



**ADVENT
FAMILY
GATHERING
2018**

Last Sunday, our religious education families spent some time making Chrismons (ornaments made from Christian symbols). These Chrismons are displayed on the Christmas trees in the Gathering Space.

DECEMBER 9, 2018 SECOND 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 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

APPOINTMENTS

ACOLYTES

Sat. Dec. 15 - 4:00 PM - Rylee Hershey, Keaton Swope
Sun. Dec. 16 - 8:00 AM - Mai Linh Do, Nicholas Helsley
Sun. Dec. 16 - 11:00 AM - Nevaeh & Makayla Langenbacher

LECTORS

Sat. Dec. 15 - 4:00 PM - Betsy Slat, David Langguth
Sun. Dec. 16 - 8:00 AM - David Andrews, Tim Rea
Sun. Dec. 16 - 11:00 AM - Susanna Tomlinson, Jim Campbell

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. Dec. 15 - 4:00 PM - Barb Aubrey, Dorothy Yingling
Sun. Dec. 16 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci, Fran Semelsberger
Sun. Dec. 16 - 11:00 AM - Donna Moyer, Daniel Langenbacher, Barbara Bundy, Bob Olson, Bill Foose, Norma Foose

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. Dec. 15 - 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, Karen Moughemer, Dennis Moughemer, Billy Sweet
Sun. Dec. 16 - 8:00 AM - Charlie Moore, Mike O'Neill, Larry VanSickel, Paula VanSickel
Sun. Dec. 16 - 11:00 AM - Wendy Campbell, Dolores Capriotti, Walter Bloom, Wally Wargo

SACRISTAN

Sat. Dec. 15 - 4:00 PM - Joyce Cunningham
Sun. Dec. 16 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci
Sun. Dec. 16 - 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan

SCRIP

Sat. Dec. 15 - 4:00 PM - Joan Price, Nancy Weimer
Sun. Dec. 16 - 8:00 AM - Judy Sneath, Heather Yasolsky
Sun. Dec. 16 - 11:00 AM - Patty & Bill Teufel



Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us!

A Few Words from the Pastor:

Honoring the Patroness of the Americas – On Wednesday, December 12, the Church in North and South America celebrates the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, also known as the Virgin of Guadalupe. This is a Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary associated with a venerated image enshrined within the Minor Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. The basilica is the most visited Catholic pilgrimage site in the world, and the world's third most visited sacred site. Pope Leo XIII granted the venerated image a Canonical Coronation on 12 October 1895. A canonical coronation is a pious institutional act of the Pope in which oftentimes a Papal legate or the Pontiff himself designates a crown, tiara, or stellar halo to an image of Christ, Mary or Joseph. In a special way we are united with our Hispanic brothers and sisters, who have such an abiding devotion to the Virgin of Guadalupe.

Santa Lucia – Thursday the church universal honors Saint Lucy, the patroness of the blind. We know little of her history. For certain this brave woman lived in the ancient city of Syracuse in Sicily, and lost her life during the persecution of Christians in the early fourth century. Lucy, whose name means "light" or "lucid," is often seen with the emblem of eyes on a cup or plate. In paintings, she is often depicted with a golden plate holding her eyes and often holds a palm branch, which is a symbol of victory over evil. She is also depicted wearing a crown of candles.

St. John of the Cross (+1591) – Most noted for his books Ascent of Mount Carmel and Dark Night of the Soul, the Spanish mystic St. John of the Cross was one of the great reformers of the Carmelite order, and a spiritual companion of St. Theresa of Avila. Two quotes are worth considering: "The endurance of darkness is the preparation for great light," and "In the evening of life, we will be judged on love alone." His feast we celebrate on Friday.

THE ADVENT OF CHRISTMAS CONCERT will be presented this 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.



Our Angel Tree – Many thanks to all who have participated in our annual Angel Tree Project. Your generosity will bring many smiles on many little faces this Christmas!

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

DID YOU KNOW...that an article in the *Altoona Mirror* on June 25, 1949, announced the purchase of what is now the parish rectory. It was bought from the estate of attorney Ed Fleck, and, as the article reads, "*is being readied for its opening in September as a combination convent, school, and catechetical center.*" Father Eugene Parrish was pastor at the time, and the article also announced that three Sisters of St. Joseph would take up residence here. The rectory at that time was across the street. The paper showed a picture of the house, though the large oak trees in front were 70 years younger than today!!!

First Reconciliation! – We celebrate with our second grade children as they receive the Sacrament of Penance for the first time this Saturday, December 15. We are grateful to their families and to those who have patiently prepared them for this experience of God's loving forgiveness. We look forward with them to their First Communion in the Easter season.

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.

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!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Religious Education Schedule

December 9 - NO CLASS

December 15 (Saturday) First Reconciliation

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

December 16 - Class in Session 9:15-10:45

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY: Next Sunday is Bambinelli Sunday. Bambinelli is Italian for Little Infant. The Catholic Church has a beautiful tradition of Blessing the Christ Child figurines that are placed in our home manger scenes. All are invited to bring their "Bambino" to any of the Masses on the weekend of December 15/16 (Gaudete Sunday) where they will be blessed by Monsignor Becker.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES IN OUR AREA:

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

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.



