

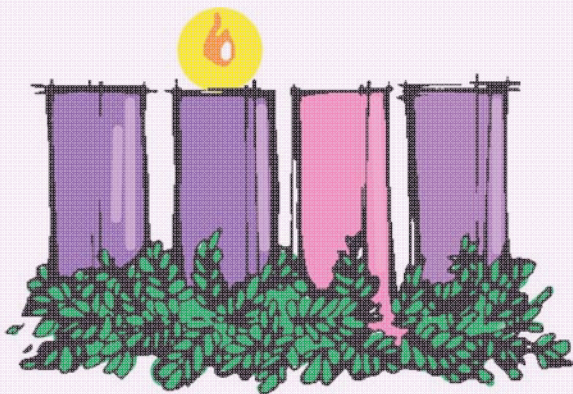
ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH

309 LOTZ AVE
ALTOONA, PA 16602

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 29, 2015

*I will raise up for David a just shoot; he
shall do what is right and just in the land.
-Jeremiah 33:15*



PASTORAL STAFF:

- Msgr. Michael Becker- mbecker253@aol.com
- Deacon Gene Neral- gene@lifeinfocus.net
- Ms. Tabatha Griffin- stjohnprincipal@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. Lindsay Reffner- Admin. Assistant- stjohnsecretary@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. Dec. 5- 4:00PM- Jack Donoughe, Kelsey Donoughe
Sun. Dec. 6- 8:00AM- Danielle Miller, Ethan Miller
Sun. Dec. 6- 11:00AM- Patrick Donoughe, Nick Rasmussen
Mon. Dec. 6- 5:30PM- Not Filled, Dustin Smith
Tues. Dec. 7- 6:30PM- Claire Resick, Rachel Resick

LECTORS:

Sat. Dec. 5- 4:00PM- Jenna Jenkins, Victor Rizzo
Sun. Dec. 6- 8:00AM- Tim Rea, Fran Semelsberger
Sun. Dec. 6- 11:00AM- Bill Foose, Norma Foose
Mon. Dec. 6- 5:30PM- Richard Consiglio, Joe Klobuka
Tues. Dec. 7- 6:30PM- Kathleen Heller, Donna Moyer

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Sat. Dec. 5- 4:00PM- Kathleen Heller, John Lloyd, Mary Petrak,
David Petrak
Sun. Dec. 6- 8:00AM- Fracene Boland, Joyce Cunningham
Sun. Dec. 6- 11:00AM- Walter Bloom, Cecelia Bloom, Lou Ann Clark,
Ginger Cooney, Ann Mingyar, Debbie Smith
Mon. Dec. 6- 5:30PM- Barb Bundy, Jo-Ann Semko
Tues. Dec. 7- 6:30PM- Barb Aubrey, Bob Olson

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY:

Sat. Dec. 5- 4:00PM- Connie Baker, Bill Stokan, Mary Frances Stokan,
Wally Wargo
Sun. Dec. 6- 8:00AM- Ray Kennedy, Helen Rentz, Jerry Rentz,
Darlene Scarpaci
Sun. Dec. 6- 11:00AM- Marilyn Bevan, Wendy Campbell, Not Filled,
Not Filled
Mon. Dec. 6- 5:30PM- Barb Aubrey, Lori Ginter, Heather Nackley,
Hedy Zumsteg
Tues. Dec. 7- 6:30PM- Connie Baker, Peg Madden Mary Petrak,
David Petrak

Sacristan:

Sat. Dec. 5- 4:00PM- Mary King, Ray King
Sun. Dec. 6- 8:00AM- Michele DeFrancisco
Sun. Dec. 6- 11:00AM- Marilyn Bevan
Mon. Dec. 6- 5:30PM- Barb Bundy
Tues. Dec. 7- 6:30PM- Mary King, Ray King

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UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Nov. 22nd- First Reconciliation Retreat
Dec. 6th- Parish Penance Service
Dec. 13th- Advent Christmas Concert
Dec. 27th- Brunch for feast of St. John the
Evangelist
May 14th- Love Feast

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A Few Words from the Pastor:

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)*

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 Next 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!

C.A.T.H. Meeting - I will be away the later part of this week to attend the annual meeting of the Catholic Association of Teachers of Homiletics. This annual meeting provides a forum for all those who teach preaching in seminaries to share their best practices and to continue their professional development. I am grateful to Deacon Gene for his availability in providing Communion Services on those days.

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. Please join us!

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.

Advent Meditation Booklets - God has blessed us with two different resources for use in our Advent season. Amy Kanich, the director of the Family Life Office of the diocese, has published a wonderful book of personal reflections on the days of Advent. In addition to her booklet, we are making available a pocket size collection of daily meditations for the Advent and Christmas Season. Please, make the most of this Advent Season.

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.

Changes in Staff - We are most grateful to Heather Reimer, who has been serving our parish as bookkeeper, but who has now taken a position at the Altoona Area Junior High in cafeteria management. We will miss her competence and boundless energy. We extend a warm St. John's welcome to Mary Ann Mirobelli, who comes to us with an abundance of experience, having most recently been employed at Nason Hospital. Our gratitude for all that has been and all that will be!

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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** 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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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!

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.

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.



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.

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Family Advent Calendars have been distributed to each family in our Faith Formation program, as well as all St. John School families. Extra copies are available in the back of the church for parishioners. Feel free to take one. It contains great ideas to bring our Catholic faith alive in our homes each day of the coming year.

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. 29, 2015

SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

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

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

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

6:30PM - Lectionary Based Faith Sharing

Mon. Nov. 30th- Saint Andrew

7:30AM- Eucharistic Adoration

8:15AM- Morning Prayer

8:30AM- Mass for *Sidney & Roberta Garrett*

Tues. Dec. 1st- Advent Weekday

7:30AM- Eucharistic Adoration

8:15AM- Morning Prayer

8:30AM- Mass for *Karen Brooks* requested by Sue & Wally Painter

Wed. Dec. 2nd- Advent Weekday

6:00PM- Evening Prayer & Communion Service

Thurs. Dec. 3rd- Saint Francis Xavier

8:30AM- Morning Prayer & Communion Service

Friday Dec. 4th- Advent Weekday

8:30AM- Morning Prayer & Communion Service

Sat. Dec. 5th- 2nd Sunday in Advent

3:00PM- Confessions

4:00PM- Mass for *John M. Stoltz* requested by UPMC Family

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

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

11:00AM-Mass for *Butch Litzinger*

6:30PM - Lectionary Based Faith Sharing

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Weekday Readings

Mon. Nov. 30th- Rom 10:9-18/Mt 4:18-22

Tues. Dec. 1st- Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24

Wed. Dec. 2nd- Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37

Thurs. Dec. 3rd- Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Fri. Dec. 4th- Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31

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