

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

*Elizabeth
asked,*

"And how
does this
happen
to me,
that the
mother of
my Lord
should
come
to me?"
Luke 1:43

© Copyright iStock Images Corp.

DECEMBER 23, 2018
FOURTH 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

MASS SCHEDULE

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

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

December 24-26 - Parish Office Closed
December 27 - 8:30 AM -Feast of St. John the Evangelist
Mass and Breakfast at The Dream

APPOINTMENTS

ACOLYTES

Mon. Dec. 24 - 4:00 PM -Mai Linh Do, Brody Partner-Gore,
Keaton Swope, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Mon. Dec. 24 - 10:00 PM -Nicholas Helsley, Bob Olson,
NOT FILLED
Tues. Dec. 25 - 10:00 AM - Bob Olson, NOT FILLED
Sat. Dec. 29 - 4:00 PM - Brody Partner--Gore, NOT FILLED
Sun. Dec. 30 - 8:00 AM - Mai Linh Do, Nicholas Helsley
Sun. Dec. 30 - 11:00 AM - Camille Krug, Kaelab Ruggles

LECTORS

Mon. Dec. 24 - 4:00 PM -Maria Spayd, David Langguth
Mon. Dec. 24 - 10:00 PM -Bill Foose, Norma Foose
Tues. Dec. 25 - 10:00 AM - Gary Johnson, Fran Semelsberger
Sat. Dec. 29 - 4:00 PM - Jack Donoughe, Joyce Cunningham
Sun. Dec. 30 - 8:00 AM - Fran Semelsberger, Ronan Adams
Sun. Dec. 30 - 11:00 AM - Claudia Anderson, Richard Karcher

EUCARISTIC MINISTERS

Mon. Dec. 24 - 4:00 PM -Walter Bloom, Cecelia Bloom, Barbara
Bundy, Daniel Turcovsky, Diane Turcovsky, Daniel Langenbacher
Mon. Dec. 24 - 10:00 PM - Paula Adams, David Lee,
Donna Moyer, Susanna Tomlinson
Tues. Dec. 25 - 10:00 AM - Dolores Capriotti, Darlene Scarpaci
Sat. Dec. 29 - 4:00 PM - Dorothy Yingling, Connie Baker
Sun. Dec. 30 - 8:00 AM - Daniel Turcovsky, Diane Turcovsky
Sun. Dec. 30 - 11:00 AM - David Lee, Susanna Tomlinson, Kenneth
Gorman, Walter Bloom Cecelia Bloom, Marilyn Bevan

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Mon. Dec. 24 - 4:00 PM - Ginny Reeder, Karen Moughemer,
Ed Stoltz, Dennis Moughemer, Charlie Moore, Mike O'Neill
Mon. Dec. 24 - 10:00 PM - Walter Bloom, NOT FILLED,
NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Tues. Dec. 25 - 10:00 AM - Connie Baker, Carolyn English,
Dorothy Yingling, NOT FILLED
Sat. Dec. 29 - 4:00 PM - Billy Sweet, Judy Sneath, Larry VanSickel,
Paula VanSickel
Sun. Dec. 30 - 8:00 AM - Ginny Reeder, Carolyn English,
Darlene Scarpaci, Ed Stoltz
Sun. Dec. 30 - 11:00 AM - Mary Grace Horton, Patrick Podoletz,
Peg Madden, Dolores Capriotti

SACRISTAN

Mon. Dec. 24 - 4:00 PM -Barbara Bundy
Mon. Dec. 24 - 10:00 PM -Joyce Cunningham
Tues. Dec. 25 - 10:00 AM - NOT FILLED
Sat. Dec. 29 - 4:00 PM - Ray & Amry King
Sun. Dec. 30 - 8:00 AM - Michele DeFrancisco
Sun. Dec. 30 - 11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy

SCRIP

Sat. Dec. 29 - 4:00 PM - Julie Beiswenger, Becky Merilli
Sun. Dec. 30 - 8:00 AM - Erika & Heather Yasolsky
Sun. Dec. 30 - 11:00 AM - Peg Madden, Marge Rudolph

A Few Words from the Pastor:

Christmas Mass Schedule – Please note our Christmas Mass schedule. There is the usual Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve at 4:00 PM, with the late evening Mass celebrated at 10:00 PM, *not at Midnight*. Christmas Morning Mass will be celebrated at 10:00 AM.

