

# ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH

309 LOTZ AVE  
ALTOONA, PA 16602

33RD SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME

NOVEMBER 15, 2015

Heaven and earth will pass away. but my  
words will not pass away.  
-Mark 13:31

## PASTORAL STAFF:

- Msgr. Michael Becker- mbecker253@aol.com
- Deacon Gene Neral- gene@lifeinfocus.net
- Ms. Tabatha Griffin- stjohncatholic@atlanticbb.net
- Mr. Mark Krepich-RCIA & Parish Council President- mark.krepich@gmail.com
- Mrs. Deb Johnson-Music Director- dj219@msn.com
- Mr. Bill & Mrs. Norma Foose-Stephen Ministry- norma.foose@yahoo.com
- Mrs. Heather Reimer- Business Manager- stjohncatholic@atlanticbb.net
- Mrs. Lindsay Reffner- Admin. Assistant- stjohncatholicsecretary@atlanticbb.net
- Mrs. Mary Haenig- Religious Education Dir- mshaenig@gmail.com
- Mrs. Mary Petrak- Confirmation- mfpetrak@hotmail.com
- Mr. Ken Dunmire, Maintenance



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## UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- Nov. 21st- Fall Grounds Clean Up
- Nov. 22nd- First Reconciliation Retreat
- Dec. 6th- Parish Penance Service
- Dec. 13th- Advent Christmas Concert
- May 14th- Love Feast

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## APPOINTMENTS

### ACOLYTES:

- Sat. Nov. 21- 4:00PM- Tyler Conigy, Caitlin Conigy
- Sun. Nov. 22- 8:00AM- Danielle Miller, Ethan Miller
- Sun. Nov. 22- 11:00AM- Keaton Swope, Matthew Woolridge

### LECTORS:

- Sat. Nov. 21- 4:00PM- Joyce Cunningham, John Lloyd
- Sun. Nov. 22- 8:00AM- Tim Rea, Tom Robison
- Sun. Nov. 22- 11:00AM- Bob Olson, Patrick Schurr

### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

- Sat. Nov. 21- 4:00PM- Connie Baker, Kathleen Heller, Mary Petrak, David Petrak
- Sun. Nov. 22- 8:00AM- Francene Boland, Fran Semelsberger
- Sun. Nov. 22- 11:00AM- Marilyn Bevan, Barb Bundy, Mary Dennis, Paul Dennis, Susanna Tomlinson, Steve Wilson

### MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY:

- Sat. Nov. 21- 4:00PM- Barb Aubrey, Lori Ginter, Peg Madden, Hedy Zumsteg
- Sun. Nov. 22- 8:00AM- Ray Kennedy, Charlie Moore, Ginny Reeder, Darlene Scarpaci
- Sun. Nov. 22- 11:00AM- Walter Bloom, Wendy Campbell, Dee Capriotti, Lou Ann Clark

### Sacristan:

- Sat. Nov. 21- 4:00PM- Ron Cunningham, Joyce Cunningham
- Sun. Nov. 22- 8:00AM- Michele DeFrancisco
- Sun. Nov. 22- 11:00AM- Dee Capriotti

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**Look at the Eyes!** The logo for the Year of Mercy has been designed in such a way so as to express the profound way in which the Good Shepherd touches the flesh of humanity and does so with a love with the power to change one's life. One particular feature worthy of note is that while the Good Shepherd, in his great mercy, takes humanity upon himself, his eyes are merged with those of man. Christ sees with the eyes of Adam, and Adam with the eyes of Christ. Every person discovers in Christ, the new Adam, one's own humanity and the future that lies ahead, contemplating, in his gaze, the love of the Father.

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## MASS SCHEDULE:

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

## A Few Words from the Pastor:

**Our Parish, Thankful, and Looking Forward** - There have been many hundreds of Catholic schools across the States which have closed in the past ten years, but it is only when it is our own that we feel the sharp pain of loss. We have had a long and storied tradition of parish-based Catholic education here at St. John's, and there are very strong bonds of affection which we have for our school and our teachers. However, the hard realities of the increasing cost of parish-based parochial schools, as well as a declining population in the Altoona area, have brought us to the painful but necessary consolidation of schools. I am convinced, however, that such a consolidation in the Altoona area is the surest way that quality Catholic education will remain available and affordable. The formation of a middle school for the city, as well as the strengthening of our remaining elementary schools, will continue to provide the highest quality of Catholic education for parents who desire that for their children. We will do our best here at St. John's to make the transitions as smooth as possible. I am reminded of those beautiful words of Dag Hammarskjöld in his book Markings: *"For all that is been, Thank You! For all that will be, Yes!"*

**God in America** - We continue our Adult Ed presentation on how "religious liberty shaped America." How did Christianity come to our shores? Who were all these different denominations and why were they coming to America? Using as our resource a PBS Frontline documentary, we will be given an interesting and informative history of religion in America. As we draw near to Thanksgiving, this will be most fitting! Please join us!

