

## **OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE, PRAY FOR US**



### **APPOINTMENTS**

#### **ACOLYTES:**

Sat. Dec. 16 - 4:00 PM - Alexandria & Alycia Auerbeck  
Sun. Dec. 17 - 8:00 AM - Nicholas Helsley, Amber Yasolsky  
Sun. Dec. 17 - 11:00 AM - Kaelab Ruggles, Patrick Donoughe

#### **LECTORS:**

Sat. Dec. 16 - 4:00 PM - Mark Sloan, Maria Spayd  
Sun. Dec. 17 - 8:00 AM - Francene Boland, Fran Semelsberger  
Sun. Dec. 17 - 11:00 AM - Claudia Anderson, Patrick Schurr

#### **EUCARISTIC MINISTERS:**

Sat. Dec. 16 - 4:00 PM - Jenna Jenkins, Barb Aubrey  
Sun. Dec. 17 - 8:00 AM - NOT FILLED  
Sun. Dec. 17 - 11:00 AM - Dolores Capriotti, Mary Dennis,  
Paul Dennis, Donna Moyer, Barbara Bundy, Marilyn Bevan

#### **MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY:**

Sat. Dec. 16 - 4:00 PM - Lori Ginter, Hedy Zumsteg,  
Dennis Moughemer, NOT FILLED  
Sun. Dec. 17 - 8:00 AM - Helen Miller, Darlene Scarpaci,  
Charlie Moore, Mary Truesdale  
Sun. Dec. 17 - 11:00 AM - Lou Ann Clark, Anna Podoletz,  
Patrick Podoletz, Walter Bloom

#### **SACRISTAN:**

Sat. Dec. 16 - 4:00 PM - Mary & Ray King  
Sun. Dec. 17 - 8:00 AM - Michele DeFrancisco  
Sun. Dec. 17 - 11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy

#### **SCRIP:**

Sat. Dec. 16 - 4:00 PM - Julie Beiswenger, Becky Merilli  
Sun. Dec. 17 - 8:00 AM - Jim & Wendy Campbell  
Sun. Dec. 17 - 11:00 AM - Jane Byrne, Carolyn English

### **UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS**

December 10: 7:00PM - Advent of Christmas Concert  
December 10: Second Sunday Food Collection  
December 11: 6:30PM - Women's Discussion Group  
December 16: 11:00AM - First Reconciliation  
December 16/17: Blessing of the Baby Jesus at all masses  
December 27: St. John the Evangelist Feast Day  
February 10: Mardi Gras

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OF ADVENT  
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### **ADVENT FAMILY GATHERING 2017**



## A Few Words from the Pastor:

**Patroness of the Americas** - On Tuesday the Church of the Americas celebrates the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. This feast commemorates the appearance of the Blessed Virgin in 1531 to a poor Aztec Indian named Juan Diego. Near Tepayac Hill he encountered a beautiful woman surrounded by a ball of light as bright as the sun. Speaking in his native tongue, the beautiful lady identified herself as Santa Maria de Guadalupe, and as proof of her appearance to Juan Diego, she asked that he gather roses in his cloak and take them to the local bishop. When he opened his cloak, on it was the beautiful and miraculous image of our Lady of Guadalupe!

**Santa Lucia** –Wednesday the church universal honors Saint Lucy, the patroness of the blind. We know little of her history. For certain this brave woman lived in the ancient city of Syracuse in Sicily, and lost her life during the persecution of Christians in the early fourth century. Lucy, whose name means "light" or "lucid," is often seen with the emblem of eyes on a cup or plate. In paintings, she is often depicted with a golden plate holding her eyes and often holds a palm branch, which is a symbol of victory over evil. She is also depicted wearing a crown of candles.

### PASTORAL STAFF:

- Msgr. Michael Becker** *mbecker253@aol.com*
- Deacon Gene Neral** *gene@lifeinfocus.net*
- Mr. Mark Krepich** *RCIA*  
*mark.krepich@gmail.com*
- Mr. Patrick Podoletz** *Parish Council President*  
*ppodoletz@atlanticbb.net*
- 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*

**St. John of the Cross (+1591)** –Most noted for his books *Ascent of Mount Carmel* and *Dark Night of the Soul*, the Spanish mystic St. John of the Cross was one of the great reformers of the Carmelite order, and a spiritual companion of St. Theresa of Avila. Two quotes are worth considering: "The endurance of darkness is the preparation for great light," and "In the evening of life, we will be judged on love alone." We celebrate his feast on Thursday.

**Family Life Calendars for 2018**– We are blessed to have such an active Family Life Office in our diocese, which has for many years made available a beautiful calendar. These are available now in the Gathering Space.

**First Reconciliation!** – We celebrate with our second grade children as they receive the Sacrament of Penance for the first time on Saturday, December 16. We are grateful to their families and to those who have patiently prepared them for this experience of God's loving forgiveness. We look forward with them to their First Communion in the Easter season.

