

APPOINTMENTS

ACOLYTES

Fri. Dec. 7 - 6:30 PM - Brody Partner-Gore, Bob Olson
 Sat. Dec. 8 - 9:00 AM - Camille Krug, NOT FILLED
 Sat. Dec. 8 - 4:00 PM - Caitlin & Tyler Conigly
 Sun. Dec. 9 - 8:00 AM - Emily & Ethan Miller
 Sun. Dec. 9 - 11:00 AM - Savannah & Makayla Langenbacher

LECTORS

Fri. Dec. 7 - 6:30 PM - Richard Consiglio, Mary Petrak
 Sat. Dec. 8 - 9:00 AM - Fran Semelsberger, Richard Karcher
 Sat. Dec. 8 - 4:00 PM - Mark Sloan, Maria Spayd
 Sun. Dec. 9 - 8:00 AM - Ronan Adams, Darlene Scarpaci
 Sun. Dec. 9 - 11:00 AM - Wally Wargo, Russell O'Reilly

EUCARISTIC MINISTERS

Fri. Dec. 7 - 6:30 PM - Lou Ann Clark, Susanna Tomlinson
 Sat. Dec. 8 - 9:00 AM - Kenneth Gorman, NOT FILLED
 Sat. Dec. 8 - 4:00 PM - Barb Aubrey, Dorothy Yingling
 Sun. Dec. 9 - 8:00 AM - Fran Semelsberger, Mary Truesdale
 Sun. Dec. 9 - 11:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Cecelia, Bloom, David Lee,
 Dolores Capriotti, Joseph Klobuka, Pam Klobuka

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Fri. Dec. 7 - 6:30 PM - David Langguth, Coleen Langguth,
 Darlene Scarpaci, Fran Semelsberger
 Sat. Dec. 8 - 9:00 AM - Charlie Moore, Ed Stoltz, Larry VanSickel,
 Paula VanSickel
 Sat. Dec. 8 - 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, Carolyn English,
 Heather Nackley, Judy Sneath
 Sun. Dec. 9 - 8:00 AM - Jane Becker, John Becker, Ray Kennedy,
 Ginny Reeder
 Sun. Dec. 9 - 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Wendy Campbell,
 Peg Madden, Patrick Podoletz

SACRISTAN

Fri. Dec. 7 - 6:30 PM - Dolores Capriotti
 Sat. Dec. 8 - 9:00 AM - NOT FILLED
 Sat. Dec. 8 - 4:00 PM - Ray & Mary King
 Sun. Dec. 9 - 8:00 AM - Michele DeFrancisco
 Sun. Dec. 9 - 11:00 AM - Dolores Capriotti

SCRIP

Sat. Dec. 8 - 4:00 PM - Mary Haenig, Judy Sneath
 Sun. Dec. 9 - 8:00 AM - Christopher Palazzi, Patty Teufel
 Sun. Dec. 9 - 11:00 AM - Peg Madden, Marge Rudolph

MASS SCHEDULE FOR THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION:

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7: 6:30PM
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8: 9:00 AM**



*Immaculate
Conception*



God bless Anthony Weston, baptized by Monsignor Becker after the 11:00 Mass last weekend.

Because parents Sara & Brad live in Florida, the baptism was held at St. John's over Thanksgiving weekend so more family members were able to attend.
Sara is the niece of Dee and Allen Capriotti.



DECEMBER 2, 2018 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**St. John the Evangelist Church
309 Lotz Avenue, Altoona, PA
814-942-5503**

www.stjohnsaltoona.org

Office hours: Monday - Friday 9:00-3:00

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

December 2 - Advent Penance Service - 4:00 PM
 December 7 - Dessert Social for Arise participants in the Parish Center after the 6:30 PM Mass
 December 7/8 - Immaculate Conception Masses
 Friday, December 7 at 6:30 PM
 Saturday, December 8 at 9:00 AM
 December 8/9 - Second Sunday Food Collection
 December 9 - Advent of Christmas Concert - 7:00 PM
 December 15/16 - Blessing of the Baby Jesus at all masses

A Few Words from the Pastor:

Advent Penance Service – There is no better preparation for Christmas than the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance. **Our Advent Penance Service will be held Sunday, December 2nd at 4:00 PM.** The daylight hour will be much more convenient for those who have difficulty getting out in the dark! Make a good confession! What more beautiful way to begin the Advent season and prepare for the birth of the Savior.

Holy Day of Obligation - On Saturday, December 8th, we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the patronal feast of the United States. Masses for the Feast are on Friday, December 7th at 6:30PM, and Saturday, December 8th at 9:00AM. Mass that Saturday evening will be the Mass for the Second Sunday of Advent .

Second Sunday Food Collection – Please do not forget those who are less fortunate than ourselves. Your gifts of food and finance next Sunday will help feed hungry children in our community.

