

Sunday of Divine Mercy

April 7, 2024



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



Congratulations to Jared Miller!
Jared was baptized, confirmed and received his First Holy Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.



Congratulations to our Confirmation Candidates!
Leah Petrunak, Joulia Wolf, Lauryn Ryan, Estella Koch, Jacob Kormanski and John Sukala

NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS

LECTORS

Sat. April 13- 4:00 PM - Jeremy Truscello, John Majcher
Sun. April 14-8:00 AM - Norma Foose, Bill Foose
Sun. April 14-11:00 AM - Bob Olson, Jim Campbell

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. April 13- 4:00 PM - Lexi Tatar, Iris Tatar
Sun. April 14- 8:00 AM - Emily Miller, Nicholas Helsley
Sun. April 14-11:00 AM - Aidan Schurr, Colin Schurr

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. April 13- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, NOT FILLED
Sun. April 14-8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci, NOT FILLED
Sun. April 14-11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Walter Bloom,
Lou Ann Clark, Kenneth Gorman, Susanna Tomlinson
NOT FILLED

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. April 13- 4:00 PM - Carolyn English, Betsy Lloyd,
Dennis Moughemer, Karen Moughemer,
Sun. April 14-8:00 AM - Ray Kennedy, Mike O'Neill, Ed Stoltz,
Jane Strasser
Sun. April 14-11:00 AM - Wendy Campbell, Dolores Capriotti,
Peg Madden, Patrick Podoletz

SACRISTAN

Sat. April 13- 4:00 PM - NOT FILLED
Sun. April 14- 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci
Sun. April 14- 11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy

SCRIP

Sat. April 13- 4:00 PM - Lori Baker, Becky Merilli
Sat. April 14- 8:00 AM - Erika Yasolsky, Heather Yasolsky
Sun. April 14- 11:00 AM - Gary Johnson, Patrick Podoletz

A Few Words from the Pastor:

MASS OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK – On Sunday, April 21st, at 2:00 PM, our parish will celebrate a special Mass of Anointing. Whether due to age or illness, those feeling the need for Christ's compassion are urged to receive this important sacrament of healing and grace. Whether you are enduring physical or spiritual distress, chronic depression or melancholy, Christ extends his healing touch and embrace.

OUR YOUNG CONFIRMED: On this past Tuesday our candidates for the sacrament of Confirmation were confirmed by Bishop Mark at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, along with several other young people of our city. We are very proud of our young people as they have taken this opportunity to open themselves to this generous outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Congratulations to Estella Koch, Jacob Kormanski, Leah Petrunak, Lauryn Ryan, John Sukala and Joulia Wolf. We keep them in our prayers as they continue living the life of Christ as maturing adults in the Catholic Church.

SECOND SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION – Just a reminder of our monthly collection next week to assist with food and cash contributions those who struggle in poverty to feed their families here in Blair County. Our local food banks are most grateful in being able to assist in distributing our generous gifts.

OUR PARISH BIBLE STUDY: Our weekly bible study has resumed, gathering each Wednesday at 6:45 in the parish center. Our focus will be upon the readings for the following Sunday, so that we are well prepared to hear God's Word with hearts ready to receive Christ in both Word and Sacrament! Please plan on joining us!

WEEK 28 OUR SACRED STORY RETREAT: *During this Easter Season, I would recommend that together with your daily Examen, you continue your daily reflections on the beautiful prayer of St. Ignatius which we have been praying at Mass each week: **Take, O Lord, and receive, all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will, all I have and call my own. You have given all to me. To you, O Lord, I return it. Everything is yours; do with it what you will. Give me only your love and your grace, that is enough for me.*** Pray this prayer slowly each day, allowing it to find its deepest roots in your heart.

The Feast of the Annunciation is usually celebrated on March 25. But when March 25 falls on Palm Sunday, during Holy Week (as it did **this** year), or within the octave of Easter (the week following Easter) these periods take precedence over all other feasts. Therefore, the feast of the Annunciation has been postponed to the Monday of the second week of Easter. This year, it will be celebrated on Monday, April 8.

