

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

Sun Nov 29 First Sunday of Advent
Wed Dec 2 5:15-6:00 p.m. Pro-Life Rosary



Monday, Nov. 30 St. Andrew

8:30 a.m.
†Debbie Fisher (*Don, Derek & Ariana Mrdjenovich*)

Tuesday, Dec. 1

8:30 a.m.
†Carl Harker (*Family*)

Wednesday, Dec. 2

8:30 a.m.
†Justin Dodson (*Joyce, Eric & Kevin Dodson*)

Thursday, Dec. 3 St. Francis Xavier

8:30 a.m.
†Raymond Schoch (*Mary Engelman*)

Friday, Dec. 4 St. John Damascene

8:30 a.m.
†Rosemary McConnell (*Holy Trinity Catholic School Board*)

Saturday, Dec. 5

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

Sunday, Dec. 6 Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. Mass For the People
10:30 a.m. †Phyllis Timpone (*Orsena Family*)

PASTOR'S CORNER

The First Sunday in Advent marks the beginning of the liturgical year. It's a time of great anticipation as we await the arrival of Christ on Christmas morning. In fact, the word Advent comes from the Latin word *ad-venire* that means coming or arriving.

Just as in Lent, the Liturgical color of Advent is purple. Both of the seasons prepare for great feast days in the Church year. The final days of Advent, from December 17 to December 24, focus particularly on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord. (Christmas).

PRAY

Christ Jesus, you want to make a home in my heart this Christmas. Help me to use this Advent season as a time to better prepare for your coming. Amen

REFLECT

What changes do you want to make in your life this Advent to be ready for Christ at Christmas?



It's

time to bless the Advent wreath! This blessing from USCCB can be used to bless your family wreath: <https://catholiccurrent.org/prayers/blessing-of-an-advent-wreath/>

Deacon Jim's "A Moment with Our Lady"

The images shown by the media of the damage caused by the earthquake that struck central Italy in August 2016 are devastating. Villages like Amatrice have been practically wiped off the map. This tragedy led Pope Francis to cancel the traditional Wednesday catechesis in order to pray the Rosary with the pilgrims in St. Peter's Square instead.

But in the midst of this desolation, a simple sign of hope has emerged: a statue of the Madonna was found intact after the massive earthquake in Pescara del Tronto. The image was immediately spread on the Internet. In April, a similar sign caused a wave of emotion (and controversy) in Ecuador, another country hard hit by an earthquake. There also, a statue of Our Lady remained intact amid the rubble.

Can we call this occurrence a miracle? Not necessarily. However, the fact can be interpreted as a sign of hope. The question remains: how was this fragile statue of the Madonna able to withstand such a strong earthquake?

Saint of the Week

Saint John Damascene

675-749

Feast Day – December 4



The last of the Greek fathers, John was born in Damascus, Syria. He succeeded his father as chief representative of the Christian community to the caliph in Damascus, then under Islamic rule.

However, after serving some years, he was forced to resign in 719 because of his faith. He entered a monastery in the mountain wilderness between Jerusalem and the Dead Sea, and lived there until his death. As a priest, he devoted himself to prayer and writing, producing 150 works on theology, philosophy and religious education, as well as a defense of the veneration of icons and numerous hymns. His work was widely cited in the Middle Ages. Pope Leo XIII declared him a doctor of the church in 1890.

CCD PROGRAM

It is time again to open your hearts and help families in need from Catholic Charities for Christmas. Families are in need of Grocery Gift Cards and Cash donation that will be used for heating. The cash donation is sent directly to their fuel vendor. Please drop off gift cards or cash anytime at the rectory, you may place them in the mail slot or when picking up packets for you students.

Thank You and God Bless you,
Yvonne Gibson, DRE

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

1st Sunday of Advent (Nov. 29)

As the Church begins a new liturgical year, we are reminded in today's Gospel that we are nothing more than servants, stewards of the Master's possessions, but who do not know when our Master will return. We have been given the responsibility of sharing our gifts in order to build up the Master's kingdom. Good stewards know they are accountable and use their gifts to do God's will.

"The good steward practices, once again, that stewardship truism, 'Do what you can. Not what you can't.' Different situations in the life of our families, our parishes, our communities will call forth different applications of those three trusty pillars of good stewardship: time, talent, treasure." (*Seven Secrets of Successful Stewards*, Paul Wilke, 2005 Catholic Update, St. Anthony Messenger Press, Cincinnati, Ohio)

Stay awake for opportunities to share your time, talent and treasure! May we be awake and alive in our faith when He comes again in glory!

CANDLES:

Irma Mort by Anne Sukala, Teresa Sukala by Anne Sukala.

**Catholic Daughters of the Americas®
Court Prince Gallitzin #2625
Altoona, Pennsylvania**

Please help us, help our local community and beyond by purchasing a raffle ticket today for a homemade, multi-color, 62" x 62" afghan by Rev. D. Timothy Grimme, Court Chaplain! Tickets are \$5.00 each. Checks should be made payable to Catholic Daughters of the Americas and sent to: CDA Court #2625, c/o Saint Mary's Immaculate Conception, 1405 5th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602, so your request for tickets is received on or before December 4, 2020.

Drawing will be held on Saturday, December 12, 2020 after the 4:30 PM Mass at Saint Mark's—Altoona, PA.

