

DECEMBER 19, 2021



Rejoice and Celebrate God's love!

**Saint John's
Lutheran
Church**
Spinnerstown



1565 Sleepy Hollow Road | P.O. Box 120
Spinnerstown, PA 18968
215) 536-0734
Email: stjohnsspinnerstown@gmail.com

Please visit our web site—
www.stjohnsofspinnerstown.org

Welcome to worship with St. John's of Spinnerstown!

Thank you for joining us today either in Church or online!

Our service this morning will be filled with scripture, proclamation, praise, and prayer. Everything you need is available in your bulletin.

If you have any prayer concerns to add to the list please contact the Church Office.

The Staff of St. John's

The People of St. John's

Rev. Axel T. Kaegler

(kaegax01@gmail.com or phone – 201.739.7702)

Carol Dzurenda

Darcy McConahy

Becky Hinderliter

Joseph Brooke & Laurie Stoneback

Jen Bara

Ministers

Pastor

Organist

Choir Director

Christian Education Director

Sextons

Secretary

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Office Phone: 215.536.0734 Office Email: stjohnsspinnerstown@gmail.com

Keep up with St. John's news

Now you don't have to wait a month between editions of the Spire to see what's new at St. John's. For those who use social media, we can be found on Facebook (St. John's Lutheran Church, Spinnerstown, PA), Instagram (stjohnsspinnerstown) and Twitter (stjohnsspinnerstown). Anyone online can visit our website, www.stjohnsofspinnerstown.org. Feel free to share with your "friends" and "followers" any items you find on these sites.

We now have our own YouTube Channel as well!

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHmqkdhB-ukT7eFsDokBbw/featured>

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
SPINNERSTOWN, PA
4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 19, 2021

Announcements

Prelude: "Waiting"

T. Keesecker

Darcy McConahy, solo

+ Order for Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who alone does wonders,
who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God for whom we wait,

**C: in the presence of one another,
we confess our sin before you.**

We fail in believing that your good news is for us.

We falter in our call to tend your creation.

We find our sense of self in material wealth.

We fear those different from ourselves.

We forget that we are your children

and turn away from your love.

Forgive us, Blessed One,

and assure us again of your saving grace.

Amen.

P: God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, ☩ your sins are forgiven.

You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise,
and recipients of divine mercy.

God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

C: Amen.

+ Opening Hymn: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Verses 7 & 8 #257

7 O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*

8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-725139

+ The Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of
the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

Advent Candle Lighting: “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” #240
Verse 4



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune
Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-725139

+ Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: A reading from Micah 5:2-5a.

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55

^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great things for me
and holy is your name.

⁵⁰**You have mercy on those who fear you,
from generation to generation.**

⁵¹You have shown strength with your arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

⁵²**casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.**

⁵³You have filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,**

⁵⁵the promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children forever.

Second Reading: A reading from Hebrews 10:5-10.

The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.

⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;

⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

⁷Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

⁸When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are

offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

+ Holy Gospel: The holy gospel according to Luke 1:39-45.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

Elizabeth, John’s mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth’s inspired greeting and Mary’s song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: “*Filled with Hope and Gratitude*” All Creation Sings #907
Verses 1 & 3

Filled with Hope and Gratitude



1 Filled with hope and grat - i - tude and filled with ver - y
2 God's e - ter - nal mer - cy, meant for all of hu - man -
3 Hun - gry peo - ple eat good things and find an hon - ored
4 Filled with hope and grat - i - tude and filled with ver - y



God, I sing with soul and spir - it ex - ul -
kind, is giv - en as de - liv - 'rance from op -
place; the rich are sent a - way though they are
God, I sing with soul and spir - it ex - ul -



ta - tion, for God has smiled up -
pres - sion. The pow - er - ful and
hun - gry. The prom - ise to our
ta - tion, for God has smiled up -



on the hum - ble ser - vant who will give her
haugh - ty find that they are now cast down, the
fore - bears God re - news for us to - day: the
on the hum - ble ser - vant who will give her



own sweet milk to Christ, the world's sal - va - tion.
low - ly raised be - yond this world's de - ri - sion.
world is filled with God's a - bun - dant mer - cy.
own sweet milk to Christ, the world's sal - va - tion.

