

APPOINTMENTS

ACOLYTES:

- Sat. Jan. 7 - 4:00 PM - Caitlin Conigy, Tyler Conigy
Sun. Jan. 8 - 8:00 AM - Mai Linh Do, Nate Rudolph
Sun. Jan. 8 - 11:00 AM - Cherie Langenbacher, Makayla Langenbacher

LECTORS:

- Sat. Jan. 7 - 4:00 PM - Mark Sloan, Victor Rizzo**
Sun. Jan. 8 - 8:00 AM - Ronan Adams, Fran Semelsberger
Sun. Jan. 8 - 11:00 AM - Donna Moyer, Patrick Schurr

EUCARISTIC MINISTERS:

- Sat. Jan. 7 - 4:00 PM - Bill Stokan, Jenna Jenkins
Sun. Jan. 8 - 8:00 AM - Daniel Turcovsky, Diane Turcovsky
Sun. Jan. 8 - 11:00 AM - Paula Adams, Susanna Tomlinson,
Lou Ann Clark, Ginger Cooney, David Petrak, Mary Petrak

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY:

- Sat. Jan. 7 - 4:00 PM - Billy Sweet, Heather Nackley, Dennis Moughemer, Karen Moughemer

Sun. Jan. 8 - 8:00 AM - Mary Truesdale, Mary Grace Horton, Jane Becker, John Becker

Sun. Jan. 8 - 11:00 AM - Dolores Capriotti, Anna Podoletz, Patrick Podoletz, Marilyn Bevan,

SACRISTAN:

- Sat. Jan. 7 - 4:00 PM - Ron & Joyce Cunningham
Sun. Jan. 8 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci
Sun. Jan. 8 - 11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy**

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

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- January 2** - Parish Office closed.
 - January 16** - Parish Office closed.
 - March 1** - Ash Wednesday/Lenten Soup Supper
 - March 11** - Love Feast

JANUARY 1, 2017
SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
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OF GOD
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309 LOTZ AVENUE
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WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE:

MONDAY•TUESDAY•THURSDAY•FRIDAY: 8:30AM

WEDNESDAY: 6:00PM

SATURDAY: 4:00PM

SUNDAY: 8:00AM•11:00AM



A Few Words from the Pastor:

Many Thanks! Our celebration of the Nativity of the Lord was splendid, made even more so by the choir, those who decorated the church, and all those who exercised liturgical ministries for the feast. Many thanks as well to those who purchased flowers for the altar. Our poinsettias were the most beautiful in memory. May the spirit of the season remain with us throughout the New Year!

Creating a Culture of Encounter – National Migration Week begins next Sunday. For nearly a half century, the Catholic Church in the United States has celebrated National Migration Week, which is an opportunity for the Church to reflect on the circumstances confronting migrants, including immigrants, refugees, children, and victims and survivors of human trafficking. The theme for National Migration Week 2017 draws attention to Pope Francis' call to create a culture of encounter, and in doing so to look beyond our own needs and wants to those of others around us.

Praying for Christian Unity – Later this month, from January 18-25, we will be observing the *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*. There has never been a time in our history when Christian need to be united and speaking with one voice, especially in the face of persecutions in the Middle East and in response to the rampant materialism in our own culture. This is an urgent mission for Pope Francis, as it should be for all of us!

Adult Ed to Resume – Our Adult Ed program continues next Sunday, January 8, as we welcome again Bishop Robert Barron, with a new series entitled “Pivotal Players.” This 12 week series will illuminate the contribution of some of Catholicism’s greatest saints, artists and writers. It will include Saint Francis of Assisi (where we will begin) and Saint Catherine of Siena, St. Thomas Aquinas and Blessed John Henry Newman, Michelangelo and G.K. Chesterton. This is a program you will not want to miss!

THE SECOND SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION will occur next weekend, JANUARY 7-8. The end of the month, winter weather, & a holiday season all combine to make survival more difficult for impoverished families, so please be generous. Also, there is a new 2017 sign-up sheet on the kiosk for families & persons willing to transport bags of food to 1 of the 7 area food banks. Details, including contact phone numbers, are on the sheets attached to the sign-up sheet.



FEED THE HUNGRY

Our American Saints – This week we will celebrate two American saints who have touched the lives of the people of our diocese. Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, whose memory we observe on January 4, was the founder of the Sisters of Charity, who for many years have had a presence in our diocese.



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
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Saint John Neumann, the bishop of Philadelphia in the



19th century, visited a number of our parishes when we were part of that diocese. Each of these American Saints are honored with a “more than life-size” statue on the front of our Cathedral.

Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church - St. Basil was a brilliant student born of a Christian family in Caesarea, Cappadocia (Turkey). For some years, he followed the monastic way of life. He became Bishop of Caesarea in 370. The monks of the Eastern Church today still follow the monastic rules which he set down. St. Gregory was also from Cappadocia. A friend of Basil, he too followed the monastic way of life for some years. He was ordained priest and in 381 became Bishop of Constantinople. These men are particularly celebrated by our Byzantine brothers and sisters, but for every Catholic represent the richness of the “Eastern Fathers.”

January Prayer Intention of Pope Francis

CHRISTIAN UNITY

That all Christians may be faithful to the Lord's teaching by striving with prayer and fraternal charity to restore ecclesial communion and by collaborating to meet the challenges facing humanity.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:29 -- 3:6; Jn 1:29-34

Wednesday: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Jn 1:35-42

Thursday: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-28
[23, 31-34, 36, 38]



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Religious Education Schedule

January 1 NO CLASS...New Year Blessings

January 8 Classes resume 9:15-10:45

9th Grade Confirmation Retreat

Saturday January 7th 9am-1pm in school gym.

