

APPOINTMENTS

ACOLYTES:

Thurs. Nov. 24 - 9:00 AM - David Auerbeck, Piper Brunhuber
Sat. Nov. 26 - 4:00 PM - Kelsey Donoughe, Ryan Donoughe
Sun. Nov. 27 - 8:00 AM - Mai Linh Do, Ethan Miller
Sun. Nov. 27 - 11:00 AM - Amelia Partner, Matthew Woolridge

LECTORS:

Thurs. Nov. 24 - 9:00 AM - Francene Boland
Sat. Nov. 26 - 4:00 PM - Maria Spayd, not filled
Sun. Nov. 27 - 8:00 AM - Ronan Adams, Tim Rea
Sun. Nov. 27 - 11:00 AM - Donna Moyer, Gary Johnson

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Thurs. Nov. 24 - 9:00 AM - Kenneth Gorman, Pam Klobuka
Sat. Nov. 26 - 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, John Lloyd
Sun. Nov. 27 - 8:00 AM - Melissa McHugh, Fran Semelsberger
Sun. Nov. 27 - 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Dolores Capriotti,
Lou Ann Clark, Ginger Cooney, Bill Foose, Norma Foose

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY:

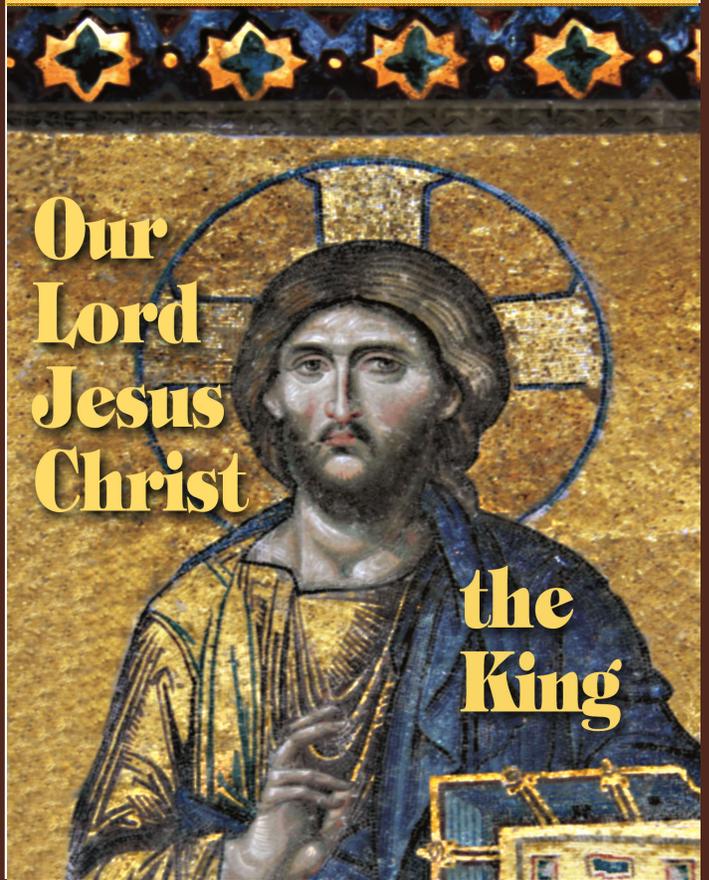
Thurs. Nov. 24 - 9:00 AM - Coleen Langguth, Lou Ann Clark
Sat. Nov. 26 - 4:00 PM - Betsy Lloyd, Christine Stachmus,
Denny Stachmus, Billy Sweet
Sun. Nov. 27 - 8:00 AM - Ed Stoltz, Mary Truesdale,
Larry VanSickel, Paula VanSickle
Sun. Nov. 27 - 11:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Anna Podoletz,
Patrick Podoletz, Wally Wargo

SACRISTAN:

Thurs. Nov. 24 - 9:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan
Sat. Nov. 26 - 4:00 PM - Ray & Mary King
Sun. Nov. 27 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci
Sun. Nov. 27 - 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan

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The Parish office will be closed Friday, November 25.



Pope Francis on Mercy – As the Holy Year ends, Pope Francis writes that *“if we stop to consider the love of Jesus toward sinners, the poor, the sick, the marginalized, and especially if we contemplate the passion and death on the cross, we will not find any other explanation than the manifestation of his mercy towards us. Fixing our prayerful gaze on Jesus Crucified it will be easier to follow and imitate him in our human affairs, even painful ones.”*



PASTORAL STAFF:

- Msgr. Michael Becker mbecker253@aol.com
- Deacon Gene Neral gene@lifeinfofocus.net
- Mr. Mark Krepich
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- Mrs. Deborah Johnson
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- Mr. & Mrs. Bill & Norma Foose
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- Mrs. Mary Haenig
Religious Education Director
mshaenig@gmail.com
- Mr. Ken Dunmire
Maintenance

A Few Words from the Pastor:

Thanksgiving Day Mass – All are encouraged to participate in the Eucharist at 9:00 AM on Thanksgiving Day. This is a secular holiday but with a very deep spiritual meaning. There is no better way to keep this Thanksgiving Day sacred than celebrating Mass with your parish family. All are invited to bring food items for the neediest in our community.



