



HOLY TRINITY PARISH

Hudson and Germantown, New York

429 E. Allen St. P. O. Box 323 Hudson, NY 12534

December 10, 2017

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**2nd SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of
repentance for the forgiveness of sins. - Mk 1:4

REV. ANTHONY BARRATT
Pastor

DEACON RICHARD WASHBURN
Deacon

REV. WINSTON BATH
Pastor Emeritus

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: “Prepare a way for the Lord”

Last week we began our short season of Advent together as a parish community. We reflected together about how the season is rather like a journey: a structured time given to us so as to help us prepare for the coming or “advent” of Jesus Christ. Also, last week, we were given our first signpost or marker on this journey: how we are to watch and wait for the Lord. This week, we see and hear the second sign or marker on our journey as St. John the Baptist appears and commands us to “...prepare a way for the Lord”. It was certainly the mission of St. John the Baptist to do just that: to prepare a way for the coming messiah, Jesus Christ; but even though Jesus has come, we too also have a mission to prepare a way for the Lord. What does this mean and how are we to do it...?

The answer lies in the words “prepare” and “way”. We spend quite a bit of our life in preparing for things, whether it is for a mid-term exam or quiz, or the next sporting event, or for a visitor or family event, to give just a few examples. How do we do this? It may involve study or practice: sharpening up our knowledge, skills and awareness. It could involve preparing the house for visitors by cleaning up, or getting a guest room ready, or cooking ahead of time.

These images easily can be translated into how we prepare in a spiritual sense, so as to be able to recognize Jesus when he comes and then to welcome the Lord and to let him enter into our hearts. As with our everyday preparations (whatever these may be), this involves effort and focus. We might need to sharpen up our faith knowledge and spiritual skills, helped by the sacraments, God’s Word and our prayer time. It might also require that we clean up our house (that is our heart and soul) in some way, perhaps helped by celebrating the sacrament of reconciliation. So, Advent really is a time when we can be energized and prepare for the coming of the Lord.

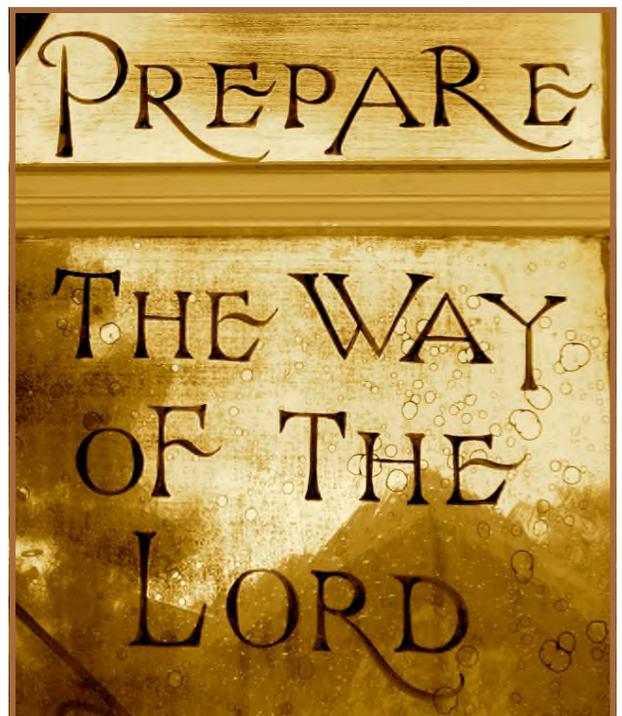
Finally, the phrase “prepare a way for the Lord” also has an image of a *way* or a *journey*: the Lord travels or journeys to us. But what if that way or road to us is blocked somehow; what if there is something blocking God’s path to us? Advent, like Lent, is a season of preparation and part of this preparation is conversion and penance (that is one reason why we use the liturgical color of purple both for Lent and for Ad-

vent...it is the color of penance and of renewed conversion). As part of preparations then, we need to take a serious look at what might be “blocking” our relationship with God and, with God’s help, to make sure that that blockage or those obstacles are removed. It could be a familiar fault or failing, or a less than active or vibrant prayer life, or a long held resentment or hurt. Any of these and so many more can act like road blocks: a barrier for us to be open and welcoming to the Lord as He comes to us. As mentioned above, the sacrament of reconciliation is a great way to unblock things. (We have our Advent Reconciliation Service this Tuesday, 12th December at 6.30 pm. A number of visiting priests will be with us to help celebrate the sacrament: so why not come along!)

