



**33rd Sunday in  
Ordinary Time  
November 19, 2023**

## **St. John the Evangelist Church**

**309 Lotz Avenue, Altoona, PA 814-942-5503**

### **PASTORAL STAFF**

Monsignor Michael Becker - mbecker253@aol.com  
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Ken Dunmire - Maintenance

### **MASS SCHEDULE**

**MONDAY - 8:30 AM TUESDAY - 8:30 AM**  
**WEDNESDAY - 6:00 PM**  
**THANKSGIVING MASS - 9:00 AM FRIDAY - 8:30 AM**  
**SATURDAY - 4:00 PM**  
**SUNDAY - 8:00 AM & 11:00 AM**

### **November Prayer Intention of Pope Francis**

#### **For the Pope**

We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfills his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.



### **NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS**

#### **LECTORS**

Sat. November 25- 4:00 PM - John Majcher, Joyce Cunningham  
Sun. November 26- 8:00 AM - Ginny Reeder, Mike Greslick  
Sun. November 26- 11:00 AM - Susan Podoletz, Donna Moyer

#### **ALTAR SERVERS**

Sat. November 25- 4:00 PM - Lexington Tatar, Iris Tatar  
Sun. November 26- 8:00 AM - Emily Miller, Nicholas Helsley  
Sun. November 26- 11:00 AM - Evie Koch, Estella Koch

#### **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

Sat. November 25- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, NOT FILLED  
Sun. November 26- 8:00 AM - Diane Turcovsky, Daniel Turcovsky  
Sun. November 26- 11:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Cecelia Bloom,  
Dolores Capriotti, Kenneth Gorman, Bob Olson,  
NOT FILLED

#### **MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY**

Sat. November 25- 4:00 PM - Larry VanSickel, Paula VanSickel,  
NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED  
Sun. November 26- 8:00 AM - Jane Becker, John Becker,  
Mike O'Neill, NOT FILLED  
Sun. November 26- 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Peg Madden,  
Patrick Podoletz, NOT FILLED

#### **SACRISTAN**

Sat. November 25- 4:00 PM - Mary King, Ray King  
Sun. November 26- 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci  
Sun. November 26- 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan

#### **SCRIP**

Sat. November 25- 4:00 PM - Lori Baker, Becky Merilli  
Sat. November 26- 8:00 AM - Chris Palazzi, Marge Rudolph  
Sun. November 26- 11:00 AM - Patrick Podoletz, NOT FILLED

## A Few Words from the Pastor:

**THANKSGIVING DAY MASS:** Thanksgiving has been on the liturgical calendar for the United States since 1970. **As is our parish tradition, we will gather at 9:00 AM to celebrate the greatest prayer of thanksgiving, the Eucharist.** The British writer and Catholic philosopher G.K. Chesterton is quoted as saying: "The worst moment for an atheist is when he is really thankful and has no one to thank." Today, football games and dining room tables filled with food tend to overshadow the real meaning of Thanksgiving for American citizens, even Catholic ones. It is important for people to come together on this special day, celebrating that sense of community when we come together to thank God for our lives, our families, our freedom, our abilities. Do join us, won't you?

**WEEK 7: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS** -- As we approach the Advent season, it is most appropriate for us to do a good examination of conscience, particularly since we will be celebrating a reconciliation service on December 3. My prayer this week is that God will give us the grace to identify how the 10 Commandments fit into my life as a gift to bring awareness, healing, balance, and God's peace. I will also ask God for the grace to identify the deepest hope of my heart for my life and my future.

