



***Fourth Sunday in
Ordinary Time
January 28, 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
 stjohsecretary@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. February 3- 4:00 PM - Joyce Cunningham, David Langguth
 Sun. February 4- 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci, Ginny Reeder
 Sun. February 4- 11:00 AM - Camille Krug, James Krug

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. February 3- 4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, Sadie Swope
 Sun. February 4- 8:00 AM - Emily Miller, Nicholas Helsley
 Sun. February 4- 11:00 AM - Colin Schurr, Liam Schurr

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. February 3- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, NOT FILLED
 Sun. February 4- 8:00 AM - Diane Turcovsky, Daniel Turcovsky
 Sun. February 4- 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Barbara Bundy,
 Dolores Capriotti, Lou Ann Clark, Kenneth Gorman,
 Susanna Tomlinson

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. February 3- 4:00 PM - Betsy Lloyd, Dennis Moughemer,
 Karen Moughemer, NOT FILLED
 Sun. February 4- 8:00 AM - Carolyn English, Ashley Greslick,
 Mike Greslick, Ed Stoltz
 Sun. February 4- 11:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Wendy Campbell,
 Peg Madden, Patrick Podoletz

SACRISTAN

Sat. February 3- 4:00 PM - Jane Byrne
 Sun. February 4- 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci
 Sun. February 4- 11:00 AM - Dolores Capriotti

SCRIP

Sat. February 3- 4:00 PM - Gary Johnson, Becky Merilli
 Sat. February 4- 8:00 AM - Erika Yasolsky, Heather Yasolsky
 Sun. February 4- 11:00 AM - Peg Madden, Marge Rudolph

A Few Words from the Pastor:

WEEK 16 OF OUR SACRED STORY RETREAT: *WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT IN MY DAY?* We rarely miss a meal and simply cannot function without sleep! If my physical needs are important, how much more is the time I take to direct my conscious attention – my mind and heart – to God in a prayer relationship. Not only is my relationship with God the most important dimension of life, it is also a relationship that takes time – a lifetime – to build! The depth of the relationship I desire will be evident in my fidelity to my prayer and sacramental life. As Jesus reminds us, “where your treasure is, there your heart will be”! Daily Bible reading can be a key element of your growth in Christ!

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 31st, (skipping Ash Wednesday because of our Soup Supper), and continue until the March 20th—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 Lenten Journey.

CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE: “STRENGTH IN CHRIST” is set for March 3 from 11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Mount Aloysius College in Cresson. The theme is *J2J: Journey to Jesus*. Nationally recognized speaker and musician Cooper Ray will be the keynote presenter. Father Michael Pleva and Father Brian Norris will also share their incredible faith journeys. Also, a great panel discussion with six Catholic men from throughout the diocese sure to inspire guys on their faith journey. The day includes lunch and Mass at 5:00 p.m. with Bishop Mark. There is no cost. Seating is limited, so register before February 23 online at dioceseaj.org or pick up a hard copy registration form in the Gathering Space!

NATIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK is an annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. Now entering its 50th anniversary year, Catholic Schools Week begins on January 28th and continues until February 3rd. We are blessed here in the Altoona area to have a strong Catholic School presence, with Most Holy Trinity Elementary School and Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School. We affirm the commitment and sacrifices which parents and parishes make in providing a Faith-centered environment where our children can grow in their love for God and in their formation as disciples of Jesus Christ.

ASH WEDNESDAY + VALENTINE'S DAY: An interesting combination! The date of Easter is set for the first Sunday after the first full moon of the spring Equinox. It can fall as early as March 22, or as late as April 25th. This year it is on March 31st. By a coincidence of the calendar, backing up to the beginning of Lent, we find that our celebration of Ashes and Valentines occur together!

LIVE! MARK'S GOSPEL! On Sunday, February 4th, (a no football Sunday!) at 2:00 PM, in our Parish Center, we will view the “Gospel of Mark” performed by noted actor Max McLean! McLean has made it his life's work to make the Bible come alive for his audiences. He has performed the books of Mark, Acts, and Genesis to millions of people on television and radio and theater. Experience Mark's gospel through Maclean's dynamic and at times humorous narration. Refreshments will be provided!

FRIDAY IS CANDLEMAS DAY - We commonly think of February 2nd as Ground Hog Day. In the Church, however, Candlemas Day celebrates the 40th day since Christmas, and is also known as the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus Christ, the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord. It is a Christian Holy Day commemorating the presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple. It is based upon the account of the presentation of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke.

MEMORIAL OF ST. BLAISE – There is a beautiful tradition in the Church when we bless throats on St. Blaise day, February 3rd. We will do individual blessing of throats, as well as a communal blessing at the end of next weekend's Masses.

SAVE THE DATES!

St. Blaise Day: Saturday, February 3rd and Sunday, February 4th Blessing of Throats at Weekend Masses

Ash Wednesday: Wednesday, February 14th Soup Supper after the 6pm Mass in the Gym

Schedule for the Week of January 28th

Sunday, January 28 -4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Ed & Debbie Ergler

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

Monday, January 29 - Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Wiona Reeder* requested by

Bob & Ginny Reeder

Tuesday, January 30 - Weekday

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

Bill & Norma Foose

Wednesday, January 31 - St. John Bosco

6:00 PM - Mass for *James Kukunas* requested by

Mary Ann Cole

Thursday, February 1 - Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Fred Mazzarella* requested by

Karen Mazzarella

Friday, February 2 - The Presentation of the Lord

8:30 AM - Mass for *John Caporusio* requested by

Bob & Ginny Reeder

Saturday, February 3— Vigil of 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 PM - Mass for *Barbara Neral* requested by

Deacon Gene Neral

Sunday, February 4 - 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

11:00 AM - Mass for *Scott Broberg* requested by

Gloria Broberg

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS: Please email any upcoming bulletin announcements to Diane Ryan at 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.

