



# PARISH STAFF

Very Rev. Alan E. Thomas, VG, Pastor	695-0912
Janet Klingbeil, Parish Secretary	or 207-1479
Sue Teske, Director of Religious Education695-0912	or 934-2180
Tim Baranik, Youth Group Director	207-7008
Tom Kunkle, Music Coordinator	312-3897

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Rectory/Church Office	(814) 695-0912
Office Fax Number	(814) 693-9820
Parish Email	stmichaelhburg@dioceseaj.org
Parish Website	www.stmichael-hldg-pa.org
Holy Trinity Catholic School - H	ollidaysburg(814) 695-6112
Holy Trinity Catholic School -	Altoona(814) 381-7011
Holy Trinity Catholic Middle Scl	n <b>ool</b> (814) 942-7835
H.T.C.S. Website	www.holytrinitycatholic.school
Greenlawn Cemetery	call Tom at (814) 695-2546

#### MISSION STATEMENT OF THE ST. MICHAEL FAITH COMMUNITY

Extending a rich parish heritage built upon the pioneering traditions of the first settlers of the Southern Allegheny mountains, St. Michael the Archangel Parish embraces as its mission the use of all available resources, both spiritual and temporal, to minister to the needs of the people of Hollidaysburg and its surrounding areas. We do this in a fashion which reflects the teachings and example of Jesus Christ, while promoting a tradition of liturgical excellence, strong support for Catholic education in all its varieties, and enlightened social outreach to the community at large, in union with both the Diocesan and Universal Church.

#### MASSES

Saturday Evening: 5:00 p.m. Sunday: 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Daily & Holy Days: *See inside the Bulletin* 

#### **CONFESSIONS**

Regularly on Saturdays: 1:00 p.m. and Sundays: 7:30 a.m.

#### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Closed: Weekends, Holy Days and Holidays

#### MARRIAGES & BAPTISMS

Call the church office to schedule an appointment. Nine month advance notice is normally required for marriage.

#### **BULLETIN DEADLINE**

The deadline to have information considered for publication in the bulletin is 4:00 p.m. Tuesday prior to the weekend of the announcement. Mail or email the information to the church office.

#### PARISHIONER REGISTRATION

If you would like to join the parish, please contact the rectory/ church office. Please remember to notify us if you move or will be moving out of the parish. Registration, the practice of stewardship, and regular participation in the Sacraments indicate that a person is an active member of the parish and is eligible to act as a godparent or sponsor. As a Church community seeking to be faith-filled disciples and good stewards, the sacrifice of our time, talent and treasure is essential for the common good.

#### **CHRISTIAN INITIATION**

Interested in becoming a member of the Catholic faith? Please contact the parish office. Classes generally begin each Fall.

# **INTRODUCTION FOR TODAY'S READINGS**

**First Reading: Isaiah 2: 1-5** The prophet Isaiah dreamed of a day when Jerusalem (sometimes called Zion) would be the center of the world, and all people would come there to receive instruction from God. In today's reading, Isaiah presents a vision of peace and prosperity for the whole world.

**Second Reading: Romans 13: 11-14** Behind everything Paul wrote was his strong belief that the hour of Christ's return in glory was near at hand. In today's passage, Paul uses the image of darkness and light to describe how Christians ought to live as they await that coming.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 11:1-10 & Romans 15:4-9; Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS for December 1 - 8			
DATE	TIME	INTENTION	REQUESTED BY
Sunday, Dec. 1	8:30 a.m.	+ Lois Mielnik	by her husband; Ray
	10:00 a.m.	+ Charles Liebal (Birthday Remembrance)	by Helen & Christine Liebal
	11:30 a.m.	+ Dean L. Rhodes Jr.	by his family
Monday, Dec. 2	7:45 a.m.	+ Leona George	by her family
Tuesday, Dec. 3	7:45 a.m.	+ Irene Schlecht	by Donald & Jeanette Betar & family
Wednesday, Dec. 4	7:45 a.m.	+ Anita Jubas	by her husband; John & daughter; Maren
Thursday, Dec. 5	8:30 a.m.	Holy Trinity School Mass	
Friday, Dec. 6	7:45 a.m.	+ Jennifer Hatajik	by the St. Michael Religious Education Teachers
Saturday, Dec. 7	5:00 p.m.	For the People of the Parish	
Sunday, Dec. 8	8:30 a.m.	+ Raymond Brown (Birthday Remembrance)	by Elda Brown
	10:00 a.m.	+ Chris Weyant (Anniv. Remembrance)	by Helen & Christine Liebal
	11:30 a.m.	+ Bill McDonnell	by Don & Ginny Harrington

