



***Our Lord Jesus Christ,
King of the Universe
November 26, 2023***

St. John the Evangelist Church

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

PASTORAL STAFF

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 Mark Krepich - Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults
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 Ken Dunmire - Maintenance

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY - 8:30 AM TUESDAY - 8:30 AM
WEDNESDAY - 6:00 PM
THURSDAY - 8:30 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. December 2- 4:00 PM - David Langguth, Iris Tatar
 Sun. December 3- 8:00 AM - Amber Yasolsky, Susan Podoletz
 Sun. December 3- 11:00 AM - Camille Krug, John Sukala

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. December 2- 4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, Sadie Swope
 Sun. December 3- 8:00 AM - Emily Miller, Nicholas Helsley
 Sun. December 3- 11:00 AM - Liam Schurr, Chloe Truscello

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. December 2- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, NOT FILLED
 Sun. December 3 - 8:00 AM - Lou Ann Clark, Darlene Scarpaci
 Sun. December 3- 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Barbara Bundy,
 Bob Olson, Susanna Tomlinson, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. December 2- 4:00 PM - Karen Moughemer, Dennis Moughemer,
 Larry VanSickel, Paula VanSickel
 Sun. December 3- 8:00 AM - Ed Stoltz, Mary Truesdale,
 Diane Turcovsky, Daniel Turcovsky
 Sun. December 3- 11:00 AM - Faith Formation Students

SACRISTAN

Sat. December 2- 4:00 PM - Mary King, Ray King
 Sun. December 3- 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci
 Sun. December 3- 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan

SCRIP

Sat. December 2- 4:00 PM - Julie Beiswenger, Marge Rudolph
 Sat. December 3 - 8:00 AM - Erika Yasolsky, Heather Yasolsky
 Sun. December 3 - 11:00 AM - Jane Byrne, Carolyn English

A Few Words from the Pastor:

WEEK 8 OF OUR SACRED STORY RETREAT: Last week we were invited to reflect upon the 10 Commandments. This week Saint Ignatius invites us to be especially attentive to the vices and addictive behaviors that erode our life story. We turn to Christ the Divine Physician to awaken us to our faults and to lead us to healing and interior freedom. We are asked to reflect upon the seven capital sins: pride, greed, gluttony, lust, sloth, envy and anger. We are urged reflect upon the way in which, by naming these vices in ourselves, we can be led into the loving and forgiving arms of Christ our healer.

ADVENT BEGINS - Advent celebrates the thrice coming of Christ: in history, in the present, and in the future. Our celebration of Advent will be highlighted by the children of our parish, leading us in worship at the 11:00 Mass on the first Sunday of Advent, December 3. Participating in all the liturgical ministries, our young people will be an important part of our preparation for the coming of Christ!

ADVENT Penance SERVICE – An important part of every retreat is the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. A personal confession to a priest requires humility and honesty. We cannot grow spiritually without this sacrament, for it invites us to encounter our sinfulness and to experience the healing of Christ, our Divine Physician. Our parish communal Penance Service will be celebrated next Sunday, December 3rd, at 4:00 PM. Please join us.

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!

THE SACRED STORY OF ANDREW, THE APOSTLE: Our Sacred Story for this week is of St. Peter's brother Andrew. The first striking characteristic of Andrew is his name: it is not Hebrew, as might have been expected, but Greek, indicative of a certain cultural openness in his family. In both the Gospels of Matthew and Mark, the brothers Simon Peter and Andrew were called together to become disciples of Jesus and "fishers of men", as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee. The Gospel of John, however, states that Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist, whose testimony first led him, and another unnamed disciple of John the Baptist, to follow Jesus. Andrew at once recognized Jesus as the Messiah and hastened to introduce him to his brother Simon Peter. Medieval writings indicate that Andrew preached along the Black Sea and the Dnieper River as far as Kiev, and from there he travelled to Novgorod. Hence, he became a patron of Ukraine, Romania, and Russia. *I wonder how Andrew is dealing with a war which pits two countries against one another and who both embrace him as their patron?!*

SAVE THE DATES!

