriage Moments _____ Susan Vogt

The birth of a baby reminds us of our past ("Thus the total number of generations from Abraham to David is 14 generations" Matthew 1) and into our future (*What will this child become?*) Today, ponder the lives of your ancestors and your unknown future together.

*Descend, O Truth from above
as dew from heaven upon our parched earth.
Rise up, O Faithful One and true,
as our race's redeemer, born in our midst.
Shine forth, O Light from light,
as the glory of God in human flesh,
upon this humble earth.*

Marriage Encounter Weekends

*"The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me."*

Let your spirits be augmented by attending a Marriage Encounter Weekend. The upcoming weekends are: January 19-21 in South Kingstown, Rhode Island and February 2-4 in Manchester, Connecticut. For information, call 518.279.3243 and speak to Ed or Rhonda or visit wwmenyalb.org.

Help Available

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

On-Going Pastoral Care Enrichment

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.

The session will be video-conferenced to St. Mary's 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.

Space limited to register by January 12.

Parenting Pointers _____ Susan Vogt

The temptation is to hurry Christmas. Although we can't control how our culture celebrates, we can keep Christmas in our own home by teaching our children the value of delayed gratification: wait for the party, to light the tree, to open a present ...

Suicide Survivor Support

A support group for adults who have lost a loved one to suicide meets every second Wednesday of each month, 6 to 7 pm. This is an opportunity to express yourself, find support, comfort, and resources along with others who have been affected by personal loss themselves. Led by trained facilitators at First United Methodist, 101 North Street, Walton.

Suicide prevention crisis lifeline: **1.800.273.8255**

The Mystery Kept Secret

What is announced to Mary is the revelation of all that the prophets had spoken. It is, as Paul declares, the mystery kept secret since before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:9; 3:3-9). Mary is the virgin prophesied to bear a son of the house of David (Isaiah 7:13-14). Nearly every word the angel speaks to her today evokes and echoes the long history of salvation recorded in the Bible. Mary is hailed as the daughter Jerusalem, called to rejoice that her king, the Lord God, has come into her midst as a mighty savior (Zephaniah 3:14-17).

The One whom Mary is to bear will be Son of "the Most High" - an ancient divine title first used to describe the God of the priest-king Melchizedek, who brought out bread and wine to bless Abraham (Gen 14:18-19). He will fulfill the covenant God makes with His chosen one, David. He will reign forever as highest of the kings of the earth, and He will call God "my Father." As Daniel saw the Most High grant everlasting dominion to the Son of Man, His kingdom will have no end. He is to rule over the house of Jacob - the title God used in making His covenant with Israel and again used in promising that all nations would worship the God of Jacob.

Jesus has been made known to bring all nations to the obedience of faith. We are called with Mary today to marvel at all that the Lord has done throughout the ages for our salvation. We, too, must respond to this Annunciation with humble obedience - that His will be done, that our lives be lived according to His word.

Dr. Scott Hahn