Our Expanded 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 John's children. The angel was a gift from Rick and Cindy Karcher, and the Magi a gift from Dave and Jan Andrews and Ray and Sharon Johnson. An anonymous donor contributed the third Magi.

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 of Mass at 8:30, and gather with us at the Dream for a breakfast feast!**

♥ *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.

Restore! Repair! Rejoice! – After the first of the year, we will begin the next phase of our 100th Anniversary campaign. Brochures are prepared, and all will be encouraged to participate in this important initiative. Please take a moment to view the pictures posted in the Gathering Space which show the physical needs of our parish. We are grateful to those who have already made a pledge. Stay tuned in the next few weeks for more information.

Looking Ahead! – After New Year's we will begin a six week Adult Ed program on the Mass, with presentations by the noted speaker, Bishop Robert Barron. Don't Miss It!!! The Program will begin on January 6th.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Religious Education Schedule

December 23 – NO CLASS

December 30 – NO CLASS

January 6 - Class Resumes 9:15-10:45

Liturgical Reflection... On this final Sunday of Advent, with only hours away from the great celebration of Christmas, Mary is placed in her rightful position in the divine plan of salvation. With Elizabeth, we say (as we do every time we pray the Hail Mary), "Blessed are you among women, and blessed in the fruit of your womb." The Incarnate Word is so close that Elizabeth's baby leaps for joy in her womb. We too are filled with holy joy.

2018, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 South Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648

PARISH FEAST DAY MASS AND BREAKFAST: Please join in our parish feast day celebration on Tuesday, December 27, with mass at 8:30 AM. After the morning mass, we will go to breakfast at The Dream in Hollidaysburg. You can sign up on the kiosk if you plan on attending the breakfast.

A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS: Sunday, December 30th, at 3 PM, at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church. A relaxing concert with Seasonal Music and audience participation will be held. The organists will be Agoston Solzi and James Dengler. A free will offering will be taken to benefit the Pipe Organ Campaign.

ST. LEONARD'S HOME: Worried about a loved one? St. Leonard's Personal Care Home in Hollidaysburg provides medication management, personal hygiene assistance, socialization, meals, housekeeping and a 24 hour staff in a home-like environment. We serve men and women 62+ for whom it is no longer safe to live alone. To tour our beautiful Victorian mansion, or for more information, call Sr. Cynthia Meyer at 814-695-9581 during weekday business hours. We are a Catholic facility but accept all eligible applicants, and will assist with financial aid applications where applicable.

FREE THROW CHAMPIONSHIP: Star of the Sea Council 4245, Hollidaysburg, will hold its Free Throw Championship for 2019 on December 30, 2018 from 100-230pm at Blair Regional YMCA in Hollidaysburg. REGISTRATION 12:30-1:00pm. Competition is free but a donation of non-perishable food item for local food bank is encouraged. Open to boys and girls 7-14 as of Jan. 1, 2019. Must bring proof of age. May only participate in one council competition. Awards for all age groups. Questions or pre-register (recommended) by calling Dennis Dombrosky at 695-1509 or email at dinopapt@aol.com.

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

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

Steve Flanagan – Brother-in-law of Paul, Mary & Betty Dennis
Mary A. Pipetti – Aunt of Ginny Reeder

SPIRIT OF THE SEASON CONCERT: On Thursday, December 27, at 7 PM, at the Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel, 321 St. Mary Street, Loretto, a Christmas Concert will be held featuring **La Bella Musica String Quartet, The St. Michael Basilica Choir** and the **St. Michael School Choir** under the direction of Basilica Director of Music, Jonathan Nagy. A free will offering will be taken to benefit the Loretto Basilica /Our Lady of the Alleghenies Garden Shrine music program.

STEWARSHIP CORNER: Mary expressed her trust in God by proclaiming "May it be done to me according to your word" (Lk 1:38). May her "yes" serve to remind us of our unique roles in God's divine plan. The course of history may very well be changed if we choose to reply "no" to His invitation.

Offertory for December 16 was not available because of an early bulletin deadline.

Catholic Ministries Drive: Total \$44,648 Goal \$44,438

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES: All information for the December 30 bulletin should be submitted by this Tuesday, December 18. Information for the January 6 bulletin is due on Wednesday, December 26.

