



Fourth Week of Advent:

Trusting God's Love

December 22, 2024

St. John the Evangelist Church

309 Lotz Avenue, Altoona, PA 814-942-5503

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY -DECEMBER 23RD- 8:30 AM

TUESDAY -DECEMBER 24TH -8:30 AM VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD - 4:00 PM & 10:00 PM

WEDNESDAY-DECEMBER 25TH-THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD - 10:00 AM

THURSDAY -DECEMBER 26TH- 8:30 AM

FRIDAY-DECEMBER 27TH-FEAST OF ST. JOHN - 9:00 AM

SATURDAY -DECEMBER 28TH- 4:00 PM

SUNDAY - DECEMBER 29TH-8:00 AM & 11:00 AM

NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS

LECTORS

Tues. Dec. 24-4:00 PM-Iris Tatar, Susanna Tomlinson
Tues. Dec. 24-10:00 PM-Barbara Bundy, Patrick Schurr
Wed. Dec. 25-10:00 AM-Camille Krug, Richard Consiglio
Sat. Dec. 28- 4:00 PM - Joyce Cunningham, Maria Spayd
Sun. Dec. 29-8:00 AM - Norma Foose, Bill Foose
Sun. Dec. 29-11:00 AM - Susanna Tomlinson, Jim Campbell

ALTAR SERVERS

Tues. Dec. 24-4:00 PM-Abigail Hovance, Jeremy Truscello,
NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Tues. Dec. 24-10:00 PM-Bob Olson, Ginny Reeder, Nancy Weimer
Wed. Dec. 25-10:00 AM-Aidan Schurr, NOT FILLED
Sat. Dec. 28- 4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, Sadie Swope
Sun. Dec. 29- 8:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Sun. Dec. 29-11:00 AM - Iris Tatar, Lexi Tatar

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Tues. Dec. 24-4:00 PM-Jennifer Helsley, Nicholas Helsley,
NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Tues. Dec. 24-10:00 PM-Dolores Capriotti, Francel Dandrea,
Ken Gorman, NOT FILLED
Wed. Dec. 25-10:00 AM-Daniel Turcovsky, Diane Turcovsky
Sat. Dec. 28- 4:00 PM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Sun. Dec. 29-8:00 AM - Nicholas Helsley, Darlene Scarpaci
Sun. Dec. 29-11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Barbara Bundy,
Francel Dandrea, Ken Gorman, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Tues. Dec. 24-4:00 PM-Marilyn Bevan, Ray Kennedy,
Dennis Moughemer, Karen Moughemer, Patrick Podoletz,
Ed Stoltz, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Tues. Dec. 24-10:00 PM-Connie Baker, Coleen Langguth,
Peg Madden, NOT FILLED
Wed. Dec. 25-10:00 AM-Walter Bloom, Lou Ann Clark,
Carolyn English, Mary Truesdale
Sat. Dec. 28- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, Coleen Langguth,
Dennis Moughemer, Karen Moughemer
Sun. Dec. 29-8:00 AM - Mike Greslick, Ashley Greslick,
Ray Kennedy, Ed Stoltz
Sun. Dec. 29-11:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Wendy Campbell,
Dolores Capriotti, Lou Ann Clark

SACRISTAN

Tues. Dec. 24-4:00 PM-Marilyn Bevan
Tues. Dec. 24-10:00 PM-Dolores Capriotti
Wed. Dec. 25-10:00 AM-NOT FILLED
Sat. Dec. 28- 4:00 PM - Ray King, Mary King
Sun. Dec. 29- 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci
Sun. Dec. 29- 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan

SCRIP

Sat. Dec. 28- 4:00 PM - Lori Baker, Marge Rudolph
Sun. Dec. 29- 8:00 AM - Erika Yasolsky, Heather Yasolsky
Sun. Dec. 29- 11:00 AM - Carolyn English, Gary Johnson

A Few Words from the Pastor:

THE POPE'S BIRTHDAY! To mark his 88th birthday on December 17th, Pope Francis released several excerpts from his autobiography "Hope," which will hit bookstores in January. In this memoir, he recounts his childhood in Buenos Aires and the logistical difficulties of his 2021 visit to Iraq. Though up in years, he is certainly young at heart. We continue to pray for his good health and joyous spirit!

CHRISTMAS MASSES! We celebrate the Mass of The Lord's Birth on Christmas eve at 4:00 PM, Christmas Night at 10:00 PM, and Christmas Morning at 10:00 AM. Glory to God in the Highest!

THESE LAST FEW 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 afternoons at 3:00.

