

# DECEMBER 07, 2025

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# Peace

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent



### Saint John Gualbert Cathedral

PO Box 807 Johnstown, PA 15907-0807  
Office: 814-536-0117 <http://www.stjohngualbert.org>  
[johnstowncathedral@dioceseaj.org](mailto:johnstowncathedral@dioceseaj.org)

Most Rev Bishop Mark L Bartchak, JCD  
V. Rev Matthew Baum, Rector  
Fr. Canice McMullen, OSB  
Deacon Rick Messina



**Mass Times:** Saturday 6PM

Sunday 7AM, 11AM, 5PM

Weekday Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri 7AM Sat 8AM

Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri 12:05PM

**Confessions:** 8:30AM Sat & 3PM Sun

3PM Thurs before 1st Friday

### Saint Patrick Church

P.O. Box 806, Johnstown, PA 15907-0806  
Office: 814-539-2186 <http://stpatricktjtown.com>  
[stpatricktjtown@dioceseaj.org](mailto:stpatricktjtown@dioceseaj.org)

V. Rev Matthew Baum, Pastor  
Fr. Canice McMullen, OSB  
Deacon Rick Messina



**Mass Times:** Saturday 4PM

Sunday 9AM

Thursday 8AM

Rosary: 30 minutes before all Masses

**Confessions:** Saturday 3PM



# Week of December 07, 2025



**1st Reading:**  
Isaiah 11:1-10

**2nd Reading:**  
Romans 15:4-9

**Gospel:**  
Matthew 3:1-12

## ST JOHN GUALBERT

**Saturday 8:00AM** **Dec 6th First Week of Advent (St. Nicholas)**  
St. Anne Society

**6:00PM** **Vigil—Second Sunday of Advent**  
Mary O'Donnell (Son: Ed)

**Sunday 7:00AM** **Dec 7th Second Sunday of Advent**  
Walter C. Weaver (David & Carrie Weaver)  
**11:00AM** Elizabeth & Bill Pawcio (Family)  
**5:00PM** People of the Parish

**Monday 7:00AM** **Dec 8th Immaculate Conception - Holy Day**  
Sr. Rita Murillo *Happy Birthday* (John Bair)  
**12:05PM** St. Anne Society  
**6:00PM** Eugene Podratsky (Mike & Diane Mitchell)

**Tuesday 7:00AM** **Dec 9th Second Week of Advent**  
St. Anne Society  
**12:05PM** Fr. John F. Brezovec (Dr. Eric & Susan Wieczorek)

**Wednesday 7:00AM** **Dec 10th Second Week of Advent**  
Joe, Ronnie, Catherine Kmetz & Ann Lubera  
(Catherine Kmetz Family)  
**12:05PM** Aurora Gilmore *Happy Birthday* (John Bair)

**Thursday 7:00AM** **Dec 11th Second Week of Advent**  
**No Mass**  
**12:05PM** Irene Yanko *Birthday Remembrance* (Children & Grandchildren)

**Friday 7:00AM** **Dec 12th Second Week of Advent**  
St. Anne Society  
**12:05PM** Esperanza "Cha-Cha" Bair (John Bair)

**Saturday 8:00AM** **Dec 13th Second Week of Advent**  
Rose Sage (Gary & Cathly Quinn)

**6:00PM** **Vigil—Third Sunday of Advent**  
Nunzio Johncola *Birthday Remembrance 12/10* (Wife Nancy & Family)

**Sunday 7:00AM** **Dec 14th Third Sunday of Advent**  
Francis P. Stephens *30yr. Anniversary* (Wife & Children)  
**11:00AM** John Pencola (Jim & Michele Serafin)  
**5:00PM** People of the Parish

## ST PATRICK

**Saturday 4:00PM** **Dec 6th Vigil—Second Sunday of Advent**  
Charles E. Gojmerac (Wife: Rose Marie)

**Sunday 9:00AM** **Dec 7th Second Sunday of Advent**  
Michael Benyacko, Jr. *Birthday Remembrance* (Mr. & Mrs. Steve Glover)

**Monday 9:00AM** **Dec 8th Immaculate Conception - Holy Day**  
Joel Hunt (Joyce Werner)  
**6:00PM** Charles Holtzman, Jr. (St Patrick Christian Life & Service)

**Thursday 8:00AM** **Dec 11th Second Week of Advent**  
Deceased Members of the Beckman & Knox Families  
(Mary Beckman Knox)

**Saturday 4:00PM** **Dec 13th Vigil—Third Sunday of Advent**  
Peggy Boxler (Family)

**Sunday 9:00AM** **Dec 14th Third Sunday of Advent**  
Joseph Anthony Esposito *Birthday Remembrance*  
(Monica Mizerak)

## Parish Staff & Volunteers

**Finance:** Gerald Foust gfoust@dioceseaj.org  
**Secretary:** Brigid Starchok bstarchok@dioceseaj.org  
**Cemetery:** Kristen Caddy kcaddy@dioceseaj.org  
**St. John Gualbert Music:** Evonne Yanzetich-Homway (814)659-6240  
**St. Patrick Music:** Jean Arcurio (814)241-9972  
**St. John Maintenance:** Mike Amenti (814)536-0117 ext. 207  
**St. Patrick Maintenance:** Dan Schofield (814)792-5891

