

APPOINTMENTS

ACOLYTES:

Thurs. Dec. 7 - 6:30 PM - Claire Nackley, Keaton Swope
 Fri. Dec. 8 - 6:30 PM - Mai Linh Do, Nicholas Helsley
 Sat. Dec. 9 - 4:00 PM - David & Alycia Auerbeck
 Sun. Dec. 10 - 8:00 AM - Emily & Ethan Miller
 Sun. Dec. 10 - 11:00 AM - Caitlin & Tyler Conigy

LECTORS:

Thurs. Dec. 7 - 6:30 PM - Gary Johnson, Paul Dennis
 Fri. Dec. 8 - 6:30 PM - Francene Boland, Barbara Bundy
 Sat. Dec. 9 - 4:00 PM - Wally Wargo, David Langguth
 Sun. Dec. 10 - 8:00 AM - Francene Boland, Joyce Cunningham
 Sun. Dec. 10 - 11:00 AM - Richard Consiglio, Donna Moyer

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Thurs. Dec. 7 - 6:30 PM - Bob Olson, Susanna Tomlinson
 Fri. Dec. 8 - 6:30 PM - Dolores Capriotti, Barb Aubrey
 Sat. Dec. 9 - 4:00 PM - Barb Aubrey, NOT FILLED
 Sun. Dec. 10 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci, Fran Semelsberger
 Sun. Dec. 10 - 11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy, Lou Ann Clark,
 Bill Foose, Norma Foose, Joseph Klobuka, Pam Klobuka

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY:

Thurs. Dec. 7 - 6:30 PM - Lori Ginter, Fran Semelsberger,
 Ginny Reeder, Hedy Zumsteg
 Fri. Dec. 8 - 6:30 PM - Dennis Moughemer, Karen Moughemer,
 Jane Becker, John Becker
 Sat. Dec. 9 - 4:00 PM - Heather Nackley, Judy Sneath,
 Billy Sweet, NOT FILLED
 Sun. Dec. 10 - 8:00 AM - Carolyn English, Ray Kennedy,
 Ed Stoltz, Mary Truesdale
 Sun. Dec. 10 - 11:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Dolores Capriotti,
 Mary Grace Horton, Peg Madden

SACRISTAN:

Thurs. Dec. 7 - 6:30 PM - Marilyn Bevan
 Fri. Dec. 8 - 6:30 PM - Barbara Bundy
 Sat. Dec. 9 - 4:00 PM - Billy Sweet
 Sun. Dec. 10 - 8:00 AM - Michele DeFrancisco
 Sun. Dec. 10 - 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan

SCRIP:

Sat. Dec. 9 - 4:00 PM - Charlene Lancy, Anna Rasmussen
 Sun. Dec. 10 - 8:00 AM - Heather & Amber Yasolsky
 Sun. Dec. 10 - 11:00 AM - Bill & Patty Teufel

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

December 3: 4:00PM - Parish Penance Service
 December 8 - Feast of the Immaculate Conception
 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

MASS SCHEDULE FOR THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION:

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7: 6:30PM
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8: 8:30 • 6:30PM**



**Congratulations to
Augustine Steven James Merrick
and Maria Lee Michelone.
Both babies were baptized
at the 11:00 Mass last Sunday.**

**DECEMBER 3, 2017
FIRST SUNDAY
OF ADVENT
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www.stjohnsaltoona.org

December Prayer Intention of Pope Francis

THE ELDERLY

That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.



A Few Words from the Pastor:

Our Art Project! You will notice the dark blue stripe that now surrounds the interior of our church. We are grateful to Rusty Baker for his craftsmanship! This stripe is meant to highlight the paintings above, and on it will be the names of the events in the life of Christ which are depicted in the artwork above. We are so appreciative of Allen Capriotti for taking on this project!

Holy Day of Obligation - December 8th, the Feast of **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION** the Immaculate Conception is the patronal feast of the United States. Masses for the Feast are on Thursday December 7th at 6:30PM, and Friday, December 8th at 8:30AM and 6:30 PM. This is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Advent Penance Service – There is no better preparation for Christmas than the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance. **Our Advent Penance Service will be this Sunday, December 3rd at 4:00 PM.** The daylight hour will be much more convenient for those who have difficulty getting out in the dark! Make good confession!

PENANCE SERVICES IN OUR AREA:

Sunday, December 3 - Saint John's, Lakemont - 4 PM
Sunday, December 3 - Saint Joseph's, Bellwood - 5 PM
Monday, December 4 - Saint Mark's & Holy Rosary
(at Holy Rosary) - 6:30 PM
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

Second Sunday Food Collection –

Please do not forget those who are less fortunate than ourselves. Your gifts of food and finance next Sunday will help feed hungry children in our community.



