

*JMJ*

Dear Parishioners,

Happy Advent! Does it seem to you that each year the holiday season gets busier and busier, and we get further and further away from the true meaning of Advent and Christmas? The best way to combat this tendency is to adopt or renew Advent traditions in the home. Whether you are single, a busy parent with kids, or empty-nesters, you can celebrate Advent like you are actually anticipating the coming of Christ—which is the whole point. It’s a spiritual journey!

Remember the reason for the season; Advent and Christmas are Christian liturgical seasons. When you know what the season is meant to be, you will more likely do the kinds of things that emphasize that purpose.

First, some basics. Advent derives from the Latin *adventus* meaning ‘arrival’ or ‘approach’. For thousands of years the world waited for the coming of the Messiah to redeem and to save the human race, restoring mankind’s relationship to God. We, too, experience this same longing for the coming of Christ. Spiritually, we long for the coming of Christ into our hearts as the Holy Spirit draws us into ever deepening relationship with Him; we also long for Christ in his Second Coming, when He will return physically to earth—as He promised—to restore all things to Himself.

Therefore the Advent season has these characteristics:

It is a season of,

- 1) Hopeful longing,
- 2) Joyful expectation,
- 3) Prayerful penance, and
- 4) Spiritual preparation.


It looks to,

- 1) Salvation history of the past,
- 2) Our present redemption being accomplished, and
- 3) the future coming of Christ.

Advent connects us spiritually with God’s whole plan of redemption through Jesus Christ. I pray that each of us is able to enjoy Advent a little more, then Christmas will be all that more joyous.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
*Father Newcomb*

**Reconciliation Monday will be on December 18th. A priest will be available to hear confessions from 4pm until 8pm.**

 **Christmas Food Baskets**– We are collecting non- perishable items for Christmas food baskets. Please place all items in the blue bins in the Narthex. We will be collecting hams and turkeys on Tuesday, December 19th or call the parish office.

**Simplify your Christmas Shopping!** St. Mary’s Little Lambs is holding its 5th annual St. Nicholas Faire **TODAY!** The faire will be held from 9:30-2:00 in Sacred Heart Hall at St. Mary’s Church, 48 Ball Street in Port Jervis. There will be a free children’s craft table, free raffles throughout the fair, a special performance by St. Mary’s Children’s Choir at approximately 12:45 p.m., and a visit from St. Nicholas, himself!. Hungry? No problem! The staff and parents of St. Mary’s Little Lambs will be cooking up and selling breakfast and lunch. And don’t forget to stop by the Santa Lucia Bake Sale.

***Liturgical Ministers for December 9th/10th, 2017***

<b>MASS</b>	<b>LECTOR</b>	<b>MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION</b>	<b>ALTAR SERVERS</b>
4:00PM	B. HECKMAN	A. WITKOWSKI, J. SNELLINGER, J. FLYNN	E. AND A. WITKOWSKI
8:30AM	J. HENDRICK	T. HOPPEY, D. AND V. LIVINGSTON	T. LAMOREAUX, D. TRUJILLO, K. CASE
11:30AM	M. ESLING	T. MARION, H. MARINARO, N. SMITH	M. FEDRIZZI, C. CENTAURO, A. EPPS

The 28th Annual National Night of Prayer for Life will be December 8th, 9:00 P.M. Holy Hour in the Chapel.

*The second collection next weekend is for the Retired Religious. Please give it your prayerful consideration.*

**There will be a Spanish Mass on Tuesday, December 12th at 7pm for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.**

*The Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation, is Friday, December 8th.* Masses will be celebrated in the Church at 9am and 7pm. There will be a reception with wine and cheese after the 7pm Mass. Please RSVP no later than Monday, December 4th if you plan on attending.

