



**Thirty-third Sunday
in Ordinary Time
November 17, 2024**

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
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 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

November Prayer Intention of Pope Francis

Anyone Who Has Lost a Child
 We pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and receive peace and consolation from the Holy Spirit.



NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS

LECTORS

Sat. Nov. 23- 4:00 PM - David Langguth, Jeremy Truscello
 Sun. Nov. 24-8:00 AM - Daniel Turcovsky, Diane Turcovsky
 Sun. Nov. 24-11:00 AM - Jim Campbell, Patrick Schurr

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. Nov. 23- 4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, Sadie Swope
 Sun. Nov. 24- 8:00 AM - Nicholas Helsley, NOT FILLED
 Sun. Nov. 24-11:00 AM - Camille Krug, Bob Olson

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. Nov. 23- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, NOT FILLED
 Sun. Nov. 24-8:00 AM - Jennifer Helsley, Darlene Scarpaci
 Sun. Nov. 24-11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Barbara Bundy,
 Lou Ann Clark, Francel Dandrea, Ken Gorman,
 Susanna Tomlinson

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. Nov. 23- 4:00 PM - Coleen Langguth, Betsy Lloyd,
 Dennis Moughemer, Karen Moughemer
 Sun. Nov. 24-8:00 AM - Ashley Greslick, Mike Greslick,
 Ginny Reeder, Mary Truesdale
 Sun. Nov. 24-11:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Wendy Campbell,
 Dolores Capriotti, Peg Madden

SACRISTAN

Sat. Nov. 23- 4:00 PM - Ray King, Mary King
 Sun. Nov. 24- 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci
 Sun. Nov. 24- 11:00 AM - Dolores Capriotti

SCRIP

Sat. Nov. 23- 4:00 PM - Julie Beiswenger, Becky Merilli
 Sun. Nov. 24- 8:00 AM - Chris Palazzi, NOT FILLED
 Sun. Nov. 24- 11:00 AM - Peg Madden, Marge Rudolph

A Few Words from the Pastor:

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 in participating dioceses on the weekend of December 14-15. The collection, coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO), distributes financial assistance for retirement needs to eligible religious institutes. Be generous when the time comes!

THE YEAR OF ST. LUKE – Our Sunday gospels come to us in a three-year cycle. The three synoptic gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke lay out for us the life and ministry of Jesus. On the first Sunday of Advent, we begin a new Liturgical year, and this will be the Year of Luke. The icon in the Gathering Space shows St. Luke, with a picture of the blessed Virgin in his hands. Luke is held by the Eastern Church as the **original "iconographer,"** responsible for writing the first icon of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Many painters throughout the centuries have depicted this scene by placing St. Luke in front of an easel, painting a portrait of the Blessed Mother holding the Child Jesus.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE, December 1st – An important element in our spiritual life 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 this Sunday, December 1st, at 4:00 PM. Please join us.

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, DECEMBER 9TH - please note that the Immaculate Conception, patronal feast of the United States, is a holy day of obligation. Mass on the feast day itself will be celebrated at 8:30 AM. Please join us!

THANKSGIVING DAY MASS: Thanksgiving has been on the liturgical calendar for the United States since 1970. **As is our parish tradition, we will gather at 9:00 AM to celebrate the greatest prayer of thanksgiving, the Eucharist.** The British writer and Catholic philosopher G.K. Chesterton is quoted as saying: "The worst moment for an atheist is when he is really thankful and has no one to thank." Today, football games and dining room tables filled with food tend to overshadow the real meaning of Thanksgiving for American citizens, even Catholic ones. It is important for people to come together on this special day, celebrating that sense of community when we come together to thank God for our lives, our families, our freedom, our abilities. Do join us, won't you?

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

JUBILEE CALENDARS FOR 2025: As we prepare for the upcoming Jubilee Year which begins on December 24th, we are offering a special Jubilee Year Pilgrims of Hope calendar for 2025. Calendars are available in the Gathering Space. This calendar will be perfect for keeping track of the many special events planned for the upcoming year. Please take one!

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE – All are encouraged to attend this year's annual Interfaith Thanksgiving service on Thursday, November 21, at 7:00 PM at Temple Beth Israel. Our preacher this year will be Rabbi Sue Levi Elwell, who serves in Philadelphia. She is a brilliant speaker and has most recently been leading worship in London and Warsaw for High Holy Days and Fall Festivals. Please join us in this beautiful witness to our common Abrahamic Faith.

SAVE THE DATES!

Angel Tree: Saturday, November 23rd Angel Tree will be set up with tags in the Gathering Space

Thanksgiving Day Mass: Thursday, November 28th at 9am

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

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 breakfast-More details to come!

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

THANK YOU! We would like to thank the Independent Catholic Foundation for the generous grant of \$1,100 awarded to St. John's as part of the 2024-2025 Impact Grant Program. This grant provides funds to help pay for a portion of our annual subscription to FORMED, which is available to all parishioners to access diverse Catholic movies, audio books, podcasts, shows, and more. To learn more about FORMED, please contact the office. For more information about this grant please contact the Independent Catholic Foundation at 814-201-2080 or online at www.icfdaj.org.