DON'T FORGET SCRIPNOW FOR LAST MINUTE GIFTS!

Skip the cold weather and holiday crowds—take care of those last-minute gifts right from home! Choose their favorite retailer and send an eGift right to their inbox. It's like having your very own personal elf! It's easy to get started! Simply visit ShopWithScrip.com and follow the simple steps to set up your new account in just minutes.

PARISH CENTER AND CHURCH SCHEDULING: Our Parish Center has been a great addition to the parish for committee meetings and classes. However, we do ask that you contact the parish office at 942-5503 before scheduling a meeting to make sure another group has not already reserved it. It's also a good idea to call and ask the staff to check the master calendar before using the church gathering space and day chapel or the school cafeteria or gym - just to make sure that they are not already in use. We do have some groups that meet in those places on a regular basis. Thank you.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT BISHOP GUILFOYLE HIGH SCHOOL: Olivia Butler, 11th grade Bishop Guilfoyle student and Girl Scout Ambassador is currently working towards achieving her Girl Scout Gold Award. The Gold Award represents the highest achievement in Girl Scouting, recognizing girls who demonstrate extraordinary leadership through take-action projects that have sustainable impact in their communities and beyond. Olivia is currently designing and will soon be installing Stations of the Cross outside of Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School. In addition to the Stations themselves, Olivia is creating and printing multi-lingual booklets to be used by all members of the community as they prayerfully wind their way through the Bishop Guilfoyle Stations of the Cross. Olivia hopes that this project will provide the community with a place for prayer and reflection. To learn more about her project and how you can make a donation towards the project please contact the Bishop Guilfoyle Business Office at 814-944-5226. Donations can be made out to Bishop Guilfoyle and sent directly to the Business Office, Attention: Stations of the Cross. All donations are greatly appreciated. Each donor will receive a special thank you card acknowledging their donation and appropriate for presenting as a gift during the Christmas season. Those making a donation of \$150 or more may choose to have the Stations of the Cross placed in recognition or honor of a family member, friend, or group. All such honorees will have their names included on one plaque placed adjacent to the Stations of the Cross.



Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 23, 2018

Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

—Luke 1:42

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

Sunday December 23 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00AM-Mass for *People of the Parish*
11:00AM-Mass for *Tom Lutton* requested by
Bob & Ginny Reeder

Monday December 24 - Vigil of The Nativity of The Lord (Christmas)

4:00PM-Mass for *People of the Parish*
10:00PM-Mass for *People of the Parish*

Tuesday December 25 - The Nativity of The Lord (Christmas)

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

Wednesday December 26 - St. Stephen, The First Martyr

5:00PM-Eucharistic Adoration/Confessions
6:00PM-Mass for *Ward & Marcella Diehl* requested by
Bill & Dee Schmerbeck
6:45PM-Rosary

Thursday December 27 - St. John, Apostle & Evangelist

7:30AM-Eucharistic Adoration
7:10AM-Morning Prayer
8:30AM-Mass for *New Evangelization of St. John's Parish*

Friday December 28 - The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

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

Saturday December 29 - Vigil of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

3:00 PM - Confessions
4:00PM-Mass for *People of the Parish*

Sunday December 30 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

8:00AM-Mass for *Patrick Farrell* requested by
Bernadine Farrell & Family
11:00AM-Mass for *Christina Flanagan* requested by
Betty, Paul & Mary Dennis

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79
Tuesday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25
Night: Is 9:1-6; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18
Wednesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
Thursday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Friday: 1 Jn 1:5 -- 2:2; Mt 2:13-18

SeniorLIFE ALTOONA

Home Today. Home for LIFE.

SeniorLIFEPA.com
814-943-2273

Please Cut Out This "Thank You Ad" and Present It The Next Time You Patronize One of Our Advertisers

Thank You

Thank you for advertising in our church bulletin. I am patronizing your business because of it!

COM PROS

INCORPORATED
814-946-8100
Telephone Systems
Two-Way Communications
400 Highland Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602
www.comprosinc.com



FRANK'S AUTO SERVICE CENTER
FRANCIS GIVLER, JR., Owner
Certified Auto Technician 400 S. Logan Blvd.
814-943-4942 Altoona, PA 16602-4102

FINDaPARISH.com

Check It Out Today!

