APPOINTMENTS

ACOLYTES:

Sat. Apr. 8 - 4:00 PM - Claire Nackley, Amelia Partner
Sun. Apr. 9- 8:00 AM - Nicholas Helsley, not filled
Sun. Apr. 9 - 11:00 AM - Cherie & Makayla Langenbacher

LECTORS:

Sat. Apr. 8 - 4:00 PM - David Andrews, Mark Sloan, Victor Rizzo
Sun. Apr. 9- 8:00 AM - Daniel Turcovsky, Diane Turcovsky, Ronan Adams
Sun. Apr. 9 - 11:00 AM - Claudia Anderson, Jim Campbell, Mark Krepich

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EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. Apr. 8 - 4:00 PM - Barb Aubrey, John Lloyd
Sun. Apr. 9- 8:00 AM - Melissa McHugh, Mary Truesdale
Sun. Apr. 9 - 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Walter Bloom, Cecelia Bloom, Barbara Bundy, Ginger Cooney, Donna Moyer

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MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY:

Sat. Apr. 8 - 4:00 PM - Dennis Moughemer, Karen Moughemer, Judy Sneath, Dorothy Yingling
Sun. Apr. 9- 8:00 AM - Jane Becker, John Becker, Ray Kennedy, Fran Semelsberger
Sun. Apr. 9 - 11:00 AM - Paula Adams, Wendy Campbell, Lou Ann Clark, Peg Madden

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SACRISTAN:

Sat. Apr. 8 - 4:00 PM - Mary & Ray King
Sun. Apr. 9- 8:00 AM - Michele DeFrancisco
Sun. Apr. 9 - 11:00 AM - Dolores Capriotti

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

MONDAY: MASS 8:30AM
TUESDAY: MASS 8:30AM
WEDNESDAY: MASS 7:00PM
TENEBRAE 7:45PM
HOLY THURSDAY: MORNING PRAYER - 8:30AM
MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER - 7:00PM
FRIDAY: MORNING PRAYER - 8:30AM
STATIONS OF THE CROSS - 12:00PM
THE PASSION OF THE LORD - 7:00PM
HOLY SATURDAY: MORNING PRAYER - 8:30AM
BLESSING OF EASTER BASKETS-12:00PM
EASTER VIGIL - 8:30PM
EASTER SUNDAY: 8:00AM MASS
11:00AM MASS

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

April 7 - Stations of the Cross/Bible Study - 7:00 PM
April 9 - Second Sunday Food Collection
April 9 - Easter Egg Hunt after 11:00 Mass
April 12 - Tenebrae - 7:45 PM
April 23 - New Parishioners Luncheon
April 30 - First Communion

PASTORAL STAFF:

- **Msgr. Michael Becker** *mbecker253@aol.com*
- **Deacon Gene Neral** *gene@lifeinfocus.net*
- **Mr. Mark Krepich** RCIA & Parish Council President *mark.krepich@gmail.com*
- **Mrs. Deborah Johnson** Director of Music /Pastoral Associate *dj219@msn.com*
- **Mr. & Mrs. Bill & Norma Foose** Stephen Ministry *norma.foose@yahoo.com*
- **Mrs. Mary Ann Mirobelli** Business Manager *stjohnchurch@atlanticbb.net*
- **Mrs. Mary Haenig** Religious Education Director *mshaenig@gmail.com*
- **Mr. Ken Dunmire** Maintenance

APRIL 2, 2017

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH

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814-942-5503
www. stjohnsaltoona.org

APRIL 9TH FOLLOWING THE 11:00 AM MASS

ALL ARE WELCOME UP TO 9 YEARS OF AGE.

A Few Words from the Pastor:

Palm Sunday – Our Lenten journey is moving toward its climax. Next Sunday we will witness Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem, and will acclaim him king as we carry branches of palm. We continue our focus on Calvary, where our freedom from sin is achieved by the death of Christ. We keep our attention fixed on Him, and His self-emptying love for us.