**Preparing for the Year of Mercy** - On December 8<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Pope Francis will inaugurate a special Year of Mercy. The logo on the front of the bulletin captures the theme of this year, "Merciful like the Father." A large banner will be placed in the near our sanctuary as a daily reminder of the call to mercy which is given to us. In the Gathering Space we will have a series of banners which will keep us attentive to this theme. There will be a variety of ways that we will be observing this Holy Year in 2016. Stay tuned!

**Advent Penance Service** - There is no better preparation for Christmas AND for the Year of Mercy than the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance. We have scheduled our Advent Penance Service for **Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM**. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS! The daylight hour will be much more convenient for those who have difficulty getting out in the dark!

**Saint of the Week** - St. Elizabeth of Hungary was only 24 years of age when she died in 1231. In her short life, however, Elizabeth manifested such great love for the poor and suffering that she has become the patroness of Catholic Charities and of the Secular Franciscan Order. The daughter of the King of Hungary, Elizabeth chose a life of penance and asceticism when a life of leisure and luxury could easily have been hers. This choice endeared her in the hearts of the common people throughout Europe.

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## November

### Prayer Intentions of Pope Francis

#### Dialogue

That we may be open to personal encounter and dialogue with all, even those whose convictions differ from our own.

#### Pastors

That pastors of the Church, with profound love for their flocks, may accompany them and enliven their hope.

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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](http://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.

**FALL GROUNDS CLEAN-UP:** You will notice a sign-up sheet on the kiosk to finish trimming & leaf raking (bringing a leaf blower, if you have 1, would be a good idea) on **Saturday, November 21 from 9 am to noon**. We plan to have pizza & soda in the cafeteria afterward. For religious education/confirmation students, you will be able to earn service hours.

**Love Feast update:** Our committee concluded that we won't have sufficient prep. time nor volunteers to hold a Love Feast in January, so our next 1 will be May 14.

**Second Collection for Catholic Charities:** For 75 years, Catholic Charities has helped our neighbors throughout Central PA regardless of faith or background. 100% of contributions received through next weekend's second collection will directly help your neighbors in need. Please return your Catholic Charities envelope or make your gift online at [www.catholiccharities.org](http://www.catholiccharities.org). Thank you for helping Catholic Charities of Altoona-Johnstown to reduce poverty in communities throughout the diocese.

### **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 11<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for being an angel.

**Calling all angels at St. John's** to be on the lookout for families that need help during the Christmas Season. If you know someone in our parish, your family or a neighbor who may need help please call Susanna at 317-7531 or call the church at 942-5503 and leave their name and number. Susanna will call and talk to them. Deadline is Wednesday November 18, 2015. No names will be taken after November 18<sup>th</sup>. The Angel Tree will be ready November 21, 2015 for those who want to shop on Black Friday.

**Thanksgiving Offering:** Can goods and non-perishable food items will be collected during a special offerings at Wednesday Evening Mass November 25, and Thursday morning mass, November 26. Special boxes decorated by the school children will be at the altar. Families are asked to bring their offerings to mass. All donations will be used for the Christmas families in our Angel Tree project.

**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 10<sup>th</sup>. We deliver on Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7PM (after mass). If you plan to wrap, please bring scissors. Food will be sorted for families on December 10<sup>th</sup> from 6PM to 8PM. Drivers needed to deliver gifts. We will be delivering gifts on Friday December 11<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM until Noon. Call Susanna at 317-7531 if you are able to help with delivery.

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:**

### **First Reconciliation Retreat**

November 22nd from 1-2:30pm

We will begin in school

Also can you tell me where I find out if we have a copy of the 2nd graders baptismal record. I need to make sure they were all baptized before they receive this next sacrament.

