



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 13, 2020

AS THE EARTH BRINGS FORTH ITS PLANTS,
AND A GARDEN MAKES ITS GROWTH SPRING UP,
SO WILL THE LORD GOD MAKE JUSTICE AND PRAISE
SPRING UP BEFORE ALL THE NATIONS.

ISAIAH 61:11

© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc. - Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass © 2008, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970, CCD. All rights reserved.
Photo: PainterStock/Adobe Stock, Advent flame art: Tony Ward for J. S. Paluch Co., Inc., 2019.

St. John the Evangelist Church

309 Lotz Avenue, Altoona, PA 814-942-5503
www.stjohnsaltoona.org

PASTORAL STAFF

Monsignor Michael Becker - mbecker253@aol.com; allinall214@gmail.com

Deacon Gene Neral - gene@lifeinfofocus.net

Kristina Hoyne - Parish Council President - inaugh@aol.com

Jena Bowman - Business Manager - stjohnchurch@atlanticbb.net

Deborah Johnson - Director of Music/Pastoral Associate - dj219@msn.com

Diane Ryan - Administrative Assistant - stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net

Mark Krepich - Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults - mark.krepich@gmail.com

Ken Dunmire - Maintenance

NEXT WEEKEND'S APPOINTMENTS

LECTORS

Sat. Dec. 19 - 4:00 PM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED

Sun. Dec. 20 - 8:00 AM - Diane Turcovsky, Dan Turcovsky

Sun. Dec. 20 - 11:00 AM - Richard Karcher, James Krug

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. Dec. 19 - 4:00 PM - Keaton Swope, Sophia Raneri

Sun. Dec. 20 - 8:00 AM - Nicholas Helsley, Mai Linh Do

Sun. Dec. 20 - 11:00 AM - Camille Krug, NOT FILLED

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. Dec. 19 - 4:00 PM - Connie Baker

Sun. Dec. 20 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci

Sun. Dec. 20 - 11:00 AM - Donna Moyer, Bob Olson,
Susanna Tomlinson

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. Dec. 19 - 4:00 PM - Billy Sweet, NOT FILLED,
NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED

Sun. Dec. 20 - 8:00 AM - Ray Kennedy, Jane Strasser,
Paula VanSickel, Larry VanSickel

Sun. Dec. 20 - 11:00 AM - Walt Bloom, Wendy Campbell,
Dolores Capriotti, Lou Ann Clark

SACRISTAN

Sat. Dec. 19 - 4:00 PM - Mary & Ray King

Sun. Dec. 20 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci

Sun. Dec. 20 - 11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy

SCRIP

Sat. Dec. 19 - 4:00 PM - Mary Haenig, Marge Rudolph

Sun. Dec. 20 - 8:00 AM - Chris Palazzi, Heather Yasolsky

Sun. Dec. 20 - 11:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve: 2:00 PM 4:00 PM
10:00 PM

Christmas Day: 8:00 AM
10:00 AM

*Limited seating available.
Please call 942-5503 to make a
reservation.*

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY - 4:00 PM

SUNDAY - 8:00 AM & 11:00 AM

MONDAY - 6:00 PM

TUESDAY - 8:30 AM

WEDNESDAY - 6:00 PM

THURSDAY - 8:30 AM

FRIDAY - 8:30 AM

A Few Words from the Pastor:

REJOICE, REJOICE! On one Sunday each Advent and Lent, the priest and deacon will come out of the sacristy wearing rose vestments and inevitably makes some sort of comment about how the color of his vestments should not be classified as “pink,” but *rose*. Often the priest is somewhat embarrassed, wearing such a bold color! Yet, the use of **rose vestments** during the sacred liturgy of the third Sunday of Advent has been a part of the Church’s tradition for many centuries. **Rose gives us joy and a promise of hope; our world is in need of both.**

On both Sundays (*Gaudete* in Advent and *Laetare* in Lent), rose is worn to remind us that the season of preparation is coming to a close and the great feast is swiftly approaching.

Pope Francis has put a lot of emphasis on joy and even dedicated an entire encyclical to the “[Joy of the Gospel](#).” He writes in the opening paragraph,

The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew. In this Exhortation I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church’s journey in years to come.

