

*And suddenly there was a multitude
of the heavenly host with the angel,
praising God and saying:*

“GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST.”

Luke 2:13-14

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

December 25, 2022 • Christmas

PASTORAL STAFF

Monsignor Michael Becker - mbecker253@aol.com

Rev. Brian Norris - bnorris@dioceseaj.org

Deacon Gene Neral - gene@lifeinfocus.net

Jena Bowman - Business Manager - stjohnchurch@atlanticbb.net

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

Diane Ryan - Faith Formation Coordinator/Secretary - stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net

Iris Tatar - Director of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd - iristat38@gmail.com

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

Ken Dunmire - Maintenance

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Dec. 26: Parish Office Closed

Dec. 27: 9:00 AM Mass for Feast of St. John the Evangelist followed by breakfast at The Dream

Dec. 30: 8:30 AM Mass for Feast of the Holy Family

December 31, New Year's Eve: 4:00 PM Mass

January 1, New Year's Day: 8:00 AM & 11:00 AM Mass

NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS

LECTORS

Sat. Dec. 31 - 4:00 PM - Jim Campbell, Maria Spayd

Sat. Jan. 1 - 8:00 AM - Susanna Tomlinson, NOT FILLED

Sun. Jan. 1 - 11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy, Gary Johnson

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. Dec. 31 - 4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, NOT FILLED

Sat. Jan. 1 - 8:00 AM - Chloe Truscello, Amber Yasolsky

Sun. Jan. 1 - 11:00 AM - Evie Koch, Estella Koch

SACRISTAN

Sat. Dec. 31 - 4:00 PM - Ray & Mary King

Sat. Jan. 1 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci

Sun. Jan. 1 - 11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy

EUCARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. Dec. 31 - 4:00 PM - Bob Olson, NOT FILLED

Sun. Jan. 1 - 8:00 AM - Daniel Turcovsky,

Diane Turcovsky

Sun. Jan. 1 - 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, NOT FILLED

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. Dec. 31 - 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, NOT FILLED,

Dennis Moughemer, Karen Moughemer

Sat. Jan. 1 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci, Ed Stoltz,

Ginny Reeder, Mary Truesdale

Sun. Jan. 1 - 11:00 AM - Patrick Podoletz, Peg Madden,

Dolores Capriotti, Wendy Campbell

NEWCOMERS: Welcome to our parish family! If you wish to participate fully in our parish life, please register by calling the office (814-942-5503) Monday-Friday between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM or complete a Parish Registration Form provided on the table in the Gathering Space and return it in the offertory collection.

A Few Words from the Pastor:

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE OF POPE FRANCIS: Our Holy Father speaks directly to a world that is broken by war and conflicts, a world that cries out for peace and a deepening sense of family: read and ponder his words and allow his prayer to be your own!

What does that Child, born for us of the Virgin Mary, have to tell us? What is the universal message of Christmas? It is that God is a good Father, and we are all brothers and sisters. This truth is the basis of the Christian vision of humanity. Without the fraternity that Jesus Christ has bestowed on us, our efforts for a more just world fall short, and even our best plans and projects risk being soulless and empty.

For this reason, my wish for a happy Christmas is a wish for fraternity. Fraternity among individuals of every nation and culture. Fraternity among people with different ideas, yet capable of respecting and listening to one another. Fraternity among persons of different religions. Jesus came to reveal the face of God to all those who seek him.

The face of God has been revealed in a human face. It did not appear in an angel, but in one man, born in a specific time and place. By his incarnation, the Son of God tells us that salvation comes through love, acceptance, respect for this poor humanity of ours, which we all share in a great variety of races, languages, and cultures. Yet all of us are brothers and sisters in humanity!

Our differences, then, are not a detriment or a danger; they are a source of richness. As when an artist is about to make a mosaic, it is better to have tiles of many colors available, rather than just a few! The experience of families teaches us this: As brothers and sisters, we are all different from each other. We do not always agree, but there is an unbreakable bond uniting us, and the love of our parents helps us to love one another.

OUR GRATITUDE – The unmatched generosity of St. John’s parishioners has again been shown in the outpouring of gifts which have been given to needy children through our annual Angel Tree. Many smiles will come upon many faces this Christmas! We collected \$2600 in gift cards and provided gifts for 9 children in 4 families. A special thanks to the members of our Angel Tree Committee for their invaluable assistance in coordinating this very worthy project!