### **CONFIRMATION:**

**VOLUNTEER NEEDED:** Right here in our parish we have many opportunities to Evangelize! We are in need of a team member for 9<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation. Our 9<sup>th</sup> grade team will follow the class through their 11<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation. Each year our Confirmation students meet 2-3 times on Sunday for a Confirmation session. They also have a retreat and a group service project. Team members are needed to be part of small group discussions at our sessions. You would not be responsible for planning the sessions, and do not have to be present at every activity. Thank you for prayerfully considering this important ministry to our youth.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

**Sun., Nov. 22, 10:45-2:15,** Rite of Blessing at Mass and Confirmation Session for all 9<sup>th</sup> graders

**Contact Mary Petrak, 201-2982 or 502-6076,  
mfpetrak@hotmail.com**

### **St. John the Evangelist School**

#### **Scrip Program**

#### **Cash Receipts and Disbursements Report For the Four Months Ending October 2015**

##### Receipts

Inventory Sales	\$191,931.20
PrestoPay profit	\$ 291.55
	\$192,222.75

##### Disbursements

Purchases	\$ 177,803.40
School Subsidy	\$ 10,000.00
Credit Card Fees	\$ 394.63
Other Misc. Exp	20.70
	\$ 188,218.73

Excess of Receipts over Disbursements	\$4,004.02
Cash Balance as of 10/31/2015	\$6,868.36
Inventory @ Market Value	\$29,702.23

**Any questions, please call Matt & Alicia Reilly at 943-6875.**

## Stewardship at St. John's

### OFFERTORY for November 8, 2015

Loose: \$524.00  
Envelope: \$6,668.00  
Children's: \$3.00  
Parish Development: \$210.00  
All Saints: \$90.00  
Catholic Charities: \$30.00  
All Souls: \$150.00  
Christmas Flowers: 20.00  
Christmas Offering: 30.00  
**Total: \$7,725.00**  
**Online Giving: \$2,618.00**  
**TOTAL: 10,343.00**  
**School Support: \$518.00**

**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.

### CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Students in Grades 1 - 8 who are interested in singing in the Children's Choir for the Advent/Christmas Concert are invited to attend rehearsal in the choir area of the church on Thursday, November 19 from 6:00 to 7:00. Rehearsal will also be held on Thursday, December 3 from 6:00 to 7:00. There will also be a combined rehearsal with the adult choir and handbell choir on Wednesday, December 9 from 7:15 to 8:15. A practice cd will be provided at the first rehearsal. The concert is on Sunday, December 13 at 7:00.

Please call Debbie Johnson (696-2683) for more information.

### OTHER NEWS:

- Mister Rogers' Neighborhood SWEATER DRIVE:** Hollidaysburg Area Public Library, Tuesday, November 17, 2015 at 6:30pm. Special Appearance by Mr. McFeely. Wear a sweater! Bring a sweater. Donations of coats, vests and other clothing to keep people and animals warm during the cold months. **DROP OFF PLACES ARE: ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL & CHURCH, HOLLIDAYSBURG LIBRARY, & HOLLIDAYSBURG YMCA.**

## Sunday, Nov. 15, 2015

### SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

**Sun. Nov. 15th- 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
8:00AM- Mass for *Ida Prosperi* requested by John Prosperi

11:00AM-Mass for *People of the Parish*  
6:30PM - Lectionary Based Faith Sharing

### **Mon. Nov. 16th- Weekday**

7:30AM- Eucharistic Adoration  
8:15AM- Morning Prayer  
8:30AM- Mass for *Nativita McHugh* requested by daughter, Melissa

### **Tues. Nov. 17th- Saint Elizabeth of Hungary**

7:30AM- Eucharistic Adoration  
8:15AM- Morning Prayer  
8:30AM- Mass for *Ralph Lowe*

### **Wed. Nov. 18th- Weekday**

6:00PM- Evening Prayer & Communion Service

### **Thurs. Nov. 19th- Weekday**

7:30AM- Eucharistic Adoration  
8:30AM- Mass for *Miss Karen Brooks* requested by Bernadine Farrell & Family

### **Friday Nov. 20th- Weekday**

7:30AM- Eucharistic Adoration  
8:15AM- Morning Prayer  
8:30AM- Mass for *Peggy Harber* requested by Savino Family

### **Sat. Nov. 21st- Vigil for Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**

3:00PM- Confessions  
4:00PM- Mass for *Frank Auerbeck* requested by Dave & Mary Petrak

### **Sun. Nov. 22nd- Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**

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. Nov. 16th- 1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63/Lk 18:35-43

Tues. Nov. 17th- 2 Mc 6:18-31/Lk 19:1-10

Wed. Nov 18th- Acts 28:11-16, 30-31/Mt 14:22-33

Thurs. Nov. 19th- 1 Mc 2:15-29/Lk 19:41-44

Fri. Nov. 20th- 1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59/Lk 19:45-48

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