



## ***ST. PETER'S CHURCH***

**262 N. Main Street**

**Liberty, NY 12754**

**845-292-4525**

Email: [srectory1@hvc.rr.com](mailto:srectory1@hvc.rr.com)

Parish Website: [www.stpetersliberty.com](http://www.stpetersliberty.com)

Facebook: St. Peter's Church, Liberty



***November 28, 2021***

***First Sunday of Advent***

*The Year of Saint Joseph*

### ***LIVING OUR FAITH***

Today we begin a new liturgical year. Marking time through the liturgical year is an important part of our Christian journey, as it allows us to more deeply align our hearts and minds with Christ and enter more fully into the paschal mystery. It is important to remember that the waiting we experience now during this time of preparation for the coming of God is intimately connected to not only Christmas, but also the whole of Christ's life, death and resurrection.

The gospel today reminds us that as Christians we wait for something more than the celebration of the historical coming of Christ at Christmas. Jesus tells his disciples that a day will come when all must stand before the Son of Man. Like the disciples, we too wait for the coming of Christ at the end of time, time where sin, fear, and injustice will be no more. This waiting is an important part of the twofold nature of Advent.

**Questions for the week:** *If we view "justice" as safety and security, how is it present in your own family and community? Is our parish a "just" place for parishioners? How does putting a priority on love contribute to a nation of safety and security?*

## COVID PROTOCOL

As you have probably heard, Sullivan County is an area of high Covid-19 transmission. The CDC recommends that all in these areas, vaccinated or unvaccinated, should resume wearing masks indoors.

*That being the case, I am asking and urging that all of us resume wearing masks until this current threat passes.*

*Thank you for your cooperation as we live through this together.*



### WEEKLY OFFERING (November 21st)

Sunday Collection: \$ 1,759

We Share Online Giving: \$ 122.25

***Total: \$ 1,881.25***

***Thank you for your generosity and continued support of our Parish!***



***This Sunday's Hymns (10AM Mass)***

# 236 Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death

# 213 Emmanuel

# 321 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

# 226 The King of Glory



***Reading for Thanksgiving Day (November 25<sup>th</sup>)***

1 Kings 8:55-61

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Luke 1:39-55

***Readings for this Weekend (November 28<sup>th</sup>)***

Jeremiah 33:14-16

1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

***Readings for next Weekend (December 5<sup>th</sup>)***

Baruch 5:1-9

Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

Luke 3:1-6



### **PRAYERS FOR THE SICK AND THOSE IN NEED**

If you would like to add a name to our prayer list for the sick, please contact the Parish office. We kindly ask that you do not request a name to be included without the express consent of the person for whom you are requesting prayer. While the request may be very well-intentioned, we want to respect people's right to privacy.

*We ask for prayer for Charles Thomas and his ministry, Betty and Robert Friedland, and Kathryn Jones and her family.*

### **PRAYERS FOR THE DEARLY DEPARTED**

It is our Catholic tradition, during the month of November, to remember in a special way those who have gone on before us to eternal life.

We lovingly remember in prayer all of our deceased family members, friends and parishioners and in particular:

*Bobby Smith, Anthony Lanza, Juliana Frangipane, Robert Dubas, Nestor Mir, Jarred Doughty, Donald Hendrickson, Adalberto Santiago, Carl Belfiore, Darlene Henry, Elenore Whitney Pirrota, Steve Nicoli, Nubia Quintero-Edwards, Stanley Jacobs, William Cardone*

*We extend our warmest wishes to you all for a most blessed and happy Thanksgiving!*

*Please know that we count you, our Parish Family, among our greatest blessings!*



### **MASS OF THANKSGIVING**

Mass on Thanksgiving Day will be celebrated at 10am. All are invited to bring bread and wine to be blessed and taken back to be shared with family and friends at your Thanksgiving table.



## *A Thanksgiving Prayer*

O, heavenly Father,  
We thank thee for food  
And remember the **hungry**.  
We thank thee for health  
And remember the **sick**.

We thank thee for friends  
And remember the **friendless**.  
We thank thee for freedom  
And remember the **enslaved**.

May these remembrances  
stir us to service,  
That Thy gifts to us  
may be used for **others**.

We ask this in your eternal name,  
Amen.



## *Parish Announcements*

### **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS C&B**

One of the larger fundraisers for the Father Cronin K of C Council is the annual C & B drive. You will find a book in the pews over the next few weeks. Books are \$10 per book (\$50,000 in cash prizes awarded). You will only need to fill out the first ticket, we will fill out the rest. Remove your stubs and drop in the collection basket with your check made payable to K of C. The last day to return the books is ***this Sunday, November 28***. Thank you for your generosity.