SAVE THE DATES!

Parish Breakfast/Deacon Gene's Birthday: Monday, April 15th after the 8:30am Mass at Cracker Barrel

First Holy Communion and May Crowning: Sunday, May 5th at the 11am Mass

Ascension Thursday: Thursday, May 9th Mass at 8:30am and 6:00pm

Chicken BBQ: Sunday, June 9th-Knights of Columbus

Annual Parish Picnic: Sunday, July 21st in Fr. Bailey Hall after 10am Mass



FORMED® THE CATHOLIC FAITH. ON DEMAND.

Why Catholics believe in "life everlasting"

The Catholic Church cares about every BODY. Think of relics and funerals—reverence for our bodies and the body's of holy people is part of being Catholic. But why? We find the answer at the end of the Creed: "I believe in the resurrection of the body and life everlasting." That's a pretty strong statement and it's founded on Jesus. Because Jesus rose from the dead, we can look forward to our own body's being raised at the end of time. Pretty cool, right?

Our parish has a FORMED subscription. Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish. Scan the QR code to download the FORMED app to your phone.



Schedule for the Week of April 7th

Sunday, April 7 - Sunday of Divine Mercy

8:00 AM - Mass for *Dolores Burchfield* requested by Debbie & Ed Ergler

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

Monday, April 8 - The Annunciation of the Lord

8:30 AM - Mass for *Rose & Edward Neral* requested by Deacon Gene Neral

Tuesday, April 9 - Easter Weekday

8:30 AM—Mass for *Johanna Semko* requested by Karen Mazzarella

Wednesday, April 10 - Easter Weekday

6:00 PM - Mass for *Bob Long* requested by Dee Schmerbeck & family

Thursday, April 11 - St. Stanislaus

8:30 AM - Mass for *Grace Moore* requested by Bob & Ginny Reeder

Friday, April 12 - Easter Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Mary Catherine Majestic* requested by Barbara Bundy

Saturday, April 13— Vigil of 3rd Sunday of Easter

4:00 PM - Mass for *Carol Bismark* requested by Dave & Connie McManuels

Sunday, April 14 - 3rd Sunday of Easter

8:00 AM - Mass for *Gordon Miller* requested by O'Neill family

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

April Prayer Intention of Pope Francis

The Role of Women

We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.



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

DEACON GENE'S BIRTHDAY: Join us on Monday, April 15th after the 8:30am Morning Mass at the Cracker Barrel in Altoona as we celebrate Deacon Gene's birthday and enjoy good food and fellowship with your St. John's community. Sign up on the kiosk if you can attend!

FAMILIES AND THE GOSPEL: In today's gospel Jesus teaches, "Blessed are those who have not seen and believe." Accepting someone as they are, without demanding they prove themselves or meet our expectations, creates a rich relationship. Without acceptance a home is only a house and a family just a group of house mates.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: On this second Sunday of Easter, we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. We celebrate this feast today since God's mercy was shared with us through the resurrection of Jesus. To put it simply, we are celebrating Jesus' merciful love for us and how we can partake in it. No matter where we are on our journey as a disciple of Christ, we are all in need of God's merciful love. There are countless times throughout the day when we miss the mark. For instance, we might fail to respond in kind to our spouses or kids, fall into gossip in our workday, or even forget to think positively of others. These shortcomings call us to humble ourselves and receive the unwavering mercy of God. Let us continue to celebrate today, as we are in the midst of our glorious Easter season! As we celebrate, may we recall the precious gift God has given to us through His Son – Mercy itself. May we never forget that, with a contrite heart and a resolution to do better, God is always willing to forgive. And may we never withhold merciful love from anyone we meet.