Text: Paul Damico-Carper, b. 1981, based on Luke 1:46-55

Music: ADVENT MAGNIFICAT, Paul Damico-Carper

Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-725139

+ Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true
God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the
Father; through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the
Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake
he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he
ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He
will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his
kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from
the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped
and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

+ Prayers of Intercession

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that
yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

Nurturing God, you give us life and care for our every need. Use the church's
gifts and ministries for your service, bringing your word to all who seek your
transforming grace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creator God, you proclaim your boundless love for all that you have made.
Renew barren lands, polluted waters, and melting ice caps. Make us servants of
your creation that brings forth abundant life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Righteous God, you bring down the mighty and lift up the lowly. Strengthen those who seek justice. Bless the work of community organizers, activists, journalists, and all who call our attention to imbalances of power. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Compassionate God, you proclaim your love and mercy. Show your lovingkindness to teen parents and those who are pregnant. Comfort any struggling with infertility and those who await test results, are in treatment and hospice care, and others in need (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious God, you fill the hungry with good things. Bless the feeding ministries of this congregation and community. Guide us to share your bounty with those who hunger or live in poverty. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

*O God our Healer, show your compassion for the whole human family that is in turmoil and burdened with illness and with fear. Come to our aid as the coronavirus spreads globally, heal those who are sick, support and protect their families and friends from being infected. Hear our cry, O God,

listen to our prayer.

*Grant us your spirit of love and self-discipline so that we may come together, working to control and eliminate the coronavirus. Heal our self-centeredness and indifference that makes us worry only when the virus threatens us, open ways beyond timidity and fear that too easily ignore our neighbor. Hear our cry, O God,

listen to our prayer.

*Strengthen and encourage those in public health services and in the medical profession: care-givers, nurses, attendants, doctors, all who commit themselves to caring for the sick and their families. Sustain all workers and business owners who suffer loss of livelihood due to shut-downs, quarantines, closed borders, and other restrictions... protect and guard all those who must travel. Guide the leaders of the nations that they speak the truth, halt the spread of

misinformation and act with justice so that all your family may know healing.
Hear our cry, O God,
listen to our prayer.

*Heal our world, heal our bodies, strengthen our hearts and our minds, and in the midst of turmoil, give us hope and peace. Hold in your gentle embrace all who have died and who will die this day. Comfort their loved ones in their despair. Hear our cry, O God,
listen to our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Faithful God, you stir up the hearts of those who love you. We give you thanks for those who, like Mary, were courageous in their witness. Give us such courage until that day when you fulfill all things. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

We give you thanks for the Church's Bishops - Bishop Eaton and Bishop Davenport, for the Church's pastors and deacons, and all called by you and your people to lead and guide our congregations. Keep them strong and faithful in the power and grace of your abiding word. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.
Amen.

**Pandemic prayers provided by the Lutheran World Federation.*

+ Sharing of the Peace

Offering

Special Music: “*Light One Candle*”
St. John’s Choir

N. Sleeth

+ Offering Prayer

+ The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

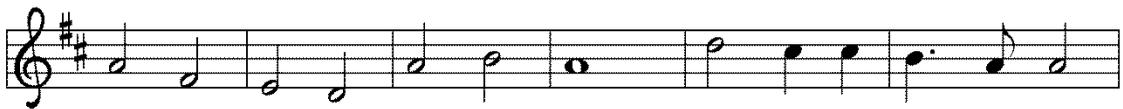
P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

+ Holy, holy, holy



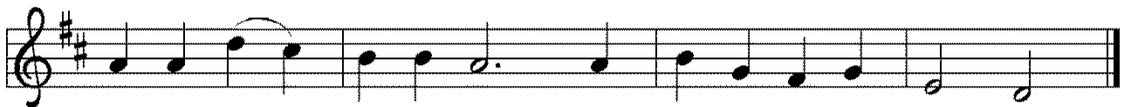
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

+ Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

+ The Lord's Prayer

Our Father,

who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power,

and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen.

