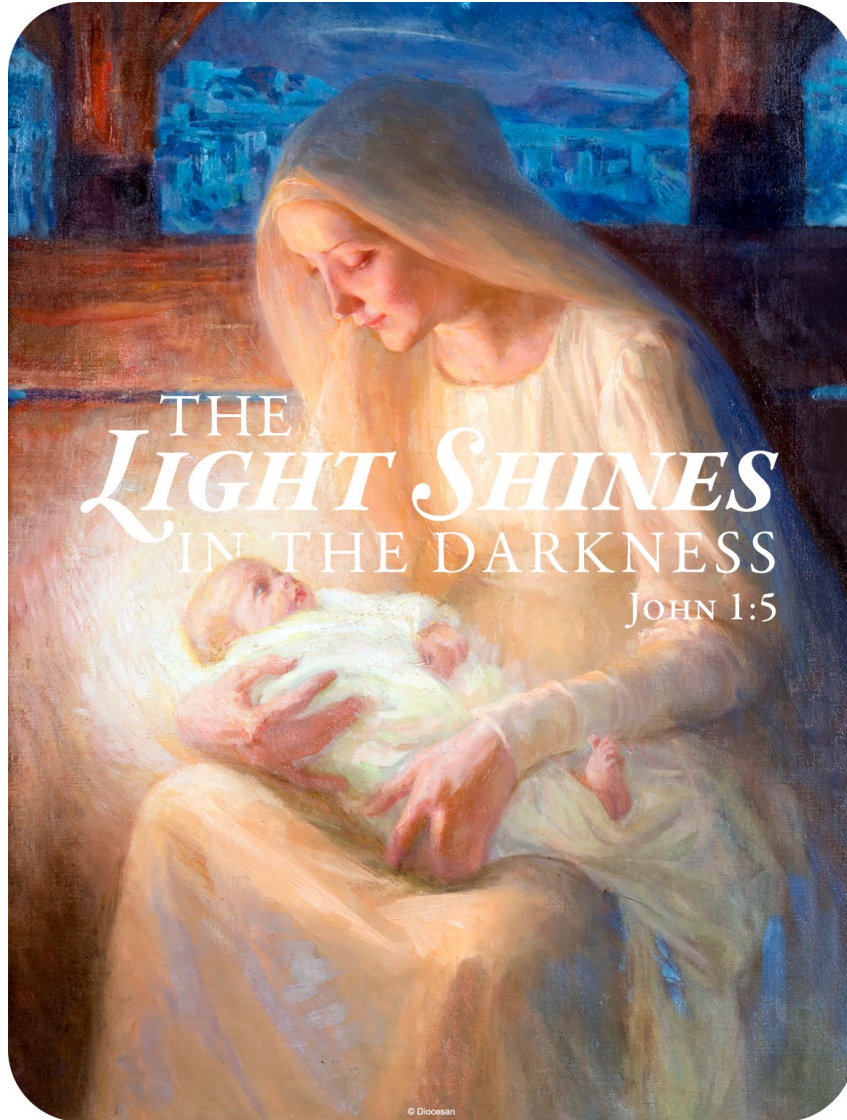


Saint Benedict Church

PO Box 447 · 100 Main Street · Carrolltown, PA · 15722 · www.saintbenedictschurch.com



Parish Office Hours:

Monday thru Thursday:
9 am to 12 pm and 1 pm to 4 pm
Office closed on Friday

Parish Office 814-344-6548
Parish Fax 814-344-8656
School Office 814-344-6512
School Fax 814-344-8530
Church Hall 814-344-8770

Pastoral Staff

Father Michael J. Gabler, O.S.B...... *Pastor*
Lois Bridgman *Secretary*
Brother Michael J. Miller, O.S.B.
Annette Kelly..... *Director of Religious Education and
Christian Initiation*
Jeannine M. Cymbor *Business Manager*
Adam Orosz..... *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

Fourth Sunday of



Mass Intentions



Sunday, December 21, Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. +Kyle Senko
10:00 a.m. For our Parish Family

Monday, December 22, Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. +Anna Crossman

Tuesday, December 23, Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. Living and Deceased Members of the John F. Kelly Family

Wednesday, December 24, Advent Weekday

8:00 a.m. American Cassinese Congregation

Vigil of Christmas

4:00 p.m. Private Intention
6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Mission Church
10:00 p.m. Private Intention

Thursday, December 25, The Nativity of the Lord

8:00 a.m. Private Intention
10:00 a.m. Private Intention

Friday, December 26, Saint Stephen

8:00 a.m. +Mary Serafin

Saturday, December 27, Saint John

4:00 p.m. +Tim Polites

Sunday, December 28, The Holy Family

8:00 a.m. +Theresa Yeckley
10:00 a.m. For our Parish Family

Note: There is no Monday evening Mass this week.

Advent Reflections

4th Sunday of Advent—SURRENDER

Spiritual surrender is the act of turning your life and your will over to the Lord. When the Angel Gabriel told Mary that God wanted her to be the mother of His Son, she consented willingly saying, "Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word." (Luke 1:38) Joy and surrender are two facets of the same jewel. Like Mary, we are called to accept God's will, thus becoming instruments of His love. Like Mary, we can bring Jesus into the world and share Him with others.



