

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

Sun Dec 3	First Sunday of Advent 9:15-10:15 AM Religious Ed. Gr. K-9 9:15-10:15 AM Parent Meeting Re: First Reconciliation
Tues Dec 5	6:30-8:00 PM Religious Ed. Gr. 10 & 11 6:10 PM Bingo 7:00 PM Legion of Mary
Wed Dec 6	5:00-6:00 PM Pro-Life Rosary
Thurs Dec 7	9:00-11:00 AM Eucharistic Adoration
Fri Dec 8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception 6:10 PM Bingo
Sun Dec 10	Second Sunday of Advent 9:15-10:15 Religious Ed. Gr. K-9 6:30-8:00 PM Religious Ed. Gr. 10 & 11



Monday, Dec 4 St. John Damascene

8:30 a.m.
†Deborah Dillon (*Jake Stein Family*)

Tuesday, Dec. 5

8:30 a.m.
†Rev. Lon Hugh Gowan (*Patty & Joe Pufka*)

Wednesday, Dec. 6 St. Nicholas

8:30 a.m.
†Michael Chisko (*Joan Conway*)

Thursday, Dec. 7 St. Ambrose

8:30 a.m.
†Donna Decoskey (*Carolyn Sylvester*)
7:00 p.m.
†Fr. Daniel O'Friel (*Gene & Vi Bettwy*)

Friday, Dec. 8 Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00 a.m. Members of the Altar & Rosary Society
8:30 a.m. †Michael McGraw (*Pete & Kathy Starr*)
7:00 p.m. †Gert Ziegler (*Jake Stein Family*)

Saturday, Dec. 9 St. Juan Diego

4:00p.m.
†James Nasralla (*Wife & Family*)

Sunday, Dec. 10 Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. †Paul Engelman (*Delores & Bob Cree*)
10:30 a.m.. †Phyllis Timpone (*Orsena Family*)
2 Noon Mass For the People

MINISTERS FOR THIS WEEK

**Vigil Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception
December 7, 2017**

7:00 p.m.
Altar Servers: Volunteers
Eucharistic Ministers: Volunteers
Readers: Nancy Little, Ellen Rahm
**Feast of the Immaculate Conception
December 8, 2017**
7:00 a.m.
Servers: Volunteers
Eucharistic Ministers: Linda Zakrzwski
Readers: Volunteers
8:30 a.m.
Servers: School Children
Eucharistic Ministers: Deacon Woomer, Mary Engelman, Karen McGraw
Readers: Volunteers
7:00 p.m.
Servers: Volunteers
Eucharistic Ministers: Volunteers
Readers: Volunteers

Saturday, December 9, 2017

4:00 p.m.
Altar Servers: Keegan Myrick, Brennen Myrick, Elizabeth Yahner

Eucharistic Ministers: Deacon Woomer, Joseph Fromknecht, Patricia Fromknecht, Nate Sanders

Readers: John Donley, Elizabeth Tully

Sunday, December 10, 2017

8:00 a.m.

Servers: Hamilton Gates, Josephine Gates, Finley Steinbugl

Eucharistic Ministers: Deacon Woomer, Rose Marie Fochler, Diane Gormley, Mary Lou Horton, Cindy Sharbaugh

Readers: Paul Cooney, Shawn Wesner
10:30 a.m.

Servers: Andrew Zupon, Volunteers

Eucharistic Ministers: Barbara Gentile, Yvonne Gibson, Terrance Heiss, Carole Housum, Dennnis Housum

Readers: Patrick Labriolla, Laverne Previte
12:00 Noon

Servers: Emily Brown, Rachel Lucas, Marcus Lucas

Eucharistic Ministers: Ronald Eberhart, Mari Ann Eberhart, Johnine Mueller

Readers: Patrick Condrin, Volunteer

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Any parishioner that would like a Christmas Flower on the altar dedicated for a loved one is asked to use your Christmas Flower Envelope or use a plain envelope. Kindly drop the envelope in the collection basket by December 17. Please print your remembrances.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PARISH SACRIFICIAL GIVING-NOV. 18-19, 2017