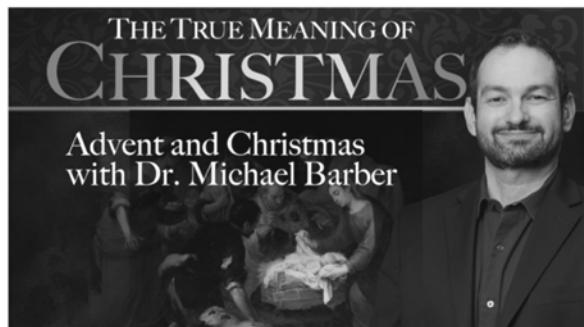


SANTA'S VISIT! – We are most grateful to Santa for making a visit to our parish in early December, and are especially grateful for the help provided by Santa's helpers, Diane Ryan and friends!

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY - Because Christmas falls on a Sunday this year, the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, which is usually celebrated on the Sunday between Christmas and New Year's Day, will be celebrated on Friday, December 30th. We hope that you can join us for our 8:30 Mass that morning.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS - Congratulations to Colin Schurr and Lydia Krug who have each been awarded a \$500 scholarship through the John & Helen Despot Scholarship Endowment.

ALPHA AT ST. JOHN'S - ALPHA will be coming to our parish in January. Alpha is a series of sessions which explore the Christian faith. Each talk looks at a different question and is designed to create conversation. No two Alpha's look the same, but generally it has three key experiences in common: food, a talk and conversation. Registration information is on the flyer included in this bulletin. You are encouraged to share the information with friends, neighbors and family who may be interested in attending.



Do you love Christmas traditions but don't know where they come from? Check out these 5 minute videos from Dr. Michael Barber. These Advent reflections called "The True Meaning of Christmas" discuss the meaning behind your favorite Christmas pastimes like Christmas trees and the manger. Go to <https://watch.formed.org/the-true-meaning-of-christmas> or scan the QR code to view these videos.





The Nativity of the Lord December 25, 2022

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.

— John 1:5

Schedule for the Week

Sunday, December 25 - The Nativity of the Lord

10:00 AM - Mass for People of the Parish

Monday, December 26 - St. Stephen, The First Martyr

8:30 AM - Mass for Leo & Cecelia Long requested by
Dee Schmerbeck

Tuesday, December 27 - St. John, Apostle & Evangelist

9:00 AM - Mass for Ron Peschock requested by
Michele & Lance DeFrancisco

Wednesday, December 28 - The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

5:30 PM - Confessions

6:00 PM - Mass for Carol Bismark & Donna Long
requested by Dee Schmerbeck

Thursday, December 29 - Fifth Day Within the Octave of Christmas

8:30 AM - Mass for Duane Eichenlaub requested by
Linda Weyandt

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

8:30 AM - Mass For Barbara Neral requested by
Walt & Cecelia Bloom

Saturday, December 31 - Vigil of Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

4:00 PM - Mass for People of the Parish

Sunday, January 1 - Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

8:00 AM - Mass for Tom Semelsberger
requested by Bill & Norma Foose

11:00 AM - Mass for Melvin Weyandt requested by
Donna Messner

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc,
17; Mt 10:17-22

Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:36-40

Friday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 [12-17]; Ps 128:1-5;
Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18

Sunday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7;
Lk 2:16-21

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: The opening words of the Gospel of John are why we celebrate Christmas, "The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him." The angel Gabriel greeted our Blessed Mother Mary with the Greek word *Kaire!* That means "Be joyful." At Christmas Eve Mass we hear, "I proclaim to you good news of great joy; today a Savior is born for us, Christ the Lord."

Pope Francis opened his sermon on Christmas day last year by saying this: "Christmas is joy, religious joy, an inner joy of light and peace." Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI shares this: "Joy is the true gift of Christmas. We can communicate this joy simply: with a smile, a kind gesture, a little help, forgiveness. And the joy we give will certainly come back to us... Let us pray that this presence of the liberating joy of God shines forth in our lives." Let us take that joy and change our lives and the lives of others. When we say "Merry Christmas" let us mean it with every fabric of our being. (Stewardship Reflection, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, Inc. 2022/11/22)

The December 10/11 Offertory Report is not available due to an early bulletin deadline.

Catholic Ministries Drive

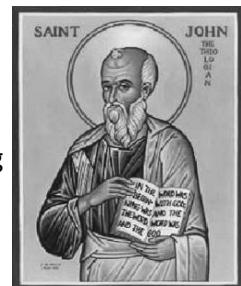
January 1 - November 30

Gifts/Pledges \$41,025

Goal - \$42,211

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST FEAST DAY MASS AND

BREAKFAST: All parishioners are welcome to attend morning mass on Tuesday, December 27, at 9:00 AM to celebrate the feast day of St. John the Evangelist. After Mass we are planning to go to breakfast at The Dream restaurant in Hollidaysburg. Please sign up on the kiosk if you'd like to come to breakfast so we can let The Dream know how many are coming.