**THIS WEEK'S SACRED STORY:** Saint Cecilia, A Roman virgin martyr of the third century, is honored on November 22 as the patron saint of music and is a symbol of the central role of music in liturgy. It is said that she heard heavenly music when she was married. Because of her ties to music, she is often depicted in art, statues and religious items with a harp, organ or other musical instruments. At our own cathedral in Altoona, the stained glass window behind the organ pictures Cecilia holding an organ. *"Music is the greatest creation man has ever made. It has the power to move us and free our souls. It's the breathing of the earth and the lullaby of the universe. In spirituality, **music can bridge reality to the spiritual realm.** It can uplift our spirits and transform us through the charming spell it radiates."* How blessed is our parish for its long tradition of quality liturgical music. *I am convinced that music draws us closer to God, because music so often comes from another time and place.*

**EUROPEAN PILGRIMAGE – June 3 – 16, 2024:** I will be leading pilgrimage to some of the most sacred sites in Europe. We will be travelling first to Rome, and then on to Lisbon, Fatima, Lourdes and Paris. There are still a few seats available, and I would welcome the pleasure of your company! Brochures are available in the Gathering Space. The cost for double occupancy is \$6,690 per person. Please call if you have any questions!

**ADVENT CALENDARS:** This Advent season we will again make available Advent Calendars. They are available in the Gathering Space for \$3 dollars.

**AN IMPORTANT COLLECTION COMING UP!** The annual collection that supports nearly 25,000 elderly religious sisters, brothers and religious order priests in the United States will take place in participating dioceses on the weekend of December 9-10. The collection, coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO), distributes financial assistance for retirement needs to eligible religious institutes. Be generous when the time comes!

### SAVE THE DATES!

**Thanksgiving Day Mass:** Thursday, November 23rd at 9am

**I Give Catholic-Giving Tuesday:** Tuesday, November 28th-Support our electrical and kitchen upgrades

**Children's Liturgy:** Sunday, December 3rd at the 11am Mass

**Advent Penance Service:** Sunday, December 3rd at 4pm

**Breakfast with Santa:** Sunday, December 10th at 9am to 11am in the Gym/Father Bailey Hall

**Choir Cantata - Ceremony of Candles:** Sunday, December 17th at 3pm at St. John's Church

**#IGIVECATHOLIC:** St. John's is excited to participate in the 2023 #iGiveCatholic Campaign. Your gift can make an impact! Our 24-hour giving day is coming November 28th and we are asking for your support to help us raise money for our school kitchen and electrical upgrades. Your gift of \$10 or more can help us reach our goal! Advanced giving online started November 13th. If you prefer to give offline, please use the #iGiveCatholic envelopes provided in the Gathering Space. Help make a difference in our parish and improve our ability to have parish events! Give thanks, Give back, Give Catholic!

## Schedule for the Week of November 19th

### Sunday, November 19 - 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

11:00 AM - Mass for *Fred Mazzarella* requested by  
Karen Mazzarella

### Monday, November 20 - Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Ron Peschock* requested by  
Ron & Joyce Cunningham

### Tuesday, November 21 - Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:30 AM—Mass for *Dee Burchfield* requested by  
Bob & Ginny Reeder

### Wednesday, November 22 - St. Cecilia

6:00 PM - Mass for *Phyllis J. Long* requested by  
Dee Schmerbeck

### Thursday, November 23 - Weekday

9:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

### Friday, November 24 - St. Andrew Dung-Lac

8:30 AM - Mass for *Rose Marie Moczydlowski* requested by  
Barb Bundy

### Saturday, November 25— Vigil of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

4:00 PM - Mass for *Tiff Mickens & Grady Weyandt*  
requested by Linda Weyandt

### Sunday, November 26 - Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

8:00 AM - Mass for *Vincenza Mento* requested by  
Bob & Ginny Reeder

11:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

**ADVENT GROUPS:** St. John's will be having small sharing groups on the Eucharist during the four weeks of the Advent season. Readings and questions will be provided for the facilitators and participants. Anyone interested in being a facilitator/leader, please sign up in the form provided on the kiosk. If you are interested in participating in an Advent group, please sign up on the forms in the Gathering Space center table. Each sheet has the leader and group time listed so you can choose the group that fits your schedule best. You can also contact Jane Becker at 814-414-9836 for further information or questions.

