Silence

Thinking about Advent, something came back to me that hadn’t crossed my mind in decades. A song. No, make that an introit, or call to worship. When I was growing up, we often began worship in First Baptist Church in Delmar with a sung call to worship taken from the prophet Habakkuk (2:20): *The Lord is in his holy Temple, the Lord is in his holy Temple: let all the earth keep silence, keep silence, before Him.* (I can still recall the tune!) Now don’t conclude we had a monastic congregation at First Baptist. Before the call to worship, lots of greeting, conversation, connecting, and catching up were going on. That is a good thing. But then there would be a call to worship, as is common across most religious traditions. Time to stop. We acknowledge that through our worship, the space we are in becomes holy. We not only stop the chatter outside, the call to worship encourages us to stop the chatter inside. The silence outside helps us to strive for silence inside, preparing us to truly hear.

We Believe. We Belong. We Prepare. But our spiritual preparing in Advent is very different than the secular preparing that may be going on at the same time all around us. Outside, it can be a very noisy, busy time. Can’t get away from those Christmas carols on the radio, Christmas (buy something!) ads on TV and in the electronic media; hype everywhere. Fill the house with decorations, Christmas cookies, gifts, full, full, full. Yet spiritually, our goal should be the opposite. Empty, empty, empty! We prepare for the coming of Christ by making space. Leaving the manger empty of the infant Jesus until Christmas day can be a good reminder. Christ longs to be born in our hearts. There needs to be a space, a waiting, empty manger. Silencing all the noise and distraction inside is the discipline that creates the empty, waiting space.

This silence is not just the absence of sound, any more than the silent moments during Mass are just moments to take a breather. It is the silence of expectation. A standing on tiptoe silence. Like when someone you love very deeply is thinking, trying to put something important into words. Our very remaining silent and listening can help them formulate the thought and find the words they are looking for. Our preparing in Advent includes that drawing-forth kind of silence. We strive for attentive listening, so when God speaks the Word, Christ, through the Incarnation, we are expectant, ready to hear, and draw the Word into our heart.

This is not easy. We live in a very face paced world. Demands that crowd out silent, attentive waiting are many. Our culture is action oriented, verbal, hyper-kinetic. That is exactly why it isn’t ‘I Prepare.’ but ‘We Prepare.’ We need to work at this together, help each other find the quiet place. Help each other let go of the interior noise. Let’s do it! We Prepare. Peace, Fr. Bob
Mass Intentions for This Week

**MONDAY - DECEMBER 1**
*Is 2:1-5/Mt 8:5-11*
11:00 am Lucy Delisanti - Bill & Cyndi Yantz
5:15 pm Peter LoVetro - Mary Jane

**TUESDAY - DECEMBER 2**
*Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24*
6:45 am Special Intention - Gerry Gebbie
11:00 am Winifred Harvey - The Crerand Family
11:00 am Mass at the Highlands Living Center for the Residents & Staff

**WEDNESDAY - DECEMBER 3**
*St. Francis Xavier, priest*
*s 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37*
11:00 am Marie Mahar - Son, Dick
5:15 pm Martha Blake - The Smerbeck Family

**THURSDAY - DECEMBER 4**
*St. John Damascene, Doctor of Church*
*Is 26:1-6/Mt 15:29-37*
11:00 am Special Intention - Gerry Gebbie
11:00 am Mass at the Highlands Living Center for the Residents & Staff

**FIRST FRIDAY - DECEMBER 5**
*Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31*
10:30 am Mass at the Highlands for the People of Our Parish
11:00 am Vivian Ripton - St. Louis Holy Hour
5:15 pm Paul B. Rombaut - Son, Paul

**SATURDAY - DECEMBER 6**
*St. Nicholas, bishop*
*Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Mt 9:35--10:1, 5a, 6-8*
9:00 am Kathy Holihan - Frank O’Connell
4:30 pm John Pietropaoli - Family

**SUNDAY - DECEMBER 7**
*Second Sunday in Advent*
*Is 40:1-5, 9-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8*
7:30 am Margaret Serio - Ronald & Marilyn
9:00 am Angela Tomczak - Tomczak & Catalanello Family
11:00 am Raymond Mahar - Brother, Dick
5:00 pm Patrick Mahar - The Regan Family

**SPECIAL INTENTIONS**
We invite you to have a Sanctuary Lamp lit at the Blessed Sacrament to have your very special intentions remembered for a week. To arrange this, please call or visit the Ministry Center. The Thursday Holy Hour Ministry will offer special prayers for your intention.