ARE YOU A REGISTERED MEMBER OF THE PARISH? One way to know is if you receive regular communications from us, such as offertory envelopes, robo calls or mailings. If you do not receive at least one of these, then perhaps you are not registered here. You may want to check with the parish office staff. Office hours are weekdays from 9 to 3 and our phone number is 814-942-5503.

RECEIVE UP TO DATE INFORMATION FROM ST. JOHN'S WITH FLOCKNOTE: To receive text messages or email updates from St. John the Evangelist Church, text SJC1 to 84576. Your information will be completely safe and secure and you can unsubscribe from any updates at any time! Make sure you click the link in the response and complete the registration process. If you can't complete this on your mobile phone, please go online to stjohnsaltoona.flocknote.com to register.



**FOLLOW US ON
facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/St-John-the-Evangelist-Catholic-Church-113507735349570>

ST JOHN'S PRAYER LIST

Please call Ginny Reeder (695-7671) or email her at ginnen.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 • Seth Alexander • Janine Anna • Joshua Banks
Bernie Beiswenger • Diane Blyler • Scott Brenneman
Dan Burley • Cari Ann • Cheryl Cherry
Michelle Cooney • Ron Cunningham • Flo Dancha
Mary Lee DeStefano • Michael DeStefano
Charlie Elder • Kathy Felty • Leann Frazier
Ed Garlena • Gerry Gonsman • Ashley Greslick
Sherryl Hartman • Bill Hoefler • Don James
Nancy James • Tim Jimenez • Lisa • Elsie MacCullagh
Sherri Maffettone • Genevieve Mathias
Angela Mazzei • Susie Miller • Karrie McCall
Sylvia Louise Mills • Donna Moyer • Ailani Myers
Patricia Olson • Linda Pletcher • Mary Rajnish
Ryan Raybuck • Allison Recker • Bette Richards
Vicki Riley • John Rita • Carol Rodgers
Olga Romerowicz • Mike Rudolph Bruce Shank
Anne Showalter • Betsy Slat • Maria Spayd
Mary Jo Stephenson • David Sunderland
Patty Swanson • Rick Swanson • Tim Temofonte
Marion Tessitore • Mary Truesdale • Kathy Wagner
Lois Werfel

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

Karen Price, daughter-in-law of Joan Price
May they rest in the peace and joy of the Lord.

December Prayer Intention of Pope Francis For volunteer not-for-profit organizations

We pray for volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development; may they find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.



ADULT FAITH FORMATION: "In the ancient disciple-rabbi relationship, the disciple would follow the rabbi so closely that he would be covered in the dust kicked up from his rabbi's feet. Thousands of years later, though we walk on roads of pavement and not dust, we are still called to be disciples – to follow our Rabbi, Jesus Christ, so closely that we are covered with his life, changed, and made new." (Edward Sri)

On January 8th we will begin a 6 week video series, Into His Likeness: Be Transformed as a Disciple of Christ. We will meet on Sunday mornings from 9:00 to 10:30 in the school cafeteria. We hope that you will consider joining us for food, fellowship, and the opportunity to deepen your faith. *Please sign up on the kiosk so that we can order materials.*

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

December 25: NO CLASS

January 1: NO CLASS

January 8: 9:15 - 10:45 Class

10th Grade Spring Session

10th Grade Rite of Commitment at 11:00 AM

Mass (Candidates & sponsors/parents)

If you would like more information or have questions, please contact Diane Ryan at 814-942-5503 or email stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net.



Thank you to those who are using Online Giving. Parishioners who use the service are pleased with how easy it is to set up and manage. If

you have not yet signed up for Online Giving, please consider this option. By using Online Giving you are helping the parish improve our operational efficiency. Visit our parish website at www.stjohnsaltoona.org and select Donate Now on the left side of the page to get started.

FAMILIES AND THE GOSPEL: Todays' gospel reminds us God chose to enter human history in a family. By Divine design the salvation of the world began in a family. Family was the best God the Creator could do for his Beloved Son. Jesus was our first Christmas gift. *Reprinted with permission: A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar.*

Read and Understand the Bible with *The Bible in a Year* Podcast with Fr. Mike Schmitz!

"As cradle Catholics, we hear Scripture at Mass and occasionally in self study but never like this. *The Bible in a Year* brings it all together."

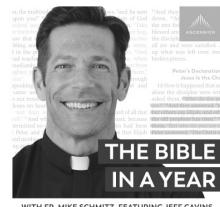
—Ignacio G.

