

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK**

December 20, 2015

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

Monday	8:00 AM	NO MASS
Tuesday	8:00 AM	Nash & Grace Hankinson Family – Mike & Girls
Wednesday	8:00 AM	Paula Leonard (Anniv) – Carolyn Leonard
Thursday	7:00 PM	Paul Bittlebrun – Mary Louise Bittlebrun
	9:30 PM	For the People
Friday	9:00 AM	Mary E. Will (b'day) -- Family
Saturday	6:00 PM	James Davis, Jr. – Betty Davis
Sunday	8:00 AM	Fred Will (Anniv) -- Pauline
	10:30 AM	For the People

Sanctuary Candle – Irene & Raymond McGreevey – McGreevey Family

**PRAYER LIST:** Austin Adams, Barbara Allison, Debbie Baker, Fred Bittner, Janey Black, Vicki Bowser, Ed Boyer, Macy Burke, Anna Burkett, 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: \$177.00 Adults: \$2,272.00 Total: \$2,449.00  
Retirement Fund for Religious: \$640.00

On this final Sunday of Advent, we are invited to joyfully celebrate with Mary and Elizabeth. By God's mercy, the Eternal Word continues to grow in the womb of the Mother of Mercy. Elizabeth proclaims the faith of endless generations, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." God's promise is fulfilled. Mercy is about to take flesh on the earth. There is joyful expectation as we come to the conclusion of Advent time.

The 2016 offertory envelopes are ready to be picked up in the church basement.

THE CHURCH OF ALTOONA-JOHNSTOWN  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

Pastor:  
(ricopadre@hotmail.com)

Fr. Richard Tomkosky

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.

ALTAR SCHEDULE – Christmas

	<u>7 pm</u>	<u>9:30 pm</u>	<u>9 am</u>
READER:	Carissa Restly	Kris Engleka	Paul Balint
MINISTER:	John Werner	Mary Grace Imgrund	Alzine Hoffman
SERVERS:	Kennaley Heider	Luke Brick	Nathan Leonard
	Desirae Heider	Emily Brick	Caleb Leonard

ALTAR SCHEDULE – December 27<sup>th</sup>

	<u>6 pm</u>	<u>8 am</u>	<u>10:30 am</u>
READER:	Melinda Will	Barbara Kane	Kris Engleka
MINISTER:	Deacon Thom	Deacon Thom	Deacon Thom
SERVERS:	Graham Hoover	Dedra Hillegass	Regan Lauer
		Brady Boburchock	Jacob Stewart

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

**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...*** Mary was excited with her first pregnancy and rushed to tell her cousin. Some consider children as a liability, a “mouth to feed” or an obstacle to a career. While Christmas is “for children” it is also “for adults to appreciate the gift children are to us.”

God Sent Us Savior

If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator.  
 If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist.  
 If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist.  
 If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer.  
 But our greatest need was forgiveness, So God sent us a savior.

***Retrouvaille: Is your marriage tearing you apart? Retrouvaille is a Christian peer ministry and is Catholic in origin, but open to all married couples; contact the Family Life Office (814-866-5551) Retrouvaille.org or [www.familylife@dioceseaj.org](http://www.familylife@dioceseaj.org) for more information.***

St. Benedict's in Geistown has a religious gift shop! It is across the road from St. Benedict Church at 2227 Bedford Street. Hours are Wed., Thurs., and Fri. 10 am – 4 pm and Sat. 10 am – 6 pm. Phone: 262-7907. Gifts and greeting cards for all occasions!

***Natural Family Planning:*** Two methods are taught in our diocese. Contact the Family Life Office (814-866-5551) for instructions in the ovulation method and Rosemarie Keller of NFP of the Alleghenies (814-944-2907) for the Sympto-Thermal method. Did you know that married couples who practice NFP have a less than 3% divorce rate?

**Notes from Fr. Rich**

- **Christmas:** I want to wish all our parishioners and their families a most blessed Christmas this coming week. Please be safe if you are traveling, and I pray the Christ child draws all of you close to His loving heart and that each of you give your lives to Him on a deeper level in the coming year. Please remember to invite any Catholic you know who has been away for whatever reason back to the practice of the Faith during this special Year of Divine Mercy. I especially want to welcome back any parishioners who are here for Christmas and have been away from the Church and hope you will begin anew and come to Mass on a weekly basis. *If you need to talk to me, especially about a marriage situation or the need to make a good Confession in order to get back to the reception of Holy Communion, please e-mail me ([ricopadre@hotmail.com](mailto:ricopadre@hotmail.com)) or give me a call: 733-2210 and I will try my best I can to help you.* Never forget the Lord loves us so much - that's why He came among us as a little baby to save us from our sins!
- **Confessions before Christmas:** If you still need or want to go to Confession before Christmas the last times I will be hearing them will be after the 10:30 Mass today and at 6 pm on Tuesday in the round room behind the retreat house chapel before the 7 pm Mass.
- **Christmas Schedule:** One last reminder: the Mass schedule for Christmas is: on Thursday Christmas Eve at 7 pm and 9:30 pm, and then on Friday Christmas Day at 9 am. Please plan accordingly.
- **Upcoming Holy Day:** On Friday January 1: **Mary Mother of God**, there will be the following Masses: *on Thursday, New Year's Eve, I will have Mass at 7 pm and on Friday, New Year's Day, I will have Mass at 9 am - note there will be no New Year's Day evening Mass.* Please plan accordingly since this is a Holy Day of obligation for all Catholics young and old alike.
- **CCD:** There are no CCD or Adult education classes the next two Sundays: December 27 and January 3 because of the Christmas/ New Year's holidays - classes will resume on Sunday January 10, 2016.
- **Minute on the Mass booklets:** Please take a copy of ***A Minute in the Church: the Mass*** reflection booklet which will be available at the Christmas Masses. One per family. I hope it helps all of us to understand and appreciate the Mass better. Also in January we will use this booklet for our Adult Education class for a couple of weeks. Please try to come to the class starting on January 10 to learn more about the Holy Mass.
- **CCD Christmas party:** Thanks to Suzanne Zaroni and her helpers for putting together a very nice party for the CCD children and their families last Sunday. Everyone had a great time and it was nice to see it well attended.

- **New Church office hours:** One last reminder: 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. And if you call on the days she is not here I will make sure she gets the messages. Thanks. Have a blessed Christmas week. 😊