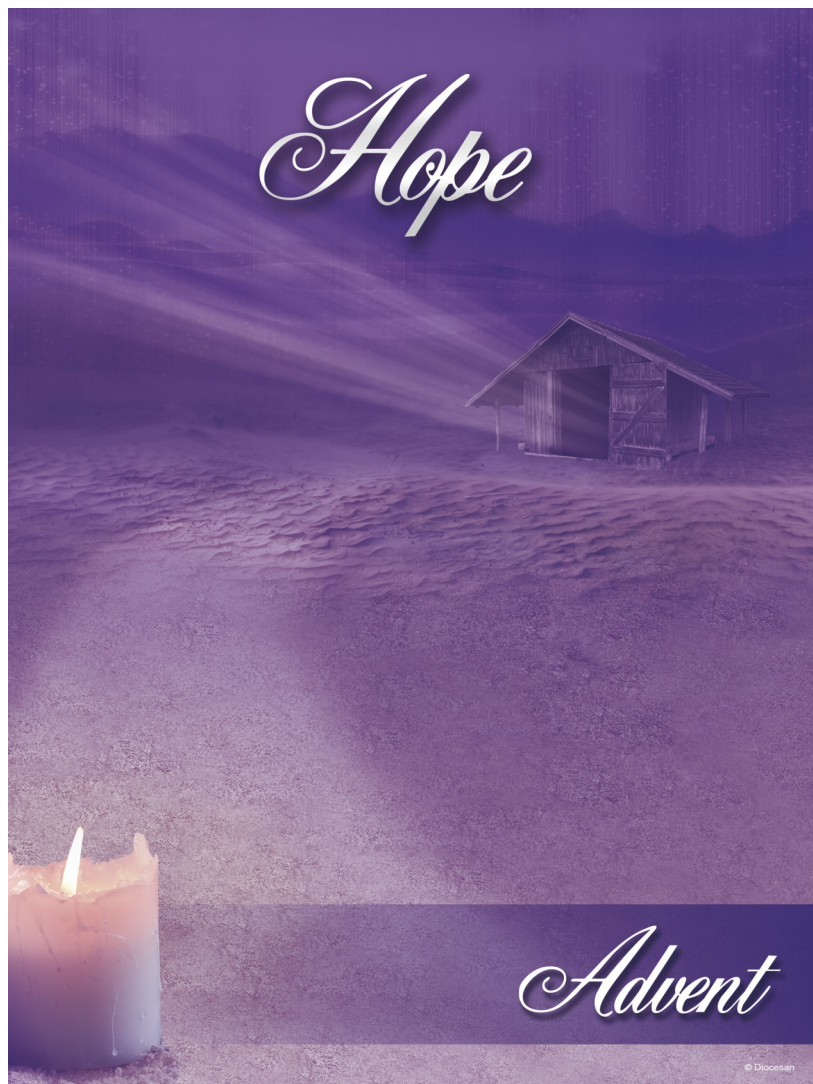


Saint Benedict Church

100 Main Street • Carrolltown, PA • 15722 • www.saintbenedictschurch.com



Parish Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,
and Friday:
9 am to 12 pm and 1 pm to 4 pm
Office closed on Thursday

Parish Office344-6548
Parish Fax344-8656
School Office344-6512
School Fax344-8530
Church Hall344-8770

Pastoral Staff

Father Jude W. Brady, O.S.B. *Pastor*
Father Alfred Patterson, O.S.B. 814-421-6607 *Hospital Ministry*
Lois Bridgman..... *Secretary*
Brother Michael J. Miller, O.S.B.
Deacon Jordan Hainsey..... *Deacon*
Suzanne M. Bills..... *Director of Religious Education and*
Christian Initiation
Jeannine M. Cymbor *Business Manager*
Denise N. Bailey..... *Choir Director and Organist*
Jim Mohler..... *Maintenance*
Jeffrey Maucieri..... *Principal*

Mission Statement

We, the members of Saint Benedict Parish, in union with our Pastoral staff, our Bishop, and our Holy Father, and together with the Church of Altoona-Johnstown, commit ourselves to the building up of the Kingdom of God in our personal lives, within our families, within our Faith Community, and in society as a whole. We join with one another in prayer and public worship, in the practice of gracious hospitality, and in works of charity and mutual support. Mindful of the Lord's care and loving concern for our common welfare, and with profound Faith and great hope, we strive to accomplish the tasks at hand and to meet the challenges of the future so that in all things God may be glorified.

