

APPOINTMENTS

ACOLYTES:

Sat. Dec. 23 - 4:00 PM - Claire Nackley Keaton Swope
Sun. Dec. 24 - 8:00 AM - Sarah Geishauser, NOT FILLED
Sun. Dec. 24 - 11:00 AM - Caitlin & Tyler Conigy
Sun. Dec. 24 - 4:00 PM - Mai Linh Do, Emily Miller, Ethan Miller,
Nate Rudolph, Amber Yasolsky
Sun. Dec. 24 - 10:00 PM - Amber Yasolsky, NOT FILLED
Mon. Dec 25 - 10:00 AM - Patrick Donoughe, Nicholas Helsley

LECTORS:

Sat. Dec. 23 - 4:00 PM - Matt Michelone, Heather Nackley
Sun. Dec. 24 - 8:00 AM - Joyce Cunningham, Tim Rea
Sun. Dec. 24 - 11:00 AM - Richard Karcher, Patrick Schurr
Sun. Dec. 24 - 4:00 PM - David Langguth, Jack Donoughe
Sun. Dec. 24 - 10:00 PM - Bill Foose, Norma Foose
Mon. Dec 25 - 10:00 AM - Claudia Anderson, Francene Boland

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Sat. Dec. 23 - 4:00 PM - Barb Aubrey, NOT FILLED
Sun. Dec. 24 - 8:00 AM - Francene Boland, Mary Truesdale
Sun. Dec. 24 - 11:00 AM - Susanna Tomlinson, Cecelia Bloom,
Walter Bloom, Dolores Capriotti, Bob Olson, NOT FILLED
Sun. Dec. 24 - 4:00 PM - Barbara Bundy, Lou Ann Clark,
Darlene Scarpaci, NOT FILLED
Sun. Dec. 24 - 10:00 PM - Daniel Turcovsky, Diane Turcovsky,
Bob Olson, NOT FILLED
Mon. Dec 25 - 10:00 AM - Donna Moyer, NOT FILLED

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY:

Sat. Dec. 23 - 4:00 PM - Rose Wargo, Wally Wargo,
Dennis Moughemer, Karen Moughemer
Sun. Dec. 24 - 8:00 AM - Larry VanSickel, Paula VanSickel,
Mike O'Neill, Ginny Reeder
Sun. Dec. 24 - 11:00 AM - Peg Madden, Patrick Podoletz,
NOT FILLED
Sun. Dec. 24 - 4:00 PM - Jane Becker, John Becker, Helen Miller,
Charlie Moore
Sun. Dec. 24 - 10:00 PM - Walt Bloom, NOT FILLED
Mon. Dec 25 - 10:00 AM - Carolyn English, Ray Kennedy,
NOT FILLED

SACRISTAN:

Sat. Dec. 23 - 4:00 PM - Billy Sweet
Sun. Dec. 24 - 8:00 AM - Joyce Cunningham
Sun. Dec. 24 - 11:00 AM - Dolores Capriotti
Sun. Dec. 24 - 4:00 PM - Darlene Scarpaci
Sun. Dec. 24 - 10:00 PM - Mary & Ray King
Mon. Dec 25 - 10:00 AM - NOT FILLED

SCRIP:

Sat. Dec. 23 - 4:00 PM - Dawn & Frank Steinbugl
Sun. Dec. 24 - 8:00 AM - Natalie Smith, NOT FILLED
Sun. Dec. 24 - 11:00 AM - Judy Sneath, Dorothy Yingling

Christmas Mass Schedule

December 24 Christmas Eve: 4:00 PM & 10:00 PM
December 25 Christmas Day: 10:00 AM



DECEMBER 17, 2017

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH 309 LOTZ AVENUE 814-942-5503

www.stjohnsaltoona.org

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

December 22-26: Parish Office Closed
December 24: Christmas Eve Masses at 4:00 & 10:00 PM
December 25: Christmas Day Mass at 10:00AM
December 27: 6:00 - St. John Feast Day Mass/Pizza Party
January 14: Second Sunday Food Collection
February 10: Mardi Gras

A Few Words from the Pastor:

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel - The Roman Catholic Church has been singing the "O" Antiphons since at least the eighth century. They are the antiphons that accompany the Magnificat canticle of Evening Prayer from December 17-23. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah. Most Catholics are familiar with them from the beautiful Advent hymn which we know by heart! O Wisdom, O Lord and Ruler, O Root of Jesse, O Key of David, O Morning Star, O King of the Nations, O Emmanuel!

