

**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 • Idy Caporuscio
- Betsie Claar • Betty Dennis • Carol Field • Mark Hastings
- Rosanne Krawick • Sally Langham • Loane Maier
- Elsie MacCullagh • Samantha McQuade
- Marian Monios • John Patz • Dan Roberts • Jason Ryan
- Anne Showalter • Rachel Sibold • Baby Smith
- Mary Frances Stokan • Donna Taddy • Tim Temofonte
- Wally Wargo • Lois Werfel • Dorothy Yingling

**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT:** Dealing with a loss, whether in the past or recent, is difficult and lonely. St. John, St. Michael, and St. Mary Parishes offer support groups that will allow you to acknowledge the pain and to learn positive strategies for coping. *Journey Through Loss* is a seven-week program at St. Johns for those who have lost a loved one through death. Sessions are held several times a year. 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 DECEMBER:**

December 1st-Gerald Gonsman  
December 22nd-Sandra Murphy  
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.

**FRANCISCAN LIVING NATIVITY:** Help the Franciscan Friars, TOR celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> Year Jubilee by joining us on the campus of St. Bernardine Monastery (768 Monastery Road, Hollidaysburg) on Saturday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM to be part of our own children's Living Nativity. There will be a Nativity service followed by refreshments and a chance for a visit and photo with Santa! The Friar's Nook Gift Shop will be open until 6:00 PM!

**MOTHER THERESA MINISTRY:** If you know of a parishioner not currently on our list that is in a nursing facility, hospital or homebound that would like a visit or cards please text or call Mary Susick at 814-207-0185.

The Altoona Chorus of Sweet Adelines presents  
**"SOUNDS OF THE SEASON"**  
Saturday, December 7th at 1PM at  
St John the  
Evangelist Church  
Hear all your favorite Christmas melodies.  
Concert is free to all.

**FAITH FORMATION NEWS**

**Faith Formation is back in session! Registrations for the 2024-2025 school year for Kindergarten-11th Grade are still being accepted. Catholic School students in Sacramental Preparation in Grades 2, 9, 10 & 11 should also register to begin preparing for the upcoming Sacraments but are also always welcome to join us in any grade for additional Faith Formation.**

**December 1st-Family Advent Event & Children's Liturgy at the 11am Mass**

**December 8th-No Class-Breakfast with Santa**

**December 15th-Class 9:15am-10:45am**

**December 22nd/29th- No Classes (Christmas/New Year's)**

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

**BREAKFAST WITH SANTA:** Please join us Sunday, December 8th from 9am-11am in Fr. Bailey Hall (School Gym) for breakfast, games, crafts, and photos with Santa. Please bring your own device to take pictures. Everyone is welcome! All parishioners are encouraged to stop over for breakfast. Santa will be checking his list to see who is naughty and who is nice, so stop over to make sure you are on the nice list and grab a bite to eat!

**MESSIAH SING ALONG:** The Academy of Sacred Music will present a Messiah Sing Along at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 6, at the Hollidaysburg Church of the Brethren, 1028 Penn Street, Hollidaysburg. There is no admission charge, but a free will offering will be collected. Bob Long, founder of the academy and Hollidaysburg native will conduct. Although attendees are not required to sing, the academy is encouraging members of choirs and choral groups to bring their Messiah scores and support the concert. Anyone who wants to be part of the event is invited to attend. A few scores will be available for participants to borrow. Along with audience participation, the concert will feature several local soloists including Amanda Siliker, mezzo-soprano and James White, bass. Asa Carns will provide accompaniment on the organ. The Messiah offers a unique opportunity for people to enjoy a timeless classic. All are welcome to attend and sing along or just listen.

**CHRISTMAS LIVE CENTERPIECE CLASS:**

Come join in the fun of making a live pine centerpiece arrangement for the Holidays!  
**When:** Tuesday, December 10  
**Time:** 6:00-8:30pm  
**Where:** Saint John's cafeteria  
**Cost:** \$10 which will be donated to local food banks  
Please bring small hand pruners, latex gloves and your Christmas spirit!  
Class limited to first 15 adults.  
Call Cindy Trimarco 814-935-2778 to sign up and for any questions. Deadline December 6th.



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

**PASTORAL STAFF**

- Monsignor Michael Becker - mbecker253@aol.com
- Rev. Ashok Kumar Alphonse - aalphonse@dioceseaj.org
- 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
- Order of Christian Initiation for Adults  
aalphonse@dioceseaj.org
- 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**

**December Prayer Intention of Pope Francis**

Pilgrims of Hope  
We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian Hope.



**NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS**

**LECTORS**

- Sat. Dec. 7- 4:00 PM - Joyce Cunningham, John Majcher
- Sun. Dec. 8-8:00 AM - Mary Truesdale, Darlene Scarpaci
- Sun. Dec. 8-11:00 AM - John Sukala, Gary Johnson

**ALTAR SERVERS**

- Sat. Dec. 7- 4:00 PM - Chloe Truscello, Jeremy Truscello
- Sun. Dec. 8- 8:00 AM - Nick Helsley, NOT FILLED
- Sun. Dec. 8-11:00 AM - Aidan Schurr, Colin Schurr

**EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

- Sat. Dec. 7- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, NOT FILLED
- Sun. Dec. 8-8:00 AM - Diane Turcovsky, Daniel Turcovsky
- Sun. Dec. 8-11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Barbara Bundy,  
Lou Ann Clark, Francel Dandrea, Ken Gorman,  
Susanna Tomlinson

**MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY**

- Sat. Dec. 7- 4:00 PM - Coleen Langguth, Betsy Lloyd,  
Dennis Moughemer, Karen Moughemer
- Sun. Dec. 8-8:00 AM - Ashley Greslick, Mike Greslick,  
Ray Kennedy, Ginny Reeder
- Sun. Dec. 8-11:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Wendy Campbell,  
Dolores Capriotti, Peg Madden

**SACRISTAN**

- Sat. Dec. 7- 4:00 PM - Ray King, Mary King
- Sun. Dec. 8- 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci
- Sun. Dec. 8- 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan

**SCRIP**

- Sat. Dec. 7- 4:00 PM - Julie Beiswenger, Becky Merilli
- Sun. Dec. 8- 8:00 AM - Chris Palazzi, Heather Yasolsky
- Sun. Dec. 8- 11:00 AM - Gary Johnson, Patrick Podoletz

**Jumpstarting Jubilee 2025 – Advent Hope** The first Advent candle symbolizes hope. Every 25 years the Church celebrates a special Holy Year called the Jubilee Year. This Jubilee will begin with the opening of the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome on Christmas Eve, 2024. The theme of the Jubilee Year is HOPE. It is a time for us to realize that "hope does not disappoint" when it is rooted in the knowledge that God has committed himself to us in Emmanuel, "God with us."

## A Few Words from the Pastor:

**ADVENT BEGINS** - Advent celebrates the thrice coming of Christ: in history, in the present, and in the future. Our celebration of Advent will be highlighted by the children of our parish, leading us in worship at the 11:00 Mass on the first Sunday of Advent, December 1<sup>st</sup>. Participating in all the liturgical ministries, our young people will be an important part of our preparation for the coming of Christ!

**ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE** – An important part of every retreat is the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. A personal confession to a priest requires humility and honesty. We cannot grow spiritually without this sacrament, for it invites us to encounter our sinfulness and to experience the healing of Christ, our Divine Physician. Our parish communal Penance Service will be celebrated next Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, at 4:00 PM. Please join us.

**ADVENT CALENDARS:** This Advent season we will again make available Advent Calendars. They are available in the Gathering Space for \$3 dollars.

**PREPARING FOR ADVENT - THE SYMBOLISM OF ADVENT WREATH CANDLES** - Set on the branches of the Advent wreath are four candles: three purple candles and one pink candle. A more modern tradition is to place a white candle in the center of the wreath. Colored advent candles represent the coming of the light of Christ into the world. Each week of Advent on Sunday, a particular Advent candle is lit. Catholic tradition states that the four candles, representing the four weeks of Advent, each stand for one thousand years, to total the 4,000 years from the time of Adam and Eve until the birth of the Savior.

**OUR ADVENT FAST:** Try Fasting for Advent! It is believed that the Advent season has been in existence since the fifth century and was largely observed by monks who were ordered to fast every day in the month of December until Christmas. Fasting is still practiced among some worshippers today. While fasting is generally a discipline associated with the season of Lent, we believe that fasting during the season of Advent can be a powerful aid to our engagement of this season as it is designed to intensify our desires and longing for God.

**ADVENT CHILDREN’S LITURGY:** We welcome our Faith Formation students this Sunday, December 1st, who will be participating in the various ministries during the 11am Mass. We are grateful for their interest in sharing the ministries that enrich our Sunday Mass. This Mass will follow our annual Family Advent Event that morning from 9:15-10:45am.

**ADVENT WREATH CANDLES AVAILABLE:** Replacement candles available in the Gathering Space.

**THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, DECEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>** - please note that the Immaculate Conception, patronal feast of the United States, is a holy day of obligation. The celebration of the feast is transferred to Monday, December 9, and Mass will be celebrated at 8:30 AM. Please join us!

**AN IMPORTANT COLLECTION COMING UP!** The annual collection that supports nearly 25,000 elderly religious sisters, brothers and religious order priests in the United States will take place on the weekend of December 7-8. The collection distributes financial assistance for retirement needs to eligible religious institutes. Please be generous!

