

~ 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
Our Lady of Loretto Hall Rental 886-4619
Bingo 471-2764

MASS SCHEDULE

Fall/Winter/Spring

Sunday Vigil Mass: 4PM
Sunday Masses: 8:00AM and 10:00AM
Summer- Memorial Day to Labor Day
Sunday Vigil Mass: 4PM
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 - Ms. Celeste Stolz 472-9808 Sundays 846-5114

PRAYER

Eucharistic Adoration/Benediction - Holy Hour 6:00PM Wednesdays

Forty Hours Eucharistic Devotions- June 23 - 24 2019

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

EDUCATION

St. Michael School Mrs. Renee Phister 472-9117

Bishop Carroll Catholic High School Mrs. Lorie Ratchford 472-7500

Religious Education Ms. Celeste Stolz 472-9808 Sundays 846-5114

Catholic Outreach

Diocesan Website www.ajdiocese.org

Vocations Office 695-5579 x2681

Diocesan Family Life Office 886-5551

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

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. Janet Zabrosky 472-6097

Knights of Columbus-Mr. Bob Crusciel 243-9971

Secular Franciscans-Mrs. Betty Soisson 472-4667

DECEMBER 2, 2018 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, Dec. 2	First Sunday of Advent 8:00AM People of the parish 10:00AM Ed McMullen (Cindy & family)
Monday, Dec. 3	St. Francis Xavier 7:30AM Ralph Farabaugh (Fred & Cindy Gailey)
Tuesday, Dec. 4	Advent Weekday 7:30AM Bob Haid (Dolly & family)
Wednesday, Dec. 5	Advent Weekday 7:30 AM Bill Hines (Dave & Shelly Eckenrode) 6 PM Weekly Eucharistic Holy Hour with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
Thursday, Dec. 6	Advent Weekday NO MASS (Mass at Carmelite Monastery@7:45 AM)
Friday, Dec. 7	St. Ambrose 8:45AM James McDermott (family) Vigil: The Immaculate Conception 6:00PM Maurice Rice Sr. (Dolly & family)
Saturday, Dec. 8	The Immaculate Conception 9:00AM People of the parish Vigil: Second Sunday of Advent 4:00PM Leonard Hogue (family)
Sunday, Dec. 9	Second Sunday of Advent 8:00AM People of the parish 10:00AM Patrick McDermott family)



ADVENT 2018

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JOHN:

Dear Parish Family,

The **Year of Grace 2019** begins today with the First Sunday of Advent. **Advent** has a two-fold character. It invites us to prepare for Christmas when Christ's **first coming** to us is remembered, and is a season when that remembrance directs our mind and heart to await Christ's **second coming** at the end of time. It is a time of quiet, joyful expectation. The **lighting of the Advent wreath** is a custom which originated in Germany a few hundred years ago. The **evergreen wreath** is an ancient Roman symbol of victory, which was taken on by Christians to proclaim the victory over sin and death, which Christ's birth signifies. **Four candles, three violet and one rose**, are attached to the wreath to mark the passing of the four Advent weeks and to show the increasing light as Christmas draws near.

Advent Spiritual Reading - All are welcome to pick up a free copy of **Five Minutes with the Word – Advent Edition** from the baskets in the back of the basilica. They are compliments of an anonymous parishioner. You are also welcome to look over our **Catholic Lighthouse Media kiosk** which features low cost CDs, DVDs and books on a variety of topics on the Catholic faith. All resources are by the main doors of the basilica.



The **Feast of the Immaculate Conception** (Saturday, December 8) is a **Holy Day of Obligation**. Mass will be celebrated at **6 PM** Friday evening, December 7, and at **9AM** Saturday morning, December 8.

Visits to Homebound/Anointing of the Sick - I will begin to visit our homebound parishioners in preparation for Christmas. If you know of others in need of the Sacrament, please call me at the rectory.

I invite you to receive the Sacrament of Penance this Advent by making a good confession before Christmas. Our **Parish Advent Penance Service** is scheduled for Thursday evening, December 14. Listed below are a variety of opportunities to celebrate the Sacrament!

Special Advent Confession Schedule

Thursday, December 13 St. Michael Basilica Advent Penance Service at 7 PM

7 priests will join me in offering Confessions during our Parish Penance Service.

This is a Religious Education event. **All Religious Education students are expected to attend.**

Thursday, December 13 St. Michael School Students Eucharistic Adoration and Penance Service at 10 AM

Saturday, December 15 First Reconciliation Penance Service at 10 AM

(2 priests) Second Grade parishioners will celebrate the Sacrament for the first time today. Family members will also celebrate the sacrament. A reception will follow in St. Michael School Hall.

