

Saint John Gualbert
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Bishop

Most Rev Mark L Bartchak, DD

Rector & Pastor

Very Rev James F Crookston

Parochial Vicar

Father Clarence S Bridges

In Residence

Father Sean K Code

Deacon

Senior Deacon John J Concanon

SUNDAY LITURGY

Saturday Evening

5:00 pm

Sundays

8:00 am

11:00 am

5:00 pm



Daily Mass

Monday through Friday

7:00 am

12:05 pm

Saturday

8:00 am

CONFESSION

Saturday

3:00 pm - Cathedral

Thursday before First Friday

3:00 pm - Cathedral

Saint John Gualbert Cathedral Parish

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.
May it be done to me according to your word.



Sunday, December 23, - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Readings: Micah 5:1-4a/ Hebrews 10:5-10/ Luke 1:39-45

8:00 am: *For the Intentions of the People of the Parish*

11:00 am: Joseph & Ronnie Kmetz (Kay Kmetz)

5:00 pm: Debra Murillo, Birthday (Murillo Family)

Monday, December 24, - Advent Weekday

Morning Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/ Luke 1:67-79

Vigil Readings: Isaiah 62:1-5/ Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/ Matthew 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Night Readings: Isaiah 9:1-6/ Timothy 2:11-14/ Luke 2:1-14

7:00 am: William & Mary Stermec (Daughter, Patty)

5:00 pm: Christine Barber (Family)

Midnight: Paul Hollern, Jr. (Loving Cousin, Jeff)

Tuesday, December 25, - The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Dawn Readings: Isaiah 62:11-12/ Timothy 3:4-7/ Luke 2:15-20

Day Readings: Isaiah 52:7-10/ Hebrews 1:1-6/ John 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

8:00 am: Mr. & Mrs. John O'Donnell (Ed O'Donnell Family)

11:00 pm: Michael Rosey (Cookie & Bill Antesberger)

5:00 pm: NO MASS

Wednesday, December 26, - Saint Stephen, The First Martyr

Readings: Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59/ Matthew 10:17-22

7:00 am: Marion Vavrek (Butch Huffman)

12:05 pm: Kasper Family (Valerie Kasper)

Thursday, December 27, - Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

Readings: 1 John 1:1-4/ John 20:1a, 2-8

7:00 am: Saint Anne Society

12:05 pm: Lydia Wincer (Wincer Family)

Friday, December 28, - The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Readings: 1 John 1:5—2:2/ Matthew 2:13-18

7:00 am: Evelyn Mikas, Birthday Remembrance (Children)

12:05 pm: Hildegard Maurer, Birthday Remembrance (Daughter, Sharon)

Saturday, December 29, - Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

Readings: 1 John 2:3-11/ Luke 2:22-35

8:00 am: Jack & Bea Higgins (Jack & Cindy Higgins)

5:00 pm: Frances Hasenstab, Birthday Remembrance (Daughter, Dorothy)

Sunday, December 30, - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Readings: 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28/ 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24/ Luke 2:41-52

8:00 am: Charles Laslo (Deacon John, Monica Kendera, & Brigid Starchok)

11:00 am: Betty Weaver (Family)

5:00 pm: *For the Intentions of the People of the Parish*

From Our Pastor . . .

Advent: 'Tis the Season for Reconciliation A single opportunity remains for your celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for the Birth of Our Lord. This is Saint Andrew, Benscreek – Sunday, December 23, 2:00 PM.

Welcome, Yule! We warmly welcome all who will come this Christmas Season to celebrate the glorious feast of the Messiah's birth. We welcome the stranger, the traveler and guest! We welcome our students home from college for a good winter's rest! We welcome parishioners who moved far away but join us today as old friends! We welcome all who have not been active of late in their Catholic faith. We hope they will find new hope and inspiration this Christmas to come back again and again! We welcome our faithful parishioners, loyal and true; may the Lord bless you for all you do! Welcome to all! May our gathering this Christmas gladden our hearts and deepen our bonds. We are after all one People of God -- redeemed by the Light. May we walk by the Light and live by the Light -- together in the mercy and favor of Christ.

Our Lady's Juggler

There is a medieval legend about a young novice monk who entered the monastery after years as a minstrel, traveling from town to town, singing, juggling and performing all kinds of tricks.