This Most Sacred Time – We have reached the highpoint of the Church Year, as next Sunday we will enter Holy Week. Plan now to participate fully in this paschal Mystery, as we will begin the Triduum on Wednesday, April 12, with the ancient observance of Tenebrae, which will be followed by our Solemn Liturgies of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil.

Tenebrae – Please join us for the prayerful observance of "Tenebrae" this Holy Week. The word itself is Latin for "shadows" or "darkness." It is a Christian religious service celebrated in Holy Week within Western Christianity. The service is unique among our religious practices, because of its focus upon the gradual darkening of the church. Candles are extinguished, one by one, while a series of readings and psalms are chanted or recited. The church is left in only the darkest of shadows. It is meant to capture the looming darkness which comes upon the world at the death of Christ. ***We will be celebrating Tenebrae here at St. Johns on Wednesday evening of Holy Week, with Mass at 7:00PM and Tenebrae at 7:45PM.***

The Season of Sacramental Life is Upon Us – With the Easter Season just around the corner, we celebrate the glorious life of Christ and his Church, particularly as the sacramental life of God's people comes to the fore. On Wednesday, April 19th, our high school juniors will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation through the ministry of Bishop Mark, and in fellowship with young people from the other city parishes. Our First Communion will be celebrated here at St. John's on April 30th and our annual Mass of the Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated on Sunday, May 7th .

Remember your Rice Bowls – Throughout the Lenten Season, families have been participating in Operation Rice Bowl as a way of supporting our sister parish in Haiti. Thank you for your kindness, and we ask that these rice bowls be returned to the church at your earliest convenience. I know how much the people of Haiti appreciate what we do for them!

The Blessing of Easter Baskets: A Cherished Catholic Easter Tradition - The blessing of the Easter Basket has been a cherished Catholic ritual for centuries among families of Eastern European origin and adopted by people of all ethnic backgrounds who enjoy this richly symbolic custom. Traditional foods to be included in the basket are lamb or ham, kielbasa, boiled eggs (dyed or plain) Pascha (a special Easter bread), butter, cheese, salt. Often a candle is included to be lit during the blessing at church. After Easter Sunday's Resurrection Mass, the family and guests would share this blessed fare and exchange good wishes. Our Easter Basket Blessing here at St. John's will take place on Holy Saturday at noon. Please come and bring your baskets of food!

Sight and Sound – We are planning a day trip to Sight and Sound in Lancaster to see their terrific production of "Jonah" on Friday, May 19th. The trip would include travel, ticket and dinner. We will be leaving from the parish parking lot mid-morning, and returning in the evening. The cost per person will be $125. Don't miss this wonderful spring get-away! There is a sign-up sheet on the kiosk in the gathering space or you can call the office to make reservations.

Catholicism – During the season of Lent, on Tuesday evenings, I will be conducting the Catholicism Series at Our Lady of Lourdes, from 6:00 – 7:30PM. It will be held in the parish hall, and all are most welcome. This series features Bishop Robert Barron, our country's most noted Catholic teacher.

OUR PARISH FAMILY...Ray & Sue Kennedy were converts to Catholicism about 5 years ago and just joined our parish last summer. Their grandchildren pictured here, Brennan (age 15) and Ryleigh (age 13) live with them and also attend St John's. Ray & Sue were neighbors here in Altoona as children, and celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary this past December. They have 3 adult daughters and a total of 11 grandchildren. Their household is very busy, as in addition to Brennan & Ryleigh, their youngest daughter and her 2 children and also Sue's mother currently live with them. Ray is the Director of Transportation for Amtran, and Sue works part-time as a CNA at a local nursing home and also babysits. They usually attend the 11:00 Mass, and Ray attends Adult Ed while Brennan & Ryleigh attend their Religious Ed classes. Sue said they appreciate the friendly people and "like just about everything" here at St John's.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE

April 2nd - 11th grade Rite of Sending at the 11:00 Mass and Confirmation/Sponsor Meeting directly after Mass in the school gym

April 9th: NO CLASS Palm Sunday/Easter Egg Hunt

April 23rd: Last class /Parent meeting 9:15 - 10:45

First Eucharist Retreat
Saturday April 22 1-2:30 meet in church

Religious Education Parent Meeting April 23rd at 9:15 in gym. Important information about changes in religious education next year.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
June 19-23 daily
9AM to 12 noon
Registration forms on our website:
www.stjohnsaltoona.org

HAITI MATCHING DONATION: Inspired by the sacrificial giving of Steph and Jim Krug, a fellow parishioner, who is also passionate about educating our youth, will (minus the Krug's matching money) match an additional $5,000 in St. John's parishioner contributions. This gives us the potential to raise $11,250 for our sister parish's teachers' salaries. Please take an envelope and join us. To God be the glory as we humbly seek to be His hands and feet in Haiti.

LOVE FEAST: Our next love feast is on Saturday, May 27 (Memorial Day weekend). Again, you will find strips to purchase non-perishable items on the kiosk in the gathering space along with a sign-up sheet for those willing to set up & serve.

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINE The deadline to submit information to be included in the April 16 Easter Sunday bulletin is this Thursday, April 6. Please email the information to Debbie Johnson at dj219@msn.com

THE TEEN SHELTER needs new (teen-age sizes) girls pajamas (sizes small-xl- misses/women's) and unisex sweat pants and sweatshirts or hoodies. St. John's Women's Group is collecting these items and invites the parish to join us. There is a box in the gathering space for the donated items. Please have all items in by Sunday, April 9.

EASTER FLOWERS All memorial donations for Easter flowers should be submitted by next Sunday, April 9, in order to be acknowledged in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

St. John's Prayer List

It is a Spiritual Work of Mercy to pray for the sick. If you know of someone in the parish who is ill or has passed away and in need of prayers, please call Ginny Reeder (695-7671) or email her at ginny.reeder@gmail.com to add their name to the prayer list.

****

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING and their caregivers and give thanks for those who have recovered. *Lord we ask for your blessings and care for these and all people in need*:

Millie Bilski • Vicky Buda • Yolanda Buda • Robert Cole
Michelle Fasline • Carol Field • Wayne Flanagan
Bob George • JoAnne Gerardine • Judy Hurm
Brian Kopp • Bill Loth • Jim McLarren • June Miller
Anne-Marie Norris • Ron Peschock • Dave Petrak
Bob & Mary Rajnish • Olga Romerowicz
Madison Shura • Justine Wareham Smith •Patty Teufel
Noah Wills • Young people

SECOND SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION:

Next week, Dee Capriotti will be gathering up our food gifts for the Altoona Rescue Mission just a block from Simpson Temple. I was struck at our recent Love Feast by how many of the guests were older people who braved bitterly cold weather to come for a meal & fellowship. I suspect these same persons depend on the Food Bank. Let us do our small part.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER *"Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?" JOHN 11:40*

Many of us say that we believe in God. We go to church on Sunday. We volunteer for events at our parish. But when life gets hard, the pressure is on, things aren't going our way, do we really believe, do we really put our trust in the Lord? When we live a life of gratitude, being thankful for the gifts we have been given, we really do see that God is providing all that we need.

