

# 2025 Jubilee Year Pilgrims of Hope



**Seventh Sunday in  
Ordinary Time  
February 23, 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  
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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. Mar. 1- 4:00 PM - James Krug, NOT FILLED  
Sun. Mar. 2-8:00 AM - Diane Turcovsky, Daniel Turcovsky  
Sun. Mar. 2-11:00 AM - John Sukala, Patrick Schurr

### **ALTAR SERVERS**

Sat. Mar. 1- 4:00 PM - Chloe Truscello, Jeremy Truscello  
Sun. Mar. 2- 8:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED  
Sun. Mar. 2-11:00 AM - Iris Tatar, Lexi Tatar

### **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

Sat. Mar. 1- 4:00 PM - David Loth, NOT FILLED  
Sun. Mar. 2-8:00 AM - Jennifer Helsley, Darlene Scarpaci  
Sun. Mar. 2-11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy, Lou Ann Clark,  
Francel Dandrea, Ken Gorman, Bob Olson,  
Susanna Tomlinson

### **MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY**

Sat. Mar. 1- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, Betsy Lloyd,  
Dennis Moughemer, Karen Moughemer,  
Sun. Mar. 2-8:00 AM - Carolyn English, Ray Kennedy, Ginny Reeder,  
Jane Strasser

Sun. Mar. 2-11:00 AM - Faith Formation Students

### **SACRISTAN**

Sat. Mar. 1- 4:00 PM - Ray King, Mary King  
Sun. Mar. 2- 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci  
Sun. Mar. 2- 11:00 AM - Dolores Capriotti

### **SCRIP**

Sat. Mar. 1- 4:00 PM - Lori Baker, Becky Merrill  
Sun. Mar. 2- 8:00 AM - Amber Yasolsky, Heather Yasolsky  
Sun. Mar. 2- 11:00 AM - Peg Madden, Marge Rudolph

**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:

**LENT COMETH!** In ten days 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.

**A JUBILEE CELEBRATION OF 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.

**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.

**A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS TO THE AMERICAN BISHOPS** –In an open letter to our bishops, Pope Francis writes: “ I have followed closely the major crisis that is taking place in the United States with the initiation of a program of mass deportations. The rightly formed conscience cannot fail to make a critical judgment and express its disagreement with any measure that tacitly or explicitly identifies the illegal status of some migrants with criminality. At the same time, one must recognize the right of a nation to defend itself and keep communities safe from those who have committed violent or serious crimes while in the country or prior to arrival. That said, the act of deporting people who in many cases have left their own land for reasons of extreme poverty, insecurity, exploitation, persecution or serious deterioration of the environment, damages the dignity of many men and women, and of entire families, and places them in a state of particular vulnerability and defenselessness. This is not a minor issue: an authentic rule of law is verified precisely in the dignified treatment that all people deserve, especially the poorest and most marginalized. I exhort all the faithful of the Catholic Church, and all men and women of good will, not to give in to narratives that discriminate against and cause unnecessary suffering to our migrant and refugee brothers and sisters. With charity and clarity we are all called to live in solidarity and fraternity, to build bridges that bring us ever closer together, to avoid walls of ignominy and to learn to give our lives as Jesus Christ gave his for the salvation of all.”

**IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. PAUL** – I have been invited by the rector of St. Vincent Seminary to participate in a pilgrimage to Greece and Turkey, accompanying a number of seminarians and other faculty members. This is an opportunity for me to make my annual Lenten retreat in the company of St. Paul, visiting such important cities as Corinth, Thessaloniki, Ephesus and Philippi. I am most grateful to Almighty God for this privilege! We depart on February 28 and will return on March 9. Please pray for our safe travels!

### SAVE THE DATES!

**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!

**AN AFFAIR TO REMEMBER** is being planned to bring our jubilee year to a close in January 2026. You will be invited to attend a Madrigal Dinner and celebrate the Epiphany of the Christ Child. This will be a family friendly event in which guests will experience religious homage and delightful entertainment in a Renaissance court setting with beautiful music, mindful praise, entertaining musings, and delectable cuisine. Interested in being a part of the planning team? Meet with us this Sunday, Feb. 23 immediately following the 11:00am Mass near the choir loft or contact Patti Jimenez at 814-414-7529.

