



Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us!

PASTORAL STAFF:

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- Mr. Ken Dunmire, Maintenance

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH

309 LOTZ AVE
ALTOONA, PA 16602

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 6, 2015**

APPOINTMENTS

ACOLYTES:

Sat. Dec. 12- 4:00PM- Alexandria Auerbeck, Alycia Auerbeck
Sun. Dec. 13- 8:00AM- Zoey Landeck, Amber Yasolsky
Sun. Dec. 13- 11:00AM- Nathan Ringkamp, Keaton Swope

LECTORS:

Sat. Dec. 12- 4:00PM- Kathleen Heller, Heather Nackley
Sun. Dec. 13- 8:00AM- Cora Bacon, Joyce Cunningham
Sun. Dec. 13- 11:00AM- Paul Dennis, Richard Karcher

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Sat. Dec. 12- 4:00PM- Barb Aubrey, Connie Baker, Jenna Jenkins, Bill Stokan
Sun. Dec. 13- 8:00AM- Darlene Scarpaci, Fran Semelsberger
Sun. Dec. 13- 11:00AM- Walter Bloom, Cecelia Bloom, Bill Foose, Norma Foose, Ann Mingyar, Susanna Tomlinson

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY:

Sat. Dec. 12- 4:00PM- Coleen Langguth, David Langguth, John Lloyd, Betsy Lloyd
Sun. Dec. 13- 8:00AM- Daniel Roberts, Judy Roberts, Dan Turcovsky, Diane Turcovsky
Sun. Dec. 13- 11:00AM- Marilyn Bevan, Wendy Campbell, Lou Ann Clark, Not Filled

Sacristan:

Sat. Dec. 12- 4:00PM- Kathleen Heller
Sun. Dec. 13- 8:00AM- Ron Cunningham, Joyce Cunningham
Sun. Dec. 13- 11:00AM- Marilyn Bevan

MASS SCHEDULE:

**MON., TUES., THURS. FRIDAY: 8:30AM
WEDNESDAY: 6:00PM
SATURDAY: 4:00PM
SUNDAY: 8:00AM; 11:00AM**

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UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Dec. 13th- Advent Christmas Concert
Dec. 27th- Brunch for feast of St. John the Evangelist
May 14th- Love Feast

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ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH AT 4:00PM IN THE CHURCH.

A Few Words from the Pastor:

Advent Penance Service - There is no better preparation for Christmas AND for the Year of Mercy than the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance. **Our Advent Penance Service will be held this Sunday, December 6th at 4:00 PM.** The daylight hour will be much more convenient for those who have difficulty getting out in the dark!

Looking Ahead to the Holy Day - On December 8th, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Pope Francis will inaugurate our special Year of Mercy. Masses for the Feast are on Monday, December 7th at 5:30PM, and Tuesday, December 8th at 8:30AM and 6:30 PM. This is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Year of Mercy Begins - The Feast of the Immaculate Conception marks the opening of the Jubilee Year of Mercy. In the words of Pope Francis: *Dear brothers and sisters, I have often thought of how the Church may render more clearly her mission to be a witness to mercy; and we have to make this journey. It is a journey which begins with spiritual conversion. Therefore, I have decided to announce an Extraordinary Jubilee which has at its center the mercy of God. It will be a Holy Year of Mercy. We want to live in the light of the word of the Lord: "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful" (cf. Lk 6:36)*

Family Life Calendars for 2015 - 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.

Matching Grant of \$15,000 - Our parish has received a generous matching grant of \$15,000! To receive this grant, we must match it. All in the parish will receive a letter to this effect, inviting your response. Because this grant is earmarked for the 2015 Annual Catholic Appeal, all donations will be exempt from the usual diocesan tax on income. Please be generous! When we reach \$15,000, our gifts double in value! This End of the Year Appeal will be most helpful in enabling us to keep a balanced budget! Our heartfelt gratitude for all that you are able to do!

Apostleship of Prayer - We make available again this year the calendar of Papal Intentions for the Apostleship of Prayer for 2016. With a vision of the church which is much broader than our own, Pope Francis invites us each month to pray for a General Intention and also for a Missionary Intention. We ask that you keep these special needs of our world in your daily prayer!

Our Lady of Guadalupe - Saturday the church universal remembers the beloved Lady of Guadalupe, who appeared to Saint Juan Diego on Tepayac hill in Mexico. When sharing this story with the local bishop, Juan Diego opened his tunic and dropped the roses that he had gathered on the hill, and the miraculous image of the Blessed Virgin was on the inside of his tunic. Within six years of this apparition, six million Aztecs had converted to Catholicism. Her image graces the front of our bulletin this week.

