ST. MICHAEL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

751 Locust Street

 PO Box 103

 St. Michael, Pennsylvania 15951

Rev. Brian Warchola, Administrator MASSES:



(814) 266-9718 / Ext. 507 Saturday 4:00 pm

 Sunday Morning 8:00 am

Secretary: Susan Poldiak 10:30 am

Bookkeeper: Kathy Kalicky Daily Mass See Bulletin

DRE: Laurie Sloan Holy Days See Bulletin

Maintenance: Rodney Turgeon

 Office Hours:

PHONES: 8:30 am to 3:30 pm

Rectory / Office: (814) 495-9640 Monday, Tues., Thurs., Friday

Fax: (814) 495-9424 Confessions:

Rel. Education: (814) 495-4873 Saturday 3:30 pm to 3:45 pm

Parish Website Sunday 7:30 am to 7:45 am

www.saintmichaelchurch.weebly.com 10:00 am to 10:15 am

Secretaries’ E-mail Anytime Requested

saintmichaelsecretaries@yahoo.com

YEAR: 2017 NUMBER: 2

SERVING GOD AND COMMUNITY FOR OVER ONE HUNDRED YEARS!

BAPTISM: By Appointment. Reserve at least one month in advance.

 Preparation classes are necessary.

MARRIAGE: Make arrangements at least nine months in advance.

 Preparation sessions are necessary.

FUNERALS: Arrangements are made in conjunction with the funeral home.

 Eulogies should be given at the funeral home at the time of the wake service or at the luncheon.

REGISTRATION Those new to the area, newlyweds, and single adults, (even if registered

 and before with their families) are asked to register by calling the Parish Office.

MEMBERSHIP: Every parishioner must be registered. This is a condition for admission

 to our Program and reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, First Penance, First Eucharist, and Matrimony; also, for testimonial letters or sponsorship of Baptism and Confirmation outside the Parish.

VISITATION: We are concerned and want to be advised when someone is ill at

 home or in the hospital. Call the rectory to have the shut-in placed on our monthly Holy Communion calls or seriously ill prayer list.

SACRAMENTAL Requires parish registration and active Mass participation for Baptism

POLICY: and Marriage.

BULLETIN ARTICLES: Articles are due to the Parish Office by Noon on Mondays.

The Epiphany of the Lord January 8, 2017

**Month of the Holy Name of Jesus**

MASS INTENTIONS: (January 9 – 15, 2017)

Monday No Mass

Tuesday 8:00 AM Mary A. Elersic req. by Violet Barr

Wednesday 9:00 AM Fritzie & Mike Beaver req. by Family

Thursday 8:00 AM Carl Tokarsky req. by George & Carol Caroff

Friday 9:00 AM Frank Kozar req. by Mary Anne Davis

Saturday 4:00 PM Caroline Dombrosky req. by Edna Mae Cook

Sunday 8:00 AM People of the Parish

Sunday 10:30 AM Frank Oshaben req. by John & Agnes Zock

LITURGICIAL APPOINTMENTS:

