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## St. Peter's Weekly Vision – December 21, 2015

By Susan Ostrout

### THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT: PEACE

Service of Holy Eucharist Rite I at 8:00 a.m.

Service of Holy Eucharist Rite II at 10:00 a.m.

### What just happened!!!

The [Advent wreath](#) is a popular Advent custom that originated in Germany. It consists of four candles, surrounded by evergreen branches. The light of the candles signifies the light of Christ, who will come into the world at [Christmas](#). Hope, Peace, Joy and the fourth candle of Advent is the candle of love. Its light is meant to remind us of the love God has for us.



#### **From Fr. Perry's sermon:**

"Long before the birth of Jesus, prophets spoke of a wonderful event – the coming of a Prince of Peace. He would be the Son of God. He would bring a beautiful message of love and hope to all the world."

"There in the stable, Jesus was born. Mary wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a feeding trough called a manger."

"And on the night of His birth, the most glorious star appeared in the sky. It came up in the east and shone brightly over the stable where the Christ Child, the son of God lay sleeping. This beautiful star was a sign of hope and love, a new beginning"

"The miracle that began 2000 years ago with the birth of Jesus continues today."

You can hear the full sermon online at <http://www.stpetershebron.com/sermons/>

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**Birthdays: Sunday's Bulletin announced the celebration of birthdays this week: Please call or send along your own best wishes to your friends! Liz Cyr (12/19), Cathy Gerke (12/23), Chris Gerke (12/23), Brody Kokofski (12/24), Richard**

MacRobbie (12/24), Paul McNamara (12/25), , Chris Eells (12/25), Rylee Perry (12/26), and, Emily Bradley (12/26).

**Mark your calendars! Lynn and Fr. Perry will be hosting an Open House at the Rectory on Sunday afternoon January 3 from 2-4 p.m. Please bring something to share.**

**Don't forget your Christmas gift to St. Peter's Church. Milton Porter just sent in a Christmas gift to purchase 150 more padded chairs for Phelps Hall and a donation to our Kitchen Renovation Fund.**

We wish to thank Allison Forrest and Jackie Bartiss for organizing the Pageant, which was presented at the 10 a.m. service on Sunday!

Thanks as well to the Church School teachers, parents and children who helped make this year's Pageant so special.

## **St. Peter's Nativity Pageant~ 2015 A Joyful Celebration of Our Lord's Birth**

### **Announcers**

JoAnne Osmond, Hannah Mangiafico, Sophia Kokofski

**Mary** - Charlotte Atwood

**Joseph** - Anthony Wursthorn

**King Herod** - Samuel Forrest

**Inn Keeper** - Brody Kokofski

**Angel Gabriel** - Amy Forrest

**Announcing Angel** - Allie Bartiss

### **Angels**

Claire Bush, Haley Cone, Rylee Perry

Kaylani Smith, Liliana Wursthorn

### **Kings**

Gehrig Bartiss, Joseph Mangiafico, Gianni Wursthorn

### **Lambs**

Declan Anderson, Sophie Bush, Arianna Gianoni, Harper Perry

### **Shepherds**

Ryan Bush, Kelsi Marks, Sarah Messenger



Photos by Rob Mangiafico & Kathy Kniep

## **Don't Miss!**

**While Fr. Perry is on vacation you may call the office for any critical needs.**

**New Nativity Scene – In front of Phelps Hall – In memory of Henry (Hal) Lindert. Thanks to all of those who donated! We have all the figures that the set offers. Curt Kraemer and Marcia Eaton will be putting up the remaining figures on the 24th. The angel will be suspended from the maple tree behind the scene. A shepherd and son with two sheep will be added plus a donkey and an ox (the ox was donated by Carlyon Bell, the owner of the company).**

**We now need 2 spotlights!**



**There will be no service of Holy Eucharist on Wednesday December 30th**

### **St. Peter's Community Outreach**

**We are in the news!!** Please view us online to see press releases citing our outreach efforts in donating 10% of our community dinner profits to HIHS, AHM and the Windham Area No-freeze Zone

**The Windham Region No-Freeze Hospitality Center** Many of the Windham area's homeless live in makeshift camps along the Willimantic River all year long. The Windham Region No-Freeze Hospitality center seeks to provide a warm shelter for those in the community who are homeless and over the age of 18 from November 15<sup>th</sup> through April of each year. No one is turned away. We provide food, clothing, and hygiene among other services. Donations to keep the center going are always welcome. If you are able to donate items to help please drop them off at their office: 75 Bridge Street, (First unit in the plaza) Willimantic, CT 06226 (Monday through Thursday from 1-4 pm). Items should be left at the St. Peter's office or in the narthex of the church. Items needed are listed in the bulletin.

### **Nuts and Bolts!**

**Christmas mailboxes** are out at the back of the church. Save a stamp and put your cards for parishioners here. Don't forget to check to see if you have received a card as well.

**From the Treasurer: Brian Swanson**

**A Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled for Monday January 4<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in Phelps Hall to plan the budget for 2016. Any interested member of the Parish is welcome to attend. For those who have not yet pledged, please submit your pledge cards for 2016 as soon as possible so that we will have an idea of the funds we will have to work with as we plan next year's budget. On another note, for**



**tax purposes: If you wish your 2015 pledge contribution to appear on your 2015 financial statement, we must receive it by the end of the month.**

**Confirmation Classes to begin in January! Father Perry will be scheduling Confirmation classes for any interested youth or adults beginning in early January. This provides a wonderful opportunity for anyone wishing to join the Episcopal Church, any youth (9<sup>th</sup> grade or older) wanting to become adult members of the congregation or anyone interested in engaging in conversation about the meaning of our Episcopal traditions or how our faith enriches our lives. Please contact the parish office or speak to Father Perry if you have questions or are interested in “signing up!”**

### **Visit us on the Internet**

**Our website ([www.stpetershebron.com](http://www.stpetershebron.com)) offers an always up to date calendar, upcoming events listed with details, news from Sue, the bulletin, the latest happenings, an updated photo gallery, and more!**

**Fr. Perry’s sermons are available on St. Peter’s website. If you missed Father Perry’s sermon, or want to hear it again, feel free to listen from the website. Sermons may be found at: Services > Sunday Audio Sermons  
Church School schedule is now on the website – If you were not able to attend church one Sunday, or want to review a church school topic at home, the website has a schedule of church school topics including bible verses and additional information. Just go to: About Us > Church School > Church School Schedule**

**Check out our Comfort and Joy website designed by Pat Kell. Lots of nice sayings. <https://www.facebook.com/#!/thecomfortandjoycommunity>**