A Very Short Week - With Christmas falling on a Monday, it is important to remember that the Fourth Week of Advent is actually limited to Sunday, which is also Christmas Eve. However, our Sunday Mass obligation remains. The Christmas Eve Mass at 4 o'clock on that Sunday afternoon does not satisfy one's Sunday obligation.

Oplatki, The Christmas Wafer – This is a tradition from Eastern Europe, especially Poland. Oplatki are unleavened wafers baked from pure wheat flour and water, and are usually rectangular in shape and very thin. They are similar to the composition of Communion hosts at Mass, and are used at Christmas Eve celebrations as a reminder of our sharing in the Body of Christ. These wafers are embossed with Christmas related religious images, such as the manger, the Blessed Mother, or the Star of Bethlehem. It is broken and shared before **Wigilia**, the Christmas Eve dinner!

Choir Concert an Amazing Witness – Our annual Choir Concert was a great success, and a wonderful witness to the truest meaning of Christmas: God-With-Us, first heralded by the heavenly choirs of angels! Congratulations to Debbie Johnson and to the many instrumentalists and singers who made it such a glorious and inspiring evening!

LITURGICAL REFLECTION: We await the coming of the eternal word of God. When a believer dies we find comfort and consolation in the world of God, the Holy Scriptures. Death may fill the Christian with fears and questions. Scripture firmly grounds us in the faith that death is not the end, that the promise made at baptism assures us that we who have died with Christ in the waters of baptism remain with the Lord into eternal life. The word of God assures us that death, a result of sin, does not have power over one claimed for Christ. *Order of Christian Funerals, 1998/1989, General Introduction, Numbers 2 and 4.*

Our Patronal Feast – Wednesday, December 27th, is the Feast Day of St. John the Evangelist! We will celebrate with Mass in the Church at 6:00, followed by a Feast Day Pizza Party in the Parish Center. Please plan on joining us!

Arise! Together in Christ! - Our diocese is embarking on an exciting adventure in parish renewal. *Arise Together in Christ* is a three-year, parish-centered process of evangelization and spiritual renewal, designed to help people develop a closer relationship with Christ, grow in community, and reach out in service to others. After the New Year we will begin forming our "Arise" parish team, in preparation for the renewal process which will begin in the fall of 2018. Please take stay tuned for regular updates as we prepare for this important process designed to revitalize our parish life!

Christmas Mass Schedule – Please note that we have made a change to our Christmas Mass schedule. There is the usual Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve at 4:00 PM, but the late evening Mass is celebrated this year at 10:00 PM, *not at Midnight*. Christmas Morning Mass will be celebrated at 10:00 AM.

Family Life Calendars for 2018– 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.

Scholarship Winner - The Despot Scholarship was established by the Despot family in memory of John and Helen Despot. Annually a scholarship is given to a student in Catholic school. This year the scholarship award of \$450 was awarded to Cammie Krug. To receive this award, applicants were asked to write a short essay on why they liked going to Catholic school. Cammie will read her essay at Sunday Mass during Catholic schools week. Congratulations to Cammie, and to her parents, Jim and Stephanie Krug.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

December 17th - Regular class 9:15-10:45 (Last class of the year.)

Sunday January 7th - Class resumes 9:15-10:45

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

CONFIRMATION INFORMATION

December 16th 5-8 Confirmation service project/ Christmas party. Meet in school cafeteria at 5pm.