**LITURGICAL REFLECTION: Throughout the Year of Grace 2018, the weekly liturgical inserts will look at the Church's rites at death and review the Church's teachings on the proper placement of the cremated remains of the deceased. Hopefully, these reflections will give us a clear understanding of the Church's practice at the time of death. Christians celebrate the funeral rites to offer worship, praise, and thanksgiving to God for the gift of life which has now been returned to God, the author of life and the hope of the just.** Advent is a time of hopeful anticipation as we prepare to celebrate the remembrance of the Lord's first coming and also, recalling his final coming in glory at the end of time. As we celebrate our funeral rites, the goal is to bring hope to the living. We turn to the Lord of life at the time of death to find assurance in our faith. We turn to the God of mercy in time of crisis and pain. To those who mourn and grieve, there is reason to have hope. In God is our hope and our salvation.

**OUR PARISH FAMILY** ... The "Our Parish Family" feature is taking a Christmas break, with plans to resume after New Year's. Thank you to all who have already been a part of this feature, but there are many more of you out there that we'd like to hear from. Whether you're a long-time or new member, single person, couple, or family, please consider being featured in this section. If you were photographed for the recent parish directory, we can use that same photograph. We can also use a photograph that you provide, or we can snap one after Mass. We'll just ask you a few questions, over the phone or by email, and then we'll write a brief profile with the information that you give us. If you would be willing to be a part of this feature, please contact: Cecelia Bloom at 695-2806 or by email at [ceceb13@verizon.net](mailto:ceceb13@verizon.net).



## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS**

December 10<sup>th</sup> - No Class

December 17<sup>th</sup> - Regular class 9:15-10:45 (Last class of the year.)

Sunday January 7<sup>th</sup> - Class resumes 9:15-10:45

## **CONFIRMATION INFORMATION**

December 16<sup>th</sup> 5:00-8:00PM meet in school cafeteria

Confirmation service project / Christmas party

Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Retreat  
(Student and one parent) 9AM-1PM in gym

## **FIRST RECONCILIATION INFORMATION**

- Saturday December 16<sup>th</sup> - Sacrament of First Reconciliation. 11:00AM in the Church.

**WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP:** Please join us for refreshments, fellowship, & lively discussion in the parish center on Monday, December 11, at 6:30 pm. We will focus on stress reduction via mindfulness-a great strategy both for personal well being and spiritual growth. We will leave relevant materials for your review on the kiosk in the gathering space.

## **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](mailto: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:*

**Baby Adam • Bernie Beiswenger • Millie Bilski**

**Jen Buda • Vincent Cannizzaro • Robert Cole**

**Millie Grace Capon • Mary Lee DeStefano**

**Michael DeStefano • Michelle Fasline • Carol Field**

**Rick Fownes • JoAnne Gerardine • Brian Kopp**

**Bryson Miller • June Miller • Ron Peschock**

**Dave Petrak • Bob & Mary Rajnish • Allison Recker**

**Dorothy Roberto • Olga Romerowicz • Maureen Smithe**

**Diane Stultz • Patty Teufel • Lois Werfel • Noah Wills  
The Elderly**

**HOME WITH THE LORD:** Your prayers are requested for the repose of the souls of:

**Leona "Pauline" Paule - mother of Polly Wiley**

**Margaret Claar - grandmother of Steph Krug**

**Anna T. Partenheimer**

**Shirley Millin**

*May they rest in the peace and joy of the Lord.*

**BLESSING OF THE BABY JESUS:** One of the popular expressions of the joyful expectation of Christmas is the setting up of the nativity in our homes. The Nativity scene is a feature of our culture and art, but above all it is a sign of faith in God, who in Bethlehem came "and dwelt among us" (Jn 1: 14). All are invited to bring the baby Jesus from their nativity set to mass on the weekend of December 16 and 17. During mass, Monsignor Becker will offer a special blessing for the baby Jesus that you place in the manger in your home.

**TEEN SHELTER:** The St. John's Women's Group is collecting Domino Pizza gift cards for the Teen Shelter's weekly pizza night. You may donate gift cards for Domino's or cash/checks. Place your donation in an envelope marked "Teen Shelter," and drop it in the collection basket.

**ANGEL TREE PROJECT REMINDER:** All gifts should be returned to the gathering space by December 13. Please place all scrip cards you purchase in the box beside the tree.