CONFESSIONS - Because of the seriousness of the Covid virus, and the need to minimize gatherings, the Bishop has asked that we not celebrate parish communal penance services. He asks instead that we provide ample opportunity for parishioners to come for individual confession in the days leading up to Christmas. Thus, between now and Christmas, I will be available following each weekend Mass, along with a visiting priest to assist. This will be in addition to confessions before and after our Monday and Wednesday Evening Masses. Of course, you may always call me at the rectory for an individual confession.

RESERVATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES - To accommodate the large number of families who attend Mass on Christmas, we have added some additional Masses to our schedule. Masses on Christmas Eve will be at 2 PM and 4 PM, with the later Mass at 10 PM. On Christmas morning we will celebrate Mass at both 8 o’clock and 10 o’clock. Communion will be distributed in the front circle at 11:30. So that we are not overcrowded at any one Mass, we are going to ask that you make reservations. Please call the office (942-5503) at your earliest convenience to reserve your seat!!

BIBLE STUDY MOVED BACK TO TUESDAY EVENING - All are most welcome to join our evening zoom Bible study, which has come back to its original Tuesday Evening. Each week we take a careful look at the reading for the coming Sunday!

DAILY REFLECTIONS - I have resumed my daily reflections on our website and Facebook page, reflecting upon the blessing and challenge of this particular Advent season. I will be making reference during my reflections on a new book by Pope Francis entitled [Let Us Dream: The Path to a Better Future](#). In his beautiful, pastoral way, Francis invites us not to focus on returning to the normal, but to consider better ways that we might live more fully the call to discipleship. This book is available on Amazon. I believe it provides very helpful and insightful thoughts on pathways to a brighter tomorrow.

Liturgical Ministry Scheduling for January – May 2021

Deadline Sunday, December 13th

It is time to begin scheduling for January through May, 2021.

And so, we are asking that you give us the dates for which you are NOT available for January – May 2021.

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.

Here is the direct link to the **Ministry Scheduler Pro** website – www.rotundasoftware.com/ministry/teammates

There are cards available in the Gathering Space for those who do not have access to the internet.

Family members can fill out one card front and back.

Please update your profile online OR fill out a card and return it by Sunday, December 13th.

If you are not able to update your profile online or visit the church to fill out a card, you may give me a call on a weekday evening between 7 PM and 10 PM or on the weekends at 814-932-2223.

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

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Faith formations students: Have you decorated your Chrismons to hang on the tree in the Church?

Parents: Please make sure your students are completing their weekly lessons. Lessons are emailed every Monday or Tuesday following the Sunday class listed on the schedule. There will be no assignments made the week of December 27 and January 3. If you have any questions, please contact Diane Ryan in the parish office at 942-5503 or email stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: Memorial donations for Christmas flowers should be submitted by this Monday, December 14, in order to be acknowledged in the December 20 bulletin. Use the envelope in your packet or you can also donate through online giving.



STEWARDSHIP CORNER: How do we respond to St. Paul's challenge to give thanks to God in all circumstances? We respond with an "attitude of gratitude!" Good stewards know they didn't earn their time, talents or treasure. Good stewards have good memories, recalling where they came from, the struggles of their parents, the struggles of their own lives, those peaks and those valleys that shaped them and brought them to this very moment. And they find themselves very grateful. These are truly gifts from a generous God; miraculously and randomly scattered over the human race, who asks only that we be generous in response. (*Seven Secrets of Successful Stewards*, Paul Wilke, 2005 Catholic Update, St. Anthony Messenger Press, Cincinnati, Ohio)

Like the rose candle of the Advent Wreath may we "shine on" as we share our blessings in cheerfulness and joy.

Stewardship at St. John's

November 29, 2020

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Envelopes | \$ 3,945.00 |
| Loose Offerings | \$ 397.12 |
| Children's Offerings | \$ 8.00 |
| Catholic Education | \$ 1.00 |
| Catholic Charities | \$ 2.00 |
| Solemnity of Mary | \$ 5.00 |
| Retirement Fund for Religious | \$ 10.00 |
| Immaculate Conception | \$ 5.00 |
| Christmas Flower Offering | \$ 185.00 |
| Christmas Offering | \$ 75.00 |
| Food Bank Collection | \$ 100.00 |
| Subtotal | \$ 4,733.12 |
| Online Giving | \$ 1,468.00 |
| Total Offortory | \$ 6,201.12 |