So, unlike St. John the Baptist, we do not need to live in the desert, or to dress in camel skin clothes, or to live on a diet of honey and locusts (could this be the latest diet fad...?!). However, we do need to “prepare a way for the Lord”, both for ourselves and also to help others to do the same. May the Lord bless us and help us as we and our families and friends prepare a way for God.



Fr. Anthony



THE WEEK AHEAD

SUNDAY, December 10

■ **Open House**— 2:30-4:30pm at St. Mary's Rectory

TUESDAY, December 12

■ **Christian Service Meeting** - 12:00 Noon at St. Mary's Academy

■ **Communal Penance Service** - 6:30 pm at St. Mary's Church

THURSDAY, December 14

■ **Bible Study:** 7:00 p.m. St. Mary's Academy

SUNDAY, December 17

■ **Christmas Pageant** - Following the 9:00 am Mass

2018 St. Joseph Sunday Missal Available

This missal is designed to help you deepen your understanding and participation in the Mass, guide your life in the spirit of the liturgy, and to meditate often on the Word of God. Missals are available in the Sacristy for \$4.00 each.



Communal Penance Service

Mark your calendars for a Communal Penance Service on the evening of Tuesday, December 12th at 6:30 p.m. The service will conclude with several priests available for confession.

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

There will be a special celebration of this Feast Day on **Sunday, December 10th, 12:00 noon at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Stuyvesant** with a Mass celebrated in Spanish and English. Anyone interested in attending this Mass is most welcome to do so.



Enjoy the true meaning of Christmas

Southern Columbia County Community Choir

Presents a Cantata

4:00 p.m. Sunday, December 10th

Reformed Church of Germantown

20 Church Ave. Germantown

Directed by Donna Dielhl

Collection will be taken for a local Charity.

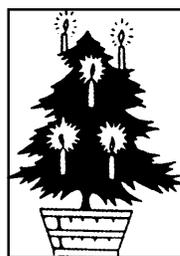


YOU ARE ALL INVITED

to an Open House at the Rectory (Hudson) on Sunday, December 10 from 2:30 - 4:30 P.M.

Refreshments will be served.

Come and visit for just a few minutes or for two hours. It will be great to see you.



Advent Giving Tree

The deadline for bringing in Advent Giving Tree gifts is the weekend of December 9-10.

REMINDER: PLEASE ATTACH THE GIFT TAG TO YOUR GIFT!

Cookie Sale



The time for the Twenty - Seventh Annual Christmas Cookie Sale at St. Mary's Church is quickly approaching. Make plans to bake some of your favorite cookies for this sale to be held on the weekend of December 16 and 17. Cookies, brownies, and cookie bars will be accepted. Whether contacted or not, please get ready to bake a batch of your favorite treats.



**Christmas Pageant
St. Mary's Church Hudson**

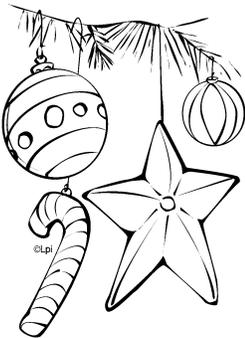
**Sunday, December 17th
at St. Mary's Church
following the 9:00 a.m. Mass.
After the pageant, cookies and punch
will be served.**

Help! Help! Help!

After the 9:00 Mass and Christmas Pageant on **Sunday, December 17th**, we will be bringing the statues and other parts of our Christmas decorations out of storage. We would be most grateful for the help of anyone who can pitch in for awhile.

On **Monday, December 18th at 9:00 a.m.** we will be constructing the framework for our Christmas display, and **later that evening at 5:30 p.m.** we will be hanging the greens. Because of the assistance of a great number of people in previous years, we were able to get things up in short order. Help us continue the tradition. Mike Van Allen and other members of our parish team will be giving directions to keep the components organized.

Please call Mike at 518 828-1334 to let him know if you would like to get involved.



**Family Tree
Ornaments**

We are looking forward once again to our families helping us with the decorations of our parish Christmas tree. Children (and adults) will be invited to come forward and put their ornaments

on the tree at the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass at St. Mary's. Ornaments may also be placed on the tree before or after all the other Christmas Masses. The ornaments can be homemade or purchased. If convenient, we encourage you to put your family name and "2017" on the ornament.