Local Parishes

Wednesday Dec 12	<i>Advent Penance Service</i>	St. Augustine, St. Augustine	7:00 PM
Sunday Dec 16	<i>Advent Penance Service</i>	Holy Name Parish, Ebensburg	2:00 PM
Monday Dec 17	<i>Advent Penance Service</i>	St. Monica, Chest Springs	7:00 PM
Wednesday Dec 19	<i>Advent Penance Service</i>	St. Demetrius, Gallitzin	7:00 PM
Friday Dec 20	<i>Advent Penance Service</i>	St. Nicholas, Nicktown	7:00 PM



The Spirit of the Season CONCERT- On behalf of our Director of Sacred Music, Jonathan Nagy, I invite you to attend a special Christmas Concert on **Thursday, December 27 at 7 PM** in the basilica! Featuring.....**The Basilica Choir * La Bella Musica String Quartet * St. Michael School Choir** ...offering Christmas carols and anthems. A free will offering will be taken.

Enjoy the music and the beauty of our basilica during the Christmas Season!

Decorating The Basilica for CHRISTMAS!

St. Michael's is a "Christmas Church" having opened as the First Church in Western Pennsylvania on Christmas Eve 1799! We feel it's an honor to prepare our Church for this blessed time of year.

On that note.... we'd like to announce the times for decorating. It does take several days! We invite all who are able to come & we realize what a busy time it is - many hands will make it "happen" more quickly.

Monday, Dec. 17 – Full Committee will meet @ 9:30 A.M. Please come back if you have helped in the past, if not, don't hesitate to come – we need many hands.

Thursday, Dec. 20 – Flower Committee needed @ 9:30 A.M. to uncover and put the Poinsettias in place. *This should only take one hour.*

2018 Christmas Schedule

Solemn Christmas Eve Mass 4 PM

Children's Christmas Eve Mass 7 PM (sung by our Children's Choir)

Solemn Christmas Midnight Mass (Christmas anthems by the Basilica Choir begin at 11:20PM)

Solemn Mass of Christmas Morning 10 AM

All Altar Servers are to be in the sacristy twenty minutes before the Christmas Masses



Weekly Eucharistic Holy Hour for Vocations Wednesdays 6–7 PM

Begin 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

The 2018 Catholic Ministries Drive “Making Christ A Home In Your Heart”- continues in our parish and all parishes throughout our diocese. Our **target** this year is **\$22,300**. So far we have received **\$16,182** towards our **target goal**. We are in need of **\$6,118** to meet our goal. Last year we raised over \$19,000. I invite your **generosity** to this drive which focuses on a select group of ministries which funds care for the poor through Catholic Charities, Marriage preparation and Family Life, education of future priests and seminarians' formation, and youth programs such as Camp Timothy and Camp Zacchaeus. I ask that those families and individuals who have registered recently in the parish join our long-time parishioners in helping support the **2018 Catholic Ministries drive**.

PRAYER LIST Edna Eckenrode, Annette Farrell, Mary Lureen Scanlan, Ken Snowberger, Robert Ruffing, Betty Pryce, Emanuel Ruffing, Dorothy Knopp, Olivia McConnell, Jack McConnell, Toots Volk, Valerie Thomas, Luke Eckenrode, Edna McConnell, Christopher Ruffing, Tina Ruffing, 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: December 3-9

(R) December 3 ,4, 5 Sister Nancy, CCW

(EM) December 3, 4, 5 (if deacon is present, he assists)

ALTAR SERVERS: December 3-7

Mornings: December 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 (9AM) Haley, Austin, Kiley Gray

Holy Hour Wednesday, December 5 6PM-7PM Thomas & Joshua Corcoran

Immaculate Conception - December 7 6PM Maddison & Makenna Lee

December 8-9

4:00PM Alivia, Alena & Elliot Nagle

8:00AM Ashley, Alec & Travis Kubat

10:00AM Belle Eckenrode, JoAnna Hoover, Brenna Phister

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION December 8-9

4:00PM Pennie Wyland, Dick Mullen

8:00AM Chris Krug, Nick Byrne

10:00AM Vince & Jackie Kalwasinski

READERS: December 8-9

4:00PM Pennie Wyland

8:00AM Chris Krug

10:00AM Jackie Kalwasinski

MUSIC MINISTERS: December 8-9

ORGANISTS: 4PM Jonathan 8AM Jonathan 10AM Joel

CANTORS: 4PM Folk Choir 8AM Jonathan 10AM Heidi

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Online Giving is available at basilicasm-loretto.org

November 18, 2018

Offertory \$3,623 Online Giving \$1,192 Total \$4,815 Weekly Goal \$6,800 Difference -\$1,985

November 25, 2018

Offertory \$7,592 Online Giving \$662 Total \$8,254 Weekly Goal \$6,800 Difference +\$1,454

ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL NEWS

We wish to **thank OUR SCHOOL FAMILIES, PARISHIONERS, and FRIENDS** of Saint Michael School who assisted by selling tickets, donating desserts and/or baskets, and giving of their time for set up, clean up and working the event. The sharing of talents from so many made our “**Christmas Gift Extravaganza**” a **PHENOMINAL** success! We especially are grateful to **Rachel Beiswenger** for purchasing all the prizes, **Theresa Kelly** for preparing the delicious meal, **Gene Pietrowski** for donating his DJ Services, **Marty Radovanic** for announcing, **Lois Stoltz**, **Abby Rice** and bingo workers for selling walk around tickets, and **Viki Krug** for assisting with many of the behind the scenes tasks before, during and throughout the event. Their direction, expertise and the giving so much of their time afforded many benefits for our school students. **Thank you to our Saint Michael Family for a job well done!**

We congratulate our **Junior High Interscholastic Reading Competition Team** and their advisor on placing **second** at their competition on Tuesday, November 13th at Bellwood Antis High School. Way to go!