Lamb of God



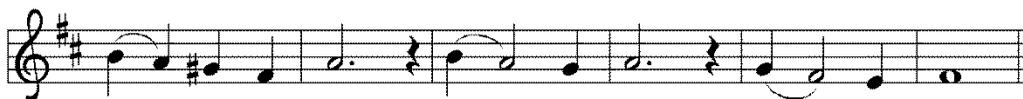
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Post-communion Blessing
Post-communion Prayer

+ Benediction

+ Closing Hymn: “*Come Now, O God*”
Verses 1 and 3

All Creation Sings #902



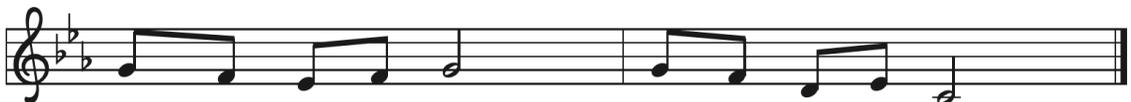
1 Come now, O God, when our love is for - sak - en.
2 Come, when we squan - der the free - dom you gave us.
3 Come, put an end to our self - serv - ing mad - ness.



Come, when our bed - rock of faith has been shak - en.
Come, break the sys - tems of sin that en - slave us.
Come, while the world is en - shroud - ed in sad - ness.



Come, when our deep - est of hopes are mis - tak - en.
Come, though we won - der if you can still save us.
Come, turn the tears of our mourn - ing to glad - ness.



Come, Em - man - u - el.

Come, Em - man - u - el.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: LOST IN THE NIGHT, Finnish folk tune

Text © 2018 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-725139

+ Dismissal

Postlude: “*Savior of the Nations, Come*”

J. Pachelbel

Sponsors for December 19, 2021

The bulletins are sponsored by St. John's Lutheran Church.

The altar flowers are sponsored by the Hartley Family in memory of loved ones and the Spry Family in memory of Alida's father, Stephen Farbotnik's birthday.

Worship Assistants for December 19, 2021

Usher Captain – Kathie Afflerbach

Greeters	George & Peggy Hudock
Ushers	Brad & Becky Hinderliter
Lector	Kit Collins
Communion Assistants	Maureen Potsko & Stephen Spry
Acolyte	Lillian Hinderliter
Altar Guild	Connie Schwartz & Linda Vey

Worship Assistants for December 26, 2021

Usher Captain – Colton Landes

Greeters	TBD
Ushers	Donna Angstadt & Stephen Spry
Lector	Jill McComsey
Communion Assistants	NO Communion
Acolyte	Nathan or Kiera McComsey
Altar Guild	Connie Schwartz & Linda Vey

Worship Assistant help needed for Christmas Eve Services!

- ★ 2:00 p.m.
 - * 2 ushers
- ★ 8:00 p.m.
 - * 2 greeters

Greeters are also needed for Sunday, December 26.

Please contact the office if you can volunteer! Thank you!

We Remember in Our Prayers

Family & Friends of Ele Hanshew, Danny Kolb, Fern Lorish, Sally Tuturice (Donna Angstadt's sister), Roy Frock (Janet Bassett's father), Reese Batchelor (friend of the Howatt family), Steve Potsko, Kathleen Lausch (Ron Lausch's mother), Betty Konjusky (Peggy Hudock's mother), Thomas Wickham (relative of Mildred Westgate), Rev. Dr. Richard Stewart, Viola Giebel (Peggy Hudock's daughter-in-law's mother), Debbie & Larry Lasher (Darcy McConahy's sister & brother-in-law), Renee Georgiadis, Michael Bowers, Dorothy Brinkman, and Joe Otto (Marsha Hartley's brother)



Prayers, Please

Our Prayer List – Each week there appears in this bulletin, a list of people for whom congregation members are asked to pray. The names are read during the “Prayers of Intercession.” The names are listed for four weeks and then removed, but they can be re-added every four weeks for as long as necessary. To add a name to the prayer list - or to renew a listing - please contact Church Secretary Jen Bara at 215-536-0734, Monday, Wednesday or Thursday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or send her an e-mail at stjohnsspinnerstown@gmail.com. To assure a name will be included in the next bulletin, please contact her by 10 a.m. Thursday.

St. John's Prayer Circle is ready and waiting for your requests. If you know someone in need of prayer – or if you would like to join the circle and expand our collective voice – please call Joan Seiger at [215-257-7478](tel:215-257-7478) or Loretta Thorsen at [215-679-2356](tel:215-679-2356).

