

2025 Jubilee Year Pilgrims of Hope



**The Epiphany of the
Lord
January 5, 2025**

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
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Iris Tatar - Director of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
iristat38@gmail.com
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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

January Prayer Intention of Pope Francis

For The Right to an Education

We pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, may always be respected.



NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS

LECTORS

Sat. Jan. 11- 4:00 PM - Jeremy Truscello, David Langguth
Sun. Jan. 12-8:00 AM - Diane Turcovsky, Daniel Turcovsky
Sun. Jan. 12-11:00 AM - Susan Podoletz, Susanna Tomlinson

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. Jan. 11- 4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, Sadie Swope
Sun. Jan. 12- 8:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Sun. Jan. 12-11:00 AM - Aidan Schurr, Colin Schurr

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. Jan. 11- 4:00 PM - David Loth, NOT FILLED
Sun. Jan. 12-8:00 AM - Jennifer Helsley, Ginny Reeder
Sun. Jan. 12-11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy, Lou Ann Clark,
Francel Dandrea, Ken Gorman, Bob Olson, NOT FILLED

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. Jan. 11- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, Betsy Lloyd, Larry VanSickel,
Paula VanSickel
Sun. Jan. 12-8:00 AM - Jane Becker, John Becker, Ray Kennedy,
Mary Truesdale
Sun. Jan. 12-11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Walter Bloom,
Dolores Capriotti, Peg Madden

SACRISTAN

Sat. Jan. 11- 4:00 PM - Ray King, Mary King
Sun. Jan. 12- 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci
Sun. Jan. 12- 11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy

SCRIP

Sat. Jan. 11- 4:00 PM - Julie Beiswenger, Becky Merrill
Sun. Jan. 12- 8:00 AM - Chris Palazzi, NOT FILLED
Sun. Jan. 12- 11:00 AM - Patrick Podoletz, NOT FILLED

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:

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY, 18 January through 25 January - Every year, Christian communities and churches join together to pray for the visible unity of the Church, faithfully abiding by the will of Christ, who prayed "that all may be one" (John 17:21), during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. 2025 is a special year, which marks the 1,700th anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council. This Council of Christian churches, was called by Emperor Constantine I. The Council took place in Nicaea, a place just outside Constantinople (now Istanbul), from May to July of 325.

WHY IS THE COUNCIL OF NICAEA SO IMPORTANT? The Council of Nicaea stands as a monumental event in the history of Christianity. It was more than just a gathering; it was a pivotal moment that helped shape the core beliefs of one of the world's largest religions. The Council of Nicaea resolved the controversy of Arianism, which falsely held that Christ is only a man. This council declared and affirmed that Christ is *fully human and fully divine*. It also set a precedent for subsequent general councils to adopt creeds and canons. Finally, it consolidated greater unity in the Christian church by representing all of Christendom. The Creed we pray each Sunday is a creed first adopted 1700 years ago at this first council. For that reason we call it the "Nicene Creed."

THE SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD, JANUARY 26 – Though a few weeks away, this special Sunday is a yearly invitation to embrace and make part of our daily life the person of Jesus Christ, the living Word of God. The motto chosen by the Holy Father is in keeping with the Jubilee Year, and is a verse from Psalm 119, "I hope in your Word". It is a cry of hope: man, in a moment of anguish, tribulation, and confusion, cries out to God and puts all his hope in him. As the Jubilee year reminds us, we are "Pilgrims of Hope".

CONFIRMATION STUDENTS: Next Sunday, January 12th at the 11am Mass we will celebrate The Rite of Blessing for our 9th grade Confirmation students, Lily Davis, Abigail Hovance, Jack Hoyne, Marissa Kanouff, Evie Koch, McKenna Koeck and Tyler Lightner as well as The Rite of Commitment for our 10th grade Confirmation students, Aiden Cooney, Henry Dolphin, Landon Petrunak, Conner Ryan, Sadie Swope and Alexander Wolf. Congratulations to these Confirmation students as they continue their journey of living their call from God first received at Baptism. Let us keep them in our prayers as they continue to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

CHRISTMAS GRATITUDE! - We are most grateful to all those who did so much to make our church so beautiful for the celebration of the Lord's birth. Our gratitude as well to our music director and musicians and liturgical ministers whose talents greatly enhanced the dignity of our Christmas Masses. May this new year bring us ever closer to Christ who has revealed himself in this glorious season of Christmas and Epiphany.

SAVE THE DATES!

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

Martin Luther King Day: Monday, January 20th-Parish Office Closed

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

* **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.
*

SPAGHETTI DINNER: The Men's Club of St. Mary and St. Michael is hosting a Spaghetti Dinner to support parishioners with undue medical hardship. The Dinner will be held January 16 from 4-7PM at the St. Mary Social Hall in Holidaysburg. The Spaghetti Dinner includes Spaghetti, Meatballs, Salad, Roll, Dessert and Drinks. There will also be a basket raffle held during the dinner. Spaghetti Dinner tickets must be purchased in advance and can be purchased by calling John Elder at 814-270-1051.

