

**Families and the Gospel**

Matthew 11:2-11

The question put to Jesus in today's gospel is also put to us today: "Are you the one?" Are you the one who will give guidance to the children in your life or must they look to TV sitcoms, films, videos and music lyrics for direction? Are you the one? Will you be the one?

**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 21<sup>st</sup>** 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 15<sup>th</sup>** – St. Matthew Family Christmas Tree ready to receive your family decoration.

**December 15<sup>th</sup>** – **Reconciliation Service at St. Joseph in Bellwood at 5 pm.** There will not be a reconciliation service at St. Matthew.

**December 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Church decorating at 11:30 am. All ages are welcome and lunch will be provided.

Thank you to all who participated in the Angel Tree project! We received over 215 gifts and gift cards that were delivered to Catholic Charities. Several boxes of hats and mittens/gloves were also collected. Several families will have a merrier Christmas because of the generosity of St. Matthew's parishioners!

**On Monday, January 20, 2025**, the Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a bowling and pizza party at the Bavarian Hall in Altoona, PA for K-12 students from the St. Joseph and St. Matthew parishes as well as a guest from 1-3pm. Please sign up in the gathering space.

This is Christmas celebrating the Heart of Christmas on Monday, December 30<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at The Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel in Loretto, PA invites you to a night of Christmas music performed by the Basilica Choir and the St. Michael Children's Choir. Enjoy the music and the beauty of our basilica during the Christmas Season! Make plans to join us!

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**THE MANY FACES OF SALVATION**



"Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John ... among those born of women there is none greater than him. *Matthew 11: 7*

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

*"You too must be patient. Make you hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand."* James 5:8

Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule; we like things to be convenient. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer God reveals to us what He wants us to do with the gifts He has given us. We are able to better align ourselves with God's will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own.

**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](http://www.church.stmatthew-school.org)  
**Email:** [stmatthewtyrone@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:lwright@dioceseaj.org)

**Director of Music:** Leslie Estep  
Call: (814) 684-4899 or email: [lme458@verizon.net](mailto:lme458@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

**Saint Matthew Catholic School**  
**"serving our community since 1869"**  
**Principal:** Pauline Wiley  
**School Phone:** (814) 684-3510  
**School web-site:** [www.stmatthew-school.org](http://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 15, 2024**

*Third Sunday of Advent - Gaudete Sunday*

**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 14, 2024 – December 22, 2024**

- 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
- Mon. 8:00 am** St. Joseph
- Tues. 6:00 pm** St. Joseph
- Wed. 9:00 am** Michael Tree Family - Estate
- Thurs. 8:00 am** Eric Cavalucci – Tera Weber
- Fri. 8:00 am** Clara Bennetti – Fred Bennetti
- Fri. 8:30-9:30 am** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Benediction
- Sat. 5:30 pm** For the People - Pastor
- Sun. 7:30 am** Bill & Maxine Schoch - Family
- Sun 10:30 am** Jack Murtagh – The Myrick Family



**Sanctuary Candle** for the week of December 15<sup>th</sup> is in memory of Chad Dionis requested by Rose and Bill Long.



The Altar flowers this weekend are for the Holy Souls in Purgatory requested by Michael Burkholder.

**LITURGICAL MINISTRIES SCHEDULE**

**Weekdays** S McNelis

**Lectors – Dec. 21 and Dec. 22, 2024**

**Sat. 5:30 pm** G Miller, J Rumberger

**Sun. 7:30 am** S Zakrzwski, A Lynn

**Sun. 10:30 am** MJ Gunter, K Auman-Gooding

**Extraordinary Ministers Eucharist Dec. 21 and Dec. 22, 2024**

**Sat. 5:30 pm** † K Raffetto, M Raffetto, R Bunch

**Sun. 7:30 am** † S Ronan, L Grove, K Hoyne

**Sun. 10:30 am** † L Wright, S Stoner, M Morse

**Altar Servers: Dec. 21 and Dec. 22, 2024**

**Sat. 5:30 pm** E Narehood, H Narehood

**Sun. 10:30 am** B Wright, D Pullara

**Financial Report – December 8, 2024**

Regular Weekly (Sunday) Collection \$5,781 \$18(children)

**Beginning July 1, 2024 and Ending June 30, 2025**

Year to date Sunday Collection Income \$ 124,004

2024 Year to date Bingo Net Income	\$ 34,871
Second Collection	\$ 0
SMS Catholic School Envelopes	\$ 171
Religious Education Envelopes	\$ 20
Good Samaritan	\$ 50

2024 Catholic Ministries Drive **TARGET** \$ 29,219  
CMD Donations for 2024 \$ 86,085

**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

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

**Available in the Gathering Space**

- Christmas Oplatki Wafers
- 2025 Calendars

**Stewardship Reflection**

‘Rejoice in the Lord always, I shall say it again, rejoice!’ We arrived at Gaudete Sunday (Gaudete is the latin word for ‘rejoice’) on this Third Week of Advent, and the Scriptures takes on a joyful tone as we continue our preparations for the feast of our Savior’s birth and ultimately for His Secod Coming.

As the great feast of Christmas draws near, let us rejoice in Christ’s extravagant love. Let’s avail ourselves of the peace He longs to give us. And let’s look carefully at our lives to make sure we are indeed making of them a gift fitting for Him. When we get this ‘gfit’ right, all the other gifts and to’do’s on our Christmas list will fall into their proper place.



The third candle of Advent symbolizes Joy. Jubilee joy comes from our journey toward the fullness of God’s Kingdom. The upcoming Holy Year offers occasions for this through opportunities for pilgrimage and through communal liturgies. On December 29, 2024 Bishop Mark will open the Jubilee here in the diocese with a special Mass at 2 pm in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Come and celebrate “tidings of great joy.”

***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 16<sup>th</sup>**. 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 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

**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.

**JOIN US FOR OUR CLASS**, “Trinity and Christology” taught by Father Timothy Harris at St. John Vianney, Johnstown. Thursdays from 6:30 pm to 9 pm (running 10 weeks) beginning January 2, 2025. The cost of the class

is \$35.00 and must be turned in with the Registration Form.

To register, please visit the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown website at [www.dioceseaj.org/lay-ecclesial-ministry](http://www.dioceseaj.org/lay-ecclesial-ministry) or contact Jessica, Office of Adult Enrichment and Lay Ecclesial Ministry at 814-361-2000 or at 814-361-2000 or [jgramling@dioceseaj.org](mailto:jgramling@dioceseaj.org). Deadline for Class Registration is Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>.

***Christmas Season Masses***

*Holy Day – Christmas Schedule*

**Saint Joseph Catholic Church**

December 24<sup>th</sup> – 4 pm and 9 pm

December 25<sup>th</sup> – 9 am

**Saint Matthew Catholic Church**

December 24<sup>th</sup> – 5:30 pm

December 25, 2023 – midnight and 10:30 am

Christmas Midnight Mass will be broadcast on WTRN (AM 1340 an FM 100.7 and 96.9).

All Saints Parish in Bowell (Somerset County) will host their annual signing of Polish Christmas Carols (known as Koledy or Pastoralki) on Sunday ,January 5<sup>th</sup>, at 2 pm at the church (325 Quemahoning Street, Boswell). The hymns will be sung by their Polish choir. Following the singing of hymns by the parish’s Polish choir, there will be benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and refreshments. Koledy help to capture some of the finest sentiments, values, and emotions of the Polish religious, national, and artistic heritage. Polish Christmas customs are very rich; whether you are Polish or not, please come and experience the time-honored hymns celebrating the birth of Christ. For more information leas call the parish office at 814-629-5551.