Restore*Repair*Rejoice

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Payments/Donations | \$165,113 |
| Pledge Payment Committed | 17,251 |
| Total Pledges/Donations | \$182,364 |

ST JOHN'S PRAYER LIST

Please call Ginny Reeder (695-7671) or email her at giny.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:*

Aiden • Cari Ann • Lucy A. • Amy B. • Monsignor Becker
Julie Beiswenger • Scott Brenneman • Dan Burley
Robert Cole • Betty Dennis • Michael DeStefano
Bernadine Farrell • Kathy Felty • Mary Ann Flinn
Helen Fornwalt • Leann Frazier • Molly Grenfell
Jackie Hall • Ken Hartman • Denny Horton
Randy Horton • Alexandra Hudson • Mary Jo Ivory
Amy Langenbacher • Lisa • Sherri Maffettone
Camden Michael • Susie Miller • Barbara Moore
Ailani Myers • Patricia Olson • Mary Oricko
Linda Pletcher • Karen Price • Ron Peschock • Connie R.
Mary Rajnish • Allison Recker • Vicki Riley
Allison Ritchey • Olga Romerowicz • Mike Rudolph
Bruce Shank • Anne Showalter • Dick Showalter
Steve Stefanon • Tim Temofonte • Patty Teufel
Kathy Wagner • Lois Werfel • Len Whitten
Milan & Family

ST. JOHN'S ANGEL TREE 2020: During this special year, through Catholic Charities our parish helped 10 children with Christmas gifts and eight families with gift cards to Martins and Walmart. Thank you!

We were able to buy a new Christmas Tree for a family in great need. You are true Angels and your generosity and prayers helped so many. The Angel Tree can only exist for 25 plus years because you care. The food you bring each month, coats for children all attest to your acts of Mercy and your Love of God. Looking forward to a blessed year as we build a loving community! *Susanna Tomlinson*

SCRIP TIP: Find gifts for everyone on your list while raising funds for St. John the Evangelist Church by using scrip. Shop gift cards from over 750 top brands, including Bath & Body Works, Walmart, Target and more. Whether you buy the gift cards to give as presents to family and friends, or to use them to buy your gifts—our parish earns with every gift card purchased. Shopping physical gift cards just got way more convenient with the new ship to home feature—available only in the mobile app, RaiseRight™. Choose from hundreds of top-selling brands that are "Ship to Home Eligible" and pay with a bank account or credit card. Don't have the app yet? Download it today to get your gift cards from the comfort of home.

December Prayer Intention of Pope Francis

For a Life of Prayer

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

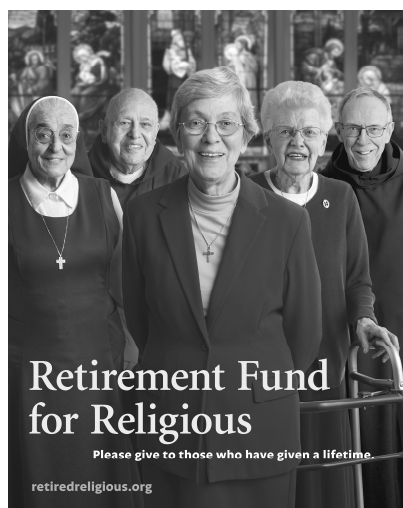


SACRAMENTS COURSE – Fr. Timothy Grimme will be teaching an 8 week Sacraments class at St. Michael Church Hall, St. Michael beginning Tuesday, January 5, from 6:30-8:30 PM. The cost for this class is \$65, which includes registration and books. These classes may be taken for continuing education credit and Master Catechist requirements. To register, please contact Marybeth at (814) 361-2000 or by email at mheinze@dioceseaj.org. Registration forms are also available online at www.dioceseaj.org/lay-ecclesial-ministry/

FRIARS NOOK GIFT SHOP: Kick off your Christmas shopping by stopping at The Friar's Nook Gift Shop! Normal business hours will be Monday-Saturday 10:00 AM-4:00 PM (always closed on Sundays). 793 Monastery Road, Hollidaysburg. The phone number is 814-695-3802 .