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**Understand Your Catholic Faith with
The Catechism in a Year Podcast
with Fr. Mike Schmitz!**

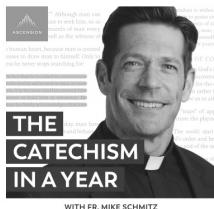
By listening to this podcast, Catholics will:

- Read the entire *Catechism of the Catholic Church* in 365 days
- Understand the essentials of the Catholic Faith and why they matter
- Transform their relationship with the Church that Christ founded

Get the FREE Reading Plan!

Scan this QR code with your phone to learn more and get your free reading plan!

www.ascensionpress.com/ciy



You don't have to journey by donkey to Bethlehem to be counted
My Own Church makes it easy!



MY OWN CHURCH: Help us keep St. John the Evangelist records up to date! Just visit our parish website at stjohnsaltoona.org and click on the My Own Church link on the left side of the page. Here you can login and update your information. If anything has changed, go ahead and update your info, and our staff will be notified.

If you haven't logged in to My Own Church, now is a great time to create an account. On the Parish Website (stjohnsaltoona.org) click on My Own Church on the left side of the homepage and create an account. Once our staff has received a request and verified your account, you can update your information.

If you have questions, please call the church office at 814-942-5503. Thanks for helping us update our records!

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

ST. ROSE OF LIMA CONTINUES WITH ITS HOMELESS SUPPORT PROGRAM: The St. Rose of Lima St Vincent de Paul Conference continued with its Homeless Support Program with a collection of hooded sweatshirts for use by Family Services in their homeless/needy programs. Through the month of November Parish members from St Rose and St John donated slightly worn and new hooded sweatshirts towards this worthy cause. St Pat's also participated in the Hoodies program, but their collection ran through the middle of December. A total of 216 sweatshirts, along with numerous hats/beanies, scarfs and gloves were delivered to Family Services by the Conference. You can visit our website at strosesvdp.org to see a picture of our Conference in action.

Dan Weaver, St. Rose Conference president, said, "The members of the St. Rose of Lima SVDP Conference would like to say thank you to all the parish members who donated to this noble cause. When we give to the poor, God indeed pours his love, peace and joy into our hearts, into our lives and into the hearts of those who are poor. God Bless You All!"

CHRISTMAS AT THE BASILICA: Please join us on Tuesday, December 27 at 6 PM in Loretto, for a concert featuring the Saint Michael Children's Choir and the Basilica Choir, singing favorite Christmas Carols and the music of John Rutter! Enjoy the music and the beauty of our basilica during the Christmas Season!

SCRIP TIPS: We will not be selling scrip this weekend or next weekend because of the holidays. However, you can download the RaiseRight App for scrip on your smartphone or laptop. After setting up the Raise Right app, you can buy most retail stores and restaurant gift cards within minutes. (Unfortunately gas and groceries are not an instant option). Get the app: <https://www.raiseright.com/>



Download our RaiseRight mobile app



SAINT JOHN'S BOWLING LEAGUE
is looking for a few more bowlers to fill out our league roster.

If you enjoy bowling and would like an occasional fun night out with fellow parishioners, please consider joining us. We bowl every other Friday night at 6:30 pm at Holiday Bowl. The second half of our season begins Friday, January 6th. To sign-up, or for more information, call Gary Johnson at 814-696-2683.

*Flowers will be placed in the sanctuary, at Christmas,
“In Honor/In Memory Of”:*

Deceased family members requested by Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Adams

Frank Auerbeck & deceased grandparents requested by Mr. & Mrs. David Auerbeck

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Becker & Mr. & Mrs. Pat Madden requested by Mr. & Mrs. John Becker

Sam & Hilda Neal requested by Mr. & Mrs. Bernie & Julie Beiswenger & Mr. Stan Neal

Our parents requested by Mr. & Mrs. Walter Bloom

William & Ann Brustle requested by Mr. & Mrs. Karl Brustle

Yolanda Bumann & Hedwig Bumann requested by Ms. Victoria Buda

Jane & David Yingling, Mike & Joe Noel, David Ritchey & Travis Yingling requested by Ms. Jane Byrne

Deceased members of the Hartsock, Hinkle, Gillinger & Wiedemer families requested by Mr. & Mrs. James Campbell

Robert J. Cole, Carlo Risoldi family & Earl Cole family requested by Mrs. Mary Ann Cole

Bob Cooney, Cooney family, Daus family, Bauer family & Baronner family requested by Mrs. Virginia Cooney

Andrew Dancha, Jr. & deceased family members requested by Mrs. Florence Dancha

Brooks family requested by Ms. Kathleen Felty

Stephan Fix requested by Mrs. Brenda Fix

Living & deceased family & friends requested by Ms. Nancy Fogel

H. Joseph Fye requested by Mrs. Carolyn Fye

Our parents requested by Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Hord