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.

PASTORAL STAFF:

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

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.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

- December 3rd - Advent Family Gathering 9:15 in gym
(student and parent)
- December 10th - No Class
- December 17th - Regular class 9:15-10:45 (Last class of the year.)
- Sunday January 7th - Class resumes 9:15-10:45



CONFIRMATION INFORMATION

December 16th 5:00-8:00PM Confirmation service project and Christmas party Saturday, January 6th - 9th Grade Confirmation Retreat (Student and one parent) 9AM-1PM in gym

FIRST RECONCILIATION INFORMATION

- Saturday December 9th - First Reconciliation retreat from 1:00-2:30 in gym. Student attends with parent.
- Saturday December 16th - Sacrament of First Reconciliation. 11:00AM in the Church.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING...

Volunteers are needed to light candles on the Advent Wreath at each mass in Advent. We are looking for two or more people or families interested in participating at the beginning of the Liturgy. The dates are Dec. 2/3, December 9/10, December 16/17, and December 23/24, 2017. Please sign up on the kiosk in the gathering space.



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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.

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.

THE ADVENT OF CHRISTMAS CONCERT

will be presented next 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.



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:*

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 • Leona Paule • 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:

Anna T. Partenheimer
Shirley Millin

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

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

• • • • •
STEWARSHIP CORNER: As the Church begins a new liturgical year, we are reminded in today's Gospel that we are nothing more than servants, stewards of our Master's possessions, but who do not know when our Master will return. We have been given the responsibility of sharing our gifts in order to build up the Master's kingdom. May we be awake and alive in our faith when He comes again in glory!

Stewardship at St. John's

OFFERTORY for November 26, 2017

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Envelopes | \$ 5,946.00 |
| Loose | \$ 799.00 |
| Children's | \$ 6.00 |
| Parish Development | \$ 25.00 |
| Catholic Education | \$ 2.00 |
| Christmas Flowers | \$ 20.00 |
| Retirement For Religious | \$ 245.00 |
| Catholic Charities | \$ 360.00 |
| <i>SubTotal</i> | \$ 7,403.00 |
| Online Giving | \$ 1,458.00 |
| Total Offertory | \$ 8,861.00 |

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.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULING FOR JANUARY-MAY: **Deadline Sunday, December 17th** 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) 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 CARE FOR ELDERS: "Thanks to support from the Retirement Fund for Religious, we are now in a much better position to care for our elders," writes a religious sister. Your donation helps her religious community and hundreds of others provide for aging members and plan for long-term needs. Please give to next week's Retirement Fund for Religious collection.

HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH? If you've been coming to Mass for a while, but are not Catholic, we invite you to look deeper into our faith tradition. We will be gathering to share the truths of the Catholic faith and the fellowship of our church family. We invite you to learn what Catholics believe in an open and welcoming setting. These gatherings also are opportunities for you to ask any questions you may have about the Church and our parish community. We meet in the day chapel at 9:15 Sunday morning. If you have any questions please ask Msgr. Becker or Deacon Gene or call Mark Krepich at 932-2223 or email at mark.krepich@gmail.com.

OUR DECEMBER SECOND SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION will be going to the newest food pantry operated by St. Luke's Episcopal Church. You will note on the kiosk that we've re-posted a list of most requested items for food banks. Also, the new coordinator of the Second Sunday food collection is Mary Susick, who will soon be posting a list for volunteers to sign up to deliver food each month. Please be generous!

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

Sunday December 3 - 1st Sunday of Advent

8:00AM-Mass for *Carolyn Ward* requested by
Bernadine Farrell & Family
11:00AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

Monday December 4 - Advent Weekday

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

Tuesday December 5 - Advent Weekday

8:10AM-Morning Prayer
8:30AM-Mass for *Edward Szczepanik*

Wednesday December 6 - Advent Weekday

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

Thursday December 7 - Vigil of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

6:30PM-Mass for *Joe Robeson*

Friday December 8 - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:10AM-Morning Prayer
8:30AM-Mass for *Romayne Davidson* requested by
Ray & Cora Bacon
6:30PM-Mass for *Ward & Marcella Diehl*

Saturday December 9 - Vigil of the 2nd Sunday of Advent

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

Sunday December 10 - 2nd 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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37
Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12;
Lk 1:26-38



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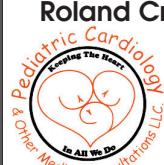
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