Saturday, January 6th - 9th Grade Confirmation Retreat (Student and one parent) 9AM-1PM in gym



Please pray for our 10 students who received First Reconciliation on Saturday December 16th.

PLANNING THE MARDI GRAS: The social committee is asking anyone who is interested in helping with the Mardi Gras this year to attend a meeting on January 7, 2018 after the 11:00AM Mass in the cry room.

PENANCE SERVICES IN OUR AREA:

Monday, December 18 - Our Lady of Mount Carmel -7 PM

Monday, December 18 - Saint Rose of Lima - 7 PM

Wednesday, December 20 - Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament - 6:30 PM

Thursday, December 21 - Sacred Heart - 5:30 PM

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:*

- Baby Adam • Bernie Beiswenger • Millie Bilski
- Jen Buda • Vincent Cannizzaro • Robert Cole
- Millie Grace Capon • Mary Lee DeStefano
- Michael DeStefano • Carol Field • Rick Fownes
- JoAnne Gerardine • Brian Kopp • Bryson Miller
- June Miller • Ron Peschock • Dave Petrak
- Bob & Mary Rajnish • Allison Recker
- Dorothy Roberto • Olga Romerowicz • Maureen Smithe
- Diane Stultz • Patty Teufel • Lois Werfel • Noah Wills
- The Elderly

HOME WITH THE LORD: Your prayers are requested for the repose of the souls of:

- Leona "Pauline" Paule - mother of Polly Wiley
- Margaret Claar - grandmother of Steph Krug
- Anna T. Partenheimer

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

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULING FOR JANUARY-MAY:

Deadline Sunday, December 17th It is time to begin scheduling for January through May, 2018, so we are asking that you give us the dates for which you are NOT available for January – May. If you have internet access please update your profile in **Ministry Scheduler Pro**. There is a link from our parish website (www.stjohnsaltoona.org) and a link in the email reminder you will receive. (There are cards available in the gathering space for those who do not have access to the internet.) **Please update your profile online or fill out a card and return it by Sunday, December 17th.** Family members can fill out one card front and back. **Again, please tell us when you are NOT available in January – May, 2018.** Thank you for your service to our faith community throughout the year.

CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF ST. JOHN: This year the Feast of St. John the Evangelist is on Wednesday, December 27. Join in the celebration by attending Mass at 6PM followed by a pizza party in the Parish Center in the basement of the church. Please sign up on the kiosk in the gathering space.

ST. JOHN'S SKI CLUB: Sign your family up now for the St. John's Ski Club. All ability and lessons are available. Great winter family fun beginning in January, so register by December 22. For more information and to register, call Theresa Johnsonbaugh - 943-4457.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: It is through repentance that we acknowledge our sins. In their pastoral letter on stewardship, the U.S. bishops proclaim that "the Spirit of wisdom and courage helps people seek pardon and be mindful that in the face of all their forgetting, the most important work of their lives is to be Jesus' disciples." As we prepare to celebrate God's greatest gift to us in the birth of our Savior, have we reconciled our sins so as to continue along the path to eternal life?

Stewardship at St. John's

OFFERTORY for December 10, 2017

Envelopes	\$ 5,307.00
Loose	\$ 569.00
Children's	\$ 5.00
Parish Development	\$ 25.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 660.00
Christmas	\$ 60.00
Retirement For Religious	\$ 642.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 25.00
<i>SubTotal</i>	<i>\$ 7,293.00</i>
Online Giving	\$ 2,683.00
Total Offertory	\$ 9,976.00

Catholic Ministry Drive Amount Rec'd @10/31- \$39,635. Pledges - \$2,340.

OUR PARISH FAMILY ... The “Our Parish Family” feature is taking a Christmas break, with plans to resume after New Year’s. Thank you to all who have already been a part of this feature, but there are many more of you out there that we’d like to hear from. Whether you’re a long-time or new member, single person, couple, or family, please consider being featured in this section. If you were photographed for the recent parish directory, we can use that same photograph. We can also use a photograph that you provide, or we can snap one after Mass. We’ll just ask you a few questions, over the phone or by email, and then we’ll write a brief profile with the information that you give us. If you would be willing to be a part of this feature, please contact: Cecelia Bloom at 695-2806 or by email at ceceb13@verizon.net.

