

Advent at St. Peter's

Messenger Weekly

Saturday, December 2 and Sunday, December 3, 2017

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THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday at 9:30 is a Children's Service and Debbie Quick will deliver the message.

Pastor Ron will be delivering the message Saturday and at 8:00 and 11:00 AM on Sunday and Pastor Gil will be celebrating at all services.

Scripture

Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-2,8-13
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37

THE MYSTERY OF THE THREE MARYS

Most of us have some familiarity with Mary the mother of Jesus and with Mary Magdalene. But who was the third Mary in Jesus' life? The questions continue to grow when we realize how little the Bible has revealed about not only the unknown Mary, but about the other two Marys as well.

As Advent approaches, our attention often turns to Mary the Mother of Jesus. In the Bible, Mother Mary appears at the birth narrative, a few isolated events during Jesus' life, and at the Cross. Oddly enough, we hear more about Mary from the Quran than from the Bible.

Other than at the Cross, Magdalene's participation in the biblical narrative are speculative. Was she the woman caught in adultery? Was she the woman who anointed Jesus' feet? Was she Martha and Lazarus' sister? Fortunately, some non-canonical Gnostic Gospels provide us with a bit of valuable information about Mary's life, teachings, and relationship to Jesus.

And the third Mary, was she Jesus' sister? Was she Cleopas wife (or sister) who walked the road to Emmaus? And what might she add to the theological dialogue about Jesus? All of these questions give rise to some interesting theological and psychological curiosities; maybe even some imaginative mystical possibilities.

During the season of Advent, I will be offering a three-class series on 'The Mystery of the Three Marys in Jesus' Life. Who were they, what was their relationship to Jesus, and to each other? The series will be offered at two different days and times; Tuesdays December 5, 12, 19 at 6:00 PM and on Wednesdays December 6, 13, 20 at 11:00 AM.

THE LITURGY FOR ADVENT

St Peter's has the tradition of using the color blue for the season of Advent. Often, in iconography, Mary is depicted wearing a blue dress with a red cloak. The blue represents her humanness, which is covered by the red divine Spirit of God. The color blue for Advent is a reflection of Mary's significant role in our Christian religion and our participation in her life and work.

With the exception of our traditional Rite I service the other three service's liturgies have been written to reflect the importance of Mary. Traditionally, the first three Sundays of Advent, the readings focus on the apocalypse, the impending coming of the Messiah. Only on the fourth Sunday does our tradition turn its attention to Mary. To maintain some continuity with the traditions of Advent, the coming of the light, we have not changed the readings. Our emphasis, however, for the liturgy will lean more toward the compassion of Mary because the holiday season can often be very difficult for many us.

The stress of the Christmas season is hard enough. But often grief will emerge. We miss our loved ones who cannot be with us during the holidays, making the season of Advent often very "blue." We believe that God is present with us in our blue humanity and in our red spiritual desire to be like Jesus. Advent and Christmas are filled with symbols that are intended to help us process our daily walk with God. To help in grief work we offer a Blue Christmas service on December 20 at 6:00 PM; please join us for this time of reflection and prayer.

Pastor Gil

THE SPIRITUALITY OF ACTIVISM:

A RETREAT FOR THESE TIMES

By Darleen Pryds, Ph. D. and The Rev. Anne K. Ellsworth

Friday, January 26, 2018, 6:00 PM - Saturday, January 27, 2018, 4:30 PM

St. Augustine's Episcopal Parish

1735 South College Avenue, Tempe, AZ

Fee: \$60 - \$70

Designed to inspire, this is a retreat for people of all (or no) spiritual backgrounds who desire to learn how our social action and activism can be sustained through spiritual practices like:

- Discerning an individual call to action;
- Contemplation;
- Non-violence;
- Learning the skill of civil discourse with "the other"; and
- Becoming comfortable with disagreement.