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception Reception**

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ #of Children: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return no later than Monday, December 4th**

F.A.I.T.H. invites all parishioners to  
**Sounds of the Season**  
An evening of Christmas Caroling  
**Monday, December 11th**  
Join us for all or part  
of the night!  
Meet at Bon Secours @ 4:15; St. Joseph's Place @  
4:30  
Water's Edge @ 5:30  
Back to church for pizza then more caroling in  
town  
\*all times are approximate\*  
E-mail Danielle: [daninyg89@frontiernet.net](mailto:daninyg89@frontiernet.net)

In the spirit of Christmas, we are continuing our tradition of a "GIVING TREE." We are supporting both the local Elks Lodge and the Port Jervis High School Rotary Interact Club in their efforts to provide winter outerwear items for needy children and teens in our community. A donation of \$10 or more would be greatly appreciated; every \$50 will sponsor one child. Doves are on the Christmas tree in the narthex for your convenience. They may be returned in the attached envelope, in the collection basket or at the parish office, by Monday, December 18. Checks may be made payable to St. Mary's. Thank you for your support!

The KofC Council# 471 is hosting  
**Breakfast with Santa**  
on Sunday, December 17th at the  
Most Sacred Heart Hall.  
All proceeds to benefit  
St. Mary's Food Pantry.  
Adults \$7 Children \$5



We are happy to announce that we have access to **Formed** for another year! You can create your own account **FREE** of charge at [Formed.org](http://Formed.org) and use our parish access code *WXXVJT* to gain access to multiple programs, movies, ebooks, and audios.

**ANNOUNCED MASSES**

- Monday, December 4 (John Damascene, priest and doctor of the Church)**  
9:00am James Newcomb
- Tuesday, December 5**  
9:00am Marie Aumick, by Ann Dilger
- Wednesday, December 6 (Nicholas, bishop)**  
9:00am John Edward, Anna, and John Onuschak, by the Giandoni family
- Thursday, December 7 (Ambrose, bishop)**  
9:00am Michael Canfield, by the Adamcik family
- Friday, December 8th (Immaculate Conception)**  
9:00am Blaise Joseph Zorich, by Dr. Jane Brooks  
Helen Latini, by Dick and Barbara Drew  
Intentions of the Sierra family, by Debi Cotugno
- Saturday, December 9**  
4:00pm Dennis Simmons, by Jack and Karen Flynn
- Sunday, December 10**  
8:30am Joseph Kucher, Jr., by the Prager family  
11:30am The parishioners of St. Mary's



*Sanctuary Lamp will burn brightly this week in the Church, in memory of Stephen Westfall, by Catherine Westfall.*

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Joann Wilcox, Jackie Mundy, Theresa Fuller, Donald Wolff, Sue Fitzsimmons, Barbara Straub, Robert Cinerar, Sandy Osbourne, Theresa Kavanagh, John McKean, William Lincoln, Jeanine Lincoln, Michael Barnes, Elizabeth Brennan, Walter Szpakowicz, Frances Brennan, Andrea Fedoruk, Jose Ramos, Carmen Ramos, Mercedes Rodriguez, Elizabeth Startup Jones, Thomas Davies, Pat Arnold, William Gaide, Sue Arnold, Steve Wilkinson, William Thomas, Maureen Hildebrandt, Charles Hildebrandt, Aedan Roach, James Roach, Robin Radzikowski, Dotty Lynch, Jesse G Smith, Charlie Gard, Marge Evans, Kaitlyn Smith, Jerome Smith, Joseph Fritts, Patricia Meinhold, Susan Upton, Devin Upton, Kathy Drane, Jenna Smith, Danielle Devore, Jennifer Utz, Jacqueline Hamilton, Tonya Cannon, Ryan O'Connor, Peter Billman, Helen Andreano, Tito Rivera, Maryann Gasko, and Chris Marion III.

**Career Opportunity**— The Knights of Columbus is seeking a candidate for a career opportunity representing their insurance program. We offer a complete benefits package with this full-time position. In order to qualify, one must be eligible for membership in the Knights of Columbus.

**For more information:**

**Contact Bill Schneider, General Agent at 914-420-6836 or [william.schneider@kofc.org](mailto:william.schneider@kofc.org).**

The collection for Nov. 25th/26th was \$4,575.50.  
Thank you for your continued generosity.