SACRAMENTS CLASS: The class Sacraments will be offered at two locations this January. Msgr. Robert Mazur will be teaching a 6 week course (2 ½ hour classes) beginning Monday January 8 from 6:30-9:00 PM at Cathedral, Seton Suite, Altoona and Fr. Timothy Grimme will be teaching an 8 week course (2 hour classes) from 6:30-8:30 PM beginning Tuesday January 9 at St. Michael Church Hall, St. Michael. The cost of the course which includes registration and all materials is \$65. For further information and registration forms visit www.dioceseaj.org/lay-ecclesial-ministry or contact the Office of Adult Enrichment at 814-361-2000. All are welcome!

CHRISTMAS HAPPENINGS AT THE FRIAR’S NOOK: Celebrate the Christmas season by receiving 20% off your entire purchase at The Friar’s Nook Gift Shop December 11th -23rd! The Friar’s Nook is located across from St. Bernardine Monastery at 793 Monastery Road, Hollidaysburg. Take the stress out of your Christmas cookie prep work by stopping at The Friar’s Nook Gift Shop on Wednesday, December 20th to purchase homemade Christmas cookie trays! There will be a variety of both traditional and ethnic cookies, so stop out early!

HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL NEWS: Calling all bingo players!

- St. Rose has a Bingo program that supports Holy Trinity Students! Please come and support a good cause and try your luck! Bingo nights are every Tuesday and Friday. Doors open at 5:00PM with early bird games at 6:10PM and the regular games start 7:00PM.
- Join Holy Trinity for our weekly student Mass. Location and times are as follows: Altoona Campus every Wednesday at 9AM. Hollidaysburg Campus, Thursdays at 8:30AM Middle School Campus on Fridays at 8:30AM.
- Holy Trinity Catholic School - Hollidaysburg Campus - will visit St. Leonard's on Monday, December 18th to share the joy of Christmas in song to the residents.

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

Sunday December 17 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

8:00AM-Mass for *Ida Prosperi* requested by

John Prosperi

11:00AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

Monday December 18 - Late Advent Weekday

8:10AM-Morning Prayer

8:30AM-Mass for *Anna Partenheimer* requested by

Anna Musselman

Tuesday December 19 - Late Advent Weekday

8:10AM-Morning Prayer

8:30AM-Mass for *Joe Robeson*

Wednesday December 20 - Late Advent Weekday

5:00PM-Eucharistic Adoration/Confessions

6:00PM-Mass for *Alma Reismeier* requested by

Dolores Reismeier & Family

Thursday December 21 - Late Advent Weekday

8:10AM-Morning Prayer

8:30AM-Mass for *Steve & Betty Sinchak* requested by

Marian Monios

Friday December 22 - Late Advent Weekday

8:10AM-Morning Prayer

8:30AM-Mass for *John Lloyd* requested by

Mr. & Mrs. Pete Rodgers

Saturday December 23 - Vigil of the 4th Sunday of Advent

3:00PM-Confessions

4:00PM- Mass for *Ed Kantoski, Jr.* requested by

Debbie Kantoski

Sunday December 24 - 4th Sunday of Advent

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

11:00AM - Mass for *Teresa Geishouser* requested by

Mr. Kirk Kling & Family

Sunday December 24th– Vigil of The Nativity of the

Lord

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

10:00PM-Mass for *People of the Parish*

Monday December 25th - The Nativity of the Lord

10:00AM-Mass for *People of the Parish*

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday: Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38

Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45

Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56

CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS

St. John the Evangelist Church #378660

309 Lotz Avenue

Altoona, PA 16602

TELEPHONE

814-942-5503 or 814-931-2867 (cell)

CONTACT PERSON

Deborah Johnson

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