

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2015

Daily Mass

Advent daily Masses will be celebrated only Monday and Tuesday this week.

Monday: 7 pm ~St. John

Tuesday: 8 am ~St. Peter
9:30 am & 7 pm ~St. John

Christmas Eve Masses: 4 pm at St. John 5:30 pm at St. Peter
Christmas Masses: 8 am at Holy Family 9:30 am at St. Peter 11:15 am at St. John

Christmas Pageant

St. Peter's Faith Formation students will present a Christmas Pageant following the 9:30 am Mass on December 20.

March for Life

The 42nd annual March for Life will be held in Washington, D.C. January 21-22. As in the past, there will be a bus taking members of our parishes to participate. This event is open to all people of good will, especially parents, grandparents, middle school, high school, home school, and college students. For details contact Betsy Gielskie at 746.2900.

Mass & a Meal 'Change Matters'

Congratulations to all our Faith Formation students who participated in the 'Change Matters' collection. Your donations will provide 4,665 meals for less fortunate children worldwide as a result of your \$283.23 collection!

OFFERINGS

	Offertory	Flowers
St. John:	\$1,881	\$435
Holy Family:	420	46
St. Peter:	1,687	314

Waiting for Him

Advent points us to a different way of thinking. He slips into our world almost unseen, He clothes our weakness with His own.

God does not force us to acknowledge Him but waits in the simplest places for us to find our way to Him. He does not compel Mary to do His will, but invites her to a service which can only be her fulfillment – and ours. All He asks of her, and of us, is to see how much we are loved. His humility opens up before us the depth of that love and the wonder – full power of His weakness.

Advent is a time to leave behind all that weighs us down, holding us back from giving ourselves to God. It is our time to begin again, a season in which our own freedom is renewed. It is a time to put right whatever has gone wrong, to begin a new future guided by the light of Christ.

Advent shows us that patience is part of God's loving kindness. As we wait for Him so He waits for us, even as He waits on us.

~ Peter Knott SJ

Family Perspective

Bud Ozar

God chose to enter human history in a family. By Divine design the salvation of the world began in a family. Family was the best God the Creator could do for His Beloved Son. Jesus was our *first* Christmas gift.

▲ Christmas Tree Blessing ▲

Dear God,

Two thousand years ago, You brought

Your Son, Jesus into this world to teach

us the power of love and sacrifice.

As we raise this tree, we remember

His birth & the meaning of His life for us.

Bless this tree as a symbol of our celebration of
Jesus' birth and our gratitude for His sacrifice.

May the joy this tree brings and the gifts

we place under it remind us of the many gifts

You have given us. We ask your blessings

upon our loved ones, this day and always. Amen

Living Nativity This Week

The First Presbyterian Church of Delhi will present their Living Nativity, complete with music and live animals, as a gift to the community and a reminder of the true meaning of Christmas. Please come and immerse yourself in the spirit of the Christmas season.

The Nativity will take place on Tuesday, December 22, and Wednesday, December 23, from 6:30-8 pm at Four Clinton Street.

Baby Bottles Due

Children are a gift from the Lord,
they are a reward from Him Psalm 127:3

The Knights of Columbus baby bottles are due ~ please place in their boxes located in the entranceway of Church.

Feeding the Birds for St. Francis

Saint Francis wanted all creation to celebrate the birthday of Jesus. It was his desire that all mayors and Lords of Castles issue a decree that would require the scattering of grain on the roads on Christmas so that our friends, the birds, might have something to eat.

The Secular Franciscans, who strive to follow Christ in the footsteps of Saint Francis, ask you to use this token of a gift (located at the back of St. John) to feed the birds on Christmas Day ~ in the example of Saint Francis of Assisi.

Young Adult Emmaus Retreat

Calling college-age young adults wanting to better understand their relationship with God: join us for the Emmaus Retreat weekend -- starts Friday evening, February 26, through Sunday afternoon, February 28, at the Dominican Retreat Center in Niskayuna. Cost: \$40.

This faith-oriented weekend is a great way to meet people. Take this opportunity to treat yourself to a wonderful weekend. For info contact Chris O'Neill at christory@me.com.

Salesian Sisters

Why not start the year off by investigating what God might be calling you to do with your life! The Salesian sisters in North Haledon, New Jersey are having a discernment weekend January 8-10 for women 17 to 30 years of age. The largest order in the world serving in 90 countries would like you to come, see, discern if you have an interest. Call 732.597.3988 or email: happynun@yahoo.com.