STEWARSHIP CORNER: Paul prays that all in the faith community increase their love and their knowledge to "discern what is of value" (Phil 1:10). We grow as stewards and disciples of Jesus Christ by making decisions daily that demonstrate just how much we value our faith.

Stewardship at St. John's

Offertory for December 2

Envelopes	\$ 5,421.00
Loose	\$ 261.00
Parish Development	\$ 100.00
Catholic Education	\$ 70.00
Children's	\$ 3.00
Retired Religious	\$ 60.00
<i>SubTotal</i>	\$ 5,915.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,954.00
Total Offertory	\$ 7,869.00

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
Helen Fornwalt	Dianne Stultz
Leann Frazier	Tim & Dina Temofonte
Dianna Green	Patty Teufel
Brian Kopp	Lois Werfel
Sara Litzinger	Noah Wills
Sherri Maffettone	Amber Yasolsky
Bryson Miller	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

NEXT WEEKEND IS THE LAST OPPORTUNITY TO ORDER SCRIP THAT IS NOT IN STOCK FOR HOLIDAY GIFT 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 large holiday scrip purchases or scrip not regularly kept in stock 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 J.C. Penney, Target, Kohl's, Home Depot and more. Go to ShopWithScrip.com for a complete list of participating retailers. Have a question? Contact Chris Palazzi by phone: 814-934-8087 or email: cpalazzi52@yahoo.com.



BLAIR CONCERT CHORALE : The Blair Concert Chorale, under the direction of Dr. Ryan Beekan, will present A *Universal Yuletide* on Saturday, December 15, at 7:30 PM in the Wolf-Kuhn Theater at Penn State Altoona. Tickets for the concert can be purchased at Thompson Pharmacy or online at www.AltoonaTickets.com.



Angel Tree

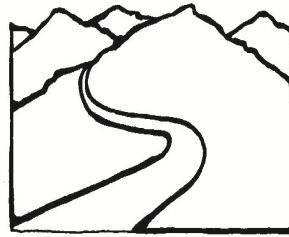
Please return all gifts to the church by **December 16th** so that Catholic Charities can deliver the gifts to families from December 17 to 19th. Make sure you attach the tag to each gift so that we can identify the family.

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

A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS: On Sunday, December 30th, at 3 pm, at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 8th Avenue and 11th Street, Altoona, PA 16602, a relaxing concert with Seasonal Music and audience participation will be held. The organists will be Agoston Solzi and James Dengler. All are welcome to attend. A free will offering will be taken to benefit the Pipe Organ Campaign.

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 donations of a 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.

ADULT ENRICHMENT 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 7 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 8 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!



Second Sunday of Advent
December 9, 2018

God has commanded
that every lofty mountain be made low.

— Baruch 5:7

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

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

Monday December 10 - Advent Weekday

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

Tuesday December 11 - Advent Weekday

7:30AM-Eucharistic Adoration
7:10AM-Morning Prayer
8:30AM-Mass for *Leroy Musselman* requested by
Anna Musselman

Wednesday December 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe

5:00PM-Eucharistic Adoration
6:00PM-Mass for *Mark Kopp* requested by
Doug & Dolly DeAntonio
6:45PM-Rosary

Thursday December 13 - St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

7:30AM-Eucharistic Adoration
7:10AM-Morning Prayer
8:30AM-Mass for *Marge Jackson* requested by
Ron & Betty Peschock

Friday December 14 - St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

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

Saturday December 15 - Vigil of Third Sunday of Advent

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

Sunday December 16 - Third Sunday of Advent

8:00AM-Mass for *Ida Prosperi* requested by
John Prosperi
11:00AM-Mass for *Joan Brua* requested by
Janet & Sam Ianuzzi

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab;
Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19

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

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

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

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.

WAGNER & FINN ATTORNEYS AT LAW
944-4700 • www.wagfinn.com
WORKERS' COMPENSATION • CIVIL LITIGATION
EMPLOYMENT/BUSINESS LAW
ESTATES • WILLS • REAL ESTATE

J.S. Paluch Company
Garden Walk
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.

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


Your Catholic Credit Union
iARC FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
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 Tradition • Quality Work
Non-Smoking Employees • An Altoona Tradition
1008 Chestnut Ave. • Altoona 942-7153

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

Life Matters

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

Protecting Seniors Nationwide

24SEVEN
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

If You Live Alone You Need LIFEWatch!

24 Hour Protection at HOME and AWAY!

Ambulance Solutions as Low as **\$19.95 a month**
Police
Fire
Friends/Family

FREE Shipping
FREE Activation
NO Long Term Contracts

CALL NOW! 800.809.3352

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

LIFEWatchUSA PERSONAL CARING SERVICE SINCE 1980