### **ONGOING NEEDS OF RESIDENTS OF OUR LOCAL NURSING HOMES**

Residents of our local nursing homes are in ongoing need of clothing and toiletries.

The most requested items are T-shirts, comfortable pants with elastic waistbands (especially size L and XL), shampoo and body wash.

We will have a box at the back of the Church to collect ongoing donations.

Thank you!

### **OUR PARISH FOOD PANTRY NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

We are looking for people to help with food pickup for our Food Pantry

The time commitment is twice per month (every other Wednesday) and for 2 hours at a time.

You must be able to lift 50lbs and we ask that you have a pickup truck for transportation.

Have questions or would like to volunteer? Please call Debbie Burke at 845-798-6056.

### **WARM SOCK DRIVE**

Thank you so very much to all who participated in our Sock Drive!

We collected several pairs of socks, as well as some warm hats and gloves!

*Many feet in Liberty will be toasty warm this winter, thanks to your loving generosity!*



## *Advent News and Events*



### **ONLINE DAILY PRAYER TO RESUME FOR THE ADVENT SEASON**

Father Bader will lead us in daily prayer via Facebook Live the weekdays of Advent,  
(November 29<sup>th</sup>-the morning of December 24<sup>th</sup>).

Morning prayer will be prayed at 9am and evening prayer at 6pm.

We look forward to spending this beautiful and holy season of preparation and hope with you!

### **AROUND THE ADVENT CIRCLE RETREAT**

Join us the Wednesday evenings of Advent for a special program,  
where we will gather to reflect on the Sunday Scripture readings.

We will meet at 6:30 PM in the Deacon Riley Center on the following dates:

***December 1, December 8, December 15, December 22***

Each week, the materials we will be using for our discussion and reflection will be attached to the weekly bulletin and emailed out so that those who wish to reflect at home may do so.

Of course, those who are interested and comfortable attending in-person are invited to join us in the Deacon Riley Center at 6:30pm.

*(Please find the materials we will be using at the end of this bulletin.)*

### **SIGN UP FOR FREE DAILY ADVENT REFLECTIONS!**

Each Daily Reflection is a short video that features Dr. Tim Gray commenting on the daily Mass readings, explaining the Scriptures, and providing you with concrete ideas on how to apply them to your life. This Advent, dive deeper into the joys and mysteries of the Incarnation with Dr. Gray and enjoy the richness of the Christmas season as never before.

***To sign up for daily Advent reflections, simply visit [daily.formed.org](http://daily.formed.org)!***

Questions? Call Christy at the Parish office.

***It will soon be Christmas time at our local nursing homes!***

***Would you like to join us in spreading some Christmas cheer?***



Our Parish tradition has always been to set up a Jesse tree during Advent to collect gifts to make layettes for newborn babies.

Thankfully, we have plenty of baby items at our Children's Shop and do not need any more at this time.

***So, we've decided to do something a little different this Advent/Christmas season!***

Beginning this Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, you are invited to take a tag off the gift tree in the Church. Each tag will have a gift request for a resident of one of our local nursing homes.

If you would like to participate, please take a tag, purchase the gift, put your gift in a bag (please do not wrap in paper) and return it to the gift tree (with the tag attached) no later than ***Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>.***

Questions? Please call Christy at the Parish office.

***Thank you so much!***



## *Religious Education Program News*



### **ADOPT A GRANDPARENT**

*We still need names!*

We are excited to begin the new “Adopt a Grandparent” project!  
“Adopt a Grandparent” will pair members of our community who are ill, elderly, homebound or simply in need of some interaction with students in our Religious Education Program. While visits may not be practical now due to the ongoing pandemic, students can interact with their “Grandparent” throughout the year by writing letters, sending pictures or cards, making and sending crafts, etc.

These activities are especially important as it helps to build the relationship between the students and 'grandparents', eases social isolation for the grandparent and gives our young people the opportunity to get to know some of the older members of our community.  
***We are in need of names of people who would like to be a “Grandparent” in the program!***  
***If you, or someone you know, is interested, please let Christy at the Parish office know.***  
***Responses would be appreciated by December 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you!***

### **NEW FACEBOOK PAGE**

*Our Religious Education Program now has its own dedicated Facebook page!*  
Visit us at: <https://www.facebook.com/StPetersReligiousEducationLibertyNY/>  
If you have children in our Program (and even if you don't!) check it out!

