

## APPOINTMENTS

### ACOLYTES:

Sat. Dec. 10 - 4:00 PM - Claire Nackley, Keaton Swope  
 Sun. Dec. 11 - 8:00 AM - Nicholas Helsley, Nathan Ringkamp  
 Sun. Dec. 11 - 11:00 AM - Cherie Langenbacher, Makayla Langenbacher

### LECTORS:

Sat. Dec. 10 - 4:00 PM - John Lloyd, Maria Spayd  
 Sun. Dec. 11 - 8:00 AM - Ronan Adams, Francene Boland  
 Sun. Dec. 11 - 11:00 AM - David Petrak, Mary Petrak

### EUCARISTIC MINISTERS:

Sat. Dec. 10 - 4:00 PM - Barb Aubrey, Bill Stokan  
 Sun. Dec. 11 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci, Fran Semelsberger  
 Sun. Dec. 11 - 11:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Cecelia Bloom, Barbara Bundy, Debbie Dougherty, Donna Moyer, Susanna Tomlinson

### MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY:

Sat. Dec. 10 - 4:00 PM - Dennis Moughemer, Karen Moughemer, Mary Frances Stokan, Dorothy Yingling  
 Sun. Dec. 11 - 8:00 AM - Carolyn English, Ray Kennedy, Mike O'Neill, Ed Stoltz  
 Sun. Dec. 11 - 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Wendy Campbell, Dolores Capriotti, Lou Ann Clark

### SACRISTAN:

Sat. Dec. 10 - 4:00 PM - Billy Sweet  
 Sun. Dec. 11 - 8:00 AM - Ron & Joyce Cunningham  
 Sun. Dec. 11 - 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan

### **UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS**

**December 4** - 4:00 PM Parish Penance Service  
**December 8** - Holy Day of Obligation for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception: Mass on December 7 at 6:00PM and on December 8 at 8:30 AM & 6:30 PM  
**December 8 - The Parish Office is closed.**  
**December 11** - 7:00 PM Advent of Christmas Concert  
**December 24** Christmas Eve - 4:00 PM & 10:00 PM Mass  
**December 25** Christmas Day - 10:00 AM Mass



### **MASS SCHEDULE FOR THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION:**

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 7: 6:00PM**  
**THURSDAY, DEC. 8: 8:30AM • 6:30PM**

The earth shall be filled  
with knowledge of the **LORD**,  
as water covers the sea.  
—Isaiah 11:9

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**DECEMBER 4, 2016**  
**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**ST. JOHN THE**  
**EVANGELIST CHURCH**  
**309 LOTZ AVENUE**  
**814-942-5503**

**[www.stjohnsaltoona.org](http://www.stjohnsaltoona.org)**

### **WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE:**

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

### **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

## A Few Words from the Pastor:



**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.

**Wedding Bells!** – We congratulate Amanda Grove of this parish, daughter of Mary Ann Grove, who was joined in the holy sacrament of marriage to Chad Mills, son of Stephen and Diane Mills. Nuptials were celebrated on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, here at St. John's. We wish them the very best in their new life together!

**First Penance!** – We celebrate with our second grade children as they receive the Sacrament of Penance for the first time this Saturday, December 10. 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.

**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.

**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.

**Holy Day of Obligation** - On December 8<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, is the patronal feast of the United States. Masses for the Feast are on Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM, and Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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!

**Saint Ambrose on December 7** – The 4<sup>th</sup> century was one which was afflicted by heresy and division in the church. It was Ambrose, the bishop of Milan, who was the valiant defender of the faith in combating these errors. He is perhaps most noted for his conversion of St. Augustine. Ambrose exemplifies for us the truly catholic character of Christianity. He is a man steeped in the learning, law, and culture of the ancients and of his contemporaries. Yet, in the midst of active involvement in this world, this thought runs through Ambrose' life and preaching: *The hidden meaning of the Scriptures calls our spirit to rise to another world.*

**Christmas Eve Mass Time** - This year we are following the example of most other parishes in the diocese and are having our Christmas Eve evening mass at 10:00PM instead of at midnight. For those who prefer a traditional Christmas Eve Midnight Mass, the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament will continue to celebrate Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve.

**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 Sunday, December 11th.** Family members can fill out one card front and back. Thank for your help in working with this change and, as always, thank you for your service to our faith community throughout the year.

