

*They shall name him
Emmanuel,
which means
“God is with us.”
— Matthew 1:23*

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DECEMBER 18, 2016
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
ST. JOHN THE
EVANGELIST CHURCH
309 LOTZ AVENUE
814-942-5503
www.stjohnsaltoona.org

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

Christmas Mass Schedule

December 24 Christmas Eve:

4:00 PM & 10:00 PM

December 25 Christmas Day:

10:00 AM



APPOINTMENTS

ACOLYTES:

- Sat. Dec. 24 - 4:00 PM - Claire Nackley, Ryan Donoughe, Jack Donoughe, Kelsey Donoughe, Keaton Swope
Sat. Dec. 24 - 10:00 PM - Cherie Langenbacher, Makayla Langenbacher, Danielle Miller, Emily Miller, Ethan Miller
Sun. Dec. 25 - 10:00 AM - Amelia Partner, Nathan Ringkamp

LECTORS:

- Sat. Dec. 24 - 4:00 PM - Heather Nackley, Matt Michelone
Sat. Dec. 24 - 10:00 PM - Bill Foose, Norma Foose
Sun. Dec. 25 - 10:00 AM - Gary Johnson, Richard Karcher

EUCARISTIC MINISTERS:

- Sat. Dec. 24 - 4:00 PM - Joyce Cunningham, Bob Olson, 4 not filled
Sat. Dec. 24 - 10:00 PM - Walter Bloom, Cecelia Bloom, Barbara Bundy, Debbie Dougherty, Kenneth Gorman, Susanna Tomlinson
Sun. Dec. 25 - 10:00 AM - Ginger Cooney, not filled

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY:

- Sat. Dec. 24 - 4:00 PM - David Langguth, Walter Bloom, Dennis Moughemer, Karen Moughemer, Dorothy Yingling, 3 not filled
Sat. Dec. 24 - 10:00 PM - Carolyn English, Lori Ginter, Mike O'Neill, Hedy Zumsteg
Sun. Dec. 25 - 10:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Dolores Capriotti, Lou Ann Clark, Wally Wargo

SACRISTAN:

- Sat. Dec. 24 - 4:00 PM - Mary & Ray King
Sat. Dec. 24 - 10:00 PM - Barbara Bundy
Sun. Dec. 25 - 10:00 AM - Dolores Capriotti

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

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

December 27 St. John the Evangelist Feast Day - 8:30 AM Mass followed by breakfast at a local restaurant

March 11 - Love Feast

A Few Words from the Pastor:

Christmas Mass Schedule – Please note that we have made a change to our Christmas Mass schedule. There is the usual Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve at 4:00 PM, but the late evening Mass is celebrated this year at 10:00 PM, *not at Midnight*. Christmas Morning Mass will be celebrated at 10:00 AM.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel - The Roman Catholic Church has been singing the "O" Antiphons since at least the eighth century. They are the antiphons that accompany the Magnificat canticle of Evening Prayer from December 17-23. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah. Most Catholics are familiar with them from the beautiful Advent hymn which we know by heart! O Wisdom, O Lord and Ruler, O Root of Jesse, O Key of David, O Morning Star, O King of the Nations, O Emmanuel!

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.

Remember Your Parish on “Christmas Sunday”! Pastors and finance councils all over the world are always wringing their hands when Christmas falls on a Sunday! For the budget-minded, that means one less collection! Thank you for remembering your parish for Sunday AND for Christmas!

Oplatki, The Christmas Wafer – This is a tradition from Eastern Europe, especially Poland. Oplatki are unleavened wafers baked from pure wheat flower and water, and are usually rectangular in shape and very thin. They are similar to the composition of Communion hosts at Mass, and are used at Christmas Eve celebrations as a reminder of our sharing in the Body of Christ. These wafers are embossed with Christmas related religious images, such as the manger, the Blessed Mother, or the Star of Bethlehem. It is broken and shared before **Wigilia**, the Christmas Eve dinner!