March 23/24

Envelopes	\$ 3,989.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 481.00
Parish Development	\$ 67.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 110.00
Easter	\$ 290.00
Holy Thursday	\$ 95.00
Good Friday	\$ 60.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,553.75
Total Offertory	\$ 6,645.75

2024 Catholic Ministries Drive Goal: \$42,400

January 1, 2024 - March 31, 2024

Total Gifts Received - \$37,245.00

BISHOP GUILFOYLE ACADEMY OPEN HOUSE: Sunday, April 28, 1- 3 p.m. Eldorado (St. Rose) * Fairview (St. Therese) * Hollidaysburg (St. Michael) We invite you to learn more about our Catholic school Bishop Guilfoyle Academy where joyful students, PreK through Grade 12, are equipped to succeed in the world and shape our communities for the better. Come to any of our Open Houses on April 28 (PreK through Grade 5). Can't make the Open House? Call and schedule a personal tour of any of our sites where you can meet the Principal, shadow a student, and witness our safe and virtuous environment. Offering Monday through Friday full-day school, before and after school program available. NEW 2024! Hollidaysburg Early Education Campus, PreK & Kindergarten, growing to Grade 5, full-day, Monday through Friday, before and after school program, and summer options available. For more information, call 814.942.7835 or visit bishopguilfoyleacademy.org Automatic scholarship for Catholic students; additional financial aid available.

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 • Eleanor Christine
Michelle Cooney • Betty Dennis • Mary Lee DeStefano
Devon McCarter Graham • Marlene Hartman
Sallie Langham • Bonnie & Mike Long
Connor McLaughlin • Kathy Mittermeier
Patricia Olson • Ryan Raybuck • Dan Roberts
Anne Showalter • Reed Stellabotte • Tim Temofonte
Mary Truesdale • Lois Werfel • 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 at St. John's for those who have lost a loved one through death. The next session will begin on June 18. Call Mary Petrak, 814-502-6076, for more 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 APRIL:

April 10th-Larry Field

April 12th-James & Barbara McLaren

April 15th-Deacon Gene Neral & Ray King

April 16th- Patricia Kenney

April 23rd-Donald Riley

April 24th-Betsy Lloyd

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.

RICE BOWLS: Thank you! Together we changed lives this Lent through the CRS Rice Bowl. Thank you for being part of this effort! Please return Rice Bowls to the Gathering Space basket by Sunday, April 14th.

CMD UPDATE: We are already at 87% of our goal for 2024! We are only \$5,155 away from reaching our goal. Anything over that amount will come back to the church. Thank you to everyone who has donated!

HOLY TRINITY FUNDRAISER: Night at the Races on Saturday, April 6th at Holy Trinity-Eldorado Gym. Doors open at 5:30pm, Dinner at 6pm and Horse Races start at 7pm. Tickets are \$40 per person and include: food, drinks and ownership of one horse, jockey or trainer. See flyer on the kiosk for more information.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

April 7th-Class

April 14th- No Class

April 21st-Class

April 21st- 2nd Grade First Holy Communion Retreat
9:15am to 10:45am-2nd Grade Classroom

April 28th-No Class

May 5th-Last Class

May 5th-First Holy Communion & May Crowning at the
11am Mass

If you would like more information or have questions, please contact Diane Ryan at 814-942-5503 or email stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net.

Registration for the 2024-2025 school year for Kindergarten-11th Grade is now available. Forms will be available in the Gathering Space or can be requested by phone or email.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION: The Adult Faith Formation class meets on Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 10:45. We will finish *A Biblical Walk through the Mass* on April 7. We have 2 additional classes this spring:

April 21: *The Bible: God's Love Letter to Humanity*

May 5: *The Holy Spirit and the Life of Grace*

All are welcome!

For information contact Mary Petrak, 814-502-6076.

BLAZIN' ANGELS: Join us for a meeting on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 7th from 6-9pm at St. John's Parish Center. The focus of this meeting is to learn more about the Divine Mercy image and Saint Faustina. Anyone ages 18-39 are welcome to join. If you are interested in attending or interested in learning more please email Amber & Cherié at blazinangels.yagroup@gmail.com or contact Cherié at 814.569.7703.

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.

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