### LITURGICAL MINISTRY TRAINING

Fr. Alan invites those who are interested in being a reader or an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion to attend a training session in December. Those interested must be confirmed (for Extraordinary Ministers), in good standing with the church, and participating regularly in the Sacraments. We currently have a need for both ministries at all Masses. Training sessions will be held **THIS Wednesday, Dec. 4** at **6:30 PM** for Readers and at **7 PM** for Extraordinary Ministers and repeated on **Sunday, Dec. 8** at **3 PM** for Readers and at **3:30 PM** Extraordinary Ministers. Current Readers and Extraordinary Ministers are invited to attend the sessions for a refresher. Any questions? Please see Fr. Alan or call the church office.

# PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST

**TODAY, Sunday, December 1** the Men's Club will host their famous Pancake and Sausage Breakfast. It will be served **after the 8:30 & 10 AM Masses**. We ask for a donation of \$4. (The increase is due to an increase cost of supplies.) Thank you for your support.

### **OUR GIVING TREE**

Thank you to those who prepared and hung the ornaments on the Giving Tree, and to the members of our Peace and Justice Committee for their hard work with this project. We are so pleased with how many people took the over 400 ornaments last weekend.

Gifts may be returned before all Masses the weekend of Dec. 14 & 15 to the church hall, with the ornament attached. If you weren't able to get an ornament off of the Giving Tree, monetary donations and gift cards will be collected at the gift return station on the weekend of Dec. 14 & 15, and will be used to support the agencies and parish families and friends.



### **MEAL TRAIN**

Our Matthew 25 Ministry is comprised of a group of volunteers who try to reach out and help parishioners in time of need. One of the many ways they do this is to help provide meals to those who are dealing with surgeries, illnesses, etc... Currently they are looking at ways to help make sure Fr. Alan has some healthy meals. Recently the group discovered the Meal Train App. This program (or one similar) will make it easy for volunteers to see when a meal is needed and where. Currently the group would like to have a computer savvy volunteer to establish and maintain the Meal Train program. If you are interested, or would like more details, please contact the parish office.

### LITURGY APPOINTMENTS

SACRISTAN (12/1 - 12/7/19): A. Carvalho SCRIP (12/8/19): as scheduled COFFEE/DONUT SOCIAL (12/8/19): the Berkheimer Family

#### ASSIGNMENTS FOR NEXT WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday, December 7 - 5:00 PM- Second Sunday of AdventReaders:M. Dodson (1) & L. Michelone (2)Altar Servers:A. Bryson & M. SwopeE. Min.:J. Bookhamer, L. Michelone & L. SavinoGift Bearers:The N. Bauman FamilyWeekend Sacristan:L. Michelone

Sunday, December 8 - 8:30 AM - Second Sunday of Advent

Readers:P. Yakymac (1) & B. Stevens (2)Altar Servers:S. Capone & A. ElderE. Min.:C. Feathers, P. Gildea & B. AnthonyGift Bearers:R. McCoy familyWeekend Sacristan:S. & D. Claar

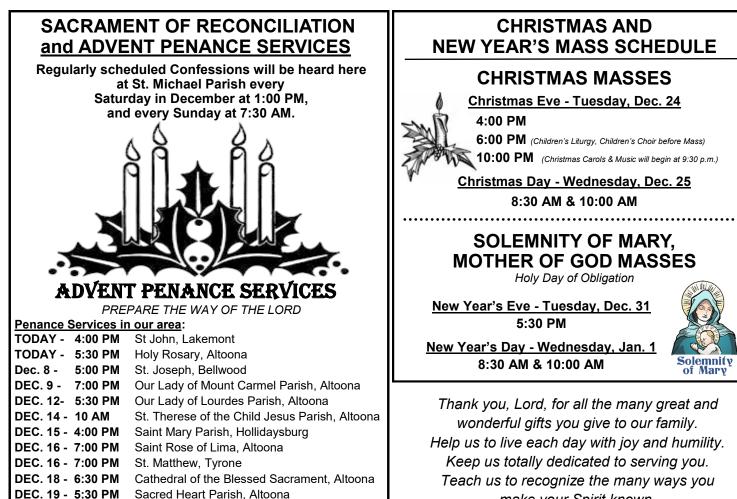
Sunday, December 8 - 10:00 AM- Second Sunday of AdventReaders:D. Garrity (1) & M. Schlechter (2)Altar Servers:G. Long & C. ReachardE. Min.:M. Culp, D. Culp & M. DeRoseGift Bearers:The Smithmyer FamilyWeekend Sacristan:D. & M. Culp

