

APPOINTMENTS

ACOLYTES:

Sat. Jan. 6 - 4:00 PM - Jack & Ryan Donoughe
Sun. Jan. 7 - 8:00 AM - Emily & Ethan Miller
Sun. Jan. 7 - 11:00 AM - Caitlin & Tyler Conigy

LECTORS:

Sat. Jan. 6 - 4:00 PM - Maria Spayd, Matt Michelone
Sun. Jan. 7 - 8:00 AM - Time Rea, Fran Semelsberger
Sun. Jan. 7 - 11:00 AM - James Merrick, Susanna Tomlinson

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Sat. Jan. 6 - 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, Dorothy Yingling
Sun. Jan. 7 - 8:00 AM - Daniel Turcovsky, Diane Turcovsky
Sun. Jan. 7 - 11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy, Kenneth Gorman,
Mary Dennis, Paul Dennis, Bill Foose, Norma Foose

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY:

Sat. Jan. 6 - 4:00 PM - Coleen Langguth, David Langguth,
Heather Nackley, Judy Sneath
Sun. Jan. 7 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci, Mary Truesdale,
Larry VanSickel, Paula VanSickel
Sun. Jan. 7 - 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Walter Bloom,
Dolores Capriotti, Lou Ann Clark

SACRISTAN:

Sat. Jan. 6 - 4:00 PM - Mary & Ray King
Sun. Jan. 7 - 8:00 AM - Michele DeFrancisco
Sun. Jan. 7 - 11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy

SCRIP:

Sat. Jan. 6 - 4:00 PM - Julie Beiswenger, Mary Haenig
Sun. Jan. 7 - 8:00 AM - Jim & Wendy Campbell
Sun. Jan. 7 - 11:00 AM - Jane Byrne, Carolyn English

PASTORAL STAFF:

- Msgr. Michael Becker *mbecker253@aol.com*
- Deacon Gene Neral *gene@lifeinfofocus.net*
- Mr. Mark Krepich
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- Mr. Patrick Podoletz
Parish Council President
ppodoletz@atlanticbb.net
- Mrs. Deborah Johnson
Director of Music/Pastoral Associate
dj219@msn.com
- Mr. & Mrs. Bill & Norma Foose
Stephen Ministry
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- Mrs. Mary Ann Mirobelli
Business Manager
stjohnchurch@atlanticbb.net
- Mrs. Mary Haenig
Religious Education Director
mshaenig@gmail.com
- Mr. Ken Dunmire
Maintenance

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

January 1 - New Year's Day Mass - 9:00 AM
January 1 - Parish Office Closed
January 14: Second Sunday Food Collection
January 15 - Parish Office Closed



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A Few Words from the Pastor:

The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God – While not obliged this year to observe this feast, Catholics are encouraged to begin the New Year by celebrating this feast of Mary. What better way to begin the New Year than by seeking to imitate the humility and trust shown in the life of Mary, mother of Jesus and our mother. Mass on the Holy Day will be at 9:00 AM. 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 stay tuned for regular updates as we prepare for this important process designed to revitalize our parish life!

Many, Many Thanks! Our celebration of the Nativity of the Lord was splendid, made even more so by the choir, those who decorated the church, and all those who exercised liturgical ministries for the feast. Many thanks as well to those who purchased flowers for the altar. Our poinsettias were the most beautiful in memory. May the spirit of the season remain with us throughout the New Year!

Nocturnal Adoration - Adoration for the First Friday of the Month will be celebrated at St. Rose of Lima this Friday, January 5, from 8 PM until 11 PM. The hour for St. John's is from 10:00 until 11:00. Please join in this time of prayer.

National Migration Week (January 7 - 14) - For nearly a half century, the Catholic Church in the United States has celebrated National Migration Week, which is an opportunity for the Church to reflect on the circumstances confronting migrants, including immigrants, refugees, children, and victims and survivors of human trafficking. The theme for National Migration Week 2018 draws attention to Pope Francis' call to create a culture of encounter, and in doing so to look beyond our own needs and wants to those of others around us. In the homily given at his first Pentecost as pope, he emphasized the importance of encounter in the Christian faith: "For me this word is very important. Encounter with others. Why? Because faith is an encounter with Jesus, and we must do what Jesus does: encounter others."

Praying for Christian Unity – Later this month, from January 18-25, we will be observing the *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*. There has never been a time in our history when Christian need to be united and speaking with one voice, especially in the face of persecutions in the Middle East and in response to the rampant materialism in our own culture. This is an urgent mission for Pope Francis, as it should be for all of us! The theme for this year: **Your Right Hand, Lord, Glorious in Power!**

Easter Coming Early – The celebration of the Lord's Resurrection comes early again in 2018, on the 1st of April. Easter is a movable feast in the Christian calendar, the date of which was determined by the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD. At this council it was established that **Easter** would be held on the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the spring equinox. The Orthodox churches follow the same rule. However, they follow the Julian calendar and the Western church follows the Gregorian calendar. This year the Orthodox Easter will be on April 8th.

