



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


PASTORAL STAFF
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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. 21- 4:00 PM - John Majcher, David Langguth
 Sun. Dec. 22-8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci, Ginny Reeder
 Sun. Dec. 22-11:00 AM - James Krug, Camille Krug


ALTAR SERVERS
 Sat. Dec. 21- 4:00 PM - Jeremy Truscello, Chloe Truscello
 Sun. Dec. 22- 8:00 AM - Nicholas Helsley, NOT FILLED
 Sun. Dec. 22-11:00 AM - Colin Schurr, Liam Schurr

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS
 Sat. Dec. 21- 4:00 PM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
 Sun. Dec. 22-8:00 AM - Diane Turcovsky, Daniel Turcovsky
 Sun. Dec. 22-11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Dolores Capriotti,
 Lou Ann Clark, Francel Dandrea, Ken Gorman,
 Susanna Tomlinson

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY
 Sat. Dec. 21- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, Coleen Langguth,
 Betsy Lloyd, NOT FILLED
 Sun. Dec. 22-8:00 AM - John Becker, Jane Becker, Jane Strasser,
 Mary Truesdale
 Sun. Dec. 22-11:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Carolyn English,
 Mary Grace Horton, Peg Madden

SACRISTAN
 Sat. Dec. 21- 4:00 PM - Ray King, Mary King
 Sun. Dec. 22- 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci
 Sun. Dec. 22- 11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy

SCRIP
 Sat. Dec. 21- 4:00 PM - Julie Beiswenger, Becky Merilli
 Sun. Dec. 22- 8:00 AM - Chris Palazzi, Heather Yasolsky
 Sun. Dec. 22- 11:00 AM - Peg Madden, Marge Rudolph

 Jumpstarting Jubilee 2025 – Advent Joy The third candle of Advent symbolizes Joy. Jubilee joy comes from our journey toward the fullness of God’s Kingdom. The upcoming Holy Year offers occasions for this through opportunities for pilgrimage and through communal liturgies. On December 29, 2024, Bishop Mark will open the Jubilee here in the diocese with a special Mass at 2 PM in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Come and celebrate “tidings of great Joy.”

A Few Words from the Pastor:

JUBILEE YEAR 2025 – We are drawing near to the worldwide observance of the Jubilee Year, which will be inaugurated in every diocese on the Feast of the Holy Family, Sunday December 29. A special Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral at 2:00 PM. All are encouraged to participate. Materials on the upcoming Jubilee Year from the Diocese will be available for distribution next weekend at all masses.



OUR ROSE COLORED CANDLE – Most are familiar with seeing a rose colored candle on the wreath, and are aware that it represents the spirit of joy on the third Sunday of Advent that fills us as Christmas approaches. Our readings are bursting with calls for rejoicing. Fewer of us are aware that this candle is called the "**Shepherd's**" candle, which recalls the shepherds in the field keeping watch in the night! In fact, there is actually a name for each of the candles: the first candle is sometimes called the "**Prophecy Candle**" in remembrance of the prophets who foretold the coming of Christ. The second is called the "**Bethlehem Candle**", reminding us of the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. The fourth is called the "**Angel's Candle**", which is meant to symbolize the message of the angels, Peace on Earth."

MARY ON NETFLIX! To put you in the spirit of the season, don't miss the film "Mary" on Netflix. It has received mixed reviews. As with any biblical story put on film, artistic license is taken to present the culture of the times, so expect some fictional liberties. Talk with your friends and priests and let us know what you think!

THESE FINAL DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS: Penance, often associated with acts of contrition and self-discipline, plays a pivotal role in the spiritual journey of believers during Advent. It serves as a means of **introspection, repentance, and seeking reconciliation with God.** Please note that there will be additional times for individual confessions, after every Mass on the weekend of December 21-22, and on Monday evening, December 23rd at 5:00, as well as confessions every Wednesday before Mass and Saturday at 3:00.

