



***Third Sunday in  
Ordinary Time  
January 21, 2024***

## **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**

### ***January Prayer Intention of Pope Francis***

Gift of Diversity in the Church

We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals of the Catholic Church.



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

#### **LECTORS**

Sat. January 20- 4:00 PM - Maria Spayd, James Krug  
 Sun. January 21- 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci, Mike Greslick  
 Sun. January 21- 11:00 AM - Dave Auerbeck, Richard Consiglio

#### **ALTAR SERVERS**

Sat. January 20- 4:00 PM - Chloe Truscello, Jeremy Truscello  
 Sun. January 21- 8:00 AM - Emily Miller, Nicholas Helsley  
 Sun. January 21- 11:00 AM - Camille Krug, Colin Schurr

#### **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

Sat. January 20- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, NOT FILLED  
 Sun. January 21 - 8:00 AM - Diane Turcovsky, Daniel Turcovsky  
 Sun. January 21- 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Barbara Bundy,  
 Dolores Capriotti, Kenneth Gorman, Bob Olson,  
 Susanna Tomlinson

#### **MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY**

Sat. January 20- 4:00 PM - Betsy Lloyd, Dennis Moughemer,  
 Karen Moughemer, NOT FILLED  
 Sun. January 21- 8:00 AM - Jane Becker, John Becker, Ginny Reeder,  
 Ed Stoltz  
 Sun. January 21- 11:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Lou Ann Clark,  
 Peg Madden, Patrick Podoletz

#### **SACRISTAN**

Sat. January 20- 4:00 PM - Ray King, Mary King  
 Sun. January 21- 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci  
 Sun. January 21- 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan

#### **SCRIP**

Sat. January 20- 4:00 PM - Lori Baker, Becky Merrill  
 Sat. January 21- 8:00 AM - Erika Yasolsky, Heather Yasolsky  
 Sun. January 21- 11:00 AM - Jane Byrne, Carolyn English

### **SAVE THE DATES!**

**Parish Breakfast:** Thursday, January 25th after the 8:30am morning mass at The Dream in Hollidaysburg  
**Ash Wednesday:** Wednesday, February 14th Soup Supper after 6pm Mass

## A Few Words from the Pastor:

**SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD: JANUARY 21!** This Sunday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Pope Francis asks that we observed the Sunday of the Word of God. He declared it "a Sunday given over entirely to the Word of God, so as to appreciate the inexhaustible riches contained in that constant dialogue between the Lord and his people." *A special blessing will be given on your bible, and on you as a bible reader!!*

**CELEBRATING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE:** In their journey toward Confirmation, our 9<sup>th</sup> Graders will participate in a special "Rite of Blessing" at today's 11:00 Mass. At the same Mass, our 10<sup>th</sup> Graders will celebrate the "Rite of Commitment." We affirm our young people in their journey of faith!

**WEEK 15 OF OUR SACRED STORY RETREAT: NARCISSISM!** *It makes me the center of the universe and arbiter of all truth. It displaces God so that I can be "like a god." The Narcissist is the ultimate "self-centered" person. Becoming aware of my self-centeredness is a positive move toward spiritual growth. When we notice such narcissism in ourselves, we are to set our eyes and hearts on Christ Jesus, the Divine Physician. An essential goal of the retreat is to acknowledge ourselves as hopelessly self-centered, and to place God and my neighbor at the center of my life. When asked about Jesus, St. John the Baptist said, "He must increase, I must decrease!" We pray about this throughout the week, asking the Divine Physician to heal us from the inside out, taking from us our stoney hearts and giving us a heart that is more like his own Sacred Heart.*

**THE YEAR OF MARK: A PARISH BIBLE STUDY**—Our gospel readings for Sunday Mass in 2024 will be taken from the gospel of Mark. On Wednesday evenings following our 6:00PM Mass, I will be leading a bible study on Mark in the Parish Center, beginning at 6:45PM. There will be video presentations by the noted biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine, as well as ample time for discussion. Sessions will last no more than 90 minutes. We will begin on January 31<sup>st</sup>, (skipping Ash Wednesday because of our Soup Supper), and continue until the March 20<sup>th</sup>—seven sessions in all. This will be an enriching way to experience Lent. Please join us. Printed materials will be available. Bring your favorite bible and prepare to embark on an inspiring Lenter Journey.

**READING THE BIBLE**—As we observe the Sunday of the Word of God, it is a good opportunity to begin (or begin again!) to read the bible daily. This is an essential part of our Sacred Story retreat, as we read the "Greatest Story Ever Told."

