

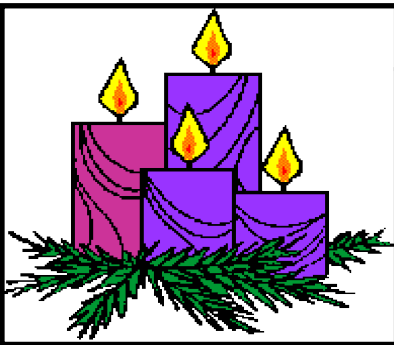
ADVENT



We celebrate Christ of all Creation ▪ Born among us in Jesus ▪ Leading us to our fulfillment in Christ's Love

We Pray Advent

We immerse ourselves with hope filled colors—blues, rose, purple. We know we are in need of conversion. Our Advent wreath is in our midst, as a sign of growing hope and promise in our community. We gather quietly in prayer; O Come Emmanuel, free us from despair as we are assured of grace flowing freely. We pray in fervent hope of our transformation. Our response to the Hebrew Scriptures is **Psalm 103: “As vast as Heaven, deep as the ocean, so strong Your Love for all who follow on Your Way.”** Our Gospel acclamation happily shouts: “soon and very soon” God’s reign is among us today! The wreath candles are lit. Christ lights the way through the darkness. We join together in our ancient Creed living the faith this day. When we gather at the Lord’s Table, we celebrate Christ’s life-giving presence among us. We sing of this mystery: “We proclaim your Death O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.” We await fulfillment while we live as Christ right now. The mystery (sacrament) of God is enfleshed in us. We are stilled with awe and wonder. We are then sent out this Advent...day by day...prayerfully asking God to bless us with vision, love, and joyful discipleship. With Christ as our Foundation we sing, **“Come, let’s build the Holy City. Come, let’s build a family. Come, let’s build a new tomorrow where our children will be free. We can be a holy people living in the Light of God, come, let’s build the Holy City, build it out of love.”**



Faith Formation News
Mass is Class

As part of our new Family based focus, we will list today's readings here for your reference. If your family needs a bible there will be a sign up sheet after Mass.

1st Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10
2nd Reading: James 5:7-10
Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

We will also list a short YouTube video that you can share and discuss with your family. Go to YouTube and search for the following:

Bishop Hying's Advent Reflections 2016 (Third Sunday)

Each week there will be activity pages at the back of the church for students.

Please bring some non-perishable foods for the food bank to our next workshop at the school.

Our next Family Workshop is January 12, 2020 following Sunday Mass from 10:15 am to 11:30 am in the Immaculate Conception Church hall. The whole family is invited.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Masses are celebrated at
First United Church

Saturday, December 14

4:00 PM Mass
All victims of the
Sandy Hook shootings
(Req. Cathy Ogden)
Mary Jones Merriam
(Req. Art Hyde & Family)
Fred Bouplon
(Req. Family)

Sunday, December 15

9:00 AM Mass
Fred & Shirley Salluzzo
(Req. Hayes Family)
Patricia Turi
(Req. Family)

11:00 AM Mass - St. Patrick's

Monday, December 16

No 12:00 Noon Mass

6:00 PM Communal Reconciliation
Service at St. Patrick's

Wednesday, December 18

8:30 AM Mass - St. Patrick's

7:00 PM Concert at First United

Friday, December 20

12:00 Noon Mass
For newborn children
and their families

Saturday, December 21

4:00 PM Mass
Rolland Girdeen
(Req. Comfort & Hope Group)

Sunday, December 22

9:00 AM Mass
Linda Marmillo
(Req. Comfort & Hope Group)
Suzan Coleman
(Req. Comfort & Hope Group)

11:00 AM Mass - St. Patrick's

**Join in our celebration of
Christmas Mass**

Tuesday December, 24

2:00 PM - at Hoosick Falls Central School Auditorium

5:00 PM - at St. Patrick's Church, Cambridge

Wednesday December, 25

12:00 AM (midnight) - at First United Church,
Hoosick Falls

10:00 AM - at St. Patrick's Church, Cambridge

Please sign up for any Mass ministries by calling the parish office at
686-5064.

ADVENT - THE MEANING

Advent comes year after year. Every Advent, we celebrate Jesus' coming as an infant long ago, his ongoing presence with us now, and his return in glory in the future. Advent is also a season of repentance; John the Baptist calls us to "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand". We know, as Christian disciples in the twenty-first century, during each Advent God calls us anew to figure out how to live in relation to a world that frequently wants little or nothing to do with getting ready to celebrate the Incarnation. As faithful Christians, we are faced with many challenges living in a secular world. We never need to live as "us vs. them". We are in the world, but not of it. Our values, our ideals, our hope is of God. Ours is the mission to prepare the Lord's way.

