

# Third Sunday of Advent

December 16, 2018

## December Advent Reconciliations

7 pm

18<sup>th</sup> ~ St. John Communal

19<sup>th</sup> ~ St. John Individual

### ♪ CHRISTMAS INVITATIONS ♪

Planning to attend St. John's 4 pm Christmas Eve Mass? Please join the choir -- all singers are welcome!

The annual carol sing-along at St. Peter's 5:30 pm Christmas Eve Mass is on -- all are welcome!

### DELHI FOOD BANK

The following items are needed: powdered milk, condiments, canned meats, and biscuit mixes.

Checks appreciated payable to: Delhi Food Bank. Please drop in the collection basket in an envelope marked 'Delhi Food Bank.'

### SENIOR MEALS GIFT CERTIFICATES

Senior meal gift certificates are available: \$30 purchases ten meals. Call 746.1710 for details.

### MINISTRY SCHEDULES READY

St. John Ministers, please be sure to pick up your new schedules at Church, and St. Peter Ministers, check your email or mailbox. Thank you.

The Lord is near. He is not to come after thousands of year; He is here among us. He is here, in His Church; His living breath, His divine life are present in every one of the baptized. Peace and calm are the gifts He brings to the Church; she has no more cares, for He is here now and hears her request, before it has been uttered.

~ Sister Aemiliana Lohr



St. John coffee hour Sunday.

### PARENTING POINTERS Susan Vogt

Last Sunday we heard the apostle, John, say "Prepare the way of the Lord." Luke 3:4 There are usually many preparations to make for Christmas. Help your child focus on preparing and waiting for the celebration [exception: school celebrations that we don't have control over].

### WHAT SHALL WE DO?

"What shall we do?" is asked three times in the Gospel by three categories of people: first, the crowd in general, second, the tax collectors, and third, some soldiers. They want to know what must be done to implement the conversion that John the Baptist is preaching. His reply to the crowd, "He who has two coats, let him share with him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise." He tells the tax collectors to collect no more than the amount owed, and the soldiers not to extort anything from anyone and to be content with their wages.

It is the path that Jesus points to in all His preaching: the path of diligent love for neighbor. We feel that this question is ours also. In the words of John, it is necessary to repent, to change direction and take the path of justice, solidarity, sobriety: these are the essential values of a fully human and genuinely Christian life.

~ Pope Francis

### MARRIAGE MOMENTS Susan Vogt

Rejoice in the Lord always... The Lord is near.

Philippians 4:4-5

Sometimes pressure preparing for Christmas can blind us to what's really important. Start by remembering that Christ lives in your beloved. Pause .... take time to rejoice in each other today.

### LIFE-GIVING GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS

**CRS:** Catholic Relief Services has long-lasting gift ideas that have the power to change of lives of people facing hunger and poverty: \$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 gifts online at [gifts.crs.org](http://gifts.crs.org) and dedicate a special card for your gift recipients notifying them with the news of your life-giving gift made in their name.

**Samaritan's Purse:** For life-transforming gifts, which spread the hope of the Gospel, Samaritan's Purse has gifts of hope: \$25 (to 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; or \$100 provides emergency medical care after a catastrophic event. Visit [samaritanspurse.org](http://samaritanspurse.org)

**Heifer International:** Their vision is to help poor families around the world in a sustainable way with gifts of livestock and seeds so each generation can improve upon the next. Their namesake gift, a heifer, is \$500 (or pay \$50 share), a water buffalo is \$250 (or \$25 share), a llama is \$150 (\$20 share), or sheep is \$120 (\$10 share); a fruit or nut tree is \$60 (\$10 share). Call 888.548. 6437 or visit [heifer.org/faith](http://heifer.org/faith).

### FAMILY PERSPECTIVE Bud Ozar

The Gospel tells us to SHARE! This Christmas resist the pressure to give token gifts. Instead, use those funds to give Necessities to the poor. If our impoverished sisters and brothers are not on our gift list, we have missed the point of Christmas.

### Advent Angels

Angels, God's messengers, were sent out with the astounding news of the Advent of God's Son. The angel Gabriel was sent to Mary, a virgin in Nazareth. He said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. You will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus." Luke 1:30-31

Joseph, Mary's betrothed husband, struggled with the news that Mary was with child. Should he take her as his wife or divorce her? God sent His angel to tell Joseph to take Mary as his wife. Her son was the long-awaited Messiah. "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sin." Matthew 1:20-21

The shepherds spending the night with the sheep in the fields were the first to hear of Jesus' birth when an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone over them. The angel said to them, "Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very day in David's town your Savior was born -- Christ the Lord! And this is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Luke 2:10-14 Then a great army of heaven's angels appeared with the angel singing praises to God: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom He is pleased!"



### Christmas Masses

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