Christmas Blessings

Christmas Arrives



The day finally comes. "While they were there (in Bethlehem), the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth." (Luke 2-6-7) Now, the Christmas celebration truly begins. We offer gifts of love to one another as we share in Mary's own hope and joy. We have received the greatest gift: Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior.



Monday, December 22, 8:00 a.m.

S. Gregory

Tuesday, December 23, 8:00 a.m.

S. Cronan

Wednesday, December 24, 8:00 a.m.

M.C. Hoover

Vigil of Christmas 4:00 p.m.

Gav. Farabaugh	S. Gray	S. Boyle
O. Farabaugh	J. Kline	
R. Eckenrode	P.J. Stevens	
E. Eckenrode		

Midnight Mass 10:00 p.m.

S. Fisanick	C. Farabaugh	L. Huber
Grt. Farabaugh	C. Schall	
E. Cunningham	K. Schall	
E. Lamb		
L. Baker		

Thursday, December 25, 8:00 a.m.

A. Westrick	R. Yahner	J. Yahner
C. Luke	B. Yahner	

10:00 a.m.

J. Hoover	R. Boland	M.C. Hoover
J. Wolfe	F. Sutton	
C. Greene	R. Hoover	
M. Greene		
TBD		
TBD		

Friday, December 26, 8:00 a.m.

M. Farabaugh

Saturday, December 27, 4:00 p.m.

S. Fisanick	S. Gray	B.A. Bensor
R. Deckard	J. Kline	
J. Deckard		

Sunday, December 28, 8:00 a.m.

E. Cunningham	K. Colberg	G. Yahner
O. Lechene	M. Drahnak	
L. Lechene		

10:00 a.m.

H. Shaffer	R. Hoover	B. Fox
K. Shaffer	R. McGowan	
Z. Shaffer	F. Sutton	

Christmas Greetings

As we celebrate the Feast of Christmas you will be in my deepest thoughts and prayers in gratitude for your kindness. You have welcomed me with warm and receptive hearts. I will be praying that the Lord come in a most special way and that He will fill your hearts with His consoling and joyful Peace.



A Blessed Christmas to you and all of your loved ones!

Father Michael



This week the votive candle will burn in front of the statue of Saint Joseph the Carpenter In Loving Memory of Clyde and Posie Kelly From Fred and Naomi Burgeson

Pastor's Reflection

When we try to override God's plans with our own, tragedy is bound to happen. Humility, purity, modesty and patience are needed so that we can faithfully live out God's plan for us. Virtue is its own reward because there is joy in doing God's will.



Peace,
Father Michael

Families and the Gospel

December 21, 2025: Fourth Sunday of Advent (Matthew 1:18-24)
The child born to Joseph and Mary was named Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." Every child is EMMANUEL, reminding us "God is with us." Children are signs of God's continuing presence in our lives. ("A Family Perspective" by Bud Ozar)

Stewardship Reflections

As our Advent preparations draw to a close and Christmas fast approaches, it is fitting that today's readings demonstrate the intensity of the Father's perfect and passionate love for each of us, culminating in the gift of His own Son, Jesus Christ, on Christmas Day. As we reflect on the enormity of this gift, let us ask ourselves what we can offer in return.

In our Gospel passage from Matthew, we find an unparalleled example of one who embraced the stewardship way of life in St. Joseph, as he responds to God's call to him through the message of an angel. St. Joseph immediately and humbly obeys the instruction from the angel: "Do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Open to this extraordinary role, he did as the angel commanded and 'takes Mary into his home.'

Let us imitate St. Joseph, then, as good stewards, giving our very lives to those around us in love and gratitude to God who has given us everything we have, especially His own Son, Jesus Christ. We will no doubt find that the more we give ourselves away, the more our generous Father will fill us with His grace and peace - these are truly the best Christmas gifts we could receive.

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



is available in the Parish Office.

Flowers Adorning the Altar this weekend In Loving Memory of William and Louise Fox From the Fox Family



Confessions/Penance Service

There will be a Penance Service on **Tuesday, December 23rd at 6 p.m.** here at St. Benedict Church. There will be several priests available to hear confessions. This is the only penance service available.

Angels and Shepherds



Kindergarten through 4th grade children are invited to participate in our 4 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass on Tuesday, December 24. The children are to dress as either an Angel or a Shepherd. All Angels and Shepherds are to meet in the Boniface Wimmer room at 3:30 p.m.



Christmas Concert

Christmas Choral Concert, Sunday, December 28 at 3 p.m.



PROCLAIM!

The *Proclaim!* TV Christmas special *Joy to the World: Christmas in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown* will air on Sunday December 21 at 6 p.m. on WWCP FOX 8. The *Proclaim!* TV Christmas Mass will air live from Saint John Gualbert Cathedral in Johnstown on Christmas Eve, December 24 at 4 p.m. on WATM ABC 23 with Bishop Mark.

