

APPOINTMENTS

ACOLYTES:

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
Sat. Dec. 30 - 4:00 PM - Caitlin & Tyler Conigly
Sun. Dec. 31 - 8:00 AM - Mai Linh Do, NOT FILLED
Sun. Dec. 31 - 11:00 AM - Nate Rudolph, Bob Olson

LECTORS:

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
Sat. Dec. 30 - 4:00 PM - Jack Donoughe, David Langguth
Sun. Dec. 31 - 8:00 AM - Ronan Adams, NOT FILLED
Sun. Dec. 31 - 11:00 AM - Richard Consiglio, Gary Johnson

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

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
Sat. Dec. 30 - 4:00 PM - Dorothy Yingling, NOT FILLED
Sun. Dec. 31 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci, Fran Semelsberger
Sun. Dec. 31 - 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Cecelia Bloom,
Walter Bloom, Barbara Bundy, Dolores Capriotti, Lou Ann Clark

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY:

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
Sat. Dec. 30 - 4:00 PM - Rose Wargo, Wally Wargo, NOT FILLED
Sun. Dec. 31 - 8:00 AM - Jane Becker, John Becker, Ray Kennedy,
Charlie Moore
Sun. Dec. 31 - 11:00 AM - Anna Podoletz, Patrick Podoletz,
Judy Sneath, NOT FILLED

SACRISTAN:

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
Sat. Dec. 30 - 4:00 PM - Mary & Ray King
Sun. Dec. 31 - 8:00 AM - Joyce Cunningham
Sun. Dec. 31 - 11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy

SCRIP:

Sat. Dec. 30 - 4:00 PM - Becky Merilli, NOT FILLED
Sun. Dec. 31 - 8:00 AM - Amber & Heather Yasolsky
Sun. Dec. 31 - 11:00 AM - Peg Madden, Marge Rudolph

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

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

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Christmas Mass Schedule

December 24 Christmas Eve: 4:00 PM & 10:00 PM

December 25 Christmas Day: 10:00 AM

A Few Words from the Pastor:

Christmas Mass Schedule – Please note the change we have made 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.

Our Expanding Nativity Set – We are most grateful to Betsy Lloyd, whose donation has allowed us to purchase a shepherd for our parish Nativity Set, in remembrance of her husband, John. Sheep have been given by anonymous donors. The angel, a gift from Rick and Cindy Karcher, was unfortunately damaged in the shipment from Italy, arriving with a broken wing! The shipping company will certainly replace it, though not in time for this Christmas season. We hope that our Nativity display will continue to expand in coming years. Wise Men and their camel will be our next goal.

A Very Short Fourth Week of Advent - 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.

The Twelve Days of Christmas Begin! These are not the 12 days leading up to Christmas, but the twelve days which begin with Christmas and lead up to the Feast of Epiphany! These 12 days are important because they give us a way of reflecting on what the Incarnation means in our lives. The three traditional feasts (dating back to the late fifth century) that follow Christmas reflect different ways in which the mystery of the Incarnation works itself out in the body of Christ.

♥ *December 26 is the feast of St. Stephen*—a traditional day for giving leftovers to the poor (as described in the carol "Good King Wenceslas"). As one of the first deacons, Stephen was the forerunner of all those who show forth the love of Christ by their generosity to the needy. But more than this, he was the first martyr of the New Covenant, witnessing to Christ by the ultimate gift of his own life.

♥ *St. John the Evangelist, our parish patron, is commemorated on December 27.* He is traditionally the only one of the twelve disciples who did *not* die a martyr. Rather, John witnessed to the Incarnation through his words, proclaiming in the first chapter of his gospel that "in the beginning was the Word...and through Him all things were made... and the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us." Join us for our parish celebration on Wednesday evening at 6:00 for Mass and a pizza party!

♥ *On December 28, we celebrate the feast of the Holy Innocents*, the children murdered by Herod. These were not martyrs like Stephen, who died heroically in a vision of the glorified Christ. They were not inspired like John to speak the Word of life and understand the mysteries of God. They died unjustly before they had a chance to know or to will—but they died for Christ nonetheless. In them we see the long agony of those who suffer and die through human injustice, never knowing that they have been redeemed. If Christ did not come for them too, then surely Christ came in vain. In celebrating the Holy Innocents, we remember the victims of abortion, of war, of abuse. We renew our faith that the coming of Christ brings hope to the most hopeless. And, in the most radical way possible, we confess that like the murdered children we are saved by the sheer mercy of Christ, not by our own doing or knowing.