The first parish in the United States established by the Benedictine Order

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 1, First Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. Living and Deceased Members of the
Altar Rosary Society
10:00 a.m. For our Parish Family

Monday, December 2, Weekday

8:00 a.m. +Frank Pilarz

Tuesday, December 3, St. Francis Xavier

8:00 a.m. +Ethel Babyak

Wednesday, December 4, Weekday

8:00 a.m. +Dorothy Strittmatter

Thursday, December 5, Weekday

8:00 a.m. Pearl Harbor Veterans

Friday, December 6, Weekday

8:15 a.m. Sacred Heart League

Saturday, December 7, St. Ambrose

4:00 p.m. Felix and Eleanor Cymbor

Sunday, December 8, Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. Living and Deceased Members of the
Holy Name Society
10:00 a.m. For our Parish Family
2:00 p.m. Anointing Mass



Altar
Servers



Eucharistic
Ministers



Lectors

Monday, December 2, 8:00 a.m.

Janet Gaul J. Farabaugh
Carol Serafin

C.L. Bills

Tuesday, December 3, 8:00 a.m.

Macy Johnston R. Cunningham
Ricky Kirsch

M. Lieb

Wednesday, December 4, 8:00 a.m.

Sean Fisanick R. Hoover
Eli Cunningham

M.C. Hoover

Thursday, December 5, 8:00 a.m.

Emma Farabaugh P. Kelly
Lauren Behe

S. Cronan

Friday, December 6, 8:15 a.m.

Garrett Farabaugh
Marshall Farabaugh
Leah Behe

Saturday, December 7, 4:00 p.m.

S. Fisanick S. Cronan
R. Kirsch O. Cronan
L. Behe R. Witham

B. Shockley
P. Kelly

C.L. Bills
M. Lieb

Sunday, December 8, 8:00 a.m.

G. Farabaugh M. Farabaugh
M. Farabaugh M.A. Schall
B. Farabaugh J.R. Schall

K. Schall
C. Schall

S. Boyle
Br. Michael

10:00 a.m.

M. Johnston R. Hoover
M. Wholaver B. Fox
K. Duman R. McGowan
C. Farabaugh

L. Bridgman
R. Boland

M.C. Hoover
F. Sutton



Children's Liturgy

Sue Bills



Advent Giving Tree

To enhance our celebration of the Advent Season, the Advent Giving Tree has been placed near the Sanctuary. Our Giving Tree Program is changing this year in that we will be asking for gift cards only. Parishioners are invited to purchase a Christmas gift card for an individual or family. Those who are interested in participating in this project are asked to: (1) select a tag hanging from the tree; (2) purchase a \$25 Walmart, Giant

Eagle or Bi-Lo gift card for the individual/family as designated on the tag; (3) return the gift card with the tag to the Giving Tree by **Sunday, December 15**. Reminder: Gift cards are also available for purchase from the Scrip Table.

Advent Reflections

The four weeks of Advent prepare us to celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation; God became human to bring us out of the darkness into His eternal light. During Advent, liturgy stresses not only penance, but also hope, light, joy, and surrender.

1st Sunday of Advent—HOPE

Jesus is our hope. Hope believes that the best is yet to come. "Christ is in you, the hope of glory. It is He whom we proclaim." (Colossians 1:27-28) As Saint Clement of Alexandria wrote, "If you do not hope, you will not find what is beyond your hopes."



Retirement Fund for Religious

Give in Thanksgiving. "The nuns left lasting impressions on me," writes a donor. "I shall always be grateful for my Catholic education." Please join in thanking the thousands of senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who worked tirelessly to educate the young and serve those in need. There is an envelope in your packet for next week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious, which helps hundred of religious communities care for aging members. Please give generously.

