

## APPOINTMENTS

### ACOLYTES:

Sat. Dec. 17 - 4:00 PM - Rachel Resick, Claire Resick  
 Sun. Dec. 18 - 8:00 AM - Mai Linh Do, Nicholas Rasmussen  
 Sun. Dec. 18 - 11:00 AM - Nate Rudolph, Matthew Woolridge

### LECTORS:

Sat. Dec. 17 - 4:00 PM - Victor Rizzo, Mark Sloan  
 Sun. Dec. 18 - 8:00 AM - David Andrews, Tim Rea  
 Sun. Dec. 18 - 11:00 AM - Patrick Schurr, Jim Campbell

### EUCARISTIC MINISTERS:

Sat. Dec. 17 - 4:00 PM - Jenna Jenkins, John Lloyd  
 Sun. Dec. 18 - 8:00 AM - Mary Truesdale, Melissa McHugh  
 Sun. Dec. 18 - 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Dolores Capriotti,  
     Lou Ann Clark, Paul Dennis, Mary Dennis, Ginger Cooney

### MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY:

Sat. Dec. 17 - 4:00 PM - Lori Ginter, Hedy Zumsteg, Connie Baker,  
     Betsy Lloyd  
 Sun. Dec. 18 - 8:00 AM - Helen Miller, Jane Becker, John Becker,  
     Charlie Moore  
 Sun. Dec. 18 - 11:00 AM - Anna Podoletz, Patrick Podoletz, Wally  
     Wargo, Wendy Campbell

### SACRISTAN:

Sat. Dec. 17 - 4:00 PM - Ron & Joyce Cunningham  
 Sun. Dec. 18 - 8:00 AM - Michele DeFrancisco  
 Sun. Dec. 18 - 11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy

## **UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS**

**December 11** - 7:00 PM Advent of Christmas Concert

**December 22 to 26** - Parish Office closed.

**December 24** Christmas Eve - 4:00 PM & 10:00 PM Mass

**December 25** Christmas Day - 10:00 AM Mass

### **Family Advent**

### **Gathering**

December 4, 2016



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



**DECEMBER 11, 2016**  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**ST. JOHN THE**  
**EVANGELIST CHURCH**  
**309 LOTZ AVENUE**  
**814-942-5503**  
**[www.stjohnsaltoona.org](http://www.stjohnsaltoona.org)**

## **PASTORAL STAFF:**

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

## A Few Words from the Pastor:

**Patroness of the Americas** - On Monday, 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** – Tuesday 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.

**Second Sunday Food Collection** – Please do not forget those who are less fortunate than ourselves. Your gifts of food and finance this weekend will help feed hungry children in our community.

**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.” His feast is celebrated on Wednesday.

**Family Life Calendars for 2017** – 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.

### Sacrificial Giving = Sacrificial Living –

Many thanks to all who have thus far made their pledge for continuing financial support of our parish through Parish Sacrificial Giving. Those who have not yet participated are encouraged to do so. Your planned, regular giving to the parish enables our finance committee to more accurately prepare our annual budget. Again, our heartfelt gratitude.



| WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE:                         |
|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>MONDAY•TUESDAY•THURSDAY•FRIDAY: 8:30AM</b> |
| <b>WEDNESDAY: 6:00PM</b>                      |
| <b>SATURDAY: 4:00PM</b>                       |
| <b>SUNDAY: 8:00AM•11:00AM</b>                 |

**LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULING CHANGE:** For 2017 we are going to create schedules by “season” rather than calendar quarters. Some months naturally group together better than others because of the school calendar, our summer late Mass time change and vacations.

**January through May** corresponds to the Winter/Spring semester. Most families with school age children maintain a consistent schedule during these months.

**June through August** is “summer vacation” and our Sunday 11:00 AM Mass moves to 10:00 AM during these months. With the choir on “vacation” some members and spouses change their preferred Mass during these months for their other ministries such as lectors, Eucharistic ministers and hospitality ministers.

**September through December** is the Fall semester. Our late Mass returns to 11:00 AM and the choir again enhances the music of our liturgy.

**And so, we are asking that you give us the dates for which you are NOT available for January through 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 this week. 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 this Sunday, December 11th.** Family members can fill out one card front and back. Thank for your help in working with this change.

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS**

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE**

Last class Sunday December 11th  
Classes resume Sunday, January 8th 2017

### **YOUTH MINISTRY CHRISTMAS PARTY/SERVICE PROJECT**

SATURDAY DECEMBER 17TH Grades 9-11 5pm-8pm

#### **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:*

**Judy Baird • Millie Bilski • Carol Field**

**JoAnne Gerardine • Judy Hurm • Brian Kopp**

**Ron Peschock • Bob & Mary Rajnish • Olga Romerowicz**

**Madison Shura • Patty Teufel • Noah Wills**

**For an end to violence and unrest in our country**

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

**Michael B. Maher (brother of Joyce Villani)**

**Danny M. Roberto (son of Dorothy)**

**Barbara Burkholder (sister of Rose Leiden)**

**Terri Schneider**

**Francis Bean (father of Mary Petrak)**

*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 17 and 18. During mass, Monsignor Becker will offer a special blessing for the baby Jesus that you place in the manger in your home.