## Faith Formation /Sacramental Prep

Christine Babik—Resurrection Parish  
(814)539-5788 / cbabik@dioceseaj.org

## RCIA

Lonnie Rietscha: (814)244-6681  
Harry Mangus: (814)525-9943

## Prayer Chain

Dr. Joyce Werner: (814)288-1186

## Catholic Outreach

**St. Vincent de Paul**  
John Gualbert SVdP - (Mon or Fri) 814-421-4344  
SVdP Human Needs Office - (Tues - Thurs) 814-535-8521  
SVdP Family Kitchen: 814-539-7811

## Catholic Charities

Altoona: 814-944-9388 **Johnstown:** 814-535-6538

## Crisis Pregnancy/Pro-Life:

Birthright of Johnstown: 814-535-8231  
Gabriel Project- Gail Bala: 814-418-1813  
**Rachel's Vineyard:** 1-877-467-3463  
Website - www.RachelsVineyard.org -  
the world's largest ministry for healing after abortion.

**Diocesan Family Life Office:** 814-695-5579  
**Diocesan Website:** www.dioceseaj.org

## Physical locations:

**St. John Gualbert Cathedral**  
117 Clinton Street  
Johnstown, PA 15901

**St. Patrick Church**  
609 Park Avenue  
Johnstown, PA 15902

Dec 8th at St. Peter in Chains Parish, behind the walls of SCI Somerset:  
Other Coverage



## COLLECTIONS

## Shared Parish Information:

Collection St John Gualbert 11/30/2025	
Weekly Envelopes	\$4,181.70
Cash	1,333.00
Online	505.00
Maintenance	768.00
SVdP	20.00
Catholic Charities	80.00
Christmas Flowers	85.00
Thanksgiving	276.00
All Saints	5.00
Christmas	100.00
Retirement Fund for Religious	10.00
Immaculate Conception	10.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,373.70</b>

St. John Gualbert



St. Patrick



Collection St Patrick 11/30/2025	
Envelopes	\$2,997.25
Cash	183.00
Children's Envelopes	29.00
Online Donations	35.00
Maintenance	65.00
Fuel & Air	60.00
SVdP	85.00
Retired Priests	30.00
Catholic University	30.00
World Mission Sunday	30.00
Catholic Charities	215.00
Christmas Flowers	35.00
Votives	15.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,809.25</b>

**Office Hours:** Monday through Friday 9AM - 3PM.

**Parishioner Registration:** If you would like to join either of our parishes, please contact the rectory/church office. Registration, the practice of stewardship and regular participation in the sacraments, indicates that a person is an active member of the parish and is eligible to act as a godparent or a sponsor. As a church community seeking to be faith-filled disciples and good stewards, the sacrifice of our time, talent, and treasure is essential for the common good.

**Moving or joining a different parish:** Please remember to notify us if you have a change of address or will be leaving either of our parishes so we can update our records and notify the diocese of the change.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Upon request for the sick or homebound.

**Infant Baptism & Christian Initiation of Adults:** Call the church office, (814)536-0117.

**Marriage:** 9-month notice; pre-marital preparation required.

**Mass Intentions:** ALL mass intentions are handled through the St. John Gualbert office. If you would like to have a mass offered, please fill out the form in the churches or available on the parish website, put it in an envelope with the mass donation (\$10) and drop it off in the collection basket or at the parish office. A copy of the rules and policies for Mass intentions are also available in the churches.

**Do you know anyone who can't make it to mass?** If you have a family member who is sick or infirmed and unable to attend mass, please let us know. Father makes periodic rounds to visit the sick. In time, we would also like to find Eucharistic Ministers to do the same. If there is ever an emergency, call the parish number and leave a message for Fr. Matt. It is very important that those who are seriously ill or in danger of death are able to receive the sacraments, but we don't know unless you tell us. Don't be afraid to call.

**Weekly Contributions:** If you would like your cash gifts to be reflected on your giving statement, please use an offering envelope. Be sure to write your name and the amount given clearly on the offering envelope to insure proper credit. If you attend at another parish, please use your envelopes as they will be returned to us.

**Taking up the Gifts:** If the mass intention is for your family and you would like to take up the gifts at that mass, please let the ushers know about 10 minutes before mass. We have had a few families ask at the last minute and we would rather not ask someone to take up the gifts and then tell them not to because the family of the mass intention has just showed up.

**Daily Mass Missals**—If you would like a copy of "the Word Among Us" daily missal that includes daily mass readings, antiphons, and reflections, please stop or call the St. John parish office. A subscription costs \$20 per person per year.

**Bulletin Deadline:** ALL submissions for the bulletin need to be submitted no later than Tuesday 12:00 PM in order to be listed in the following Sunday edition and must include the name of the submitter. Also, when there are multiple layers to an event, bulletin announcements need to be coordinated through the primary event planner to prevent conflicting submissions.

**Flocknote:** Flocknote enables us to send large group emails and text messages. If you would like to receive the general notices and reminders about upcoming events in the parish, requests for help/volunteers, the bulletin published to the website, and other updates, use these instructions to sign up if you have not already done so.