### SAVE THE DATES!

**Advent Penance Service:** Sunday, December 1st at 4pm

**Altoona Chorus of Sweet Adelines “Sounds of the Season”:** December 7th at 1pm in the church

**Breakfast with Santa:** Sunday, December 8th from 9am-11am in the gym

**Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary:** Monday, December 9th Mass at 8:30am

**Monsignor’s 75th Birthday Breakfast:** Monday, December 9th following 8:30am Mass in the Parish Center

**Monsignor’s 75th Birthday Parish Luncheon:** Sunday, December 15th following 11am Mass in the gym

**Feast of St. John the Evangelist:** Friday, December 27th Morning Mass at 9am followed by breakfast

**Christmas Cantata and Drama-A Thrill of Hope:** Sunday, January 5th at 3pm in the church

**Alpha:** Thursday, January 16th at 6pm in the cafeteria

**NATIVITY FESTIVAL:** The 3rd Annual St. Mary & St. Michael Nativity Festival will be Friday, December 13th-Sunday, December 15th at St. Mary Social Hall in Hollidaysburg. This self-guided, free event will feature magnificently crafted nativity sets from local parishes and families. Please see flyer in the Gathering Space for times and more information!

### Schedule for the Week of December 1st

**Sunday, December 1- First Sunday of Advent**

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

11:00 AM - Mass for *Anniversary of Joseph & Rose Novak* requested by Chuck & Judy Stephens

**Monday, December 2- Advent Weekday**

8:30 AM - Mass for *George Goch* requested by family

**Tuesday, December 3- St. Francis Xavier**

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

**Wednesday, December 4- Advent Weekday**

6:00 PM - Mass for *Paul Spayd* requested by Maria & Doug Spayd

**Thursday, December 5 - Advent Weekday**

9:00 AM - Mass for *Jean Lester* requested by Charles Lester

**Friday, December 6 - Advent Weekday**

8:30 AM - Mass for *Kathy Wagner* requested by Greg & Marianne Tomei

**Saturday, December 7- Vigil of Second Sunday of Advent**

4:00 PM - Mass for *Bob & Diane Long* requested by Dave & Connie McManuels

**Sunday, December 8- Second Sunday of Advent**

8:00 AM - Mass for *Ida Proserpi* requested by John Proserpi

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

**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.

**ANGEL TREE 2024:** Please remember to return wrapped gifts with the tags, and food gift cards to the Gathering Space by Sunday, December 8th. Food tags for Giant Eagle, Martin’s, Weis and Walmart can be attached to the purchased gift card and placed in the box located on the scrip table. These cards will be distributed to families in need by Catholic Charities. Gifts must be wrapped and returned the weekend of December 7th & 8th so that delivery can be organized. Please contact the Parish Office at 814-942-5502 with any questions. Thank you for your generosity.

**MASS INTENTION REQUESTS:** Celebrating Mass for a definite intention is a long tradition in the Catholic Church. The intention may be for the repose of a deceased person’s soul, the spiritual wellbeing of a person living, a wedding anniversary, a birthday, or for a personal/private intention. The usual offering for a mass intention is \$10. We are accepting intentions for the 2025 year. Please call the Parish Office to submit an intention.

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER:** We have arrived at the powerful season of Advent, a season to prepare with awe and gratitude for the Feast of the Incarnation of Jesus, born to us as Savior and Brother. A season to prepare for His return at the end of time. It is also a moment to remind ourselves that our individual judgement day is coming too – the moment when we will be called to give an account for all the love God has shown us and the gifts He has given us during our lifetime. ‘God reveals His perfect and infinite love for us most visibly in His son, Jesus Christ. A steward makes God’s love visible by imitating Jesus ... Stewardship is the response of the disciple to God’s unconditional love for us. Stewards bask in the wonder and awe of God’s love’, from *The Pillars of Parish Stewardship*. In other words, Advent is a steward’s season! Get ready Christian stewards! He’s coming! Let us prepare with awe and wonder.

#### November 16/17

Envelopes	\$ 3,265.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 204.00
Children’s Offerings	\$ 5.00
Parish Development	\$ 110.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 40.00
Thanksgiving	\$ 40.00
Catholic Charities	\$ 160.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,317.92
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 5,141.92</b>

#### 2024 Catholic Ministries Drive Goal: \$42,400

January 1, 2024 - October 31, 2024

Gifts/Pledges - \$47,675.00

Total Gifts Received - \$47,675.00

Pledge Balance - \$0.00

**#GIVECATHOLIC:** St. John’s is excited to participate in the 2024 #iGiveCatholic Campaign. Our 24-hour giving day is coming up this Tuesday, December 3rd and we asking for your support to help us raise money for our Music Ministry. Your gift of \$10 or more can help us reach our goal this year of \$3,500. If you prefer to give offline, please use the #iGiveCatholic envelopes provided in the Gathering Space. See the flyer on the kiosk for more information on how to give and important dates. Give thanks, Give back, Give Catholic!

**LECTOR WORKBOOKS:** The 2025 Lector Workbooks are available in the Gathering Space for our lectors. Please pick one up. Thank you to our lectors for helping with this important ministry and for sharing your time and talent!

**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 16th, to be acknowledged in the December 22nd bulletin.