Russell & Dorothy Itell requested by Ms. Sharon Itell

Gerald Miller family, George Jacobs, Jacobs family & Gayle Jacobs requested by Mrs. Doris Jacobs

Joe & Annie Johnston requested by Mr. & Mrs. Richard Johnston

Sclafani, Yokitis, King, Veronese & DeMasters families requested by Mr. & Mrs. Ray King

Justin Koch, Gregory Koch, Susan Koch, Rachel Lay & Estella Sellers requested by Mrs. Carroll Koch

Deceased members of the Kociola, Woomer & Wirfel families requested by Mr. & Mrs. George Kociola

David Litzinger requested by Mrs. Carole Litzinger

Deceased family & friends requested by Mr. & Mrs. David McManuels

Daniel & Dolores Kubitsky requested by Ms. Donna Messner

Sinchak family, Margie Dzimiera, Regina Feryok, Lillian Balko, Marie & Gus Monios requested by Ms. Marian Monios	Mr. & Mrs. Bob Hurm requested by Mrs. Judy Sneath
Charles & Mary Jane Moore, Charles Kauffman & Janet Kauffman requested by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Moore	Dively & Spargo families requested by Mr. & Mrs. Robert Spargo
Moughemer & McCoy families requested by Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Moughemer	Mary Stokes, Ben & Mary Magarosky, Elizabeth Kistler, Pastor John Pavlosky & Stella Perambo requested by Mr. Leonard Stokes
Musselman & Steidle families requested by Mrs. Anna Musselman	Christine Stokes, Bob & Kathryn Ferrari & Helen Heffelfinger requested by Mr. Robert Stokes
Marion & John Nagle requested by Ms. Barbara Nagle	Stoltz & Dinicola families requested by Mr. Gerald Stoltz
Ron Peschock requested by Mrs. Betty Peschock & family	Swanger & Dodson family & friends requested by Mrs. Jeannie Swanger
Dave Petrak requested by Mrs. Mary Petrak	Niklewicz & Giska families & Joyce Jordan requested by Mr. & Mrs. Richard Swanson
Guido Prosperi & Ida Prosperi requested by Mr. John Prosperi	Elmer Stokes, Louis Tessitore, Charles Stokes, Sr. & Carol Guminsky requested by Mrs. Marion Tessitore
Living & deceased family & friends requested by Mr. & Mrs. Robert Reeder	Pappy Joe requested by Mr. & Mrs. William Teufel
Deceased family members of Scerba, Ringkamp, Long & Daus families requested by Mr. & Mrs. Chris Ringkamp	Stoltz & Van Sickel families & Brian Klinger requested by Mr. & Mrs. Larry Van Sickel
Bill Schmerbeck, Leo & Cecelia Long, Donna Long, Diane Long, Frank & Elizabeth Schmerbeck & Carol Bismark requested by Mrs. Delellis Schmerbeck	Maher family requested by Ms. Joyce Villani
Thomas Semelsberger requested by Mrs. Fran Semelsberger	
Joseph Aungst, Sr. requested by his family	
Deceased family members of Aungst & Smith families requested by Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Smith & children Dustin & Jillian Smith	

Why am I here
Is there more to life

Got questions about life?

What is the Alpha Course?

Alpha is an invitation to explore the meaning of Life and better understand one's faith through the wisdom of knowing the meaning of life.



Alpha leads participants to embrace their faith with pride and realize the depth and sacredness of the faith into which one is baptized.

Alpha is a practical introduction to our Faith. It presents the core truths of the Christian faith. Alpha is Kerygma, a term when put simply, means the core message of Christian Faith which all believers are called to profess. Alpha is an invitation to the living hope that Jesus has been raised from the dead.

When will it occur?

Thursday Evening's beginning January 19th

Alpha begins with dinner each evening at 6:00pm

Video at 6:40 pm

Small Group Faith Sharing at 7:15 pm

Closing at 8:15 pm

Alpha

Alpha Course
St. John The Evangelist Church, Altoona, Pa.

Evenings		
Date	Talk	Topic
Jan. 19	1	Who is Jesus?
Jan. 26	2	Why did Jesus die?
Feb. 2	3	How can I have faith?
Feb. 9	4	Why and How do I pray?
Feb. 16	5	What about the church?
Feb. 23	6	Why and How should I read the Bible?
Mar. 2	7	How does God guide us?
Mar. 9	No Alpha	
Mar. 10	Friday	Retreat Weekend begins at 6:00 pm
Mar. 11	Saturday	Retreat begins at 7:30 am
	8	Who is the holy Spirit?
	9	What does the Holy Spirit do?
	10	How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?
	11	How can I make the most of the rest of My life?
Mar. 16	12	How can I resist evil?
Mar. 23	13	Does God Heal today? Healing Prayer
Mar. 30	14	CELEBRATION DINNER
		Why and How should I tell others?

