

Today ...

the clouds from heaven shed upon man a shower of justice;

the Prophet and Forerunner comes close to the Master, and he stands in awe, a witness of the condescension of God towards us;

through the presence of the Lord the waters of the Jordan River are changed into remedies, and the sins of mankind are blotted out by its waters;

Paradise has been opened to mankind, and the Sun of righteousness has shone upon us;

we are delivered from the ancient mourning, and, like a new Israel, we are saved;

we escape from darkness, and, through the light of the knowledge of God, we are illumined, and the darkness of the world vanishes with the appearing of our God;

and

He who never has to bow inclines Himself before his servant so that He may release our chains acquiring for us the Kingdom of Heaven that has no end.

Alpha Course Begins Thursday

The Alpha Course will start up again on Thursdays beginning **January 16**. Come to either the **11 am** or **6 pm** session at United Presbyterian Church, 58 East Street, Walton. The program runs ten weeks with food, a dvd presentation followed by small group discussions. Several parishioners have attended and enjoyed past sessions which addressed the meaning of life: why am I here?, who is Jesus?, why does God allow suffering?, etc.

Questions? Call 865.4390 for information.

Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

The words in the gospel, "This is my beloved, with Him I am pleased," are words every child needs to hear often. Affirmation is important to raise happy and confident children.

*God of grace and glory,
you call us with your voice of flame
to be your people, faithful and courageous.
As your beloved Son
embraced His mission in the waters of baptism,
inspire us with the fire of your Spirit
to join in His transforming work. Amen*

Catechist Certification Course

A certification course is being offered on Tuesday, January 28, from 7 to 9 pm for Catechist of Adult credit: *Leading and Facilitating Prayer with Adults*. Sister Kitty Hanley will be the presenter in the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 40 North Main Avenue, Albany. Course fee is \$12 and must be mailed with your registration form (in the offices) by January 23.

Parenting Pointers by Susan Vogt

Today is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Tell your child the story of their Baptism: where and when was it, what did they wear (show them their baptism outfit if you have it put up and/or their baptism candle), who was there, who their godparents are. Perhaps they could contact their godparents and say, "Thanks."

Walton Schools Week-End Backpacks

Items may be dropped at Townsend Elementary, Ogden Library, or United Presbyterian Church:

- peanut butter (18 oz)
- peas, beans, corn, carrots (8 oz)
- soup (chick, veg beef, tom) (10 oz)
- oatmeal (individual packet box)
- pasta, ravioli, beefaroni (indiv)
- granola, fruit 'n nut bars
- tuna (5 oz)
- pork n beans (11 oz)
- instant breakfast
- single serve cereal
- Ramen noodles
- raisin box, small

Retreats

Dominican Retreat Conference Center 518.393.4169

January 31 - February 2: Winter Retreat for Women: "All You Who Are Thirsty Come to the Water" Sr. Eleanor Guerin, RSM Get a super start to the New Year recharging your spiritual batteries and taking 44 hours for yourself in rest, quiet, learning, and reflection.

Weekend retreats: \$195 (age 65 & over: \$180)

The Priory Retreat, Chestertown, NY 518.494.3733

January 31 - February 2: Guided Silent Retreat Weekend. Do you want to connect more deeply with God and yourself? Does God want you to stop delaying? Set aside the pressures of daily life and do it now. Experience a guided silent retreat where you can refocus and find God in your life through scripture, prayer, nature and silence. During this weekend, you will meet individually with a retreat director to receive daily scripture and review your experience. Return home with a deeper connection to God.

Connie Messitt, CSJ

Donation: \$145-\$165