Two Lamps will burn in Memory of Paul “Bucky” Barvinchak By Family.

One Lamp will burn for Dick Spiegel By Family.

All Deceased Parishioners

**Saturday & Sunday, December 6 & 7   Thank you, faithful servants!**

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<td>11:00 am</td>
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**Sunday Communion Service - December 7**
The Highlands: Darlene Huver         Heather Heights: Richard Caruso
Little Blue Books
The 1st reading today includes a priceless sentiment: ‘would that you might meet us doing right, that we were mindful of you in our ways.’ How might we insure that mindfulness? Prayer keeps us mindful of God. Spending 6 minutes every day of Advent, as the Little Blue Books recommend, could do the trick! Making prayer a regular part of our day is also bound to make a big difference in our doing right. After reading the bulletin front page, notice the encouragement in the Little Blue Books each day: ‘Spend some quiet time with the Lord.’

Soak in the Peace
Second Isaiah (chapters 40-55) are among the most hopeful, soothing chapters of the Hebrew scriptures. The beginning of second Isaiah, which we will hear next weekend, includes the most well-known and well-loved verses of the Old Testament. Read it, re-read it, and read it one more time. Let the consolation of Isaiah sink in. Encounter the God Isaiah knew and loved. Let God speak comfort to you.

Time beyond Time
The end of the church year and the beginning of the next always include an invitation to contemplate the time beyond time, the Eschaton, or end of the world as we know it; the beginning of eternity. Next weekend, we’ll hear Peter speaking to many Christians in his day, and since, who have wondered why Christ hasn’t returned yet, to inaugurate the last days. Peter goes back to a message from psalm 90: ‘For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it passes by, or as a watch in the night.’ Yes, eternity is hard to wrap our minds around. Don’t pray the psalms much? Try praying psalm 90 (the only psalm attributed to Moses) a few times this week. Did you know O God, Our Help in Ages Past is based on psalm 90?

In The Beginning
‘Let’s start at the very beginning, a very good place to start ...’. True enough. So the Old Testament begins: ‘In the beginning...’ Mark, the first Gospel written, opens with: ‘The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.’ We’ll hear that next weekend. But not every evangelist had the same idea. Mark begins with John the Baptist, and Jesus’ baptism. Soon we’ll be hearing from Luke and Matthew, who felt they should start with Jesus’ genealogy, and his birth. John is more like Genesis... ‘In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.’ He goes back to before creation. Where might you begin, sharing the story of Jesus; who he is for you, who he can be for everyone?

At Home with the Word
Start the habit now. During Advent, take a little time sometime during the week to read the readings for the coming Sunday, together with the reflections. Watch what a difference it can make!

Preparing Together
Why go to the gym, when you could use exercise equipment at home? Putting it on your calendar, driving there, and the encouragement of others help to make sure you really get the exercise in. Going to Bible study first thing Tuesday morning could be just as effective in keeping your spiritual life healthy. Join us!

Advocating For Justice
Nine life-affirming points of the Women's Equality Act have been held up for 2 years by the controversial 10th point, designed to expand abortion provisions in New York State. Among the 9 points our NYS Catholic Bishops Conference supports: point 5, to end housing discrimination where domestic violence victims face eviction because of the abuse, point 6, to protect victims from being arrested in connection to the Order of Protection that is designed to protect them, and point 7, creating a pilot program to allow domestic violence victims to testify remotely, sparing them the obstacles and fear involved with appearing in court with their abuser. We will be advocating passage of the 9 points that honor every woman’s inherent human dignity as a child of God. On Diocesan Public Policy weekend, Feb 7-8, let's encourage our state legislators to pass the nine points of the Women’s Equality Act that truly benefit women. For more information, contact Suzanne Stack, Life Issues Coordinator, at sstack@dor.org or 328-3210, ext. 1304.
Welcome to Advent, and the new church year! Thank you for being part of our worshipping assembly, taking time out for the Lord, and for helping to support our parish through your Sunday offering. Did you know that in addition to supporting the many parish ministries here at St. Louis, your Sunday offering also makes it possible for the parish to tithe 10% each week? That tithing supports our Saint’s Place outreach, as well as many ministries locally and abroad. Our tithing committee screens where our support can have the greatest impact, scheduling the various charities we support. God bless you, every one!

