

## APPOINTMENTS

### ACOLYTES

Sat. Dec. 21 - 4:00 PM - Brody Partner-Gore, Amber Yasolsky  
 Sun. Dec. 22 - 8:00 AM - Ethan & Emily Miller  
 Sun. Dec. 22 - 11:00 AM - Camille Krug, Kaelab Ruggles  
 Tues. Dec. 24 - 4:00 PM - Mai Linh Do, Ryan Donoughe, Rylee Hershey, Keaton Swope  
 Tues. Dec. 24 - 10:00 PM - Bob Olson, Nicholas Helsley  
 Weds. Dec. 25 - 10:00 AM -NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED

### LECTORS

Sat. Dec. 21 - 4:00 PM - Jack Donoughe, Betsy Slat  
 Sun. Dec. 22 - 8:00 AM - James Krug, Tim Rea  
 Sun. Dec. 22 - 11:00 AM - Patrick Schurr, Jim Campbell  
 Tues. Dec. 24 - 4:00 PM - Donna Moyer, Richard Karcher  
 Tues. Dec. 24 - 10:00 PM - Barbara Bundy, Susanna Tomlinson  
 Weds. Dec. 25 - 10:00 AM -NOT FILLED, Gary Johnson

### EUCARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. Dec. 21 - 4:00 PM - Joseph Klobuka, Pam Klobuka  
 Sun. Dec. 22 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci, Fran Semelsberger  
 Sun. Dec. 22 - 11:00 AM - Bob Olson, Marilyn Bevan, Bill Foose, Norma Foose, Barbara Bundy, NOT FILLED  
 Tues. Dec. 24 - 4:00 PM - Lou Ann Clark, Diane Turcovsky, Daniel Turcovsky, Mary Truesdale, Connie Baker  
 Tues. Dec. 24 - 10:00 PM - Walter Bloom, Cecelia Bloom, Dolores Capriotti, Kenneth Gorman  
 Weds. Dec. 25 - 10:00 AM - Barb Aubrey, NOT FILLED

### MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. Dec. 21 - 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, Carolyn English, Judy Sneath, Dorothy Yingling  
 Sun. Dec. 22 - 8:00 AM - Charlie Moore, Mary Truesdale, Ray Kennedy, Ed Stoltz  
 Sun. Dec. 22 - 11:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Dolores Capriotti, Lou Ann Clark, Peg Madden  
 Tues. Dec. 24 - 4:00 PM - Mary Grace Horton, Patrick Podoletz, Helen Miller, Mike O'Neill, Ginny Reeder, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED  
 Tues. Dec. 24 - 10:00 PM - Betsy Lloyd, Judy Sneath, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED  
 Weds. Dec. 25 - 10:00 AM - Carolyn English, Peg Madden, Fran Semelsberger, NOT FILLED

### SACRISTAN

Sat. Dec. 21 - 4:00 PM - Jane Byrne  
 Sun. Dec. 22 - 8:00 AM - Joyce Cunningham  
 Sun. Dec. 22 - 11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy  
 Tues. Dec. 24 - 4:00 PM - NOT FILLED  
 Tues. Dec. 24 - 10:00 PM - Barbara Bundy  
 Weds. Dec. 25 - 10:00 AM -Jane Byrne

### SCRIP

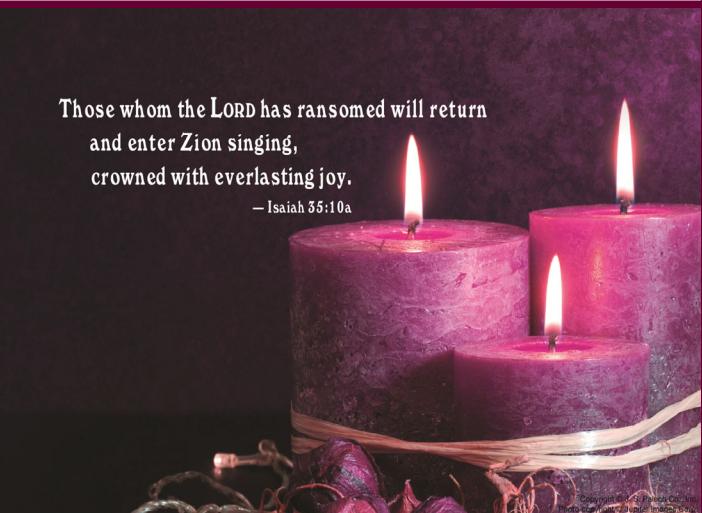
Sat. Dec. 21 - 4:00 PM - Becky Merilli, Marge Rudolph  
 Sun. Dec. 22 - 8:00 AM - Christopher Palazzi, Heather Yasolsky  
 Sun. Dec. 22 - 11:00 AM - Christopher Palazzi

## UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Dec. 15 -Family Pizza Party/Christmas Caroling -12:30 PM  
 Dec. 24-26 - Parish Office Closed  
 Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Masses @ 4:00 PM & 10:00 PM  
 Dec. 25 - Christmas Day Mass @ 10:00 AM  
 Dec. 27 - Feast of St. John the Evangelist Mass at 8:30AM followed by breakfast at The Dream  
 Dec. 31/Jan. 1- Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God: Masses Dec. 31 @ 4:00 PM and Jan.1 @10:00 AM  
 Jan. 14 - Night Out At The Heidelberg - 6:00 PM  
 Feb. 1- Souper Bowl Spaghetti Dinner - 5:00 PM

Those whom the **LORD** has ransomed will return  
and enter Zion singing,  
crowned with everlasting joy.

- Isaiah 35:10a



## Christmas Mass Schedule

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

**DECEMBER 15, 2019**  
**THIRD SUNDAY**  
**OF ADVENT**

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

**[www.stjohnsaltoona.org](http://www.stjohnsaltoona.org)**

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

### **MASS SCHEDULE**

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

## A Few Words from the Pastor:

**FIRST PENANCE** – Our congratulations to the children who made their first Penance this Saturday. The celebration of this Sacrament is their final step in their preparation for their First Communion, set for Sunday, May 10 at the 11:00 Mass.

**THE "O" ANTIPHONS!** -- Since the seventh century, this set of seven prayer texts has been sung or recited over the final days of Advent during the daily service of vespers, or evening prayer. They are voiced in response to the Magnificat (**Luke 1:46-55**). Each antiphonal prayer addresses God with "O" and a biblical name and concludes with a call for him to come. The phrases of the prayers derive from Scripture. You may be familiar with them from the verses of the well-known Advent hymn, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." They may be used devotionally, one a day, from Tuesday, December 17 to the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Here are the traditional texts of the "Great O's":

*O Wisdom, O holy word of God,* you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care: Come and show your people the way to salvation.

*O Sacred Lord of ancient Israel,* who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai mountain: Come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free.

*O Flower of Jesse's stem,* you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; rulers stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you. Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid.

*O Key of David, O royal power of Israel,* controlling at your will the gate of heaven: Come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and lead your captive people into freedom.

*O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:* Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

*O Ruler of all the nations,* the only joy of every human heart, O keystone of the mighty arch of humankind: Come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust.

*O Emmanuel, ruler and lawgiver, desire of the nations, savior of all people:* Come and set us free, Lord our God.

**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!

**DO YOU HAVE A BIBLE IN YOUR HOME?** How important is it to you and your family? How often do you read it? To help the church grow in love and faithful witness to God, Pope Francis has declared the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time to be dedicated to the word of God. In preparation for this special Sunday, January 26, our parish will be making available for purchase bibles of all shapes and sizes for personal and family use. We will also be obtaining a more ornate Gospel Book that will be used and displayed at our Sunday liturgy. In declaring this special day, Pope Francis wrote that "a special day devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the word of God will help the church experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world."

**BLESSING OF THE BABY JESUS** - Today is Bambinelli Sunday. Bambinelli is Italian for Little Infant. One of the popular expressions of the joyful expectation of Christmas is the setting up of the nativity in our homes. The Nativity scene is a feature of our culture and art, but above all it is a sign of faith in God, who in Bethlehem came "and dwelt among us" (Jn 1: 14). All were invited to bring the baby Jesus from their nativity set to mass this weekend. At the end of mass, there is special blessing for the baby Jesus that you place in the manger in your home. If you forgot to bring your baby Jesus this weekend, you can bring it to mass next weekend.

**OPLATKI, THE CHRISTMAS WAFER** - This is a tradition from Eastern Europe, especially Poland. Oplatki are unleavened wafers baked from pure wheat flour and water, and are usually rectangular in shape and very thin. They are similar to the composition of Communion hosts at Mass, and are used at Christmas Eve celebrations as a reminder of our sharing in the Body of Christ. These wafers are embossed with Christmas related religious images, such as the manger, the Blessed Mother, or the Star of Bethlehem. It is broken and shared before **Wigilia**, the Christmas Eve dinner! Oplatki will be available in the Gathering Space this weekend and next weekend.

### ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES IN THE AREA:

**December 15:** 4:00 p.m. – Saint Mary, Hollidaysburg

**December 16:** 7:00 p.m. – Saint Matthew, Tyrone

7:00 p.m. – Saint Rose of Lima, Altoona

**December 18:** 6:30 p.m. – Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona

**December 19:** 5:30 p.m. – Sacred Heart, Altoona

## FAITH FORMATION NEWS

**Dec. 15** - Class in session.  
**Dec. 22** - No Class .  
**Dec. 29** - No Class.  
**Jan. 5** - Class in session.

**FAMILY CHRISTMAS CAROLING:** What better way to get into the holiday spirit than by caroling in the neighborhood? Join us this Sunday, December 15, after the 11:00 Mass. We'll gather in the Parish Center for a pizza lunch around 12:30 and then we will go caroling through the neighborhood. Everyone loves to sing Christmas carols.

**LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULING JANUARY - MAY**  
It is time to begin scheduling for January through May, 2020. If you have not already done so, please 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](http://www.stjohnsaltoona.org)) as well as a link in the email reminder you received. *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 today!*

**ST. JOHN'S SKI CLUB** starts in January. The club is open to all members of St. John's as well as family members and friends. We ski on Sunday afternoon. Great winter family fun beginning in January. Contact Theresa Johnsonbaugh at 932-8308 for the details and to register.

**PARISH FEAST DAY MASS AND BREAKFAST:** Please join in our parish feast day celebration on Friday, 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.

## PASTORAL STAFF

**Msgr. Michael Becker** - [mbecker253@aol.com](mailto:mbecker253@aol.com)  
**Deacon Gene Neral** - [gene@lifeinfocus.net](mailto:gene@lifeinfocus.net)  
**Mr. Chris Ringkamp** - Parish Council President  
                                  [chris@icfdaj.org](mailto:chris@icfdaj.org)  
**Ms. Jena Bowman** - Business Manager  
                                  [stjohnchurch@atlanticbb.net](mailto:stjohnchurch@atlanticbb.net)  
**Mrs. Deborah Johnson** - Director of Music/Pastoral Associate  
                                  [dj219@msn.com](mailto:dj219@msn.com)  
**Mr. & Mrs. Bill & Norma Foose** - Stephen Ministry  
                                  [norma.foose@yahoo.com](mailto:norma.foose@yahoo.com)  
**Mrs. Megan Swope** - Director of Faith Formation  
                                  [mswope726@gmail.com](mailto:mswope726@gmail.com)  
**Mr. Mark Krepich** - Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults  
                                  [mark.krepich@gmail.com](mailto:mark.krepich@gmail.com)  
**Mr. Ken Dunmire** - Maintenance

## ST JOHN'S PRAYER LIST

Please call Ginny Reeder (695-7671) or email her at [ginny.reeder@gmail.com](mailto:ginny.reeder@gmail.com) to add or remove someone from 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 • Baby Aiden • Cari Ann • James Aubrey  
Judy Baird • Julie Beiswenger • Debbie Billeck  
Robert Cole • Millie Grace Capon • Betty Dennis  
Michael DeStefano • Jim Duffy • Kathy Felty  
Bernadine Farrell • Helen Fornwalt • Leann Frazier  
Molly Grenfell • Ken Hartman • Randy Horton  
Brian Kopp • Lisa • Fr. Leo Lynch • Sherri Maffettone  
Bryson Miller • Susie Miller • Barbara Moore  
Ailani Myers • Nancy • Patricia Olson • Mary Oricko  
Jeff Price • Karen Price • Ron Peschock • Mary Rajnish  
Allison Recker • Vicki Riley • Olga Romerowicz  
Cari Roth • Mike Rudolph • Fr. Robert Rustin  
Peggy Seiler • Anne Showalter • Tim & Dina Temofonte  
Patty Teufel • Lois Werfel • William Wieland  
Noah Wills • Amber Yasolsky • Milan & Family**

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

**Donald L. 'Butch' Houseman, husband of Sue Houseman**  
*May he rest in the peace and joy of the Lord.*

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER:** The call to stewardship is personal and with a purpose in mind for each individual. The call is never made in isolation, with the community assisting in the discernment process. We are asked to respond to the call, knowing the cost may not be small. Are you willing to serve Jesus in a big way even if the outcome may not be what you expect?

