

The Epiphany of the Lord

January 7, 2024

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

PASTORAL STAFF

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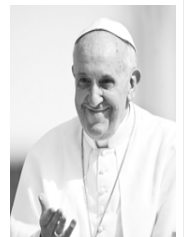
MASS SCHEDULE

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

January Prayer Intention of Pope Francis

Gift of Diversity in the Church

We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals of the Catholic Church.



NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS

LECTORS

Sat. January 13- 4:00 PM - Jeremy Truscello, Joyce Cunningham
Sun. January 14- 8:00 AM - Norma Foose, Bill Foose
Sun. January 14- 11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy, Donna Moyer

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. January 13- 4:00 PM - Lexington Tatar, Iris Tatar
Sun. January 14- 8:00 AM - Emily Miller, Nicholas Helsley
Sun. January 14- 11:00 AM - Aidan Schurr, Liam Schurr

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. January 13- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, NOT FILLED
Sun. January 14- 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci, NOT FILLED
Sun. January 14- 11:00 AM - Cecelia Bloom, Walter Bloom,
Lou Ann Clark, Kenneth Gorman, Bob Olson, Susanna Tomlinson

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. January 13- 4:00 PM - Dennis Moughemer, Karen Moughemer,
Paula VanSickel, Larry VanSickel,
Sun. January 14- 8:00 AM - Carolyn English, Mike O'Neill,
Ginny Reeder, Mary Truesdale
Sun. January 14- 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Dolores Capriotti,
Mary Grace Horton, Patrick Podoletz

SACRISTAN

Sat. January 13- 4:00 PM - Jane Byrne
Sun. January 14- 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci
Sun. January 14- 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan

SCRIP

Sat. January 13- 4:00 PM - Lori Baker, Gary Johnson
Sat. January 14- 8:00 AM - Amber Yasolsky, Heather Yasolsky
Sun. January 14- 11:00 AM - Peg Madden, Marge Rudolph

A Few Words from the Pastor:

CHRISTMAS GRATITUDE! - We are most grateful to all those who did so much to make our church so beautiful for the celebration of the Lord's birth. Our gratitude as well to our music director and musicians and liturgical ministers whose talents greatly enhanced the dignity of our Christmas Masses. Thanks as well to those whose gifts to the pastor brought joy to his heart! May this new year bring us ever closer to Christ who has revealed himself in this glorious season of Christmas and Epiphany.

EPIPHANY: The feast and season of Epiphany focuses on just one word: **Glory**. St. John's Gospel reminds us that we have beheld his **glory**, glory as of the only Son from the Father. The Psalms tell us to give to the Lord the **glory** due his name. The **glory** of God is his radiance and power, denoting God's sheer majesty and dominion, always a companion to attributes like merciful and loving. January 6 has been the fixed date for observing the Epiphany since AD 431, preceding even that of Christmas Day. The Eastern churches celebrate not the gifts of the Magi but the water of baptism as the central symbolism of January 6, with a ceremony of the blessing of the waters as part of the days ritual. The feast of the Epiphany captures four themes: the vision of the Magi, the baptism in the Jordan River, the miracle of wine at the wedding of Cana, and the Transfiguration of Christ in the presence of his chosen disciples.

ALPHA AT ST. JOHN'S - ALPHA will again 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. Please join us!

WEEK 14 OF OUR SACRED STORY RETREAT: *As the New Year begins, so does Part TWO of our 40 weeks. We are invited this week to pay attention to our daydreams and fantasies, noting especially those which bring us peace and serenity. These daydreams and fantasies generate quiet hope, and aspirations to all things innocent, beautiful and noble. "Lord Jesus, I believe you came into the world, born of Mary, so that I may have life, and have it abundantly."*

THE YEAR OF MARK – Our readings for Sunday Mass are given in a three-year cycle: **Year A** draws from the Gospel of Matthew, **year B** from the Gospel of Mark, and **year C**, the Gospel of Luke. At the beginning of the recent Advent season, we have begun Year B, with the Sunday gospels now predominantly coming from the Gospel of Mark. Some background to Saint Mark: he was born in Alexandria, Egypt, and after arriving in Jerusalem, became a close companion of St. Peter. Not having ever met Jesus, all he tells us in his gospel reflects what he learned from Peter. He is actually the voice of St. Peter in the gospels!

A WINTER BREAK: My friend Father Dennis Kurdziel and I will be heading south this week to enjoy the healing rays of Brother Sun! I am most grateful to father Ron Osinski and Deacon Gene for their able assistance in my absence.

SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD: JANUARY 21! Three years ago on the feast of St Jerome, Pope Francis proclaimed that the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time be observed annually as the Sunday of the Word of God. He declared it *"a Sunday given over entirely to the Word of God, so as to appreciate the inexhaustible riches contained in that constant dialogue between the Lord and his people."* He goes on to vividly describe the power of the Word of God: it "makes a pathway within us. We listen to it with our ears and it passes to our hearts; it does not remain in our ears; it must go to the heart. And from the heart, it passes to the hands, to good deeds. *This is the path which the Word of God follows: from our ears to our heart and hands*". the motto chosen for this year taken from the Gospel of St John: "Remain in my Word" (John 8,31). **Remember to bring your bible to Mass that weekend for a special blessing!**

SAVE THE DATES!

Alpha: Thursday, January 11th at 6:00pm classes begin in the cafeteria

Martin Luther King Jr. Day: Monday, January 15th-Parish Office will be closed

Sunday of the Word of God: Sunday, January 21st -Bring your Bible to the weekend masses to be blessed

Parish Breakfast: Thursday, January 25th after the 8:30am morning mass at The Dream in Hollidaysburg

Schedule for the Week of January 7th

Sunday, January 7 - The Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 AM - Mass for *Marion Tessitore* requested by

Bob & Ginny Reeder

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

Monday, January 8 - The Baptism of the Lord

8:30 AM - Communion Service

Tuesday, January 9 - Weekday

8:30 AM—Mass for *Bob Long* requested by

ACHS Class of "56" Girls

Wednesday, January 10 - Weekday

6:00 PM - Mass for *Bob & Diane Long* requested by

Connie & Dave McManuels

Thursday, January 11 - Weekday

8:30 AM - Communion Service

Friday, January 12 - Weekday

8:30 AM - Communion Service

Saturday, January 13— Vigil of 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 PM - Mass for *Richard Peo* requested by

Paula & Larry VanSickel

Sunday, January 14 - 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

11:00 AM - Mass for *All Cursillistas* requested by

The Cursillo Movement

ST ROSE OF LIMA SVDP CONFERENCE – CARE PACKAGE PROGRAM 2024

-With the assistance of the parishioners from St Rose of Lima, St John the Evangelist and St Patrick, the St Rose SVDP Conference will once again be running its Care Package program for our seniors, the homeless in our community, new or expectant moms, and single parents. Our Conference helps make the lives a little bit easier for these groups of individuals and families by supplying Care Packages for their use. These packages contain items that each group would find useful, such as toiletries, blankets, gloves, hats, jig saw puzzles, scented candles, healthy snacks, diapers, baby wipes, parenting books, coffee mugs, bath bombs, activity books, etc. Each donor is also asked to include items to help boost the mental health of the recipient, such as a handwritten note of encouragement, a rosary, prayer card, gift card, etc. Also, new this year, our SVDP Conference is asking that you include in your package(s) a prayer card that our Conference will be supplying. The cards will be attached to the flyers that list suggested items for each group. The collection period will run from January 21st through March 11th. The care packages will be delivered to these needy individuals and families with the help of Family Services and WIC. The members of the St Rose SVDP Conference would like to take this time to thank all those who help make programs like this one possible and the lives of the needy a bit easier. God Bless You All!

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: Our readings today focus on the vital attributes of being a disciple of Christ. Our First Reading from Samuel unfolds the relationship between Samuel and the Lord. If we put ourselves in Samuel's shoes, we can wonder how many times the Lord has spoken to us but we did not recognize His voice. God's voice might already be present in the quiet of our hearts, in Scripture, or even in speaking through someone else. He speaks to us in various forms, but to recognize that it is Him, we must give Him a portion of our time by being still and listening to what He is calling us to do or not do. Our journey as disciples of Christ is an ongoing adventure. To grow on this journey, we can seek first the Kingdom of God, listen to God's voice in our lives, and be good stewards of what He has gifted us. With that, the Lord will respond with "Come, and you will see!"

December 23/24/25

Envelopes	\$ 3,739.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 631.00
Parish Development	\$ 70.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 40.00
Christmas Offering	\$ 5,320.00
Christmas Loose Offerings	\$ 1,336.00
Retirement Fund	\$ 65.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 10.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,264.50
Total Offertory	\$ 12,475.50

2023 Catholic Ministries Drive Goal - \$41, 761

January 1, 2023-November 30, 2023

Total Gifts/Pledges - \$38,897

MARCH FOR LIFE: Once again, Citizens Concerned for Human Life is planning a bus trip to the March for Life on January 19, 2024, in Washington. We would respectfully request the opportunity to conduct a fundraiser seeking donations to assist us with the expenses of this trip and our other expenses throughout the year the weekend of January 7, 2024 or January 14, 2024. Our buses will be leaving for the March from St. Therese's Church in Altoona at 7:00 A.M. and we will be leaving Washington by 4:00 P.M. we hope to be back in Altoona around 8:30 P.M. We will also have pick ups at St. Mary's in Holidaysburg at 7:30 A.M. and Walmart in East Freedom at 7:45 A.M. We ask the participants to pack a lunch and on the way back from the March we will stop at the Golden Carrol in either Frederick or Hagerstown for dinner. The March is always prayerful and peaceful, and our cost is \$10.00 for students and \$15.00 for adults. For reservations, please contact Patricia Forr or Marita Forr at (814) 946.0681 or Roxanne Blazovitch at (814) 696.8008.

