

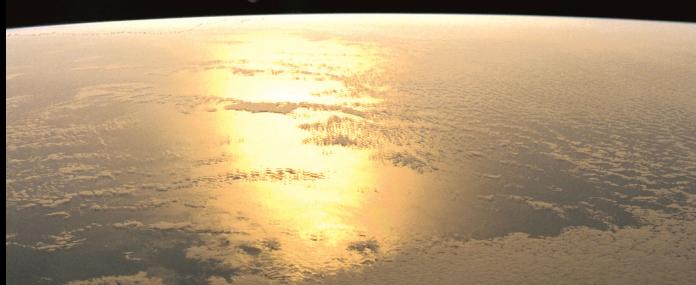
### January Prayer Intention of Pope Francis

#### **RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN ASIA**

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



the star  
stopped  
over  
the  
place where  
the  
child was



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**JANUARY 7, 2018**  
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#### **UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS**

January 14: Second Sunday Food Collection  
January 15 - Parish Office Closed  
February 10 - Mardi Gras

### APPOINTMENTS

#### ACOLYTES:

Sat. Jan. 13 - 4:00 PM - Jack & Ryan Donoughe  
Sun. Jan. 14 - 8:00 AM - Nicholas Helsley, NOT FILLED  
Sun. Jan. 14 - 11:00 AM - Caitlin & Tyler Conigy

#### LECTORS:

Sat. Jan. 13 - 4:00 PM - Mark Sloan, Heather Nackley  
Sun. Jan. 14 - 8:00 AM - Fran Semelsberger, Tim Rea  
Sun. Jan. 14 - 11:00 AM - Donna Moyer, James Merrick

#### EUCARISTIC MINISTERS:

Sat. Jan. 13 - 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, Jenna Jenkins  
Sun. Jan. 14 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci, Mary Truesdale  
Sun. Jan. 14 - 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Mary Dennis,  
Paul Dennis, Kenneth Gorman, David Lee, Bob Olson

#### MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY:

Sat. Jan. 13 - 4:00 PM - Barb Aubrey, Carolyn English,  
Mary Frances Stokan, Billy Sweet  
Sun. Jan. 14 - 8:00 AM - Daniel Turcovsky, Diane Turcovsky,  
Larry VanSickel, Paula VanSickel  
Sun. Jan. 14 - 11:00 AM - Pauline Adams, Walter Bloom,  
Lou Ann Clark, Peg Madden

#### SACRISTAN:

Sat. Jan. 13 - 4:00 PM - Billy Sweet  
Sun. Jan. 14 - 8:00 AM - Joyce Cunningham  
Sun. Jan. 14 - 11:00 AM - Dolores Capriotti

#### SCRIP:

Sat. Jan. 13 - 4:00 PM - Charlene Lancy, Anna Rasmussen  
Sun. Jan. 14 - 8:00 AM - NOT FILLED  
Sun. Jan. 14 - 11:00 AM - Judy Sneath, Dorothy Yingling

#### PASTORAL STAFF:

- Msgr. Michael Becker      [mbecker253@aol.com](mailto:mbecker253@aol.com)
- Deacon Gene Neral      [gene@lifeinfocus.net](mailto:gene@lifeinfocus.net)
- Mr. Mark Krepich      RCIA  
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- Mr. Patrick Podoletz      Parish Council President  
[ppodoletz@atlanticbb.net](mailto:ppodoletz@atlanticbb.net)
- Mrs. Deborah Johnson      Director of Music/Pastoral Associate  
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- Mrs. Mary Haenig      Religious Education Director  
[mshaenig@gmail.com](mailto:mshaenig@gmail.com)
- Mr. Ken Dunmire      Maintenance

## A Few Words from the Pastor:

**Conducting a Retreat** – I have been invited to preach a retreat for the seminarians of St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, beginning this Monday and concluding at noon on Friday. The retreat will be held at Daylesford Abbey in Paoli, PA. This is an abbey of the Norbertine Fathers, also known as the Order of Canons Regular of Prémontre or Premonstratensians. This Catholic religious order of canons regular was founded by Saint Norbert in the northern French village of Prémontre in 1121, and vow themselves to a life of ongoing conversion. Present in the United States since 1893, the Norbertines established this monastery in Paoli in 1954, where they also staff a parish and retreat center. Thank you for your prayers for me and for the seminarians!