Christmas Flower Donations

Each Christmas many visitors and friends come to celebrate Mass and see the beautiful decorations at Saint Benedict's. This year will be no exception. To enhance the beauty of our Church, we are now accepting donations for the purchase of poinsettias. An envelope is available in your collection packet.



Anointing Mass Next Sunday

Many Catholics are uncomfortable with the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. The old "Last Rites" name conveyed a fearful tone. The name change was intended to help us to see the healing nature of this Sacrament. We are urged to use it when in need of healing of both soul and body.

As the Church prepares to celebrate the Birth of our Lord, our Parish will offer an Anointing Mass in the Church next Sunday, December 8, at 2 p.m. If you, or someone you care about is sick, dealing with the problems that come with aging, facing surgery, or struggling with mental or emotional problems, please come and share with us the Lord's healing and strength. A reception will follow in the Church hall.

Thank You

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Jim and Audrey Gresko for their initiative and dedication with heading up the ARISE program and the Father Mike Schmitz **Quick Catholic Lessons** videos. Their commitment to helping others strengthen their faith is deeply appreciated and worthy of recognition.





*This week the votive candle will
burn in front of the statue of
Saint Joseph the Carpenter
In Loving Memory of
Dorothy Strittmatter
Cathy Vescovi*

Pastor's Reflection

As we begin a new liturgical year and the Season of Advent, we know that the Lord will come at the end of time to bring all who are faithful into eternal life. We pray for the grace to welcome the Lord into our hearts, allowing Him to transform us into His Divine Presence.



Peace,

Father Jude

Families and the Gospel

December 1, Matthew 24:37-44 In today's gospel Jesus advises: "Stay awake, watch out, and pray for the strength to hold your ground" when "fearful and bewildering signs" appear threatening your family. Resist being "fearful;" fear cripples! Instead "pray for the strength" to be courageous. (Used with permission from "A Family Perspective" by Bud Ozar)

Stewardship Reflections

Stay awake for opportunities to share your time, talent and treasure! Good stewards know they are accountable and use their gifts to do God's will. Safeguarding material and human resources and using them responsibly are answers to the question, "What identifies a steward?" But is in generous giving of time, talent and treasure.

As Christian stewards we receive God's gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them lovingly in justice with others, and return them with an increase to the Lord. (<http://uscgb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/stewardship>) (Parish Life Office, 2019)

Needed for Up-coming Rolls Sale

The Altar Rosary Society is sponsoring a Nut, Poppy Seed & Apricot Rolls and Tea Rings sale. We are making an appeal to our Parishioners for Gold Medal or Pillsbury Flour. These items can be left at all the exits of the Church. We are also looking for volunteers to help make the rolls. If interested, please contact Kathy Sherry at 814-977-7391. Your generosity is greatly appreciated

Nut, Poppy Seed, & Apricot Rolls and Tea Rings for Christmas

In preparation for the holidays, the Altar Rosary Society will be making delicious **Nut, Poppy Seed & Apricot Rolls and Tea Rings. The cost is \$8 each. Last day to order is on Friday, December 6. The rolls can be picked-up in the Church Hall on Friday, December 13, from 4 to 6 p.m.**

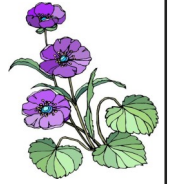
Name _____ Phone _____

Nut _____; Poppy Seed _____; Apricot _____; Tea Rings _____

Total Cost _____

Donations of Pillsbury and Gold Medal flour are appreciated.

*Flowers Adorning the Altar
this weekend
In Loving Memory of
Frank Pilarz
From Louise Kline*



Family Ritual

This Advent, instead of trying to get all the presents on a child's Christmas list, get them one or two, and then allow your presence in their life to be their present. Spend time with your children baking cookies for others instead of running from store to store. Help them to think of someone in the neighborhood that they can be a 'Santa' for, so that the focus isn't on the receiving, but the giving. Make sure to tell the story of Jesus' birth to your kids, as this is what the Season really is all about.