Saturday, January 14 4:00 PM Offertory Procession

Lector: Susan Poldiak Ushers

Minister of the Host: Vince Arena

Ministers of the Cup: Karen Myers & Helen Slonac

Altar Servers: Mykala Drobnick & Ana Spangler

Cantor: Amy Spangler

Greeter: Mary Ann Spangler

Sunday, January 15 8:00 AM Offertory Procession

Lector: Pauline Minor Dick & Carol Hautz

Minister of the Host: Marie Bernard

Ministers of the Cup: Marie Jo Plummer & Beth Kundrod

Altar Servers: Michael Kresic & Brian Bernard

Cantor: Joseph Faher

Greeter: Pete Parisi

Sunday, January 1510:30 AM Offertory Procession

Lector: Madison Kundrod Oshaben Family

Minister of the Host: Amanda Williamson

Ministers of the Cup: Joan & Robert Oshaben

Altar Servers: Luke Docherty & Nicholas Caddy

Cantor: Tori Dibble

Greeter: Richard Martyak

Sunday, January 15 Collection Counters

 Debbie Dupnick, Camillus Long

 Mary Anne Davis, Christine Smay

Weare placing names of the sick in the bulletin for prayer providing they give permission. Although we remember all sick and shut-ins at every Mass, we would like our parish family to be aware of the need for special prayer intentions because of a most serious illness or hospital stay. *May the* *Divine Physician send healing grace for those for* *whom we pray:* Josephine Koshute, Allen C. Rosemas, Patricia Murphy, Todd Euen, Bernice Myers, Dwight Fyock, Lori Facciani, Dylon Wills, Dawn Hagen, Debbie Dibert, Missy, Joanne (Kolar) Hufford, Christine Flanagan, Ayden Alan Grata, Remy Beaver, Mary Lou Offman, Marian Chuckalovcak, Arlene Diamond, Mary Zangaglia, Dorothy Rosemas, Natalie Zerby, Patricia Grata, Michael Wadsworth, Valencia & Frank Tursi, Homer Locher, Brayden Schofield, Michelle Kasper, Diane Kingera, Allison Krischer, Ted Paluch, Brandt Hutzel, Nicholas “Hop” Kolar, Pearl Litzinger, Patrick Munro, Fran Baldassarre, Corey Lybarger, Kristen Sinosky Long, Helen Ranieri, Cresta Micik, Loretta Panick, Basil Costantino, Madison McCrory, Laura, Maria, Joe Yoder, Dolores Yanzetich, Sandy Krug, Wanda Gramling, Merna Smay, Muriel “Jean” Wiesheier, Heidi Allison, Melinda Jerome, Agnes Plummer, Jennifer Hagans, Katie Ansell, Mary McCall, Suzie Thomas, Sean, Holly, Shane, Joan McDowell, Melisa Ruddek, Joanne Serre, Scott N., Patrick O’Donnell, Owen Taylor, Christine Baxter, Keith Hoyer, Gail Faher, Agnes Zibura, Marjorie (Latshaw) Feldman, Jayden Scott Beam, Derrick Varnish, and all of the sick of our parish, the homebound, those in nursing homes, those who care for them, and those in the military along with their families. (Please call the Rectory to have your name removed from the list when no longer seriously ill. Thank You.)



LAST WEEK’S COLLECTION

Adults $3,438.00 Loose $ 179.00

Youth $ 160.75

Monthly $ 1040.00

Maintenance Fund $ 40.00

Candles $ 4.00

Initial Offering $ 403.00

Christmas $ 570.00

Solemnity of Mary $1,330.00

Immaculate Conception $ 5.00

Total $7,169.75

We sincerely thank and ask God’s blessing

upon all who have care and concern

for our parish.

 *January 8th Matthew 2:1-12*

*There are two different perspectives in today’s gospel: For Herod, the child Jesus was expendable because He interfered with Herod’s personal goals but the Magi risked all to protect the same child. Do you imitate Herod or the Magi? Are children a priority in your life or are they sacrificed for career, convenience and possessions.*

Today is the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

Meditate on the Gifts of the Three Kings or Magi — In Matthew's [Gospel reading today (MT 2:1-12](http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/010817.cfm)), the birth of Jesus is heralded by the arrival of mysterious visitors from the east.  Traditionally identified as three kings, because they spoke directly to king Herod, or as astrologers because they followed a star, or as wise men because they knew of Christ's birth through some hidden wisdom, the fact is we know virtually nothing about them; not even their number, although that's traditionally been fixed at three, because they brought three gifts: Gold — a symbol of wealth and power identifies the recipient as a king. Frankincense — the crystalized resinous sap of a tree used as incense and as an offering, is symbolic of prayer. Myrrh — another resinous tree sap was used in healing liniments, and as an embalming ointment.  Myrrh is an odd gift for a child, unless you know that this special child will, through his death and resurrection, redeem the world.  At the beginning of Jesus' life on earth, this gift foreshadows his death.