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:*

**All Garvey Manor Residents • Britta Albright
Bill Arend • Charles Bassett • Idy Caporuscio
Eleanor Christine • Michelle Cooney
Mary Lee DeStefano • Kathy Ganz
Devon McCarter Graham • Marlene Hartman
Kay Laratonda • Connor McLaughlin • Kathy Mittermeier
Patricia Olson • Ryan Raybuck • Anne Showalter
Reed Stellabotte • Tim Temofonte • Mary Truesdale
Lois Werfel • John E. Wolfe • Dorothy Yingling
Anne Zelnosky**

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

Joanne Byrne, sister of Joan Price
Kathy Ann Cecchine, sister of Jane Strasser & Andy Miller
May they rest in the peace and joy of the Lord.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT: Experiencing a loss of any kind is difficult and lonely. Our bereavement programs are designed to acknowledge the pain and the loss, while offering positive ideas for coping. Consider joining us for any or all of the following.

Bereavement Gatherings are held monthly in the St. Michael Convent Building (the house between the church and the school). For more information contact Debbi Chapman at 912-713-5412. Upcoming dates are:
Wednesday, January 10 at 9:30 AM
Tuesday, January 23 at 6:30 PM

Journey Through Loss is a seven-week program for those who have lost a loved one through death. The next session begins on Wednesday, January 10. We will meet weekly from 6:30-8:00 PM at the St. Michael Convent Building in Hollidaysburg. For more information contact Mary Petrak at 814-502-6076.

FAMILIES AND THE GOSPEL: A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar The Magi in today's gospel were led to Jesus by a star. Who are the stars your children follow? Don't let it be the tabloid stars. Resolve in this New Year to be the guiding star in the life of your children.

2023 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS will be available upon request beginning January 30, 2024. Please call the Parish Office at 814-942-5503 to request your giving statement. A contribution statement will not be mailed to you unless you call the office to request it. If you are registered with My Own Church, you can log in and download your statement yourself.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS: Please email any upcoming bulletin announcements to Diane Ryan at stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net or call the Parish Center at 814-942-5503.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

January 7th-Class 9:15am-10:45am

January 7th-10th Grade Spring Session -ALL 10th Grade Students must attend 9:15am-10:45am followed by the 10th Grade Rite of Commitment at 11AM Mass

January 14th-No Class

January 21st-Class 9:15am-10:45am

January 21st-9th Grade Spring Session-ALL 9th Grade Students must attend 9:15am-10:45am followed by the 9th Grade Rite of Blessing at 11am Mass

January 28th-No Class

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

ADULT FAITH FORMATION: Beginning in January the schedule for Adult Faith Formation will follow the Faith Formation Calendar for grades K-8, so that parents are able to attend. We will meet on Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 10:45 on January 7 and 21.

In January we will begin A Walk Through the Mass, a five-session series by Edward Sri. Dr. Sri helps us to understand the historical and biblical roots of the words, prayers, actions, and gestures contained within the Mass. Registration is not necessary. Please join us for food, faith, and fellowship. For more information contact Mary Petrak at 814 502 6076 or mfpetrak@hotmail.com.

BLAZIN' ANGELS: Join us on January 7th for a night of fellowship at St. John the Evangelist's Parish Center from 6-9pm. Anyone ages 18-39 are welcome to join. If you are interested in attending or interested in learning more please let Cherié Langenbacher and Amber Yasolsky know by emailing us at blazinangels.yagroup@gmail.com.

HEALING MASS: Holy Spirit Ministry will hold a special Healing Mass on Tuesday, January 9th at 7pm at St. Michael Church, Hollidaysburg. This powerful night of hope and healing is for all who are suffering physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Fr. Brad Baldwin TOR will be the main celebrant. Praise and worship will precede the Mass at 6:30pm and prayer ministry will follow the Mass. All are welcome!

MARRIAGE PREPARATION: The 2024 Marriage Preparation Series has released their upcoming schedule. Local sessions will be offered January 6 & 20 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament and at St. John's April 15, 22, 29. Please contact the office for more information or take a pamphlet from the kiosk.



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