### Stewardship at St. John's

*Offertory for December 8*

Envelopes	\$ 5,633.00
Loose	\$ 704.00
Catholic Education	\$ 5.00
Catholic Charities	\$ 40.00
Religious Retirement Fund	\$ 547.00
Missionary Cooperative	\$ 10.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 240.00
Christmas Offering	\$ 125.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 505.00
Second Sunday Food	\$ 494.00
<i>SubTotal</i>	\$ 8,303.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,958.00
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 10,261.00</b>

### *Restore\*Repair\*Rejoice*

Payments/Donations \$118,667  
Pledge Payment Committed \$40,904  
Total Pledges/Donations \$159,771

**2019 Catholic Ministries Drive: Goal - \$43,116**

*As of November 30, 2019:*

Payments/Donations \$35,005  
Pledge Payment Committed \$645  
Total Pledges/Donations \$35,650

## **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. Use the enrollment code E73D25C3842.



**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:** All memorial donations for Christmas flowers should be submitted by this Monday, December 16 in order to be acknowledged in the December 22 bulletin. There is an envelope in the packet that can be used or you can also donate through online giving.

**THE FRIAR'S NOOK GIFT SHOP:** Finish up (or start!) your Christmas shopping at The Friar's Nook Gift Shop Christmas Sale! Save 20% off the ENTIRE shop December 14<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> (closed 22<sup>nd</sup>) including nativities, gifts, flags, mats, décor, cards, and much more! The shop is located on the St. Bernardine Monastery campus at 793 Monastery Road, Hollidaysburg. Shop hours are Monday-Saturday: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM. Please call 814-695-3802 with any questions. Please Note: Unfortunately, there will **not** be a Christmas Cookie Sale this year.

**CARD SHOWER:** Let's celebrate the birthdays of our oldest parishioners with a card shower! Our two December birthdays are David Garhart (339 S. Logan Blvd. Altoona PA 16602) and Colleen Salome (73 Clover Drive, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648). Please take the time to send them a card. They will be delighted to hear from you! May God richly bless them as they celebrate this birthday.

**CHRISTMAS CHOIR:** We're looking for choir members to sing at the 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Mass with the Youth Choir and at the 10:00 AM Christmas Day Mass with the Adult Choir. We will be singing familiar Christmas Carols and would like to fill those empty chairs in the choir area. All ages and abilities! Parents and grandparents, come sing with your children and grandchildren.

Contact Deborah Johnson at 814-931-2867 for the details.

**EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINE:** All information for the December 29 bulletin is due on Wednesday, December 18.

## **FAMILIES AND THE GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11**

The question put to Jesus in today's gospel is also put to us today: "Are you the one?" Are you the one who will give guidance to the children in your life or must they look to TV sitcoms, films, videos and music lyrics for direction? Are you the one? Will you be the one?



**Third Sunday of Advent**  
December 15, 2019

Those whom the Lord has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy.

— Isaiah 35:10a

## **Schedule for the Week**

### **Sunday Dec. 15 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

8:00AM- Mass for *Ida Prosperi* requested by John Prosperi

11:00AM- Mass for *Teresa Geishauser* requested by Mr. & Mrs. Robert Chverchko

### **Monday Dec. 16 – Advent Weekday**

7:30AM- Eucharistic Adoration

8:10AM- Morning Prayer

8:30AM- Mass for *Laurie Kalan* requested by Richard & Joyce Lowe

### **Tuesday Dec. 17 – Late Advent Weekday**

7:30AM- Eucharistic Adoration

8:10AM- Morning Prayer

8:30AM- Mass for *Joe Robeson*

### **Wednesday Dec. 18 – Late Advent Weekday**

5:00PM- Eucharistic Adoration/Confessions

6:00PM- Mass for *Bill Schmerbeck* requested by Barbara McCormick

6:45PM- Rosary

### **Thursday Dec. 19 – Late Advent Weekday**

7:30AM- Eucharistic Adoration

8:10AM- Morning Prayer

8:30AM- Mass for *Edward Szczepanik*

### **Friday Dec. 20 – Late Advent Weekday**

7:30AM- Eucharistic Adoration

8:10AM- Morning Prayer

8:30AM- Mass for *Alice & Steve Dubaniewicz*

### **Saturday Dec. 21 – Vigil of the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

3:00 PM- Confessions

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

### **Sunday Dec. 22 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

8:00AM- Mass for *Dave Petрак* requested by Ron & Joyce Cunningham

11:00AM- Mass for *Joseph Miller* requested by Mr. & Mrs. David Lee

## **READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17

Wednesday: Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25

Thursday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25

Friday: Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38



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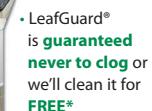
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