The Sanctuary Candle will burn

as a birthday remembrance for

our Dad, Bruno Bovino

requested by Joyce Suckenik and Louise Neff

the week of January 8, 2017

*Liturgical Reflection . . .*

Today is the Epiphany of the Lord and the last Sunday of Christmas time. Tomorrow, Monday, January 9, is the feast of the Baptism of the Lord and the formal ending of the Christmas season. Today the Church celebrates with the wise visitors from the east that the Word Made Flesh has arrived for all peoples and all nations. Jesus, born in Bethlehem, raised in Nazareth, and crucified in Jerusalem, is Lord of all races and nations. May the Christian Gospel be proclaimed throughout the world to all inhabitants.

2017, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 South Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania16648

“Life is short, live it. Love is rare, grab it. Anger is bad, dump it. Fear is awful, face it. Memories are sweet, cherish it.” – *****Unknown*****

“Happiness cannot be traveled to, owned, earned, or worn. It is the spiritual experience of living every minute with love, grace & gratitude.” – *Denis Waitley*

CHOIR PRACTICES ~ Practice for the Sunday Choir will be held on Mondays at 7:00 PM.

Practice for the Saturday Choir will be held on Thursdays at 5:30 PM.

SECOND SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION ~ This weekend is our Second Sunday Food Collection.

Please bring in non-perishable food items or toiletries with you. Monetary donations are also appreciated.

HOLY NAME MEETING ~ The Holy Name meeting will be held this Sunday, January 8th immediately following the 8:00 AM Mass.

CHRISTMAS UN-DECORATING ~ We will remove Christmas decorations from the Church this Sunday, January 8th following the 10:30 AM Mass. As always, help is needed and appreciated.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ~ There will be a Parish Council Meeting with Fr. Warchola on Wednesday, January 18th beginning at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be held in the St. Paul Room. Please make every effort to attend. Please e-mail the Parish Office with items for the agenda.

LITURGY MEETING ~ A meeting of the Liturgy Committee will be held on Sunday, February 5th at 9:00 AM. Fr. Warchola will be setting times and events through the Easter Season.

LAY MINISTRY SCHEDULES ~ Lay ministry schedules for the months of February through April are now being made up. Anyone who would like to serve as an Altar Server, Reader, Cantor, Greeter or any current minister who has scheduling preferences at this time, should call Suzi Blazosky at 495-5287 or e-mail her at sublazosky@gmail.com no later than Sunday, January 15th. Father Warchola will be conducting Altar Server, Lector and Eucharistic Minister training at a later date.

SOUP SALE ~ The Holy Name Society will be making chicken soup for our parish sick and shut-ins on Saturday, January 21st. They are also offering it for sale to members of the parish. The cost is $6.00 per quart. Sign-up sheets are available in the back of the church. Orders can be picked up in the church hall on Saturday, January 21st from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. or after each weekend Mass on the 21st and 22nd.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS~The Parish Office has closed the books for 2016 parishioner’s contributions. You may request a statement of your tax-deductible donations at any time by calling the rectory at 495-9640. Tax laws state that any amount given as a donation needs to have documentation if you are claiming the donation for tax purposes. If a contribution was made to the ACA, you should have received a statement from the diocese.

We are updating our parish records, so please remember to notify the Rectory Office of any changes in address or telephone numbers. If you no longer have a land line and your cellphone is your primary house phone, please call us or drop a note in the collection basket.

ENVELOPE REMINDER ~ In order to make the Collection Counters and the Secretaries life a little easier, please remember to mark the amount of your donation on the outside of the envelope. This will also help insure you get proper credit for your donation.

MOM’S HOUSE COLLECTION ~ The Knights of Columbus will be taking up a collection for donations to Mom’s House. The organization was founded in 1983 by Johnstown resident Peg Luksik, then president of the Cambria-Somerset Chapter of Citizens for Human Life, as an alternative to abortion. At Mom’s House mothers are plugged into a network of supportive services that enable them to complete their education, find jobs and get off welfare. Mom’s House is free because members of the community and local organizations have believed in them for more than 30 years. Envelopes will be attached to next week’s bulletin and collected the weekend of January 21st and 22nd.

