

2025 Jubilee Year Pilgrims of Hope



**Sixth Sunday in
Ordinary Time
February 16, 2025**

St. John the Evangelist Church

309 Lotz Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602 814-942-5503

PASTORAL STAFF

Monsignor Michael Becker - mbecker253@aol.com
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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

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. 22- 4:00 PM - David Langguth, Maria Spayd
Sun. Feb. 23-8:00 AM - Mary Truesdale, Darlene Scarpaci
Sun. Feb. 23-11:00 AM - Jim Campbell, Barbara Bundy

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. Feb. 22- 4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, Sadie Swope
Sun. Feb. 23- 8:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Sun. Feb. 23-11:00 AM - Camille Krug, Colin Schurr

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. Feb. 22- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, David Loth
Sun. Feb. 23-8:00 AM - Daniel Turcovsky, Diane Turcovsky
Sun. Feb. 23-11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Francel Dandrea,
Ken Gorman, Susanna Tomlinson, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. Feb.22- 4:00 PM - Coleen Langguth, Betsy Lloyd,
Dennis Moughemer, Karen Moughemer,
Sun. Feb. 23-8:00 AM - Ashley Greslick, Mike Greslick,
Ray Kennedy, Ginny Reeder
Sun. Feb.23-11:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Wendy Campbell,
Dolores Capriotti, Peg Madden

SACRISTAN

Sat. Feb.22- 4:00 PM - Ray King, Mary King
Sun. Feb.23- 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci
Sun. Feb.23- 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan

SCRIP

Sat. Feb. 22- 4:00 PM - Lori Baker, Julie Beiswenger,
Sun. Feb. 23- 8:00 AM - Chris Palazzi, Heather Yasolsky
Sun. Feb.23- 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:

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. The Jubilee of Artists and the World of Culture is set to take place in the Vatican from 15-18 February 2025. The Pope will preside over the Eucharistic celebration in St. Peter's Basilica on the 15th, and later in the day, the artists will undertake a pilgrimage through the Holy Door of the Basilica.

CALLING ALL PALM!! As we prepare for Ash Wednesday, anyone who would like to donate their palms from last year is invited to do so. There will be a basket in the gathering space, and the palms will be burned and used for the ashes for Ash Wednesday.

LENT COMETH! In just two weeks we will enter the most sacred season of Lent! Now is the time to prepare for this journey of grace by obtaining reading materials that can enrich your spiritual journey. There are three excellent resources for this Lent, all available in the Gathering Space. Again this year we will make available at no cost a wonderful booklet for daily meditations entitled **Not By Bread Alone**. If you wish to participate in a small group discussion, Mary Petrak is offering a Sunday evening study using an insightful book by Ronald Rohlheiser, **Prayer: Our Deepest Longing**. It is also available in the Gathering Space for \$10. Finally, we are offering a book for individual or group reading by Barbara Brown Taylor entitled **An Altar in the World**, in which she explores various "practices" for finding God in daily life.

BARBARA BROWN TAYLOR is an episcopal priest who shares how she learned to find God beyond the church walls by embracing the sacred as a natural part of everyday life. In **An Altar in the World**, Taylor shows us how to discover altars everywhere we go and in nearly everything we do as we learn to live with purpose, pay attention, slow down, and revere the world in which we live!

A WORD FROM THE VATICAN – Speaking for Pope Francis, Cardinal Michael Czerny, prefect of the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, strongly condemned what it called "the reckless decision by the U.S. administration to abruptly close USAID funded programs and offices worldwide." He warned: "Stopping USAID will jeopardize essential services for hundreds of millions of people, undermine decades of progress in humanitarian and development assistance, destabilize regions that rely on this critical support, and condemn millions to dehumanizing poverty or even death."

SAVE THE DATES!

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

St. Vincent DePaul Care Packages: Wednesday, March 5th please return all boxes to the Gathering Space

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!

We  love
having you as part of our flock



Keep in touch
with us via
email & text

Sign up to receive all our upcoming events and parish news directly to your email inbox or via text through Flocknote! Stay up-to-date and never miss out on important news and events.

How 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.

Sign up with your email address or phone number.

- Choose to get updates from groups you're interested in
- Unsubscribe anytime, no spam we promise

Join Flocknote today and stay informed about everything happening in our parish. We look forward to connecting with you!

Schedule for the Week of February 16

Sunday, February 16- 6th 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, February 17- Weekday

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

Tuesday, February 18- Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Robert W. Loth* requested by
 David & Bonnie Loth

Wednesday, February 19- Weekday

6:00 PM - Mass for *Sheri Ventre* requested by
 Bob & Ginny Reeder

Thursday, February 20- Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Kathy Cecchine* requested by
 Walter & Olga Elspenger

Friday, February 21 - Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Bob Bundy* requested by
 Barbara Bundy

Saturday, February 22- Vigil of 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Sunday, February 23- 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM - Mass for *Eugene & Eileen O'Neill* requested by
 the O'Neill family
 11:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

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.