Alpha is a series of sessions which explore the Christian faith. Each talk looks at a different question and is designed to create conversation. No two Alpha's look the same, but generally it has three key experiences in common: **Food, a talk and Conversation.**

Food: Food has a way of bringing people together. Most Alpha Sessions begin with Supper which is a great what to build community and to get to know one another.

TALK: the talks are designed to engage and Inspire conversation. They are usually 30 minutes long and explore the big issues around faith while unpacking the basics of Christianity, and addressing questions from Who is Jesus, to Who is the Holy Spirit?

DISCUSSION: The most important part of any Alpha is the chance to share thought and ideas on the topics presented in a small faith sharing group setting. Participants need not be knowledgeable on any topic. There is also no obligation to say anything. It is an opportunity to hear from others and contribute in an honest, friendly, and open environment. Alpha is an encounter which opens the heart to grasping what it means to be loved by God while creating a desire to be in an intimate relationship with the Lord.

Registration Form for Alpha

Name	
Address	
Email Address	
Cell Phone	
Parish	

Male

Female

Age (For grouping purposes):

18-25 25-35 35-55 55-65+

Do you have special dietary requirements?

Do you require Gluten Free?

Do you have any special needs?

**Please return by way of the Collection basket or to
The Parish Office.**

Registration Deadline: Sunday, January 8th

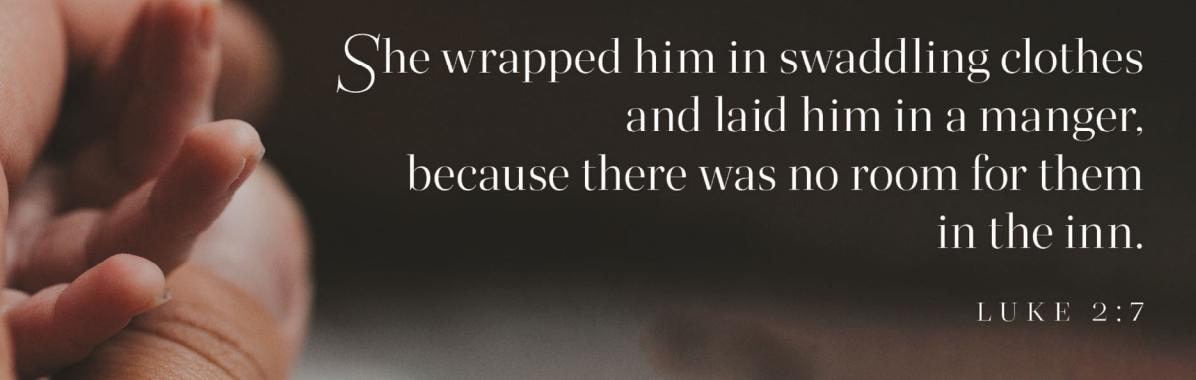
Christmas

DECEMBER 25, 2022

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She wrapped him in swaddling clothes
and laid him in a manger,
because there was no room for them
in the inn.

LUKE 2:7



LIGHT AND LIFE

The four Gospel portraits of Jesus take very different approaches to his origins. Mark has no record of Jesus' ancestry, except for his connection to John the Baptist. Matthew traces his genealogy back to Abraham; Luke even farther back, to Adam. The Gospel of John outdoes them all, tracing Jesus' origins back to the time before time, before the world was created! Jesus is the eternal Word of God. The Greek term for "Word" is logos, and it is a word with deep implications. The logos exists before creation, because all of creation came to be through the logos and, in turn, the logos will become the light of all it has created. This is what makes Christmas a season light and life. May our lives radiate this light, reflecting the life-giving Word-made-Flesh. Let our discipleship truly and fully make incarnate once again the Word-in-flesh whom we celebrate and adore: Jesus Christ, our Lord!

THE SEASON OF LIGHT

It is customary to celebrate Christmas with lights of all sorts. This even happens in the southern hemisphere, where people aren't experiencing the shorter, darker days of northern climates. From little twinkles on Christmas trees to the glow of candles in church, Christmas is a celebration of the light born today in God's Word-made-flesh. As with other types of lights, the Christ-light takes on different forms. Sometimes its light is direct, while at other times it is a reflection. The lights of Christmas, like Jesus the Light of the world, offer comfort, ease fears, show us the way, and help us to see that God is present here. While we believe that Jesus is the light that no darkness can overcome, it can seem at times it seems as though the gloom around us is overcoming the light. We all are familiar with darkness's different forms that seem to bombard us daily, hourly—minute by minute, if we allow them to. And yet . . .