Regular	\$6881.20	Christmas	\$ 38.00
Capital Campaign	\$ 26.00	All Souls	\$ 12.00
Christmas Flow.	\$ 15.00	All Saints	\$ 43.00
Catholic Charities	\$ 328.00	Candles	\$ 15.00
Register	\$ 20.00	Thanksgiving	\$ 268.00
Food Bank	\$ 25.00	Christmas Flow	\$ 15.00
Tuition Assist.	\$ 115.80	Total	\$7787.00

PARISH SACRIFICIAL GIVING-NOV. 25-26, 2017

Regular	\$6938.73	Christmas	\$ 65.00
Capital Campaign	\$ 19.00	Thanksgiving	\$ 522.00
Christmas Flow.	\$ 70.00	Register	\$ 2.00
Catholic Charities	\$ 183.00	Candles	\$ 20.00
Starter Set	\$ 55.00	Rose	\$ 242.77
Immac.Conception	\$ 14.00	Total	\$8131.50

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

This Friday, December 8, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a Holy Day of Obligation for Catholics; all are expected to participate at Mass on this day. This feast celebrated that she who was to bear the Incarnate Word of God was immaculate herself from the first moment of her conception.

Our country places itself under the protection of our patroness, Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception.

Masses will be on Thursday at 7:00 p.m. and Friday, 7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Help care for elders. "Thanks to support from the Retirement Fund for Religious, we are now in a much better position to care for our elders," writes a religious sister. Your donation helps her religious community and hundreds of others provide for aging members and plan for long-term needs.

We will take up the collection for the Religious Retirement Fund next weekend, December 9 & 10. Please use the envelope located in your pack of envelopes.

OFFERTORY PRESENTERS

Dec. 9	4:00 p.m.	Volunteers
Dec. 10	8:00 a.m.	Mary Engelman
	10:30 a.m.	Tom & Gina Goss
	Noon	Volunteers

CANDLES: Improved Health for Cheryl Sedon by Joan & Linda Turcovski, Special Intention by Linda Zakrzwski, Special Intention by Traficante Family, Improved Health for Cheryl Sedon by Joan & Linda Turcovski.

AREA RECONCILIATION SERVICE

These opportunities exist for your celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for the Birth of Christ.

- Sun. Dec. 3 4:00 p.m. St. John's Lakemont
- Sun Dec. 3 5:00 p.m. St. Joseph Bellwood
- Mon. Dec. 4 6:30 p.m. St. Mark & Holy Rosary
(at Holy Rosary)
- Mon. Dec. 11 7:00 p.m. Our Lady of Mt.Carmel
- Thurs.Dec 14 5:30 p.m. Our Lady of Lourdes
- Sat. Dec. 16 10:00 a.m. St. Therese
- Sun.Dec 17 4:00 p.m. St. Mary's,Hollidaysburg
- Wed. Dec. 20 6:30 p.m. Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament
- Thurs.Dec. 21 5:30 p.m. Sacred Heart

Our Parish Reconciliation Service is Monday, December 18, 7:00 p.m. The priests also will hear individual confessions following the 8:30 a.m. Mass Tuesday, December 19 and Wednesday, December 20.

ANGEL TREE

You are invited to take one of the angels from the table next to the tree in the foyer and write your own petition on it. The angel can be placed on the tree so that we can pray for you.

Deacon Jim's "A Moment with Our Lady"

The Basilica of Santa Maria in Trastevere is one of the oldest churches in Rome, located in the Trastevere district. It was probably the first Christian place of worship officially opened to the public.

However, it is not the oldest Marian church in the city: Santa Maria Maggiore was dedicated to the Virgin Mary from the day it was built in the fourth century.

The story reports that a natural oil spring appeared in 38 BC at this place, interpreted by the Jewish population living in the neighborhood as a sign announcing the birth of the Messiah (in Hebrew, messiah means "anointed with oil"). Pope Callistus I (217-222) invited a Christian community to move there in 220, on the site of the Taberna meritoria, a former tavern for retired soldiers transformed into a domestic church.

The basilica erected on this site is known today as the Titulus Callisti. It is one of the twenty-five original parishes of Rome, perhaps the first in which Mass was openly celebrated. It was probably consecrated to the Virgin Mary at the time of the Council of Ephesus in 431.

ST. JOSEPH IN WILLIAMSBURG: FUEL OIL RAFFLE

Tickets are now on sale for the Fuel Oil Raffle at St. Joseph Parish in Williamsburg. The cost is \$10 per ticket.

