

Families and the Gospel - Matthew 3:1-12
 Like John the Baptist, every parent “prepares the way of the Lord” in the hearts of their children. Advent is a good time to ask; “Do I help or hinder my children to know Jesus?”

Basket of Cheer – Knights of Columbus tickets \$2/each or 3 for \$5. Drawing Date will be December 12, 2024.

School News: You are invited to celebrate the birth of Jesus with our St. Matthew School students at their annual Christmas program beginning at 6:30 pm in Harkin’s Hall on **December 11th**. Free of charge and refreshments will follow. Come share the excitement that children bring to this special day.

Franciscan Living Nativity – Help the Franciscan Friars, TOR celebrate their 100th Year Jubilee by joining us on the campus of St. Bernardine Monastery on **Saturday, Dec. 14th at 4 pm** to be part of our own children’s Living Nativity. There will be a nativity service followed by refreshments and a chance for a visit and photo with Santa! The Friar’s Nook Gift Shoppe will be open until 6 pm.

2025 Children Envelopes are available in the Gathering Space. Even though our children do not have a regular income (aside from a possible allowance), they still need to begin learning about what the Bible teaches about being a generous and sacrificial giver. If your child has been utilizing envelopes, their name will be on the envelop packet. If you would like your child to participate in type of giving, please take a packet and provide your child’s name and the envelope # on the list provided.

An Advent of Christmas Concert will be held 7:30 pm on Saturday, December 21st at St. John Gualbert Cathedral, 117 Clinton Street, Johnstown. The program will feature the Greater Johnstown Diocesan Festival Choir and Bishop McCort Academy Chorale. Admission is free and open to the public. A free-will offering will be taken.

Dates of Importance:
December 8th – Angel Tree and Saint Nicholas Tree items due. Submission to the Proclaim magazine for the Jubilee due. Christmas Altar Flower orders due.
December 10th – Allegheny Chorale Christmas Concert at 7 pm at the Presbyterian Church
December 15th – St. Matthew Family Christmas Tree ready to receive your family decoration.
December 15th – Reconciliation Service at St. Joseph in Bellwood at 5 pm. There will not be a reconciliation service at St. Matthew.
December 22nd – Church decorating at 11:30 am. All ages are welcome and lunch will be provided.

*A SHARED STORY,
 A COMMON VISION*



“Even now the ax lies
 at the root of the trees”

Matthew 3: 10

**THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP
 AS A WAY OF LIFE**

“Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

Matthew 3: 10

Do you bear good fruit for Christ? Or, do you spend your time, talent, and treasure constantly acquiring more toys, clutter, and junk. Our time, our talent, and our treasure are gifts that God has given us. What we do with them is our gift back to God. What gifts are you planning to give to the Lord during this upcoming Christmas season?

**SAINT MATTHEW
 ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
 1105 Cameron Avenue
 Tyrone, PA 16686**

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Pastor: Reverend Father Michael Pleva
Phone: (814) 684-1480 (Parish Office & Rectory)
Fax: (814) 684-7969
Website: www.church.stmatthew-school.org
Email: stmatthewtyrone@gmail.com

Parish Office Staff:
 Financial & Administrative Assistant: Deborah Zakrzwski

Office Hours:
Monday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
Wednesday & Friday 8:30 am to 3:30 pm

Director of Religious Education: Lauren Wright
 Call: (814) 312-0969 or email: lwright@dioceseaj.org

Director of Music: Leslie Estep
 Call: (814) 684-4899 or email: lime458@verizon.net

Elementary to High School Classes: (Grades K-11):
Sunday mornings 9:00 am to 10:15 am (weekly during the school year)

OCIA: Susan Burkholder (814) 684-0352

Pastoral Council - Jason Terosky (814) 883-0077
 Finance Council - Dennis Rozick (814) 684-5511
 Cemetery Committee - Shirley Hall (814) 931-0657

Saint Matthew Catholic School
“serving our community since 1869”
Principal: Pauline Wiley
School Phone: (814) 684-3510
School web-site: www.stmatthew-school.org

We welcome all visitors. If you live in the area, please call the Parish Office to register and become an active member of our parish family.

If you would like to have a MASS celebrated for the deceased members of your family, or friends, or for special intentions, please stop by or call the parish office.