The Most Complete
Online National
Directory of
Catholic Parishes

VICTOR J. RIZZO, D.C.
CHIROPRACTOR
502 LOGAN BLVD.
944-3536

HEALTHSOUTH

Rehabilitation Center
Regency Square

ASK FOR US BY NAME!

Pat Leamer, MPT
Physical Therapist
Clinic Manager
2900 Plank Road, Suite 2
Altoona, PA 16602
(814) 941-0916

Catholic Cruises and Tours

Brian or Sally, coordinators

860.399.1785 an Official Travel
Agency of
Apostleship of
the Sea-USA
CST 2117990-70
www.CatholicCruisesAndTours.com

ONE PARISH
Download Our Free App or Visit
MY.ONEPARISH.COM



Promote Your Business
365 Days a Year With
Custom Promotional Calendars!

Makes a Great Gift For Clients
Call for brochure and pricing!
800.566.6170
customercare@jspaluch.com

Grow in your faith,
find a Mass, and
connect with your
Catholic Community
with OneParish!



Consider
Remembering
Your Parish in
Your Will.

For further information,
please call the Parish Office.

Life Matters

For more information go to
www.usccb.org/respectlife

Protecting Seniors
Nationwide



Medical Alert System

\$29.95/Mo. billed quarterly

- One Free Month
- No Long-Term Contract
- Price Guarantee
- Easy Self Installation



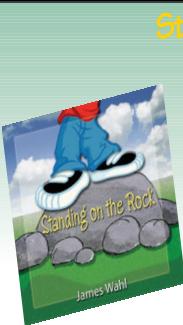
Call Today! Toll Free 1.877.801.8608



The Stevens Mortuary, Inc.
Joseph J. Stevens, Supervisor
Altoona 944-9365
Plank, Stitt & Stevens Funeral Home
David J. Mason, Supervisor
Hollidaysburg 695-1551

Roland Crevecoeur Jr. M.D. FAAP, MACP
Pediatric Cardiology and other
Medical Consultations, LLC
"Specializing in Pediatrics, Pediatric Heart and
Hypertension Disease for nearly a decade in Central PA"
1800 North Juniata Street, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648
(814) 695-0632 • Accepting New Patients Again

Pediatric Cardiology
Keeping The Heart
In All We Do
Other Medical Consultations, LLC



Standing on the Rock CD by James Wahl

FUN AND FAITH-FILLED MUSIC

for little ones, with 10 songs based on Bible
stories and the teachings of Jesus.
This is a new music collection for
preschool children and those who are
in early grade school.

\$17.00 + S&H

WORLD LIBRARY PUBLICATIONS
the music and liturgy division of J.S. Paluch Company, Inc.

800-566-6150 • www.wlp.jspaluch.com/14028.htm

**Saint Margaret
Sunday Missal**



An ideal companion
for personal prayer.
In Stock & Ready to Order Today.
CALL OR ORDER ONLINE. \$39.95



WORLD LIBRARY PUBLICATIONS

800-566-6150 • www.wlpmusic.com

**Altoona
MEMORIAL STUDIO**
When Only The
Best Will Do
814-942-0101
1006 Pleasant Valley Blvd.
Altoona, PA 16602
Corner of 10th & Pleasant Valley Blvd.



378660 St John the Evangelist Church



all St. John parishioners are eligible to join

www.arcfcu.org • 814-946-0857

McAleer's
Since 1886

Plumbing,
Heating,
Air Conditioning
• Registered Master Plumbers • Residential & Commercial
• Free Estimates • Neat & Clean Is Our Trademark • Quality Work
Non-Smoking Employees • An Altoona Tradition
1008 Chestnut Ave. • Altoona

942-7153

www.jspaluch.com

If You Live Alone You Need **LIFEWATCH!**

24 Hour Protection at **HOME** and **AWAY!**

- ✓ Ambulance
- ✓ Police
- ✓ Fire
- ✓ Friends/Family

Solutions as Low as **\$19.95 a month**

FREE Shipping
FREE Activation
NO Long Term Contracts



CALL NOW!
800.809.3352

No Landline? No Problem!
* Real Time GPS Tracking * Fall Detection



ACCREDITED BUSINESS

For Ads: J.S. Paluch Co., Inc. 1-800-945-6629