Catholic Ministries Drive - 2025			
St. John Gualbert	Goal:	\$32,300.00	
	Receipts	16,032.00	
St. Patrick	Goal:	\$24,900.00	
	Receipts	16,527.00	

**Keep in touch with us!**

TEXT SJGC TO 84576

OR CONNECT WITH US ONLINE AT:

stjohngualbert.flocknote.com



**Religious Education**  
Questions - contact DRE - Christine Babik at  
814-539-5788, or email [cbabik@dioceseaj.org](mailto:cbabik@dioceseaj.org).

**Sunday, December 7:** Religious Education 9:00-10:15 am Resurrection Parish Center and Confirmation Mentor meeting Oratory and Oratory Hall. \*\*Confirmation Mentor meetings and **Rite of Blessing for St. John Gualbert Confirmation Candidates at the 11:00AM Mass at St. Johns.**



**Sunday, December 14:** Religious Education 9:00-10:15 am Resurrection Parish Center and Oratory Hall.

**Sunday, December 21:** Religious Education 9:00-10:15 am Resurrection Parish Center and Oratory Hall.

**Sunday, December 28:** No class - Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

**Sunday, January 4, 2026:** Religious Education 9:00-10:15am Resurrection Parish Center, Confirmation Mentor meeting Oratory and Oratory Hall

#### **OCIA/Basics of Faith**

**Sunday, December 7:** OCIA - Protoevangelium of James

**Sunday, December 14:** OCIA - The Last Things

Anyone interested in being a Sponsor for Candidates please contact Lonnie Rietscha (814)244-6681, or Harry Mangus (814)525-9943.

#### **St. Vincent de Paul Conference of St. John Gualbert Cathedral:**

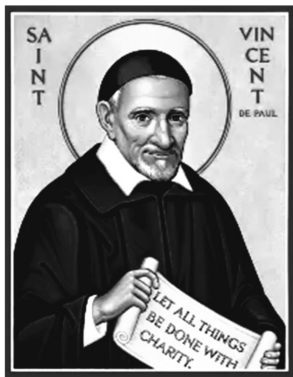
As members of St. Vincent de Paul further explore the virtues of the organization, the following is a reminder of our ministry:

Devotion to Jesus means loving those people whom, when he was a king on earth, Jesus liked to have close about him—the poor. Devotion to Jesus means loving and being servants of the poor in the way and in the spirit with which Jesus served them when he was on earth. Devotion to Jesus means opposing and rejecting violence in all its forms. Devotion to Jesus means working for peace and reconciliation in our society, for his kingdom is one of love and justice and peace.

Anyone interested in joining the St. John conference is welcome to attend our next meetings which are held at the St. John Activity Center in the St. Joseph Room located on the lower level. Bring a friend and remember the organization is not for Catholics only.

⇒ Thursday, December 18 at 6:00 PM

⇒ Saturday, January 3 at 9:00 PM



Give me the love, O Lord, to serve and not to be served, to seek out those in need of mercy, not because they are deserving, but because they are Your children, loved by You. Amen

#### **Christian Life & Service:**

##### **At SJG**

We would like to send a great big thank you to everyone who participated in this year's donations for the Angel Tree Project. As always, your generosity is overwhelming and truly appreciated. God Bless you!

*St. John Gualbert Christian Life & Service*

##### **At SPJ**

##### **St. Patrick's Angel Tree:**

Just a quick reminder that all gifts are due back no later than December 7, 2025, so that we can distribute them to The Gabriel Project and Birthright in time for the holidays.

Thank you for your generosity and for remembering these important ministries during the Christmas season!

##### **We are having a PARTY!**

We are having an Epiphany party on January 9th at 5:30PM in the St. Patrick's Church basement REC room. All parishioners from both parishes are welcome.

The party is potluck. Meat and drinks will be provided. You are welcome to bring your favorite side dish or dessert. Come and enjoy the company of our church communities and celebrate the Season. Let's bring back the traditions of Fr. Charles Amershek and Msgr. Harold Biller, both who celebrated the best gift of community during Epiphany.

*-St. Patrick's Christian Life & Service*

##### **At Both**

**Straw Distribution:** The annual blessing and distribution of straw will be done on the weekend of the 20th & 21st at both parishes for all Masses.

#### **Fr. Canice's Thoughts:**

Along with our Blessed Mother, John the Baptist is the great Advent figure par excellence—the precursor who prepares the way of the Lord. In an Advent Homily from 2006, Pope Benedict XVI beautifully describes the mission of the Baptist and the necessity for us to respond to his cry:

"To prepare the way for the Lord ... means, above all, to make straight paths in our own lives: to remove the obstacles we place in the way of Christ's coming. ... This is the true meaning of conversion: changing direction, turning toward God with our whole life."

