

~ Parish founded in 1799 by the Servant of God, Father Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin ~
Parish church raised to the honor of a minor basilica by St. John Paul II in 1996

Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel

Home of the Prince Gallitzin Chapel House and the Shrine of Our Lady of the Alleghenies



A parish of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown
Very Rev. Father John David Byrnes, JCL, JV, Rector
Deacon Richard T. Golden
321 St. Mary Street PO Box 10 Loretto, PA 15940-0144

PARISH DIRECTORY

Parish Office 472-8551
Parish FAX 471-4959
Parish email basilicasm@dioceseaj.org
Parish website basilicasm-loretto.org
Parish Administrative Assistant- Mrs. Sherri Krug
Parish Office Hours:
Monday-Friday 8:30AM-4:00PM
Father John Byrnes email jbyrnes@dioceseaj.org
Diocesan phone 695-5579
Our Lady of Loretto Hall Rental 886-4619
Bingo 471-2764

MASS SCHEDULE

Fall/Winter/Spring

Sunday Vigil Mass: 4PM Saturday
Sunday Masses: 8:00AM and 10:00AM
Summer- Memorial Day to Labor Day
Sunday Vigil Mass: 4PM Saturday
Sunday Masses: 8:00AM and 7:00PM (Shrine)
Daily Mass
Monday - Wednesday 7:30AM Friday 8:45AM
Holy Days
See schedule in bulletin
Reconciliation (Confessions)
Saturdays 11:30 -12:30 or anytime by request



St. Michael
the **Archangel**
defend us
in battle

SACRAMENTS

Anointing of the Sick - upon request for the sick or homebound
Infant Baptism - please call the parish office to schedule preparation
Marriage - 9 months preparation needed please call the parish office
Christian Initiation of Adults - For adults interested in becoming Catholic, please call Cindy McMullen 471-6658
High School Confirmation Process - Celeste Stolz 472-9808 Sundays 846-5114

PRAYER

Eucharistic Adoration/Benediction - Holy Hour 6:00PM Wednesdays
Rosary for Vocations - 20 minutes prior to Sunday Mass
Devotions to Our Lady of Loretto-following 7:30AM Mass on Mondays
Parish Mission of Our Lady of Loretto - Fourth Week of Lent

PARISH LIFE

Parish Council- Mrs. Mary Weiland 674-2631
Finance Council- Mr. Nick Byrne 419-9593
Liturgical Music-Mr. Jonathan Nagy 244-1876
Altar&Rosary Society- Mrs. Maggie Biter 472-6064
Catholic Fraternal Organizations
Legion of Mary-Mrs. Mary Lessard 886-5489
Knights of Columbus-Mr. Bob Crusciel 243-9971
Secular Franciscans-Mrs. Betty Soisson 472-4667

EDUCATION

St. Michael School Mrs. Rhonda Seymour 472-9117
Bishop Carroll Catholic High School Mr. Stephen Cotchen 472-7500
Religious Education Ms. Celeste Stolz 472-9808 Sundays 846-5114

Catholic Outreach

Diocesan Website dioceseaj.org
Vocations Office 695-5579 x2681
Dorothy Day Center 472-3359
Catholic Charities Johnstown 535-6538 Altoona 944-9388
Crisis Pregnancy/Pro-Life 1-800-395-HELP www.optionline.org
National Suicide Prevention Hotline 1-800-273-8255
Away from Loretto on Sunday? 1-858-207-6277 or www.masstimes.org

January 17, 2021 - SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, Jan. 17 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00AM People of the parish
10:00AM Gabrielle & Joseph Lessard (Lessard family)

Monday, Jan. 18 Weekday
7:30AM John Lemme (Hoover family)

Tuesday, Jan. 19 Weekday
7:30AM Ray Hoover (Homer Krug)

Wednesday, Jan. 20 Weekday
7:30AM Mick & Grace Sheehan (Ralph & Elaine Sheehan)
6 PM Weekly Eucharistic Holy Hour with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday, Jan. 21 Weekday
NO MASS

Friday, Jan. 22 Weekday
8:45AM Arch & Katie Fox (family)

Saturday, Jan. 23 Vigil: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 PM Matthew Kubat Jr. (family)

Sunday, Jan. 24 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00AM People of the parish
10:00AM Leo & Clare Noll, Anthony & Agnes Skomra (Noll family)

The Sanctuary Candle this week is lit for Joe Krug (Kevin Stolz)

January 2020

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JOHN:

Dear Parish Family,

We will have a **Parish Council Meeting** Sunday evening January 31 at 6:30 PM. While we will meet in the basilica for social distancing, Council members will also have the option of participating via **ZOOM conferencing**. I will send a link out to all Chairs/Council Members.