Thank you to all of those who have generously responded to the Catholic Ministries Appeal so far! Please remember, the CMA is our fair share of the budget for the ministries supported by our diocese. Any shortfall comes out of our parish budget, so your generosity is important! Especially if you haven’t participated in the past, PLEASE consider making a pledge this year. If you are moved to take an envelope and give a bit more than you already have, bless you!!

**This weekend, November 29/30, there is a second collection for the support of Catholic University and other American Catholic Higher Education Institutions. As you make your offering, see Carlos and Victor taking their classes, preparing to serve us as priests!**

**Thanksgiving Blessings**

Many thanks to all who brought in non-perishable food and paper products to the Thanksgiving Day Mass for the Pittsford Food Cupboard and the cloistered Carmelite nuns at their Jefferson Road Monastery. Your generosity to share your abundance with others is appreciated very much. We are also grateful and give thanks to those who took time from their holiday weekend to deliver the items.

**Black Friday, Cyber Monday, Giving Tuesday** – They are all right around the corner. While Black Friday shopping can put stores in the black, your CMA pledge can move our CMA quota from red to black. On Cyber Monday – have you ever thought of using Electronic Fund Transfer to support your parish? It is easy to set up, and is a great alternative to Sunday envelopes. On Giving Tuesday, did you know we have four great designated investment funds you could contribute to on Giving Tuesday? There is a Social Ministry fund, especially noteworthy in light of today’s Gospel. There is an Upper Room fund, for capital improvements to our church and facilities. We have a Life-long Faith Formation fund, which can support new We Learn initiatives, and we also have a special St. Louis School investment fund, to insure the long term future of our school. Keep St. Louis in mind, even if this 'Triduum' is touted mostly in the secular realm!
Meaningful Christmas Shopping
Dec. 6 and 7 after all masses here at church exits

St. Louis' 33rd annual Gifts of Love ORNAMENT SALE to benefit: St. Damien Pediatric Hospital via NPH/Haiti and a portion to H.O.P.E. Ministry, Webster, and Notre Dame Learning Center, Rochester

White ceramic TREES AND ANGELS Donation $7 each (tax receipts available) Again uniquely handcrafted by the “special people” at Holy Childhood. Easy for the gift giver - (beautifully gift-wrapped with card enclosed) Meaningful to the gift receivers - (who will like knowing they too share in helping others)

Appreciated by the Haitian children treated at Haiti’s only free children’s hospital

View samples and list of merchants stocking them pro bono until New Year’s, in the narthex AND on the parish website: www.STLouisChurch.org/news

For more info, call Marcia Mendola 381-6872

An Advent Tradition

On this First Sunday of Advent, we renew the St. Louis tradition of reaching out to individuals from our parish who are homebound or in area nursing facilities. Baskets containing their addresses will be at each entrance of the church throughout Advent. You are invited to take one or several addresses and send an Advent/Christmas greeting to the individual.

Each year we receive many notes of appreciation from the recipients who are delighted to have been remembered by our parish community. It is truly a highlight of their Christmas. Thank you for helping to continue this joy-filled tradition!

LIFE! in Focus

"Thoughtfulness, the kindly regard for others, is the beginning of holiness."
Mother Teresa, The Love of Christ, Spiritual Counsels

Take Some Time . . .
And Share Christmas Joy!

Every Christmas, St. Louis delivers poinsettia plants to our shut-ins and to families who have lost a loved one in the last year. This is an opportunity for us as a community to reach out and show others that they are not forgotten and that they are loved by our faith community. You and your family can be part of this wonderful Christ-like effort this year!

