Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ December 22, 2019

No St. Peter Adoration Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve.

March for Life

Bus stops: Sacred Heart in Stamford at noon, the Hamden Town Hall around 12:40 pm, and St. John the Baptist around 1 pm on Thursday, January 23. We stop for dinner then arrive at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Forestville, MD, where we will be sleeping on the floor- -bring a mattress, sleeping bag or blanket, and a pillow.

On the morning of the 24th, the Knights will provide breakfast and a bag lunch before the bus drops us off near the National Mall in D.C. There will be an opportunity to attend numerous activities near the Mall before the March starts in the afternoon. We usually finish around 3 pm and board the bus (a stop for dinner), we will arrive back late Friday night. Bus ticket is $73

Reserve your seat by calling 652.7170, ext. 102.

Living Nativity

First Presbyterian in Delhi will have their annual Living Nativity December 23 from 6:30 to 8 pm with music and live animals. Please bring a donation for the Community Food Bank. Come envelop yourself in the joy of the season!

Christmas Masses

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

Christmas is Always Now

As we live increasingly in the past and the future, the gift of the present slips through our fingers unnoticed, unappreciated, and unlived. The birth of Christ changes all that.

Through the nativity, each present moment miraculously becomes a potential source of comfort and joy. The coming of Christ does not transform the present into a utopia, magically eliminating regret, waiting, and longing, but it does charge every second of human life with the redemptive power of grace.

Through the incarnation, God is no longer merely transcendent, watching us from a distance, but immanently present in time and space. The Lord's arrival signals that God's kingdom is dynamically among us in the here and now.

Marriage Moments — Susan Vogt

In the northern hemisphere, Christmas coincides with the longest nights of the year. Let darkness be your friend. Pause with your honey amidst your busy preparations to go outside (even in the cold) and look at the sky. Ponder your smallness in this universe, but also the warmth of your love for each other.

Wednesday Justice Series

The series will break for Christmas and New Years. It will pick up on Wednesday, January 8, at 7 pm with Rick Howard, Esq. moderating the discussion in Father Willis Hall.

Bishop's Appeal Update

thebishopsappeal.org

St. John: $8,070 [$12,046 deficit]

St. Peter: $10,910 [$5,434 deficit]

Parenting Pointers — Susan Vogt

Focus on how your family can keep the true spirit of Advent: learn to get better at waiting, rethink your Advent and Christmas customs so that they are in harmony with the Christmas spirit of peacefulness, stewardship, & simplicity.

Marriage Encounter

Give your spouse a special gift this Christmas by attending a Marriage Encounter weekend in 2020. The next two are March 27-29 in Albany and July 10-12 in East Windsor, Connecticut. For more information, call Pat & Mary Jo McLaughlin at 860.315.2127 or visit them at wwmectw.org.

New Year's Resolution?

Thinking about New Year resolutions for 2020? How about volunteering for one of our Church ministries: lector, altar server, money counting, environmental, Eucharistic, usher, or sacristan? Training provided. The ministries at our three churches are in need of more hands to help out.

Family Perspective — Bud Ozar

The child born to Mary and Joseph was named "Emmanuel," which means "God is with us." Every child reminds us "God is with us." Children are signs of God's continuing presence in our lives.

The good God wills the salvation of the whole world. St. John Mary Vianney

Dominican Retreat Center *518.393.4169*

January 10-12 -- For men & women, *A Time to Remember*~ Come away to reminisce the highlights of your life. We will take the time to pray, write, share and support each other in a sacred space, at our own pace. Our memories are a gift and should be written down, whether for publication or legacy. Bring a journal, writing materials, laptop, or art supplies.

January 17-19 -- Silent Weekend Directed Retreat.
An opportunity to spend time with God in silence and solitude so you can focus on you r personal relationship with God.
Sister Christine Connolly, OP $205 (65+: $190)

Right to Life Bottles

Don't forget our on-going collection of deposit bottles, which help finance the Right to Life March each year (January 24, 2020). Just drop them in the containers provided in Father Willis Hall or St. Peter's conference room.

Mealtime Grace

Dear Babe of Bethlehem,

We come to You this Christmas filled with wonder and awe in all that we have heard and seen about Your coming among us as our Infant Savior.

Let us never cease to marvel at what You have done by descending to earth to bring joy to the world through Your blessings of forgiveness, salvation, and everlasting life.

With those around us at this meal, may we treasure the miracle of Your birth as we are nourished by this food and by Your presence near us. *Amen*