Second Sunday Food Collection - Remember that next Sunday is the second Sunday of the month. Your continuing generosity for the needy of our community is a beautiful testimony to you faithful discipleship of Jesus.

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December

Prayer Intentions of Pope Francis

Experiencing God's Mercy

That all may experience the mercy of God, who never tires of forgiving.

Families

That families, especially those who suffer, may find in the birth of Jesus a sign of certain hope.

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Our Next Bus Trip: The Pennsylvania Farm Show - We've all seen it on TV, but there is nothing like an actual visit to the PA Farm Show! Mark your calendars for **Thursday, January 14.** Pennsylvania hosts the largest indoor agricultural exposition in the nation, with nearly 6,000 animals, 10,000 competitive exhibits and 300 commercial exhibits. This will be the 100th annual Farm Show! There is no cost for admission, with an amazing food court to satisfy all your culinary desires! The cost for transportation is only \$40 for adults, and our school children will travel free. Sign up now in the Gathering Space!

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Parish Pastoral Council Minutes--

Please note that the minutes from each parish council meeting are published for all parishioners to review. These are posted on the **STJOHNSWEB.NET** church website under Committees > Parish Council Minutes. Printed copies are available under the parish council member photos on the left kiosk in the gathering space. The minutes publication is delayed one month so that they may be approved by the council at the following meeting before general distribution.

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LOST KEYS: THERE WERE KETYS FOUND IN THE CAFETERIA TWO WEEKENDS AGO. THEY ARE BMW KEYS WITH A SHEETZ CARD AND THREE OTHER KEYS. PLEASE STOP BY THE OFFICE.

Social Committee December Events: On December 13th there will be a reception in Father Bailey Hall, immediately following the Advent of Christmas Choirs Concert. Please sign-up on the kiosk in the gathering space indicating what you'd like to contribute.

On **Sunday, December 27th** there will be a brunch served between the morning Masses in honor of our patron saint, St. John the Evangelist. Since the feast falls on a Sunday this year, the liturgy will reflect the Sunday worship. Watch for a sign-up sheet on a kiosk in the gathering space. Thank you

Ministry Scheduling: It is time to begin scheduling our liturgical ministries for January through March. (This may seem early but many of us will be quite busy at Christmas.)

There are forms available in the gathering space for the next three months for those of you **who do not have access to the internet**. (If you have internet access please update your profile online.)

Please fill out one and return it by **Sunday, December 13th**.

Family members can fill out one card front and back.

For those who have access to the internet and are not quite sure about how to login, instructions are included in the email recently sent to you.

Remember that we need you to tell us **when you are not available**.

Advent of Christmas Concert: Mark your calendars now and plan on attending the Advent of Christmas Concert here on Sunday, December 13 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 of the traditional songs and carols. 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.



**FRESH HOLLY TRIMMINGS
NEEDED**

Do you have holly bushes in your yard??

Religious Ed is looking for some fresh holly to use in our live advent wreaths.

Please drop any clippings in the labeled box in the gathering space anytime from Nov 29-Dec 4th. THANK YOU!!

Take a Break from Winter: If you would like to enjoy Caribbean warmth for a week this winter, join us on a trip to Sts. Peter and Paul in Haiti. Approximate dates are January 27 to February 3, 2016. Accommodations are comfortable and the food is very good. No special skills are required; just a willingness to be present to our Haitian brothers and sisters, but if you have some sewing, knitting, crocheting knowledge we can use your help.

Two veterinarians, Matt Stachmus and Shawn Orzcek, will continue their work from last year.

Cost is the airfare and personal travel expenses. Tetanus and hepatitis shots are required. Malaria prevention pills and antibiotics can be prescribed by your doctor.

If you have even the smallest interest to join us, please get in touch with Monsignor Becker or Mary Lee Madigan-Davis, 931-2651, mlmdcreek@aol.com

2nd Sunday Food Collection: 10 Things Food Banks Need but Wont Ask for: Some items are in high demand at the food bank and you may not realize it. Because they aren't essentials, the staff doesn't publicly ask for them. A survey asked volunteers what items people would be most appreciative of and we've listed the top 10 below: **spices, feminine products, chocolate, toiletries, canned meats, crackers and tortillas, baby toiletries, soup packets, socks, canned fruit other than pineapple.**

It can be a humiliating experience to visit a pantry, and it can make you feel very much less than. So to get a treat of some sort just really makes a difference. And believe me - there are enough loaves of bread, cans of fruit, and dried beans to go around at these places. You won't be starving someone by donating some microwave popcorn or chocolate chips now and again. I promise!

