



**31st Sunday in
Ordinary Time
November 5, 2023**

St. John the Evangelist Church

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

PASTORAL STAFF

Monsignor Michael Becker - mbecker253@aol.com
 Deacon Gene Neral - gene@lifeinfocus.net
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 pjimenez@dioceseaj.org
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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. November 11- 4:00 PM - Joyce Cunningham, Iris Tatar
 Sun. November 12- 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci, Mike Greslick
 Sun. November 12- 11:00 AM - Barb ara Bundy, Bob Olson

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. November 11- 4:00 PM - Chloe Truscello, Jeremy Truscello
 Sun. November 12- 8:00 AM - Emily Miller, Nicholas Helsley
 Sun. November 12- 11:00 AM - Colin Schurr, Liam Schurr

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. November 11- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, NOT FILLED
 Sun. November 12- 8:00 AM - Diane Turcovsky, Daniel Turcovsky
 Sun. November 12- 11:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Cecelia Bloom,
 Dolores Capriotti, Kenneth Gorman, Susanna Tomlinson,
 NOT FILLED

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. November 11- 4:00 PM - Karen Moughemer, Dennis Moughemer,
 Larry VanSickel, Paula VanSickel
 Sun. November 12- 8:00 AM - Carolyn English, Ray Kennedy,
 Ginny Reeder, NOT FILLED
 Sun. November 12- 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Wendy Campbell,
 Peg Madden, Patrick Podoletz

SACRISTAN

Sat. November 11- 4:00 PM - Mary King, Ray King
 Sun. November 12- 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci
 Sun. November 12- 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan

SCRIP

Sat. November 11- 4:00 PM - Becky Merilli, NOT FILLED
 Sat. November 12 - 8:00 AM - Amber Yasolsky, Heather Yasolsky
 Sun. November 12- 11:00 AM - Chris Palazzi, Patrick Podoletz

A Few Words from the Pastor:

WEEK 5: OUR NAME FOR GOD IN PRAYER: Our prayer this week is to ask for the inspiration to discover the name of God that speaks directly to my heart. There are so many names for God: which one most resonates with your heart? Here are but a few names which we most often use for God:

Loving Father, Gracious Father, Loving Creator, Creator God, God of love, Holy God, Father of the Poor, God of all Mercy, God of all Compassion, Father of Jesus, Lord Jesus Christ, Christ Jesus, dear Jesus, Jesus merciful Savior, Jesus my Savior, Good Shepherd, Crucified Savior, Holy Spirit of Jesus, Spirit of the Lord, Creator Spirit. Spend time this week reflecting on the name of God which most resonates with your heart. That name, then, is the name that you are invited to use throughout this retreat.

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE FOR PEACE AND HEALING: The dual values of healing ("tikkun" in Hebrew) and peace ("shalom") are at the heart of this year's 92nd Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Thursday, November 16, 2023 at 7:00 PM at Sacred Heart Church, 6th Avenue and 20th Street, Altoona. Hosted by the Sixth-Ward Ministries, this annual service of gratitude plays an important role in bringing together all our faith communities. Father Lubomir Strechok and Sacred Heart Parish is hosting this year's service. All are encouraged to participate.

NOVEMBER, THE MONTH OF ALL SOULS – In a visit to the War Cemetery in Rome on All Souls Day, Pope Francis said the day's feast evokes thoughts of both "memory and hope: Memory of those who preceded us, who have spent their lives, who have ended this life; memory of the many people who have done us good: in the family, among friends." Reflecting on hope, the theme of the upcoming Holy Year in 2025, officially title "Pilgrims of Hope", the pope said the day's feast is also a time to look forward, to look at our road, our path. "We are walking toward an encounter with the Lord, with everyone. And we must ask the Lord for this grace of hope: hope that never ever disappoints, which is the everyday virtue because it carries us forward."

OUR SACRED STORY RETREAT: JUST WHAT DO WE MEAN BY THE EXPRESSION "SACRED STORY"? In short, it is the lifelong story of our relationship with God. Our sacred story begins at birth and continues until that moment we are taken home to our Father in heaven. However, for many of us, we are unaware of our life as a sacred story which begins from God and ends in God. This retreat is a personal invitation to each of us to become more aware of our sacred story which is unfolding in Christ. God's intention in this retreat is to gradually heal and transform our thoughts words and deeds, so that we might become one in Christ Jesus, so that His sacred story might become ours! This retreat is an opportunity to awaken to the sacred story of God's relationship with us, to embrace our relationship with Christ, which will forever change our life and our relationships on this earth, leading us to unimaginable peace!

SAVE THE DATES!

Dinner of Thanksgiving at The Dream: Thursday, November 16th at 5pm

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

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

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

LECTOR WORKBOOKS: The 2024 Lector Workbooks are available in the Gathering Space for our lectors. Please pick one up. Thank you to our lectors for helping with this important ministry and for sharing your time and talent!

#IGIVECATHOLIC: St. John's is excited to participate in the 2023 #iGiveCatholic Campaign. 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 starts November 13th. More details to come in the next few weeks!