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS! Many thanks to all who offered gifts and best wishes for my 75th birthday. This is truly a wonderful parish family of which I feel so much a part!

OUR PARISH PATRON! The Feast of St. John the Evangelist occurs on Friday December 27th. We will celebrate his feast with Mass at 9:00 and a festive breakfast in the cafeteria. Please plan on joining us for this time of feasting and fellowship!

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.



SAVE THE DATES!

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

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.

 Jumpstarting Jubilee 2025 – Advent Love The fourth Advent candle symbolizes love. Our renewed sense of hope that accompanies the Jubilee Year results in a commitment to love one another. The Jubilee Year offers the opportunity to be "ambassadors of hope" through loving service. Join in the efforts to serve the poor offered by your parish. See what outreach ministries such as Catholic Charities have to offer. "God so loved the world that he sent his only Son," share that love in return.

Schedule for the Week of December 22nd

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

Monday, December 23- Advent Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass in *Honor of Monsignor Becker's Birthday*
requested by Pat & Sue Podoletz

Tuesday, December 24- Advent Weekday/ The Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord

8:30 AM - Mass for *Leroy Musselman* requested by
Anna Musselman

4:00 PM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

10:00 PM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

Wednesday, December 25- The Nativity of the Lord

10:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

Thursday, December 26 - St. Stephen

8:30 AM - Mass for *Stephan Fix* requested by
Brenda & Alex Fix

Friday, December 27 - St. John

9:00 AM - Mass for *Duane Eichenlaub* requested by
Linda Weyandt

Saturday, December 28- Vigil of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

4:00 PM - Mass for *Bill Schmerbeck* requested by
Dee Schmerbeck

Sunday, December 29- The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

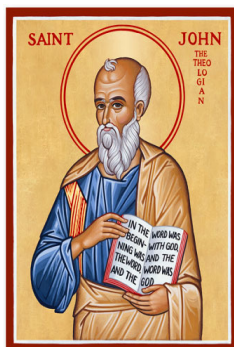
8:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

11:00 AM - Mass for *Dan & Dolores Kubitsky* requested by
Donna Messner

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.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST FEAST DAY MASS AND

BREAKFAST: All parishioners are welcome to attend morning mass on Friday, December 27, at 9:00 AM to celebrate the feast day of St. John the Evangelist. After Mass we are planning to have breakfast in the school cafeteria. All are welcome to attend! Please sign up on the kiosk if you'd like to come to breakfast so we can plan for food and seating. Hope you will join us for a morning a good food and fellowship with your St. John's family!



STEWARDSHIP CORNER: Our Blessed Mother takes center stage on this fourth Sunday of Advent, and fittingly so as we draw near to the celebration of her Son's birth. After our Lord himself, Mary is our model and guide to a stewardship way of life. Mary's response to the angel Gabriel in our 'Alleluia' today captures her stewardship spirit: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word (Lk 1:38)." At the moment of the Annunciation, Mary recognized God's gift to her and made a generous and trusting return to Him, offering her very self to God as His servant. This reply to such an overwhelming request – made by an angel, no less – shows us how extraordinary our Blessed Mother is. She is indeed "full of grace." How beautifully our Blessed Mother models the mind and heart of a steward. It is an example that we, her children, can follow in our own lives 2,000 years later. With all the gifts God gives us – our time, our talents, and our material possessions – we, too, can offer ourselves to God by using all these gifts to serve and glorify Him. In so doing, we will effectively spread the Good News of the Gospel to the world around us today. We will be stewards after our Mother's own heart.

December 7/8

Envelopes	\$ 4,566.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 648.00
Parish Development	\$ 155.00
Catholic Education	\$ 45.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 305.00
Thanksgiving	\$ 10.00
I Give Catholic	\$ 140.00
Christmas Offering	\$ 150.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 10.00
Retired Religious Fund	\$ 520.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 452.00
Online Giving	\$ 3,264.90
Total Offertory	\$ 10,265.90

2024 Catholic Ministries Drive Goal: \$42,400

January 1, 2024 - November 30, 2024

Gifts/Pledges - \$48,065.00

Total Gifts Received - \$48,065.00

MARRIAGE PREP 2025: The Marriage Preparation Schedule for 2025 is available at www.dioceseaj.org under Ministries and then Marriage Preparation. For more information/dates contact the Parish Office at 814-942-5503.

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.



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 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.

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 and in this week's bulletin. Online registration for Alpha at St. John's is available through the stmichael-hldg-pa.org website.

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!

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
stjohnsecretary@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