The great spiritual writer Thomas Merton once wrote that "the Advent mystery... is the beginning of the end of all, in us, that is not yet Christ." While there is a certain sobriety and restraint associated with Advent, and while John the Baptist does call us to repentance, it is not a time of sadness; it is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight.

The message Christian disciples hear this Advent is first and foremost a message about who God is and all God does for his people. From the Sunday readings, we hear: God saves, God shelters and protects us, God's light triumphs, God provides nourishment, God comforts and heals, God's justice reigns. Through Advent we learn that in Jesus is the revelation of who God is. As disciples, we confess Jesus as Lord, the Son of God, and Son of Man. We trust our salvation is through Him. For even if we were the one lost sheep out of the hundred, Jesus would look for us and call us back. We will be safe forever in His Kingdom.

As disciples, our Advent task is to accept the charge to stay awake, to prepare ourselves for the Lord's coming. We do not know when this will be. We can, however, rest assured that God calls us to respond to all those who seek healing, mercy, forgiveness, compassion, and justice in ways befitting our belief in Jesus. God's people grieve and experience injustice and heartache. Over and over, the Scriptures of Advent tell us this as well. But, God also desires that His people call out, for God has an endless, eternal font of grace to share with us. God responds through people of faith who strive to live the promise today.

Advent is a time of joyful anticipation of the fulfillment of God's promise. It is a grace-filled season of new hope, new life, and new love. There is a sense of urgency in Advent that wakes us up from our complacency. Advent inspires us to prepare ourselves and our world for the full coming of the kingdom of peace and justice.

BY WAY of the HEART

A Retreat for Women's Christmas
By Jan Richardson

Retreat Leader: Mary Rosmus
January 5, 2020, 2-6 pm
(Dinner at 5)

St. Patrick's Church - Cambridge, NY
\$10 and a dish to share

To register, please send your name, phone number and email address, along with \$10 (Checks payable to St. Patrick's Church) by December 15 to:

Mary Rosmus
Director of Faith Formation
St. Patrick's Church
17 South Park Street
Cambridge, NY 12816

For more information, contact maryrosmusbattenkillcatholic.org

Re-Igniting Our Faith

As children of God, we are called to be Christian stewards. As stewards, we are Gifted, Grateful and Generous. We are "Gifted" in that we realize that life and every aspect of it is a GIFT. We are "Grateful" in that we are learning to want little and possess lightly, recognizing that no one and nothing should be taken for granted. Finally, we are "Generous" in that we are giving of ourselves to and through the Church to enable its great mission.

1 Peter 4:10, reads, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

Through your generosity and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will make many long-held dreams a reality here at IMMACULATE CONCEPTION by rebuilding and reconfiguring our church.

To date, we've raised \$377,225 from 92 households.

As good stewards, we ask that everyone participates. If you haven't been asked to support the campaign, you will be asked in the coming weeks. Your support is important. Thank all of you for your gifted and grateful generosity.

THERE IS AN URGENT NEED FOR:
Peanut butter, cold cereal, shampoo, toothpaste and brushes, and feminine hygiene items.



Please bring these items to our donation box in church. There is always a need for old goods to be reused.

Food Pantry Volunteers... We are looking for volunteers to help. For information and training, contact Dianne Hosterman at 686-5310.

Christmas Caroling



Saturday, Dec. 28 immediately after the 4:00PM Mass

We will walk merrily through the streets of Hoosick Falls sharing the joy of the season. Revelers of all ages and ability are welcome. We will return to the rectory for eggnog, hot chocolate, Ovaltine, and perhaps schnapps.

CONFIRMATION

Sunday, May 3, 2020 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. We'll gather with people from around our Diocese to celebrate the gift of God's Spirit.

Electronic Giving

If you notice some of your fellow parishioners are not putting their envelopes in the collection basket it could be *that they are* using our automatic withdraw system (ACH). This system is working well and it may be an easy way for you to support our parish. If you are interested, please contact the Parish Office for information or for an authorized form. This is a very simple and easy way to keep track of your donation.

