

FROM FATHER BILL: HAPPY ADVENT! We say **HAPPY** because we rejoice at the fact that Christ is coming at Christmas. During this time of the Liturgical Year, we yearn for the Birth of our Savior. For the next few weeks we will be lighting a candle on the Advent Wreath. Each week, I hope that as the Candles get brighter and brighter, we too will become brighter because of our special prayers and penances during this Holy Season. Maybe we won't wear hair shirts or burlap bags during Advent but we can take time out to **STOP, LOOK and LISTEN** and become more aware of the presence of Christ in our lives. Lets' wake up, listen for and prepare ourselves and others for the Birthday of our Savior. **HE is coming. Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord. Rejoice and be glad!!**

FATHER BILL'S FAVORITE ADVENT PRAYER:

"Day by Day, Day by Day, O dear Lord, three things I pray,
To SEE Thee more clearly; LOVE Thee more dearly; and FOLLOW Thee more nearly".

****ARISE! ADVENT SERIES: "HOW CAN I ACT ON MY FAITH in New Ways?"****

Wednesdays – 7:00-8:00 pm

December 3, 10 & 17

Our Lady of Victory Church., Troy, NY

Call 518-273-7602 for info.

Hospitality each evening at 6:45

Week One: Watching and Working – Eileen and Dick Shirey (teachers at Siena)

Week Two: Waiting and Welcoming – Sister Nora (Roarke Center) and Barbara Tommaso

Week Three: Serving and Speaking. – Father Kevin Mullin (President of Siena)

SAME SERIES on Tuesdays, December 2, 9 & 16 at Holy Spirit Church, 667 Columbia Turnpike, East Greenbush, NY. Call 518-477-7925 for info.

YOU ARE INVITED!

ST. PETER and ST. PAUL JOINT PARISH ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE FOR ALL PARISHIONERS (Christmas Confessions) will be held at St. Paul's Church on Thursday, December 18th at 6:30 pm.

ADVENT GIVING TREES ARE PRESENT IN OUR CHURCHES: Please take a tag home and return a wrapped (St. Paul's)/ unwrapped (St. Peter's) present to the tree for a needy person ASAP. The presents at St. Paul's will be given to the Unity Sunshine Pre-School Children; and at St. Peter's to the Roarke Center.

ST. PETER and ST. PAUL JOINT PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY at St. Peter's Lyceum, Sunday, December 14th. See FLYER in today's Bulletin!

IN RECOGNITION of the YEAR OF SAINT PAUL and to provide the people of our Diocese with sufficient opportunity to receive the graces attached to this celebration, Bishop Hubbard has identified ST. PAUL the APOSTLE CHURCH, Troy, NY as a pilgrimage site for Rensselaer County. A person who desires a plenary indulgence should be: REPENTANT of their sins/ ABSOLVED through the Sacrament of Reconciliation/ RECEIVE Holy Communion and VISIT a designated pilgrimage site and pray for the Intentions of the Holy Father. A PLENARY INDULGENCE may benefit the Christian faithful, both living and deceased, as often as the conditions are fulfilled.

LOOKING AHEAD: Monday December 8, FEAST of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

A HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION!

MASSES

ST. PAUL – 8:00 am and 6:00 pm

ST. PETER – NOON (English) and 6:30 pm (Latin).

Parish Mission Statement:

St. Paul's, St. Peter's, and our Latin Tridentine Community established by Bishop Hubbard are a Roman Catholic Community working together in union with the Vicar of Christ on Earth. As followers of Jesus, we choose to be instruments of peace, healing and a visible sign of hope to one another and to all our neighborhoods. We profess our Faith in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and therefore strive to have charity toward all and animosity toward none while performing our daily duties according to the will of God.

AN INVITATION FROM OUR ST. PETER'S LATIN PARISHIONERS: "The week of December 8 will begin and end with a feast in honor of Our Blessed Mother: The Feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8 and the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12 To honor her in this week of two Marian feasts, there will be a service on Wednesday evening, December 10 at 6:30 p.m. In her honor we will recite 15 decades of the Rosary and conclude with Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. In addition to honoring Our Blessed Mother and professing our fidelity to her, this will be a unique opportunity for the English and Latin Mass congregations at Saint Peter's to come together as a single community; to place our parish and our church under her protection; and to implore her intercession on our behalf as our Bishop takes under consideration the recommendations for church closures made to him under the Called to BE Church process. All English and Latin Mass parishioners are cordially invited to attend this night of prayerful dedication to the Mother of God and to pray for our Parish, our Church and our Bishop."

PRESIDENT KAY McCARTY ANNOUNCES -- ST. PETER'S PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, December 9, 10:00 am to 11:30 am at the LYCEUM. All members are encouraged to attend the Noon Mass after the meeting. In case Fr. Bill has a funeral on Tuesday, December 9th, the Pastoral Council Meeting will be MOVED to 6:30 pm the same day.

PRAYER IN TIME OF CHANGE:

Beloved Jesus, anoint us to do your will.
May the joy of your dwelling in us draw us closer to each other,
Expand our vision to recognize your plan;
Warm our hearts by the flame of your love;
Open our lips so that we can embrace each other as your people; speak to us so we can discern the role you have for us,
Your body, your Church.
Fill us with your Holy Spirit,
Empowering us to become a vital expression of growth
In your changing Church.
Your Kingdom is now!
Help us to discover and live your will. AMEN.

BANNS of MARRIAGE: David Dupuis & Bridget Blair will celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage at St. Paul the Apostle Church on Saturday, December 6, 2008. We wish them well as they prepare for this most special day of their lives. Let's also pray for NO SNOW on December 6. God bless you, David and Bridget.

CONGRATULATIONS to JOHN & STEPHEN REEVES who were recently confirmed at Our Lady of Victory by Bishop Hubbard. Both are long standing Altar Servers at St. Paul's. God bless!

PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF Patrick Harrington and E. Michael McLoughlin.
God grant them Eternal Life.

What are "posadas"? The word *posada* means "shelter" or "lodging." This Advent custom, popular throughout the Spanish-speaking world, reenacts Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem and their search for lodging along the way. The ritual lasts for nine days (December 16-24), representing the months of Mary's pregnancy. A group of people travel from house to house on their route, taking the role of pilgrims seeking lodging. Those inside the homes are innkeepers who refuse them. At the last home all are invited in for prayer and refreshments.

Catholic Information: 1-800-MY FAITH
Pro-Life Pregnancy Hotline: 1-800-848-LOVE

Evangelization: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.....Oh ven!, Oh ven!,
Emanuel!