

~ 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](mailto:basilicasm@dioceseaj.org)  
Parish website [basilicasm-loretto.org](http://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](mailto: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

## 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

## 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](http://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](http://www.optionline.org)  
National Suicide Prevention Hotline 1-800-273-8255  
Away from Loretto on Sunday? 1-858-207-6277 or [www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org)

## DECEMBER 23, 2018 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, Dec. 23	Fourth Sunday of Advent 8:00AM People of the parish 10:00AM Lu Lessard (Joyce McGough)
Monday, Dec. 24	Vigil: Christmas, The Birth of Jesus 4:00 PM Gerald Link (Aileen & family) 7:00PM Joey Stoy (family) MIDNIGHT Living and deceased members of the Memorial Fund
Tuesday, Dec. 25	Christmas Day, The Birth of Jesus 10:00AM People of the Parish
Wednesday, Dec. 26	St. Stephen NO MASS (Mass at Carmelite Monastery@7:45 AM) NO 6 PM Weekly Eucharistic Hour
Thursday, Dec. 27	St. John NO MASS (Mass at Carmelite Monastery@7:45 AM)
Friday, Dec. 28	The Holy Innocents 8:45AM Joseph McMullen-BD Remembrance (family)
Saturday, Dec. 29	Vigil: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph 4:00PM Matthew Kubat Jr. (family)
Sunday, Dec. 30	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph 8:00AM People of the parish 10:00AM Bob Haid (Dolly & family)



## ADVENT 2018

### FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JOHN:

Dear Parish Family,

By the time you read this... Christmas will be a day away!

#### December 24- 25, 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*



***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!

**ALTAR SERVERS** - You are welcome to pick up your Christmas candy in the sacristy following Mass. Thank you for your faithfulness!



**The Feast of Mary, Mother of God (January 1) is A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION** for this year of 2019. Mass will be celebrated on New Year's Eve at 4 PM and at **8:00 AM** at **10:00 AM** on Tuesday January 1, 2019. There is no better way to begin 2019 than by uniting with our Blessed Mother in prayers of peace and joining in her Son's Eucharist. Join in the Mass on New Year's Day!

### A PAGE FROM OUR HISTORY

**MID-NIGHT MASS - CHRISTMAS EVE - DECEMBER 25, 1799 Ω THE LEGENDS, THE TRADITIONS LIVE ON Ω Fr. Gallitzin** bequeathed very little description of this historic event that took place here in the mountain wilderness at McGuire Settlement in Western Pennsylvania; nor could he have known at that time the chain of events that would come to follow with the profound impact his saintly presence amongst us would have from the light he brought into the darkness of that night so long ago. But that Mass was to dramatically affect the religious and social affairs of our Catholic Loretto Church Community up to the present time, not only here in Loretto, but for all of the virgin territories far beyond at that time. Much is left to our imaginations and to the time-honored traditions, tales, and folklore passed down through the successive generations of our fore fathers and mothers; or gleaned from literature of those times which told of the customs, fashions, attitudes, and ancestral practices of Christmas the immigrants brought with them from their European homelands here to this new settlement on the colonial frontier. We do know that Christmas Eve in the new America in 1799 fell on a Tuesday according to the Gregorian Calendar. According to weather researchers looking over the eastern Pa. newspapers at that time, snows were recorded to have fallen intermittently throughout the Allegheny Mountains and its western plateau in west-central Pennsylvania. Temperatures were seasonally cold, probably in the mid-twenties, with only moderate winds. But the forecast for Christmas triduum called for continuing snow showers, daily, as a new winter front was expected to descend through the region and on to the coast. But the settlers of the forest at McGuire's were far removed from the weather prognosticators in Lancaster. They neither read about nor feared the whimsical moods of the mountain weathers. For miles around the folks knew that on this Christmas Eve, Fr. Gallitzin was to celebrate the Holy Nativity Mass at midnight in the little log church, some 44' X 25', his men had built and finished just days before. They knew they would gather here for the very first time in the spiritual annals of this bleak and dense land of forests and streams to celebrate for the first

time the Feast of the Lord's birth, offered to God by a priest of the Catholic Church beginning at the very hour of the Christmas Day. During the week leading up to the eve of Christmas, the men of the parish nailed boughs of strung-together evergreens of hemlock, spruce, pine and laurel, simple but tasteful, along the interior walls of the church. The women of the parish placed homemade dipped beeswax candles in front of each window, artfully placed over-hung garlands of nut-and-fruit, ground pine and ivy among the evergreens, and strategically placed candles along the aisles and sanctuary to provide illumination for the priest and congregants. Fr. Gallitzin was not one for ostentatious displays of finery within his church; but with nature providing these God-given accessories, he bent to the will of his people and their strong Germanic and Irish traditions brought with them for the old country. This was, indeed a special night! Even in its festival décor, it was probably remarkably simple and austere, almost Spartan by today's standards. Of course, there was no heating device of any sort in that log church. The chestnut log benches were systematically arranged within the church proper to allow for a narrow passage aisle down the center; The men to one side, the women and children to the other. An altar railing of polished chestnut graced the space between the sanctuary and the nave. Gallitzin honored the offering of the bread and wine and Holy Communion as the highlight of the Mass. Confession and Fasting attended its reception. There were no sung carols, no organ, no Nativity display, no organized choir, no statues or sacred art there. The altar and the priest, the services in Latin, the plain and reverential presentation of the Mass by a Prince-Priest for the Prince of human-kind, utilizing the bare essentials and utensils brought with him from his missionary circuit - all made for an historic moment in time that was to inspire future generations forever. Imagine the content and presentation of Gallitzin's homily! And the peoples who were in attendance - some came walking with swinging lanterns, and others in horse-drawn sleds, thru the trackless woods, devoid of roads, to participate in a sacrifice of their own, and would continue to do so, so says the stories, for many a long years. Gloria in Excelsis Deo! f.i.s.