E-mailing Prayer Concerns: For any confidential prayer concerns to give to the Pastor - reach out to: spinnerstownprayerline@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome in the Name of Jesus!

**We pray that you will be blessed by your time here today,
and that God will fill you with grace and love every day.**

Help spread some Christmas cheer – Send Christmas cards to our homebound members and let them know they are in your thoughts during the holiday season.



2022 Offering Envelopes are now available in the multi-purpose room. Please pick up envelopes **EVEN IF** you donate through Vanco so you know what your new envelope number is for 2022! Continue to use your 2021 envelopes through the end of this year – do not use the 2022 envelopes until January. Thank you!

Christmas Eve RSVP – St. John's has three worship services scheduled for Christmas Eve: 2:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m., and 8:00 p.m. To keep everyone safe, we are limiting the number of people at each service, so you will need to sign up for a time. You can sign-up on the sheets by the kitchen and front entrance, or contact the office directly by emailing stjohnsspinnerstown@gmail.com or calling 215.536.0734.

Worship Assistants assigned to any of those times should still respond, and remember to include any children coming with you! ***RSVPs due by Sunday, December 19 (tonight) at midnight!***



Christmas Eve Sponsors needed for bulletins! Please contact the office or sign-up on the sheet by the kitchen!

Coffee Hour is back! Servers and bakers needed for coffee hour! ***The 2022 sign-up sheet is available.*** If you can volunteer to bake and/or serve, please sign up on the bulletin board by the kitchen or contact the office! Thank you in advance!





Vanco Online Giving – St. John's can now receive your offering via online & mobile giving through Vanco! In addition to your offering, you can contribute to other funds such as the Stained Glass Window Fund and Cemetery Fund. You will also be able to sponsor altar flowers, bulletins, the monthly Spire, as well as the seasonal flowers such as Easter Lilies and Poinsettias!

Members who plan to use the Vanco online or mobile giving tool SHOULD create an account in order to accurately receive credit for your offering and/or sponsorships, etc. and to make it easier for our financial secretary to keep track!

To use online, simply go to our website and look for the “Vanco Online Giving” button on our homepage. Follow the instructions to create an account.

You can also download the Vanco app at the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#). When prompted, use this code to create an account for St.

John's: CSTDSA

Please don't hesitate to contact the office if you have any questions!

Visitation with Holy Communion – Those in the Congregation who aren't coming to worship in person, but who hunger for the Sacrament of Holy Communion are invited to call the Church office, or email Pastor Kaegler to schedule a visit with Holy Communion.

Dates to Remember

12/24/21	2:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship
12/26/21	NO Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship
01/04/22	1:00 – 7:00 p.m. Blood Drive
01/08/22	9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. UBC Learning Event

Christmas Eve Worship Assistants

	2:00 p.m.	4:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m
Usher Captains	Stephen Spry	Kathie Afflerbach	Stephen Spry
Greeters	Jill McComsey & Richard Kelly	George & Peggy Hudock	TBD
Ushers	TBD	Gary & Diane Small	Joe & Karen Hinderliter
Lectors	Stephen Spry	Kathie Afflerbach	Brad Hinderliter
Acolytes	Kiera McComsey	Brady Massinger	Blake Hinderliter
Communion Assistants	Kathie Sensinger & Randy Felten	Kathie Afflerbach & Peggy Hudock	Brad & Becky Hinderlier

Winter 2021-2022 Sponsorships are available!

Sponsors are needed for almost all weeks and months!

Please consider sponsoring in honor of or in memory of someone special in your life.

Bulletin Sponsors – The cost is \$20 to help cover the expense of mailing the bulletin to our members who do not have email and cannot come to worship.

Available dates for 2021: December 24 and 26

Spire Sponsors –\$30/month for one person/family, or you can split the sponsorship with another for \$15 each.

All months available in 2022 except January!

Altar Flower Sponsorships are \$17.50 for one bouquet or \$35 for both.

Available dates for 2021: December 26

Sign up on the board by the kitchen or contact the office at stjohnspinnerstown@gmail.com or 215-536-0734.