First Sunday of Advent
December 1, 2019

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.” - Mt 24:44

PARISH OFFICE
415 Tioga St., Johnstown, PA 15905
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Website: omostoday.com
Monday through Friday, 8:30—4:00

PRESBYTERY
407 Tioga St., Johnstown, PA 15905
814-535-7646
By appointment

ST MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH
180 Gilbert St., Johnstown, PA 15906

DIVINE MERCY SCHOOL—WEST
Phone: 814 539-5315
“The icon is part of worship. The art of the icon is a liturgical art. In the tradition of the Orthodox Church, the icon is not merely a piece of decoration or visual aid. We do more than just look at icons or talk about them, we PRAY with them.” The icon has been described as theology in line and color.”

Ponder These Things: Praying with Icons of the Virgin

As another part of our centennial series on The Blessed Mother, we will be offering a presentation on “Praying with the Icons of Mary” on Tuesday, December 3, at 6:30pm. Real icons must follow very tradition rules in “writing” an icon. Actually, there are three main Icons of Mary. She is “The One Who Points the Way”, (The Hodegetria), she is “The Virgin of Loving Kindness”, (The Eleousa), and she is “The Virgin of the Sign”, (The Orans).

During the presentation, we will spend a brief amount of time on each icon and discuss how these Icon traditions can help us in our life of prayer. In the Eastern Rites of the Church they believe that real Icons, similar to our understanding of the Eucharist, manifest the real presence of the person in the Icon. Archbishop Kallistos Ware writes about Icons in Rowan William’s book on these three Icons. “The icon is part of worship. The art of the icon is a liturgical art. In the tradition of the Orthodox Church, the icon is not merely a piece of decoration or visual aid. We do more than just look at icons or talk about them, we PRAY with them.” The icon has been described as theology in line and color.” So, let's look at Mary in a deeper way than we are used to by pondering these things, and praying with these Icons.

First Friday
Eucharistic Adoration and Mass at
St. Michael’s,
December 6.

Adoration: 6 am—5:45 pm
Mass: 6 pm

Penance Service

Just a quick note to remind you to put our Advent Penance Service on your calendar. Our Penance Service will Take place on Monday, December 16 at 6 pm. What an awesome way to prepare for the coming of Jesus!
SMALL GROUP NEWS

Materials for our Advent Small Group Studies are available online at omostoday.com. A few paper copies will be available in the back of the church. Join in this weekly scripture study of the Sunday readings, read the reflections, and reflect on them using some suggested questions. Let us use this Advent season to strive as a small group, family or individual to learn more about the Scripture. Take the time to prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas.

We continue to approach our mission in creative ways to welcome those who may have walked away for one reason or another or never really belonged to a church before. The more people hearing the Gospel of our Lord is the goal of the Church.

Thank you. **Thank you for being a part of what God is doing through our church.** Your giving to our ministry this year has made all the difference!

Consider making an end of year gift to support the mission of our church? **We rely on faithful giving from people like you, and your gift today would help us start next year off strong.**

ENDORSE THE MISSION

The last few weeks of the year are fast approaching, and our staff is busy planning the next series of Messages about the Gospel. Our new Director of High School Ministry is excited to increase the youth involvement, and our Centennial Year events are moving forward with great participation. These are just a few areas related to the investment you have made in the mission of our Church.

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Also, consider as a small group, to sign up to spend time in the presence of Christ in adoration. Sign up boards will be in the back of the church to ensure the Blessed Eucharist is never left alone. If you can help during these 100 hours please sign up.

ADORATION

During December we will be making available additional hours of Exposition to honor Jesus. Hours will be spread out throughout each day at OMOS and a few at St Michael’s. *Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is a manner of honoring the Holy Eucharist, by exposing it, with proper solemnity, to the view of the faithful in order that they may pay their devotions before it. We hope you will take advantage of this additional time and step away from the busyness and come and sit with Jesus in quiet prayer.*

Everyone is welcome, bring your families! We are asking for three people to commit to a specific time throughout the month, to ensure the Blessed Eucharist is always in the company of the faithful. Please consider signing up in the back of the church.

ANGEL TREE

We would like to encourage everyone to please take an angel from the tree to help a less fortunate child. **Gifts should be returned by Sunday, December 8th.** Gifts can be dropped off in the back of the church or at the Parish Office. Thank you for your generosity.

CENTENNIAL NEWS

- Thanks for everyone’s support of the 100 Turkey Dinner Project. It was 100% successful. All 100 dinners were filled and delivered to St. Clement Food Bank for distribution. A special thanks to our middle school students for stuffing the bags, our elementary students for lovely cards, and to a special small group who stepped up to ensure all bags were filled. Truly a whole parish effort!

- Our 100 hours of Exposition will begin Dec. 2. Hours will be available every morning during the week, most afternoons, and evenings. Check the schedule online, in the Advent study booklet, or the back of the church. Let us all find some time in Dec. to spend some time in quiet prayer and contemplation with Jesus.

- Dec 3. at 6:30, Fr. Mark will present a talk on "Praying to Mary with Icons". Not a talk you want to miss as we all continue to learn more about our beautiful Blessed Mother. See you in church!