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION:** The 2024 Marriage Preparation Series has released their upcoming schedule. Local sessions will be offered January 6 & 20 at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament and at St. John's April 15, 22, 29. Please contact the office for more information or take a pamphlet from the kiosk.

**8 SAINTS YOUTH BADMINTON TOURNAMENT:** Sunday, November 26th- 6pm-8pm at St. Patrick's Gym in Newry. Enter a team of 4 or join a team when you arrive. Pizza and drinks provided. Open to all 7th-12th Graders. RSVP your team or student to Tim Baranik at 814-207-7008 or email tbaranik24@gmail.com. Permission slips provided after registration and will be required.

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER:** Today's readings challenge us to live not for the 'here and now', but rather with eternity in mind. We are reminded that we will be called one day to give an account for the gifts God has given us – our physical, intellectual and material gifts – as well as the gift of time itself. We must examine our lives to determine whether we are making the best use of our gifts with the time we have been given to use them. Let us embrace the stewardship way of life, using all the gifts entrusted to us – Time, Talent and Treasure – in such a way that at the end of our life on this earth, we will hear those words from our Father: "Well done, my good and faithful servant... Come, share your master's joy."

### *November 4/5*

Envelopes	\$ 6,655.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 1,088.00
Children's Envelopes	\$ 5.00
Parish Development	\$ 20.00
Catholic Education	\$ 100.00
World Mission Sunday	\$ 50.00
All Saints' Day	\$ 629.00
All Souls' Day	\$ 326.00
Thanksgiving	\$ 20.00
Online Giving	\$ 3,743.75
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 12,636.75</b>

**ANGEL TREE 2023:** St. John's Parish will assist Catholic Charities to work with those in need this Christmas Season. The Parish Angel Tree will be located in the Gathering Space. You may stop by the Church and grab a tag after Mass or during the week. Doors are open from 8am to 2:30pm Monday through Friday. Catholic Charities imposes the rule that you may not spend more than \$50 for a gift. Please return your wrapped gift, with the tag attached to the Gathering Space by December 10th. The week of December 11th we will take the gifts to Catholic Charities, where families will pick them up. On the tree you will find requests for food gift cards (Giant Eagle, Martin's, Walmart) that you can purchase with scrip and then place the gift cards in the Angel Tree box located on the scrip table. We will give those cards to Catholic Charities and they will disburse them to the families. Any questions, please call the Parish Office at 814-942-5503.

**THE MIRACLE OF JESUS:** Holy Rosary Church will hold The Miracle of Jesus Christmas Program on December 3, 2023. Families are invited to spend 40-60 minutes exploring "Bethlehem, visiting the shops and engaging in fun and meaningful activities at their own pace. Please pre-register in order for us to have enough supplies by calling Barb at Holy Rosary rectory , 814-944-6676.

### **ST JOHN'S PRAYER LIST**

Please call Ginny Reeder (695-7671) or email her at [giny.reeder@gmail.com](mailto:giny.reeder@gmail.com) to add or remove someone from the prayer list. PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING and their caregivers and give thanks for those who have recovered. *Lord we ask for your blessings and care for these and all people in need:*

**All Garvey Manor Residents • Britta Albright  
Charles Bassett • Idy Caporuscio • Michelle Cooney  
Mary Lee DeStefano • Kathy Ganz  
Devon McCarter Graham • Marlene Hartman  
Kay Laratonda • Connor McLaughlin • Kathy Mittermeier  
Patricia Olson • Ryan Raybuck • Anne Showalter  
Reed Stellabotte • Tim Temofonte • Mary Truesdale  
Dorothy Yingling**

HOME WITH THE LORD: Your prayers are requested for the repose of the souls of:

Dee Burchfield, mother of Debbie & Ed Ergler

May she rest in the peace and joy of the Lord.