Follow-Up Sunday - "Take a Step"

Today we observe Commitment Sunday, when all are encouraged to "take a step" in responsible and generous stewardship. Next Sunday is our **Follow-Up Sunday**, as we continue to reach out to those who perhaps were

not present this weekend, or who did not remember to bring their Commitment Card. Remember, God will never be outdone in generosity.

Advent Begins – Next Sunday begins the sacred season of Advent. The Latin word *adventus* is the translation of the Greek word *parousia*, commonly used to refer to the Second Coming of Christ. For Christians, the season of Advent anticipates the coming of Christ from two different perspectives. The season offers the opportunity to share in the ancient longing for the coming of the Messiah, and to be alert for his Second Coming. Keep Christ in Christmas by keeping Christ in Advent.

Second Sunday Food Collection – Sincerest thanks to all who assisted with our Second Sunday Food Collection last weekend. We received an exceptionally generous response. All groceries will go toward providing for families identified for our Angel Tree. As noted last month, our financial gifts this month will go to the support of our families in Haiti so greatly affected by the latest Hurricane! Again, our heartfelt gratitude!

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

The Patroness of Music - At the center of the stained glass rose window in the back of the Cathedral is a woman saint who is holding a miniature organ. That is St. Cecelia, patroness of music, the martyr of the third century whose memory we observe on Tuesday, November 22nd. St. Cecilia is regarded as the patroness of music, because she heard heavenly music in her heart when she was married.

The Feast of the Presentation of Mary - Mary's presentation in the temple by her parents, Ann and Joachim, was first celebrated in Jerusalem in the sixth century. As with Mary's birth, we read of Mary's presentation in the temple only in apocryphal literature. The *Protoevangelium of James* tells us that Anna and Joachim offered Mary to God in the Temple when she was 3 years old. This was to carry out a promise made to God when Anna was still childless. Mary's presentation continues the impact of the feasts of the Immaculate Conception and of the birth of Mary. It emphasizes that the holiness conferred on Mary from the beginning of her life on earth continued through her early childhood and beyond.

Year of Mercy Ends – Today we bring to a close this amazing Year of Mercy. We praise God for the gift of Pope Francis, who has so beautifully demonstrated by his life and ministry that the name of God is Mercy. While this formal "Year" of Mercy comes to a close, we are reminded to commit ourselves to a "Lifetime" of Mercy.

OUR PARISH FAMILY ...Mary Haenig and her family moved to this area in May 2015 from the North Hills area of Pittsburgh, and she became the Director of Religious Education (DRE) for our parish 3 months later. Mary was previously the DRE at St Richard Parish in Gibsonia for 8 years. Her husband, Chuck, is the CFO at North American Communications in Duncansville. They have 2 daughters: Caitlin is a Physician Assistant in Columbus, Ohio, and Paige is a junior at Ohio Wesleyan University. Since becoming our DRE, Mary has added several new family-oriented features to the program. Three times a year there are programs held during the regular Religious Ed class time for the student and family



to participate in together, such as making Advent wreaths. She has also held family movie nights, and restarted a summer Bible School program in our parish. Mary and Chuck most often attend the 11:00 Mass, but sometimes attend at 4:00 on Saturday if Mary has no special duties during the Sunday Mass. When they first moved here and before becoming our DRE, Mary said they did some "church shopping", but kept coming back to St. John's as they felt it was "a very warm and welcoming place".

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE

November 20th Regular classes 9:15-10:45 (no 2nd grade class)

November 27th NO CLASS - Happy Thanksgiving

December 4th NO CLASS ...attend Family Advent at 9:15 in gym

FIRST RECONCILIATION RETREAT

November 20th 1:00-2:30pm in Gym
Students and parent are to attend.



10th GRADE CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Saturday Dec. 3rd at St Mary's Scout Camp
From 11am ending with Mass at 4pm

FAMILY ADVENT GATHERING

Sunday Dec. 4th 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!