On the weekend of December 6 and 7, individuals and families are invited to donate $10 for a poinsettia and deliver it to one of our shut-ins or a bereaved family. Each plant will be labeled with the name and address of the recipient. Plants can be picked up after each Mass in the Parish Meeting Hall.

Help spread the joy of the Christ Child and the love of the St. Louis parish family to those who cannot be with us and to those for whom Christmas may be difficult this year.
SAINT’S PLACE

HOW MUCH GOOD CAN BE DONE IN ONE DAY?

HOW MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE CAN ONE PERSON MAKE?

FIND OUT AS WE COME TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY TO MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT IN PEOPLE’S LIVES.

YOURS INCLUDED!

SUPPORT SAINT’S PLACE WITH A DONATION ON DECEMBER 2, 2014

ROC THE DAY AND YOU WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO WIN AN ADDITIONAL $500 FOR THE CHARITY OF YOUR CHOICE.

SHOPPING MADE EASY...

Are you searching for that perfect gift for your mother-in-law, a co-worker, a teacher, a friend or someone who has everything and really needs nothing? Consider taking an angel from our Saint’s Place Angel Tree and donating the item in their honor. We will send the person a note acknowledging your generosity and expressing our gratitude. Forms are available by the Angel Trees. Just fill out the form and attach it to your gift. We’ll do the rest!

Please send an acknowledgement for the attached Christmas gift of:

TO: Name________________________________________________________
Address________________________________________________________
City_________________________State_______________Zip Code_________

FROM: Name_____________________________________________________
Address________________________________________________________
City_________________________State_______________Zip Code_________

Saint’s Place, 46 S. Main St., Pittsford, NY 14534. Isabel Miller Executive Director.
Saint’s Place Ministry Hours: 46 S. Main St.: Mon. through Thurs.: 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. Closed Fridays.
St. John of Rochester: Mon., Tues., Thurs.: 9:15 am until 12 noon; Wed.: 9:15 am to 2:30 pm.; Closed Fridays.
Phone: 585-385-6860. Fax: 585-385-3963 or saintlady@saintsplace.org, or www.saintsplace.org

Page Six

St. Louis Church, Pittsford, NY

November 30, 2014
Advent

Today we begin the season of Advent, which marks the start of a new liturgical year for the Church. This week and next week’s readings present two important Advent themes: the Lord’s return at the end of time and John the Baptist’s preparation for Jesus.

Today’s passage comes at the conclusion of Jesus’ warnings to his disciples. Jesus emphasizes the need for watchfulness. The Son of Man will come without warning; only the Father knows the exact hour. The disciples must not be caught unprepared when this time comes.

Christians were living in difficult social and political times, times of conflict. They were likely beginning to face persecution as followers of Jesus. In this difficult time, it helped to recall that Jesus had foretold of such difficulties. Early Christian communities took courage from Jesus’ warning to remain alert and watchful, and they found in his words a way to persevere through suffering.

Advent is about more than our preparation for the Church’s celebration of Christ’s birth at Christmas. Advent is also about preparing ourselves for Christ's return in glory at the end of time. Like the disciples, we must also stay alert and be watchful. Our faithfulness to God, through the good times as well as the difficult times, shows us to be ready for the coming of the Son of Man.

In family life, we try to prepare ourselves for many future things: our next vacation, our children’s education, our retirement. We are careful not to allow ourselves to be caught by surprise so that we can handle any challenges our family may face. We are called to be just as attentive and alert to the coming of the Son of Man so that it will not catch us unprepared. This means attending to our family's spiritual life as carefully as we attend to other important family matters. During Advent, we not only prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus, we also check to see if we are doing all the things that will keep us ready to receive Jesus when he comes again.

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Hi Teens,

"Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be constantly on the watch! Stay awake! You do not know when the Master of the house is coming.' "Mark. 13:33

As Advent starts this weekend, in Mark’s gospel he reminds us to “stay alert” and “stay focused”. This presents a real challenge. This time of year is overrun with parties, shopping, wrapping, holiday movies and music. It is easy to get caught up in the pre-Christmas excitement and miss the true reason for the season. Advent is a time to prepare our hearts for the birth of Christ.

