



***Sixth Sunday in
Ordinary Time
February 11, 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
ASH WEDNESDAY - 8:30 AM & 6:00 PM
THURSDAY - 8:30 AM FRIDAY - 8:30 AM
SATURDAY - 4:00 PM
SUNDAY - 8:00 AM & 11:00 AM

February Prayer Intention of Pope Francis

The Terminally Ill

We pray that those with a terminal illness,
 and their families, receive the necessary
 physical and spiritual care and
 accompaniment.



NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS

LECTORS

Wed. February 14- 6:00 PM - Susanna Tomlinson, Richard Consiglio
 Sat. February 17- 4:00 PM - Joyce Cunningham, James Krug
 Sun. February 18- 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci, Mary Truesdale
 Sun. February 18- 11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy, Jim Campbell

ALTAR SERVERS

Wed. February 14- 6:00 PM - Camille Krug, Colin Schurr
 Sat. February 17- 4:00 PM - Chloe Truscello, Jeremy Truscello
 Sun. February 18- 8:00 AM - Emily Miller, Nicholas Helsley
 Sun. February 18- 11:00 AM - Camille Krug, Aidan Schurr

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Wed. February 14- 6:00 PM - Marilyn Bevan, Dolores Capriotti
 Sat. February 17- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, NOT FILLED
 Sun. February 18- 8:00 AM - Diane Turcovsky, Daniel Turcovsky
 Sun. February 18- 11:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Cecelia Bloom,
 Lou Ann Clark, Kenneth Gorman, Bob Olson,
 Susanna Tomlinson

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Wed. February 14- 6:00 PM - Connie Baker, Diane Turcovsky,
 Daniel Turcovsky, NOT FILLED
 Sat. February 17- 4:00 PM - Betsy Lloyd, Dennis Moughemer,
 Karen Moughemer, NOT FILLED
 Sun. February 18- 8:00 AM - Carolyn English, Mike O'Neill,
 Paula VanSickel, Larry VanSickel
 Sun. February 18- 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Wendy Campbell,
 Dolores Capriotti, Peg Madden

SACRISTAN

Wed. February 14-6:00 PM - Barbara Bundy
 Sat. February 17- 4:00 PM - Jane Byrne
 Sun. February 18- 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci
 Sun. February 18- 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan

SCRIP

Sat. February 17- 4:00 PM - Lori Baker, Gary Johnson
 Sat. February 18- 8:00 AM - Amber Yasolsky, Heather Yasolsky
 Sun. February 18- 11:00 AM - Chris Palazzi, Patrick Podoletz

A Few Words from the Pastor:

ASH WEDNESDAY SOUP SUPPER: There is a wonderful Lenten tradition at St. John's of a special "Soup Supper" on Ash Wednesday, February 14th, following our evening Mass. Those who are good at making soup or baking bread are invited to share your talents! You can sign up on the kiosk! All donations will be given to assist our Haitian Sister parish, Saints Peter and Paul!

A PARISH BIBLE STUDY ON THE GOSPEL OF MARK: We meet at 6:45 on Wednesday evenings in the parish center. Bring your favorite bible and prepare to embark on an inspiring Lenten Journey.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: In an attempt to encourage greater participation for Stations, and to promote a greater love for the Holy Eucharist, our Friday evening devotions will begin at 5:00 with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, with Stations of the Cross beginning at 5:30. Stations will conclude with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Please consider joining us!

FASTING AND ABSTINENCE: every Catholic of any age is encouraged to do some measure of fasting during the Lenten season. Fasting can strengthen our will, remind us of the hungers of the human family, and certainly can put us in mind of our hunger for God. Remember that Jesus fasted 40 days and 40 nights in the desert. You are also encouraged to abstain from meat on the Fridays of Lent. In fasting is closely related to our care for the poor: when I fast, another person must eat in my place!

OPERATION RICE BOWL - we are participating again this year in Operation Rice Bowl, which is a good companion to our Lenten prayer and fasting. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are the three pillars of the spiritual life.

SPIRITUAL READING - An essential part of the Christian life is prayerful reflection. This is especially so within the season of Lent. We will again be making available a booklet of daily meditations for use throughout the Lenten Season. Consider this Lent to be a personal retreat!

WEEK 18 OF OUR SACRED STORY RETREAT: *This week we are introduced to the Five Step Structure of Daily Sacred Story Prayer: CREATION, PRESENCE, MEMORY, MERCY, ETERNITY. The second of these meditations is PRESENCE. I believe that God is present in each moment and event of my life, and I ask for grace to be awake to every feeling, thought, word, and deed – in the present moment. I seek the grace to awaken to God's presence in every person, experience, and event - good or ill – that I encounter in my day.*

AFFIRMING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE: Our 11:00 Mass this weekend will highlight our young people fulfilling the various liturgical ministries. We are grateful to our catechists, and to our Director of Faith Formation, for organizing this important liturgy.

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. 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!

ON NETFLIX, there is an excellent program (4 parts) entitled *The Mysteries of the Faith*. It is well done presentation on the history and power of relics. Don't miss it!

SAVE THE DATES!