**Blessings, Fr. Canice**

#### **Deacon Rick's Corner**

**THE SECOND PURPLE CANDLE IS THE**

*"Candle of Peace."*

**DURING THIS SECOND WEEK OF  
ADVENT, WE REFLECT ON OUR LIVES  
AND ORIENT OURSELVES TOWARD  
CHRIST'S COMING, PREPARING OUR  
HEARTS TO RECEIVE HIM ANEW.**

# **MINISTERS SCHEDULES:**

## **ST JOHN GUALBERT CATHEDRAL** **Immaculate Conception Holy Day**

### **Mon Dec 8th, 7:00AM**

Reader	Christine Brothers
Reader	Gloria Stephens
Eucharistic Minister	Carmen Grasso
Server	Dave Harteis
Audio Operator	Peter T. Yanko
Sacristan	Gloria Stephens
Cantor	Rose Eckenrod

### **Mon Dec 8th, 12:05PM**

Reader	Mary Jane Verbiar
Reader	Fred Oliveros
Eucharistic Minister	Elizabeth Rhoades
Server	James Sandoval
Audio Operator	Brian Vuletich
Sacristan	James Sandoval
Cantor	Deb McGraw

### **Mon Dec 8th, 6:00PM**

Reader	Heather Jezeskie
Reader	Rose Batzel
Eucharistic Minister	Jim Hollis
Server	Steve Molnar
Audio Operator	Tracy Smith
Sacristan	Steve Molnar
Cantor	Namita Gallo

### **Third Sunday of Advent**

### **Sat Dec 13th, 6:00PM Mass**

Reader	Pat Loughlin
Reader	Dixie Lochrie
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Rick Messina
Eucharistic Minister	Anthony Kamnikar
Eucharistic Minister	Susan Kamnikar
Server	Rich Ott
Audio Operator	Michael Stoskey
Sacristan	Rich Ott
Cantor	Namita Gallo

### **Sun Dec 14th, 7:00AM Mass**

Reader	Gloria Stephens
Reader	Fred Oliveros
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Rick Messina
Eucharistic Minister	Carmen Grasso
Eucharistic Minister	Melissa Gates
Server	Dave Harteis
Audio Operator	Patrick McClain
Sacristan	Gloria Stephens
Cantor	Peter T. Yanko

### **Sun Dec 14th, 11:00AM Mass**

Reader	JoAnn Kopco
Reader	Heather Jezeskie
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Rick Messina
Eucharistic Minister	Pam Sabol
Eucharistic Minister	Matthew Krawczyk
Servers	Cora, Ileana, & Sophie Messina
Audio Operator	Ron Jezeskie
Sacristan	Matthew Krawczyk
Cantor	Kids Choir

### **Sun Dec 14th, 5:00PM Mass**

Reader	Charlotte Amenti
Reader	Kristen Caddy
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Rick Messina
Eucharistic Minister	Jim Sandoval
Eucharistic Minister	Susan Sandoval
Server	Paige Titus
Audio Operator	Evonne Yanzetich
Sacristan	Charlotte Amenti
Cantor	Deb McGraw

## **ST PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH** **Immaculate Conception Holy Day**

### **Mon Dec 8th, 6:00PM**

Cantor	Ed Herdman
Server	Sydnee Dixon
Eucharistic Minister	Cindy Stofko
Eucharistic Minister	Harry Mangus
Eucharistic Minister	Connie Cassidy
Sacristan	Marianna Glover
Reader	Kathy Getzey

### **Third Sunday of Advent**

### **Sat Dec 13th, 4:00PM Mass**

Cantor	Lisa Stofko
Server	Jerry Stofko
Eucharistic Minister	Connie Cassidy
Eucharistic Minister	Harry Mangus
Eucharistic Minister	Kathy Kristofko
Sacristan	Connie Cassidy
Reader	Kathy Getzey

### **Sun Dec 14th, 9:00AM Mass**

Cantor	Rita Redden
Server	Reece Lucas
Eucharistic Minister	Joyce Werner
Eucharistic Minister	Kevin Malloy
Eucharistic Minister	Marge Sindleri
Sacristan	Joyce Werner
Reader	Michelle Chase

## **\*\*\* ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR BOTH PARISHES \*\*\***

**Parish Council Meetings** - there are **NO MEETINGS** in December for either parish due to Penance Service attendance by the priests.

**"Called by Name" Diocesan Vocations Campaign:**



Bishop Bartchak is encouraging you to support our diocese's Vocation Appeal. Your gift will fund the diocese's renewed efforts to promote vocations to the priesthood, an especially urgent need as the number of seminarians for our diocese has been very low in recent years. To inspire more young men to consider the priesthood, the Vocation Office has developed a robust plan, which includes:

- ⇒ A newly formed Vocation Team with 5 priests in different regions of the diocese who are committed to offering mentorship to young men as they discern their vocations.
- ⇒ Our recent Called By Name campaign, which has already connected the Vocation Team with many incredible young men. • Discernment Retreats & In-Person Events.
- ⇒ Regional Priesthood Discernment Groups, several young men are already participating.
- ⇒ Fr. Brian Norris's appointment as Vocation Recruiter, expanding the outreach of Fr. Peter Crowe (Vocations Director) and the Vocation Team.
- ⇒ Revamping communications and marketing to reach more young men.
- ⇒ Creating a new website with discernment resources: [ajvocations.org](http://ajvocations.org).
- ⇒ Personally accompanying men as they discern their vocations.