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

The relentless daily reports of darkness can easily lead us not to see the many glimmers of light around us. We who follow the Christ-light must always be on alert for signs of that light around us. Likewise, we who have that Christ-light in us must let it shine forth. No matter how little we think our light may be, we must recall that it is the light of Christ we bear within us. Like John the Baptist in today's Gospel passage, we are meant to testify to the power of light, to help others see glimpses of God-with-us. Our actions must bear good news, they must announce glad tidings. Even small deeds of light can shine brightly, giving birth to Jesus once again each day. On Christmas day and every day we are called to be people of hope, messengers of peace who offer comfort and make God's glory known. Let the light of Christ in your life be one of the season's brightest!

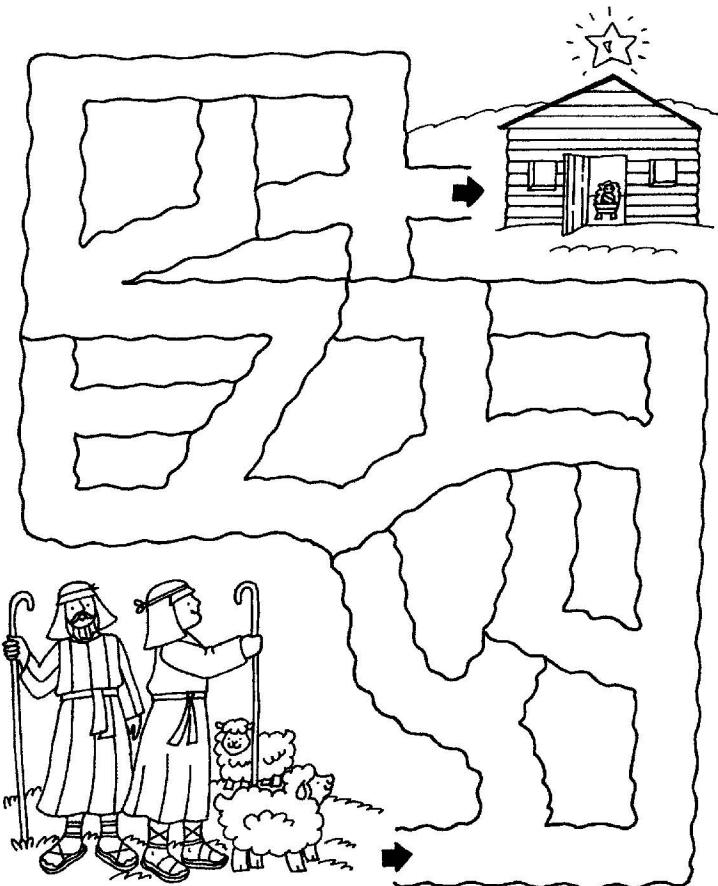
TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 52:7–10
Psalm 98:1, 2–3, 3–4, 5–6
Hebrews 1:1–6
John 1:1–18

God's Word for Children

Christmas

Help the shepherds find their way to the stable to see Baby Jesus.



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Christmas

Jesus was a *wonderful gift* God sent to us.
The Christmas story words have been mixed up
in the presents below.

See if you can unscramble them and
write each one on the line provided.