Stewardship at St. John's

OFFERTORY for March 26 2017

Envelopes:	$	3,979.00
Loose:	$	431.00
Children's:	$	35.00
Easter Flowers	$	645.00
Catholic Relief Services	$	475.00
Total:	$	5,565.00
Online Giving:	$	1,770.00
TOTAL:	***$***	**7,335.00**

2016 Contribution Statements are available upon request. Please call the Parish Office at 814-942-5503.

EASTER BAKE SALE AND BASKET GIVEAWAY: The Friar's Nook Gift Shop located at 793 Monastery Road, Hollidaysburg, will be holding an Easter bake sale Wednesday, April 5th – Saturday, April 8th. The bake sale will include Franciscan inspired Easter bread and cookies. While supplies last, so stop in early! Also, please stop now through April 8th to enter for a chance to win The Friar's Nook Easter Basket Giveaway. The basket is a value of over $200.00, and includes a gift certificate, books, religious items, candy and much more. The Friar's Nook Gift Shop is open Monday through Saturday from 10AM – 4PM. Please call 695-3802 with any questions.

LAST SUPPER DRAMA will be held on April 10 from 8:15 to 9:15 PM at St. Michael's Parish in Hollidaysburg. The event features an adult cast from St. Michael, St. Mary and St. Patrick Parishes of Hollidaysburg and Newry. Watch and listen as Christ's Disciples speak of their thoughts and emotions as they prepare to share in the First Eucharist and our Lord's Redeeming Passion. The drama is one hour long and requires no audience participation. There is no cost or offering.

BLOOD DRIVE: The Knights of Columbus Council 4245 is holding a blood drive on Monday, April 3, 2017 from 12:00-6:00 PM at the Council hall which is located at 324 Bedford St, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

SCRIP NEWS We have some stock Scrip cards that could use a home. If you plan on going to these stores please think of supporting our Scrip program with your purchase. This is an easy way to support the church!
Sears/Kmart $100.00 (4), $25.00 (9)
Boscov's $25.00 (6)
CVS $25.00 (6)
iTunes $25.00 (8)
Macy's $25.00 (8) $100.00 (5)
JC Penney $100.00 (6)
Rite Aid $25.00 (15)
Staples $25.00 (8)
Target $25.00 (5) $100.00 (4)
Please support us as we trim down what we carry in Stock to support having Grocery and Gas available all the time. Some of these stores are experiencing financial turmoil, and we do not want to be stuck with their cards if they close. If you shop at these stores that are on the list please help us use these scrip cards.

April Prayer Intention of Pope Francis

YOUNG PEOPLE

That young people may respond generously to their vocations and seriously consider offering themselves to God in the priesthood or consecrated life.

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

Sunday April 2 - Fifth Sunday in Lent
8:00AM-Mass for *Teddi Leiden* requested by Dee Lee & Children
11:00AM-Mass for *Lena Colyer* requested by Bill & Norma Foose

Monday April 3 - Lenten Weekday
7:30AM-Eucharistic Adoration
8:10AM-Morning Prayer
8:30AM- Mass for *Edward Bastian*

Tuesday April 4 - Lenten Weekday
7:30AM-Eucharistic Adoration
8:10AM-Morning Prayer
8:30AM-Mass for Mass for the *Bud Bloom* requested by Dave & Shelly Eckenrode

Wednesday April 5 - Lenten Weekday
5:00PM- Confession
6:00PM– Mass for *Bob Cooney* requested by Marie Davis

Thursday April 6 - Lenten Weekday
7:30AM-Eucharistic Adoration
8:10AM-Morning Prayer
8:30AM- Mass for *Hilda Neal* requested by Julie & Bernie Beiswenger

Friday April 7 - Lenten Weekday
7:30AM-Eucharistic Adoration
8:10AM-Morning Prayer
8:30AM-Mass for the Faithful
7:00PM-Stations of the Cross/Bible Study

Saturday April 8 - Vigil of Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
3:00PM- Confession
4:00PM-Mass for *Jerry Bowmaster* requested by Sharon Bowmaster

Sunday April 9 - Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
8:00AM-Mass for *People of the Parish*
11:00AM-Mass for *Annie Johnston* requested by Brenda, Steve & Alex Fix

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; Jn 8:1-11
Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9; Jn 8:21-30
Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Jn 8:31-42
Thursday: Gn 17:3-9; Jn 8:51-59
Friday: Jer 20:10-13; Jn 10:31-42

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