Children's Liturgy: Sunday, February 11th at 11am Mass and Tackle Hunger Food Drive/Collection

Ash Wednesday Masses: Wednesday, February 14th at 8:30am and 6pm

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

Parish Breakfast: Thursday, February 22nd after the 8:30am Morning Mass at The Dream in Hollidaysburg

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

Easter Egg Hunt: March 17th after 11am Mass in the Gym

Schedule for the Week of February 11th

Sunday, February 11 - 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM - Mass for *Kathy Ann Cecchine* requested by

Bob & Ginny Reeder

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

Monday, February 12 - Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Hezzie Thompson* requested by

Susanna Tomlinson

Tuesday, February 13 - Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Ida Prosperi* requested by

John Prosperi

Wednesday, February 14 - Ash Wednesday

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

6:00 PM - Mass for *Fred Mazzarella* requested by

Karen Mazzarella

Thursday, February 15 - Thursday after Ash Wednesday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Eugene & Eileen O'Neill* requested by

the O'Neill family

Friday, February 16 - Friday after Ash Wednesday

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

Duan & Diane Misiara

Saturday, February 17 - Vigil of 1st Sunday of Lent

4:00 PM - Mass for *Tom Semelsberger* requested by

Brenda Fix

Sunday, February 18 - 1st Sunday of Lent

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

11:00 AM - Mass for *Mercia Crevecoeur* requested by

Mimi Crevecoeur & family

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)

FAMILIES AND THE GOSPEL: Family life is about decisions. The leper in today's gospel knew this when he said to Jesus. "If you will, you can make me clean." Jesus knew this when He said, "I do will it." Love is not an emotion. It is a decision to be with and for another person in "good times and bad," even when we don't feel like it.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: Our readings today prepare us for the penitential season of Lent that we are about to enter. They call us to consider what our Lenten journey might be like – an opportunity to be healed and cleansed on our journey as disciples of Christ. Let us approach this holy season of Lent like the leper. We are filled with sores and wounds – namely, our sins. By our faults, we have distanced ourselves from God and His community. The leper reminds us Who to go to so that we might be healed. Let us approach the Lord this season on our knees asking for forgiveness and healing from our offenses, saying, "If you wish, you can make me clean." There is no doubt that, if we have a contrite heart, Jesus will stretch out His hand in forgiveness and His mercy will touch our lives. Let us approach this holy season of Lent as an opportunity to be healed and cleansed. As we prepare for Ash Wednesday this week, reflect on the sores and wounds that we can bring to the Lord during this season. He is ready to stretch out His hand to heal us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. And let us consider what we can do to offer acts of reparation so that we might be purified and one day partake in the resurrection of Christ.

January 27/28

Envelopes	\$ 3,767.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 417.00
Catholic Education	\$ 5.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,203.90
Total Offertory	\$ 5,392.90

2023 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS are available upon request. 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.

BEAUTIFUL EUCHARIST BOOK: Our diocese has been promoting the Eucharistic Revival for the past 2 years. Matthew Kelly has written a very interesting, easy to read book titled "Beautiful Eucharist." This book invites us to encounter Jesus through the Eucharist to heal us and bring peace and clarity to our lives. These books are available to all parishioners in the Gathering Space thanks to a generous donation from a parishioner. Please feel free to take one!

SUPER BOWL TACKLE HUNGER FOOD DRIVE: Faith Formation students will be collecting donations for the Mt. Lion Back Pack program on Super Bowl Sunday as part of a Tackle Hunger Food Drive at the 11am Mass on February 11th. Most needed items include cracker packs, pop tarts, fruit cups, 100% juice boxes, cereal cups, canned pasta, pudding cups and rice krispie treats. Thank you for helping "tackle" hunger in our area!

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
Guy & Sally Langham • 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.

BIRTHDAY CORNER FOR FEBRUARY:

February 9th- Ron Cunningham
February 13th-Mary Louise Rajnish
February 16th- Lois Werfel & Joyce Cunningham
Something new-sending individual cards to our "senior" (80 and older) parishioners. If you wish to send a birthday card, use the address in your Parish Directory, place card in the Collection Basket or take to the Parish Office and the cards will be forwarded.

THINKING OF YOU! Two of our parishioners are currently at Maybrook and would love to receive some cards with well wishes. The address for Maybrook Hills is 301 Valley View Blvd, Altoona, PA 16602. Elsie MacCullagh is in RM 248B and Bette Richards is in RM 241A. Dorothy Yingling and Lois Werfel are back home and recovering. Cards can be sent to their addresses listed in the Parish Directory, placed in the Collection Basket or taken to the Parish Office.

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. 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!

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

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

March 3rd-Class

March 3rd-11th Grade Spring Session in Gym 9:15am-10:45am-followed by The Rite of Sending at 11am Mass. All 11th Grade students (Public and Catholic) should attend.

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 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.

BLAZIN' ANGELS: Join us on February 18th for some dodgeball fun at St. John the Evangelist's Fr. Bailey Hall from 6-9pm. Anyone ages 18-39 are welcome to join. If you are interested in attending or interested in learning more please let us know by emailing us at blazinangels.yagroup@gmail.com.

HELP NEEDED: A parishioner is in need of a volunteer to help with some light housekeeping once a week.. If you are interested or know of someone who might be, please contact the Parish Office at 814-942-5503 for more information.

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: 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.