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE DIOCESE: The following positions are available throughout the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese. To apply go to www.dioceseaj.org/employment. Business Manager-Holy Name School; Custodian-St. Michael School; General Laborer-Church of the Transfiguration Parish; Music Director-Holy Family Parish; Principal-St. Patrick School; Kindergarten Teacher-St. Matthew School; 3rd Grade Teacher-All Saints School; Comptroller and Executive Assistant-Diocesan Finance Department; Administrative Assistant-Diocesan Human Resources/Children & Youth Protection Offices; Executive Director and Social Worker-Catholic Charities.

THIS WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION: Make a difference. "Every dollar makes a difference in covering our expenses," says a Trappist abbot. Hundreds of US religious communities struggle to provide for aging members because most senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little pay. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps these communities bridge the gap, offering support for medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please be generous.



Third Sunday of Advent December 13, 2020

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.

— 1 Thessalonians 5:16

Schedule for the Week

Sunday, December 13 – Third Sunday of Advent

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

11:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

12:30 PM - Communion in the Front Circle

Monday, December 14 – St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

6:00 PM - Mass for *David Petrak* requested by Sam & Judy Kokolis

Tuesday, December 15 – Advent Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Bill Schmerbeck* requested by Mary Ann & Ron Hinkle

Wednesday, December 16 – Advent Weekday

5:30 PM - Confessions

6:00 PM - Mass for *Laurie Kalan* requested by Rich & Joyce Lowe

Thursday, December 17 – Late Advent Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Richard Bender* requested by Larry & Carol Field

Friday, December 18 – Late Advent Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Joe Robeson*

Saturday, December 19 - Vigil of Fourth Sunday of Advent

3:00 PM - Confessions

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

Sunday, December 20 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM - Mass for *Dave Ganz Sr.* requested by Bill & Norma Foose

11:00 AM - Mass for *Yolanda Bumann* requested by Patty & Joe Pufka

12:30 PM - Communion in the Front Circle

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19, 23; Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17

Friday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

AS THE EARTH BRINGS FORTH ITS PLANTS,
AND A GARDEN MAKES ITS GROWTH SPRING UP,
SO WILL THE LORD GOD MAKE JUSTICE AND PRAISE
SPRING UP BEFORE ALL THE NATIONS.

ISAIAH 61:11

© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc. · Excerpts from the *Lectionary for Mass* © 2008, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970, CCD. All rights reserved.
Photo: Painterstock/Adobe Stock, Advent flame art: Tony Ward for J. S. Paluch Co., Inc., 2019.

REPENTING AND REJOICING

The readings this week bear a certain similarity to those of last week—we hear a prophecy from Isaiah that is reiterated by John the Baptist in Mark’s Gospel—but today the focus is different. Last week John told us to repent. Today he is the light leading us to God. Today is also known as “Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday,” as the reading from First Thessalonians commands us to “Rejoice in the Lord always.” We are to rejoice. Right now. Combined with last Sunday, this seems like a mixed message. “Which is it? Repenting or Rejoicing?” But John is telling us that one leads to the other. As we prepare for the coming of our Savior we must first repent and then rejoice.

A LITTLE GOOD NEWS

Many years ago, Canadian singer Ann Murray had a hit song that spoke of her frustrations as she listened to the radio and read the headlines. She sang that “we sure could use a little good news today.” It strikes me that this is the message that the readings want us to leave with this week. The Gospel Antiphon proclaims, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because God has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor” (from Isaiah 61:1 and Luke 4: 18). John the Baptist is here to testify to the light, to the Good News.

WILL THE REAL MESSIAH PLEASE STAND UP?

The Jewish people were waiting for their messiah, they were waiting for a hero. They prodded John several times trying to figure out what his role actually was, and to see what he knew. It became a guessing game. He tried to say nothing, but finally answered in a humble fashion, “I am not he.” He baptized with water as a means of leading people to the coming Christ and helping them to prepare. He somehow avoided the trappings of success that would turn his light on himself. Today he remains a road sign for us, pointing out Christ our Light.

We all want someone to rescue us, and most likely to fix the mistakes and errors that we continue to make as individuals and as nations. Much of that is human nature. Would there be as much fascination with superheroes if this were not the case? How many times do you as an adult turn to your folks for advice, or wish you could talk to a deceased parent? Some need help emotionally, others spiritually, others financially. The reality is that it is tough to get your “ducks in a row” and always has been. Today’s encouraging message is for us to always look to the Light for our help. May we always be like John the Baptist and testify how Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, has been our Savior.