Choir Concert an Amazing Witness – Our annual Choir Concert was a great success, and a wonderful witness to the truest meaning of Christmas: God-With-Us, first heralded by the heavenly choirs of angels! Congratulations to Debbie Johnson and to the many instrumentalists and singers who made it such a glorious and inspiring evening!

Our Patronal Feast – Tuesday, December 27th, is the Feast Day of St. John the Evangelist! We will celebrate with Mass in the Church at 8:30, followed by a Feast Day Breakfast at a local restaurant. Please plan on joining us!

Sacrificial Giving for Christmas – Many thanks to all who have thus far made their pledge for continuing financial support of our parish through Parish Sacrificial Giving. If you have not yet made a commitment, we suggest the perfect Christmas gift for your parish would be a completed Commitment Card, given out of love! Remember, to love your parish is to love Christ!

LITURGICAL REFLECTION: As Christmas draws near, Advent's scriptures lure us into a world of dreams, signs, wonders, and the miracle of the virgin birth. Too often we allow the great stories of our faith, the ones that are most familiar, simply to wash over us. Today's Gospel account of the events leading up to the birth of the Lord reads like a present-day soap opera. Yet Joseph's courage, even in the midst of what must have been an incredibly confusing time, provides a model for us. Each week, we are summoned by God to embrace the way of goodness and truth through the proclamation of God's holy word. Like Joseph, we are called to do as the Lord commands us. As we stand at the threshold of Christmas, let us have the courage to be open to whatever it is that the Lord will require of us as we celebrate the miracle of Bethlehem.

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WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE: MONDAY•TUESDAY•THURSDAY•FRIDAY: 8:30AM WEDNESDAY: 6:00PM SATURDAY: 4:00PM SUNDAY: 8:00AM•11:00AM

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Classes resume Sunday, January 8th 2017

PARISH FEAST DAY MASS AND BREAKFAST:

Please join in our parish feast day celebration on Tuesday, December 27, with mass at 8:30 am. After the morning mass, we will go to breakfast at a local restaurant. You can sign up on the kiosk if you plan on attending the breakfast.



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

ADDITIONAL PENANCE SERVICE IN THE AREA:

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

SECOND COLLECTION: Thank you for supporting senior religious. A sister from Indiana writes, "Because of your kindness, our elderly sisters will have the comfort, security, and joy of living out their remaining years here in their home. You truly honor them and their many years of service by your generosity." Religious across the United States offer sincere thanks for your generosity to last week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

BOOK CLUB If you are interested in becoming better informed about Islam & the Muslim world, plan to join us on FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 2017, AT D'LITES CAFE AT 11 AM. We plan to use Richard Engel's book, "And Then All Hell Broke Loose" as our main resource. The book is available at the library or online. If you have any questions, call Joyce Cunningham at 695-5346.

HAITI NEWS We are looking for new members for the Haiti Committee. Members assist in fundraising, ideas for fundraising, and directing our financial contributions. Meetings are held as needed. A trip in January is being planned. *Special Note: It is my ambitious desire to take a medical team of dentists and eye doctors within the next year. Please share this mission with any candidate who may be interested.* Contact Mary Lee Madigan-Davis, mlmdcreek@aol.com, or 814 931-2651.

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.

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:*

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.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

St. Joseph carried out God's will and embraced his fatherhood as a stewardship. May you allow God to change your plans in order to fulfill His.

OFFERTORY for December 11, 2016

Envelopes:	\$ 5,551.00
Loose:	\$ 537.00
Children's:	\$ 5.00
Parish Development	\$ 202.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 350.00
Religious Retirement	\$ 906.00
Christmas Offering	\$ 75.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 1,185.00
Catholic Education	\$ 30.00
Total:	\$ 8,841.00
Online Giving:	\$ 2,549.00
TOTAL:	\$ 11,390.00

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.