December 8, 2024
Second Sunday of Advent

Weekend Mass Schedule: Saturday at 5:30 pm
 Sunday at 7:30 am
 Sunday at 10:30 am
Weekday Mass Schedule: Wed., Thurs. & Friday at 8:00 am
Holy Day of Obligation Mass Schedule: 9:00 am & 6:00 pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday at 12:30 pm
 or anytime upon request.
Saint Joseph Church in Bellwood: Saturday at 4:00 pm or Sunday at 9:00 am and the Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated on Saturday at 3:30 pm.

Mass Schedule & Intentions

December 7, 2024 – December 15, 2024

- Sat. 5:30 pm** Cindy Hampton – Robert Hampton
- Sun. 7:30 am** Phyllis Good – Mike & Becky Rozick
- Sun. 10:30 am** For the People - Pastor
- Mon. 8:00 am & 6 pm** – St. Joseph
 9:00 am – St. Matthew
 Jack Newhard –Sarah McNelis
- 7:00 pm –St. Matthew - For the people
- Tues. 6:00 pm** St. Joseph
- Wed. 8:00 am** Kris Yaniello - Mother
- Thurs. 8:00 am** Michael Tree Family - Estate
- Fri. 8:00 am** Joe Kern – Fred Bennetti
- Fri. 8:30-9:30 am** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Benediction
- Sat. 5:30 pm** Ralph & Emma Hagg Family –
 Martha & Ann
- Sun. 7:30 am** Christopher Edmondson – John Paul & Tony
- Sun 10:30 am** Eddie & Marty Rhoades – Aye Tepsic



Sanctuary Candle for the week of December 8th is in memory of the Cannistraci Family requested by Mary Jane Cornelius.

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES SCHEDULE

Weekdays D Cunningham

Lectors – Dec. 14 and Dec. 15, 2024

Sat. 5:30 pm S Burkholder, R Bunch

Sun. 7:30 am S McNelis, B Hiergeist

Sun. 10:30 am S Cowher, I Maceno

Extraordinary Ministers Eucharist Dec. 14 and Dec. 15, 2024

Sat. 5:30 pm † P Lambert, T Scordo, C Golden

Sun. 7:30 am † G Baldauf, M Rozick, B Rozick

Sun. 10:30 am † J Terosky, L Wright, S Thoms

Altar Servers: Dec. 7 and Dec. 8, 2024

Sat. 5:30 pm G Vaugh, B Ciampoli

Sun. 10:30 am E Lake, A Lake

Immaculate Conception – December 9, 2024

9 am Mass St. Matthew School

6 pm Mass EM: Doug Castagnola

Lectors: A Brisbin, S Cowher

Altar Servers, D Castagnola, L Castagnola

Financial Report – December 1, 2024

Regular Weekly (Sunday) Collection \$4,392 \$7(children)

Beginning July 1, 2024 and Ending June 30, 2025

Year to date Sunday Collection Income \$ 118,205

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|------------------------------------|-----------|
| 2024 Year to date Bingo Net Income | \$ 33,959 |
| Second Collection | \$ 274 |
| SMS Catholic School Envelopes | \$ 605 |
| Religious Education Envelopes | \$ 55 |
| Good Samaritan | \$ 20 |

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|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| 2024 Catholic Ministries Drive TARGET | \$ 29,219 |
| CMD Donations for 2024 | \$ 85,313 |

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY! Please remember that one can have a lot of money but still live a really poor life and one can have no money at all and live a really rich life, that's because what makes a person truly rich is not how much they have but how much they give.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR ILL AND HOMEBOUND (Dec. 1 to June 1, 2025) Sue Chambers, Jack Chambers, Martha Hagg, John Lewis, Rose Long, Mary Jane Shank, Harry Sickler, Dorothy Smyder, Rachel Harshman Wiggins

Available in the Gathering Space

- Lector workbooks for 2025.
- Advent pamphlets **“God With Us”** with daily advent reflections.
- Christmas Oplatki Wafers
- 2025 Calendars

Stewardship Reflection

The readings for the Second Week of Advent offer both encouragement and challenge during this brief but important season of the liturgical year. Recall from last week that the purpose of this season is reflection on and preparation for the two “comings” of Christ – His coming as a baby on the great feast of Christmas, and the anticipation of His second coming at the end of time.

Until He comes again, we must remain faithful to Him as true disciples and good stewards of all the gifts He Has given us. While it can be tempting to give in to the materialism and calls for self-indulgence that surround us, our First Reading calls us back to the spiritual reality that this life is passing and that we are made for eternal life with God. We are called to prepare for eternal life by the way that we use our time, our talents, and our treasure now.