Members of our **Parish Council** are – Fr. Byrnes, pastor, Mary Weiland, chair/secretary, Michele Poorman, Sharon Biter, Joan Krug, Julie Crusciel, Ashley Kubat (High School/Youth Representative), Leslie Conrad, Jackie Kalwasinski, Jenny Strittmatter, Matt Kubat, Mary Lessard, Deb Hoover, Doris Scanlan, Rhonda Seymour (ex officio St. Michael School Principal) and Committee Chairs (**Finance** – Nick Byrne, **Stewardship** – Theresa Lysic **Maintenance**- Fred Coposky **Liturgy** – Jonathan Nagy **Christian Service** – Celeste Stolz **Education & Evangelization** – Deacon Golden **Outdoor Mass** – Steve & Monica Hogue **Father Gallitzin Heritage** – Frank & Betty Seymour **Life & Family** – inactive

FLOCKNOTE! Better Communication with Our Parish Family - During the pandemic, it has become important to communicate in new ways. As the pandemic started last March, it would have been great to have quick, instantaneous communication with everyone! Now we can! Welcome to **Flocknote!**

Most parishioners have cell phones and internet access. **“Flocknote”** will be a simple way to send short messages or our bulletin via text or email to parishioners. Many parishes are already using it. Parishes who used Flocknote were 50% more likely to have yearly attendance growth than parishes not using Flocknote.

There is nothing to download and no need to create and remember a username or password. Pastors can organize as much or as little (messages from the pastor, cancellations, bulletins, prayer list, schedules, Religious Ed, choir information, spiritual articles, etc.) as they wish. This tool helps keep people together and is invaluable especially in this time of Covid -19. As people become more informed and involved, parishes can more easily communicate the mission of Christ and his Church in this way. **Details for parishioners on how to access the Flocknote communication tool will begin soon!**

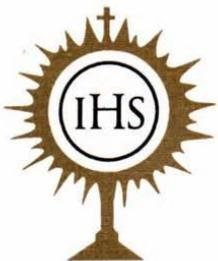
2021 National Prayer Vigil for Life Thursday, January 28, through Friday, January 29. The National Prayer Vigil for Life is an all-night pro-life prayer vigil held on the eve of the March for Life each January. Over 20,000 pilgrims from across the nation pray through the night for an end to abortion and a greater respect for all human life. It is held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

The National Prayer Vigil for Life is one small part of the Church's "great prayer for life." *A great prayer for life is urgently needed, a prayer which will rise up throughout the world. Through special initiatives and in daily prayer, may an impassioned plea rise to God, the Creator and lover of life, from every Christian community, from every group and association, from every family and from the heart of every believer.* —Pope Saint John Paul II,

Update for 2021: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Prayer Vigil for Life will be closed to the public, but will still be televised by EWTN so millions can participate remotely. Thursday, January 28, 2021, 8pm – 11pm 8:00 p.m. National Rosary for Life 8:30 p.m. Opening Mass 10:00 p.m. Holy Hour for Life Celebrant & Homilist: Archbishop Joseph Naumann of Kansas City in Kansas, chairman, USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities

Friday, January 29, 2021, 8am – 9am 8:00 a.m. Closing Mass Celebrant & Homilist: Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore, chairman-elect, USCCB Committee on ProLife Activities

The Closing Mass will also be available virtually via the National Shrine website and on EWTN. The National Shrine website is <https://nationalshrine.org/mass/>



Weekly Eucharistic Holy Hour for Vocations Wednesdays 6–7 PM

Begin the New Year with a commitment to weekly prayer at Eucharistic Adoration! Spend some time with Jesus!

6 PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, scripture, brief reflection, quiet prayer and adoration, rosary at 6:30 PM, prayers for vocations, quiet prayer, closing with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

PLEASE USE COMMON SENSE AS WE KEEP EACH OTHER HEALTHY! Those who come to Mass or church for personal prayer need to recognize the risk of possible unintended exposure to the coronavirus and refrain if they are sick or at a greater risk of susceptibility to COVID-19. *Masks are available in the back of the basilica.

College and young adult men: An opportunity to discern your vocation is being made available via the convenience of Zoom. Every Friday evening at 8:30 PM join others in an organized discussion about different aspects of prayer and vocational discernment. We will use the book “To Save a Thousand Souls” which can be ordered for FREE by going to GoPriest.com and selecting “free resources.” If you are interested, please contact Fr. Peter Crowe at vocations@dioceseaj.org to receive the zoom link. There is no commitment or pressure, just an opportunity to be with others, at least digitally, to gather in prayer, and have a good discussion that could be very

helpful. If we don't know about a vocation, it is not possible to properly discern it. We need good men to say yes to our Lord. Could that man be you? Come and see!