St. Francis Xavier – On Monday, December 3rd, we commemorate the life and ministry of Francis Xavier, a companion of St. Ignatius, who along with St. Peter Favre, was in the first community of Jesuits. A missionary at heart, Francis is known as the Apostle to the Indies, given that he spent most of his priestly life preaching and teaching in India, China and Japan. Because of his zeal in preaching Christ in the Far East, he is considered the “patron of the missions.”

CALLING ALL COOKIE BAKERS: Can you bake a couple dozen cookies this week for the reception after the Advent of Christmas Concert next Sunday?

Just drop them off in the Day Chapel next weekend, December 8 & 9, when you come to mass.

Thanks for your help!



THE ADVENT OF CHRISTMAS CONCERT will be presented on Sunday, December 9 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. There is no admission fee, but a suggested donation of \$5 per person or \$10 per family goes toward supporting our music ministry program. Take a break from your busy preparations for the holidays to attend this annual event. After the concert, refreshments will be served in the gathering space.

Saint Ambrose on December 7 – The 4th century was one which was afflicted by heresy and division in the church. It was Ambrose, the bishop of Milan, who was the valiant defender of the faith in combating these errors. He is perhaps most noted for his conversion of St. Augustine.

Ambrose exemplifies for us the truly catholic character of Christianity. He is a man steeped in the learning, law, and culture of the ancients and of his contemporaries. Yet, in the midst of active involvement in this world, this thought runs through Ambrose' life and preaching: *The hidden meaning of the Scriptures calls our spirit to rise to another world.*

Advent Calendars – We regret the delay in getting our Advent Calendars to you. There were shipping problems with the manufacturer. We expect that we will have them this week for the first Sunday of Advent.

Did You Know?.... that of the hundreds of couples who have been married in this parish, the very first were Richard Patrick McGuire and Ruth Levina Trindle, married by our first pastor Father Leo Bailey on November 10, 1921. Might this be someone in your family background? This is one of the many firsts which we celebrate as we prepare for our 100th anniversary!

Wedding Bells – On Saturday, December 1, we celebrated the marriage of parishioner Shalen Mae Perehinec, daughter of Frank and Priscilla Perehinec, and Ryan Joseph Steinbugl, Son of Kevin and Mary Steinbugl, of St. Mary's parish, Altoona. May they be blessed with a long and happy life together, and be given the great joy of children!

PASTORAL STAFF:

- Msgr. Michael Becker** *mbecker253@aol.com*
- Deacon Gene Neral** *gene@lifeinfocus.net*
- Mr. Patrick Podoletz** Parish Council President
ppodoletz@atlanticbb.net
- Mrs. Mary Ann Mirobelli** Business Manager
stjohnchurch@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. Megan Swope** Religious Education Director
mswope726@gmail.com
- Mr. Mark Krepich** Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults
Director *mark.krepich@gmail.com*
- Mr. Ken Dunmire** Maintenance

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Religious Education Schedule

December 2 - 9:15 AM - Advent Family Gathering for ALL GRADES (K-11) Students must be accompanied by an adult.

December 8 - 1:00 PM - First Reconciliation Retreat

December 9 - NO CLASS

December 15 - 11:00 AM -First Reconciliation

December 15 - 5-8 PM - Grades 9-11 Confirmation service project and Christmas Party (deliver cookies to shut-ins of the parish)

HAITI STUDENT SPONSORSHIPS: FYI...the sponsorship goes by school year. Last year's funding, even though it was in February/March covered the past school year for those students whose parents could not and had not paid. The present sponsorship of \$150 is for the 2018-2019 school year. Thank you.

Liturgical Ministry Scheduling

January – May

Deadline Sunday, December 16th

It is time to begin scheduling for January through May, 2019. And 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 16th.

Family members can fill out one card front and back.

Thank you for your service to our faith community throughout the year!

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: Let us begin this great season of Advent with a vow to be "vigilant". (Luke 21:36) In the wise stewardship of everything entrusted to us that we will be held accountable for our actions, independent of the action of others.

Stewardship at St. John's

Offertory for November 25

Envelopes	\$ 3,575.00
Loose	\$ 623.00
Parish Development	\$ 5.00
Catholic Education	\$ 20.00
Children's	\$ 5.00
<i>SubTotal</i>	\$ 4,228.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,249.00
Total Offertory	\$ 5,477.00

Catholic Ministries Drive: Total \$44,348 Goal \$44,438

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 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	June Miller
Baby Aiden	Barbara Moore
Cari Ann	Mary Oricko
Judy Baird	Ron Peschock
Jen Buda	Bob & Mary Rajnish
Robert Cole	Allison Recker
Millie Grace Capon	Olga Romerowicz
Mary Lee DeStefano	Mike Rudolph
Michael DeStefano	Sylvia Santoni
Jim Duffy	Anne Showalter
Steve Flanagan	Dianne Stultz
Helen Fornwalt	Tim & Dina Temofonte
Leann Frazier	Patty Teufel
Dianna Green	Lois Werfel
Brian Kopp	Noah Wills
Sara Litzinger	Amber Yasolsky
Sherri Maffettone	Milan & Family
Bryson Miller	