This is a nonpartisan event and is open to anyone regardless of spiritual and religious affiliation. Registration fee covers materials, vegetarian meals - including dinner on Friday, continental breakfast and lunch on Saturday, and snacks - and hospitality throughout our retreat time together. This is commuter retreat. Limited scholarships available: email anne@ofgoodcourage.org.

Advance registration required through **Eventbrite**: www.eventbrite.com

ARE YOU BEING CALLED?

On January 28 at the annual meeting of the parish, a slate of candidates for the Vestry will be offered for election. According to St. Peter's Bylaws that were amended in October, Vestry members will now be elected to three year terms. Each Vestry member shall be a communicant in good standing, eighteen (18) years of age or over, and resident in the parish for at least one (1) year.

At this time, the Vestry wishes to invite members of St. Peter's who are interested in serving as a Vestry member to submit their names and contact information to a member of the Nominating Committee listed below:

David Goodwin dgoodwin49@hotmail.com

Ken Hahn KCHCHEVY@aol.com

Sue Larson SueLarson21@cox.net

Jerry Mooth jerrymoo@gmail.com

Kathy VanMeter kathyvanmeter@cox.net

Nominations must be received by December 23, 2017.

NATALIE'S HOUSE

Natalie's House is a home for young girls who have been victims of domestic abuse and trafficking. St. Peter's has supported them with various projects throughout the years and now we would like to help them fill their Christmas wish list. The items they would like are on the tags on the tree in the narthex.

You can help by picking an item that would be fun for you to purchase and bring back to the church. You do NOT have to wrap it or put it in a gift bag.

Whatever items we collect will be sorted and wrapped at Natalie's House and given to the girls for Christmas.

Return on or before December 17th.

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

Need a night to go shopping, prep for Christmas or just take some time for a date night or to relax? Drop the kids off at the nursery at St. Peter's from 6:00—10:00PM on Friday, December 8. There will be adult supervision and SP Students will help entertain the kids with activities and games. Cost is \$5.00 per child with a \$10.00 per family maximum (to cover the cost of the pizza dinner). No need to sign up.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

To Peter Mahoney and Old Pueblo for providing a full Mexican food feast for 75 Veterans at the US Vets center. If you'd like to help our Veteran's Team, see Deacon Michael.



SAVE THE DATE

Morning Prayer Begins

December 4, 7:00 AM

Advent Teaching Begins

December 5 and 6

Parent's Night Out

December 8 from 6-10PM

Lessons & Carols & Potluck

Saturday, December 9, 5:00 PM

Blood Drive

December 16

Christmas Cantata

December 16 5PM and 17 9:30AM

Blue Christmas

Wednesday, December 20, 6:00 PM

Christmas Eve Services

Sunday, December 24

(Holy Eucharist at all services)
No Sunday morning services

3:00 PM Family Service with
Children's Nativity Pageant

5:00 PM Family Service with
Children's Nativity Pageant

7:00 PM

Choral Celebration - no incense

10:00 PM

Choral Celebration with incense

Annual Meeting and Potluck

SP KIDS

ST. NICHOLAS DAY CELEBRATION



December 6 is the feast day of St. Nicholas of Myra (i.e. "The First Santa Claus"), a fourth-century bishop known for his generosity, love of children, and concern for sailors and ships. We will celebrate his feast day next weekend, **December 9 and 10**, with crafts, surprises, and a visit from St. Nicholas himself!

FAMILY ADVENT DEVOTIONS

Advent devotional Materials are available at the SP Kids table. Take whatever you would like to use, and set aside time for family prayer and Bible study this Advent.

NATIVITY PAGEANT SIGN-UPS

The children will present the *Nativity Pageant* on **Christmas Eve**, at the **3:00 PM and 5:00 PM services**. Sign-up at the *SP Kids* table for either or both services.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

HELP THE TEENS GET TO PORTLAND, OR!