If you need more information you can contact us at: <https://cda2625.com/contact/>

St. Paul Class via Zoom

This **6 week** course, taught by **Christopher Klopp**, Investigates the life and writings of St. Paul within the context of early Judaism in order to understand the Apostle's role as the most significant theologian of the New Testament. Areas of focus will include St. Paul's theology of the New Covenant, his views on justification and grace, as well as his teachings on the sacraments, the nature of the Church, and moral life.

Classes will begin Tuesday, January 5, 6:30-9:00 p.m. Costs for this class include a registration fee of \$45 and the required book **Paul A New Covenant Jew** by Brant Pitre, which can be purchased online at **Amazon.com** or through the Office of Lay Ministry for \$35. Also suggested, but not required is the **Ignatius Catholic Study Bible New Testament** available online at **Amazon.com**. For further information and to register for this class please contact Marybeth at 814-361-2000 or by email at mheinze@dioceseaj.org.

All are welcome to attend! Please register by **December 16, 2020.**

POLISH CLASS OFFERED- Mother Agneska Kijowska, SSCJ, a native of Krakow, Poland and former Superior General of the Sacred Heart Sisters, will offer a class on Polish Christmas customs on Sunday, December 6th from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at St. Anne's Church hall in Davidsville. To register please contact the parish office at either St. Anne (479-2664) Or Queen of Angels (754-5224) by December 4th. The class is free and is open to anyone who has an interest in Polish customs. Social distancing is required.

SHOP, SOUP & SIP WITH ST. NICK EVENT

Holy Trinity Catholic School is organizing their first annual "Shop, Soup & Sip with St. Nick" with a one-of-a-kind visit with Saint Nicholas himself, accompanied by delicious foods and fun. Guests will have opportunities to enjoy exquisite tastes of the season, balloon animals, and premier vendor shopping perfect for the holiday!

Pre-Purchase \$2 child, \$3 adult. Door Admission \$3 child, \$4 adult. Due to occupancy limitations, ticket times are staggered. We kindly ask that you and your guests adhere to your ticket time. **Saturday December 5** times are 4:30-6:30 p.m. and 6:30-8:30 p.m. **Sunday December 6** times are 11:30-1:30 p.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m. Located at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church Basement & School Cafeteria, 806 11th St. Altoona. Please contact HTCS at 942-7835 for tickets or visit our website at- holytrinitycatholic.school

Sacraments—8 Week Course: Fr. Timothy Grimme will be teaching **Sacraments at St. Michael Church Hall, St. Michael** beginning Tuesday, January 5, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. 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. For registration, please contact Marybeth (814) 361-2000 or by email at mheinze@dioceseaj.org. Registration forms are also available online at www.dioceseaj.org/lay-ecclesial-ministry/ **All are welcome**

FAMILIES AND THE GOSPEL

**First Sunday of Advent (Nov. 29)
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.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CHICKEN BBQ
BENEFITING THE SVDP NEED'S OFFICE

The St. Rose SVDP Conference supports the poor and disadvantaged individuals in our area through the St. Vincent de Paul Needs Office. The Needs Office brings God's love and mercy to those in need by providing help with utilities, rent and other financial support. In December, the Knights of Columbus of Hollidaysburg will be hosting a Chicken BBQ to benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Needs Office. The BBQ will be held December 13th. The meal includes the Knight's famous BBQ Chicken, baked beans, applesauce and a roll. Tickets are only \$10.00. Tickets are available at the Parish Office and after some of the Masses from now until the 6th of December. Please help us help others and buy your ticket(s) today.

May God Bless You!

The Friar's Nook Gift Shop—Regular Hours

Kick off your Christmas shopping by stopping at The Friar's Nook Gift Shop! Our hours are Monday-Saturday 10:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m. (always closed on Sundays). The address is 793 Monastery Road, Hollidaysburg and our phone number 814-695-3802 if you have an question. Please follow us on Facebook for updates!

**St. Rose of Lima's St. Vincent de Paul
Conference Weekly Reflection for November
29- First Sunday of Advent:**

As we begin Advent we are called to "Be watchful! Be alert" as we stand in joyful anticipation for the grace of Christmas to once again bless our lives.

**Please look for ways to help
the poor to celebrate the
grace of God's love this
Christmas.**

If you know of someone in need, please visit our website (<http://strosesvdp.org>) to inform us of their situation. We will do our best to help out in any way we can. We encourage all parishioners to use our website to help us help those in need. Thank you!

Saint Vincent de Paul Conference

Winter is just around the corner and your SVDP Conference continues to look for ways to share some warmth with the homeless souls in our community. The area homeless shelter continues to be in need of adult sized hooded sweatshirts. To that end, we are once again asking you to assist us in meeting this need by donating a slightly worn or new hooded sweatshirt to the homeless in our community. We will be collecting your donations from now until the end of November.

As we have said in the past, there's no minimum for kindness, and the sky is the limit. No matter how small, your donation counts as a huge help, and will really make a difference! If you decide to either donate sweatshirts or make a financial donation to this worthy cause, please place your donation in the Poor Box at the entrance of the Church.

With our heartfelt gratitude, we are happy to collect the sweatshirts you wish to donate and get them to those in need. Thank you for your continued generosity to the poor and needy and may God Bless You!