SUPER TICKET SWEEPSTAKES St. Clement Roman Catholic Church in Johnstown, PA is conducting its 5th Annual Super Ticket Sweepstakes with a Grand Prize of a *TRIP for 2 to SUPER BOWL 51 in Houston, TX – or--\$10,000 in CASH*. The PA Big-4 (1/1/17 @ 7 PM) Lottery based package includes 2 Super Bowl tickets, 3 nights @ Hyatt Place Houston Galleria, \$1,000 in transportation cash, admission to pre-game reception, Super Bowl memorabilia, and transport to/from stadium. Number above/below the winning ticket drawn on 1/1/17 pays \$1,000. Tickets are \$10. To purchase tickets, send check payable to: St. Clement Church (include name, telephone number, and email and home address, and stamped self-addressed envelope with your correspondence for ticket stub returns). For more information, please contact Dave Pavlik, Ticket Chair, (814) 243-9446, sccfundrzer@atlanticbbn.net, or St. Clement Church, 114 Lindberg Avenue, Johnstown, PA 15905, (814) 255-4422. Pastor: William Rosenbaum, Parish Staff: Suzie Catanese or Nancy Stamplis

SACRAMENTS CLASS This 8 week course will focus on an understanding of the Sacraments today. Participants will study the post Vatican II theologies of Baptism, Reconciliation, Confirmation, Sacrament of Healing, Marriage, Holy Orders and the central mystery of our faith, the Mass. The course is being offered at 2 locations this January, Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament – Seton Suite, Altoona; Msgr. Robert Mazur, instructor and St. Michael Church Hall, St. Michael; Father D. Timothy Grimme, instructor. The cost of registration and material, which includes a book on each sacrament, is \$65. Registration forms are available online at www.dioceseaj.org/lay-ecclesialministry or by contacting Marybeth at 814-361-2000 or by email at mheinze@dioceseaj.org. All are welcome!

DIRECTORY PHOTOS If you did not receive your free 8X10 in the mail, it was shipped to the church and can be picked up in the gathering space. The directory has been submitted for publication and we will let you know when they are available.

EPIPHANY CONCERT AND DINNER: Christ the King Church in Houtzdale will be hosting an Epiphany Concert performed by the elementary religious education students at 12:45pm on Sunday, January 8, 2017 in their parish center. A dinner of Father Marc Solomon's signature chili and Mark Groeger's specialty cheesecakes will be served from 11:00am to 2:00pm during the concert. Tickets for the concert and dinner are just \$8 each; dinners are eat-in or take-out. Call Christ the King at 814-378-7653 for more information. Tickets may be purchased at the door or by calling the rectory.

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

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

Monday December 19th – Late Advent Weekday

7:30AM-Eucharistic Adoration
8:10AM-Morning Prayer
8:30AM- Mass for *Francis Bean* requested by
Guido & Debbie Santella

Tuesday December 20th - Late Advent Weekday

7:30AM-Eucharistic Adoration
8:10AM-Morning Prayer
8:30AM-Mass for *Bill Hermesky* requested by Barb Bundy

Wednesday December 21st - Late Advent Weekday

5:00PM-Confessions
6:00PM-Mass for *John Despot* requested by Dave Despot
& Mary Coho

Thursday December 22nd - Late Advent Weekday

7:30AM-Eucharistic Adoration
8:10AM-Morning Prayer
8:30AM-Mass for *Therese Schneider* requested by
Dan, Sue & Michael Speck

Friday December 23rd - Late Advent Weekday

7:30AM-Eucharistic Adoration
8:10AM-Morning Prayer
8:30AM-Mass for *Danny Roberto* requested by mother,
Dorothy Roberto

Saturday December 24th– Vigil of The Nativity of the Lord

4:00PM-Mass for *People of the Parish*
10:00PM-Mass for *People of the Parish*

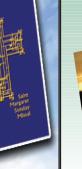
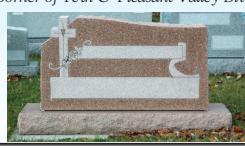
Sunday December 25th - The Nativity of the Lord

10:00AM-Mass for *People of the Parish*

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:5 -- 2:2; Mt 2:13-18
Thursday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:36-40
Friday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 [12-17]; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23



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