

# Second Sunday of Advent

December 9, 2018

## Advent Reconciliations This Month

7 pm

11<sup>th</sup> ~ St. Peter Communal

12<sup>th</sup> ~ St. Peter Individual



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

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

### SHORT NOTICE FOR DELHI REHAB

Looking for new or gently-used (cleaned) blankets, which will be distributed next Saturday at Delhi rehabilitation. Please drop off at St. Peter by Wednesday the 12<sup>th</sup> or St. John the Baptist by Thursday the 13<sup>th</sup>.

### 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 for a free stream of "The Bible and the Virgin Mary." This year a new edition featuring Bible passages read by Scott Hahn is offered. Free streaming begins December 3. Submit your email address now to make sure you make the most of your Advent this year: [stpaulcenter.com](http://stpaulcenter.com)

### 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](http://kopernik.org) or call 748.3685 for more info.



St. John coffee hour next Sunday.

### CHRISTMAS INVITATIONS

If you plan 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!

### 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](http://rcda.org/offices/pastoral-care-ministry/ministering-times-spiritual-distress); or 518.641.6818.

### PARENTING POINTERS Susan Vogt

Teach your child some Latin. In Latin "Advent" means something is coming. For Christians it points us to the coming of Jesus at Christmas. It is not here yet. We have to wait for it. Talk about how you wait for relatives or friends to arrive: it is hard to wait, but you shouldn't hurry it by celebrating before the guest's arrival.

Just as the Virgin Mother pondered in her heart on the Word made flesh, so every individual soul & the entire Church are called during their earthly pilgrimage to wait for Christ who comes ~ and to welcome Him with faith and love ever new.

~ Pope Benedict XVI

### Advent

Advent began sometime after the fourth century as a time of preparation for Epiphany -- not in anticipation of Christmas. Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of Christ by remembering the visit of the Magi and the baptism of Jesus. At this time new Christians were baptized and received into the faith, and so the early Church instituted a 40 day period of fasting and repentance.

Later in the sixth century, Pope St. Gregory the Great was the first to associate this season of Advent with the coming of Christ. Originally it was not the coming of the Christ-Child that was anticipated, but rather, the second coming of Christ.

By the Middle Ages the Church had extended the celebration of Advent to the familiar format we know today: the early weeks are rich with the prophecies of Isaiah, reminding us to wait and prepare for the coming Messiah, and in the later weeks we focus more directly on the events leading up to Jesus' birth.

### FAMILY PERSPECTIVE Bud Ozar

The Gospel shows that St. John the Baptist and parents have similar vocations. Like John the Baptist, parents are asked to make "rough ways smooth" and to "prepare the way of the Lord" for their families. This Advent ask: "Does my life hinder or help my family to know Jesus?"

### Delhi Taizé Prayer

Taizé Prayer, a service of song, silence, and contemplation, will be at St. John's Episcopal Church on December 13 at 7 pm. Take some quiet time to wrap yourself in the hope and peace of Advent.

St. Mary's Church in Oneonta holds Taizé Prayer Tuesdays at 7pm and offer Reconciliation at 5:30pm.

### SENIOR MEALS GIFT CERTIFICATES

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

### COLCHESTER FOOD BANK

The following items are needed to help serve about 144 households. Drop off when attending Mass or at the Food Bank on Wednesdays 1- 2:30 pm: cans of pasta, tuna, stew, chili, & pasta sauce.

Checks appreciated especially during this season payable to: Colchester Community Food Bank. Mail to P.O. Box 305, Downsville or drop in the collection basket in envelope marked CFB.

### MARRIAGE MOMENTS Susan Vogt

Marital arguments sometimes go round in circles with each spouse trying to prove they were right. Sometimes you are right, but that's not the point. If you can recognize part of the argument that you were wrong in, simply saying "I was wrong." Resist following it with, "But ..."

### MOST BEAUTIFUL GIFT

The most beautiful gift is to meet Jesus. We meet Him every day. How? Our whole life is an encounter with Jesus: in prayer, when we go to Mass, when we receive Communion, when we do good works, when we visit the sick, when we help the poor, when we think of others, when we are not selfish, when are loving -- in these things we always meet Jesus. ~ Pope Francis



### 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