

# 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.”**



## Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2019

### 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 11:1-10  
2nd Reading: Romans 15:4-9  
Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

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 (Second Sunday)

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

On December 15, please bring some non-perishable foods for the food bank to our workshop at school.

Our next Family Workshop is December 15 at the Hoosick Falls HS cafeteria following Sunday Mass from 10:15 am to 11:30 am. The whole family is invited. Our focus will be Advent and how we can serve others.

### LITURGY SCHEDULE

Masses are celebrated at  
First United Church

Saturday, December 7  
10:00 AM—Prayer Service  
of Remembrance

4:00 PM Mass  
Catherine Trimble  
(Req. Dianne Harrington)  
Peg Crucetti  
(Req. James & Velma Brown)

Sunday, December 8  
9:00 AM Mass

Virginia Cuddihy  
(Req. Family)  
Mary Jones Merriam  
(Req. Lynn Cuddihy &  
John Taylor)  
Fr. Rich Broderick  
(Req. Friends)

11:00 AM Mass - St. Patrick's

Monday, December 9  
12:00 Noon Mass

For the people of our parish  
*Solemnity of the  
Immaculate Conception*

Wednesday, December 11  
8:30 AM Mass - St. Patrick's

Friday, December 13  
12:00 Noon Mass  
Remembering today's martyrs  
*Memorial of St. Lucy*

Saturday, December 14  
4:00 PM Mass

All victims of the  
Sandy Hook shootings  
(Req. Cathy Ogden)  
Mary Jones Merriam  
(Req. Art Hyde & Family)

Sunday, December 15  
9:00 AM Mass

Fred & Shirley Salluzzo  
(Req. Hayes Family)

11:00 AM Mass - St. Patrick's

### Giving Tree

Immaculate Conception Parish is once again assisting with HACA's Christmas Basket Program and the Giving Tree. We are seeking donations of new, unwrapped pajamas for children in our community. The Giving Tree and a collection box will be in the back of the First United Church beginning Saturday, November 23rd. There will also be collection boxes at Maggie's Beauty Shop and the Immaculate Conception Church Office. New pajamas in sizes Youth Small through Adult XL will be graciously accepted through **Monday, December 9th**. Please note: All pajamas donated are going to children in our community even if the tag indicates an adult size.

### Comfort & Hope Group Blue Christmas Prayer Service

Christmas can be a painful time for those grieving the loss of a loved one. If you are missing someone and hurting, the Comfort & Hope Bereavement Ministry of ICC invites you to join us for a Blue Christmas Prayer Service on Monday, December 9 at 7pm in the Good Shepherd room in the rectory.

### Re-Igniting Our Faith Capital Campaign

Christian Stewardship teaches that our gratitude to the Lord means more than giving of our treasure; it is also about living one's entire life as a gift to God.

**Re-Igniting Our Faith** offers our parish family a powerful opportunity to grow in faith and love for the Lord as we follow His example of selfless love and service. If anyone would like more information on how you can participate in this historic effort, you are encouraged to contact the parish office.

**As of December 2, 87 families have generously shared \$358,385.00 toward the campaign!**

### Sing a New Song!

We need your voice and enthusiasm for our Advent and Christmas Masses. If you can carry a tune, hold a note, or even take notes, come to practice or be early for Mass. Instrumentalists are also invited and needed. All ages can sing in our timeless liturgies.

### Prison Ministry Meeting

Sunday, December 8 - 10:30AM in the Good Shepherd Room

*"God so loved the world that he gave his one & only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16).*

### Can you help?

We need several new "collection counters" on Sunday mornings after the 9 AM Mass. Teams meet at the rectory and are done within an hour. If you can assist with this important ministry, please contact Mike Shea or our parish office.

### Immaculate Conception Financial Summary

|                             | 2019<br>Jul-Sep  |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Avg Weekly Mass Attendance  | 242              |
| Collections                 | \$ 44,461        |
| Buckley                     | \$ 20,356        |
| Other Receipts              | \$ 6,580         |
| <b>Total Receipts</b>       | <b>\$ 71,397</b> |
| Staff/Office Costs          | \$ 41,716        |
| Diocesan School Assess. *   | \$ 3,222         |
| Utilities                   | \$ 5,405         |
| Insurance                   | \$ 9,550         |
| Maintenance *               | \$ 9,489         |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>       | <b>\$ 69,382</b> |
| <b>Net Income/(Deficit)</b> | <b>\$ 2,015</b>  |

Collections per person / week \$ 14.13

\* Diocesan School Assessment required upon the closure of SMA

\* Maintenance includes work done that was recommended by the Critical Review Team



### 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 bags to be reused.

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

## 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](http://maryrosmusbattenkillcatholic.org)**

## **Pray Without Ceasing**

The Word of God challenges us to pray always. Is this just out of a book or in a pew?