ImehBehte

ryMa

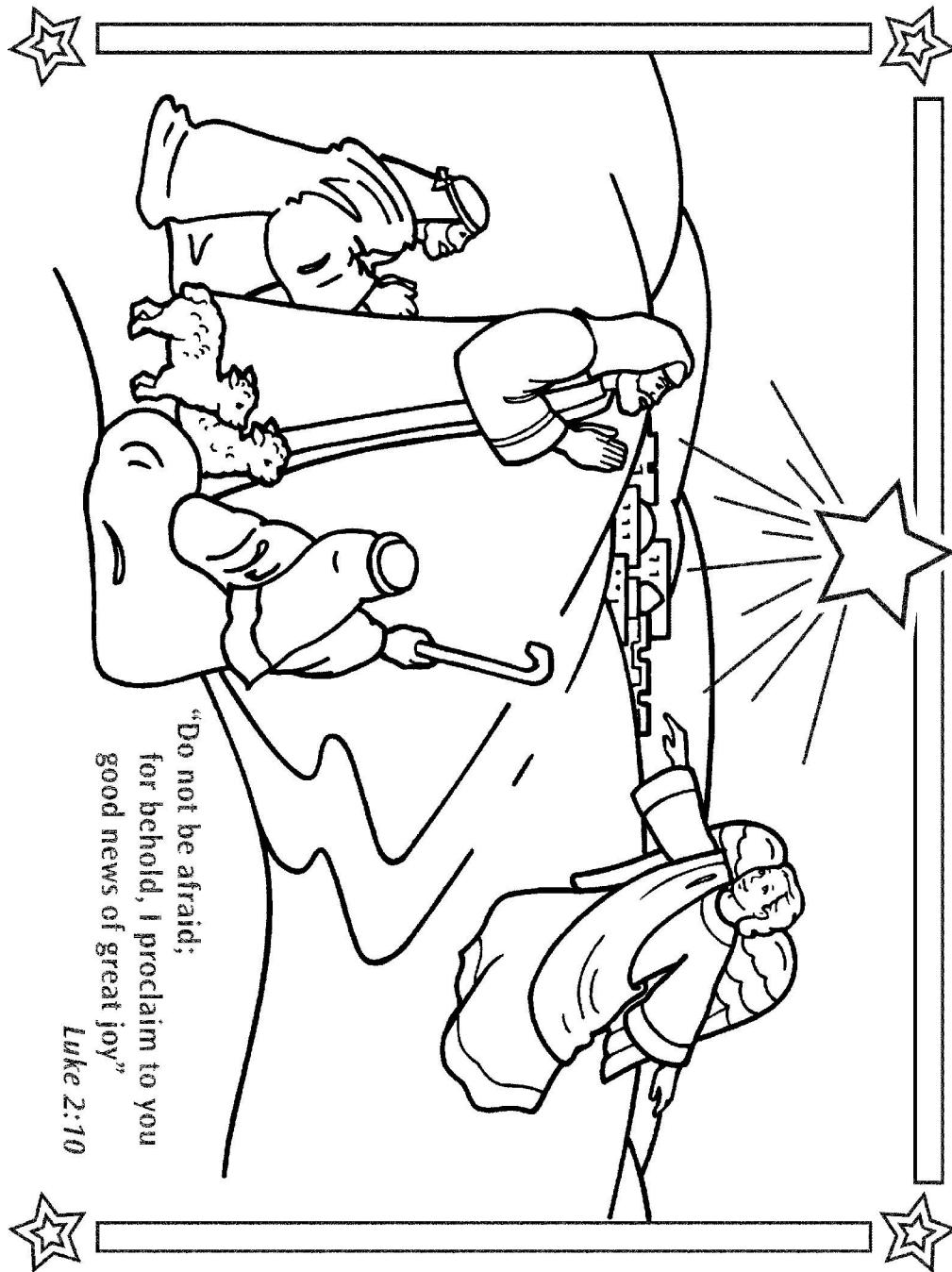
edressph

garnme

hseoJp

eagnl

bbya



"Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy"

Luke 2:10



HOLY FAMILIES

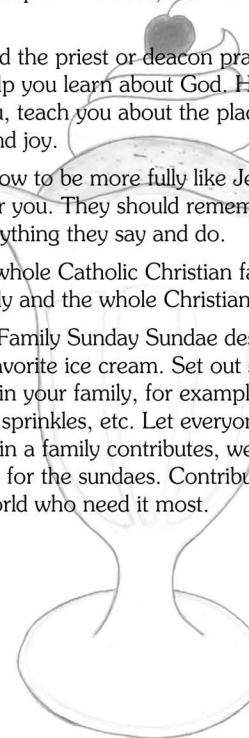
Learning to live like Jesus is hard. You need the help of many people. No matter what your family looks like or how many people it includes, each family member must be an example of love, care, joy, and holiness.

On the day you were baptized the priest or deacon prayed for all the people in your immediate family who would help you learn about God. He reminded them of their responsibility to take care of you, teach you about the place of Jesus and the Church in your life, and show you God's love and joy.

He prayed that you would grow to be more fully like Jesus. He prayed for your parents, and reminded them to thank God for you. They should remember that they would be your first and best teachers of the faith in everything they say and do.

Now you also belong to the whole Catholic Christian family around the world. Today is a great day to celebrate your family and the whole Christian family.

After dinner tonight make a Family Sunday Sundae dessert celebrating your family and the family of God. Start with your favorite ice cream. Set out several different toppings and label them with the names of people in your family, for example, Charlie's chocolate syrup, Gracie's granola, Mom's M&Ms, Steve's sprinkles, etc. Let everyone create their own dessert. It will be a reminder that when everyone in a family contributes, we create something wonderful! Add up the cost of all the ingredients for the sundaes. Contribute an equal amount or more to the Christian families around the world who need it most.



We celebrate the Holy _____ Family!

Write your family name

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