## **PENANCE SERVICES IN OUR AREA:**

Thursday, December 14 - Our Lady of Lourdes - 5:30 PM

Saturday, December 16 - Saint Therese - 10 AM

Monday, December 18 - Our Lady of Mount Carmel - 7 PM

Monday, December 18 - Saint Rose of Lima - 7 PM

Wednesday, December 20 - Cathedral of the Blessed  
Sacrament - 6:30 PM

Thursday, December 21 - Sacred Heart - 5:30 PM

\*\*\*\*\*  
**STEWARDSHIP CORNER:** It is through repentance that we acknowledge our sins. In their pastoral letter on stewardship, the U.S. bishops proclaim that "the Spirit of wisdom and courage helps people seek pardon and be mindful that in the face of all their forgetting, the most important work of their lives is to be Jesus' disciples." As we prepare to celebrate God's greatest gift to us in the birth of our Savior, have we reconciled our sins so as to continue along the path to eternal life?

## **Stewardship at St. John's**

### **OFFERTORY for December 3, 2017**

Envelopes	\$ 6,240.00
Loose	\$ 703.00
Children's	\$ 4.00
Parish Development	\$ 100.00
Catholic Education	\$ 55.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 50.00
Mission Co Op	\$ 100.00
Retirement For Religious	\$ 35.00
Catholic Charities	\$ 110.00
<i>SubTotal</i>	\$ 7,397.00
Online Giving	\$ 2,733.00
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 10,130.00</b>

**LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULING FOR JANUARY-MAY:**  
**Deadline Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>** It is time to begin scheduling for January through May, 2018, so we are asking that you give us the dates for which you are NOT available for January – May. If you have internet access please update your profile in **Ministry Scheduler Pro**. There is a link from our parish website ([www.stjohnsaltoona.org](http://www.stjohnsaltoona.org)) and a link in the email reminder you will receive. (There are cards available in the gathering space for those who do not have access to the internet.) **Please update your profile online or fill out a card and return it by Sunday, December 17th.** Family members can fill out one card front and back. **Again, please tell us when you are NOT available in January – May, 2018.** Thank you for your service to our faith community throughout the year.

**HELP RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES:** “Your generous contribution helps us to care for our retired sisters and enables our younger sisters to continue in active ministry,” writes a religious sister. Your gift to today’s collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and more for thousands of senior sisters, brother’s and religious order priests. It also helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders!

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:** All memorial donations for Christmas flowers should be submitted by December 17 in order to be acknowledged in the December 24 bulletin.

**CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF ST. JOHN:** This year the Feast of St. John the Evangelist is on Wednesday, December 27. Join in the celebration by attending Mass at 6PM followed by a pizza party in the Parish Center in the basement of the church. Please sign up on the kiosk in the gathering space.

**HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL NEWS:** Holy Trinity Catholic School Cash Raffle tickets are being sold. Tickets are \$2.00/ticket. Cash prizes are \$1,000, \$750, and \$500. Please purchase tickets off of a Holy Trinity Student or by calling 814-942-7835. Prizes will be drawn on December 14, 2017 at the Middle School Christmas Show.

**THE ADVENT OF CHRISTMAS CONCERT** will be presented this Sunday, December 10 at 7:00. This year, the Adult, Handbell and Children’s choirs have prepared a wonderful performance that includes some new music as well as some traditional songs and carols. There is no admission fee, but a suggested donation of \$5 per person or \$10 per family goes toward supporting our music ministry program. Take a break from your busy preparations for the holidays to attend this annual event. After the concert, refreshments will be served next door in Fr. Bailey Hall.

## SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

### Sunday December 10 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

8:00AM-Mass for *Mark Kopp* requested by  
Mr. & Mrs. Francis Dambek  
11:00AM - Mass for *Dave Litzinger* requested by  
Carole Litzinger

### Monday December 11 - Advent Weekday

8:10AM-Morning Prayer  
8:30AM-Mass for *All the Faithful Departed* requested by  
Daniel & Judy Monahan

### Tuesday December 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:10AM-Morning Prayer  
8:30AM-Mass for *Leroy Musselman* requested by  
Anna Musselman

### Wednesday December 13 - St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

5:00PM-Eucharistic Adoration  
6:00PM-Evening Prayer and Communion Service

### Thursday December 14 - St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

8:10AM-Morning Prayer  
8:30AM-Mass for *Bill Hermensky* requested by  
Barb Bundy

### Friday December 15 - Advent Weekday

8:10AM-Morning Prayer  
8:30AM-Mass for *Joe Robeson*

### Saturday December 16 - Vigil of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

3:00PM-Confessions  
4:00PM- Mass for *Laurie Kalan* requested by  
Rich & Joyce Lowe

### Sunday December 17 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

8:00AM-Mass for *Ida Prosperi* requested by  
John Prosperi  
11:00AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 35:1-10; 5:17-26  
Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab;  
Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the  
Common of The Blessed Virgin Mary, nos 707-712  
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30  
Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15  
Friday: Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19



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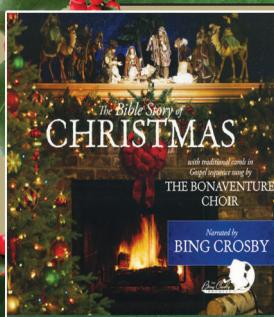
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