TODAY’S READINGS

Isaiah 61:1–2a, 10–1

Luke 1:46–48, 49–50, 53–54

1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

John 1:6–8, 19–28

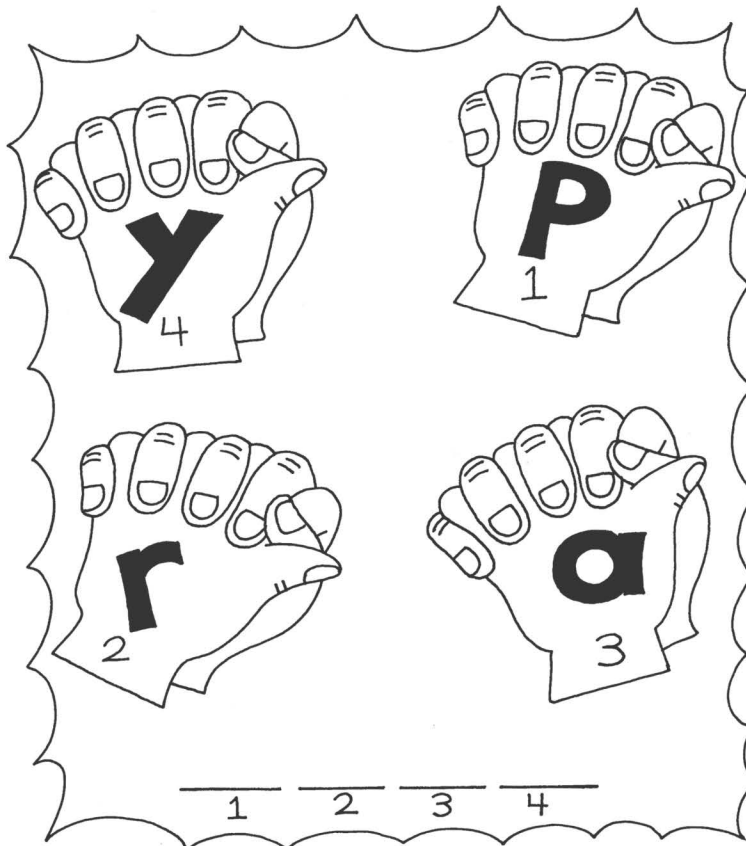
THIRD SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

DECEMBER 13, 2020

God's Word for Children

Write the letters on the folded hands
in correct number order.

They will spell what Paul told the Christians in Thessalonica
to keep doing.



© J.S. Paluch Co., Inc. • 800-566-6150 • Year B • Third Sunday of Advent

Scripture excerpts from the New American Bible, revised edition © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970, Confraternity of
Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, D.C. and are used by permission of the copyright owner. All rights reserved.
No part of the New American Bible may be reproduced in any form without permission in writing from the copyright owner.

Third Sunday of Advent

God is so wonderful and good!

We are filled with joy and we rejoice because of God's goodness.

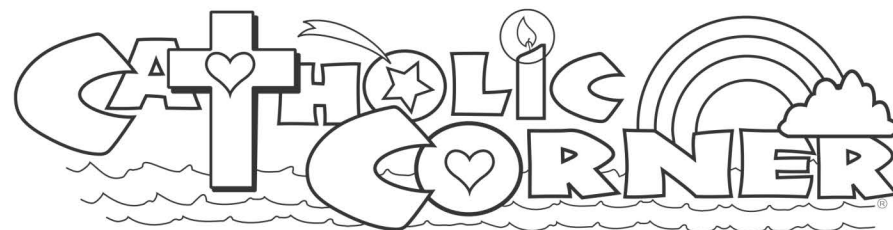
Finish drawing the bottom sign so it looks like the top one.

Then color both.



Like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem,
like a bride bedecked with her jewels.

Isaiah 61:10



O LITTLE TOWN

These words come from another prophet named Micah. He foretold where the Messiah would be born. It was not the place many people imagined.

*But you, Bethlehem-Ephrathah,
too small to be among the clans of Judah,
From you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler of Israel.*

(Micah 5:1)

If you were waiting for the birth of an important person, where do you think that would happen? In a large city? In a grand building? In some famous place that everyone knew? So the people who waited for the Messiah must have thought. But the prophet Micah told them to look for someplace different. Do you recognize the name of a "little town" in the verse above? We know now that it is the birthplace of Jesus.