Catholic Ministries Drive

Thank you to all parishioners who have responded to the 2019 Catholic Ministries Drive. The Catholic Ministries Drive solely exists to provide funds to support 14 ministries that Nurture Our Youth, Form Clergy and Laity, and Care for the Poor/Strengthen Families. You can be assured that 100% of all CMD gifts are restricted to these ministries. **As of October 31, 2019**, 133 of our families have generously donated \$30,266.50 toward the Parish goal of \$38,128.00, leaving a balance of \$7,861.50. If you did not receive a pledge card in the mail, please use the envelopes available at the Church entrances.

Be a good shepherd: You can mail your gift to the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, 2713 W. Chestnut Ave., Altoona, PA 16601-1720; place in your parish offertory; or make online at www.dioceseaj.org.

Oplatky (Christmas Wafers)

"Oplatky" or Christmas wafers, are imprinted with a scene of the birth of Jesus. Everyone at the table then shares and eats the oplatky with honey. They remind the family of the unleavened bread of the Passover supper. Oplatky, a centuries old custom, is the word "oblatum" from the Latin "Holy Bread." This ritual is observed in many countries, and in many American homes. Oplatky will be available in the Parish Office. The cost is \$2 for a package of four wafers.

PENANCE SERVICES

Saint Bernard Church, Hastings

Sunday, December 15, 2 p.m.

Saint John Church, Summerhill

Monday, December 16, 7 p.m.

Queen of Peace Church, Patton

Tuesday, December 17, 7 p.m.

Saint Nicholas Church, Nicktown

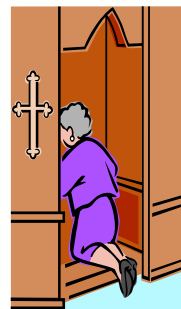
Wednesday, December 18, 7 p.m.

Saint Benedict Church, Carrolltown

Thursday, December 19, 7 p.m.

Prince of Peace, Northern Cambria

Friday, December 20, 7 p.m.



Sponsor of the Week

We wish to thank **Stevens Funeral Homes, Inc., (814) 344-6561** for sponsoring an ad in our bulletin. Please patronize our advertisers; as they make the bulletin possible. If interested in advertising in the bulletin call Rick Cortez at 412-292-0132.



Prayer Chain

Prayer is an important part of our Catholic Faith. In an effort for our Parish Family to respond to the prayer requests of our members and friends, Parishioners have the opportunity to be part of a prayer chain. If you have a prayer request, please call the Parish Office at 344-6548. **Names will remain on the prayer chain unless we hear otherwise from the one who requested the prayer.** Our prayers have been requested for the following: Mary Lou Anderson, Denise Bailey, James Campbell, Tim Caretti, David Ceschini, Jim Chirdon, Nixon Cicero, James Connors, Dave Contorchick, Joan Contorchick, John Contorchick, Millie Cunningham, Oliver Cunningham, Jim Eckenrode, Harry & Neta Elder, Clare Falconi, Connor Farabaugh, Barb Fasoli, Denise Fox, Gitta Gagne, Thom Gagne, Mae Gallagher, Beth Ann Gormish, Shaw Graffius, Shirl Gray, Constance Griak, Cory Hall, Irene Haycisak, Marci Hite, Jim Kline, Joanne Link, Charles Lutak, John Martella, Dick and Pauline Maurer, Mary Miller, Chucky Mitchell, Paula Mitchell, Theresa Moore, George Penrod, Betty Perry, Dulcie Perry, Jere Perry, Jacob, Olivia, & Amber Peterson, Connie Polisky, Kevin Polites, Maddox Raptosh, Michelle Romagna, Jim Ropp, Marcus SanGregorio, Lisa Schrifft, Matthew Sclesky, Tim Semelsberger, Patricia Sever, Patti Sliko, Nick & Mercy Smith, Special Intentions (19), Ronald Stevens, Mary Jane Sutton, Richard Ulery, Esther Warner, Denny Weakland, Dean Weber, Dennis Weber, Sara Weber, Judy Westover, Edna Westrick, Pat Wojno, Cliff Wolf, and Brenda Yeckley.

