

2025 Jubilee Year Pilgrims of Hope



**The Presentation
of the Lord
February 2, 2025**

St. John the Evangelist Church

309 Lotz Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602 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
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

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

February Prayer Intention of Pope Francis

For Vocations to the Priesthood and
Religious Life

We pray that the ecclesial community
might welcome the desires and doubts of
those young people called to serve Christ's
mission in the priesthood and religious life.



NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS

LECTORS

Sat. Feb. 8- 4:00 PM - Maria Spayd, Jeremy Truscello
Sun. Feb. 9-8:00 AM - Ginny Reeder, Mike Greslick
Sun. Feb. 9-11:00 AM - Richard Consiglio, Jim Campbell

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. Feb. 8- 4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, Sadie Swope
Sun. Feb. 9- 8:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Sun. Feb. 9-11:00 AM - Iris Tatar, Lexi Tatar

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. Feb. 8- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, David Loth
Sun. Feb. 9-8:00 AM - Jennifer Helsley, Darlene Scarpaci
Sun. Feb. 9-11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy, Dolores Capriotti,
Francel Dandrea, Ken Gorman, Bob Olson,
Susanna Tomlinson

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. Feb.8- 4:00 PM - Coleen Langguth, Betsy Lloyd,
Dennis Moughemer, Karen Moughemer
Sun. Feb. 9-8:00 AM - Jane Becker, John Becker, Jane Strasser,
Mary Truesdale
Sun. Feb.9-11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Wendy Campbell,
Mary Grace Horton, Peg Madden

SACRISTAN

Sat. Feb.8- 4:00 PM - Ray King, Mary King
Sun. Feb.9- 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci
Sun. Feb.9- 11:00 AM - Dolores Capriotti

SCRIP

Sat. Feb. 8- 4:00 PM - Lori Baker, Chris Palazzi
Sun. Feb. 9- 8:00 AM - Erika Yasolsky, Heather Yasolsky
Sun. Feb.9- 11:00 AM - Carolyn English, Patrick Podoletz

2025 JUBILEE YEAR: The 2025 Jubilee will be centered on the theme "Pilgrims of Hope." As His Holiness Pope Francis so beautifully expressed it: "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision." Throughout this Jubilee year, we are called to reflect on God's boundless mercy and embrace our mission to live out the Gospel in everyday life.

A Few Words from the Pastor:

CELEBRATING THE ARTS! In the month of February, of this Jubilee Year 2025, the church invites us to celebrate the artistic talents of God's people, meant to reveal the beauty and goodness of God. We rejoice in the great number of folks who have offered for display their art and the contribution that they are making to building up the kingdom of God. Please take the time to enjoy and savor the art that is so evident in our talented parish community.

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION - We commonly think of February 2nd as Ground Hog Day. In the Church, however, February 2nd is the Feast of the Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple, which celebrates the 40th day since Christmas. This feast is also considered **Candlemas Day**, when candles for the coming year are blessed. Falling on a Sunday this year, we will observe this feast with a procession and blessing of candles. Candles for home use will be available after all Masses. If you have any candles at home, you are encouraged to bring them and place them near the altar for the blessing.

MEMORIAL OF ST. BLAISE – There is a beautiful tradition in the Church when we bless throats on St. Blaise day, February 3rd. We will anticipate this day by having individual blessing of throats, as well as a communal blessing at the end of next weekend's Masses.

WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE! Today the universal church celebrates the world Day for Consecrated Life. Please pray for all those who have made commitments in the consecrated life and be sure to thank them on their special day may they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and responded generously to God's gift of their vocation.

THE ANXIOUS GENERATION: THE GREAT REWIRING OF CHILDHOOD AND THE EPIDEMIC OF MENTAL ILLNESS, by Jonathan Haidt. Major depression among teenage girls has increased 145% since the year 2010. It has increased 161% for boys over that same period of time. Sociologists point to the ever-present smart phone and its availability to young teens as the significant factor in these alarming statistics. In reality we are moving children from a "play-based childhood" to a "phone-based childhood." We all see it! When have you seen a teen without a phone in her or his hand? And what are the phones doing to the minds and spirits of our teenagers? Our young teens are becoming increasingly depressed and isolated. The rate of self-harm for young adolescent girls has nearly tripled from 2010 to 2020. Since 2010 there has been a 167% increase in suicide rates for girls and a 91% increase for boys. I share this information not to scare parents and grandparents, but to encourage an awareness of what can happen when young adolescents get absorbed into the fantasy cyberworld of social media. Some suggestions? No cell phones at the dinner table. Turn off screens and remove them from bedrooms 30 to 60 minutes before bedtime. Learn how to control the internet access for your kids. Tell your kids to go out and play and leave their screens behind for a time each day!