Do you have any Christmas cards, old or new, with a picture of this place?

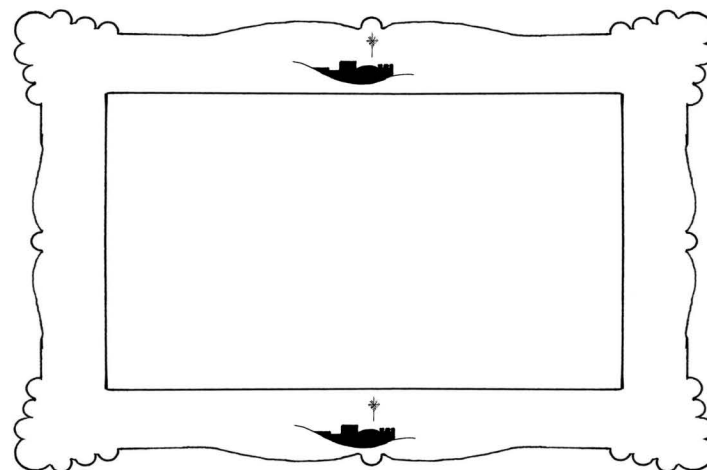
Glue the picture from the card in this space; or you can draw it yourself.

Jesus was born in a small town, and not even in a house.

He was born in a stable surrounded by animals and placed in a manger, the trough from which they fed.

If your card does not include animals, draw some to add to your picture.

Save it to add to your booklet.





The Church in the Media

By The VIRTUS Programs

These days, it sometimes seems as though any good news regarding the Catholic Church is overshadowed by headline stories that remind us of the painful past of child sexual abuse in our Church, and the way that leadership of the Church has at times ignored the issues facing them. The failure of someone in any leadership to act appropriately adds more harm to an already terrible situation where abuse has been historically present, and can re-victimize survivors who have already suffered so much. Whenever a new report of sexual abuse within the Church comes to light, whether current or past abuse, the Church's painful history with this issue is in the headlines again.

For those who strive to live the teachings of Jesus and work together for the protection of children, youth and the vulnerable, these stories about the harm caused by the people we love(d) and trust(ed) can seem overwhelming. Over the past twenty plus years, we have been confronted with the reality of these stories time and time again—in the media, and, from people we know. Our families, for example, might only focus on the failures of the Church—not on the accountability reforms or the measures that have been put in place to maintain safe environments for children. Our neighbors bring it up in conversation. Co-workers ask us about the issue. There is negative material all over social media. Op-ed pieces get written about the Church and letters to editors blame the issue of child sexual abuse on priests and Catholic Church leadership.

As stories continue to be released in news headlines, we might be asking ourselves *when it will stop?* When will we be able to say confidently that these problems are fully of the past, and that what we know about now is fully out in the open and being dealt with, correctly and transparently? All of this disclosure is powerful; it can be helpful to encourage other survivors to come forward and begin their healing journey, it can shed light on any holes in our behaviors or practices that need to be corrected, and it can give us the opportunity in conversations to share what has been done within the Church for accountability and child protection. Bringing the information to light, in a healthy way, is good, because it is honest and forthcoming about what was done and not done—what was condoned or overlooked or ignored. It is good for leadership to know how to lead more effectively, more pastorally, and more diligently—and to be held accountable for putting any personal feelings about any person ahead of the well-being of children and the vulnerable.

We can only truly be the Church Jesus founded when we are willing to share our pain and our triumphs, our shortcomings and our gifts, our regrets, and our joys. Remember, it is a good thing that these things are no longer hidden from view. Offenders can no longer hide their behavior behind a veil of secrecy or a charismatic personality. We, the Body of Christ, are calling out all that is sinful and hurtful and bringing light to the darkness.



Take heart! Consider that all issues come to light in this time because God saw that this faith community could be trusted to deal with the issue, bring it into the light, and hold accountable those who allowed abuse or other harm to occur. God trusts us, the Catholic faithful; to take care of those who were harmed by people they should have been able to trust. We can continue to be examples of how to create an environment that assures the safety of all, and we can listen to those who have victimized and help to bolster them in hope.