### *Priests for the future article continued*

Our Vocation Team's overall strategy is to identify and accompany young men as they discern God's call. Bishop Bartchak is asking all parishioners to be especially generous to ensure dedicated priests for the future of our diocese. To learn more and make a gift, visit [ajvocations.org/give](http://ajvocations.org/give)

#### **Small Group Discussion:**

The St. Patrick Small Group Discussions - based on the readings for the following Sunday, is **off Monday Dec. 8th for the Holy day**, and has a final session on Dec. 15th. Both start at 6:30PM in the REC room of the Park Street Rectory. Any questions, please contact Harry Mangus at 814 525-9943. Everyone from either parish is welcome. You may attend any sessions you want.

**Cemetery Calendar Tickets Available:** These tickets make the best stocking stuffers for Christmas! They keep on giving for all 365 days of 2026 and we still have them available..... Simplify your Christmas gift list and pick one up for your family and friends.

Stop by the rectory office on Clinton Street to pick some up or call the rectory office (814)536-0117 and we can put some back for you.

## St John Gualbert Cemetery

### 2026 Calendar Tickets

#### \$25-\$250 per day for 2026

<b>January 2026</b> Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat \$25	<b>February 2026</b> Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat \$25	<b>March 2026</b> Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat \$25
<b>April 2026</b> Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat \$25	<b>May 2026</b> Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat \$25	<b>June 2026</b> Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat \$25
<b>July 2026</b> Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat \$25	<b>August 2026</b> Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat \$25	<b>September 2026</b> Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat \$25

### Tickets are \$25/each

Call the St John Gualbert Parish Office  
814-536-0117

#### **The Catholic Ministries Drive:**

Please prayerfully consider making a gift to the Catholic Ministries Drive. Every dollar stays within our diocese and directly supports the ministries that touch lives every day. Together, we can build a stronger, more vibrant Church rooted in faith, hope, and love.

#### **Do You Have an End of Mass Announcement?**

Many times parishioners ask to have some important event, notification, etc. announced at the end of weekend Masses following the prayer after Communion. Making sure that this

happens with all the busy staff comings and goings, phone calls and so forth can be challenging. In order to make this process better, it has been suggested that all requests of this nature be handled as follows:

1. We need to have the announcement submitted to the rectory **no later than 12 noon Wednesday - no exceptions.**
2. Please email them to [eyanzetich@dioceseaj.org](mailto:eyanzetich@dioceseaj.org) as she organizes these items along with the petitions for both parishes.

#### **Ministers of the Word:**

The new 2026 workbooks have arrived for all those at both parishes who act as readers for the Mass. Please pick up the copy with your name on it in the Sacristy at both parishes.

#### **iGiveCatholic - 2025:**

About Giving Day - Celebrated annually since 2015 on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, #iGiveCatholic on GivingTuesday kicks off the charitable season and brings the Catholic community together to "Give Back and Give Catholic".

As the first-ever giving day created to celebrate our unique Catholic heritage, #iGiveCatholic on GivingTuesday inspires faithful stewards to express their generosity in support of and gratitude for their beloved faith community and ministries on this global day of giving.

Over the past 4 years, we've raised over \$410,000 for our parishes, schools and ministries with the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown! As a donor, you can designate your donation to any charitable cause within the Diocese and/or your parish so that you direct exactly how the funds are distributed. For example, some give to Proclaim, others to St. Vincent de Paul, etc. At St. John Gualbert Cathedral this year, the iGive Catholic donations will be accepted toward the maintenance of the Cemeteries so that we can show the proper respect and care of our beloved dead.

There is still time to participate with this most worthy cause.

#### **Word Among Us:**

It is that time again, the end of the year, when those who subscribe to the Word Among Us Magazine need to renew their subscription for 2026. The cost is \$20.00

- half the price of an individual subscription. Checks need to be payable to your respective parish, cash works too, and there are envelopes at both churches that can be used to remit your payment.

Please include your name, phone number and just drop the envelopes in the collection basket.



#### **Stewardship Reflections for December 07, 2025 – 2nd Sunday of Advent:**

As we begin the second week of Advent, let us recall our motto for this season: we are climbing God's holy mountain. Our readings inspire us and help us focus on this journey toward holiness.

Our first reading from the prophet Isaiah continues the theme of a journey towards the holy mountain, the Kingdom of God. The prophet gives us a beautiful glimpse of this mountain, where Christ will reign forever. It will be a place of peace, justice, and harmony among all God's creatures. "There shall be no harm or ruin in all my holy mountain... (This) dwelling shall be glorious."



As we straighten the paths of our own hearts and minds, we become more hospitable people, better stewards of God's grace and mercy, and far more open and ready to invite others into our lives, homes and parishes. We climb farther up God's holy mountain and attract others to join us on the path toward holiness. This is preparation fitting for our merciful Savior.

### Feast of the Immaculate Conception Holy Day:



The office is closed this coming Monday, December 8th, 2025 as we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our mother, who was conceived without original sin. **Masses at St. John Gualbert will be at 7AM, 12:05PM, and 6PM. Mass at St. Patrick will be at 9AM and 6PM.**  
Immaculate Mary, pray for us!

### Benediction & Board Games:

The Theology on Tap - Young Adult Group (18-39) is having a Benediction & Board Game night on Friday, December 12th starting with prayers and benediction in the St. Anne Shrine, and then following up with rousing board games up at the St. John Gualbert Activities Center. We welcome those age 18 through 39 to come join us for a great evening.