It was the custom for each monk at Christmas to make a gift for the newborn Christ Child and his mother. All during November and December, each brother would work on his gift: the choirmaster wrote a beautiful Christmas canticle that he taught the monks; a brother in the *Scriptorium* hand-lettered the Christmas Gospel to be sung at midnight Mass; the cook made cinnamon bread; another monk painted a beautiful icon of the Mother and Child.

This was the minstrel-monk's first Christmas in the monastery. He had no such talents; he had nothing to offer. But there was one thing he could do that none of the other monks could do. And that became his gift.

On Christmas Eve, at the end of Vespers, each monk bowed before the statue of Our Lady and the Child Jesus and presented their gift: their music, their handiwork, their breads, their art. When the procession concluded, the senior monks were concerned that their little brother would be embarrassed at having nothing to offer — or, worse, embarrass the abbey. Despite the reproachful gazes of the community, the novice stood before Mary and the Child. From his habit, he took out of his pocket three oranges.

And he began to juggle. And his performance was something to behold. He created beautiful arcs in the air just as he used to do when his family traveled to fairs across the region selling their produce and crafts. Soon he added a fourth orange and then a fifth and, finally, he had six oranges flying through the chancel.

And at that moment, according to the legend, the Child Jesus, lying in Mary's lap, began to clap his hands with joy. To the amazement of the monks, the Virgin held out her arms and let the monk hold the smiling Child for a few moments. The little monk had given the best gift of all. Himself. And his gift had a lasting, humbling, joyful effect on the whole abbey.

At Christmas, the serious gift-giving is God's, who gives himself in the birth of this Child. In turn, God asks each of us to give of ourselves: our compassion, our care, our time to listen, our humility to heal and forgive. And, as we welcome him at Christmas, God asks us to welcome the gifts that others give to us, in a spirit of gratitude and joy.

May we be "jugglers" this Christmas season and in every season of the New Year, joyfully giving to others not only what we have but who we are: the kindness, love and generosity that have taken on a human face this Christmas.

With joyful hearts and humble spirits, O Father, we welcome the gift of your Christ into our Bethlehems and stables. May what you have given us this Christmas be the gift we give and receive from one another; may what you have begun this night be completed by us in the New Year; may the light that dawns this morning illuminate our hearts and homes with peace and joy every morning of our lives.

FROM OUR PARISH

Religious Education News:

- **Sunday, Dec. 23rd** – no class – MERRY CHRISTMAS!
- **Sunday, Dec. 30th** – no class – Happy New Year!!
- **Sunday, Jan. 6th** – regular class 9:00 to 10:15 am

2019 Envelopes are available for pick-up near the Clinton Street entrance way. This is the final week for the envelopes to be in the back of the church.

FROM OTHER PARISHES & THE COMMUNITY

" **Guided Tours 2019** - As part of the Casimir Cultural Center's inaugural year of events, Stella, Property Development and Event Production is excited to offer four Guided Tours in 2019.

May 4 - National Centre for Padre Pio (St. Pio), Barto, Pa.
 June 13 - St. Anthony's Chapel and the Strip District, Pittsburgh - St. Anthony's Feast Day Celebration
 August 24 - Casimir Cultural Center First Annual Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown, Pa.

September 21 - National Shrine and Basilica of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Emmitsburg, MD

These destinations offer spiritual, historical and cultural experiences in a pilgrimage-like setting. The tours are being provided for the rate of \$100 per person, per tour or all four tours can be reserved at a reduced rate of \$375 per person. Tours include: Roundtrip Luxury Motorcoach Transportation; Printed Tour Itinerary and Destination Information; On-board snacks and complimentary coffee/bottled water; Tour Coordinator; Guided Tours at all Destinations; Donation to Shrine; Gratuities; 1 Catered Meal per tour. Each tour is limited to 55 reserved spaces.

Further tour details, pricing and on-line reservation form can be found at stellajohnstown.com/guided-tours/ . For more information, email us at stellajohnstown@gmail.com, subject: Guided Tours."

Dear Lord, You gave us the greatest present of all, the gift of your Son. May we never forget to un-wrap the gift of Your Love and may we be willing to wrap others in Your Love.

Amen.

Merry Christmas!

Family Ritual A Christmas Pledge

We believe in the true spirit of Christmas so our commitment is to:

- Remember those who truly need our gifts.
- Express our love in more direct ways than gifts.
- Examine our holiday activities so they reflect our deepest values.
- Be a peacemaker within our circle of family and friends.
- Recognize our need for more spiritual growth.