Whenever we are faced with another situation where someone did not act as a protector of children, we can take a moment to recommit ourselves to the importance of maintaining safe environments. Step five in the *Protecting God's Children Program[®]* involves communicating our concerns. If we ever become aware of a situation of abuse or the failure to report abuse, we must take action. Even if someone else says they will take action, we must remain vigilant. If no action is taken—we must keep reporting up the chain of command until our concerns are addressed. For instance, if you observe a concerning behavior (not actual abuse, or what causes you to suspect abuse; rather, inappropriate behavior that is unsafe, unhealthy or against the rules) by a parish employee and you tell a supervisor—yet the behavior continues—keep reporting! Report the instance to another supervisor, or the pastor of the parish. Then, if it is still ignored or you feel that resolution has not occurred, report it to the diocese.

As we continue to work toward preventing child sexual abuse from happening and stopping it from continuing, we are doing God's work on earth. We are creating an environment that promotes the furtherance of our faith, the expansion of the Kingdom of God, and the formation of people who serve children and youth with love, grace, dignity and respect.

As a caring adult, you make this happen! You are a protector of children, youth and the vulnerable and can help foster accountability and healing. YOU are making a difference that makes the difference!

Year-end giving is happening NOW!

Consider a gift that can help you *and* your parish, a ministry, or a special initiative!

Your support can do great things like:

- Keep your parish operating (*lights, heat, building maintenance*)
- Educate a seminarian (*\$100 a day*)
- Keep kids connected to their faith (*scholarships for education and camps*)
- Provide care for your brothers and sisters in need (*\$299 to fix a furnace*)
- Help families overcome life's difficulties (*marriage, grief, and addiction counseling*)

There's still time to support the 2020 Catholic Ministries Drive.

Catholic Charities, Family Life, Seminarian education, youth ministry, and adult education are 14 ministries that rely on parishioner support of the Catholic Ministries Drive to survive and thrive.

You can mail your gift to the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, P.O. Box 409, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; place in your parish offertory; or make online at www.dioceseaj.org/giving

Gifts must be postmarked by December 31, 2020, to receive a tax deduction for 2020!

Opportunities that allow you to give today and tomorrow!

Qualified Charitable Distribution

A qualified charitable distribution (QCD) allows individuals 70 ½ or older to donate up to \$100,000 total to one or more charities directly from a taxable IRA instead of taking their required minimum distribution. The amount of the QCD is excluded from taxable income. As a result, donors may avoid being pushed into higher income tax brackets and prevent phase outs of other tax deductions, though there are some other limitations. QCDs are also called IRA charitable distributions or IRA charitable rollovers.

Contact your IRA administrator for the necessary paperwork and indicate the area you want to support. *Be sure to alert your parish or the Office of Stewardship and Development of your intention.*

Donation of Appreciated Stock or Mutual Funds! If you have shares of stock or mutual funds that have grown in value over the years, or low basis stock, consider gifting the shares rather than giving cash. At the time of the donation, you get a tax deduction equal to the stock's fair market value and avoid paying the capital gains on the shares donated. Visit www.dioceseaj.org/ways-to-give/ for transfer instructions or contact Pam Seasoltz, director of Stewardship and Development, at 814.695.5577 or email: pseasoltz@dioceseaj.org.

A bequest through your Will! What will you be known for when you leave this earth? Perhaps you want your faith to be at the top of the list. Consider leaving a legacy through your Will. It's simple to do by including the following statement when you create or amend your Will.

I give, devise and bequeath to [the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, or specific parish, school or ministry], or its successor, in [city, state] all [or a percentage] of the remainder of my estate, both real and personal, for use [its general support or a specific ministry or initiative].

Need more info or help?

Visit www.dioceseaj.org/ways-to-give/ or contact Pam Seasoltz, Director of Stewardship and Development, at 814.695.5577 or email: pseasoltz@dioceseaj.org



Consider
Remembering
Your Parish in
Your Will.
For further information,
please call the Parish Office.

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



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



AUTO • HOMEOWNERS
LIFE • BUSINESS
COMMERCIAL
Elaine Ormsby
814.206.0080
elaine@imperialagency.com
www.imperialagency.com
Now Servicing Altoona
and Surrounding Areas

Catholic Cruises and Tours and The Apostleship
of the Sea of the United States of America
Take your FAITH ON A JOURNEY.
Call us today at 860-399-1785 or email
eileen@CatholicCruisesandTours.com
www.CatholicCruisesandTours.com



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

Protecting **Seniors**
Nationwide



\$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

FINDaPARISH.com

The Most Complete
Online National
Directory of
Catholic Parishes

Check It Out Today!