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS**

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE**

December 4<sup>th</sup> NO CLASS ... attend Family Advent at 9:15 in gym.

December 11<sup>th</sup> - 9:15 - 10:45 - Final class for the year.

Merry Christmas! Classes resume on January 8, 2017.

### **FIRST RECONCILIATION - December 10 at 11:00 AM**

### **FAMILY ADVENT GATHERING - Sunday Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:15**

All families are to attend. Attendance will be taken as this is part of religious education. Join us as we make live advent wreaths, talk a little about Advent and, of course, have some hot chocolate and cookies too!



**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 feast of Christmas is approaching and in many places, the Christmas crib is already being set up. 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.

### **December Prayer Intentions of Pope Francis**

#### **END TO CHILD SOLDIERS**

That the scandal of child-soldiers may be eliminated the world over.

#### **EUROPE**

That the peoples of Europe may rediscover the beauty, goodness, and truth of the Gospel which gives joy and hope to life.

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

Sunday, December 4 - Saint Joseph's, Bellwood - 5 PM

Monday, December 5 - Saint Mark's - 6 PM

Saturday, December 10 - Saint Therese - 10 AM

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

**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 [ginnylee.reeder@gmail.com](mailto:ginnylee.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**

A lifestyle of discipleship and stewardship - with God at the very center - is precisely what all Baptized Believers are called to fulfill. May we recognize our dependence upon God by giving Him thanks in all our deeds.

### **OFFERTORY for November 27, 2016**

Envelopes:	\$ 4,843.00
Loose:	\$ 651.00
Children's:	\$ 23.00
Parish Development	\$ 25.00
Catholic Charities	\$ 135.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 160.00
Retirement Fund	\$ 200.00
Christmas Offering	\$ 100.00
Catholic Register	\$ 10.00
Total:	\$ 6,147.00
Online Giving:	\$ 1,234.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ 7,381.00</b>

### **ACA update: \$51,325 Receipts**

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

**ADVENT OF CHRISTMAS CONCERT:** Next Sunday, 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. There is a sign-up sheet with suggestions on the kiosk in the gathering space. Please drop off your nonperishable donations in the day chapel after any of the Masses next weekend. 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.

#### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26  
Tuesday: Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14  
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30  
Thursday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38  
Friday: Is 48:17-19;; Mt 11:16-19

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

**SECOND COLLECTION ON DECEMBER 11:** Please support next week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious and give to those who have given a lifetime. Your gift helps to furnish medications, nursing care, etc.



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.

**TURKEYS NEEDED:** Did you earn enough reward points for a free turkey at one of the local grocery stores? If you would like to donate your turkey to the Christmas food drive, please contact Susanna at 317-7531 to make arrangements for pick up. Thank you for being an angel.

**ELVES NEEDED:** Anyone interested in sorting food or wrapping gifts should meet at the church this Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> and next 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 4th - 2nd Sunday of Advent

8:00AM-Mass for *People of the Parish*  
11:00AM-Mass for *Annie Johnston* requested by  
Jack Wassara  
4:00PM-Parish Penance Service

##### Monday December 5th – Advent Weekday

7:30AM-Eucharistic Adoration  
8:10AM-Morning Prayer  
8:30AM- Mass for *Edward Szczepanik*

##### Tuesday December 6th - Advent Weekday

(St. Nicholas, Bishop)

7:30AM-Eucharistic Adoration  
8:10AM-Morning Prayer  
8:30AM-Mass for the Faithful

##### Wednesday December 7th - Vigil of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

5:00PM-Confessions  
6:00PM-Mass for *Michael Maher* requested by  
Thomas Villani

##### Thursday December 8th - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:30AM-Eucharistic Adoration  
8:10AM-Morning Prayer  
8:30AM-Mass for *Danny Roberto* requested by  
Betsy Slat  
6:30PM-Mass for *Eleanor Trimarco* requested by  
Phil & Carmel Trimarco

##### Friday December 9th - Advent Weekday

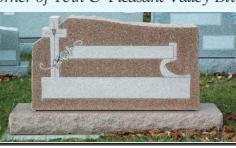
7:30AM-Eucharistic Adoration  
8:10AM-Morning Prayer  
8:30AM-Mass for *Tom Rentz* requested by  
John & Barbara Gulick

##### Saturday December 10th– Vigil of 3rd Sunday of Advent

3:00PM-Confessions  
4:00PM-Mass for *David Litzinger* requested by  
Carole Litzinger

##### 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

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