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, coinciding with Giving Tuesday, a day where we are encouraged to do good and help make a difference in our community. This year 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 is available now. 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! Only a few days left to participate! Give thanks, Give back, Give Catholic!

Schedule for the Week of November 26th

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*

Monday, November 27 - Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *The Ladies of the Monday Arise Group*

Tuesday, November 28 - Weekday

8:30 AM—Mass for *Sheri Ventre* requested by
Bob & Ginny Reeder

Wednesday, November 29 - Weekday

6:00 PM - Mass for *Tom Semelsberger* requested by
Fran Semelsberger

Thursday, November 30 - St. Andrew

9:00 AM - Mass for *Yoshi Adachi* requested by
Michele & Lance DeFrancisco

Friday, December 1 - Weekday

8:30 AM - Communion Service

Saturday, December 2— Vigil of First Sunday of Advent

4:00 PM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

Sunday, December 3 - First Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM - Mass for *Deceased members of the Ergler &
Burchfield families* requested by Ed & Debbie Ergler

11:00 AM - Mass for *Barbara Neral* requested by
Deacon Gene Neral

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.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA COSTUMES: We are looking for used, solid colored sheets or light blankets that could be used to make simple costumes for the Christmas Cantata scheduled on December 17th at 3pm. If you have any of these items to donate, please bring them to the Parish Office or leave them by the piano for Patti. Thank you!

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: Today we come to the end of the liturgical year, celebrating the magnificent feast of the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Our readings provide contrasting images of our King – He has authority over all, and yet, He is humble and tender in His care for us, especially the most vulnerable. How can we properly honor and love such a King? By offering Him our very lives through the stewardship way of life. What is it that He expects from us? The passage begins with Christ's own descriptions of His Second Coming, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him." Then the moment of judgement will come. This judgement will be based not on how influential we became in society, how high we climbed the corporate ladder, nor any worldly achievements. Rather our judgement will be based on how we treated the last of those around us. The more deeply we embrace the stewardship way of life, the more closely our priorities will align with His. This way of life prepares us well for our judgement day and helps us to live in imitation of our King.

November 11/12

Envelopes	\$ 3,591.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 495.00
Children's Envelopes	\$ 1.00
Parish Development	\$ 195.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 20.00
All Saints' Day	\$ 25.00
Thanksgiving	\$ 25.00
Online Giving	\$ 2,044.75
Total Offertory	\$ 6,396.75

ANGEL TREE 2023: Please remember to return wrapped gifts with the tags and food gift cards to the Gathering Space by Sunday, December 10th. Food tags for Giant Eagle, Martin's, Walmart can be attached to the purchased gift card and placed in the box located on the scrip table. These cards will be distributed to families in need by Catholic Charities. Gifts must be wrapped and returned the weekend of December 10th so that delivery can be organized. Please contact the Parish Office with any questions at 814-942-5503. Thank you for your generosity!

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.

ST JOHN'S PRAYER LIST

Please call Ginny Reeder (695-7671) or email her at ginny.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**

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 Debby 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. 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. *

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 for more information. The next meeting will be held on December 10th at 6pm over at St. John the Evangelist's Parish Center.

ST. NICK FESTIVAL: Holy Trinity School-Eldorado is hosting a St. Nick Festival at the St. Rose Gymnasium on Sunday, December 3rd from 11am-5pm. There will be over 30 craft vendors, Larry's BBQ, The Dirty Soda Shack, face painting, crafts and a photo op with St. Nick himself! Admission is free!

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

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)

December 24th/31st-No Class-Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

If you would like more information or have questions, please contact Diane Ryan at 814-942-5503 or email stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net.

* **BREAKFAST WITH SANTA:** Please join us Sunday, De- *
* cember 10th from 9am-11am in Fr. Bailey Hall (School *
* Gym) for breakfast, games, crafts, and photos with *
* Santa. Please bring your own device to take pictures. *
* Everyone is welcome! All parishioners are encour- *
* aged to stop over for breakfast. Santa will be check- *
* ing his list to see who is naughty and who is nice, so *
* stop over to make sure you are on the nice list and *
* grab a bite to eat! *

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



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