

First Sunday of Advent ~ November 29, 2020

Immaculate Conception Masses

December 7 Vigil ~ St. Peter: 6 pm*
December 8 ~ St. John: 9:30 am
Holy Family: noon

*Rosary Rally

There will be a 4:45 pm Rosary Rally at St. Peter before the Immaculate Conception Vigil Mass.



Celebrate with an Advent Wreath

Make a family wreath for your daily worship at home this Advent. The circular wreath reminds us that God, like the circle, has no beginning and no end. Evergreens on the wreath symbolize our everlasting relationship with God, the source of continuous new life.

The wreath has four candles: three purple (or violet) and one rose. On the First Sunday (& week) the first violet candle is lit. On the following three Sundays (& weeks) an additional candle is lit with the rose candle being lit on the Third Sunday. The candles remind us that the incarnation has transformed the darkness of hatred and evil into the light of joy and love.

Catholic Face Masks

Ascension masks feature authentically Catholic symbols, and are perfect for socially-distanced events. These masks spread the Faith even if you don't say a word! One size fits most, fits over an N95 mask, fabric is moisture-wicking, and is breathable, washable/reusable, sustainable, and eco-friendly. \$7.95 ascensionpress.com

Delhi Food Pantry Volunteer Shortage

More volunteers are needed to help manage the Delhi Food Pantry. With snowbirds flying south along with the virus, the shortage of volunteers is critical and help would be greatly appreciated. Call 746.2191 or email office@umdelhi.org if you would like to help. Volunteers will be trained by experienced leaders.

Watch for Him

The new Church year begins with a plea for God's visitation. "Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down," the prophet Isaiah cries in the First Reading. In the Psalm we also hear the anguished voice of Israel, imploring God to look down from His heavenly throne - - to save and shepherd His people. The readings are relatively brief, their language and "message" are deceptively simple. But we should take note of the serious mood and penitential aspect of the Liturgy today as the people of Israel recognize their sinfulness, their failures to keep God's covenant, their inability to save themselves.

And in this Advent season, we should see our own lives in the experience of Israel. As we examine our consciences, can't we, too, find that we often harden our hearts, refuse His rule, wander from His ways, and withhold our love from Him? God is faithful, Paul reminds us in his letter to the Corinthians. He is our Father. He has hearkened to the cry of His children, coming down from heaven for Israel's sake and for ours to redeem us from our exile from God, to restore us to His love.

In Jesus, we have seen the Father (John 14:8-9). The Father has let His face shine upon us. He is the good shepherd (John 10:11-15) come to guide us to the heavenly kingdom. No matter how far we have strayed, He will give us new life if we turn to Him, if we call upon His holy name, if we pledge anew never again to withdraw from Him.

As Paul says today, He has given us every spiritual gift to strengthen us as we await Christ's coming. He will keep us firm to the end if we let Him. So, in this season of repentance, we should heed the warning, repeated three times by our Lord in the Gospel, to be watchful, for we know not the hour when the Lord of the house will return. Dr. Hahn

Marriage Moments Susan Vogt

Sometimes marriage is like our computers. You learn a lot of information, but with time bugs and viruses can creep in. Things get messy and work slower. When all else fails try rebooting your relationship. Let go of old hurts and start from scratch with the same spouse. Programs like **Marriage Encounter** and **Better Marriages** are now on-line.

I rejoice heartily in the Lord,
in my God is the joy of my soul,
for He has clothed me with a robe of salvation,
and wrapped me in a mantle of justice.

Isaiah 61:10

Advent ~ He is Coming!

The word *advent* means *coming*. During the four week Advent season that begins our Church year, we prepare for the coming of Jesus by remembering His birth in Bethlehem (past), anticipating His coming in glory (future), and by celebrating His coming to us in word and sacrament (present).

The Church has appointed scriptures that tell of God's coming in Christ. This Sunday focuses on the coming of Christ at the end of time-- the second coming. The second and third Sundays focus on the coming of Christ today, to us and to our world. The fourth Sunday focuses on the coming of Christ in history as a child born in Bethlehem.

As we journey through Advent, preparing ourselves for the way God continually comes to us, we are reminded once again that our God is a God of surprises, and no matter how settled and sure we are in our expectations; God always does something new. Thus through our reading, prayer, and sharing with others we will learn more about who our God is and what He wants to do in our lives through the presence of Jesus, who comes once again into our midst.

Parenting Pointers Susan Vogt

2020 has been a year of the coronavirus pandemic, protests and riots, racism, and political divisiveness. What is there to be thankful for? Sometimes disruptions like these can push us into facing our common humanity and what's really important. Think of one unintended positive consequence that has come out of a hard year.

Compassionate Friends Candle Lighting

On Sunday, December 13, at 6:45 pm will observe The Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle Lighting. Due to Covid-19, the ceremony will be held online this year via Zoom. This is a time to remember our departed children. Anyone who has lost a child of any age is invited to attend. All participants: register in advance by going to tcfoneonta.org, click on the registration link

Join the meeting at 6:45 pm and have on hand a photo of your child, a small candle, and a lighter. During the ceremony, each family will be given an opportunity to say a few words about their child, share the photo, and light the candle in memory of their loved one. More information: Diana Friedell, 607.433.2089 or visit www.tcfoneonta.org.

Faith Formation

The next meeting for Faith Formation will be on Sunday, December 13 in Church:

8:30 am at St. Peter; 10 am at St. John

Topic: Advent and Christmas.

(Please plan to have at least one adult from your family attend with your students.)

Rejoice! Advent Meditations

Rejoice! Advent Meditations with the Holy Family is a prayer resource with daily meditations that will enrich your Advent by inviting you to experience the first Advent with Joseph and Mary, as they await the birth of their Son, the Savior of the world. This journal will help you to see the marriage of Mary and Joseph in a new light. You will ponder what was in their hearts and minds as they awaited the birth of Jesus--and you will be invited to reflect on and deepen your own relationships with others. **Rejoice!** will help you open your heart to the peace and joy of the Holy Family as you prepare for the coming of Jesus this Christmas.

\$12.99 at ascensionpress.com.

Let us open our hearts to receive
the grace of this Advent season,
which is Christ Himself,
whom God our Father has revealed
to the entire world.

Where God is born, hope is born,
Where God is born, peace is born.

And where peace is born,
there is no longer room for hatred & for war.

God alone can save us & free us
from the many forms of evil
& selfishness in our midst.

Let us welcome into our lives God's mercy,
which Jesus Christ has bestowed on us,
so that we in turn can show mercy
to our brothers & sisters.

In this way, we will make peace grow!

~ Pope Francis