OPLATKI -This Christmas wafer is a popular, family-centered Christmas tradition enjoyed by families from Eastern Europe. The Oplatki tradition originated in Poland and is traced to the early centuries of Christianity. This Christmas custom began with a simple white wafer baked from flour and water. The word means "Angel Bread," and the wafer is shared before the Christmas Eve dinner. These wafers are available in the Gathering Space.

SAVE THE DATES!

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

Christmas Eve Masses: Tuesday, December 24th at 4pm and 10pm

Christmas Day Mass: Wednesday, December 25th at 10am

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

Jubilee Opening Mass: Sunday, December 29th at 2pm at Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Masses: Vigil Mass on Tuesday, December 31st at 4pm and

Feast Day Mass on Wednesday, January 1st at 10am

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

ANGEL TREE 2024: THANK YOU! A BIG thank you to everyone who donated and helped organize our Angel Tree this year! We supported 9 children and collected \$4,410 in gift cards. Your generosity is very much appreciated and we were able to brighten the Christmas season for so many in need in our area. THANK YOU!

CHRISTMAS CANTATA: St John the Evangelist Catholic Church choirs will present "A Thrill of Hope," a Christmas musical by Joel Raney on Sunday, January 5th at 3:00 p.m. A one-hour production of familiar carols re-telling the Christmas story with charm, scripture, and thoughtful narration will become a truly meaningful worship experience. Free-will offerings will be accepted to support our music ministries. Contact Patti Jimenez for more information at 814-414-7529.

Schedule for the Week of December 15th

Sunday, December 15- Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM - Mass for *Bradley Johnson* requested by Rebecca & Stephen McNulty

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

Monday, December 16- Advent Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for Barbara Neral requested by Vicki Faretta & children Crystal & Michael

Tuesday, December 17- Advent Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Carol Bismark & Donna Long* requested by Dee Schmerbeck

Wednesday, December 18- Advent Weekday

6:00 PM - Mass for *Robert & Diane Long, Lottie Servello & Frank Ringkamp* requested by Chris & Melissa Ringkamp

Thursday, December 19 - Advent Weekday

9:00 AM - Mass for *Kathy Cecchine* requested by Jane Strasser

Friday, December 20 - Advent Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Scott Allen Broberg* requested by Gloria Broberg

Saturday, December 21- Vigil of Fourth Sunday of Advent

4:00 PM - Mass for *Jane Byrne* requested by Anna Musselman

Sunday, December 22- Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

11:00 AM - Mass for *Fred Mazzarella* requested by Karen Mazzarella

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.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULING: For January 4 – May 25, 2025 It's time to schedule ministries for Winter - Spring 2025. If you have internet access, please enter the dates that you are NOT available in the Profile section of **Ministry Scheduler Pro**. Here is the direct link to that website – www.rotundasoftware.com/ministry/teammates There is also a link from our parish website (WWW.STJOHNSALTOONA.ORG) and in the email reminder you will receive soon. There are cards available in the Gathering Space for those who do not have access to the internet. If you are not able to update your profile online or visit the church to fill out a card, please call Mike Greslick on a weekday evening between 6 PM and 9 PM or anytime on the weekends at 814-577-5292. Feel free to reach out via email as well to mike.greslick@gmail.com. **Please update your profile online or call me or fill out a card and return it by midnight on Sunday, December 15th.** Family members can fill out one card front and back. Thank you for your service to our faith community throughout the year!

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: 'Rejoice in the Lord always, I shall say it again, rejoice!' We have arrived at Gaudete Sunday (Gaudete is the Latin word for 'rejoice') on this Third Week of Advent, and the Scriptures takes on a joyful tone as we continue our preparations for the feast of our Savior's birth and ultimately for His Second Coming. As the great feast of Christmas draws near, let us rejoice in Christ's extravagant love. Let's avail ourselves of the peace He longs to give us. And let's look carefully at our lives to make sure we are indeed making of them a gift fitting for Him. When we get this 'gift' right, all the other gifts and to-do's on our Christmas list will fall into their proper place.