Our Gatherings, Prayer, and Service

- **Sunday, December 15th at 4:00 p.m. St. Patrick's -Poems, Prayer and Parables** - Please join us for a relaxing evening of poems, stories, and a bit of prayer. It will be an evening of funny, moving, and calming moments as we share this great season of anticipation.
- **Monday, December 16, 2019 at 6:00p.m.** – Communal Reconciliation at St. Patrick's in Cambridge
- **Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.** – Community Christmas Concert at First United Church
- **Saturday, December 21, 2019 at 5:15** – Winter Solstice Fire on the North Lawn of our church of the Immaculate Conception. The longest, darkest night of the year and we celebrate the light of God
- **Advent Insights-Reading of the season - blue books are available in church**
- **2020 Calendars, donated by Mahar Funeral Home, are available in church**
- **Oplatek (Eastern European Christmas Wafers) are available at church and parish office**
- **Christmas Flower Offering Envelopes need to be returned no later than Sunday, December 22.**

Practice of Faith

When we gather for prayer at our Eucharist we are nourished at two tables: the proclaimed Word of God and the Banquet Table of the Lord. Older Catholics may remember that before the Second Vatican Council (1963-1965) our Bible readings were limited, selections repeated yearly, and often read in Latin. After the Council, the biblical (and Mass, prayer) readings were made available in the language of the people and also greatly expanded. Our Scripture Readings are put together in the Lectionary that is used at Mass. This is an array of Scripture selection from the Hebrew Scripture and the New Testament in a 3 year cycle for Sundays and a 2 year cycle for weekdays. Our Lectionary aims to present the broad sweep of the salvation story, how from the very beginning, God was and is in love with all God's People. Our first reading is usually from the Hebrew (Old Testament) Bible, except during the Easter Season when the story of the early disciples is recounted in the Act of the Apostles. The Psalms sing of our response to the Lord. The second reading is from the Letters (Epistles) of St. Paul. These can get complicated and convoluted. And then the Gospel is proclaimed from the four evangelists to announce the Good News of Christ's life giving presence among us. When we listen, we are invited to understand, ponder, and integrate God's resounding Word among us.



New Horizons of Faith Beatitudes of Christian Living

John the Baptist sits in prison. He waits for the one who is to come. No angel bursts his bonds. No heavenly blast levels the stones to release him. The holy prophet expects death, for he had dared to speak out, challenging those in power. There is anticipation outside the walls, but the excitement passes him by. He waits in darkness.

The hubbub that surrounds Christmas may pass some of us by as well. We may be praying for healing. We may ache for reconciliation. We may dwell in deep grief or loneliness or heartache. Christmas can be a particularly painful time for some of us. Like John the Baptist, we may feel the darkness.

Our faith always compels us to go out of ourselves and radiate the living Gospel for others to experience. Be aware, seek out, and help someone who is mourning, sick, afraid, alone, or hurting today. Christ's love needs to be born in you.

This Week: December 14 & December 15

Lectors: Saturday -Team 2, Sunday - Team 3
Counters: Linda Bennett & Jerry McAuliffe
Next Week: Judy Flynn & Peg Bakaitis
(You are responsible to find a substitute if you are unable to serve.)

YOUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS & ATTENDANCE
December 7 & December 8

Offertory \$4,348.00
Total \$4,348.00

ATTENDANCE:

Saturday - December 7, 4:00 PM 130
Sunday - December 8, 9:00 AM 122
Total 252

There is no second collection this week (Dec. 14 & 15). The next second collection is for Faith Formation (Jan. 4 & 5).

** In order for your contribution to be counted, please be sure to include your full name and/or envelope # if using a plain envelope.*



- ♦ Wednesday mornings at 10 AM: Bulletin proofreaders. **Call the office.**
- ♦ Sunday morning: Collection Counters. **Call the office.**
- ♦ Lectors (readers) at Mass: **See Gloria Shufon, or call the office, 686-5064.**

ELECTRONIC GIVING

Our automatic withdrawal system is working well. This may be an easy way for you to support our parish. Please contact our office for more information.

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Bill McAuliffe, Joseph Maloney, Felicia Martelle, Norman Scott, Pat Carknard, Cheryl McLaughlin, Hanna Stevens, Liam Herrador, Jean Shaw, Lenny Darosa, Neil Watykus, Corrine Philpott, Harry Parker, Eileen Holloman, Tommy James, Jeff Babson, Shirley Bissonette, Cassandra Percy, Chris Haynes, Janet Smith, Anne Marie, Sandy McCart, Jack Ellis, Dawn Myers, Hope Kjelgaard, Dr. Marcus Martinez, Lorraine Kalinowski, Nancy Hathaway Mahoney, Sally Blinstrub, Judy Quackenbush, Jane Davis, Sally Williams, Deanna Aldrich, and all those who are ill or hurting. Those who have been on the prayer list for quite some time will still be prayed for, but will not appear in the bulletin. If you are in need of prayer for yourself or someone else, please call Margaret O'Malley at 686-7835.

THANKS...from a parishioner.

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