The retreat is for students and parent

11th Grade Confirmation Retreat

Saturday January 14th at St Francis University

On January 14/15, please welcome Rev. John D. Kirwin, who will be with us to celebrate Masses and tell us about the work of Unbound, a lay Catholic sponsorship ministry that helps children and elderly in 20 developing countries. To learn more, call (800) 875-6564 or visit Unbound online at www.unbound.org.

Now is an excellent time to join one of the choirs we have at St. John's. Please join us for rehearsal this week.

Adult Choir rehearses every Wednesday evening at 7:00 and sings at the 11:00 Mass on Sunday. There is no audition and you do not need to know how to read music.

Children's Choir rehearsals are held on Sunday evenings from 6:00 - 7:00 PM. Students in grades 1 through 8 are welcome to sing in the choir.

Children's Handbell Choir is new this year. The choir will rehearse on Thursdays from 6:00 to 7:00 and is open to students in grades 3 through 12.

Adult Handbell Choir rehearses on Thursdays from 7:15 to 8:30. No bell experience is necessary; reading music is a great help, but isn't absolutely required. No auditions, no pressure, just a lot of fun! If you love music, but can't sing, this could be the musical opportunity for you! (If you love music and you can sing, you're also welcome.)

Instrumentalists: We are also looking to add several more instrumentalists to our growing group of talented musicians. If you play an instrument and would like to play at mass, contact Debbie Johnson.

New cantors are always welcome. Training is provided and you may schedule your own times to cantor. Students are also welcome to cantor!

If you can't attend rehearsal this week or for more information, call Debbie Johnson at 931-2867. You can also email her at dj219@msn.com.

Heads up!!! The 100th Anniversary of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, Lakemont, will be here before we know it - July 1, 2021. Four and a half years! So if you come across any old photos or artifacts, especially from the original church, please save them for our celebration!



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:

**Terri Schneider
Francis Bean (father of Mary Petrak)
May they rest in the peace and joy of the Lord.**

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.

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.

STEWARSHIP CORNER

"And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." Luke 2:19

Mary is the perfect role model for living a stewardship lifestyle. She listened to God and said "yes" to His invitation to be the Holy Mother of His son. She also trusted in God's providence on a daily basis. As we start a new year, take time every day to listen to how God is calling you; trust that He has a better plan for you than you could ever imagine.

LITURGICAL REFLECTION: Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God This feast has had several names through history. Strangely, the title that is most confusing to non-Catholics is the official one. When we call Mary the Mother of God, we are not saying that she somehow preceded God or is equal to God. We are simply recognizing that her human son Jesus is also the divine Son of God. Today's Gospel records one simple action of Mary: to keep these things in her heart. Even in this simple sentence we are given a good example of being a disciple. Like Mary, we need to both keep, or remember, what God has done, and to reflect on what we remember. First, how much do we remember about what God has done for us? How well do we know the stories of salvation found in the scriptures? Do we recall the prayers God has answered, the guidance given, the love of God that others have shown us, the times God has forgiven us? Second, how much do we reflect on what God has done? Even if we have many memories of God's goodness to us, we also need to pray over them and ask ourselves how we have changed because of what God has done. Do I forgive hurts more readily? Do I share my faith with my family or friends? Do I support my parish with my time or offerings? Let us ask God's help to imitate Mary by remembering and reflecting.
Tom Schmidt, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.

SACRAMENTS CLASS This 8 week course will focus on an understanding of the Sacraments today. All are welcome! 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. To register, contact Marybeth at 814-361-2000 or by email at mheinze@dioceseaj.org.

ECUMENICAL SERVICES: On Sunday, January 22, 2017, Bishop Mark Bartchak of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown will host an ecumenical service at Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, One Cathedral Square, Altoona, Pennsylvania. The service begins at 2:00 PM and all are invited to participate .
On Sunday, January 29, 2017, Bishop Michael Rhyne of the Lutheran tradition will host an ecumenical service at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, 1000 Scalp Avenue (Richland), Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Bishop Mark Bartchak will be in attendance. The service begins at 2:00 P.M.

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

Sunday January 1 - Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

8:00AM-Mass for *Thomas Rentz* requested by
Ron & Betty Peschock

11:00AM-Mass for *Joan & Leonard Farrell* requested by
Rich & Joyce Lowe

Monday January 2 - St. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

7:30AM-Eucharistic Adoration
8:10AM-Morning Prayer
8:30AM- Mass for *Joseph Szarwark*

Tuesday January 3 - Christmas Weekday

7:30AM-Eucharistic Adoration
8:10AM-Morning Prayer
8:30AM-Mass for *Therese Schneider* requested by
Ray & Patt Keith

Wednesday January 4 - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

5:00PM-Confessions
6:00PM-Mass for *Sister Mary Ann Palko* requested by
Barbara Bundy

Thursday January 5 - St. John Neumann, Bishop

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

Friday January 6 - Christmas Weekday

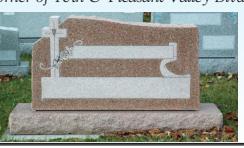
7:30AM-Eucharistic Adoration
8:10AM-Morning Prayer
8:30AM-Mass for the Faithful

Saturday January 7 - Vigil of The Epiphany of the Lord

4:00PM-Mass for *Danny Roberto* requested by
Marian Monios and family

Sunday January 8 - The Epiphany of the Lord

8:00AM-Mass for *People of the Parish*
11:00AM-Mass for *Francis Bean* requested by
Guido & Debbie Santella

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