Schedule for the Week of November 17th

Sunday, November 17 - 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*
 11:00 AM - Mass for *Bradley Johnson* requested by
 Rebecca & Stephen McNulty

Monday, November 18- Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Genie Semko* requested by
 Karen Mazzarella

Tuesday, November 19- Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Mike Rudolph* requested by
 Bob & Ginny Reeder

Wednesday, November 20- Weekday

6:00 PM - Mass for *Mary Ann (Koehle) Weakland*
 requested by Jean Koehle & Mickie Lamont

**Thursday, November 21 - The Presentation of the Blessed
 Virgin Mary**

8:30 AM - Mass for *Barbara Neral* requested by
 John & Dixie Smith

Friday, November 22 - St. Cecilia

8:30 AM - Mass for *Frank Ringkamp* requested by
 Chris & Melissa Ringkamp

**Saturday, November 23- Vigil of Our Lord Jesus Christ,
 King of the Universe**

4:00 PM - Mass for *Barbara Ann Spayd* requested by
 the Budd family

**Sunday, November 24 - Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the
 Universe**

8:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*
 11:00 AM - Mass for *Rose Marie Moczydlowski* requested
 by Barbara Bundy

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.

ANGEL TREE 2024: Prior to the Advent Season, (beginning December 1st) we will be visited once again by our Christmas Angel cherub. Catholic Charities is currently reviewing all perspective families who will be recipients for this year's gifts collected from our community at St. John's. We are planning to have the tree up and decorated in the Gathering Space by the weekend of November 23rd/24th. We are hopeful that this year's response to this drive will be successful as the ones in the past and are always greatly for the generosity of our parishioners!

TOASTY TODDLERS: We are collecting for Toasty Toddlers again this year. Help keep our youngest community members warm by donating winter outer wear such as coats, hats and gloves. Donations can be placed in the bin in the Gathering Space. The next distribution of outer wear will be on December 2nd. Thank you for supporting this worthy cause!

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: When we have firmly established for ourselves as individuals, as a family, and as a parish that we will give to God the first and best portion of our Time, Talent, and Treasure, the warnings we read in the Scriptures today need not cause us alarm. In fact, we can receive them as an encouragement to "Keep calm and steward on", no matter what comes our way. One of the blessings of a stewardship way of life is this: In challenging times, whether in our homes or workplaces, or even our beloved Church itself, we can take great comfort in knowing that we have a concrete plan to keep our priorities in proper order. And when we put God first in all aspects of our lives, we will experience the peace that He gives that surpasses all understanding.

November 2/3

Envelopes	\$ 8,051.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 421.00
Children's Offerings	\$ 3.00
Parish Development	\$ 50.00
Catholic Education	\$ 190.00
All Souls	\$ 423.00
All Saints	\$ 415.00
World Mission Sunday	\$ 50.00
Catholic Charities	\$ 300.00
Thanksgiving	\$ 70.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 10.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 25.00
Online Giving	\$ 2,831.15
Total Offertory	\$ 12,839.15

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 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. Advanced giving online starts November 18th. If you prefer to give offline, please use the #iGiveCatholic envelopes provided in the Gathering Space. See the flyer for more information on how to give and important dates. Give thanks, Give back, Give Catholic!

FOOD COLLECTION: The Altoona Ambucs will be collecting non perishable food items during the Hollidaysburg Christmas Parade on November 24th at 2pm. All food items will be donated to the American Rescue Workers in Hollidaysburg for distribution to those in need. Please be generous, as the need is great!

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
Sally Langham • Loane Maier • Elsie MacCullagh
Samantha McQuade • Marian Monios • John Patz
Dan Roberts • Jason Ryan • Anne Showalter
Rachel Sibold • Mary Frances Stokan • 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 NOVEMBER:

November 21st-Daniel Roberts
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.

RECEIVE UP TO DATE INFORMATION FROM ST. JOHN'S WITH FLOCKNOTE: We want to communicate more effectively with you. But we also want to make it easy for you to control what types of announcements you get from us and how you are notified when we make them. And in order to do this we are using a simple service called FLOCKNOTE. Like sending "notes" to your "flock". This is all totally free for you to use and it's going to also make it easy for you to stay plugged in to the ministries or groups that you care about, all by text message or email updates. Your information will be completely safe and secure. And you can unsubscribe from any updates at any time! To join, text SJC1 to 84576. Then after it responds, make sure you click that link and complete the process. If you can't complete this on your mobile phone, please go online to stjohnsaltoona.flocknote.com to register.

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.

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.

November 17th-Class 9:15am-10:45am (Safety Lessons)

November 23rd-9th, 10th, 11th Grade Discipleship Retreat at St. Mary's in Altoona 9am-5pm

November 24th-No Class

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

December 8th-No Class-Breakfast with Santa

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

ADVENT FAITH SHARING GROUPS: Anyone interested in being a facilitator for small faith sharing groups during the 4 weeks of Advent, sign up on the kiosk or contact Jane Becker at 814-414-9836. This will be the final year of the Eucharistic Revival. The focus in the last year will be Missionary Discipleship. Materials will be provided for the facilitator and participants.

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.

The Altoona Chorus of Sweet Adelines presents

"SOUNDS OF THE SEASON"

Saturday, December 7th at 1PM at

St John the

Evangelist Church

Lotz Avenue, in Altoona.

Hear all your favorite Christmas melodies.

Concert is free to all.