



**REJOICE ALWAYS
PRAY WITHOUT CEASING
IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES GIVE THANKS**

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

**Third Sunday of Advent
December 17, 2023**

**St. John the Evangelist Church
309 Lotz Avenue, Altoona, PA 814-942-5503**

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**

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24th
VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
4:00 PM & 10:00 PM
MONDAY, DECEMBER 25th
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
10:00 AM**

NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS

LECTORS

Sat. December 23- 4:00 PM - Maria Spayd, Joyce Cunningham
Sun. December 24- 8:00 AM - Norma Foose, Bill Foose
Sun. December 24- 11:00 AM - Susan Podoletz, Jim Campbell
Sun. December 24-4:00 PM - Patrick Schurr, Camille Krug
Sun. December 24-10:00 PM - Ginny Reeder, Susan Podoletz
Mon. December 25-10:00 AM - Gary Johnson Richard Consiglio

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. December 23- 4:00 PM - Chloe Truscello, Jeremy Truscello
Sun. December 24- 8:00 AM - Emily Miller, Nicholas Helsley
Sun. December 24- 11:00 AM - Aidan Schurr, Colin Schurr
Sun. December 24-4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, Sadie Swope, NOT FILLED
Sun. December 24-10:00 PM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Mon. December 25-10:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. December 23- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, NOT FILLED
Sun. December 24 - 8:00 AM - Diane Turcovsky, Daniel Turcovsky
Sun. December 24- 11:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Cecelia Bloom,
Barbara Olson, Bob Olson, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Sun. December 24-4:00 PM - Kenneth Gorman, Darlene Scarpaci,
Susanna Tomlinson, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Sun. December 24-10:00 PM - Connie Baker, Bob Olson,
Dolores Capriotti, NOT FILLED
Mon. December 25-10:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. December 23- 4:00 PM - Larry VanSickel, Paula VanSickel,
NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Sun. December 24- 8:00 AM - Carolyn English, Ashley Greslick,
Mike Greslick, Mike O'Neill
Sun. December 24- 11:00 AM - Peg Madden, Patrick Podoletz,
NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Sun. December 24-4:00 PM - Jane Becker, John Becker,
Karen Moughemer, Dennis Moughemer, Ed Stoltz,
Mary Truesdale, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Sun. December 24-10:00 PM - Darlene Scarpaci, NOT FILLED,
NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Mon. December 25-10:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci, NOT FILLED,
NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED

SACRISTAN

Sat. December 23- 4:00 PM - Jane Byrne
Sun. December 24- 8:00 AM - NOT FILLED
Sun. December 24- 11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy
Sun. December 24-4:00 PM - NOT FILLED
Sun. December 24-10:00 PM - NOT FILLED
Mon. December 25-10:00 AM - NOT FILLED

SCRIP

Sat. December 23- 4:00 PM - Lori Baker, Chris Palazzi
Sat. December 24 - 8:00 AM - Amber Yasolsky, Heather Yasolsky
Sun. December 24 - 11:00 AM - Peg Madden, Marge Rudolph

Schedule for the Week of December 17

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*

Monday, December 18 - Advent Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Regina Schall* requested by Mr. & Mrs. Larry Shedlock

Tuesday, December 19 - Advent Weekday

8:30 AM—Mass for *Bradley Johnson* requested by Michele & Lance DeFrancisco

Wednesday, December 20 - Advent Weekday

6:00 PM - Mass for *Donna Long & Carol Bismark* requested by Dee Schmerbeck

Thursday, December 21 - Advent Weekday

9:00 AM - Mass for *Barbara Neral* requested by John & Dixie Smith

Friday, December 22 - Advent Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *George Goch*

Saturday, December 23— Vigil of Fourth Sunday of Advent

4:00 PM - Mass for *Bill Schmerbeck* requested by Dee Schmerbeck

Sunday, December 24 - Fourth 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*

Sunday, December 24-Vigil of The Nativity of the Lord

4:00 PM - Mass for *People of the Parish*
 10:00 PM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

Monday, December 25 - The Nativity of the Lord

10:00 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

There is also a link from our parish website (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!

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS: Please email any upcoming bulletin announcements to Diane Ryan at stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net or call the Parish Center at 814-942-5503.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: Today we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday. 'Gaudete' is a Latin word meaning 'rejoice'. The Christian steward should be characterized by a spirit of rejoicing. The more we embrace the stewardship way of life, the more we will be filled with joy. We can become like John the Baptist, in today's Gospel passage from the Book of John. We read this description of the prophet: "A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light. ... He was not the light, but came to testify to the light." This is our calling too, to testify to the Light, our wonderful Savior, by the way we make use of the time, talent and treasure He has entrusted to our care. Our actions and our priorities themselves give testimony to all that God has done in our lives. What a privilege! When God himself is the source of our joy, it cannot be taken away from us. There is still time, this Advent season, to clear away any 'clutter' in our lives that may take our focus away from Him. Let us strive to detach from any of these things so that we can be free to truly rejoice in God on Christmas Day.

December 2/3

Envelopes	\$ 7,318.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 450.00
Children's Offerings	\$ 3.00
Catholic Education	\$ 115.00
I Give Catholic	\$ 1,695.00
Christmas Offering	\$ 200.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 960.00
Catholic Charities	\$ 135.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 75.00
Retirement for Religious	\$ 240.00
Thanksgiving	\$ 145.00
Online Giving	\$ 3,136.60
Total Offertory	\$14,472.60

2023 Catholic Ministries Drive Goal - \$41, 761
January 1, 2023-November 30, 2023
Total Gifts/Pledges - \$38,897

THANK YOU! A BIG thank you to everyone who donated and helped organize our Angel Tree this year! We helped 5 families for a total of 10 children and collected over \$5,000 in gift cards. Your generosity is very much appreciated and we were able to brighten the Christmas season for so many in need in our area. THANK YOU!

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.

#GIVECATHOLIC UPDATE: We hit our goal of \$5,000 with the donations from last weekend! Thank you to everyone who so generously donated this year! Stay tuned for updates as we begin our upgrades!

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 • 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
Anne Zelnosky**

HOME WITH THE LORD: Your prayers are requested for the repose of the souls of:
Bob Long, father of Melissa Ringkamp, brother of Connie McManuels, and Dee Schmerbeck
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, 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.

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.



Local Penance Services:

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 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!**

January 7th-Class 9:15am-10:45am

**January 7th-10th Grade Spring Session -ALL 10th Grade
Students must attend 9:15am-10:45am followed by the
10th Grade Rite of Commitment 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.*

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.

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 December 16th.

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

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Ken Dunmire - Maintenance