

First Sunday of Advent

December 2, 2018

Immaculate Conception Masses

Friday, December 7

Holy Family: noon
St. Peter: 5:30pm
St. John: 7pm

CHRISTMAS 'DECK THE HALLS'

Saint Peter's Environmental Ministry assists in preparing the Church for the Christmas season. What needs to be done can be broken down to three steps: 1) planning/ordering what is needed, 2) actual decorating, and 3) removal/storage for next year.

If you would like to volunteer for part of the preparation or all of it, call Laraine at 538.9569 or email her at CLPut@twc.com for more information.

Immaculate Conception Retreat

Come the weekend or a day to celebrate Our Lady at Rosa Mystica with: Adorations, Rosary, talks, Masses, Hour of Grace, confession, and more December 7 to 9. Commuter: \$125, day: \$35. Call to reserve your space: 516.624.9033.

ANNUAL MARIAN CONSECRATION

Bishop Scharfenberger will be celebrating a consecration to Mary at the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass at the cathedral on December 8 at 11 am. (This culminates the reading of *33 Days to Morning Glory* with the Bishop.)

Advent Daily Mass Schedule

Tuesdays: 8 am ~ St. Peter
9:30am ~ St. John

Wednesdays: 8 am ~ St. Peter
9:30 am ~ St. John

Thursdays: 8 am ~ St. Peter
9:30 am ~ St. John

MARIAN ADVENT

There is no one who can teach us to prepare for Christ's coming better than Mary, whose faithful anticipation of Christ's birth is the perfect model for how we should anticipate Christmas. Join the St. Paul Center tradition as they again stream for free "The Bible and the Virgin Mary." This year be one of the first to see a new edition featuring Bible passages read by Scott Hahn. Free streaming begins December 3. Submit your email address now to make sure you make the most of your Advent this year: stpaulcenter.com

MARRIAGE MOMENTS Susan Vogt

Spouses, even very loving spouses, sometimes need a "Do Over." When you catch yourself (or you are caught) saying or doing something hurtful, be humble enough to ask for a Do Over. Apologize. Rephrase your statement in a more sensitive way. Make an amend.

of BETHLEHEM

The Star of Bethlehem movie will be shown at the Kopernik Observatory and Science Center, 698 Underwood Road, Vestal on Friday, December 7 and 14. This fascinating documentary unlocks the mystery of the Star of Bethlehem by relating scientific knowledge about astronomy and historical clues from the bible.

Doors open at 6:30 pm, and the movie begins at 7 pm. Admission: \$5 adults, (\$16 family max), \$3 seniors/students, which includes a telescope viewing after movie (if clear). Kopernik members: free. Go to kopernik.org or call 748.3685 for more info.

SENIOR MEALS GIFT CERTIFICATES

Do you know a senior who would love to receive a senior meal gift certificate in their stocking this year? \$30 certificate purchases ten meals. Call 746.1710 for more information.

Advent Devotional

Pick up a copy of the Advent and Christmas devotional with reflections on the daily readings. Prepare spiritually for the coming of Christ and experience His peace during this busy time.

WALTON FOOD BANK

The following items are needed to keep stock ready at the Food Bank. Please drop when at Mass or at the Food Bank on Tuesdays: Jell-O, pudding; Knorr rice/noodles; mixes for cakes and cookies; tea, cocoa, and coffee.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING

The Knights of Columbus will be meeting Monday the third at St. John the Baptist at 7 pm and invite any men interested in becoming a member or learning more about the Knights to join them.

PARENTING POINTERS Susan Vogt

Does your family have an Advent Calendar or wreath? Children love these religious traditions as it helps them mark the time approaching Christmas... and it helps them learn to wait.

PASTORAL CARE MINI-PRESENTATION

A video conference at St. Mary's Church in Oneonta, "I am with you always"-- *Ministering in Times of Spiritual Distress* will be held January 12, 9 am to noon. Experience how to have gentle discernment when encountering spiritual distress while ministering. Come and remember as well as remind those you serve of the enduring presence of Jesus.

Presenters: Father Joseph, Chaplain at St. Peter's Health Partners, and Sister Kitty, College of Saint Rose, Director of Holy Ground for our Diocese.

Register: rcda.org/offices/pastoral-care-ministry/ministering-times-spiritual-distress; or 518.641.6818.

Mark the season of Advent by loving & serving others with God's own love and concern. ~ St. Mother Teresa

Advent Reconciliations This Month

7 pm

11th ~ St. Peter Communal Reconciliation

12th ~ St. Peter Individual Reconciliation



18th ~ St. John Communal Reconciliation

19th ~ St. John Individual Reconciliation

FAMILY PERSPECTIVE Bud Ozar

At this time of year we are very conscious of our family as we make preparations for Christmas. The Gospel warns us not to be consumed by all the consumer activity. This Advent appreciate the gift of the people in your life. The best gift this season might be your appreciation of others.

Advent

Advent is a Latin word meaning *the coming* or *arrival*. The season of Advent is a time to prepare to celebrate the three arrivals of Christ: His lowly birth in the past, His mysterious coming to the Christian community in the present, and His promised return as our judge at the end of time.

Advent, originally celebrated as a kind of "Lent" during the forty days before Christmas, it gradually developed its own distinctive character retaining a slight penitential dimension but emphasizing our joy-filled hope in the coming of the Lord.

Today these two aspects continue side by side. During the first part of Advent, the prophecies of Isaiah and John the Baptist remind us that we are waiting for God's coming and need to prepare. During the latter part of the season the focus shifts more directly on the events leading up to our Savior's birth.