Legion of Mary News: We ask Our Blessed Mother and Her Son to be our daily guides upon this journey of our life. During this time of pandemic and the unrest within our country, we intercede to Our Lady, the Patroness of the United States, to bring about a resolution to our many trials. Whether homebound or not, all of us can offer our Rosary with faith that Mary will never fail us. If interested or to learn more about the Legion of Mary, please call Mary 886-5489. Our Lady of Loretto pray for us.

PRAYER LIST: For all suffering from coronavirus and health care workers around the world, Connie Wirfel, Zachary Karabinos, Cecilia Myers, Nikki Weakland, Jennifer Kowalski, Susan Sekerak, Charlie Koegler, Mary Ann Baker, Ruth Biter, Debbie Risban, Tonikay Metzgar, Fred Bradley, Cyril Itle, Leona Noel, Harriet Stevens, Betty Pryce, The intentions of the Alumni Circle of Prayer, our Military, and the Sainthood Cause of our founding Pastor, the Rev. Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin

STEWARDSHIP OF TIME AND TALENT

Liturgical Ministries: January 18-24

ALTAR SERVERS: ALTAR SERVERS: January 18-22

Mornings: January 18, 19, 20, 22 Travis Kubat, Molly Itle

Holy Hour: Wednesday, January 20 6PM -7PM Jude Koehle, Alex Krug

January 23-24

4:00PM Alivia, Alena & Elliot Nagle

8:00AM Haley, Austin, Kiley, Gavin Gray (3)

10:00AM Connor & Meghan McMullen, Michael Poorman

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION January 23-24

4:00PM Catherine Foor

8:00AM Dick Mullen

10:00AM Betty Soisson

READERS: January 23-24

4:00PM Ashley Kubat

8:00AM Lisa Weakland

10:00AM Betty Soisson

MUSIC MINISTERS: January 23-24

ORGANISTS: 4PM Jonathan

8AM Joel

10AM Jonathan

CANTORS: 4PM Mike & Vicki

8AM Doug

10AM Stephanie

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Online Giving is available at basilicasm-loretto.org or

you may **mail** your envelope to PO Box 10, Loretto, PA 15940. You may **drop** your envelope in the secure mail slot at the back-entrance porch (not front office door) by the outdoor statue of St. Therese.

January 10, 2021 Budget \$6,800

Offertory \$ 4,170 Online Giving \$1,542 Total \$5,712 Difference -\$1,088

Thank you for your generosity

We are sending contribution reports upon request. If you would like a copy of your 2020 contributions please call the parish office 472-8551 or email skrug@dioceseaj.org. Thank you.

ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL

Tuesday, January 19th, will mark the end of the second marking period. Report cards will be distributed to the students on Tuesday, January 26th.

We WELCOME BACK all faculty, staff, and students to in person learning. We have missed having everyone together as a school family.

It's a sweetheart of a deal! Our school council is sponsoring their annual recreational vehicle raffle. Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased from any school family or by phoning the school office @ 472-9117. All ticket stubs and money must be turned in by Friday, January 29, 2021.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

January 17~Welcome Back Religious Education families!

Today you have the opportunity to choose the Weekly Gospel Reading packet, the digital Weekly Gospel, or the combination of the two resources. The Pflaum series is an excellent teaching and learning scripture source!

Junior candidates will not be involved in the Pflaum series. Letters to parents and candidates will be sent the week of January 24.

Looking forward to a happy, healthy 2021 🙏

LORETTO COMMUNITY



Annual Men's Turkey Dinner ~ Sunday, March 21 ~ Take-out only

Blood Drive at Our Lady of Loretto Community Hall. **Thursday, January 28** from **2:30PM-7:00PM**

The **Knights of Columbus** is encouraging everyone to pray a Rosary as a family every day as close to 6PM as possible. Pray for our country to return to its founding principles and “One nation under God”.

Every Friday at 3PM (starting 1-15-21) parishioners will be gathering to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and the Rosary for our country and religious freedom. Everybody is welcome to come to the basilica and pray.

VIRTUS

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month *What we can do about it* By Judith Paparozzi, JD, M.Ed.