VOCATIONS: A Message from Father Matthew Reese, Vocations Director
Consider this:  We currently have 58 active Diocesan Priests in our diocese (under the age of retirement of 75).  We have 88 churches in our Diocese.  At the present moment we have six men preparing to become priests for our Diocese.  If these men all persevere they will be ordained by the year 2023.  However, by that same year at least 14 of our active priests will reach the age of retirement.  That is a net loss of eight, which does not take into account extraordinary circumstances like unexpected deaths, etc.  These are the numbers we face in our Diocese, and everyone will be affected by the dwindling number of diocesan priests here in Altoona-Johnstown.  Ultimately, a call to priesthood is God's grace, but we need to cooperate with that grace!  All clergy and laity must be challenged to do vocational work in their own ministries and parish communities and not rely on others to do it for them!  If we are not actively seeking new vocations to the priesthood, how do we expect these numbers to change for the better?

Christ's Baptism Foreshadows Our Own

At first glance, the Baptism of the Lord might seem an odd feast. Since the [Catholic Church](http://catholicism.about.com/od/beliefsteachings/tp/Catholicism_101.htm) teaches that the [Sacrament of Baptism](http://catholicism.about.com/od/beliefsteachings/p/Sac_Baptism.htm) is necessary for the remission of sins, particularly Original Sin, why was Christ baptized? After all, He was [born without Original Sin](http://catholicism.about.com/od/beliefsteachings/p/Who-Was-Born-Without-Original-Sin.htm), and He lived His entire life without sinning. Therefore, He had no need of the sacrament, as we do.

In submitting Himself humbly to the baptism of St. John the Baptist, however, Christ provided the example for the rest of us. If even He should be baptized, though He had no need of it, how much more should the rest of us be thankful for this sacrament, which frees us from the darkness of sin and incorporates us into the Church, the life of Christ on earth! His Baptism, therefore, was necessary--not for Him, but for us.

Many of the Fathers of the Church, as well as the medieval Scholastics, saw Christ's Baptism as the institution of the sacrament. His Flesh blessed the water, and the descent of the Holy Spirit (in the form of a dove) and the voice of [God the Father](http://christianity.about.com/od/oldtestamentpeople/a/God-The-Father.htm) announcing that this was His Son, in Whom He was well pleased, marked the beginning of Christ's public ministry.

*“We learn something from everyone who passes through our lives.*

*Some lessons are painful, some are painless.. but, all are priceless.” –****Unknown***

Religious Education And Christian Helping

 January 8, 2017

 *REACH Service Project*

*Christmas Un-decorating ~* Sunday, January 8th immediately after the 10:30 a.m. Mass.

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Upcoming Confirmation Session

11th Grade ~ Session 11C – Morality: Your Call to Christian Living and Social Justice

 ~ Sunday, January 22, 2017, 9—10:30 a.m.

*Confirmation Retreat* / Saturday, January 28, 2017, 1—6:00 PM

All students in grades 9, 10, & 11 will take part in their annual confirmation retreat. This retreat will take place on Saturday, January 28, 2017, 1—6:00 PM. The retreat will focus on the three required retreat topics of ~ “Baptism”, “Gifts of the Holy Spirit” and “Parables”.

 The program will begin in the church hall on Saturday, January 28th for the students. The students come to the church hall and join classmates for specific topic discussions with their grade level leader in designated classrooms for their specific retreat from 1 to 3 PM.

At 3:15 PM, sponsors and/or parents are asked to join the confirmation students in the church for a Rosary lead by our 11th grade Confirmation Class followed by the 4 PM Mass. During this Mass, the 9th grade students will celebrate their “‘Rite of Blessing” and the 10th Grade students will celebrate their “Rite of Commitment” as part of their confirmation journey.

At the conclusion of Mass, students will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, followed by a pizza social in the church hall for all students, parents and sponsors, including time for reflection on the day and also time for the confirmation candidates and their sponsors to spend time together discussing their sponsor / candidate session activities.