Schedule for the Week of November 5th

Sunday, November 5 - 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM - Mass for *Ida Prosperi* requested by
John Prosperi

11:00 AM - Mass for *Brad Johnson* requested by
Walt & Cecelia Bloom

Monday, November 6 - Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Sam & Hilda Neal* requested by
Julie & Bernie Beiswenger

Tuesday, November 7 - Weekday

8:30 AM—Mass for *Carlos Gungon* requested by
Wife & Children

Wednesday, November 8 - Weekday

6:00 PM - Mass for William David Rossman requested by
David & Bonnie Loth

Thursday, November 9 - The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

8:30 AM - Mass for *Mike Susick* requested by
Dan & Mary Susick

Friday, November 10 - St. Leo the Great

8:30 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

Saturday, November 11- Vigil of 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Sunday, November 12 - 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM - Mass for *Tom & Mary McGrath* requested by
Dan & Linda McGrath

11:00 AM - Mass for *Deceased members of the Angelo
Lapenna & Michael Novak Sr. families* requested by
Judy & Chuck Stephens

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS: Please email any upcoming bulletin announcements to Diane Ryan at stjohndsecr-
tary@atlanticbb.net or call the Parish Center at 814-942-
5503. Bulletin announcements need to be submitted by
Wednesday to be included in the following weekend bul-
letin.

MOTHER TERESA MINISTRY: If you are interested in par-
ticipating in our new ministry of reaching out to our local
homebound through visits, cards and/or prayers please
check out the information on display in the Gathering
Space. Forms are available to complete if you are inter-
ested in helping or would like to offer the name/
information for someone who would like to be visited.
Forms can be completed and returned to the folder on the
display. If you have any questions, please contact Mary
Susick at 814-207-0185.

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING PRAYER SERVICE: "Prayers of
Peace and Healing"- In this time of strife, in this time
when terror grips the hearts of many, we take the time to
ask the God of peace to bring peace to this earth. Please
join the people of different faiths in Altoona area to pray
together on Thursday November 16, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at
Sacred Heart Church (corner of 6th Avenue and
20th Street).

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: Jesus says, "The greatest among
you must be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be
humbled, but whoever humbles himself will be exalted."
Those two sentences are the key to a stewardship way of
life, which revolves around service and humility. There is
no question that these are powerful words. They reveal
to us all that we need to understand to be a true disciple
of Christ. In his letter to the Philippians, St. Paul wrote,
"Though He was in the form of God, He did not count
equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied
himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the
likeness of men. And being found in human form, he
humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of
death, even death on a cross." (Phil. 2:5-8). God will ulti-
mately exalt true humility. Our society teaches us to
strive to reach the top, but Jesus reminds us to regard
others as more important than we are. Perhaps we have
two choices in life: to be self-exalters or God-exalted. Is
there any doubt about what we should pursue as Chris-
tians?

October 21/22

Envelopes	\$ 3,250.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 699.00
World Mission Sunday	\$ 171.00
All Saints' Day	\$ 15.00
All Souls' Day	\$ 85.00
Peter's Pence	\$ 10.00
Retired Medical	\$ 10.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,133.75
Total Offertory	\$ 5,373.75

ANGEL TREE 2023: St. John's Parish will assist Catholic
Charities to work with those in need this Christmas Sea-
son. The Parish Angel Tree will be located in the Gather-
ing 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 im-
poses 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 Char-
ities and they will disburse them to the families. Any ques-
tions, please call the Parish Office at 814-942-5503.

FREEZER WANTED: We are looking for an upright freezer -
size 13.8 - 16 cu in. We would accept a used one in good
condition. Buying new the cost would range from \$600 to
\$900. If you or anyone you know is interested in donating
or selling, please contact Ginny (695-7671) or the office
(944-2503).

ST JOHN'S PRAYER LIST

Please call Ginny Reeder (695-7671) or email her at 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 • Dee Burchfield • 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

Marion Tessitore, sister of Leonard & Robert Stokes and aunt of Jenna Stokes-Jenkins

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

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT: We are working with St. Michael and St. Mary's parishes to offer support to anyone dealing with a loss. Our 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). Upcoming dates are:

Wednesday, Nov. 8 at 9:30 AM

Tuesday, Nov. 21 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.

Both programs are Christian based. All denominations are welcome! For more information call/text: Debbi Chapman at 912-713-5412 or Mary Petrak at 814-502-6076.

PILGRIMAGE: Msgr. Stan Carson will be leading a pilgrimage to Fatima, Lourdes, & Discovery of Barcelona from September 15-24, 2024. A slide show and more information will be presented on Thursday, November 9, from 6:00-7:30 P.M. in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament's hall. Pilgrimage information is also available at <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1213040> and at the Cathedral's Facebook page.

CASH BASH: St. Patrick's School will be holding a Cash Bash on November 18th. Doors open at 5:30pm. A chance to win up to \$2000! \$100 ticket includes admission for two adults with dinner and drinks, plus chances to win CASH! For more information or to purchase tickets please call the school office at 814-695-3819. Must be at least 21 to attend.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

November 5th-Class 9:15am –10:45am Safety Lessons

November 12th-No Class

November 17th-9th Grade Confirmation Retreat at St. Mary's, Altoona from 6pm-8pm

November 18th-11th Grade Confirmation Retreat at St. Mary's from 9am-5pm

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

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

GAME NIGHT: Blazin' Angels will be hosting a game night at Saint John the Evangelist's Parish Center (Lakemont) on November 12th from 6-9pm. 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.

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 starting Oct. 7-8. The first distribution date is November 9, so if you could drop off your donations before that it would be appreciated. There is a second distribution day in early December. Thank you for your help with this project.

MONASTERY ADVENT SERIES: Beginning on Wednesday, November 29 and on each following Wednesday of Advent we will offer a series on Advent-The Two Comings of Christ. Join us for our Advent Reflections as we explore Sunday Scriptures. All classes will be held at St. Bernardine Monastery, 768 Monastery Road, Hollidaysburg. For details on class times, cost and to register, please call 814-695-3802. We look forward to seeing you as we prepare for Christmas and the birth of Jesus!



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