Picture retakes are scheduled for **Monday, December 3rd**. If your child was **absent** on picture day or if you were **not satisfied** with your child's pictures, you may request to have your child photographed again. **Order forms** are available upon request from the school office.

Due to inclement weather, the **Elementary Interscholastic Reading Competition** has been rescheduled for **Wednesday, December 5th**. We wish our team and their coaches the best of luck!

The **eighth-grade** class will be sponsoring an **Advent fruit basket service project** to reach out to those in need, the sick, elderly, and homebound members of our parish and school community. We are asking your help by providing us with names of individuals so that we can be a blessing to them during the Christmas season. Fruit baskets will be **delivered** on **Wednesday, December 5th**. Please phone the school office @ 472-9117 with the recipient's name and address. Thank you for your assistance!

Our annual Christmas program will be held on **Wednesday, December 12th at OLOLCH**. We will be having **two** performances. The **afternoon** performance will begin at **12:30pm** and the **evening** performance will begin at **6:30pm**. All are welcome to attend and we look forward to having you as our guests!

We are sponsoring our annual **Nativity** set raffle. If you would like to purchase chances please contact any Saint Michael School Family or contact the school office @ 472-9117. Chances are \$1.00 each.

It's a sweetheart of a deal! Our school council is sponsoring their annual recreational vehicle raffle. This year's ticket features the winner's choice of a **Textron Altera 570 EPS Four-Wheeler** or an **Arctic Cat Lynx 2000 ES Snowmobile**, or **\$6000 cash** determined by the **February 14th First Pick 4 EVENING** drawing. **New this year, a second prize, a \$100 Gas Card will be awarded based on the February 14th First Pick 4 DAY** drawing. Tickets are **\$10** each and can be purchased from any school family or by phoning the school office @ 472-9117.

Let us help you with your **Christmas** shopping! **Gift cards** from numerous retailers, restaurants, and grocery stores are readily available through our SCRIP Program. We are pleased to announce that **Taco Bell (\$10 Cards)** has been added to our inventory for your convenience. Just in time for the holidays **Amazon, Target** and **WalMart** gift cards will be available in **\$10** increments for a limited time. If you would like to purchase SCRIP cards during the week or need information pertaining to our SCRIP program please call the **school office**.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

WEEKLY REFLECTION: Advent is here...Prepare the Way of the Lord!

Our Thanksgiving Food Drive was a great success! Your generosity is greatly appreciated by our neighbors at the Dorothy Day Outreach Center. Thank-you!

December 9 - Classes (Grades 1-11)

December 13 - **Thursday 7pm Advent Parish & Religious Education Penance Service/ grades 3-11 required**

December 15 – **SATURDAY** Celebration of First Penance (Confessions) 10 am -Reception to follow in St. Michael's School Hall

December 16 - Classes (Grades 1-11)

December 23 & 30 - **No Classes, Christmas Vacation** - Students participate in Christmas Liturgies with their families.

NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

CHOIR PRACTICE - We have begun preparing for Christmas! Choir practices are Sunday evenings at 6 PM. There is still time to join the choir for Christmas. Come for at least one practice and see if you like it!

CHRISTMAS CONCERT - The third annual Basilica Christmas Concert will be held on Thursday, December 27 at 7 PM. The concert will feature the Saint Michael School choir, La Bella Musica String Quartet, and the Basilica choir, singing a compilation of Christmas arrangements. Please mark your calendars now and plan to join

LORETTO COMMUNITY

Concert Today!!! 2PM Sunday December 2nd at SFU Chapel. Christmas Concert by Saint Francis University Chorus also featuring the Altoona Sweet Adelines. Admission is free.

Blood Drive at Our Lady of Loretto Community Hall. Thursday, **December 6th** 2:30-7PM

The **Loretto Angel Tree** – Reminder to please return gifts to the tree by **December 2nd** with the angel securely attached to the gift wrapped package. The Angel Tree benefits children in the Loretto - Munster Community. *Cash donations to the Angel Tree Organization would be greatly appreciated and can be sent to Dolly Little (674-5078) 969 Columbia St., Loretto or Julie Little (243-8925) 344 Hoover Road, Loretto. Please make checks payable to "Angel Tree Organization." Thank you for your generosity.