### Diocesan Second Collection:

The 2nd collection at all Masses/ both parishes the weekend of December 13th & 14th will benefit our retired religious Brothers & Sisters who have served us faithfully throughout their lives. There is an envelope in the packets for this most worthy cause.

## **St. John Gualbert**

### Current Events:

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**12-6 & 12-7** St. Nicholas Candy in shoes, all Masses  
**12-7 8AM to 9AM** Wreath Pickup; AC-H  
**12-7 9AM** Religious Ed; Resurrection  
**12-7 11AM** SJG Confirmation Rite of Blessing; Cathedral  
**12-7 12PM to 1PM** Wreath Pickup; AC-H  
**12-7 6PM to 7PM** Wreath Pickup; AC-H  
**12-7 6:30PM** OCIA; AC-SJ  
**12-8 7AM, 12:05PM, 6PM** SJG Masses for the Holy Day; Church  
**12-10 7PM** SJG Choir Practice; Cathedral  
**12-11 3PM** SJG Eucharistic Adoration; Shrine  
**12-12 6PM** TOT Benediction & Board Games; Shrine/AC-SJ  
**12-13 6:30AM** SJG Rorate Caeli Mass; Cathedral  
**12-13 7:30AM** SJG Rorate Caeli Reception; AC-H  
**12-13 12PM** Public Rosary; Shrine  
**12-13 & 14** SJG 2nd collection, all Masses for the Retired Religious Brothers & Sisters of Altoona-Johnstown  
**12-14 9AM** Religious Ed; Resurrection  
**12-14 2PM** SJG Penance Service; Cathedral  
**12-14 6:15PM** SJG Christmas Tree Setup; Cathedral  
**12-14 6:30PM** OCIA; AC-SJ

### Christmas Wreath Fundraiser: The Wreaths are Here!

The **PICKUP DATE** for your wreaths is this **Sunday, Dec. 7, 2025.**

Someone will be at the Activities center

**DURING the following time slots only:**

- ⇒ 8AM - 9AM
- ⇒ 12PM - 1PM
- ⇒ 6PM - 7PM

Our volunteers will be available at the times listed above, ONLY. **The wreaths may not be picked up outside those time slots.** We thank you for your adherence to their schedules and for supporting our Christmas Wreath fundraiser.

### St. John Gualbert Rorate Mass:

**On Saturday, December 13th at 6:30AM** St. John Gualbert Cathedral will be having a Rorate Mass.

As Fr. Canice explains: a Rorate Caeli Candlelight Mass is an Advent devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, who yearned for the coming of our Lord. The name of the Mass, Rorate Caeli, reflects

Mary's yearning and ours for Christ's arrival. It originates from the first words of the Introit (Entrance Antiphon) in Latin:

"Rorate caeli desuper, et nubes pluant iustum"  
("Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain the Just One" – Isaiah 45:8).

On this day, Mass begins in darkness before sunrise, illuminated only by candles. This symbolic gesture reminds us of a world shrouded in darkness and sin, eagerly anticipating the arrival of Christ, the Light of the World. As the Mass progresses, our cry for the Light of Christ to come into our darkness is answered as the church gradually brightens and the rising sun fills it with the radiant light of day. Join us for this beautiful Mass in honor of our Lady, and allow it to deepen your longing for Christ's arrival.

There will be a reception following the Mass at the Activities Center for coffee and donuts.

### Annual Advent Penance Service:

We will come together as a parish during Advent 2025 at St. John Gualbert Cathedral to seek reconciliation with God on Sunday, December 14th at 2PM.

Multiple priests from the diocese will be there to assist at this liturgy of prayer, music, and individual confessions. As we wait for the coming of our Lord Jesus, join us and let us allow God to share His infinite mercy, compassion and forgiveness with us.

## **St. Patrick Church**

### Current events:

\*\*\*\*\*

**12-6 & 12-7** St. Nicholas Candy in shoes, all Masses  
**12-7 9AM** Religious Ed; Resurrection  
**12-7 11AM** Confirmation Rite of Blessing; Cathedral  
**12-7 6:30PM** OCIA; AC-SJ  
**12-8 9AM & 6PM** SPJ Masses for the Holy Day; Church  
**12-11 3PM** Eucharistic Adoration at SJG; Shrine  
**12-12 6PM** TOT Benediction & Board Games; Shrine/AC-SJ  
**12-13 6:30AM** Rorate Caeli Mass at SJG; Cathedral  
**12-13 7:30AM** Rorate Caeli Reception; AC-H  
**12-13 12PM** Public Rosary; Shrine  
**12-13 & 14** SPJ 2nd collection, all Masses for the Retired Religious Brothers & Sisters of Altoona-Johnstown  
**12-14 9AM** Religious Ed; Resurrection  
**12-14 6:30PM** OCIA; AC-SJ

### Annual Advent Penance Service:

We will come together as a parish during Advent 2025 at St. Patrick Church to seek reconciliation with God on Monday, December 22nd at 6PM.

Multiple priests from the diocese will be there to assist at this liturgy of prayer, music, and individual confessions. As we wait for the coming of our Lord Jesus, join us and let us allow God to share His infinite mercy, compassion and forgiveness with us.