Christmas Schedule this Year

**NOTE: Regular Masses for Fourth Sunday of Advent
Saturday, Dec. 23 : 4:00 pm (HUD) and 5:30 pm (G'TWN)
Sunday, Dec. 24 : 9:00am (HUD) and 11:00 am (G'TWN)**

CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday, December 24th

4:00 P.M. - Hudson
(Oriented towards Families & Children)

4:00 P.M. - Germantown

6:00 P.M. - Hudson

10:00 P.M. – Hudson

CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday, December 25th

10:00 A.M. – Hudson

11:00 A.M. – Germantown

Lectors, Ministers of the Eucharist, and Altar Servers:
Please check the schedules on the bulletin boards to remind yourselves of the Mass to which you are assigned.

**MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
(New Year's Day)**

Monday, January 1, 2018

9:00 A.M. - Hudson

(As this falls on a Monday, it is still a holy day, but **NOT** a holy day of obligation.)

SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Spirituality of Stewardship

We participate in the Kingdom of Heaven not through our accomplishments, but through our love and generosity.

HUDSON

Regular Offertory Last Weekend (Dec. 4)..... \$6473.00

GERMANTOWN

Regular Offertory Last Weekend (Dec. 4)..... \$1,322.00
Heat and Fuel Collection..... \$ 300.00



SACRAMENTS

The sacraments are wonderful gifts from God to us. Through outward, visible signs; the sacraments are channels of God's love and mercy and so they draw us in to the life of the Trinity. They therefore also continue the saving mission and ministry of Jesus Christ in and through His body, the Church. Below is some information on how to make contact regarding the celebration of the sacraments.

BAPTISM: Congratulations! If you would like to arrange preparations and a date for Baptism, please contact the Parish Office.

RCIA: For those enquiring about the Catholic Faith or wishing to complete their sacraments: welcome! Please contact the Parish Office and we will be very glad to help you further.

RECONCILIATION: Celebrated on Saturdays 2.30-3.45 pm in Hudson, before and after Masses in Germantown, or at anytime by appointment. (Note: it is best to call ahead first to check on the availability of a priest)

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Priests regularly visit the hospitals, nursing homes and the homebound. Please do contact the Parish Office if you or someone you know is in need of the anointing of sick.

MARRIAGE: Congratulations! So that proper arrangements (paperwork, preparations etc.) can be made, please contact the Parish Office or Fr. Anthony at least six months before the desired date.

VOCATIONS: If you are considering a vocation to the priesthood, diaconate or religious life, please contact Fr. Anthony to share thoughts and prayers further.

READINGS AND HYMNS (HUDSON)
Reading: p. 61 **Opening Hymn:** # 200 **Closing:** # 538

MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

MONDAY: Weekday (December 11)
 7:15 AM John & Helen Halloran - Daughter, Dawn
 Yolanda Bellacico - DeLaurentis Family

TUESDAY: Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12)
 7:15 AM Michael & Nathaniel Keyser - Diane Kreig
 Sean & Lindsey Turoci (1st Wedding Anniversary)

-Turoci Family

WEDNESDAY: St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr (December 13)
 7:15 AM Julia M. Ruotolo - Joanne Walker
 Kathleen Reid - Elsie Turoci

THURSDAY: St. John of the Cross (December 14)
 7:15 AM Ramona Goldfoot - Elsie Turoci
 Pasquale & Jane Zanchelli - Charles & Linda Meicht

FRIDAY: Weekday (December 15)
 7:15 AM John & Helen Halloran - Daughter, Dawn
 Roger Leccese Jr. - Dolly VanDeCarr
 9:00 AM William J. Whalen - Pat & Dick Nobes
 (G'TWN)

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS: (December 16)
 4:00 PM Sylvester Kovalich - Family
 (HUD) Edward J. Ziemba - Ed & Nancy Ziemba
 Lillian Carty - Pat & Dick Nobes
 5:30 PM Carmela & Philip Manuli - Phyllis Manuli
 (G'TWN) Living and Deceased of the Parish

SUNDAY MORNING MASS: (December 17)
 9:00 AM Robert Borrelle - Wife, Ellen
 (HUD) James L. Walker (11th Anniv.) - Family
 Rudy DeLaurentis - Wife and Family
 11:00 AM Bernie Broast - Arlene & Alan Liepshutz
 (G'TWN) Trotti Family (Special Intention) - Liepshutz Family

Readings for the Week of December 10

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/
 2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12,
 13-14
 [Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a,
 10ab/
 Jdt 13:18bcde, 19 [15:9d]/Lk
 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10 [1]/
 Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-
 13ab [8]/
 Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/
 Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16,

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