November 30/December 1

Envelopes	\$ 7,387.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 286.00
Children's Offerings	\$ 5.00
Catholic Education	\$ 80.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 631.00
Thanksgiving	\$ 20.00
Catholic Charities	\$ 70.00
Christmas Offering	\$ 50.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 40.00
Online Giving	\$ 2,258.90
Total Offertory	\$ 10,827.90

2024 Catholic Ministries Drive Goal: \$42,400

January 1, 2024 - October 31, 2024

Gifts/Pledges - \$47,675.00

Total Gifts Received - \$47,675.00

THANK YOU! The Allegheny Club of Hollidaysburg donated \$10,000 to our parish which will be used to cover general expenses for the parish for the upcoming year. We appreciate their continued support of our parish and others in our community each year!

#GIVECATHOLIC UPDATE: A BIG thank you to everyone who supported our #GIVECATHOLIC campaign over the last few weeks! Between online and envelope donations we have collected \$610! Stay tuned for updates as we make the upgrades to our Music Ministry!

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.

A CELEBRATION OF OUR PIANO: Our piano Cleos has turned 100 years old! In honor of this milestone, a coloring book has been created to celebrate his special birthday. The coloring books will be available in the Gathering Space. Donations are being accepted to help offset the cost of printing. Happy Birthday Cleos!

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

HOME WITH THE LORD: Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of:
Dorothy L. Hufford, mother of Lou Ann Clark
May she rest in the peace and joy of the Lord.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT: Journey Through Loss is a nine-week program for those who have lost a loved one through death recently or in the past. The program provides the opportunity to share or to listen and offers positive ideas for coping. The next session begins on Tuesday, January 21. We will meet weekly from 1:30 to 3:00 PM in the convent building next to St. Michael's Church in Hollidaysburg. All faiths are welcome. For more information or to register contact Mary Petrak at 814-502-6076.

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.

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.

ADULT ENRICHMENT: Trinity and Christology taught by Father Timothy Harris at St. John Vianney, Johnstown. Thursdays from 6:30 PM-9:00 PM (Running for 10 Weeks) beginning January 2, 2025. The cost of the class is \$35.00 and must be turned in with the Registration Form. To register, please visit the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Website at www.dioceseaj.org/lay-ecclesial-ministry, see your Parish Priest or Secretary for a Registration form or by contacting Jessica, Office of Adult Enrichment and Lay Ecclesial Ministry at (814) 361-2000 or jgramling@dioceseaj.org All are welcome! Please note that the Deadline for Class Registration is Friday, December 20th. No Registration Forms will be accepted after this date.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

- December 15th-Class 9:15am-10:45am
- December 22nd/29th- No Classes (Christmas/New Year's)
- January 5th-Class 9:15am-10:45am
- January 12th-Class 9:15am-10:45am
- January 12th-Spring Retreat for ALL Confirmation Preparation Students in the gym (Catholic and Public) with 9th Grade Rite of Blessing and 10th Grade Rite of Commitment at the 11am Mass.
- January 19th- No Class

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

VISIT FROM SANTA: Thank you to Santa for coming to visit us at St. John's last Sunday and to all of the parishioners and families who attended our breakfast! We appreciate the parish support at our social events!

ALPHA AT ST. JOHN'S: ALPHA will be coming to our parish in January. Alpha is a series of sessions which explore the Christian faith. Each talk looks at a different question and is designed to create conversation. No two Alpha's look the same, but generally it has three key experiences in common: food, a talk and conversation. Registration cards are available in the Gathering Space. Online registration available at stmichael-hldg-pa.org. Watch for more information in the coming weeks!

THANK YOU! Thank you to Tom & Cindy Trimarco for offering the Christmas Centerpiece making event again this year and for donating the proceeds of \$175 to St. John's for our Food Bank Collection. We appreciate your support of this very worthy cause!

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.

LIVE NATIVITY: On Sunday, December 22nd from 6:30-7:15pm come enjoy the music of our St. John's choirs at Hollidaysburg Church of the Brethren where they will be caroling in front of the live nativity with real animals! Hope to see you there!

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!