## *Blessed Feasts!*

**St. Andrew**

*Feast Day: November 30<sup>th</sup>*

*Patron Saint of: Fisherman, Singers, Scotland, Romania, Russia, Ukraine and Patras*

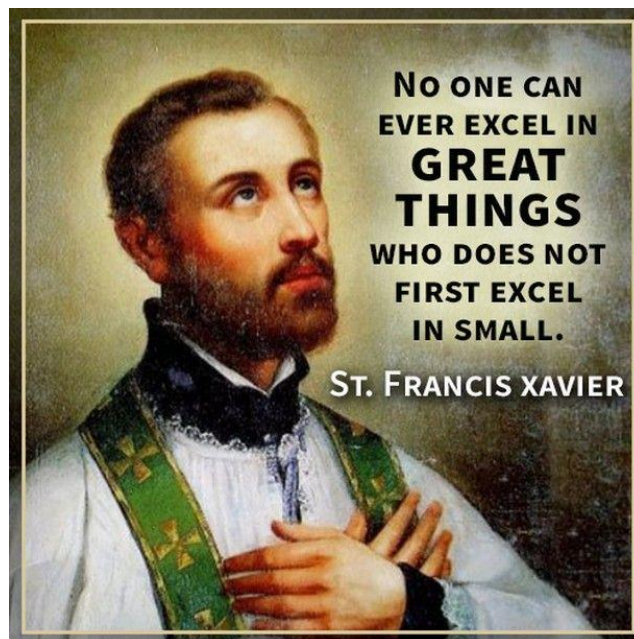
*The St. Andrew Christmas Novena, traditionally prayed 15x per day from  
November 30<sup>th</sup> - Christmas*

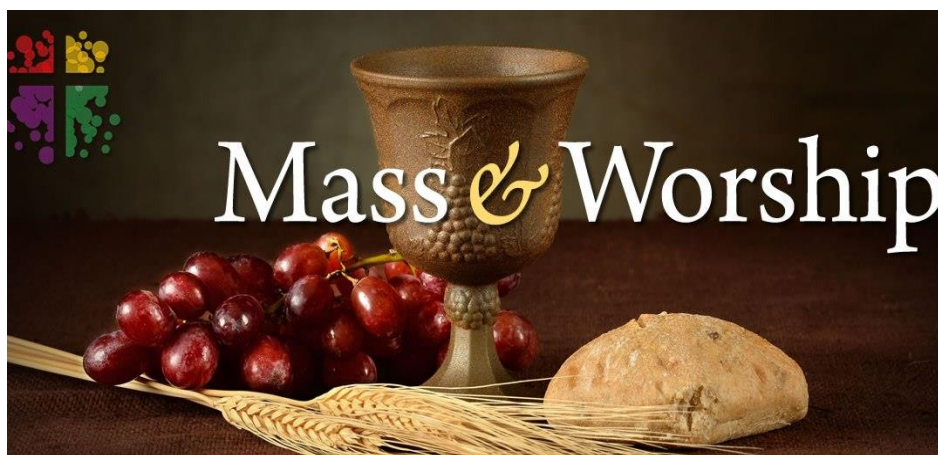


**St. Francis Xavier**

*Feast Day: December 3<sup>rd</sup>*

*Patron Saint of: Missions and missionary work*





***Saturday evenings at 7 PM:***  
*Mass in Spanish*

***Sunday mornings at 10 AM:***  
*Mass in English \*\**

***Sunday evenings at 5:30 PM:***  
*Mass in English*

***Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 8:30 AM***  
*Mass in English*

**\*\*We will continue to livestream our Sunday morning Mass on Facebook Live  
(Communion will be available after Mass for those who wish to come to the Church to  
receive the Eucharist.)**



# Around the Advent Circle

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November 28, 2021 • First Sunday of Advent • Year C

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*Be alert at all times.*

—Luke 21:36

## OPENING PRAYER

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Reader: We gather together to begin a new church year as Advent begins.

All: **Lord, thank you for this time to slow down and reflect during this busy season.**

Reader: We gather to reflect on how we might live this coming month more intentionally.

All: **Lord, help us to hear what your invitation is to us this Advent.**

Reader: We gather so that we can support one another on our Advent journeys.