SAVE THE DATES!

Nutrition Classes: Saturdays, February 1st, 8th & 22nd in the Parish Center-Registration required

Blessing of Throats: Saturday, February 1st & Sunday, February 2nd at the end of each weekend Mass

Vaccine Clinic: Sunday, February 9th from 9am-11am in the Parish Center-Sign up on the kiosk

President's Day: Monday, February 17th-Parish Office Closed

Ash Wednesday: Wednesday, March 5th Masses at 8:30am & 6pm with Soup Supper following in the gym

Lent Communal Penance Service: Sunday, March 23rd at 4pm

Easter Egg Hunt: Sunday, April 6th after the 11am Mass in the gym

Deacon Gene's Birthday Breakfast: Tuesday, April 15th after Morning Mass in the Parish Center

Monsignor Becker's 50th Ordination Anniversary Mass & Luncheon: Sunday, May 4th at the 11am Mass followed by a luncheon at the Casino-More info to come!

MONSIGNOR'S 50TH ORDINATION CELEBRATION SAVE THE DATE: Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 4th as we will be celebrating Monsignor's 50th Ordination Anniversary! We will begin our celebration at the 11am Mass followed by a luncheon at the Casino. Please plan on joining us as we honor Monsignor for his 50 years of faithful and dedicated service. Formal invitations and more information will be coming soon. We pray for God's continued blessings for Monsignor and our parish. Congratulations Monsignor!

Schedule for the Week of February 2

Sunday, February 2- The Presentation of the Lord

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

11:00 AM - Mass for *John Wolfe* requested by
Patty Wolfe & daughters

Monday, February 3- St. Blaise

8:30 AM - Mass for *Florence Dancha* requested by
Bob & Ginny Reeder

Tuesday, February 4- Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Margie & Regina, sisters of Marian Monios* requested by Marian Monios

Wednesday, February 5- St. Agatha

6:00 PM - Mass for *Elizabeth Sibold* requested by
the Sibold family

Thursday, February 6- St. Paul Miki & Companions

8:30 AM - Mass for *Margareta H. Goch* requested by
family

Friday, February 7 - Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Mary Jacobs* requested by
Ed & Debbie Ergler

Saturday, February 8- Vigil of 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 PM - Mass for *Fern Weyant* requested by
Ron & Joyce Cunningham

Sunday, February 9- 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

11:00 AM - Mass for *Mike Rudolph* requested by
Marge Rudolph & children

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.

STRENGTH IN CHRIST Men's Conference: Sunday, March 30th, 2025 from 11:30 AM-5:30 PM at Mount Aloysius College, Cresson. Join us for a day that includes lunch, Sunday Mass, talks from local priests, personal testimonies, and a panel discussion with local Catholic men. There is no cost to attend. Visit www.dioceseaj.org to register online. For those unable to register online, paper registration forms can be found at each parish to complete and return via mail. *Registration closes March 21st.* Online registration is encouraged due to limited seating.

OUR PARISH BIBLE STUDY: Our weekly bible study gathers each Wednesday at 6:45pm in the parish center. Fr. Ashok is leading this class. Please plan on joining us! This is an excellent way to prepare for the coming Sunday, as we reflect on the readings for that day!

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: Today we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, when Mary and Joseph brought their infant Son to the Temple in obedience of the laws of their Jewish faith. Even knowing their Son was God, they still carefully observed the faith practices of their day, bringing Him to the temple "to present Him to the Lord." The Holy Parents were good stewards of their child, teaching Him to live in obedience of the practices of their faith from his infancy and throughout His years.

Those of us entrusted with the care of children, whether our own children, godchildren, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, students, etc. – we have a vital role to play in the faith formation of these young ones. We, like the Holy Parents, must steward these children well, forming them in the faith by both instruction and example throughout their lives.

What a privilege and high calling we have as Christian stewards. Let us take these stewardship lessons to heart and present our gifts and our young ones joyfully to the Lord.