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY

-SBS Scrip sold after all weekend Masses
-NO CCD Classes

MONDAY

-SBS, No School

TUESDAY

-Scrip sold 8-10 a.m., Church Hall
-Eucharistic Adoration after Mass, Holy Hour 10:30 a.m.
-Bingo, early birds, 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

-Scrip sold 8-10 a.m., Church Hall
-2nd grade First Penance, 6:30 p.m. followed by social

THURSDAY

-Scrip sold 8-10 a.m., Church Hall
-All Volunteer Card Party, 7 p.m., Church Hall

FRIDAY

-Children's Liturgy 8:15 a.m.
-Scrip sold 9-10 a.m., Church Hall
-First Friday Communion Calls
-Pierogi order pickup, 4-6 p.m., Church Hall
-Nut, Poppy Seed & Apricot Rolls and Tea Ring orders due

SATURDAY

-Confessions 2 p.m.

SUNDAY

-SBS Scrip sold after all weekend Masses
-CCD Classes, School
-Anointing Mass, 1 p.m., followed by Social (9th grade CCD group project)

Sacraments-8 Wk. Course will be offered this January in two locations. Fr. Timothy Grimme will be teaching at St. Michael Church Hall, St. Michael on Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. beginning January 7th. Dr. James Merrick will be teaching at the Seton Suite, Cathedral, Altoona on Thursdays from 6:30 -8:30 p.m. beginning January 9th. please contact Marybeth at (814) 361-2000 or email at mheinze@dioceseaj.org. All are welcome.

Paul, a New Covenant Jew: Dr. James Merrick will be offering this 6 week course beginning Tuesday, January 7th from 6-8:30 p.m. at the Seton Suite, Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona. The cost of this course, which includes registration and textbook is \$62. For more information or to register, call Marybeth at (814) 361-2000 or email at mheinze@dioceseaj.org. Registration forms are also available online at www.dioceseaj.org/lay-ecclesial-ministry/. This course can be taken for continuing education credits and is open to all.

Bingo on Tuesday



Doors Open @ 5 p.m.; Kitchen opens @ 5:30 p.m.
Early Birds @ 6:30 p.m.; Regular Games to follow

- Admission \$15 — Includes 20 Regular Games
 - Kitty —\$?+ • Circle 7 — ? numbers for \$?
 - Jackpot - Straight line only • Full Card — ? numbers \$?
 - Instant tickets • All Nighter - \$?+
 - \$50 end of the month drawing (Must be present to win)
 - Refreshments (hamburgers, hot dogs, pizza, homemade goodies)
The more that play — the more we pay. Extras are available.
- Regular games starting at \$30 a game and up.



Card Party Thursday December 5

All Volunteer Card Party

If you would like to help with the lunch or donate a small gift, please call Pat Kelly at 948-7656

This week is The First Sunday of Advent, beginning a new Church year, and a "new" Gospel is opened for our reflection during the coming year. The Catholic liturgy provides a three-year cycle of reading for the major feasts and seasons of the year.

The Sunday Gospels are generally taken from Matthew during year A, from Mark during year B, and from Luke during year C. Portions of the Gospel of John are read each year (especially during year B, because Mark's gospel is so short). In our daily prayer we should try to follow the Sunday readings as well as the spirit of the changing seasons.



One of the strongest symbols of Advent is an evergreen wreath holding four candles. The circular wreath is a sign of God's loving care, which has no ending. The evergreen branches suggest the faithfulness of God, which is always alive and fresh.

During the first week of Advent, a single candle is lighted during daily prayers. Two candles are lighted during the second week, then three, and finally four. In this way the light gradually increases as we move toward the coming of Jesus, the Light of the world.

According to tradition, three candles are purple, while the candle for the third Sunday is a bright rose color. It is meant to lift our spirits, just as the liturgy for that day tells us to rejoice (*gaudete* in Latin)!

The wreath should be somewhat large and placed in a prominent place. It can be decorated with ribbons or symbols, but it should retain its simplicity and beauty. It might even be hung by wide ribbons from the ceiling, calling to mind a royal crown, or a victory wreath, or even the wheel of time.

The use of candles during the darkest and coldest days of the year is an ancient custom adopted in the sixth century by European Christians. The Jewish people have a similar tradition. Even as we light candles on our Advent wreath, they will be lighting the candles on their menorahs in celebration of Hanukkah, the festival of lights.