#### **ADDITIONAL PENANCE SERVICES IN THE AREA:**

Monday, December 12 - Our Lady of Mount Carmel - 7 PM

Tuesday, December 13 - Holy Rosary - 6:30 PM

Wednesday, December 14 - Cathedral - 6:30 PM

Thursday, December 15 - Our Lady of Lourdes - 5:30 PM

Thursday, December 15 - Sacred Heart - 5:30 PM

Monday, December 19 - Saint Rose of Lima - 7 PM



***Here are some more pictures from our Family Advent Gathering last Sunday!***



***STEWARDSHIP CORNER*** John the Baptist's role in the divine plan was to prepare others for the coming of the Lord. Each of us, whether single or married, lay or religious, has a unique role in God's plan. How are you fulfilling your personal vocation?

#### **OFFERTORY for December 4, 2016**

|                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Envelopes:            | \$ 6,600.00         |
| Loose:                | \$ 799.00           |
| Children's:           | \$ 3.00             |
| Parish Development    | \$ 52.00            |
| Mission Co-op         | \$ 20.00            |
| Christmas Flowers     | \$ 674.00           |
| Religious Retirement  | \$ 70.00            |
| Christmas Offering    | \$ 210.00           |
| Immaculate Conception | \$ 20.00            |
| Catholic Education    | \$ 121.00           |
| Total:                | \$ 8,569.00         |
| Online Giving:        | \$ 2,691.00         |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>         | <b>\$ 11,260.00</b> |

#### **ACA update: \$53,038 in Receipts**

*The parish has exceeded the goal of \$49,405. Remember that any donations beyond this point will be returned to the parish.*

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|  <p><b>Larry Cordek</b><br/>Senior Vice President - Investments<br/>601 Hawthorne Drive<br/>Holidaysburg, PA 16648<br/>Direct: 814-695-1558</p> <p>Investment and Insurance Products: ▶ NOT FDIC Insured ▶ NO Bank Guarantee ▶ MAY Lose Value<br/>Wells Fargo Advisors is a registered broker-dealer and separate non-bank affiliate of Wells Fargo &amp; Company.<br/>Member SIPC.<br/>©2013 Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC. All rights reserved. 1113-02329 [84976-v]A1507</p> | <b>WELLS FARGO</b><br><br><b>ADVISORS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <br><b>814-946-8100</b><br>Telephone Systems<br>Two-Way Communications<br>400 Highland Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602<br><a href="http://www.comprosinc.com">www.comprosinc.com</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>FINDaPARISH.com</b>                                                                                                                                                          | <b>The Most Complete<br/>Online National<br/>Directory of<br/>Catholic Parishes</b><br><br><b>Check It Out Today!</b> |
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| <p><b>HEALTHSOUTH</b><br/>Rehabilitation Center<br/>Regency Square</p> <p><b>ASK FOR US<br/>BY NAME!</b></p> <p><b>Pat Leamer, MPT</b><br/>Physical Therapist<br/>Clinic Manager<br/>2900 Plank Road, Suite 2<br/>Altoona, PA 16602<br/><b>(814) 941-0916</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p><b>Stephanie Varljen, DDS, PhD</b><br/><b>ORTHODONTICS</b><br/>Dental Care Associates<br/>712 Logan Blvd. <b>946-1950</b></p> <p></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p><b>If You Live Alone You Need LIFEWatch!</b></p> <p>24 Hour Protection at <b>HOME</b> and <b>AWAY!</b></p> <p>✓ Ambulance      Solutions as Low as <b>\$1 a Day!</b><br/> ✓ Police              ✓ Fire<br/> ✓ Friends/Family      ✓ Friends/Family<br/> FREE Shipping      FREE Activation<br/> NO Long Term Contracts</p> <p>AS SEEN ON TV      Fall Detectors Also Available</p> <p><b>CALL NOW! 800.393.9954</b></p> <p></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                       |
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| <p><br/><b>STEVENS</b><br/>SINCE 1881</p> <p><b>The Stevens Mortuary, Inc.</b><br/>Joseph J. Stevens, Supervisor<br/>Altoona 944-9365</p> <p><b>Plank, Stitt &amp; Stevens Funeral Home</b><br/>David J. Mason, Supervisor<br/>Hollidaysburg 695-1551</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <p><br/> <b>JAN</b><br/>FINANCIAL GROUP INC.<br/>Specializing in Employee Benefits<br/><b>(814) 696-1852</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p><b>Thank You</b></p> <p>Thank you for advertising in<br/>our church bulletin.<br/>I am patronizing your business<br/>because of it!</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                       |
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| <p><b>Altoona Memorial Studio</b><br/>When Only The Best Will Do<br/><b>814-942-0101</b><br/>1006 Pleasant Valley Blvd.<br/>Altoona, PA 16602<br/>Corner of 10th &amp; Pleasant Valley Blvd.</p> <p></p> <p></p>                                                                                                                                                                      | <p>Your Catholic Credit Union</p> <p><br/><b>ARC</b><br/>Federal Credit Union</p> <p>all St. John parishioners are eligible to join</p> <p><a href="http://www.arcfcu.org">www.arcfcu.org</a> • <b>814-946-0857</b></p> <p><b>McAleer's</b><br/>Since 1886<br/>Plumbing, Heating, Air Conditioning<br/>24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE<br/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registered Master Plumbers • Residential &amp; Commercial</li> <li>• Free Estimates • Neat &amp; Clean Is Our Tradition • Quality Work</li> <li>• Non-Smoking Employees • An Altoona Tradition</li> </ul> <b>1008 Chestnut Ave. • Altoona</b> <b>942-7153</b></p> | <p><b>Advertising Sales</b></p> <p>DO YOU HAVE SALES EXPERIENCE AND ENJOY CALLING ON LOCAL BUSINESSES?<br/>WE MAY HAVE AN IDEAL POSITION FOR YOU.</p> <p><b>\$55K to \$60K earning potential</b></p> <p>BECOME AN ADVERTISING SALESPERSON FOR J.S. PALUCH COMPANY,<br/>NATIONAL PUBLISHER OF CHURCH BULLETINS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent Commission Compensation Program</li> <li>• Medical Benefits, 401K, Life &amp; Disability Insurance Available</li> </ul> <p><br/>Call Vinnie DiNicola 1.724.553.4145<br/>or email resume to <a href="mailto:dinicolav@jspaluch.com">dinicolav@jspaluch.com</a></p> |                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                       |