All: **Lord, help us to be your presence to each other. Amen.**



## SHARING

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Thanksgiving has passed, but we still have a long holiday season ahead of us. Our society wants us to jump right to Christmas, but as Catholics we have the four week Advent season to immerse ourselves in before we come to December 25. This period can be a welcome excuse to remove ourselves from some of the unrealistic expectations of the culture we live in. Secular society fills these weeks with extra social obligations, over-eating and drinking, consuming and spending beyond our needs, and all-around over-indulgence. By honoring the quieter spirit of the season of Advent, we can arrive at Christmas more centered and grounded than in the past when we may have spent December rushing to keep up with everything around us.



- ① How do you feel as we begin Advent now? Overwhelmed? Somber? Contemplative? Hopeful? Why?
- ② What are your hopes for how you would like to experience Advent this year? Is there anything different you are hoping to do than in past years?
- ③ What are you looking for in this time of prayer and reflection with this group?



## LISTENING: 1 THESSALONIANS 3:12-4:2

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*May the Lord make you increase and abound in love.*

As a flawed human like all of us, St. Paul displayed a wide range of emotions in his many letters to the church communities he started in the decades after Jesus' resurrection. Just as we sometimes shoot off a text or email in the heat of the moment, so did Paul, only with a quill and scroll. Some of his writings were full of frustration, impatience, and even outright anger. At other times we can hear his hopefulness, affection, and gratitude for the people to whom he is writing—just as we send similar texts when we are feeling the love. Such is the case in the passage we read today from 1 Thessalonians.

The first half of this passage is Paul's prayer for the Christian community in Thessalonica. The Thessalonians are lucky to be on the receiving end of his prayers for an increase in love for one another and a strengthening of their hearts. Fortunately, we believe in something called "the communion of saints," that all good people who have gone home to God before us continue to pray for our well-being and growth. So St. Paul's prayer of 2,000 years ago is a prayer for us, too.

The second half of this passage is Paul's plea to his readers to continue living as Jesus taught and to strive to do so even more. These verses encourage us to do the same. Most likely we do live good lives in general, but we know that we can always do better and become more Christ-like.

## SHARING

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- ① In what ways would you like to see your love for others increase and abound during this Advent season?
- ② In what relationships or areas of your life are you doing well in striving to act like Jesus? (It's okay to acknowledge these—it doesn't have to be bragging!)
- ③ Are there one or more people you can commit to praying for this Advent season, either for an increase in love and "heart" strength or something else? Who are they?

## REFLECTION: LUKE 21:25-28, 34-36

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*Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times...*

Advent always begins with a Gospel reading in which Jesus tells his listeners to be on guard, alert, and watchful. In that context, Jesus was referring to his Second Coming and the end of the world as we know it. (The Gospel writers and Jesus' followers were certain Jesus meant this would happen in their lifetimes.) Two thousand years later, we don't usually assume that the world will end at any moment, so what are we to be vigilant and on guard for?

We may not be worried about the apocalypse happening tomorrow, but we can still take Jesus' words to heart because none of us know when we or our loved ones will die. Anyone who has ever received the news of a scary medical diagnosis or had a friend or relative receive one will recognize how quickly it can change our perspective. Unimportant things that we spent our time on suddenly don't seem very important in light of the love we want to give and receive before death occurs.

If our hearts are confused with distractions (read: wasting time on social media, watching Netflix, overeating or drinking, or generally living in a frenzy doing less-than-meaningful things), Jesus wants us to reevaluate how we spend our time. There are children to read to and tuck into bed, aging parents and relatives who long for our companionship, friends to re-connect with, grudges and past hurts to be reconciled. Hungry people



need food today, homeless men and women are longing housing, respect, and dignity, and sick and lonely people need someone to reach out to them. How would Jesus want us to spend our time if we were to die tomorrow? Let's be alert to that.

## SHARING

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- ① Have you ever had a significant life event that drastically changed your perspective on what is important and what isn't? Please share.
- ② In what ways have you slipped into "drowsiness," distraction, or a pattern of wasting time on unimportant matters which you would like to change?
- ③ What do you want to be more vigilant about this upcoming week? How do you think Jesus is inviting you to spend your valuable time and energy?

## CLOSING PRAYER

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Reader: Gracious God, we thank you for this time to reflect on your Word in scripture.

All: **Help us to slow down and notice you this Advent season.**

Reader: Give us the grace to be more aware of your presence.

All: **May we be more in tune with how you want us to use our time and energy.**

Reader: Grant that we may be more alert to the chances we have to love others and receive their love. We ask this all in Jesus' name.

All: **Amen.**

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