Sunday, December 8 - 11:30 AM- second Sunday of AdventReaders:D. Sault (1) & L. Georgiana (2)Altar Servers:J. Gardner & K. RuggeryE. Min.:G. Harrington, available & availableGift Bearers:The S. Roberts FamilyWeekend Sacristan:M. & P. Link

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mank you for your generosity:	
Sunday Offering (11/24/19):	\$5,341.00
Sunday Envelopes:	\$5,113.00
Sunday Loose Collection:	\$228.00
2019 Catholic Ministries Drive (C.M.D.	) Goal: \$51,858.00
Received to date: (as of 10/31/19)	\$40,942.00
Under Goal:	(\$10,916.00)

Catholic Charities Collection(rec'd to date) \$1,471.00



### CHURCH DECORATING



All are invited to help us decorate the Church, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, on Sunday, Dec. 22 after the 11:30 AM Mass. People who can carry boxes and assemble trees are greatly needed! We welcome the help!

### CATHOLIC CALENDARS

Catholic calendars, one from our diocesan Family Life Office and one depicting Religious Art, will be available at our church entrances beginning NEXT weekend, December 7 and 8.

### CHRISTMAS WAFER/BREAD - "OPLATEK"

In Poland and in some other countries in central Europe, and among people of their ancestry, there is the custom of breaking and sharing a type of simple wafer at the Christmas meal. The Christmas wafer symbolizes the unity and love of family and friends. The exchange may also include a wish for long life, good health, joy and happiness at Christmas and during the New Year. Some people dip their piece of wafer in honey which symbolizes the sweet richness of God's blessings. For families who would like to begin, continue or reestablish the tradition, decorative packets containing 5 fragile wafers are available at our church entrances TODAY. The packet/ envelop contains an explanation of the custom and prayer. Thank you to our parish's Wednesday Morning ARISE group for assembling the packets.

### THANK YOU

We are thankful to all who answered Fr. Alan's request for weekend sacristans. If you volunteered but were not contacted and trained, or if you would like to be trained, kindly contact the parish office this week.

make your Spirit known. Then help each of us to accept your gift -

the grace to answer your call to form, strengthen and expand the Body of Christ. We ask this through Christ. our Lord. Amen.

# CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS



Once again we will be remembering the deceased of our families with our Christmas flowers and decorations. If you wish to have a loved one remembered in this special way this Christmas Season then please use the "Christmas Flower/Decoration Memorials" envelope in your Nov. - Dec. envelope packet.

Please fill in the back of the envelope with the memorial intention and by whom it is requested. Each memorial is a suggested \$10 donation which will be used to help offset the cost of the Christmas expenses for the church environment. We ask that all envelopes be turned in by **Dec.** 11. If you do not receive envelopes you may use the form below and place it with your donation in the collection basket by NEXT SUNDAY, or bring it to the Parish Office by 4 PM on Dec. 11.

Memorial for:		
	(Please print)	
Given by:		
•	(Please print)	



### A ST. NICHOLAS NOTE

Feast Day, Dec. 6

"It is fitting that the feast of St. Nicholas (December 6) comes at the beginning of Advent and the beginning of the shopper's season. As the patron saint of shoppers he proclaims, 'Keep it simple!' Keep it simple enough to fit in a shoe or a stocking. "One gift that could fit in a shoe or in a stocking hanging on the fireplace is a note that speaks of one of our most precious gifts, the

gift of time. Such a St. Nicholas note might read: 'The gift I give to you is half an hour of quality conversation each night right after the dishes are done.' Or, 'The gift I give to you is one Saturday a month to be with you and do whatever you want to do.' We can appreciate the value of such a gift if we keep in mind that according to a survey, the average married couple in America has only 30 minutes a week for communication outside of exchanges that take place at the dinner table, and between parent and child is only 14 minutes. As you can see, the possibilities are almost unlimited for these St. Nicholas shoe gifts. "Come, St. Nicholas, patron of shoppers and gift-seekers and make Christmas this year fun, creative and love-filled." Edward Hays, A Pilgrim's Almanac (adapted)

Reprinted from: Appleseeds Fr. Brian Cavenaugh, T.O.R.