Schedule for the Week of January 5th

Sunday, January 5- The Epiphany of the Lord

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

11:00 AM - Mass for *Patricia Olson* requested by
Bob & Ginny Reeder

Monday, January 6- Christmas Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *William D. Rossman* requested by
David & Bonnie Loth

Tuesday, January 7- Christmas Weekday

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

Wednesday, January 8- Christmas Weekday

6:00 PM - Mass for *Florence Dancha* requested
by David & Donna Steigerwalt

Thursday, January 9- Christmas Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Kathy Wagner* requested by
Harry & Sandy Murphy

Friday, January 10 - Christmas Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Bradley Johnson* requested by
Doug & Maria Spayd

Saturday, January 11- Vigil of Baptism of the Lord

4:00 PM - Mass for *Leo & Cecelia Long* requested by
Dee Schmerbeck

Sunday, January 12- Baptism of the Lord

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

11:00 AM - Mass for *Mike Rudolph* requested by
Robert & Mary Jo Geishauer

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.

NATIONAL POVERTY AWARENESS: January is the month of National Poverty Awareness. Please consider joining a virtual overview of Bridges Out of Poverty: Strategies for Professionals and Communities to have a better understanding of a comprehensive approach to the dynamics that cause and maintain poverty, from individual to the systemic level. We will have two options to share this information virtually: Friday, January 10th from 10am-noon or Thursday, January 23rd from 6pm-8pm. To register for a session, please RSVP to Cindy O'Connor at coconnor@dioceseaj.org with Catholic Charities.

HEALING MASS: Holy Spirit Ministry will hold a special Healing Mass on Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 7pm at St. Michael Church. This powerful night of hope and healing is for all who are suffering physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Fr. David Dobb, TOR will be the main celebrant. Praise and worship will precede the Mass at 6:30pm and prayer ministry will follow the Mass. Come and experience the healing power of Jesus and be set free! All are welcome!

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: As we continue our celebration of the Christmas season, we observe today the great Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. The word 'epiphany' means manifestation and throughout the Christmas readings we have seen that the newborn King is eager to reveal Himself to all those willing to accept His presence in their lives. From poor and humble shepherds to the international group of magi featured in today's Gospel passage, Jesus makes it clear that He offers Himself as a gift to everyone. We also see throughout the scriptures that God uses what is familiar to us to draw us to Himself, like using a star for the magi. Our Lord speaks to each of us daily, but we must be alert to 'hear' and 'see' Him our lives. To become better attuned to the ways God is speaking to us, we must strengthen our spiritual 'senses' by spending time with the Lord in prayer. When we establish a regular, intentional, time for prayer daily, we will find that the Lord continues to speak to us throughout the day. We will more easily recognize the signs He places before us to draw us into a closer relationship with Him. We will begin to see that He is indeed present in our lives at every moment.

December 21/22/24/25

Envelopes	\$ 4,158.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 389.00
Children's Offerings	\$ 5.00
Parish Development	\$ 70.00
Christmas Offerings	\$ 5,065.00
Loose Christmas Offerings	\$ 915.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 20.00
Retired Religious Fund	\$ 25.00
Online Giving	\$ 2,201.00
Total Offertory	\$ 10,647.00

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.

NUTRITION CLASSES: Jody Petrunak will be offering again this year a series of 3 Nutrition Classes in the Parish Center on February 1st, 8th and 22nd to help spread the word on the benefits of eating healthy and to help decrease the risk of chronic diseases. Cost is \$60 and registration forms are available in the Gathering Space. If you have any questions or would like more information, please email Jody at jodyp168@gmail.com. Make one of your New Year's resolutions to eat healthy this year!

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: 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 JANUARY:

- January 13th- Joan Frye
- January 16th-Patricia Shaw
- January 21st-Judy Roberts
- January 26th-Frank Wagner
- January 31st-Marian Monios

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.

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.

HOLY SPIRIT MINISTRY SPECIAL SPEAKER: Carol Steffen, Executive Director of ELM Pregnancy Support Center, will share her testimony at Holy Spirit Ministry's Night of Worship on Tuesday, January 7th at 7pm at St. Michael's Church, Hollidaysburg. Carol will share her riveting, personal story of redemption, healing and God's great mercy, and what led her to her passionate ministry in Pro-Life Crisis Pregnancy work. Praise and worship music preceding and individual prayer for healing and confessions will follow. All are welcome!

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

- 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
- January 26th-Class 9:15am-10:45am
- February 2nd-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 beginning January 16th. We will meet in the cafeteria beginning at 6pm. For GPS directions, please use the address 309 Lotz Avenue, Altoona. 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 for Alpha at St. John's is available through the stmichael-hldg-pa.org website. Registrations are due by January 6th.

Alpha - Register today with the QR Code or fill out this form and return to your parish office.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CELL PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

PARISH: _____

AGE (for grouping purposes; please circle)

- 18-29 30-45 46-59 60+

Do you have any medically necessary dietary requirements?

Y or N

Do you have any mobility limitations? Y or N

Please return to your parish office or collection basket.

REGISTER BY JANUARY 6, 2025

Space is limited!