### Let's Party!



We are having an Epiphany party on January 9th at 5:30 pm in the St Patrick's Church basement. All parishioners are welcome. The party is potluck. Meat and drinks will be provided. You are welcome to bring your favorite side dish or dessert. Come and enjoy the company of our church communities and celebrate the Season.

### Blessing Bags Drive – Donations Needed by Dec. 14, 2025:

We're preparing our annual Blessing Bags for Women's Help Center to bring comfort and care to those in need this season. We need your help! Please consider donating any of the following items:

- Cozy throws or blankets
- Body wash
- Women's deodorant

- Hair conditioner
- Toothbrush/toothpaste

Donation boxes are located at the back of the sanctuary. All items will be collected through Sunday, December 14, 2025. Let's come together to share warmth, creativity, and kindness—one Blessing Bag at a time.

#### **St. Patrick Small Group Discussions:**



St. Patrick Small Group discussions, based on the readings for the following Sunday are deferred due to the holy Day - Immaculate Conception on Dec. 8th. We will have our last session on December 15th. Any questions, please contact Harry Mangus at 814 525-9943. Everyone is welcome.

### **\*\*\*\*\* Around the Area \*\*\*\*\***

#### **Divine Mercy Prayer Group:**

- ♦ Our regular Divine Mercy Prayer Group get together will be Wed. Dec. 10th at 3pm and 6:30pm. Learn how Jesus' Divine Mercy can bless your Advent Season and Christmas with the Gifts that ONLY He can give! Come join us and bring a Friend! You'll be glad you did! For more info call: Cathy 814-288-1126 or Lolly 814-659-8717



#### **Our Lady Queen of Angels Monthly Bingo!**



Please join us at the Our Lady Queen of Angels Activities Center (738 Sunshine Avenue, Central City, PA 15926) for Bingo on Sunday, December 7, 2025. Doors open at 11:30am and games start at 1:00pm. Entrance is \$25. Games of chance and food/snacks will be available for purchase. Wear something Christmas to be eligible to win a Bingo gift certificate.

#### **Rorate Masses are Back:**

Rorate Masses are traditional Votive Masses celebrated during Advent in honor of the Blessed Mother.

They happen in the pre-dawn darkness, illuminated only by candlelight, with the church gradually brightening as sunrise occurs, symbolizing the coming of Christ as the Light of the World.

Locally, a Rorate Mass will be celebrated at Saint John Gualbert Cathedral on December 13 at 117 Clinton St. in Johnstown,

Saint Andrew Parish 1621 Ferndale Ave. in Johnstown will be the site of the final Rorate Mass on December 20. All Masses will be at 6:30 a.m., and each will include beautiful sacred music.



#### **DECEMBER 2025 COMMUNITY BREAKFAST:**

In lieu of hosting a December breakfast, the St. Benedict Breakfast committee will be collecting donations to support the St. Benedict Knight of Columbus Food Pantry and The St. Vincent de Paul Johnstown Food Pantry at 927 Franklin Street (separate from the soup kitchen), as well as the food pantry at St. Clements.

Area food pantries, including our own Knights of Columbus Pantry, are seeing more requests for help. With the uncertainty surrounding SNAP benefits and an increase in the costs of groceries and basic essentials, many families struggle to put food on the table and are in need of our support.

As we approach Thanksgiving and Christmas, many of us will gather around tables filled with family, friends, faith, fellowship and a delicious meal, while some people in our community may be without a meal this holiday season due to food insecurities. Let us do our best to provide meals and hope to those in need. Remember, joy comes not from what we have, but from what we give. Please prayerfully consider what you can give to help.

All proceeds (based on need) will go directly to:

- St. Benedict Church Knights of Columbus Pantry
- St. Vincent de Paul Johnstown Food Pantry
- St. Clements Food Pantry

You can make a difference—there are numerous ways to help:

- Scan the QR code or visit <https://saint-benedict-church-breakfast.square.site/#items>.
- Share this information with your family and friends! Thank you for your generous support in helping our brothers and sisters in need!



#### **Upcoming Penance Services in Cambria County:**

**Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel, Loretto**  
Wednesday, December 10 at 7PM

**Saint Augustine, Dysart**  
Sunday, November 30 at 6:00 PM

**Holy Name, Ebensburg**  
Wednesday, December 10 at 6:30 PM  
Wednesday, December 17 at 6:30 PM

**Saint Mary, Nanty Glo**  
Tuesday, December 16 at 7:00 PM

**Our Lady of the Alleghenies, Lilly**  
Tuesday, December 23 at 6:00 PM

**Holy Family, Portage**  
Wednesday, December 10 from 6:00 PM-7:00 PM (Just Confessions)  
Monday, December 15 at 7:00 PM (Penance Service)

**Our Mother of Sorrows, Johnstown**  
Monday, December 15 from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM  
Tuesday, December 16 from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

**\*\*\*Saint John Gualbert Cathedral, Johnstown\*\*\***  
Sunday, December 14 at 2:00 PM

**Saint Michael, Saint Michael**  
Sunday, December 14 at 6:00 PM

**\*\*\*\*\*Saint Patrick, Johnstown\*\*\*\*\***  
Monday, December 22 at 6:00 PM





DIOCESE OF ALTOONA-JOHNSTOWN  
VOCATIONS APPEAL

## PRIESTS FOR THE FUTURE



It's widely known that our diocese needs more priests. The good news is that we have an excellent plan to increase our number of seminarians! Will you financially support our efforts to inspire young men to discern the priesthood?



