

First Friday Club of Greater Akron Media Advisory

Contact: Mike Herhold 330-204-4746

Reservations: FFC Office 330-535-7668 or www.firstfridayclubofgreaterakron.org



John Allen
Associate Editor of *The Boston Globe*

December 7, 2018

Francis and What is Happening in the Church at This Time

John L. Allen Jr. is associate editor of *The Boston Globe* after 16 years as the prize-winning Senior Correspondent for the *National Catholic Reporter*. In addition, he is the editor of *Crux*, specializing in coverage of the Vatican and the Catholic Church and serves as the Senior Vatican Analyst for CNN. He's the author of seven best-selling books on the Vatican and Catholic affairs, and writes frequently on the Church for major national and international publications. He's also a popular speaker on Catholic affairs, both in the United States and abroad.

The London *Tablet* has called Allen "the most authoritative writer on Vatican affairs in the English language," and renowned papal biographer George Weigel has called him "the best Anglophone Vatican reporter ever." When Allen was called upon to put the first question to Pope Benedict XVI aboard the papal plane en route to the United States in April 2008, the Vatican spokesperson said to the pope: "Holy Father, this man needs no introduction." That's not just a Vatican judgment. Veteran religion writer Kenneth Woodward of *Newsweek* described Allen as "the journalist other reporters – and not a few cardinals – look to for the inside story on how all the pope's men direct the world's largest church."

Allen's work is admired across ideological divides. Liberal commentator Fr. Andrew Greeley calls his writing "indispensable," while the late Fr. Richard John Neuhaus, a conservative, called Allen's reporting "possibly the best source of information on the Vatican published in the United States." His weekly internet column, "All Things Catholic," is widely read as a source of insight on the global Church.

Allen's most recent book is *The Global War on Christians: Dispatches from the Front Lines of Anti-Christian Persecution*. John divides his time between Rome and his home in Denver, Colorado. He grew up in Western Kansas, and holds a Master's degree in Religious Studies from the University of Kansas.

The First Friday Club will meet December 7, 2018 at Tangier Restaurant, 532 W. Market Street, Akron OH 44303. The cost of the luncheon is \$20.00 Doors open at 11:00 AM; the program begins at noon, and ends promptly at 1:00 PM. Reservations can be made by calling 330-535-7668; by sending a check to the First Friday Club of Greater Akron, 795 Russell Ave., Akron, Ohio 44307; or online at www.firstfridayclubofgreaterakron.org. See the website for information on subscriptions for the 2018 luncheon series.