Diocesan Safe Environment Program / Parental Notification Form

 TO: Parents of St. Michael Catholic Church Religious Education Students

 SUBJECT: Safe Environment Program

 The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown has implemented a program for the protection of our youth known as our Youth Protection Program. The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, adopted by the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops in 2002, requires each parish or school to provide formation for children in areas of safety and the integrity of their person. This program is mandatory for all Parish Religious Education programs and Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. The philosophy is to directly involve parents in the formation of their children with the available lesson material. A classroom presentation of safety issues, adapted for grades 1, 5 and 9 and covering the required lessons will be offered during one of the regular January class times.

 If you have any questions, please contact The Religious Education Office at 495-4873. You may request to review the specific content material. If you decide you do not desire your child to participate, there is a Parent Verification/Refusal form, which indicates that this mandated instruction is being offered, and that you choose not to have your child participate. This form is also required if your child is absent the day the instruction was given. You may visit the Protecting God’s Children™ program at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org).

 Sunday, January 8 No Religious Education Classes Grades 6-12

 Epiphany of the Lord Holy Name Society Meeting after 8:00 AM Mass

 Church Undecorating after 10:30 AM Mass

 Second Sunday Food Collection

 Monday, January 9 No Mass

 Sunday Choir Practice / 7:00 PM / Church

 Tuesday, January 10 Mass / 8:00 AM / Fr. Joseph Nale

 Sacraments Class / Fr. Grimme / 6:30-8:30 PM / Hall

 Wednesday, January 11 Mass / 9:00 AM / Fr. Brian Warchola

 Thursday, January 12 Mass / 8:00 AM / Fr. Joseph Nale

 Religious Education / Grades K-5 / 3:30 – 4:30 PM / Parish Hall

 Saturday Choir Practice / 5:30 PM / Church

 Friday, January 13 Mass / 9:00 AM / Fr. Brian Warchola

 Saturday, January 14

 Sunday, January 15 Religious Education~Grades 6-12 / 9:00-10:20 AM / Parish Hall

MARCH ON THE MOUNTAIN AT SAINT FRANCIS UNIVERSITY: In order to promote the Pro-Life message, Saint Francis University will hold its own March for Life on Friday, January. 27th for those that can’t attend the Washington, D.C. rally. The Rosary will be recited prior to the March in the Immaculate Conception Chapel, located on the Loretto campus, beginning at 10:30 AM. This will be followed by several

guest speakers. The March itself will begin with a short prayer at 11 AM in front of the Chapel. The walk will then commence around the mall in the center of campus and will conclude at approximately 11:55 AM for those that wish to attend the 12 PM Mass. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Paul Girardi in the Campus Ministry department at Saint Francis University (814-472-3328). The March on the Mountain is sponsored by the Saint Francis University Campus Ministry Department and the KOC Council #8222.

2016-2017 CLASS SCHEDULES ANNOUNCED ~ The Office of Adult Enrichment and Lay Ecclesial Ministry has announced the 2016-2017 class schedules which are available online at www.ajdiocese.org/lay-ecclesial-ministry. Classes can be taken for personal spiritual formation and enrichment or for Lay Ecclesial Basic Certification. Also available online is information on classes for continuing education credit and Third Year Track options, as well as registration forms and class descriptions. You can also contact Marybeth at mheinze@dioceseaj.org or at

(814) 361-2000 for further information. All are welcome!

KNOW SOMEONE MARRIED 5 OR 10 YEARS? A son or daughter, sibling, niece or nephew, or you yourselves...Bishop Mark has a message for you! To receive this letter, send the couple’s name, mailing address, email and whether married 5 or 10 years to the Family Life Office, 5379 Portage St., Lilly, PA 15938; 814-886-5551; familylife@dioceseaj.org. Be sure to indicate it is for the anniversary letter from Bishop Mark.

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TO TELL THE WEATHER: Go to your back door and look for the dog. If the dog is at the door and he is wet, it's probably raining. But if the dog is standing there really soaking wet, it is probably raining really hard. If the dog's fur looks like it's been rubbed the wrong way, it's probably windy. If the dog has snow on his back, it's probably snowing. Of course, to be able to tell the weather like this, you have to leave the dog outside all the time, especially if you expect bad weather.

Sincerely,

THE CAT