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 gabby.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

Barb Neral • Ron Peschock • Bob & Mary Rajnish

Olga Romerowicz • Madison Shura

Terri Schneider • Patty Teufel

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:

Patricia Schuster (mother of Gia Dixon)

Michael B. Maher (brother of Joyce Villani)

Danny M. Roberto (son of Dorothy)

Barbara Burkholder (sister of Rose Leiden)

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

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

November 24 - 9:00 Thanksgiving Day Mass

November 24-25 Parish Office closed

Dec. 4 - 4:00 Parish Penance Service

Dec. 8 - Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Dec. 11 - 7:00 Advent of Christmas Concert

SCRIP NEWS Have you started purchasing scrip from St. John's? Here are several more reasons to shop with scrip:

- It reduces the chance that you will have your credit or debit card information stolen.
- Scrip is available 24/7 with enrollment in PrestoPay. Just go to www.shopwithscrip.com to enroll. St. John's enrollment code is E73D25C3842. Scrip can then be printed at home or sent to your smartphone via the MyScripWallet mobile scrip site.
- If you are already enrolled in ScripNow, sign in on Tuesday, November 22 for special bonuses and deals from retailers, just in time for Black Friday shopping. These bonuses are only available online on Tuesday, November 22.
- It helps you stay within your budget if you only spend what you have on your gift card.
- Earn gas points at Giant Eagle by purchasing Giant Eagle scrip from us and using it to buy additional gift cards in the store.
- Not sure what to give someone? St. John's Scrip Gift Certificates in any amount are available for purchase on the weekends.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER "Even though discipleship and stewardship set the necessary terms of Christian life in this world, they have their ultimate reward in another life." (Stewardship: A Disciple's Response, USCCB)

Stewardship at St. John's

OFFERTORY for November 13, 2016

Envelopes:	\$ 5,412.50
Loose:	\$ 619.00
Children's:	\$ 7.00
Parish Development	\$ 137.00
Catholic Charities	\$ 50.00
Catholic Education	\$ 50.00
India Mission	\$ 195.00
Total:	\$ 6,470.50
Online Giving:	\$ 1,540.00
TOTAL:	\$ 8,010.50

ACA update: \$50,975

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



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 and return the gift and the tag to the church no later than Sunday December 14th. There will be a special box near the angel tree to collect scrip that you buy for angel tree families.

THANKSGIVING OFFERING: Canned goods and non-perishable food items will be collected at the 6:00PM evening Mass this Wednesday, Nov. 23, and our 9:00AM Thanksgiving mass on Nov. 24. Families are asked to bring their offering to mass. All donations will be used for the Christmas families in our Angel Tree project.

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 on Tuesday, December 6th and Tuesday, December 13th at 7PM. If you plan to wrap, please bring scissors. Drivers are needed to deliver gifts on Friday December 16th from 9:00 AM until Noon. Call Susanna at 317-7531 if you are able to help with delivery.

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

Sunday November 20th - Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

8:00AM-Mass for *Anna & Leonard Kent* requested by Bob & Ginny Reeder

11:00AM-Mass for *John Despot* requested by Pam Wales

Monday November 21st – The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:30AM-Eucharistic Adoration

8:10AM-Morning Prayer

8:30AM- Mass for *Michael Maher* requested by Todd & Jane Carlin & Leslie

Tuesday November 22nd - St. Cecelia, Virgin

7:30AM-Eucharistic Adoration

8:10AM-Morning Prayer

8:30AM-Mass for *Jim Branagan*

Wednesday November 23rd - Weekday

5:00PM-Confessions

6:00PM-Mass for *Rose Marie Moczydlowski* requested by Barb Bundy

Thursday November 24th - Thanksgiving Day

9:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

Friday November 25th - Weekday

7:30AM- Eucharistic Adoration

8:30AM– Morning Prayer and Communion Service

Saturday November 26th – Vigil of 1st Sunday of Advent

3:00PM-Confessions

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

Sunday November 27th - 1st Sunday of Advent

8:00AM-Mass for *Dave English* requested by Bob & Ginny Reeder

11:00AM-Mass for *Lena Colyer* requested by Amelia Fedorico

THE FRIAR'S NOOK GIFT SHOP, 793 Monastery Road, Holidaysburg is open Monday - Friday from 10:00AM to 4:00PM. Various devotional items such as jewelry, medals, prayer books, etc. are available as well as Nativities, ornaments, Christmas cards and other holiday items.



For those who missed it before, Deacon Gene will be showing the video *Divine Mercy 101* on Sunday, November 20, at 6:30pm in the Parish Center.

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 on an as need basis. A trip in January is being discussed. *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.* For all the above please contact Mary Lee Madigan-Davis at mlmdcreek@aol.com or 814-931-2651.

ADVENT PROGRAM Sister Theresa will be offering Bishop Robert Barron's DVD on *Three Paths To Holiness* during the Advent season. It will be shown on Nov. 29, Dec. 6 and Dec. 13 from 6:30 to 8:00pm at St. Mary Church in Altoona. Please call Sister Theresa at 942-5747 if you plan to attend.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5; Lk 21:1-4

Tuesday: Rv 14:14-19; Lk 21:5-11

Wednesday: Rv 15:1-4; Lk 21:12-19

Thursday: Sir 50:22-24; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Lk 17:11-19

Friday: Rv 20:1-4, 11 -- 21:2; Lk 21:29-33





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