CALLING ALL SOUP MAKERS! We are looking for volunteers to make soup or donate bread for our Annual Ash Wednesday Soup Supper on March 5th following the 6pm Mass. If you are able to make soup or donate bread, please sign up on the kiosk. We invite all parishioners and visitors to join us in Fr. Bailey Hall after Mass for dinner as we begin our Lenten journey together as a parish community!

FEBRUARY-JUBILEE OF ARTISTS: Throughout the month of February as part of our 2025 Jubilee Year celebration, we are honoring our many St. John's artists. Please take a few minutes before or after mass to look at the displays of all kinds of artwork from our many talented and gifted parishioners! We are certainly blessed at St. John's to have so many amazing artists! Thank you to Mary Susick for helping to organize this event!

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: Today's readings speak of an essential quality for the Christian steward – hope. According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, "Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit (CCC 1817)."

In many ways, this is the very definition of a stewardship way of life – focusing on eternity as we live our daily lives and relying on God to provide for our needs and satisfy our deepest longings for meaning and happiness right now.

In today's Gospel, Jesus describes the character of one who is living a life of hope – the life of a Christian steward whose trust is firmly rooted in God and who is focused on others and eternity. It is not always an easy life, but it is a deeply meaningful life and one that leads to eternal reward.

February 1/2

Envelopes	\$ 6,716.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 1,457.00
Children's Offerings	\$ 2.00
Parish Development	\$ 100.00
Catholic Education	\$ 180.00
Christmas Offering	\$ 50.00
Online Giving	\$ 2,103.90
Total Offertory	\$ 10,608.90

2024 Catholic Ministries Drive Goal: \$42,400

January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024

Gifts/Pledges - \$48,455.00

Total Gifts Received - \$48,455.00

2024 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS will be available upon request. 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.

LENT BOOK DISCUSSION: You are invited to join a book discussion this Lent. We will meet in the Parish Center on Sunday evenings during Lent from 6:00-7:00. Please read Chapter 1 in *Prayer, Our Deepest Longing* by Ronald Rolheiser before our first meeting on Sunday, March 9. Msgr. Becker will have books available to purchase at Adult Faith Formation or you can order a book by contacting Mary Petrak before Friday, February 28 at 814-502-6076 or mfpetrak@hotmail.com.

"Whether you struggle to even believe in prayer, are a beginner in prayer, or are more advanced in prayer, my hope is that these reflections will encourage you in your practice of prayer." (from the preface).

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 • Stephanie Baker
Idy Caporuscio • Betsie Claar • Betty Dennis • Duane
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

HOME WITH THE LORD: Your prayers are requested
for the repose of the souls of:

Betty Caldwell

Gerald Wolf

May they 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. All faiths are welcome. For information about the next session contact Mary Petrak at 814-502-6076 or mfpetrak@hotmail.com.

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.

EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT SERIES: Holy Spirit Ministry will be hosting the "Empowered by the Spirit Series" on 4 consecutive Tuesdays beginning March 18th at St. Michael Activity Center & Church, Hollidaysburg beginning at 7pm with speakers, testimonies, praise and worship, discussions and more. Refreshments and fellowship will begin in the Activity Center at 6:30pm. This series will explore and equip the faithful for evangelization through the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit. There is no charge, but registration is required: holyspiritministry20@gmail.com or calling 814-207-9110. All are welcome!

THE FRIEZE OF THE GOSPEL OF ST. JOHN: Allen Capriotti's colored books in the Gathering Space are for church use only, however the black and white copies in the Gathering Space may be taken home. Thank you!

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

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

March 23rd-No Class

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

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.

INDEPENDENT CATHOLIC FOUNDATION: The current newsletter from our endowment partner, the Independent Catholic Foundation, is available in our Gathering Space. ICF stewards provide long-term financial support to parishes, schools, cemeteries and ministries throughout the diocese. If you did not pick up a newsletter, you may request a copy by calling the Foundation at (814) 201-2080, or you may download a copy from the "Resources" webpage at www.icfoundation.us.

MARCH FOR LIFE: St. John's contributed \$392 for the March for Life fundraiser. Citizens Concerned for Human Life appreciates our support on behalf of the most vulnerable and would like to thank all of the parishioners who donated.

Prayer for Vocation

O God

Hear our prayer

And let our cry come to You.

Bless the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

With many vocations to the

Priesthood, diaconate, and religious life.

Give Your sons and daughters

The confidence to accept Your call,

And the love to follow always

In the footsteps of Your beloved Son

With courage and dedication to Your will.

Amen