Kudos to our Teens and their Youth Leaders – Last Saturday evening our teens, under the creative direction of Steph and Jim Krug, delivered baskets of fruit and boxes of cookies to our sick and homebound. We are proud of the witness they provide. Thanks as well to the parents and catechists who helped with the driving!

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!

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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

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

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

CONFIRMATION INFORMATION

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

CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF ST. JOHN: This year December 27, the Feast of St. John the Evangelist, is on a Wednesday. 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. For more information and to register, call Theresa Johnsonbaugh - 943-4457.

TEEN SHELTER: The St. John's women's group is collecting Domino Pizza gift cards for the Teen Shelter's weekly pizza night. You may donate gift cards to Domino's or send cash/checks. Place your donation in an envelope marked Teen Shelter, and drop it in the collection basket.

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 ginny.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

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

PASTORAL STAFF:

•Msgr. Michael Becker mbecker253@aol.com

gene@lifeinfocus.net

RCIA

mark.krepich@gmail.com

Parish Council President

ppodoletz@atlanticbb.net

•Mrs. Deborah Johnson Director of Music/Pastoral Associate
dj219@msn.com

•Mr. & Mrs. Bill & Norma Foose Stephen Ministry
norma.foose@yahoo.com

•Mrs. Mary Ann Mirobelli Business Manager
stjohnchurch@atlanticbb.net

•Mrs. Mary Haenig Religious Education Director
mshaenig@gmail.com

Maintenance

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.

WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP: Beginning with Monday, January 22, 2018, and continuing through the fourth Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the parish center, we will be using the following 12 part DVD lecture series: *Retrieving Women's Voices in the Christian Theological Tradition: Four Doctors of the Church (Hildegard of Bingen, Catherine of Siena, Teresa of Avila, and Therese of Lisieux).*

STEWARSHIP CORNER: "After Jesus it is the Blessed Virgin Mary who by her example teaches most perfectly the meaning of discipleship and stewardship in their fullest sense. All of their essential elements are found in her life: she was called and gifted by God; she responded generously, creatively, and prudently; she understood her divinely assigned role as 'handmaid' in terms of service and fidelity." (*Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, USCCB, 1992.)

Stewardship at St. John's

OFFERTORY for December 17, 2017

Envelopes	\$ 4,457.00
Loose	\$ 484.00
Children's	\$ 7.00
Parish Development	\$ 126.00
Christmas	\$ 668.00
Retirement For Religious	\$ 50.00
<i>SubTotal</i>	\$ 5,792.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,623.00
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**Catholic Ministry Drive Amount Rec'd @10/31- \$39,635.
Pledges - \$2,340.**



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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 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!

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25
During the Night: Is 9:1-6; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]
Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5 -- 2:2; Mt 2:13-18
Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

Sunday December 24 - 4th Sunday of Advent

8:00AM-Mass for *People of the Parish*
11:00AM - Mass for *Teresa Geishauser* requested by Mr. Kirk Kling & Family

Sunday December 24 – 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 25 - The Nativity of the Lord

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

Tuesday December 26 - St. Stephen, The First Martyr

7:30AM- Eucharistic Adoration
8:30AM– Morning Prayer and Communion Service

Wednesday December 27 - St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

5:00PM-Eucharistic Adoration/Confessions
6:00PM-Mass for *New Evangelization of St. John's Parish*

Thursday December 28 - The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

8:10AM-Morning Prayer
8:30AM-Mass for *Eileen Becker* requested by Clarence Becker

Friday December 29 - Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

8:10AM-Morning Prayer
8:30AM-Mass for *Leo & Cecelia Long*

Saturday December 30 - Vigil of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

3:00PM-Confessions
4:00PM- Mass for *John Lloyd* requested by Maria & Doug Spayd

Sunday December 31 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:00AM-Mass for *People of the Parish*
11:00AM - Mass for *Leona "Pauline" Paule* requested by Dr. David & Melanie Lee

Monday January 1 - Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

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

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