### **SUGGESTIONS FOR BIBLE READING:**

1. CHOOSE A BIBLE version that's understandable and easy to read. There are even bibles online.
2. YOU DON'T HAVE TO START AT THE BEGINNING of the Bible.  
Since this is the Year of Mark, this is a good place to start.
3. READ A LITTLE EACH DAY, perhaps just one chapter, for five or ten minutes a day, reading slowly and prayerfully.
4. Read for INFORMATION but especially for INSPIRATION. It is not how many verses you read, but how you carefully listen to God speaking to your life.
5. As you read the Bible ASK TWO QUESTIONS: What does this teach me about God? What does this teach me about myself and how I should live?
6. ALWAYS BEGIN AND END WITH PRAYER! Pause before you open your Bible and ask God to speak to you. When finished, ask God to help you remember his word spoken to you, His love letter written to His people, and especially for you!

**PRAYER PAL 2024:** The members of St. Mary, St. Michael, St. John the Evangelist, Hollidaysburg Church of the Brethren, and St. Joseph Parish in Williamsburg are happy to announce that Prayer Pal will be offered to all parishioners this Lenten season. A letter and application form are included in the bulletin for your convenience. Registrations will also be accepted online by scanning the QR code also available in the Gathering Space. Please take a few moments to read over the information and join the over 285 participants from last year in this rewarding and prayerful experience. If anyone has any questions please feel free to contact one of the committee members listed below:

Dave Madden 814-695-0395

Bob Muldoon 814-515-7050

Mary Jo Lanzel 814-934-6793

Mary Leap 814-937-9789

Anne Musser 814-515-8028

Anita Carvalho 209-993-2818

Donna Messner 814-934-9023

Jane Becker 814-414-9836

Lisa Myers 814-934-0619

Dec. Kevin Nester 717-574-4856



## Schedule for the Week of January 21st

### Sunday, January 21 - 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM - Mass for *Guido Prosperi* requested by

John Prosperi

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

### Monday, January 22 - Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

8:30 AM - Mass for *Bradley Johnson* requested by

Joe McCloskey Jr.

### Tuesday, January 23 - St. Vincent

8:30 AM—Mass for *Joanne Byrne* requested by

Bob & Ginny Reeder

### Wednesday, January 24 - St. Francis de Sales

6:00 PM - Mass for *Intentions of Ron & Dee Artim*

### Thursday, January 25 - The Conversion of St. Paul

8:30 AM - Mass for *Barbara Neral* requested by

John Hescox family

### Friday, January 26 - St. Timothy & St. Titus

8:30 AM - Mass for *Dolores Burchfield* requested by

Justin & Leo Ergler

### Saturday, January 27— Vigil of 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 PM - Mass for *Bill & Josephine Seiler* requested by

Ron & Joyce Cunningham

### Sunday, January 28 - 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM - Mass for *Ryan Ergler* requested by

Ed & Debbie Ergler & family

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

**WARMING CENTER:** Are There Homeless in Altoona? There are indeed homeless people in Altoona. As Christians we are asked by God to help those in need. We at St. John's have been addressing the needs of the poor for many years. Your generosity through out the year with clothing, food and monetary donations every Second Sunday is a huge help to Food Banks and those in need. As the cold and wet weather arrive, a group of concerned community members are addressing the issue of homeless individuals. There a lot of issues and we can only do a few at a time. This committee is made up of Agencies and concerned Christians. Their first endeavor is a warming center open from January until March 31, 2024. This year the center is located at Over Flow Church at 127- 5 Avenue, Altoona PA. Each evening at 9:00PM people come to the center and register for a cot to sleep on. Many agencies are present to evaluate their needs. There are 80 volunteers who take turns spending the night. Two for the women who sleep upstairs and two men who sleep downstairs. A guard is hired and present at all times. At this time no children are allowed but the committee is working to include children in the future. The guests leave at 7:00AM after light breakfast donated by Green Bean. If you would like to help, please give money to St. John's and mark Warming Shelter on an envelope or check.

Susanna Tomlinson - Co Chair of the Samaritan Committee

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER:** Our readings today call us to be decisive in our faith. God calls us as stewards to repent and renew our commitment to Him each day. In our First Reading, God instructs the prophet Jonah to travel through the city of Nineveh and warns the people that the city would be destroyed due to their evil ways. When the people of Nineveh heard this, they declared a fast in repentance. The Lord saw this and had compassion for them. Every moment is an opportunity to either grow closer to God or further away from Him. Our Gospel today shares Mark's account of Jesus calling His first disciples. In his account, Jesus approaches Simon and Andrew, and later, James and John. These four men were fishermen, casting their nets. Jesus states, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." In both instances, the men immediately abandoned what was before them and followed Christ. As we settle into this New Year, let us ponder the ways we can repent and renew our commitment to God. Let us ask ourselves, what are we casting our nets for? And are we willing to leave it behind for something much greater? If not now, when?

### January 6/7

Envelopes	\$ 3,229.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 455.00
Catholic Education	\$ 45.00
Ash Wednesday	\$ 5.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 30.00
Online Giving	\$ 3,899.75
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 7,663.75</b>

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

**January 1, 2023-December 31, 2023**

**Total Gifts/Pledges - \$39,609**

**2023 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS** will be available upon request beginning January 30, 2024. Please call the Parish Office at 814-942-5503 to request your giving statement. A contribution statement will not be mailed to you unless you call the office to request it. If you are registered with My Own Church, you can log in and download your statement yourself.