So, what is prayer?

Prayer doesn't just happen when we kneel or put our hands together and focus and expect things from God. Thinking positive and wishing good for others is a prayer. When you hug a friend. That's a prayer. When you cook something to nourish family and friends. That's a prayer. When we send off our near and dear ones and say, "drive safely" or "be safe". That's a prayer. When you are helping someone in need by giving your time and energy. You are praying. When you forgive someone by your heart. That is prayer.

When you watch the clouds, glide down snow, or drift on the river. That is prayer. When you smile or tear up with someone; when you listen and pay attention. That is prayerful. When you are moved to stand up for the underdog or unwanted; when you usher in a bit of peace and tolerance. You are in prayer.

Prayer is a connection, a bonding beyond what's settled for. Prayer is comforting and unsettling; an upheaval, overturning, and journey together.

Prayer is a vibration. A feeling. A thought. Prayer is the voice of love, friendship, genuine relationships. Prayer is an expression of your silent being.

*\*Keep praying always\**

### **Scenes of the Season...**

**Caroling; Volleyball; Tree Decorating; Thanksgiving Baskets**



## *Our Gatherings, Prayer, and Service*

- **The Giving Tree** will be in the church for the Christmas Basket Program. All **UNWRAPPED** Gifts should be brought to the church or parish office by **Monday, December 9.**
- **Monday, December 9, 2019 at 12:00 Noon** - Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Mass at First United Church (Not a day of Holy Obligation this year)
- **Thursday, December 12, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.** – Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe-Bring an ethnic dish to share-A Faith Discussion –Jesus’ Family-Our Family- God’s Family “What does the bible say about our families” at ICC Church Hall, St. Joseph’s Room. Please come with a family story or two to share with the group.
- **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. Patricks 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

Our foundational roots of prayer, worship, and service began with the disciples of Jesus gathered around a table, their hearts burning with a desire to remember and see the Risen Lord in their midst. In the early Church - the second century - their gathering would have been very simple and brief, quite unimpressive to and outsider, but a heart felt action of doing something together -breaking bread and sharing the cup... not things to receive but actions which the community performs. During these normative days of our Church, people would gather quietly at someone’s home. Remember, Christians belonged to an illegal organization where life was risked if found out. At the door there was a greeting. There was a sharing and reflection on the writings of the Apostles, perhaps a letter of St. Paul, and a Gospel story. People would bring bread from home. Gathered around the table, the elders and bishop would lead the prayer, stretching out their hands over the bread and wine. The leader invites all to lift up their hearts and give thanks; God’s faithfulness is proclaimed. The bread is broken and shared; pieces of bread broken from single loaves symbolize the unity of the faithful in one body. The cup is shared; the people say “Amen”. A piece of bread may be taken to share with the sick or homebound. The Christians went home and went to work. Everyone left, aware they had some particular gift to share with others. This is the essence of what we do today.

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**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH - DECEMBER 7 & DECEMBER 8**

**This Week: December 7 & December 8**

Lectors: Saturday -Team 1, Sunday - Team 2  
Counters: Heather Hassett & Eileen Bakaitis  
Next Week: Linda Bennett & Jerry McAuliffe  
**(You are responsible to find a substitute if you are unable to serve.)**

**YOUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS & ATTENDANCE**

**November 23 & November 24**

Offertory ..... \$3,501.00  
Fuel ..... \$460.00  
Total ..... \$3,961.00

**ATTENDANCE:**

Saturday - November 23, 4:00 PM ..... 136  
Sunday - November 24, 9:00 AM ..... 112  
Total ..... 248

**November 30 & December 1**

Offertory ..... \$3,132.00  
Faith Formation ..... \$114.00  
Total ..... \$3,246.00

**ATTENDANCE:**

Saturday - November 30, 4:00 PM ..... 128  
Sunday - December 1, 9:00 AM ..... 142  
Total ..... 270

**This weeks' second collection is for Immaculate Conception (Dec. 7 & 8).  
The next second collection is for Solemnity of Mary (Dec. 28 & 29).**

*\* 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.**

**Our Sponsor of the Week is...**

**Mahar Funeral Home**

**Family Owned Since 1926**

**Pre-Planning ♦ Cremation Services ♦ Monuments**

**686-5123**

**Timothy J. Smith ♦ George E. Smith**