Human Trafficking and Modern Technology: Human trafficking is a pervasive problem. It is defined as compelling someone to engage in forced labor or sexual acts due to force, fraud, or coercion. This is not just an international issue; domestic child sex trafficking has become a stark reality within the United States (U.S.), with American children at high risk of being exploited. Continuous advances in technology, including the Internet and electronic communication tools, have all facilitated child sexual exploitation, including child sex trafficking. As a result, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) has identified that reports of exploitative photos and videos of children being sexually abused online is at an all-time high. The commercial sex trafficking of our children in the U.S. is becoming much too frequent—with habitual involvement of electronic devices. In 2020, police arrested 178 people in one of the nation’s largest child sex trafficking rings that victimized one young girl at age 13. As “Operation Stolen Innocence” revealed, this child was sold by her mother for drugs on social media sites like Facebook. After her rescue, police found an enormous amount of evidence, including electronic messages between her and those who victimized her. This August, two women were arrested for trafficking two underaged girls for sex; the girls, reported missing by their families, were sold in online ads for sexual acts in hotels. In 2019, police rescued a boy who was being exploited as a sex slave. He had been lured by seven traffickers he met online while playing a video game. The U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline, produces annual statistics of its contacts with domestic child sex trafficking victims. Of the 15,000 victims of sex trafficking Polaris identified in 2019, in the U.S., approximately 5,000 were minors.

Who are these child victims? They include runaways, foster children, and those from broken homes—but it is not limited to the most vulnerable. Polaris denotes that one out of seven children reported as missing to NCMEC became victims of human trafficking, 88 percent of which came out of the foster care system. Youth from seemingly stable homes are also ensnared. The reality is that all children are vulnerable, partly due to advances in communication technology that have abetted traffickers—giving them access to children. The main weapon for traffickers had become the cell phone, providing “new and evolving means by which offenders sexually abuse children as apps are being used to target, recruit, and coerce children to engage in sexual activity. “It is very difficult to trace the online footprint of traffickers due to sophisticated and evolving software used by offenders, which can also delay or hinder investigations. Traffickers will troll the Internet looking for potential victims on social media sites, apps and MMORPGs, which allow our children to play with thousands of people worldwide—people we don’t actually know. Traffickers use these sites to send out thousands of friend requests looking for vulnerable victims. Traffickers often present themselves as school-aged children (using fake profiles) going through the same trials that the victims share on their posts. The relationship may take a year+ to cultivate to gain the child’s trust. When successful, a trafficker will suggest meeting in a public place. Using the cell phone, the trafficker can geotag pictures to pin down the child’s location and then use the geo-tracking to track the child’s location anywhere in the world. And, with self-deleting apps, parents cannot even trace the child’s communications with the trafficker. There is hope, however, and the key is education. Here are some suggestions to make all children safer: First, know that kids participate in risky behavior like sharing personal information, talking to strangers online, adding strangers to instant messengers, and sending personal information to strangers. They also may be participating in lesser-known risks like keeping their social media sites public. Make sure children turn off the geo-tracking on the cell phone, or set it to private, because anyone can track them otherwise. Work with children so that they don’t create ever-increasing online footprints sharing a lot of personal information that traffickers will target. Avoid buying MMORPGs that invite players from all over the world to interact, where traffickers also pretend to be kids (or disable that feature). We must realize that with the online anonymity and easy traceability, our kids are at risk and are at a great disadvantage due to the enormous power imbalance between the sophisticated, highly manipulative trafficker and the innocent child. We must consistently communicate with children. Simply taking the cell phone away for concerning or poor behavior won’t work and can make them more inclined to be secretive with online behavior. Instead, partner with them to guard their privacy. Let the children in your care know that they should come to you if anyone makes them feel uncomfortable online so that you can help them. Ask your schools, churches, etc., to invite experts to teach us all Internet safety. Use these simple rules with your family. Here are some DON’T(s) of online safety: 1. DON’T give out personal information to people you only know online. 2. DON’T agree to meet people in person who you have met online 3. DON’T use the same username on more than one website. 4. DON’T make your email address public and searchable on social media. 5. DON’T check in on social media unless your account is 100% private. Here are some DO(s) of online safety: 1. DO turn off GPS tracking in your phone and disable it in apps that don’t need it. 2. DO tell the children in your care to talk to you or another safe adult about people they meet online. 3. DO check the apps on your child’s phone, and work together to use the strongest security and privacy settings. 4. DO monitor the use of technology on all electronic devices for the children in your care—know what apps are downloaded, how they are being used, and who they are communicating with online. 5. DO manually set all social media and cell phone apps to private, as they default always to public. 6. DO report any suspicions of sexual exploitation to the Cybertipline at: <https://report.cybertip.org/> 7. DO research about different apps targeted for teens. 17 DO have frequent conversations with the children in your care about online safety and what they can do to keep themselves safe.