**PARISH CAST:** If you did not receive a Parish Cast robo call regarding the Mass cancellation for the January 6th 4pm Mass, please contact the Parish Office to be added or to update your information. You can also email any contact information updates to Diane Ryan at [stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net](mailto:stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net). Thank you!

**FAMILIES AND THE GOSPEL:** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar It must have been difficult for Zebedee to watch his sons walk away and follow Jesus. It was the end of "Zebedee and Sons Fishing, Inc." Our children were never ours. They are only on loan to us. We raise them to let them go.

### **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  
Bill Arend • Charles Bassett • Idy Caporuscio  
Eleanor Christine • Michelle Cooney  
Mary Lee DeStefano • Kathy Ganz  
Devon McCarter Graham • Marlene Hartman  
Kay Laratonda • Connor McLaughlin • Kathy Mittermeier  
Patricia Olson • Ryan Raybuck • Dan Roberts  
Anne Showalter • Reed Stellabotte • Tim Temofonte  
Mary Truesdale • Lois Werfel • John E. Wolfe  
Dorothy Yingling • Anne Zelnosky**

**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT:** Dealing with a loss, whether in the past or recent, is difficult and lonely. Our support groups will allow you to acknowledge the pain and to learn positive strategies for coping.

Journey Through Loss is a seven week program for those who have lost a loved one through death. Call Mary Petrak, 814-502-6076, for dates and information.

St. Michael and St. Mary Parishes offer monthly meetings for those who have experienced a loss. Call Debbi Chapman, 912-713-5412, for dates and information.

**ST ROSE OF LIMA SVDP CONFERENCE – CARE PACKAGE PROGRAM 2024** -With the assistance of the parishioners from St Rose of Lima, St John the Evangelist and St Patrick, the St Rose SVDP Conference will once again be running its Care Package program for our seniors, the homeless in our community, new or expectant moms, and single parents. These packages contain items that each group would find useful, such as toiletries, blankets, gloves, hats, jig saw puzzles, scented candles, healthy snacks, diapers, baby wipes, parenting books, coffee mugs, bath bombs, activity books, etc. Each donor is also asked to include items to help boost the mental health of the recipient, such as a handwritten note of encouragement, a rosary, prayer card, gift card, etc. Also, new this year, our SVDP Conference is asking that you include in your package(s) a prayer card that our Conference will be supplying. The cards will be attached to the flyers that list suggested items for each group. The collection period will run from January 21<sup>st</sup> through March 11<sup>th</sup>. Care Packages can be returned to the Gathering Space when filled. The care packages will be delivered to these needy individuals and families with the help of Family Services and WIC. The members of the St Rose SVDP Conference would like to take this time to thank all those who help make programs like this one possible and the lives of the needy a bit easier. God Bless You All!



### **FAITH FORMATION NEWS**

**January 21st-Class 9:15am-10:45am**

**January 21st-9th & 10th Grade Spring Session-ALL 9th & 10th Grade Students must attend 9:15am-10:45am followed by the 9th Grade Rite of Blessing and the 10th Grade Rite of Commitment at 11am Mass**

**January 28th-No Class**

**February 4th-Class 9:15am-10:45am**

**February 11th-Family Lent Event-9:15am-10:45am All students and at least one parent/guardian should attend. Children's Liturgy following Lent Event at the 11am Mass.**

**February 18th-No Class**

*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:** The Adult Faith Formation class meets on Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 10:45 on January 21, February 4 (Feb 11, Family Lent Event), March 3 and March 17, April 7 and April 21, May 5.

Our topic is A Biblical Walk through the Mass by Edward Sri. For more information contact Mary Petrak at 814-502-6076 or [mfpetrak@hotmail.com](mailto:mfpetrak@hotmail.com).

**BLAZIN' ANGELS:** Join us on January 21st at St. John the Evangelist's Parish Center from 6-9pm. Deacon Gene Neral will be speaking about his book. Anyone ages 18-39 are welcome to join. If you are interested in attending or interested in learning more please let Cherié Langenbacher and Amber Yasolsky know by emailing us at [blazinangels.yagroup@gmail.com](mailto:blazinangels.yagroup@gmail.com).

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

**BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Please email any upcoming bulletin announcements to Diane Ryan at [stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net](mailto:stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net) or call the Parish Office at 814-942-5503. Bulletin announcements need to be submitted by Wednesday to be included in the following weekend's bulletin.

### **Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church**

**February 14, 2024**

**Ash Wednesday Fish Dinner**

**4:00 pm - 7:00 pm**

**Serving at School Cafeteria on 8th Avenue**

**\$14.00 - BAKED OR FRIED FISH**

**Tickets sold in advance at the Parish Office, 806 11th St.**

**Take outs available**