**Mark your Calendars!**

- The first- ever Parish TRIVIA NIGHT on Jan 25. Test your knowledge on parish history, the bible, and general trivia! Get your small group, put together a team, or just show up and we’ll put you on a team! A fun night of fellowship for everyone. Details coming soon.

- Jan. 18th Service Saturday - Blanket Day! Come and help make 100 blankets for young children in our area.
WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Is 4:2-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 [cf. 7]/Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37
Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118: 1 and 8-9. 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a,6-8
Next Sunday: Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 19 [cf. 7]/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

YOU ARE INVITED

FINDING CHRISTMAS
Greg & Rebecca Sparks in concert
Friday, December 13th
430 Tioga St. Johnstown, PA
Doors open at 6:00 P.M.
OMOS Church Hall
spread the word
questions...call 335-7646

Attention Kids!

Date: Saturday, December 14, 1-3 pm
What: Let’s worship our Lord in a new unique way!
For: All kids up through 5th grade!
(Preschool parents please attend with your child)
Please R.S.V.P at omostoday.com to reserve your spot!
Please bring a baby present for Jesus (clothes, diapers, wipes, blankets etc.) to be donated to our local Birthright.

BISHOP McCORT NEWS

Bishop McCort Students will be selling raffle tickets for this year’s Great McCort Auction after Mass this weekend. The raffle is a cash giveaway of $5,000 with first prize being $2,500. All proceeds go toward funding extra curricular activities in arts and athletics for students at Bishop McCort. Winner will be chosen at the March 21st auction. Winner need not be present to win. Your support is greatly appreciated!

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Come join us tonight for our at 6 pm for our “High School Social” in the school hall.
- Wear your “holiday” sweater, elf costume, etc. and be eligible for a prize.
- Bring a $5 gift for exchange.
- Enjoy some pizza, snacks, fellowship and fun.
See you there!!!
**WEEKLY & MINISTRY SCHEDULES**

**Monday, December 2**
6 a.m.—Eucharistic Adoration
8 a.m.—Mass
   **Server:** Tim Burgess

**Tuesday, December 3**
6 a.m.—Eucharistic Adoration
7:30 a.m.—Confession
8 a.m.—Mass
   **Server:** Nico White

**Wednesday, December 4**
7 a.m. Praise & Worship
4:30 p.m.—Eucharistic Adoration
5:30 p.m.—Confession
6 p.m.—Mass
   **Server:** Tim Burgess

**Thursday, December 5**
6 a.m.—Eucharistic Adoration
9 a.m.—Mass
   **Server:** Divine Mercy Students

**Friday, December 6**
6 a.m.—Eucharistic Adoration at St. Michael’s
6 a.m.—Mass at St. Michael’s
   **Server:** Tim Burgess

7 p.m. Prayer Meeting at OMOS

**Saturday, December 7**
3 p.m.—Confessions
4 p.m.—Mass at OMOS
   **Servers:** Julia Dill & Caridy Arnold
   **Lector:** John Skelley
   **Euch. Min:** Linda Rosenbaum (2), Marty Radovanic, Sr., Jim Kukura, Vicki Wesner, Michelle Petrell, Bridget Byrne, Michelle Rivetti
   **Hosp:** Cathy Vigna, Val Deater, Ann & Jim Mattie, Bill Livingston, Gerri Isban, Kathy Ashcom, Jim Galiardi

**Saturday, December 7, 2019**
6:00 p.m. Mass at St. Michael’s
   **Servers:** Tim Burgess & Lucy Smith
   **Lector:** Mary Ann Burgess

**Sunday, December 8, 2019**
8:30 a.m.—Mass at OMOS
   **Servers:** Gabrielle Nibert & Ella Nibert

**PARISH STAFF**

Fr. Mark Begly, Pastor
mbegly@dioceseaj.org

Anne DiFrancesco, Director of Pastoral Affairs
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Michelle Petrell, Outreach Coordinator
mpetr57574@aol.com

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**November 17, 2019**

**Lector:** Rick Messina
**Euch. Min:** Evie (2) & Rick Wess, Denise Esch, Heather Nibert, Michelle St. Clair, Dawn Zabala, Steve Pippin
**Hosp:** Maria & Ralph DeMarco, Mary 7 George Kogut, John Esch, Ron & Carol Gollas, Martin Malek

**Sunday, December 8, 2019**
11:00 a.m.—Mass at OMOS
   **Servers:** Bradyn Younkins & Brady Manges
   **Lector:** Sam Genovese
   **Euch. Min:** Deron (2) & Mary Beth Lintz, Michele Vaner, Linda Fleming, Donna Gillin, Christa Curtis, Gil McDonald
   **Hosp:** Anne & Matt DiFrancesco, Tami Buchan, Denise Mezky, Adam Weir, Rick Phillips, Janice Rayha, Janet Hammett

**Sunday Collection**

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**Living Faith with Mary Through Renewal of Mind & Transformation of the Heart**

Join Fr. Tickerhoof TOR on Mon., Dec. 9 at the Sisters of the Sacred Heart Retreat Center, 1827 Munster Road, Portage from 9 am to 3:30 p.m. to help prepare for Christmas. **Cost $20**

R.S.V.P. by Dec. 2
Fr. David Tickerhoof
(941) 243-0372