Winners receive \$500 in Martin's Fuel Oil or \$500 in cash. Winning numbers are based on the 7:00 p.m. PA Lottery Drawing on the December 11th, 12th, and 13th, 2017. Please contact Jim Foreso for tickets at 832-2139.

ADVENT TREE

The ornaments on our Advent Tree, located in the foyer of the church remind us of our homebound parishioners. We have tied with each ornament a card that has the name, address and phone number of a homebound parishioner. Untie the card and arrange an "Advent through Christmas time" visit with the named person. You may want to learn whether having a green thumb or being free of diet restrictions is a consideration for your gift. Friendly conversations grow friendship and have zero calories and are specially enriched with the love-of-the-Spirit that brought Jesus to visit all of us.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Volunteers are needed to light candles on the Wreath at each Mass in Advent. We are looking for 2 or more people or families interested in participation at the beginning of the Liturgy after the opening Penitential Rite.

The dates are December 9-10, December 16-17 and December 23-24. Please sign up on the lists on the table in the foyer. Thank You.

LITURGICAL REFLECTION...

Throughout this Year of Grace 2018 the weekly liturgical inserts will look at the Church's rites at death and review the Church's teachings on the proper placement of the cremated remains of the deceased. Hopefully, these reflections will give us a clear understanding of the Church's practice at the time of death.

Christians celebrate the funeral rites to offer worship, praise, and thanksgiving to God for the gift of life which has now been returned to God, the author of life and the hope of the just.

FAMILIES AND THE GOSPEL

December 3

Mark 13:33-37

Today's gospel tells us to "Be watchful." This comes natural to families. Parents are watchful of their children's health, grades and friends. Children are watchful of parental moods. Today's gospel encourages us to use this ability to see God acting in the innocence, tenderness, love and forgiveness of your family. "Be watchful," the Lord is already with you.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CONFIRMATION PROCESS

Congratulations to the following 10th Grade Students who attended the Rite of Commitment for the Confirmation Process.

Hayden Fox
Mary Gunnett
Matthew Lenze
Dylan Little
Sydney McGinnis

Talon McKendree
Korey Mirenda
Anthony Pater
Gaige Reighard
Michael Solimando
Jordan Wolfe

FREE HOLIDAY CONCERT

The Altoona Community Band will be performing a **FREE** concert at the Altoona First Baptist Church (1209 17th St—across from the Krish Funeral Home) on Wednesday, December 20 at 7:00 p.m. The all volunteer band is comprised of musicians from the Altoona and Hollidaysburg community. The concert will feature some of your favorite Christmas music. Plenty of free parking, amazing acoustics and wonderful music. Come and hear for yourself

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Do you consider yourself a naturally caring, compassionate and giving person? If so, come and share your gifts with people in need by joining the St. Rose of Lima Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. In the coming weeks, more information will be shared about the spirituality and works of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in our weekly bulletins.

PRO-LIFE CHRISTMAS CARDS AVAILABLE

Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Blair County Chapter has Christmas Cards available for purchase. Beautiful designs are offered, picturing the new Madonna & Child and Emmanuel Prince of Peace. The cost is \$7.00 for a package of 11 cards. Your purchase will help support the pro-life work of CCHL in Blair County. For more information, call Mary Engelman, 943-3796.

SUPPER CLUB

The Supper Club will meet at the Red Lobster Restaurant on December 3 at **12 NOON**. Call Mary for reservations 946-3449.

YOUTH CONFERENCE OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

A parish that has a school or a religious education program may also be interested in forming a Youth Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul sometimes referred to as “Minnie Vinnies”. This is an excellent way to begin forming our young people with a spirit of service, develop their spirituality and to involve them in the works of the Adult Conference. There are many resources found on the youth website at www.svdpusa.com/youth.

If you would like to help us start a youth SVdP Conference, please contact Dan Weaver at dweaver@atlanticbb.net

Week 1—HOPE

Prophet's Candles

Reminds us Jesus is coming

Verse: Romans 15: 12-13

Prayer:

O God, by whose word all things are sanctified, pour out your blessing upon this wreath, and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive from your abundant graces. Who lives and reigns forever. Amen.