OUR LADIES GUILD

The Guild will be meeting **THIS Tuesday**, **Dec. 3 at 1:00 PM** at Longhorn Steakhouse in Altoona. All ladies of the parish are invited to join them.

### A TIME OF HOPEFUL ANTICIPATION

Advent is a time of hopeful anticipation as we prepare to celebrate the remembrance of the Lord's first coming and, also, recalling his final coming in glory at the end of time. There are many preparations for Christmas that demand our time and attention. Make sure to fill your Advent days with prayerful preparation. Read scripture, pray the rosary with special attention to the Joyful Mysteries, spend time before the Blessed Sacrament. Advent is a time of hope and joy.

# PRO-LIFE CHRISTMAS CARDS

Our Youth Group would like to thank the parish for their generous response to our pro-life Christmas Card sales. To date, we have sold or collected \$279 in sales/donations. All proceeds go directly to Blair County Citizens Concerned for Human Life. There is a limited supply of Christmas cards remaining. These cards may be purchased at the rectory from 8 AM - 4 PM, **Mon. - Fri. through December 13th**.

### **GIVE THANKS FOR THE RELIGIOUS**

Share your gratitude for the senior Catholic sisters and brothers, and religious order priests who made a positive difference in so many lives. Please give generously to next week's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Special envelopes for the "Share in the Care - Retirement Fund for Religious" collection are in your bimonthly envelope packet.

### "HERE COMES CHRISTMAS"

The Hollidaysburg Community Chorus will present their Winter concert, "Here Comes Christmas" **NEXT Saturday Dec. 7 at 7 PM and Sunday Dec. 8 at 2 PM** at the Hollidaysburg Senior High School Auditorium. You may purchase tickets in advance from any chorus member or at one of the following ticket locations: The Blue & White Snack Bar, The Music



Emporium, Bandman Rental & Repair, Roaring Spring Dept. Store, and all Thompson Pharmacies. Their exciting show will surely get you in the Christmas spirit! Guest soloist will be Ginger Reinhardt, with performances by the Hollidaysburg Community Children's Chorus. Directed by St. Michael parish's very own **Sandy Harteis**, with several members of our parish in the choir as well!

### **PREPARE!**

Advent marks the start of a new year for us. Our readings change to a new cycle as we begin to "Prepare the Way of the Lord." Purple vestments are worn and today we light a purple candle on our wreath. The use of color and symbols tell us that something valuable is taking place. We are asked to realize the coming of the

Lord. He will also some day return to us. We will all some day return to Him. Let us prepare our hearts and souls in welcome for the celebration of His Birth! Your redemption is at hand.

### **FAMILY RITUAL**

This Advent, instead of trying to get all the presents on a child's Christmas list, get them one or two, and then allow your presence in their life to be their present. Spend time with your children baking cookies for others instead of running from store to store. Help them to think of someone in the neighborhood that they can be a 'Santa' for, so that the focus isn't on the receiving, but the giving. Make sure to tell the story of Jesus' birth to your kids, as this is what the Season really is all about.





#### ALL students in 7th - 12th Grade are invited to the:



# YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS CAROLING & MINUTE TO WIN IT PARTY

Mark your calendars and join us **Saturday, Dec. 21** (tentatively 6-9 PM) for

Christmas Caroling at local nursing homes and then return to the Activity Building for a Christmas Party with

food and fun and Minute - to - Win - It game challenges! Any questions or to let Tim know that your son or daughter will be



attending, call or text him at 814-207-7008. Students must have signed permission form to attend. *Permission forms are available in the parish office and online at: stmichael-hldg-pa.org/permission-form* 

### **CHICKEN BBQ**

The Knights of Columbus Council 4245 -Hollidaysburg invite you to join with them at their Winter BBQ **Sunday, December 15th 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.** Tickets are only \$8 . The Sitdown or Take-Out Meal includes their famous BBQ Chicken, baked beans, applesauce and roll. Homemade desserts and beverages are also available for purchase. Call Knights Hall 695-4752 to get your ticket. Proceeds benefit: Society of St. Vincent de Paul.



