

MASSSES FOR THE WEEK

December 13, 2015

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Monday 8:00 AM NO MASS
Tuesday 8:00 AM James Fochtman - M/M Richard Hoffman
Wednesday 10:00 AM Owen Caton - Tony & Margee Taliaferro (Meadowview Nursing Home)
Thursday 7:00 PM Advent Penance Service
6:00 PM Eucharistic Adoration
7:00 PM Pauline LoCicero - Patty & Katy Gardner
Friday 8:00 AM Larry Engbert (b'day) - Richard & Cheryle Engbert
Saturday 6:00 PM Gabe Montreal - Fae & Family
Sunday 8:00 AM For the People
10:30 AM Doodle Restly (Anniv) -- Family

Sanctuary Candle - For Peace

PRAYER LIST: Austin Adams, Barbara Allison, Debbie Baker, Fred Bittner, Janey Black, Vicki Bowser, Ed Boyer, Macy Burke, Mary Beth Campitelli, Jim Caro, Joe & Glenna Caro, Laura Costello, Faith Custer, Joann Darbyshire, Brenda Davis, Thomas DeArmitt, Jr., Judy Dronet, Beau Dull, Beth Engle Pat Ferko, Agnes Fleming, Tabitha Frick, Janey Fulford, Paisley Goetzl, Donald Grasser, Gerald Grasser, Sr., Kelly Hartbauer, Elizabeth, Ken & Kennaley Heider, Sandra Herzing, Mike Hess, Chet Hillegass, David Hinson, Steve Howsare, Laramme Ickes, Matthew Jenkins, Harry Jones, J.T. Kline, Todd Kline, Jeanne Marie Klisiewicz, Chris Knisely, Eileen Knott, Virginia Lambert, Dana LeGros, Connie Levar, Darren Leydig, Lowe Family, Don Lynch, Martha Marker, George Maser, Fae Montreal, Tracey Mowry, Charlene Norris, Cathy & Laird Ober, Rick Otto, Jane Palik, Maryann Palko, Louise Pekala, Denver Reed, Rose Restly, Sabina Restly, Shawn Restly, Jane, Jim, & Terry Ryan, Greg Seeley, Sandra Shaffer, Clara Smith, Larry Smith, Michael Stefanik, Tommy Stiffler, Pat Stoe, Dick Walter, Anna Lee & Kenny Wambaugh, Aaron Weiss, Christina Whetstone, Charlotte Will, Jan & Larry Will, Tish Will, Mel Wingard, Dominick Yachere, Nancy Zeth, George Zubek, Jr.

If you added a person's name to the prayer list and they have since recovered,

please call to remove their name from our prayer list

Last week: Loose: \$309.00 Adults: \$2,740.00 Total: \$3,049.00

Christmas is the season when our Sanctuary comes alive with candles, trees, evergreens, and poinsettias. If you would like to donate to our Christmas flowers fund, please use the envelope in your packet. All monies will go towards buying flowers for the Church. If you would like to make an offering "in honor of" or "in memory of" a loved one please include that on your envelope. The names submitted by December 14<sup>th</sup> will be published.



Decorative separator line of asterisks

THE CHURCH OF ALTOONA-JOHNSTOWN
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Pastor: Fr. Richard Tomkosky
(ricopadre@hotmail.com)

Hall Reservations: Melinda Will (733-0029)

Mass Schedule: Parish Website: www.newbaltimorecatholic.com

Wed., Fri.: 8:00 AM
Tues. & Thurs.: 7:00 PM
Sunday: 6:00 PM (Vigil)
8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

Rectory:
Box 10
New Baltimore, PA 15553
Phone: 733-2210 Hall: 733-4113

Baptism:
Arrange in advance for pre-baptismal instructions.

Confessions
Saturday 5:00 - 5:45 PM

Matrimony:
Arrange nine months in advance. Couples expected to participate in pre-marriage preparation program



Parish Mission Statement St. John the Baptist Parish is a Catholic Christian Community centered in rural New Baltimore, Pennsylvania. As members of the Body of Christ, we seek to live as entrusted stewards using God's gifts responsibly, intelligently, prudently, and gratefully to bring about His kingdom. As stewards of our time, talents, possessions, and faith, we are called to put our lives in proper focus and to live in accord with one another giving love and caring support; to accept Christ's challenge as related in the Gospels - to serve one another.





CCD CHRISTMAS PARTY: December 13, 2015 in the church hall from 11:30-1:30p.m. This is for all CCD students and their families. Bring a covered dish and a batch of cookies. Drop off dishes on the way to CCD. We will have Christmas crafts and games for the entire family.

Drinks and place settings will be provided. Come join the Fun!!!