8 Gifts That Don't Cost A Cent

The Gift of Listening: But you must really listen. No interrupting, no daydreaming, no planning your response. Just listening.

The Gift of Affection: Be generous with appropriate hugs, kisses, pats on the back and handholds. Let these small actions demonstrate the love you have for family and friends.

The Gift of Laughter: Clip cartoons. Share articles and funny stories. Your gift will say, "I love to laugh with you."

The Gift of a Written Note: It can be a simple "Thanks for the help" note or a full sonnet. A brief, handwritten note may be remembered for a lifetime, and may even change a life.

The Gift of a Compliment: A simple and sincere "You look great", "You did a super job" or "That was a wonderful meal" can make someone's day.

The Gift of a Favor: Every day, go out of your way to do something kind.

The Gift of Solitude: There are times we want nothing better than to be left alone. Be sensitive to those times and give the gift of solitude to others.

The Gift of a Cheerful Disposition: The easiest way to feel good is to make others feel good.

Reprinted with permission from:
 "Apple Seeds"
 Fr. Brian Cavanaugh, T.O.R.

COLLECTION: 12/16/2018

Collection – cash	\$ 1,010.00
Collection – envelopes	\$ 4,463.26
Second collection	\$ 308.61
Maintenance	\$ 49.00
Christmas	\$ 618.00
Christmas flowers	\$ 34.00
Catholic Charities	\$ 40.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 40.00
All Souls	\$ 10.00
All Saints	\$ 10.00
Retirement for Religious	\$ 96.00

Total \$6,678.87

Thank you for your Stewardship

Families and the Gospel: Lk 1:39-45, Mary was excited about her first pregnancy and rushed to tell her cousin. Sadly children are often seen as a liability, "another mouth to feed" or an "obstacle to my career." It is said "Christmas is for children." It is more accurate to say "Christmas is for adults to appreciate the gift of children!" - Reprinted with permission from: *A Family Perspective* by Bud Ozar

Liturgical Reflection ... On this final Sunday of Advent, with only hours away from the great celebration of Christmas, Mary is placed in her rightful position in the divine plan of salvation. With Elizabeth, we say (as we do every time we pray the Hail Mary), "Blessed are you among women, and blessed in the fruit of your womb." The Incarnate Word is so close that Elizabeth's baby leaps for joy in her womb. We too are filled with holy joy. - 2018, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 South Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648.

LAW OFFICES OF
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**Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Servers,
CCA Gift Cards and Audio Operators, Dec 29 - Jan 1**

Saturday, December 29, 5:00 PM

Reader: Sarah Bell, Dixie Lochrie
Eucharistic Minister: Betty King, Elizabeth King,
Patricia Loughlin, Elizabeth Rhoades,
Terry Rhoades
Server: Keara Brandon, Jason Harris
Audio Operator: Michael Stoskey

Sunday, December 30, 8:00 AM

Reader: Fred Oliveros, Brigid Starchok
Eucharistic Minister: Melissa Gates, Carmen Grasso,
Sam Grasso, Gene Podratsky,
Pam Sabol
Server: Hayden Gates, Nate Gates
Gift Card: Neil Leckey
Audio Operator: Patrick McClain

Sunday, December 30, 11:00 AM

Reader: Christine Brothers, Mary Jane Verbiar
Eucharistic Minister: Jodie Hall, Rachel Hall,
Lonnie Rietscha, Geoffrey Stumpo,
David Wilson
Server: Addison King, Hannah Rietscha
Gift Card: Lonnie Rietscha
Audio Operator: Brian Vuletich

Sunday, December 30, 5:00 PM

Reader: Charlotte Amenti, Rose Batzel
Eucharistic Minister: Pat Roth, James Sandoval
Request three ministers
Server: Eli Updyke, Mattie Updyke
Audio Operator: Matthew Updyke

Monday, December 31, 6:00 PM Mary Mother of God, Vigil

Reader: Dixie Lochrie, Patricia Loughlin
Eucharistic Minister: Betty King, Elizabeth King,
Request one minister
Server: Request two servers
Audio Operator: Request one audio operator

Tuesday, January 1, 9:00 AM Mary Mother of God

Reader: Vi Najjar, Request one reader
Eucharistic Minister: Carmen Grasso, Sam Grasso,
Gene Podratsky, Valerie Wilson
Server: Request two servers
Audio Operator: Request an audio operator

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