#### HELP SUPPORT CATHOLIC EDUCATION BUY SCRIP BEFORE YOU GO SHOPPING!



Now is a great time to buy gift cards through our Scrip program at Holy Trinity Catholic School. You can help support Catholic School education, even if you do not have a child at Holy Trinity, by buying gift cards after the Sunday 8:30 and 10 AM Masses at St. Michael Parish in the church hall. Scrip gift cards DO

NOT COST YOU MORE THAN THE FACE VALUE! HTCS is automatically given a percentage from your purchase. Spend \$25 on a gift card, receive a \$25 gift card. Did you know gift cards are good for more than just gifts? Use gift cards like cash at all of your favorite stores and online retailers! It's fundraising while you shop, buying items you WANT to buy! Need to purchase groceries? Planning to go shopping? Don't forget to get your Scrip cards first!

# ST. MICHAEL PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND FAITH FORMATION

#### "Stay with Us"

Any questions call our D.R.E., Sue Teske at 695-0912 or 934-2180 email: Steske@dioceseaj.org

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CALENDAR**

#### PRE K - 9TH GRADE

TODAY	No class - Thanksgiving Weekend	
Dec. 8	Religious Ed. Classes (pre K - 9th grade)	10:00 AM
Dec. 15	Religious Ed. Classes (pre K - 9th grade)	10:00 AM
Dec. 22	No class - Christmas break	
Dec. 29	No class - Christmas break	
Jan. 5	Religious Ed. Classes (pre K - 9th grade)	10:00 AM
	<u>"YEAR OF INVITATION" (9th Grade)</u>	
Jan. 11	Retreat – Baptisim (Activity. Bldg - w/ Sponsors)	12:30 PM

Jan. 11	<b>Retreat – Baptisim</b> (Activity. Bldg - w/ Sponsors)	12:30 PM
Jan. 11	Rite of Blessing (Church - w/ Sponsors)	5:00 PM

#### "YEAR OF FORMATION" (10th Grade)

- Dec. 8 Religious Ed. (for all but BGHS students; Activ. Bldg) 12:30 PM
- Dec. 15 Session Scripture (Activity. Bldg) \* Please note date change 12:30 PM

#### "YEAR OF REFLECTION" (11th Grade)

Dec. 8	Religious Ed. (for all but BGHS students; Activ. Bldg)	12:30	PΜ
Dec. 14	Retreat – Discipleship & Mass (Activity, Bldg)	9:30	AM

# QUICK LOOK AT UPCOMING EVENTS

		-
Every M	onday: Prayer Group (in the Church)	1 PM
SCRIP:	sold after the 8:30 & 10 AM Sunday Masses in th	e Church Hall
TODAY	Pancake Breakfast (Church hall) after the 8:30 &	& 10 AM Mass
Dec. 3	Ladies Guild Meeting (Longhorn Steak House - Altoo	na) 1:00 PM
Dec. 4	Ministry Training Session (Church) 6	:30 and 7 PM
Dec. 8	Men's Club Meeting (Church hall)	7:00 PM
Dec. 8	Repeat Ministry Training Session (Church) 3	and 3:30 PM
Dec. 11	Christmas Memorials due (Parish Office)	before 4 PM
Dec. 14	& 15 Giving Tree gift return day (Church hall) before	ore all Masses
Dec. 15	HTCS - Hollidaysburg Campus's Christmas	s Concert
	(at the Middle School Ca	mpus) 2:00 PM
Dec. 15	Hollidaysburg Penance Service (at St. Mary Chu	urch) 4:00 PM
Dec. 22	Christmas decorating (in the church) after the 11	:30 AM Mass
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Masses: 4 PM, 6 P	<b>M</b> (Children's Mass)
	& 10:00 PM (precede	d by carols at 9:30 PM)
Dec. 25	Christmas Day Mass 8:30	AM & 10 AM
Dec. 31	New Year's Eve Mass	5:30 PM
Jan. 1	New Year's Day Mass (HOLY DAY: SOLEMNITY OF M.	ARY, MOTHER OF GOD)
	8:30 AM a	and 10:00 AM

### FAMILIES AND THE GOSPEL

In today's gospel Jesus advises: "Stay, watch out, and pray for the strength to hold your ground" when "fearful and bewildering signs" appear threatening your family. Resist being "fearful;" fear cripples! Instead "pray for the strength" to be courageous.

# THE FRIAR'S NOOK GIFT SHOP

located at 793 Monastery Road, Hollidaysburg Phone: 814-695-3802 Store hours: Monday-Saturday: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM.

Find gifts for everyone on your list