Join us at Youth Group as we will explore ways to honor this Advent season and prepare spiritually for Christmas!

Have a great week,
Molly and Mr. McBride

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday, November 30, 6:00 - 7:30 pm Regular Youth Group Mtg.

Sunday, December 7, 5:00 pm Teen Mass; 6:00 - 7:30 pm Dinner and Youth Group Mtg.

Sunday, December 14, 6:00 - 7:30 pm Regular Youth Group Mtg.; (stocking stuffers service project)

Saturday, December 20, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm Bethany House Christmas Party

Sunday, December 21, 6:00 - 7:30 pm Youth Group Christmas Party (games, cookie decorating, and fun!)

Sunday, December 28, NO MEETING

Sunday, January 4, 5:00 pm Teen Mass; 6:00 - 7:30 pm Dinner and Youth Group Mtg.

Ice Skating Party TBA

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**WE NEED HELP WITH CHRISTMAS AT ST. LOUIS!!**

- Decorating on December 22 & 23
- Ushers for Christmas Eve & Day
  Respond to sschrecker@dor.org

- Eucharistic Ministers for Christmas Eve & Day
  Respond to efinn@dor.org

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Rochester Kids

Ceremony of Remembrance

Losing a loved one is painful. Losing a child – especially your son or daughter, grandchild, niece or nephew, is wrenching. On Sunday, December 16 at 6:30 p.m., in conjunction with Compassionate Friends World Wide Candle lighting©, the Church of the Transfiguration will offer a Ceremony of Remembrance…a special way to remember a child – of any age – who has died. Expect a harpist, soloist, readings, a slide show, candle lighting and refreshments afterwards. RSVP with the name of the individual you are honoring, the number attending and, if you wish, a picture for the slide show, by December 8 to Mary Jane Milano, childrenneverforgotten@gmail.com.
FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION

Please register now for the sacramental preparation programs of First Communion and Confirmation. If your child is ready to prepare for First Communion they will also have to prepare for the sacrament of First Penance before they celebrate their First Communion. There will be a First Penance preparation program in January for these children.

You can register for the First Communion and Confirmation programs with a registration form found at the Ministry Center or at the Faith Formation bulletin board in the back of church in the narthex hallway (across from the restrooms), or you can register on line at our website. Please remember your child’s registration will NOT be complete until we also have a copy of their baptismal certificate.

The deadline for registration for these programs is Monday January 5th.

SHOP ‘TIL YOU DROP FUND RAISER FOR ROCHESTER AREA INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK (RAIHN)
PITTSFORD PLAZA, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2,
5:00 - 9:00 PM

Proceeds will benefit R.A.I.H.N. An affiliate of Family Promise Helping Homeless Families Achieve Sustainable Independence . . . visit www.raihn.org

One World Goods
One World Goods is a fair trade gift store that sells quality handcrafted items, apparel, jewelry and coffee from around the world. Your purchase provides vital income for our global neighbors as well as a donation to RAIHN.

Benucci’s Italian Ristorante, Wine Bar and Pizzeria
Benucci’s is passionate about Italian food, bursting with flavors from all regions of Italy. Mention that you are dining for RAIHN when you arrive and Benucci’s will donate 20% of your check (excluding tip & tax). Reservations suggested. 264-1300.

Hobby House Toys
A unique toy store for kids of all ages. Family owned, specializing in educational toys, games puzzles, sports, trains, vehicles, science, puppets and much more.

Stefan Otter Fine Art Jewelers
Creators of award-winning designs, the Stefan Otter Jewelers craft truly unique, one of a kind handmade jewelry. Demonstrations will be held each hour on the hour. RAIHN shoppers will be offered an additional 10% discount on purchases that evening.

ADVENT

The beginning of the Church’s new year is birthed in darkness. The light of day grows short. In the lengthening night we cry out, prisoners of the past, comfortable in what is known.

It is not easy leaving aside the old. Endings and the end things are always frightening. In the darkness and shadows we face our deepest fears. Wondering, watching, waiting, we hold on in hope.

This old year must give way to the new, the unknown. This year, this time, will the dawn slip across the horizon?