**ADVENT OF CHRISTMAS CONCERT:** December 11 at 7:00 is our annual Advent of Christmas Concert presented by the Adult, Handbell and Children's Choirs. There is no admission fee, but a suggested donation of \$5 per person or \$10 per family goes toward supporting our music ministry program.

**REFRESHMENTS ARE NEEDED** for the reception to be held on December 11 immediately following the concert. Any type of cookie, fudge, candy or bagged snack would be appreciated. Trays are available in the gathering space if you'd like to plate your snacks ahead of time.

**OUR PARISH FAMILY** ... is taking a break and will return in January. Thank you for your comments and cooperation. If you've already agreed to be a part of this feature and maybe had your picture taken for it, we'll be in touch soon to get your information. Or, if you're willing to appear in this feature but haven't yet been asked, please contact: Cecelia Bloom, by phone at 695-2806, or by email at [ceceb13@verizon.net](mailto:ceceb13@verizon.net).

**LOVE FEAST** pictures are on the kiosk in the gathering space. The next Love Feast will be **March 11, 2017**.

**EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINE:** The deadline for items to published in the January 1, 2017 bulletin is Thursday, December 22 at noon.

**SECOND COLLECTION:** Aging religious need your help. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others – educating the young, comforting the sick, seeking justice for the oppressed. Today, many are frail, elderly, and in need of assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to furnish medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please give generously to today's second collection.



Our **ANGEL TREE** is located in the gathering space. If you would like to participate this year, please take a tag, purchase the gift described, tape the tag to the gift and return the gift to the church no later than Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. There will be a special box near the angel tree to collect scrip that you buy for angel tree families.

**ELVES NEEDED:** Anyone interested in sorting food or wrapping gifts should meet at the church this Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7PM. On Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> we will need help putting the food into family groups from 6:00 PM to 7:30PM. Drivers are needed to deliver gifts on Friday December 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM until Noon. Call Susanna at 317-7531 if you are able to help with delivery.

## **SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK**

### **Sunday December 11th - 3rd Sunday of Advent**

8:00AM-Mass for *People of the Parish*  
11:00AM-Mass for *Gary Bevan* requested by  
Dorothy Yingling

### **Monday December 12th – Our Lady of Guadalupe**

7:30AM-Eucharistic Adoration  
8:10AM-Morning Prayer  
8:30AM- Mass for *Leroy Musselman* requested by  
Anna Musselman

### **Tuesday December 13th - St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr**

7:30AM-Eucharistic Adoration  
8:10AM-Morning Prayer  
8:30AM-Mass for *Francis Bean* requested by Dan &  
Mary Susick

### **Wednesday December 14th - St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church**

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

### **Thursday December 15th - Advent Weekday**

7:30AM-Eucharistic Adoration  
8:10AM-Morning Prayer  
8:30AM-Mass for *Eileen Becker* requested by  
Clarence Becker

### **Friday December 16th - Advent Weekday**

7:30AM-Eucharistic Adoration  
8:10AM-Morning Prayer  
8:30AM-Mass for *Laurie Kalan*

### **Saturday December 17th– Vigil of 4th Sunday of Advent**

3:00PM-Confessions  
4:00PM-Mass for *People of the Parish*

### **Sunday December 18th - 4th Sunday of Advent**

8:00AM-Mass for *Ida Prosperi* requested by John Prosperi  
11:00AM-Mass for *Lena Colyer* requested by  
Amelia Fedorico