LITURGICAL REFLECTION: We gaze at the Holy Family this Christmas time. We gather with our families these days of Christmas. Our attention is focused on the infant who is surrounded by love. We pray that our families be grounded in the love of the newborn Child. When faced with challenges and crises, turn to the Holy Family and seek guidance and protection. When the challenges of life seem overbearing, turn to Jesus, Mary, and Joseph to find comfort. Pray for right judgement and the faith to live in harmony.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Class resumes on Sunday January 7th - 9:15-10:45
Sunday January 14 - No Class
Sunday January 21 - Regular class 9:15-10:45
Sunday January 28 - No Class

CONFIRMATION INFORMATION

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

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 on 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).

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

PRAYER SERVICE: On Thursday, January 18 at 7:00 PM, in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona, there will be a prayer service for the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision of *Roe vs. Wade (1973)*. There will be a blessing for the pilgrims attending the March For Life in Washington, D.C. the next day, Friday, January 19. All are welcome to participate in this prayer. All who have a respect for life from conception to natural death are welcome to join our brothers and sisters at the Altoona Cathedral.

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.



STEWARDSHIP CORNER: We are called to offer everything we have in faith as an offering to God, in the name of the Lord Jesus. Christian stewards are called to "give thanks to God" as we offer our gifts in the "peace of Christ."

Due to the Christmas holiday, the collection total for December 24 cannot be published in this bulletin.

Please consider registering to use Online Giving instead of weekly envelopes for contributions to our parish. This can be very convenient when you are unable to attend mass at St. John's. The application provides you a convenient option that you may access at any time. Your gift will be transferred from your preferred method of payment directly to our parish. There's no need to share any sensitive account information with parish staff. We have implemented Online Giving because it is convenient, safe and secure, and simple. You can start, stop and change your contributions at anytime. Sign up by visiting our parish website: stjohnsaltoona.org. Click on Donate Online which is below Parish Information on the left side of the page and complete the online registration form.

ECUMENICAL SERVICES: On Sunday, January 21, Bishop Mark Bartchak of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown will host an ecumenical service at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona. The service begins at 2:00 PM. All are invited to participate.

On Sunday, January 28, Bishop Gregory of Nyssa of the Orthodox tradition will host an ecumenical service at Christ the Saviour Cathedral, 300 Garfield Street, Johnstown, PA. The service begins at 2:00 PM. Bishop Mark Bartchak will be in attendance. All are invited to attend.

January Prayer Intention of Pope Francis

RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN ASIA

That Christians and other religious minorities in Asian countries may be able to practice their faith in full freedom.



HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL NEWS:

Virtue of the Month: A virtue is a routine or habit performing good actions according to moral standards. When we strengthen our commitment to practicing our Catholic virtues, we make the presence of God more visible in the world around us. At Holy Trinity Catholic, we have a school-wide focus on a specific virtue each month. The Virtue of the Month program is designed to help our students and their families live a virtuous life. Our students learn about and reflect upon each month's virtue during our daily morning prayer, religion classes, and various activities all throughout the day. Our students who consistently demonstrate this virtuous quality are acknowledged by their teacher and earn special recognition at the end of the month during our school Mass. *January's virtue: Justice.*

"God, help my children to love justice as You do and act justly in all they do" (Psalm 11:7; Micah 6:8). The first step to achieving justice is to do what is right and stand up for what we know God asks of us. We need to remember to treat others fairly and remember that Jesus was always an instrument for justice in His work with people.

First LEGO League: We are excited to announce that Holy Trinity Catholic School has a team participating in First LEGO League. First LEGO League offers hands-on problem solving, programming experience, project based learning, real-world application of math and science concepts, along with the discovery of fun in science and technology. Through this STREAM program, students are designing their own innovative solution to a current real-life problem and engaging with their community. They are also designing, building and programming autonomous robots that perform a series of missions. Students are going to present their learning discoveries at a regional tournament in Johnstown on February 24th.

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

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*

Tuesday January 2 - Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

8:10AM-Morning Prayer

8:30AM-Mass for *Shirley Millin* requested by Charlie & Nancy Koehle

Wednesday January 3 - Christmas Weekday

5:00PM-Eucharistic Adoration/Confessions

6:00PM-Mass for *Joyce Cordek* requested by Larry Cordek

Thursday January 4 - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

8:10AM-Morning Prayer

8:30AM-Mass for *Sister Mary Ann Palko* requested by Barb Bundy

Friday January 5 - St. John Neumann, Bishop

8:10AM-Morning Prayer

8:30AM-Mass for *Joe Robeson*

Saturday January 6 - Vigil of The Epiphany of the Lord

3:00PM-Confessions

4:00PM- Mass for *Patrick McNulty* requested by Barb Bundy

Sunday January 7 - The Epiphany of the Lord

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

11:00AM - Mass for *Matthew Geishauer* requested by Beth & George Geishauer

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:29 -- 3:6; Jn 1:29-34

Thursday: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Jn 1:35-42

Friday: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Jn 1:43-51



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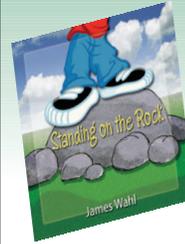


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