January 18/19

Envelopes	\$ 3,228.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 453.00
Parish Development	\$ 40.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,688.52
Total Offertory	\$ 5,409.52

2024 Catholic Ministries Drive Goal: \$42,400

January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024

Gifts/Pledges - \$48,455.00

Total Gifts Received - \$48,455.00

FINAL CMD UPDATE: The 2024 Catholic Ministries Drive ended on December 31st. We exceeded our goal by \$6,055! Did you know that anything over our goal comes back to the church? Additional funds will help cover monthly utilities, including several unexpected maintenance and repair expenses with the parish recently. Thank you to everyone who has donated! Your financial support is greatly appreciated!

2024 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS will be available upon request beginning January 31st. Please call the Parish Office at 814-942-5503 to request your contribution statement to be mailed or picked up in the Parish Office. A contribution statement will not be mailed to you unless you call the office to request it.

HELP NEEDED: The St. Vincent DePaul Assumption Chapel Food Pantry is looking for someone to drive their truck occasionally to pickup donations. If you have questions or are interested in helping, please contact Bob McManus at 814-943-7962.

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
Elsie MacCullagh • Samantha McQuade
Marian Monios • John Patz • Dan Roberts
Anne Showalter • Rachel Sibold • Mary Frances Stokan
Donna Taddy • Tim Temofonte • Wally Wargo
Lois Werfel • Dorothy Yingling

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. Sessions are on Tuesdays. 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 FEBRUARY:

February 9th- Ronald Cunningham
February 13th-Mary Louise Rajnish
February 16th-Joyce Cunningham & Lois Werfel
February 19th-Carl Mauch
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.

NOAH BUS TRIP: Please join St. Mark/Holy Rosary Parish's bus trip to see Noah-30th Anniversary Limited Showing at the Sight & Sound Theatre on April 9, 2025. The cost of the bus trip includes the 11:00 AM Show and 2:15 Pm Lunch Smorgasbord at Hershey Farm Restaurant. \$195.00/Adult, \$140.00 /Child (3-12) Please Contact Robyn Murphy (814) 931-5683 or Diane O'Leary (814) 935-2114 to reserve your seat.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST: Sunday February 9, the Men's Club of St. Mary and St. Michael in Hollidaysburg will hold it's famous all you can eat Pancake and Sausage Breakfast from 8AM-Noon. Donation of \$6 for adults and \$3 for Children 12 and under. Come try the best pancake breakfast in town, which includes drinks and our popular pancake topping bar!

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

February 2nd-No Class

February 9th-Class 9:15am-10:45am

February 16th-No Class

February 23rd-Class 9:15am-10:45am

March 2nd-9:15am-10:45am Family Lent Event-Gym-Student and a parent/guardian should attend with Children's Liturgy to follow at 11am Mass

March 9th-No Class

March 16th-Class 9:15am-10:45am

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

PRAYER PAL 2025 COMMUNITY UNITED IN PRAYER:

The members of the Church of the Brethren, St. Mary, St. Michael, Zion Lutheran Church all of Hollidaysburg, St. John the Evangelist Lakemont, and St. Joseph Parish in Williamsburg are happy to announce that Prayer Pal will be offered to all parishioners this Lenten season. A mailer was sent to all registered parishioners with all the details explaining this popular (private) prayer activity. Please take a few moments to read the mailer and join the over 285 participants from last year, in this rewarding and prayerful experience.

If anyone has questions or wishes to sign-up, after reviewing your mailer, please feel free to call one of the committee members listed below, visit St. Michael's parish website at www.stmichael-hldg-pa.org or scan the QR code.

Jane Becker 814-414-9836
Ryan Custead 814-502-7630
Mary Jo Lanzel 814-934-6793
Mary Leap 814-937-9789
Dave & Diane Madden 814-215-7677
Donna Messner 814-934-9023
Lisa Myers 814-934-0619
Dec. Kevin Nester 717-574-4856



CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS: Court Prince Gallitzin # 2625 serves all 11 parishes and beyond. New members are always welcome! On Monday, February 10, 2025, please come and join us for our monthly meeting in the St. Rose of Lima community room at 5:30 pm with the business meeting beginning at 6pm. If you have any questions, please contact Regent Donna Hoover at donna31049@gmail.com or 814-632-3509.

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 2025-2026 year. Please call or visit the Parish Office to submit an intention.