HOW TO DONATE SOUTHWEST MILES:

1. If you have enough miles for one or more whole tickets (roughly 8,000 miles each way) contact Liz Hengst and tell her how many miles you have to donate.
2. If you only have a few miles, donate them through the Southwest Rapid Rewards website. There is a small fee involved. The Rapid Rewards account you will be transferring them to is 20747817602 and the account name is Elizabeth Hengst. If you need any help with this process or the fee involved please contact Liz Hengst.

Every mile helps!

For more information on donating miles, please contact Liz Hengst at 919-348-0244 or liz.hengst@hotmail.com.

HELP THE TEENS LIGHT THE WAY THIS CHRISTMAS

If you have any empty Glade candle holders, please donate them to the teens to use in the luminaria bags on Christmas Eve. Drop them off in the office or give them to Liz Hengst or Selena Guzman. Thank you.

TEENS PACKING THANKSGIVING BAGS AT AGUA FRIA FOOD BANK



Advent and Christmas



Morning Prayer Weekdays, December 4 - 22, 7:00 AM

Advent Teaching Tuesdays, December 5, 12, 19. 6:00 PM or
Wednesdays, December 6, 13, 20 11:00 AM

Learn about “The Mystery of the Three Marys” led by Gil

Carols & Potluck Saturday, December 9, 5:00 PM

Enjoy the festive music along with a fellowship potluck dinner

Cantata Saturday, December 15, 5:00 PM and
Sunday, December 17, 9:30 AM

The Chancel Choir presents “A Night of the Father’s Love”
by Pepper Choplin

Blue Christmas Wednesday, December 21, 6:00 PM

The service will provide an opportunity to have our feelings
of grief, absence, sadness, loneliness, and depression
acknowledged before God.

Christmas Weekend

Saturday, December 23, 5:00 PM - Celebration of Advent 4

Sunday, December 24, 3:00 & 5:00 PM - Children’s Pageant

Sunday, December 24, 7:00 PM - Choral Celebration (no incense)

Sunday, December 24, 10:00 PM - Choral Celebration (incense)

POINSETTIAS

Use the order slip in the Narthex or email the office to order your poinsettia in dedication to a loved one. Cost is \$10.00 per dedication.

The Church Office will be closed December 25 through January 1

THIS WEEK AT ST PETER’S

Sunday, December 3

8:00	AM	Rite 1 Service (Sanctuary)
9:00	AM	Artisan Expo (Celebration Hall)
9:00	AM	Parish Breakfast (Celebration Hall)
9:30	AM	Family Service (Sanctuary)
11:00	AM	Contemplative Service (Sanctuary)

Monday, December 4

11:00	AM	Montessori Chapel (Sanctuary)
12:20	PM	Montessori Chapel (Sanctuary)
1:00	PM	Walk-in Bridge (Celebration Hall)

Tuesday, December 5

5:30	PM	Girl Scouts (Desert Room)
6:00	PM	Advent Teaching (Celebration Hall)

Wednesday, December 6

10:00	AM	Holy Eucharist (Sanctuary)
11:00	AM	Advent Teaching (Celebration Hall)
11:00	AM	Montessori Chapel (Sanctuary)
12:30	PM	Montessori Chapel (Sanctuary)
5:00	PM	Choristers Practice
6:45	PM	Chancel Choir (Sanctuary)
7:00	PM	AA Step Group (Celebration Hall)

Thursday, December 7

9:00	AM	RePete Boutique (9AM—Noon)
9:00	AM	Private Event (Celebration Hall)
1:00	PM	Walk-in Bridge (Celebration Hall)
5:00	PM	Cherubs Practice (Sanctuary)
5:30	PM	Thursday Night Live (Celebration Hall)

Friday, December 8

9:00	AM	RePete Boutique (9AM—Noon)
6:00	PM	Parent’s Night Out (Nursery)

Saturday, December 9

6:45	AM	Men’s Group (Celebration Hall)
9:00	AM	RePete Boutique (9AM—Noon)
5:00	PM	Carols & Potluck (Celebration Hall)