**From Feasts to Ordinary Time** – The Christmas season ends with this feast of the Epiphany. Our vestments and altar cover will be changed to green, until Lent begins on February 14. The Church's feasts highlight the central mysteries of the Paschal Mystery: Christ's birth, death, resurrection and ascension, and the Spirit's gift at Pentecost. The Sundays and weeks of Ordinary Time, on the other hand, take us through the life of Christ. This is the **time of conversion**. This is living the life of Christ. **Ordinary Time is a time for growth and maturation**, a time in which the mystery of Christ is called to penetrate ever more deeply into history until all things are finally caught up in Christ. The goal, toward which all of history is directed, is represented by the final Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. This time of year invites contemplation, a review of one's life and goals.

**New Year's Reflection!** These are the words of Father Matthew Kelty, a Trappist who chose to live his life in solitude: *"I wanted to be by myself, not to nurse my wounds, not to count victories, but rather quietly to take all the mysterious fabric of my life, and there lay it all out and trace the hand of love that somehow ordered all things: the good and the bad, the crooked and the straight, the bitter and the sweet, the whole of it. And then take the whole thing, and throw it over me, as a garment woven in love."*

**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. Soon 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!

**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!***

**LITURGICAL REFLECTION:** Today is the Epiphany of the Lord and the last Sunday of Christmas time. Tomorrow, Monday, January 8, is the feast of the Baptism of the Lord and the formal ending of the Christmas season. Today the Church celebrates with the wise visitors from the east that the Word Made Flesh has arrived for all peoples and all nations. Jesus, born in Bethlehem, raised in Nazareth, and crucified in Jerusalem, is Lord of all races and nations. May the Christian Gospel be proclaimed throughout the world to all inhabitants.



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## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS**

Class resumes on Sunday January 7<sup>th</sup> - 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**



9<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation session on Prayer-Sunday Jan 21 9:15am in the school gym.  
11<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation session on Morality-Sunday Feb 4<sup>th</sup> 9:15 am in the school gym.

### **CHILDREN'S CHOIR AND CHILDREN'S HANDBELL CHOIR:**

Rehearsals will resume the week of January 14, with Children's Choir from 6-7PM on Tuesday, January 16, and Children's Handbell Choir on Thursday, January 18, from 6-7PM. We'd like to have more singers and ringers. Join us!

**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 [ginnen.reeder@gmail.com](mailto:ginnen.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  
**Religious Minorities in Asia**

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

Diane M. Hallinan - sister of John Becker  
*May she rest in the peace and joy of the Lord.*



### **Thank you!**

Words cannot express the gratitude that we feel for the cards, gifts, both monetary and otherwise, and the cheerful greetings that you gave us during this Christmas Season.

To all in our parish community we say:

***Thank you for being part of our lives and allowing us to be part of yours. May God bless you!***

***Deacon Gene and Barbara Neral***

**SECOND SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION:** Don't forget to bring your non-perishable food items to church with you next weekend for our second Sunday food collection. There will also be a collection box for those who prefer to make a monetary donation. This month's donations will go to The Father's House.

**SCRIP:** Why not make the regular use of our Scrip program one of your New Year resolutions? Need more information so you can help the church with your everyday purchases? Stop at the scrip table in the gathering space after mass and talk to one of our volunteers.

**31<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL RESPECT LIFE MARCH:** Sunday, January 21, 2018 at 12:00 noon. We begin at 12:00 noon with a Prayer Service in St. Matthew Church in Tyrone. We then walk the 1.25 miles to Oak Grove Cemetery to the grave of Baby Agnes Doe, for another short prayer service. A hot luncheon will be served in the parish hall after the march. Sponsored by the St. Gregory Council #1218 Knights of Columbus.

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER:** The three magi from the east paid homage to the Infant Jesus with their "first fruits" of gold, frankincense and myrrh. What gifts for my own necessity, and not my abundance, have I presented to the newborn Savior?