**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 23-29**

**CHRISTMAS DECEMBER 24-25**

4:00PM Sam & Nicholas Wirfel, Hanna Taddy  
 7:00PM Children's Mass – Connor McMullen, Michael Poorman, Travis Kubat, Ashley Kubat  
 12:00AM Matt Byrne, Mia Wyland, Nicole Barnett, Dane Van Horn  
 10:00AM Ralph Baughman, Maddison & Makenna Lee

**ALTAR SERVERS: December 28**

**Morning:** December 28 (8:45AM) Ralph Baughman, Hanna Taddy

**December 29-30**

4:00PM Haley, Austin & Kiley Gray  
 8:00AM Belle Eckenrode, Billy Krug, Logan Hoover  
 10:00AM Trevor Fahr, Molly Itle, Logan Krug

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION December 24-25**

4:00PM Bob Chumrik, Amanda Chumrik, Dick Mullen  
 7:00PM Suzette Spinner, Joe Spinner, Jeff Talko, Beth Talko,  
 12:00AM Nick Byrne, Vince Kalwasinski, Jackie Kalwasinski, Chris Krug  
 10:00AM Betty Soisson, Pennie Wyland, Janet Hogue, Catherine Foor

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION December 29-30**

4:00PM Donna Schenk, Barb Sherry  
 8:00AM Cindy McMullen, Carol Hines  
 10:00AM Joan Krug, Catherine Foor

**READERS: December 24-25 CHRISTMAS**

4:00PM Bob Chumrik, Kevin McConnell  
 7:00PM St. Michael School Students  
 12:00AM Vince Kalwasinski, Jackie Kalwasinski  
 10:00AM Pennie Wyland, Janet Hogue

**READERS: December 29-30**

4:00PM Donna Schenk  
 8:00AM Cindy McMullen  
 10:00AM Joan Krug

**MUSIC MINISTERS: December 24-25**

**CHRISTMAS EVE & DAY**

**ORGANISTS:** 4PM Joel 7PM Jonathan 12AM Jonathan 10:00AM Joel  
**CANTORS:** 4PM Carol 7PM Children 12AM Choir 10:00AM

**MUSIC MINISTERS: December 29-30**

**ORGANISTS:** 4PM Jonathan 8AM Joel 10:00AM Jonathan  
**CANTORS:** 4PM Folk Choir 8AM Ashley 10:00AM Heidi

**STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE**

Online Giving is available at [basilicasm-loretto.org](http://basilicasm-loretto.org)

December 16, 2018  
 Offertory will be published next week

## ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL NEWS



*From our Saint Michael Family to yours, we wish you a very Blessed Christmas and Joyous New Year!*

Classes resume on **Thursday, January 3, 2019.**

What a fantastic month for our SCRIP Gift Card Program! **Many thanks** to our **school families** and **parishioners!** We are very grateful for your patronage and support of our SCRIP Program! Know that you are making a difference for our students!

Our celebration of Catholic Schools Week will be here before we know it. We will be having a **“Kindergarten Visitation Day”** on **Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>**. All children who will be **five** years of age by **August 31, 2019** are welcome to attend. Please contact the school office @ 472-9117 to register so that a personal invitation can be sent to all prospective students.

Reflecting on this past year, we wish to extend a **sincere, heartfelt THANK YOU** to all our parishioners who support Saint Michael School through prayer, financial contributions, and participation in our fundraising efforts throughout the year. You are an everyday special blessing to our school. Thank you again for helping us continue the tradition and mission of Catholic education!

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 14<sup>th</sup> First Pick 4 EVENING** drawing. **New this year**, a second prize, a **\$100 Gas Card** will be awarded based on the **February 14<sup>th</sup> 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

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS



Merry Christmas from the Religious Education team! May the gift of a Christmas Miracle be yours!

## NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR



*Merry Christmas from the Music Department!*

Please join us for our **CHRISTMAS CONCERT** on **Thursday, December 27 at 7 PM.** The concert will feature the Saint Michael School choir, La Bella Musical String Quartet, and the Basilica choir, singing a compilation of Christmas arrangements.

## LORETTO COMMUNITY

**St. Michael BINGO** - Our Lady of Loretto Hall 471-2764 - \$20 Admission both nights **Tuesday** -Doors open at 5:30 Games begin at 7PM **Friday** -Doors open at 6:30 Games begin at 8pm. Full Kitchen is open with nightly specials! Popcorn, coffee, tea, hot cocoa- FREE every night!!



*Merry Christmas*