

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH

309 LOTZ AVE
ALTOONA, PA 16602

OUR LORD JESUS
CHRIST THE KING

NOVEMBER 22, 2015

*Jesus Christ is the faithful witness, the
firstborn of the dead and ruler of the kings
of the earth.*

PASTORAL STAFF:

- Msgr. Michael Becker- mbecker253@aol.com
- Deacon Gene Neral- gene@lifeinfocus.net
- Ms. Tabatha Griffin- stjohprincipal@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- stjohchurch@atlanticbb.net
- Mrs. Lindsay Reffner- Admin. Assistant- stjohsecretary@atlanticbb.net
- Mrs. Mary Haenig- Religious Education Dir- mshaenig@gmail.com
- Mrs. Mary Petrak- Confirmation- mfpetrak@hotmail.com
- Mr. Ken Dunmire, Maintenance

MASS SCHEDULE:

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



APPOINTMENTS

ACOLYTES:

Sat. Nov. 28- 4:00PM- Rachel Resick, Claire Resick
Sun. Nov. 29- 8:00AM- Zoey Landeck, Nate Rudolph
Sun. Nov. 29- 11:00AM- Cherie Langenbacher, Makayla Langenbacher

LECTORS:

Sat. Nov. 28- 4:00PM- David Langguth, Matt Michelone
Sun. Nov. 29- 8:00AM- David Andrews, Fran Semelsberger
Sun. Nov. 29- 11:00AM- Barb Bundy, Steve Wilson

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Sat. Nov. 28- 4:00PM- Barb Aubrey, Kathleen Heller, John Lloyd,
David Loth
Sun. Nov. 29- 8:00AM- Cora Bacon, Melissa McHugh
Sun. Nov. 29- 11:00AM- Marilyn Bevan, Ginger Cooney, Ken Gor-
man, Donna Moyer, Bob Olson, Jo-Ann Semko

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY:

Sat. Nov. 28- 4:00PM- Christine Stachmus, Denny Stachmus, Bill
Sweet, Wally Wargo
Sun. Nov. 29- 8:00AM- Mike O'Neill, Darlene Scarpaci, Larry
VanSickel, Paula VanSickel
Sun. Nov. 29- 11:00AM- Walter Bloom, Dee Capriotti, Lou Ann Clark,
Patrick Podoletz

Sacristan:

Sat. Nov. 28- 4:00PM- Mary King, Ray King
Sun. Nov. 29- 8:00AM- Darlene Scarpaci
Sun. Nov. 29- 11:00AM- Barb Bundy

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Nov. 22nd- First Reconciliation Retreat
Dec. 6th- Parish Penance Service
Dec. 13th- Advent Christmas Concert
May 14th- Love Feast

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.

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 by celebrating Mass with your parish family. All are invited to bring food items for the neediest in our community.

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 not only to share in the ancient longing for the coming of the Messiah, but also to be alert for his Second Coming. Keep Christ in Christmas by keeping Christ in Advent.

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 6th 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!

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 8th, 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!



The Advent Wreath - The keeping of an advent wreath is a common practice in homes or churches. The readings for the first Sunday in Advent relate to the Old Testament patriarchs who were Christ's ancestors, so some call the first advent candle the Candle of Hope. The readings for the second Sunday concern John the Baptist, the prophet and cousin of Jesus, so the candle may be called the candle of John the Baptist. The third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday (Let us rejoice!) after the first word of the second reading, and the candle may be considered the Candle of Joy. The readings for the fourth Sunday relate to the annunciation of Christ's birth, so the candle may be known as the Angel's candle. Keep this season holy!

+++++

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.

+++++

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.

+++++

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. Thank you for helping Catholic Charities of Altoona-Johnstown to reduce poverty in communities throughout the diocese.

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

Stewardship at St. John's

OFFERTORY for November 15, 2015

Loose: \$846.00
 Envelope: \$4,501.00
 Children's: \$0.00
 Parish Development: \$20.00
 Catholic Charities: \$232.00
 Christmas Flowers: 20.00
Total: \$5,619.00
Online Giving: \$2,018.00
TOTAL: \$7,637.00

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.

ALL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FAMILIES ARE TO ATTEND:

Parents and children will gather on Sunday December 6th at 9:15am in the school gym. Join in the fun as we learn about the symbolism in the advent wreath then make a live wreath and enjoy cookies and hot chocolate.



Family Advent Wreath Making!!



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!!

CONFIRMATION:

11th Grade Retreat: Thirteen of our 11th grade Confirmation candidates enjoyed an overnight retreat at Bethany Retreat Center in Frenchville. A huge thanks to Chris and Rich McKeon and Jim Krug for driving and chaperoning the event.

A reminder to all Confirmation Candidates: You are required to **complete 15 service hours** each year. Watch your e-mail for updates on service opportunities in the parish.

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.

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 18th. 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 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.

Sunday, Nov. 22, 2015

SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

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

Mon. Nov. 23rd- Weekday

7:30AM- Eucharistic Adoration

8:15AM- Morning Prayer

8:30AM- Mass for *Jim Branagan*

Tues. Nov. 24th- Saint Andrew Dung-Lac

7:30AM- Eucharistic Adoration

8:15AM- Morning Prayer

8:30AM- Mass for *Glen Noel & Joel Noel* requested by Jane Bryne

Wed. Nov. 25th- Weekday

5:00PM- Eucharistic Adoration

6:00PM- Mass for *Serena Stevens* requested by Paul & Kathy Vincent

Thurs. Nov. 26th- Thanksgiving Day

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

Friday Nov. 27th- Weekday

8:30AM- MORNING PRAYER & COMMUNION SERVICE

Sat. Nov. 28th- Vigil for 1st Sunday in Advent

3:00PM- Confessions

4:00PM- Mass for *Joseph Aungst Sr.* requested by Family

Sun. Nov. 29th-1st Sunday in Advent

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

11:00AM-Mass for *Lean Coyle* requested by Dan & Patty Rebar

6:30PM - Lectionary Based Faith Sharing

+++++

Weekday Readings

Mon. Nov. 23rd- Dn 1:1-6, 8-20/Lk 21:1-4

Tues. Nov. 24th- Dn 2:31-45/Lk 21:5-11

Wed. Nov 25th- Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28/Lk 21:12-19

Thurs. Nov. 26th- Dn 6:12-28/Lk 21:20-28

Fri. Nov. 27th- Dn 7:2-14/Lk 21:29-33

+++++