### **Stewardship at St. John's**

#### **OFFERTORY for December 31, 2017**

Envelopes	\$ 3,333.00
Loose	\$ 1,069.00
Children's	\$ 2.00
Parish Development	\$ 0.00
<i>SubTotal</i>	\$ 4,404.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,693.00
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 6,097.00</b>
 <b>Christmas Offertory</b>	 <b>\$9,969.00</b>

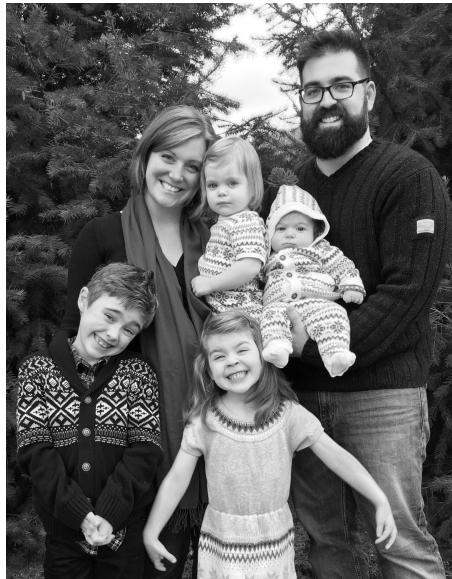
***Catholic Ministry Drive Amount Rec'd @10/31- \$39,635.  
Pledges - \$2,340.***

## **OUR PARISH FAMILY ...**

Meet the Merrick family – parents James & Allison, Rowan 7, Evelyn 4, Magdalene 21 months, and Augustine 3 months. The youngest, Augustine, was just baptized here on Thanksgiving weekend. James is a former Episcopalian priest, and is now a Lecturer in Theology at Franciscan University of Steubenville. He is also a Research Fellow at the St Paul Center there. (The founder and president of the “Saint Paul Center for Biblical Theology” is popular author and speaker Scott Hahn, who some parishioners may be familiar with.) Allison is a Graphic Designer, and has worked at both American and British firms. She is currently taking time to be home with their four young children, and is also homeschooling Rowan. They joined our parish this past June, after converting to Catholicism and returning to PA from Aberdeen, Scotland. James is originally from Hollidaysburg, and Allison said they searched for a local parish that had “good music, charitable giving, and resources for children and families”. They heard positive things about St John’s, and have found it to be a “joyful, welcoming community”. She said that they appreciate “the events and resources for the children, the purposefulness of the celebration of the Mass, Monsignor’s introductions to the readings and his homilies, and the excellent choir”. They attended our most recent parish picnic, and Rowan is currently preparing for his First Communion in our Religious Ed program.

*ABOUT NEXT WEEK: I asked James & Allison what drew them to Catholicism, especially since James was formerly an Episcopalian priest. His answer was so beautiful and meaningful, and served as such a wonderful reminder of things about our faith that we sometimes may take for granted, that we plan to reprint it here next week.*

**TEEN SHELTER:** St. John’s women’s group is still 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.



## **SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK**

### **Sunday January 7 - The Epiphany of the Lord**

8:00AM-Mass for *People of the Parish*  
11:00AM - Mass for *Matthew Geishauser* requested by  
Beth & George Geishauser

### **Monday January 8 - The Baptism of the Lord**

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

### **Tuesday January 9 - Weekday**

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

### **Wednesday January 10 - Weekday**

5:00PM- Eucharistic Adoration  
6:00PM– Evening Prayer and Communion Service

### **Thursday January 11 - Weekday**

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

### **Friday January 12 - Weekday**

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

### **Saturday January 13 - Vigil of the Second Sunday In Ordinary Time**

3:00PM-Confessions  
4:00PM- Mass for *Joe Robeson*

### **Sunday January 14 - Second Sunday In Ordinary Time**

8:00AM-Mass for *Guido Prosperi* requested by  
John Prosperi  
11:00AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

## **READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: Is 55:1-11 or 1 Jn 5:1-9; Mk 1:7-11  
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20; Mk 1:21-28  
Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Mk 1:29-39  
Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11; Mk 1:40-45  
Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Mk 2:1-12



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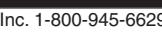
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