

FROM FATHER BILL: *We light the Second Candle of the Advent Wreath today. How has your Advent been going? Have you taken time to STOP, LOOK and LISTEN and try to figure out how God fits into your life? The Scripture tells us that He is leaping towards us like a gazelle! The Savior can't wait to get close to us. How do we feel about looking out for Him so that we can fully celebrate His Birthday at Christmas. You might consider attending weekday Mass, attending the Advent Series at Our Lady of Victory and reading the Scripture. Sleepers awake!! Prepare ye the Way of the Lord. Guess who "ye" is? US! The clock is ticking and He will soon be here. I hope that everyone will attend our fifth Annual Joint Parish Christmas Party at St. Peter's Lyceum NEXT SUNDAY. REJOICE!!*

THIS WEEK: 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).

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

Wednesdays – 7:00-8:00 pm

December 10 & 17

Our Lady of Victory Church, Troy, NY

Call 518-273-7602 for info.

Hospitality each evening at 6:45

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

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

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

YOU ARE INVITED!

ST. PETER'S and ST. PAUL'S COMBINED PARISHES ADVENT COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE

(Christmas Confessions), **THURSDAY, December 18, 2008 St. Paul's Church, at 6:30 pm.** We will sing, recite psalms, pray an act of Sorrow and accept a common penance followed by the sharing of His Peace with each other and then come forward in two lines, mention a sin or fault and Father Bill will give individual absolution to each person. Make an attempt to come and make your Christmas Confession at this time.

ST. PETER and ST. PAUL JOINT PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY at St. Peter's Lyceum, NEXT

Sunday, December 14th. Coffee and rolls after 10:30 am Mass – Dinner at 1:00 pm and Santa comes at 1:45 pm. Pay \$5.00 after Mass today and get your money back when you show up for the party. **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

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 (wrapped) presents at St. Paul's will be given to the Unity Sunshine Pre-School Children; and at St. Peter's (unwrapped) to the Roarke Center.

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.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: Please fill out your Christmas Flower envelope and place it in the basket by Christmas. A Memorial list will be printed in the Bulletin shortly after Christmas.

COME HOME TO ST. PAUL'S or ST. PETER'S FOR CHRISTMAS: Please invite everyone to come or return to our Parishes for our beautiful Christmas Eve or Christmas Day Masses.

2009 Church Calendars will be available at our Parishes next weekend. **REJOICE!**

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 RICH CARLEY ANNOUNCES - ST. PAUL the APOSTLE PASTORAL COUNCIL will meet THIS Monday, December 8, following the 6:00 pm Holyday Mass.

PRESIDENT KAY McCARTY ANNOUNCES -- ST. PETER'S PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING: this 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.

WEDDING BELLS: Congratulations to David Dupuis & Bridget Blair who celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage at St. Paul the Apostle Church today, Saturday, December 6, 2008. *Best Wishes!*

PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF Father Owen Angeloni, OFM. God grant him Eternal Life.

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

FINAL TOTALS for the Aight Pregnancy Center Inc. BABY BOTTLE FUND RAISER:
Saint Peter - \$336.00 and Saint Paul - \$548.38. Thank you for your generosity and for your pro-life stand. ROARKE HOUSE writes: "Thank you to all who donated FOOD at Thanksgiving time for the POOR and NEEDY."

REFLECTION - ADVENT can be described as a festive commemoration of the Incarnation and a devout and joyous expectation of the Second Coming. It is a Season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered and as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. ADVENT is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation.

WHY DO WE SING? WHY DO YOU SING? 1 God gave us the gift of song, 2 The Jewish people were instructed to sing, 3 Jesus and His apostles sang and 4 Music strengthens our Faith.

EVANGELIZATION: "My Soul Magnifies the Lord"..... "Mi Alma Glorifica Al Señor".