For, in the rising sun, the light is born, shattering the dark. In the morning, light our hearts, stretch to grasp the new.

Then the full light of the Son will reveal this is not the end — only another beginning.

~ Carol A. Gura

During these four weeks of Advent, reflect and pray upon your leaving behind the past to make space to birth a new way of life.

St. Louis School • 11 Rand Place, Pittsford, NY 14534 • 585.586-5200 • slspittsford.org
**How is Your Spiritual Life?**

**Advent Opportunities at Mercy Spirituality Center**

All of these opportunities are at Mercy Spirituality Center, 65 Highland Avenue, Rochester. Call 585-473-6893 to register.

**Christian Meditation Group.** Thursdays, December 4 and 11, 2014 5:30 - 6:30 pm. Join with other pilgrims on the inner journey to silence, stillness, and simplicity. Newcomers are always welcome. Presenter: Karen McNamara. Free will offering.

**Advent Centering Prayer Retreat.** Thursday, 7 pm, December 4 – Sunday, December 7, 2014 after brunch at Mercy Spirituality Center. This retreat is designed for those with an established daily practice of centering prayer. Facilitator: Mary Dwyer, MSW. Openings available for Commuters only – fee: $325.


**Advent Day of Reflection.** Friday, December 12, 2014, 9:30 am – 2:30 pm. Take the opportunity to have a day with space, quiet and inspiration to help you really enter into the celebration of the Incarnation. Facilitator: Bonnie J. Matthaidess. Fee: $35 (bring your own lunch).

**A Day to Call Your Own.** Thursday, December 18, 9 am – 4 pm. An opportunity to step back and refresh your mind, body and spirit. Fee: $25 per session.

**A New Years Eve Alternative: Weave Your Way Into the New Year.** Wednesday, December 31, 2014, 5:30 pm – departure at 10 pm. Facilitators: Deborah White, Mary VanHouten, and Joanne Pagano (our cook) Fee: $35 for dinner and evening. Arrangements can be made for an overnight stay and continental breakfast for an additional fee of $45.

**House of Mercy Christmas Dinner Dance Fundraiser**

Friday, December 12, 2014

It’s the beginning of the holiday season, help us celebrate the occasion! Join us for great food, dancing and our annual Silent Auction.

In the meantime, please remember that your efforts to support the House of Mercy save the key to our survival and success. With dedicated donors, volunteers and supporters like you on our side, we can continue to provide food, shelter, clothing and much-needed services to some of the poorest people in our community.

To reserve seats or sponsor a House of Mercy guest, purchase your tickets from our website www.houseofmercyrochester.org or send checks payable to House of Mercy Dinner Dance, 725 Hudson Avenue, Rochester NY 14621. Contact Pam Smith at 317-3029 for more information.

**DEACON INFORMATION SESSIONS**

7:00 PM Tuesday December 9, Bishop Hickey Conference Center, 1150 Buffalo Road (Pastoral Center rear entrance and parking). We will provide an overview of the 5 year application and formation process and the time commitment involved and answer questions about ongoing ministry. An eligible applicant for permanent deacon formation is a man of strong and active faith who can demonstrate a record of service in the communities in which he lives, works and worships. He must be at least 35 years of age and no more than 62 years of age at the time of ordination, in good health, emotionally mature and stable in his professional and personal relationships. Applicants may be single or married. Interested men and their wives are encouraged to attend. For more information http://www.dor.org/index.cfm/deacons/

Please contact Deacon John Brasley, Director of Deacon Personnel & Director of Deacon Formation, Diocese of Rochester, 585.328.3228 or jbrasley@dor.org

**Explorations in Christology** – Theology’s response to the humanity and divinity of Jesus Christ have brought forth countless works that explore Jesus’ earthly ministry, his teachings, his death and resurrection along with his relationship to his God and the Spirit. This graduate course, offered at St. Bernard’s School of Theology and Ministry, will use the work of various theologians to delve deeply into our belief about Jesus Christ and relate them to our lives. Mondays, Jan. 12-Apr. 27 from 6-9pm. Scholarships and financial aid are available to new students. Register at www.stbernards.edu or call 585-271-3657, ext. 289 for more information.
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