



## 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  
 Patricia Jimenez - Director of Music  
 pjimenez@dioceseaj.org  
 Stephanie Baker-Business Manager  
 sbaker@dioceseaj.org  
 Diane Ryan - Faith Formation Coordinator/Secretary  
 stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net  
 Iris Tatar - Director of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd  
 iristat38@gmail.com  
 Mark Krepich - Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults  
 mark.krepich@gmail.com  
 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**

### **December Prayer Intention of Pope Francis**

For Persons with Disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.



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

#### **LECTORS**

Sat. December 16- 4:00 PM - Jeremy Truscello, David Langguth  
 Sun. December 17- 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci, Susan Podoletz  
 Sun. December 17- 11:00 AM - Iris Tatar, Richard Consiglio

#### **ALTAR SERVERS**

Sat. December 16- 4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, Sadie Swope  
 Sun. December 17- 8:00 AM - Emily Miller, Nicholas Helsley  
 Sun. December 17- 11:00 AM - Liam Schurr, Aidan Schurr

#### **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

Sat. December 16- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, NOT FILLED  
 Sun. December 17- 8:00 AM - Diane Turcovsky, Daniel Turcovsky  
 Sun. December 17- 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Barbara Bundy,  
 Kenneth Gorman, Bob Olson, Susanna Tomlinson,  
 NOT FILLED,

#### **MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY**

Sat. December 16- 4:00 PM - Betsy Lloyd, Karen Moughemer,  
 Dennis Moughemer, NOT FILLED  
 Sun. December 17- 8:00 AM - Ray Kennedy, Jane Strasser,  
 Larry VanSickel, Paula VanSickel  
 Sun. December 17- 11:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Wendy Campbell,  
 Dolores Capriotti, Mary Grace Horton

#### **SACRISTAN**

Sat. December 16- 4:00 PM - Mary King, Ray King  
 Sun. December 17- 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci  
 Sun. December 17- 11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy

#### **SCRIP**

Sat. December 16- 4:00 PM - Julie Beiswenger, Becky Merilli  
 Sat. December 17- 8:00 AM - Chris Palazzi, Marge Rudolph  
 Sun. December 17- 11:00 AM - Patrick Podoletz, NOT FILLED

## A Few Words from the Pastor:

**WEEK 10 OF OUR SACRED STORY RETREAT:** *My personal sacred story is not a series of disconnected events or experiences. My time of prayer is meant to help me see connections between the various aspects of my story, the good and bad, the bitter and the sweet. In this Advent season, as I consider the flow of the various moments of my life, I do so with the Divine Physician by my side. Christ invites me not to be afraid but to wake up in my life – my spiritual life. I will watch and pray with Christ.*

**OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE, THIS WEEK'S SACRED STORY:** On Tuesday we celebrate the Blessed Virgin Mary, the patroness of the Americas. Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared in Mexico as the pregnant Mother of God to Blessed Juan Diego, an Aztec Indian, on December 9, 10, and 12, 1531. She left a Miraculous Image of her appearance on his cactus fiber cloak, or "tilma", which still exists today for all to see in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. Our Lady came to offer faith, hope and consolation to the oppressed natives of Mexico and to reconcile them with their Spanish rulers. She put an end to the bloody human sacrifice of the Aztecs and converted ten million natives in the next 10 years!

*Remember, O most gracious Virgin of Guadalupe, that in your heavenly apparitions on the mount of Tepeyac, you promised to show your compassion and pity towards all who, loving and trusting you, seek your help and call upon you in their necessities and afflictions. You promised to hear our supplications, to dry our tears, and to give us consolation and relief. O Virgin of Guadalupe, you want to remain with us through your admirable Image, you who are our Mother, our health, and our life. Placing ourselves beneath your maternal gaze, and having recourse to you in all our necessities, we need do nothing more. O Holy Mother of God, in your mercy hear and answer us. Amen.*



**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!*

**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 this weekend. 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!

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

**Angel Tree:** Sunday, December 10th Last day to return gifts and gift cards to the Gathering Space

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

**St. John Feast Day Mass & Breakfast:** Wednesday, December 27th Mass at 8:30am followed by breakfast at The Dream Restaurant at 9:30am

**#IGIVECATHOLIC UPDATE:** A BIG thank you to everyone who supported our #IGIVECATHOLIC campaign over the last few weeks! Between online and envelope donations we have collected over \$4,800 so far! Although online donations are no longer available, we can still accept envelope donations. Envelopes are available in the Gathering Space. Stay tuned for updates as we make the upgrades to our kitchen and electrical projects! THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUP-

## Schedule for the Week of December 10

### Sunday, December 10 - Second Sunday of Advent

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

11:00 AM - Mass for *Joseph & Rose Novak* requested by Judy & Chuck Stephens

### Monday, December 11 - Advent Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Cierra Clark* requested by Michele & Lance DeFrancisco

### Tuesday, December 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:30 AM—Mass for *Leroy Musselman* requested by Anna Musselman

### Wednesday, December 13 - St. Lucy

6:00 PM - Mass for *Virginia Burket* requested by Dee Schmerbeck

### Thursday, December 14 - St. John of the Cross

9:00 AM - Mass for *Bill Hermesky* requested by Barbara Bundy

### Friday, December 15 - Advent Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Tom Semelsberger* requested by Fran Semelsberger