Cresson
SHOP'n SAVE
just right.™

Your Hometown Supermarket

1213 W. 2nd Street • Cresson, PA 16630 • 814-886-7221

Open 7 days a week • 7AM to 8:30PM

\$5 OFF

\$50 OR MORE PURCHASE

WITH CARD

With coupon excluding items prohibited by law. Limit 1 coupon per week.
PLU Code: 9845

Encompass Health
Rehabilitation Hospital of Altoona

2005 Valley View Boulevard
Altoona, PA 16602

(814) 944-3535

Offering Physical Therapy,
Occupational Therapy,
& Speech Therapy

Ask For Us By Name!!!



Get this weekly bulletin delivered by email - for FREE!

Sign up here:

www.jspaluch.com/subscribe

Courtesy of J.S. Paluch Company, Inc.

ONE PARISH
Download Our Free App or Visit
www.MY.ONEPARISH.com

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



If You Live Alone You Need MDMedAlert!

- ✓ Ambulance 24 Hour Protection at HOME and AWAY!
 - ✓ Police
 - ✓ Fire
 - ✓ Friends/Family
- FREE Shipping
FREE Activation
NO Long Term Contracts
- Solutions as Low as
\$19.95 a month



This Button SAVES Lives!
As Shown GPS, Lowest Price Guaranteed!



"I have peace of mind...
Mom remains independent."

CALL NOW! 800.809.3352

GPS Tracking w/Fall Detection
Nationwide, No Land Line Needed
EASY Set-up, NO Contract
24/7 365 Monitoring in the USA

MDMedAlert
Safe-Guarding America's Seniors Nationwide!



The Stevens Mortuary, Inc.

Joseph J. Stevens, Supervisor

Altoona 944-9365

Plank, Stitt & Stevens Funeral Home

David J. Mason, Supervisor

Hollidaysburg 695-1551

Say Good-bye to Clogged Gutters!



CALL BY 9/30 TO RECEIVE
75% OFF
LABOR*
*Does not include
cost of material.
Offer expires 9/30/20.

Receive a \$25 Lowe's Gift Card
with FREE in-home estimate!

All participants who attend an estimated 60-90 minute in-home product consultation will receive a \$25 gift card. Retail value is \$25. Offer sponsored by LeafGuard Holdings Inc. Limit one per household. Company purchases, sells, and installs seamless gutter protection. This offer is valid for homeowners over 18 years of age. If married or involved with a life partner, both cohabitating persons must attend and complete presentation together. Participants must have a photo ID, be able to understand English, and be legally able to enter into a contract. The following persons are not eligible for this offer: employees of Company or affiliated companies or entities, their immediate family members, previous participants in a Company in-home consultation within the past 12 months and all current and former Company customers. Gift may not be extended, transferred, or substituted except that Company may substitute a gift of equal or greater value if it deems it necessary. Gift card will be mailed to the participant via first class United States Mail within 21 days of receipt of the promotion form. Not valid in conjunction with any other promotion or discount of any kind. Offer not sponsored or promoted by Lowe's and is subject to change without notice prior to expiration. Expires 9/30/20.



LeafGuard®
is guaranteed
never to clog or
we'll clean it for
FREE*

- Seamless, one-piece system keeps out leaves, pine needles, and debris
- Eliminates the risk of falling off a ladder to clean clogged gutters
- Durable, all-weather tested system not a flimsy attachment

Call today for your FREE estimate and in-home demonstration

CALL NOW 412-528-1877

LeafGuard operates as LeafGuard of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania under HICPA license number PA126357 and in West Virginia under license number WV05024.

*Guaranteed not to clog for as long as you own your home, or we'll clean your gutters for free.



ENGLERT
LeafGuard
Get it. And forget it.®

Your Catholic Credit Union



all St. John parishioners are eligible to join

www.arcfcu.org • 814-946-0857

McAleer's
Since 1886

Plumbing,
Heating,
Air Conditioning

24 HOUR
EMERGENCY
SERVICE

- 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