**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT:** Experiencing a loss of any kind is difficult and lonely. Our bereavement programs are designed to acknowledge the pain and the loss, while offering positive ideas for coping. Consider joining us for any or all of the following:

**Bereavement Gatherings** are held monthly in the St. Michael Convent Building (the house between the church and the school). For more information contact Debbi Chapman at 912-713-5412. Upcoming dates are:

Wednesday, December 11 at 9:30 AM

Wednesday, January 10 at 9:30 AM

Tuesday, January 23 at 6:30 PM

**Journey Through Loss** is a seven-week program for those who have lost a loved one through death. The next session begins on Wednesday, January 10. We will meet weekly from 6:30-8:00 PM at the St. Michael Convent Building in Hollidaysburg. For more information contact Mary Petrak at 814-502-6076.

**TOASTY TODDLER COLLECTION:** It's Toasty Toddler time and we are looking for your assistance. Last year, 598 children, birth through age five received a new coat, hat and gloves through the generosity of businesses, agencies, clubs and individuals in Blair County. Last year, staff and 42 volunteers worked 62 hours sorting, packing, organizing, and distributing this warm winter outerwear for Toasty Toddler. Help us keep our youngest in Blair County warm again this winter. The bin for collecting the coats, etc. will be in the gathering space. There is a second distribution day in early December. Thank you for your help with this project.

**THANK YOU!** CDA Court Prince Gallitzin # 2625 would like to express their utmost gratitude to all the parishioners for their recent donations to our annual Animal Drive for the Humane Society. Through your generosity many items were able to be delivered and provided for all the animals sheltered there. Thank you and may God bless you all!

### **FAITH FORMATION NEWS**

**November 19th-Class 9:15am-10:45am for K-8th Grade**

**November 19th-10th Grade Confirmation Retreat at St. Mary's from 1pm-3pm**

**November 26th-No Class-Thanksgiving Break**

**December 2nd-2nd Grade Reconciliation Retreat & Sacrament of Reconciliation**

**December 3rd-Class 9:15am-10:45am & Children's Liturgy at 11am Mass**

**December 10th-No Class/Breakfast with Santa 9-11am**

**December 17th-9:15am- 10:45am Family Advent Event (A parent and student should attend)**

*If you would like more information or have questions, please contact Diane Ryan at 814-942-5503 or email [stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net](mailto:stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net).*

**BLAZIN' ANGELS:** Blazin' Angels is a multi-parish young adult group for people ages 18-39 years old. Please feel free to reach out to Amber Yasolsky or Cherié Langenbacher via email at [blazinangels.yagroup@gmail.com](mailto:blazinangels.yagroup@gmail.com) for more information. The next meeting will be held on December 10th at 6pm over at St. John the Evangelist's Parish Center.

**NATIVITY FESTIVAL:** Last year, St. Mary and St. Michael parishes in Hollidaysburg hosted their first ever Nativity Festival as a gift to the parish communities including all in the surrounding community area. It was a huge success! Over 200 nativity scenes were on display and well over 600 people attended the two day event. This festival encourages attendees to reflect on the humble birth and life of Jesus Christ, our Savior, and is a self-guided, free public event. It features magnificently crafted nativity sets loaned by parishes, parishioners and friends. These works reflect the culture and perspective of artists around the world. This amazing event for the whole family includes a free Christmas Concert by the Altoona Community Band and this year there will be a LIVE nativity scene as well! This year they are excited to feature the parish nativity scenes from St. Catherine, St. John, St. Patrick, St. Thomas More and St. Joseph Parishes AND the personal scenes of their parishioners. We really hope that every parishioner will participate and attend the festival. If you think you would like to have your own personal family nativity set(s) displayed, please take home a flyer with you today from the Gathering Space table. A video of last year's video can be found at [stmichael-hldg-pa.org](http://stmichael-hldg-pa.org)



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