### Saturday, December 16— Vigil of Third Sunday of Advent

4:00 PM - Mass for *Fred Mazzarella* requested by Karen Mazzarella

### Sunday, December 17 - Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM - Mass for *50th Anniversary of Bill & Jeanne Wieland* requested by the Wieland family  
11:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

**LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULING:** For January 6 – May 26, 2024 It's time to schedule for Winter-Spring 2024. If you have internet access please enter your NOT available dates in your profile in Ministry Scheduler Pro. Here is the direct link to that website – [www.rotundasoftware.com/ministry/teammates](http://www.rotundasoftware.com/ministry/teammates)

There is also a link from our parish website ([WWW.STJOHNSALTOONA.ORG](http://WWW.STJOHNSALTOONA.ORG)) and a link in the email reminder you will receive soon. There are cards available in the gathering space for those who do not have access to the internet. If you are not able to update your profile online or visit the church to fill out a card, you may give me a call on a weekday evening between 7 PM and 10 PM or on the weekends at 814-932-2223. Please update your profile online or call me or fill out a card and return it by midnight on Sunday, December 17th. Family members can fill out one card front and back. Thank you for your service to our faith community throughout the year!

**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.

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER:** We serve a merciful and patient God – in His kindness, He warns us that we will be called to make an account one day for the way in which we made use of the gifts He has given us. The most precious gift He has given us is His own Son, Whose birth we are preparing to celebrate. Through the readings today, we are to assimilate two truths – the merciful love of God and the responsibility that comes with the privilege of living as His disciple. St Peter tells us we should conduct ourselves “in holiness and devotion” and that we should be “eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.” Indeed, this is the goal of our Advent ‘reset’ – to return to (or intensify) living lives focused on Christ, in gratitude for all He has done for us. In practical terms, this means that we as Christian stewards must make good use of the gifts of time we have been given this Advent season. Let's be sure to get to Confession, prioritize a daily reading of the Scriptures, and reach out to someone in need with a word of comfort or an act of service. In this way, we will honor both the mercy and justice of our God, and we will be prepared to celebrate the birth of Christ and give account for all His gifts to us.

### November 25/26

Envelopes	\$ 4,099.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 514.00
I Give Catholic	\$ 1,885.00
Christmas Offering	\$ 100.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 75.00
Food Bank	\$ 10.00
Thanksgiving	\$ 260.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,298.75
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 8,241.75</b>

**2023 Catholic Ministries Drive Goal - \$41, 761**

**January 1, 2023-November 30, 2023**

**Total Gifts/Pledges - \$38,897**

**ANGEL TREE 2023:** Thank you for your generous response to our Angel Tree requests. **Please return your wrapped gift, with the tag attached, to the Gathering Space by December 10th.** We will take the gifts to Catholic Charities, where families will pick them up. Please contact the Parish Office with any questions.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:** Memorial donations for Christmas flowers should be submitted online or by using the envelope provided in your packet. All requests should be received in the office by Monday, December 18th, to be acknowledged in the December 24th bulletin.



### 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  
Lois Werfel • John E. Wolfe • Dorothy Yingling**

HOME WITH THE LORD: Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of:  
Janet E. Kauffman, mother of Lisa Moore  
May they 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 13 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.

### Local Penance Services:

#### December 10

Saint Mary Parish, Hollidaysburg – 4:00 PM

#### December 11

Saint Rose of Lima Parish, Altoona – 6:30 PM

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Altoona – 7:00 PM

#### December 14

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Altoona – 5:30 PM

#### December 18

Saint Matthew Parish, Tyrone – 7:00 PM

#### December 19

Holy Rosary Parish, Altoona – 6:00 PM

#### December 20

Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona – 6:00 PM

#### December 21

Sacred Heart Parish, Altoona – 5:30 PM



### FAITH FORMATION NEWS

**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](mailto:stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net).*

**ADULT FAITH FORMATION:** Beginning in January the schedule for Adult Faith Formation will follow the Faith Formation Calendar for grades K-8, so that parents are able to attend. We will meet on Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 10:45 on January 7 and 21.

In January we will begin A Walk Through the Mass, a five-session series by Edward Sri. Dr. Sri helps us to understand the historical and biblical roots of the words, prayers, actions, and gestures contained within the Mass. Registration is not necessary. Please join us for food, faith, and fellowship. For more information contact Mary Petrak at 814 502 6076 or [mfpetrak@hotmail.com](mailto:mfpetrak@hotmail.com).

**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

### **CHRISTMAS LIVE CENTERPIECE CLASS:**

Come join in the fun of making a live pine centerpiece arrangement for the Holidays!

When: Sunday, December 17

Time: 4:30-6:30pm

Where: Saint John's cafeteria

Cost: \$10

Please bring small hand pruners, latex gloves and your Christmas spirit!

Class limited to first 20 adults

Call Cindy Trimarco 814-935-2778 to sign up and for any questions. Deadline Dec 14

**ALPHA AT ST. JOHN'S:** ALPHA will be coming to our parish in the new year. More information on this program will be provided in upcoming bulletins.

**"IS THERE MORE TO LIFE THAN THIS?"**

**"IS THIS**

**IT?"**

**"DO I HAVE A  
PURPOSE?"**

**"WHAT'S THE  
MEANING  
OF LIFE?"**

**"IS THERE A  
GOD?"**

**"WHAT AM I  
DOING HERE?"**

**COMING SOON...**

Alpha