Bedford Head Start wants hats and mittens as usual. The Women's Help Center in Somerset can use a few hats and mittens, but will welcome other needed items – see the list on the back table. Donations will be accepted through December 13th.

ALTAR SCHEDULE – December 20<sup>th</sup>

	<u>6 pm</u>	<u>8 am</u>	<u>10:30 am</u>
READER:	Kim Wambaugh	Barbara Kane	Anthony Zanoni
MINISTER:	Linda Suhrie	Rita Lewis	Deacon Thom
SERVERS:	Graham Hoover	Kennaley Heider	Riley Lauer
		Desirae Heider	Jacob Stewart
		Shannon Easter	

**We are still in need of altar servers for Saturday evening Masses.**

In today's Gospel of Luke, John the Baptist gives clear advice on ways to show mercy. To the crowds John says, "Share your clothes and your food." To the tax collectors, he advises, "Care for those people." And to the Roman soldiers, he warns, "Be fair. Don't abuse your power." Good advice to us. When people share with each other; when they care that all are justly treated; and when they see that all have what is necessary to live a life with dignity, then God's mercy is made evident.

**We extend our sympathy to John & Bob Werner at the death of their sister, Blanche Petry and to Mary Louise Bittlebrun at the death of her brother, Paul Bittlebrun. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.**

The next meeting of the Bedford County Citizens Concerned for Human Life, will be on Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the game room at Spring House Estates. For more information, please call Doug Braendel 623-6887.

**With all the Christmas sales, now would be a good time to pick the theme of your Theme Basket for our July 4<sup>th</sup> picnic! Baskets are to be a minimum of \$25.**

*Families and the Gospel...* When the crowds in today's gospel asked, "What shall we do?" John the Baptist was very clear: SHARE. Resist giving token obligatory Christmas gifts. Instead give necessities to the poor. If those who have nothing or very little are not on your Christmas list, you missed the point of Christmas.

Notes from Fr. Rich

- **The Advent Penance Service:** will be on this Wednesday evening December 16 at 7 pm. There will be 5 priests, including myself, hearing Confessions that evening. Please take advantage of this golden spiritual opportunity to prepare our souls for Christmas and to enter more fully into this special Jubilee year of Divine Mercy.
- **Advent Tuesday night Confessions:** I hope almost everyone can make the Penance service on Wednesday night since it won't take as long with 5 priests. However if you can't make it, I will also be available for Confession as well before the 7 pm Tuesday evening Advent Mass the next two weeks. I will be in the "round room" at 6 pm on Tuesday December 15 and 22 (which is the last official time for Confessions here) - which is the room right behind the chapel in the retreat center.
- **New Church office hours:** Please note for future reference in conducting Church business - now that our Church secretary Melanie Hankinson has moved to Berlin, the regular Church office hours have been adjusted. She will now normally be in the Church office on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 7 am to 3 pm – not half days each day like she worked before.
- **Adult Education:** resumes this Sunday at 9:15 am in the retreat center dining room. We are reflecting on the mystery of the Eucharist. I invite all adults to come to learn more about your Catholic faith, especially during the Holy Season of Advent.
- **Christmas Mass schedule:** The Mass schedule will be the same as last year 7 pm and 9:30 pm on Christmas Eve, and then a 9 am on Christmas day.
- **Year of Divine Mercy:** As I have mentioned beginning on this past December 8<sup>th</sup> a special Holy Year of Divine Mercy in the Church has begun, which will hopefully bring many graces to many people and bring many back to the practice of the Catholic faith and to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. A good place to learn more about beautiful **Divine Mercy Devotion** and how it is being brought more into the world and the Church by the Marian fathers and associates, as well as ways to help spread it in our lives, by reading their quarterly Marian Helper magazine online at: [www.marian.org/imh/](http://www.marian.org/imh/). The new winter issue is now out. You can also check out their You Tube channel with over 100 videos about Mary, Divine Mercy and the saints, with new content added weekly at: [www.youtube.com/MarianHelpers](http://www.youtube.com/MarianHelpers).
- **Thoughts from the saints:** As you notice in the bulletin most weeks I have a little quote from the saints on different aspects of our spiritual life, so for this year of Divine Mercy I will be taking them each week from the Divine Mercy Diary of St. Faustina, to hopefully help us understand God's mercy on a deeper level and put it into practice in our lives, so see the first one below in relation to the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- **Divine Mercy reflections:** On how to approach the Sacrament of God's Mercy in Confession - *"My daughter, just as you prepare for it in My presence, so also you make your Confession before Me. The person of the priest is, for Me, only a screen. Never analyze what sort of a priest it is that I am making use of; open your soul in confession as you would to Me, and I will*

*fill it with My Light.*" (Jesus speaking to St. Faustina, Diary of Divine Mercy, paragraph 1725).  
Have a blessed week.☺