Please give at  
[ajvocations.org](http://ajvocations.org)

### Theology on Tap - Young Adult Group (18-39):

March will be our 3-year anniversary, and we still have at least 1 new member join every month; however, some members are moving to different stages of life, so we are always seeking new members. Please help spread the word! All young adults (18-39) – regardless of their background – are invited to join us for faith, food, and fellowship. There is no cost to attend.

Our next Theology on Tap is Wednesday December 17<sup>th</sup> at the Boulevard Grill at 6pm with Deacon Candidate Wally Zapotoczny speaking on "A Church on Fire!" Fr. Canice McMullen OSB and Fr. David Dodd TOR are already booked for 2026! For more information contact Geoffrey Stumpo at (814) 659-7415 or [geoffstumpo@gmail.com](mailto:geoffstumpo@gmail.com).



## Catholic Ministries Drive

DIOCESE OF ALTOONA-JOHNSTOWN

Thank you for your donation to the 2025 Catholic Ministries Drive! Christ calls each of us to follow Him (Mt 16:24). This year's CMD invites us into a deeper relationship with Him, as we share in His mission of love and service, proclaiming the Good News to all. We are truly grateful for your generous gift!

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OUR LADY OF THE ALLEGHENIES  
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608 MAIN STREET LILLY, PA

ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2025

BEGINNING AT 5:30PM  
AND ENDING AT 10:00PM

COST IS \$25.00 SINGLE TICKET  
AND \$45.00 COUPLE TICKETS  
B.Y.O.B. & MUST BE 21 TO ATTEND

DINNER SERVED AT 6:00PM  
LIVE BAND HOT WAX  
BEGINS AT 7:00PM

CONTACT ANNA LEAHEY  
AT 814-935-4501 FOR TICKETS



“

**Dear young people,  
Jesus is our hope.**

**Let us remain united to him,  
let us remain in his friendship,  
always, cultivating it through  
prayer, adoration, Eucharistic  
Communion, frequent  
Confession, and generous  
charity, following the  
examples of Blessed  
Piergiorgio Frassati and  
Blessed Carlo Acutis who will  
soon be declared saints.**

**POPE LEO XIV**

In his homily at the Jubilee of Youth Mass  
August 3, 2025

ABS CBN  
NEWS



# PUBLIC ROSARY

Lifting our prayers for  
KEEPING CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS!



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>

6:30 PM

St. Clement Church

Lindberg Avenue & Goucher Street



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>

NOON

St. John Gualbert Cathedral, Downtown Johnstown

St. Anne Shrine



## Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

### *Office of the Bishop*

2713 W Chestnut Avenue

Altoona, PA 16601

Phone: 814-695-5579

[www.dioceseaj.org](http://www.dioceseaj.org)

November 30th, 2025

Dear Friends,

I'm writing to you today with encouraging news: Our diocese is renewing its efforts to foster vocations to the priesthood! Fr. Peter Crowe, our Vocation Director, has developed a strategic plan to inspire future priests, and we're excited about the path ahead.

Here is an update on how our diocese is working to cultivate vocations:

- We've formed a dedicated team of priests focused on vocation promotion, who are actively meeting in person with young men considering the priesthood.
- These priests have been leading Discernment Small Groups, with dozens of young men already participating.
- Fr. Brian Norris has been appointed Vocation Recruiter to assist Fr. Peter Crowe (Vocations Director) and the Vocation Team to expand their outreach.
- Our "Called by Name" campaign held earlier this month has already been bearing fruit, allowing the Vocation Team to connect with many faithful young men.
- We've planned a **Calendar of Discernment Events** designed to help young men deeply explore their calling, while building much needed community.

We pray these efforts will help inspire the future priests of our diocese.

**Therefore, I respectfully request your assistance with our Vocations Appeal.** The appeal will be conducted during all Masses on the weekend of December 6-7. Your support will directly empower the Vocation Office's mission to guide and empower the young men in our diocese who are discerning their vocations.

With your help, and by God's grace, we will continue to form holy priests to serve the people of God in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev. Mark L. Bartchak  
Bishop of Altoona-Johnstown



# St. John Gualbert & St. Patrick Advent Christmas

## Immaculate Conception

**Monday, Dec 8**

**St. John**  
7AM, 12:05 PM, 6PM

**St. Patrick**  
9AM & 6PM



## Rorate Mass



**Saturday, Dec 13**  
6:30 AM St. John

## Penance Services



**Sunday, Dec 14**  
2 PM St. John

**Thursday, Dec 22**  
6 PM St. Patrick

## Advent Concert



**Saturday, Dec 20**  
7:30 PM St. John

**Wednesday, Dec 24**

**St. John**      **St. Patrick**  
**4 PM (TV Mass)**      **4 PM**

**Thursday, Dec 25**



**St John**  
**Midnight**  
**7AM**

**St. Patrick**  
**9 AM**

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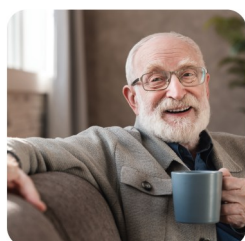
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