Many blessings to you for your support of those in need.

Save the Dates!

Please note the following dates for the remainder of this year and for 2016. 2016 ACA Announcement (2nd Sunday in Lent) February 21 ACA Commitment (3rd Sunday in Lent) February 28

Angel Tree Bulletin Announcements 2015

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 on December 11th. Thank you for being an angel.

Angel Tree: Our Angel Tree is located in the gathering space starting November 21, 2015. If you would like to participate this year, please take a tag, purchase the gift described and return the gift **and the tag** to the church **no later than Thursday December 10th**. We deliver on Friday, December 11th so that we have time to prepare the church for Christmas. Thank you for your continued support. There will be a special box near the angel tree to collect script that you buy for angel tree families.

Elves Needed: Anyone interested in sorting food or wrapping gifts should meet at the church on Tuesday December 1st and Tuesday December 8th at 7PM (after mass). If you plan to wrap, please bring scissors. Food will be sorted for families on December 10th from 6PM to 8PM. Drivers needed to deliver gifts. We will be delivering gifts on Friday December 11th from 10:00 AM until Noon. Call Susanna at 317-7531 if you are able to help with delivery.

ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL

Poinsettia & Wreath Sale- St. John's School will be selling poinsettias & wreaths before & after all masses the weekend of Dec. 12 & 13 in the school gym. Rozick's Greenhouse in Tyrone will once again be providing these beauties and will generously give a percentage of all sales to the school. Please support this St. John's School fundraiser and decorate your home or gift a loved one with a poinsettia

HONOR ROLLS

The principal and staff of St. John the Evangelist School proudly announce the honor rolls for the 1st quarter.

HIGH HONORS:

Grade 8 - Mary Shanoudy
Grade 7 - Jadie Litzinger
Grade 6 - Danielle Mueller
Grade 5 -

HONORS:

Grade 8 - Anna Dick, Gianna Marcelli, Annie Markel, Samantha Peterson
Grade 7 - Piper Brunhuber, Julie Resick, Amber Yasolsky
Grade 6 - Alexis Starr
Grade 5 - Drew Abraham

Sunday, December 6, 2015

SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

Sun. Dec. 6th- 2nd Sunday in Advent

8:00AM- Mass for *People of the Parish*

11:00AM- Mass for *Butch Litzinger*

4:00PM- Parish Penance Service

6:30PM - Lectionary Based Faith Sharing

Mon. Dec. 7th- Vigil of Immaculate Conception

7:30AM- Eucharistic Adoration

8:15AM- Morning Prayer

8:30AM- Mass for *Peggy Harber* requested by Jean Trybus

5:30PM- Mass for *Edward Szczepanik*

Tues. Dec. 8th- Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:30AM- Eucharistic Adoration

8:15AM- Morning Prayer

8:30AM- Mass for *Butch Litzinger* requested by Abraham Family

6:30PM- Mass for *People of the Parish*

Wed. Dec. 9th- Advent Weekday

5:00PM- Confessions

6:00PM- Mass for *Tom Guttadauro* requested by Mary & Ray King

Thurs. Dec. 10th- Advent Weekday

7:30AM- Eucharistic Adoration

8:15AM- Morning Prayer

8:30AM- Mass for *Jerry Bowmaster* requested by Sharon Bowmaster & Family

Friday Dec. 11th- Advent Weekday

7:30AM- Eucharistic Adoration

8:15AM- Morning Prayer

8:30AM- Mass for *Richard Leiden* requested by Adam & Rose Leiden

Sat. Dec. 12th- Vigil of 3rd Sunday in Advent

3:00PM- Confessions

4:00PM- Mass for *Leroy Musselman* requested by Anna & Family

Sun. Dec. 13th- 3rd Sunday in Advent

8:00AM- Mass for *People of the Parish*

11:00AM- Mass for *Fr. Joseph Strittmatter* requested by Paul & Kathy Vincent

6:30PM - Lectionary Based Faith Sharing

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Weekday Readings

Mon. Dec. 7- Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26

Tues. Dec. 8- Is 61:10, Gn 3:9-15, 20/689; Lk 1:26-38

Wed. Dec. 9- Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30

Thurs. Dec. 10- Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15

Fri. Dec. 11- Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19

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