LENT SCHEDULE FOR ST. JOHN'S:

Ash Wednesday Mass Times: February 14th: 8:30am and

6:00pm Ash Wednesday Soup Supper following the

6:00pm Mass in Fr. Bailey Hall (Gym)

Adoration and Stations of the Cross: Fridays during Lent

with Adoration beginning at 5:00pm and Stations beginning at 5:30pm

Lent Penance Service: Sunday, March 3rd at 4:00pm

The Year of Mark: A Parish Bible Study: Wednesdays at

6:45pm in the Parish Center starting January 31st until

March 20th (No class on Ash Wednesday)

WARMING CENTER: The Warming Center located at the Over Flow Church at 127 5th Avenue in Altoona will be open from January until March 31st. If you would like to help, please give your donation to St. John's and mark Warming Shelter on an envelope or check and drop in the collection basket or the Parish Office.4

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: Our readings today remind us of God's authority. If we willingly give God authority over our lives and trust in His provision, He will take care of us no matter what. Our Gospel today reminds us why we want to give God this authority. Jesus was teaching in the synagogue on the Sabbath. All were fixed on His words and astonished at what He had to say. Suddenly everyone's attention shifted to a man with an unclean spirit who began to question Jesus and His authority. Jesus responded, "Quiet, come out of him!" and removed the evil spirit from the man. All were amazed at the healing of this man. Life can sometimes look like the synagogue in Capernaum. We are living as disciples of Christ, when we suddenly recognize evil around us – through events in our lives, temptations we are enduring, or by falling into sin. It can distract us, consume our attention, or even cause us to despair. In these moments of trial, we must remember the Healer in our Gospel today. Recall His words, "Quiet, come out of him!" Jesus has the power and authority over evil, for He has conquered sin and death. He also has the power and authority over us. And when we invite Him to have the authority, He will heal us and help us persevere. Today, we are reminded that God is in control and that we want Him to be in control. He is the loving Healer that will work miracles in our lives if we give Him the authority to do so.

January 13/14

Envelopes	\$ 4,882.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 296.00
Catholic Education	\$ 85.00
Parish Development	\$ 233.00
Christmas Offering	\$ 25.00
Ash Wednesday	\$ 50.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 145.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,487.75
Total Offertory	\$ 7,203.75

2023 Catholic Ministries Drive Goal - \$41, 761

January 1, 2023-November 30, 2023

Total Gifts/Pledges - \$38,897

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.

FAMILIES AND THE GOSPEL: Today's gospel reminds us "unclean spirits" still haunt our families. These "spirits" thrive inside our grudges, punishing silence, impatience and abruptness. Today Jesus offers you the "authority" to cast out these spirits from your life and your family.

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
Bill Arend • Charles Bassett • Idy Caporuscio
Eleanor Christine • Michelle Cooney
Mary Lee DeStefano • Kathy Ganz
Devon McCarter Graham • Marlene Hartman
Kay Laratonda • Bonnie & Mike Long
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.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR: Holy Spirit Ministry will be holding a Life in the Spirit Seminar on Saturday, March 16th from 8:00am to 6:30pm at St. Mary Church, Hollidaysburg. This one day retreat includes dynamic spiritual teachings and testimonies from Fr. Brad Baldwin, Msgr. Stan Carson, Mandy Conrad, Fr. David Dodd, Fr. Mike Pleva, Deacon Mike Anna, Doug Putchko & Dominic Tornatore. Spirit-filled praise and worship, small group faith sharing and much more. Donation is \$20 if registered by 2/26/24, \$25 afterward. Students are free. Lunch and dinner provided. To register contact 814-931-0192 or email holyspiritministry20@gmail.com. Deadline to register is 3/6/24. All are welcome!

BUS TRIP: Museum Of The Bible, DC Wednesday, April 17, 2024 - \$115 (Adult and Ages 11+) and \$99 (Child 4-10) - Price includes: Transportation, Admission and Dinner. Museum of the Bible invites all people to explore the narrative and history of the Bible and it's impact on the world. The restaurant and gift shop (10% discount) will be open. To reserve your seat or if you have any questions, please contact Robyn Murphy (814-931-5683) or Diane O'Leary (814-935-2114). The deadline for reservations is February 25, 2024. Must have 24 for trip. Make checks payable to Freedom Excursions.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

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

February 25th-No Class

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: The Adult Faith Formation class meets on Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 10:45 on 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.

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.

LENTEN LUNCH FISH FRY: Always looking for that Friday lunch fix? Look no further than "Lent Lunch Fish Fry Fridays" at The Friar's Nook Gift Shop! Bites Food Truck will be serving up delicious food Fridays during Lent except Good Friday! Lunch includes fish sandwich, mac and cheese, and stewed tomatoes. The Friar's Nook Gift Shop at 793 Monastery Road, Hollidaysburg
Time: 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM Cost: \$10.00

LENTEN FISH FRY: Our Lady of Lourdes Church Hall
2716 Broad Avenue, Altoona, PA
February 16th – March 29th Cost: \$14.00
3:30 for take out 4:30 for eat-in until 7:00pm or until sold out
Choose from our hand-breaded fried or baked haddock, homemade mac & cheese or hand-cut fries, homemade stewed tomatoes & coleslaw or applesauce & dessert.

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



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