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

Anne Lee - mother of Dr. David Lee

Susan Litzinger: daughter of Joan, sister-in-law of Carole, & niece of Nancy Fogel

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



All who participated in Arise Small Discussion Groups this fall are invited to attend a celebration of the conclusion Season 1 of Arise. The covered dish Dessert Social will be held in the Parish Center on Friday, December 7 after the 6:30 PM Immaculate Conception Vigil Mass.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO ORDER SCRIP FOR HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING

GIVING: Use the Holiday Gift Card Order Form for large orders or to request scrip for gift cards not kept in stock. The deadline for holiday scrip purchases is December 16. Simply fill out an order form and drop it off at the scrip table when you come to mass. Shop gift cards from over 750 top brands, including T.J. Maxx, Amazon, Macy's, Lowes and more. Go to ShopWithScrip.com for a list of participating retailers. Have a question? Contact Chris Palazzi - 814-934-8087 or email: cpalazzi52@yahoo.com.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES IN OUR AREA:

St. John's, Lakemont; Sunday, Dec. 2 at 4:00 PM
St. Joseph, Bellwood; Sunday, Dec. 2 at 5:00 PM
Holy Rosary; Sunday, Dec. 2 at 5:30 PM
Our Lady of Mount Carmel; Monday, Dec. 10 at 7 PM
Our Lady of Lourdes; Thursday, Dec. 13 at 5:30 PM
St. Therese of the Child Jesus; Sat., Dec. 15 at 10:00 AM.
Saint Mary, Hollidaysburg: Sunday, Dec. 16 at 4:00 PM
Saint Matthew, Tyrone; Monday, Dec. 17 at 7:00 PM.
Saint Rose; Monday, Dec. 17 at 7:00 PM
Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament; Wednesday, Dec. 19
at 6:30 PM
Sacred Heart; Thursday, December 20 at 5:30 PM



Our Angel Tree Project is under way. We are working with Catholic Charities and will be helping nine families this year with approximately 200 ornaments on the tree.

Please take an ornament, do not spend more than \$25.00, wrap the gift, and return it to the church by **December 16th**. Catholic Charities will deliver the gifts to families from December 17 to 19th. Please purchase gift cards from our scrip table and put them in the special box by the tree. **PLEASE ATTACH THE TAG TO EACH GIFT SO THAT WE CAN IDENTIFY THE FAMILY.** Thank you in advance for your love and support to those in need. For more information, contact Susanna Tomlinson (814) 317-7531.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: All memorial donations for Christmas flowers should be submitted by December 16 in order to be acknowledged in the December 23 bulletin. There is an envelope in the packet that can be used or you can also donate through online giving.



EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES: All information for the December 23 bulletin should be submitted by Thursday, December 13. Information for the December 30 bulletin is due on Wednesday, December 19.

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY • TUESDAY • THURSDAY • FRIDAY 8:30AM
WEDNESDAY 6:00 PM
SATURDAY - 4:00PM • SUNDAY - 8:00AM & 11:00AM

December Prayer Intention of Pope Francis

In the Service of the Transmission of Faith

That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find a language suited to the conditions of the present time, in dialogue with culture.



First Sunday of Advent

December 2, 2018

I will raise up for David a just shoot;
he shall do what is right and just in the land.

— Jeremiah 33:15

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

Sunday December 2 - First Sunday of Advent

8:00AM-Mass for People of the Parish
11:00AM-Mass for Teresa Geishauer requested by Mr. & Mrs. Robert Chverchko
4:00PM - Advent Penance Service

Monday December 3 - St. Francis Xavier, Priest

7:30AM-Eucharistic Adoration
7:10AM-Morning Prayer
8:30AM-Mass for *Sidney & Roberta Garrett* requested by Rich & Joyce Lowe

Tuesday December 4 - Advent Weekday

7:30AM-Eucharistic Adoration
7:10AM-Morning Prayer
8:30AM-Mass for *Mark Kopp* requested by Ed Stoltz

Wednesday December 5 - Advent Weekday

5:00PM-Eucharistic Adoration
6:00PM-Mass for *Edward Szczepanik*
6:45PM-Rosary

Thursday December 6 - Advent Weekday

7:30AM-Eucharistic Adoration
7:10AM-Morning Prayer
8:30AM-Mass for *Joe Robeson*

Friday December 7 - St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

7:30AM-Eucharistic Adoration
8:30AM-Mass for *Jimmy Nguyen Family*
6:30PM - Mass for *Frances Brown* requested by David & Melanie Lee

Saturday December 8 - Vigil of Second Sunday of Advent

9:00AM - Mass for *Clarence & Eileen Becker* requested by Ron & Betty Peschock
3:00PM-Confessions
4:00PM-Mass for *Thomas Guttadauro* requested by Ray & Mary King

Sunday December 9 - Second Sunday of Advent

8:00AM-Mass for People of the Parish
11:00AM-Mass for *Dave Litzinger* requested by The Litzinger Family

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37
Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday: Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31
Saturday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

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