The Christmas Story



By Leanne Guenther
**Once upon a time,
A long, long time ago,
Begins the story of a baby,
That most of you should know.**



**His daddy's name was Joseph,
And Mary was His mom,
This babe was very special
He was God's only Son.**



**Some angels came from heaven,
And they began to sing,
To the shepherds in the fields below,
"Glad tidings do we bring!"**

**A bright star lit the heavens,
To light the magi's way,
To the baby in the manger
Who was born on Christmas day.**



**And all who gathered round Him,
Rejoiced and praised His birth,
For the babe, the King,
named Jesus,
Is our Savior here on Earth!**

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. Names will be updated annually in January.** Our prayers have been requested for the following: Denny Abrams, Dorothy Anna, Vickie Baran, Caryle Bearer, Dorothy Bearer, Katie Beckner, Michael Behe, Judy Bender, Ray Benjamin, Lyn Bills, Ben Bridgman, Fred Burgeson, Dustan Burkey, Joe Caretti, Tim Caretti, Peggy Cavallo, Evan Cicero, Joan Contorchick, John Contorchick, Maddox and Paxtyn Eckenrode, Neta and Harry Elder, Clare Falconi, Dan Farabaugh, Jane Farabaugh, Mike Farabaugh, Tim Farabaugh, Barbara Fasoli, Olivia Ferguson, Suzanne Ferrence, Frannie and Bill Findley, Jr. Gailey, Mary Kay Gallagher, Jane Graffius, Fred Gresco, Anthony Gwizdak, Eva Hart, Irene Haycisak, Jeanine Hite, Richard Hnatkovich, Charles Holder, Mary Catherine Hoover, Chuck Horn, Logan Horvath, Kendra Karabinos, Larry Kibler, Ava Koehle, Jason Koshinski, Louetta Kutchman, Bob Lapenna, Robert Letavish, Theodora McConnell, Brother Michael Miller, Camilla Miller, Chuck and Barb Mitchell, Paula Mitchell, Denny O'Shea, Jody Panczak, Dorothy Penrod, Kevin Penrod, Norman and Pauline Polites, Maddox Raptosh, Jim Ropp, Adam Schaeffer, Special Intentions (31), Susan Snyder, Mike Springer, Debbie Stephenson, Edward Stevens, Jackie Stevens, Jodi Stevens, Eric Stoltz, Joseph Thomas, Owen Thomas, Benedicta Veneskey, Sara Weber, Sarah Wilson, and Brenda Yeckley.

Church Support - December 13 & 14, 2025

Offertory	6690.00
Church Improvement	1610.00
Adopt a Student	1114.00
Retirement Fund for Religious	1085.00
Maintenance Fund	1000.00
Christmas Flowers	451.00
Christmas	360.00
Altar Fund	235.00
Immaculate Conception	234.00
Solemnity of Mary	35.00
Organ Project	10.00

Bingo on Tuesday



Join us every Tuesday for a fun night of Bingo
Doors Open @ 4 p.m.; Kitchen opens @ 5 p.m.
Early Birds @ 6:30 p.m.; Regular Games to follow

- Admissions \$16 20 Regular Games
- 5 Specials • Early Bird
- Fast Bingo
- \$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.

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY

- Masses 8 and 10 a.m.
- Adult Faith Formation, 9 and 11 a.m., Boniface Wimmer Room
This weeks Topic: Hunger & Thirst; Jesus' disciples know that Jesus alone "has the words to eternal life." Only Jesus fills the hunger of the human person.
- CCD Classes, School



MONDAY

- Scrip sold 8-10 a.m., Church Hall
- SBS Christmas Concert 6 p.m., Church Hall



TUESDAY

- Scrip sold 8-10 a.m., Church Hall
- SBS Early Dismissal
- Bingo, early birds 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY Vigil of Christmas

- Christmas Eve Masses: 4 p.m. and 10 p.m. here
6 p.m. at St. Joseph Mission Church



THURSDAY The Nativity of the Lord

- Christmas Masses: 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

- Confessions 2 p.m.; Mass 4 p.m.

SUNDAY

- Masses 8 and 10 a.m.
- Parish Breakfast 8 a.m. to Noon, Church Hall
- NO CCD
- Christmas Concert 3 p.m., Church

Christmas



NO CARD PARTY THURSDAY DECEMBER 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Parish Breakfast Next Sunday

The Parish breakfast is next Sunday, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, in the Church Hall. The menu features eggs, bacon, sausage, ham, home fries, pancakes or toast, french toast, juice, and coffee. The price of the breakfast for adults is \$12; \$6 for children 6 to 12; children 5 years and under, free. Take-outs are available. All take-outs are \$12.



From other parishes and organizations...

Salvation Army Kettle Drive: will run through the beginning of January. Any individual or group interested in manning the kettle can schedule a date through Ron Boland, 814-761-7019. This is a great way to prepare for Christmas, by helping those who are in need.

"Glory to the Newborn King": Monday, December 29 at 6 p.m. at the Basilica of St. Michael. Performed by the Basilica Choir and the St. Michael Children's Choir.

Sponsor of the Week

We wish to thank **Jacobs Oil Company Inc., 814-943-0379**, 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 Michelle Stehman at 717-774-8833.