This Advent let’s turn away from any bad habits or sin that may have crept into our lives and turn our hearts and minds back to Christ. This is what the stewardship way of life is all about – moving every closer in relationship with Christ and imitation of Him, ready to celebrate His birth, with eyes fixed on eternal life with Him.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION –

this Monday, December 9! Since this Feast (December 8th) is a Sunday the Feast Day will be celebrated on Monday, December 9th and is a Holy Day of Obligation or Opportunity. You may attend Mass to celebrate this Feast at **St. Joseph on Monday at 8 am & 6 pm and at St. Matthew at 9 am & 7 pm.**



The second Advent Candle symbolizes peace. Th Jubilee Year is meant to be a time of Sabbath rest, reconciliation, and peace. Pope Francis encourages us during this time to be reconciled to God and one another. The Jubilee Year allows us to do this through opportunities for sacramental confession and the gaining of indulgences (“eased purgation from sin”) offered throughout the year. May you come to know the Jubilee “Prince of Peace.”

Pro-Life Christmas Cards Available! Citizens Concerned for Human Life (CCHL), Blair County Chapter, has Christmas cards for sale. Several designs are offered this year. Packages of 11 cards are available for \$9. Your purchase helps support the pro-life work of CCHL in Blair County. To order, please call Chris Stoner at 814-931-8088.

Good Shepherd Parish (867 Gray’s Woods Boulevard, Port Matilda, PA 16870) sincerely invites you to join us as we honor the Blessed Virgin Mary who gave us our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and calls us to surrender our lives to Him. The celebration of the **Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas**, will take place on Thursday, December 12th. It will begin at 4:30 pm with the prayer of the Holy Rosary, then at 5:00 pm the music and singing will be offered by a professional band from Washington D.C. area called “Mariachi Esmeralda”. The band will also lead the congregation in signing during the Mass that will begin at 5:30 pm. After the celebration of the Eucharist a reception will take place in the parish hall.

Holy Name Advent Service: All are invited to a special evening of prayer, story, and song at Holy Name Church in Ebensburg on **Monday, December 16th**. In the midst of this busy season, here is an opportunity to pause and direct our minds and hearts to the coming of Jesus Christ, our Messiah. The service will feature preludes by Serendipity beginning at 6:45 pm, following by the cantata “Emmanuel, God with Us” performed by the combined Men’s and Women’s Choirs. Light

refreshments will be served in the Narthex following the service.

Our parishioners, Anne and Bill Harshman have placed their collection of nativity scenes on display at the **Bellwood Library**. This collection features nativity displays from Russia, Haiti, Germany, and some African and South American Countries. Library hours are 1 pm to 8 pm on Monday thru Thursday and 9 am to 2 pm Saturday.

Communal Penance Services – During the season of Advent, Catholics are encouraged to seek God’s healing and forgiveness through the Sacrament of reconciliation. The following is a schedule of Communal Penance Services at various parishes throughout the Diocese.

- Sunday, December 8**
Saint Mary Parish, Hollidaysburg – 4:00 pm
- Tuesday, December 10**
Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel, Loretto – 7:00 pm
- Wednesday, December 11**
Saint Rose of Lima Parish, Altoona – 7:00 pm
- Thursday, December 12**
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Altoona – 5:30 pm
- Saturday, December 14**
Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Parish, Altoona–10:00 am
- Sunday, December 15**
Saint Joseph Parish, Bellwood – 5:00 pm
- Monday, December 16**
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Altoona – 7:00 pm
- Tuesday, December 17**
Good Shepherd Parish, Port Matilda – 7:00 pm
- Wednesday, December 18**
Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona – 6:00 pm
- Friday, December 20**
Our Lady of Victory Parish, State College- 6:00 pm
- Monday, December 23**
Our Lady of the Alleghenies Parish, Lilly – 6:00 pm

Rest in Peace - Please pray for the repose of the souls of Michael Ronan, husband of Susan Ronan and Helen Molnar mother of Lisa Spangler and John Molnar. May God grant them eternal peace in His kingdom and their loved ones comfort and strength.

The Christmas Radio Station – WTRN 100.7 and 96.9 FM and 1340 AM in Tyrone. Listen to continuous Christmas music and hear Father Michael’s Christmas Message.