## Schedule for the Week of February 23

### 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*

### Monday, February 24- Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Tom Semelsberger* requested by Fran Semelsberger

### Tuesday, February 25- Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Manuel Monios* requested by DeFrancisco family

### Wednesday, February 26- Weekday

6:00 PM - Mass for *George & Johanna Semko* requested by Karen Mazzarella

### Thursday, February 27- Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Vincenza Mento* requested by Bob & Ginny Reeder

### Friday, February 28 - Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Pam Jones* requested by the Prayer Group

### Saturday, March 1- Vigil of 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 PM - Mass for *Carol Bismark* requested by Dave & Connie McManuels

### Sunday, March 2- 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM - Mass for *Ida Proserpi* requested by John Proserpi

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

**BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Please email any upcoming bulletin announcements to Diane Ryan at [stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net](mailto: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:** As we wrap up our February celebration of Artists, we would like to thank our many artists who shared their art with our parishioners. Please see the bulletin insert which acknowledges all those who contributed to the display in the Gathering Space. Artists should pick up artwork this week by Wednesday, February 26th. Many thanks to Mary Susick for helping to organize this event! St. John's is certainly blessed to have parishioners with so many talents and gifts from God!

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER:** In today's Gospel, taken from the sixth chapter of Luke, Jesus offers a very challenging, seemingly impossible approach to daily life. "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. To the person who strikes you on one cheek, offer the other one as well, and from the person who takes your cloak do not withhold even your tunic. ... Give to everyone who asks of you, and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back."

It seems so unfair. Unless, that is, we look at this way of life from a stewardship point of view. Then, not only does it seem doable (though challenging), but it also actually makes perfect sense. A steward understands clearly that all he has, and all that he is, is a gift from God given to him from an unfathomable abundance of love. This changes everything! This means that "my" cloak, "my" tunic, "my" money and "my" time – all of it ultimately belongs to God. He has entrusted these things to each of us in love to use for His purposes and His glory.

### February 8/9

Envelopes	\$ 4,664.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 439.00
Parish Development	\$ 140.00
Online Giving	\$ 2,510.50
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 7,753.50</b>

### 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.

**JOIN US FOR CRS RICE BOWL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY:** CRS Rice Bowl is celebrating 50 years of helping Catholic faith communities bring Lent to life and encounter God through our global family. During the 40 days of Lent, let us journey together through CRS Rice Bowl to meet people in Nigeria, Guatemala and Bangladesh who are rising above challenges of hunger and malnutrition. Pick up your rice bowl from the Gathering Space this weekend! Visit [crsricebowl.org/join](http://crsricebowl.org/join) to share your Lenten prayer intentions.

**ST. VINCENT CARE PACKAGES:** Just a reminder to please return filled St. Vincent DePaul Care Packages to the Gathering Space by Ash Wednesday, March 5th. We have received 42 boxes already! Thank you for your support!

### ST JOHN'S PRAYER LIST

Please call Ginny Reeder (695-7671) or email her at [giny.reeder@gmail.com](mailto: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 • 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

Regina Ann Kelly, sister of Mary Truesdale  
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](mailto:mfpetrak@hotmail.com).

### **BIRTHDAY CORNER FOR MARCH:**

March 5th-Melvin Engleman  
March 9th-Raymond Bacon & Elaine Dodson  
March 17th-Carol Field  
March 20th-Marianne Jones & Victoria Riley  
March 22nd-Donna Moyer & Patricia Hord  
March 26th-Bette Anne Richards  
March 28th-Elsie MacCullagh  
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.

**CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS:** Court Prince Gallitzin # 2625 serves all 11 parishes and beyond. New members are always welcome! On Monday, March 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 [donah31049@gmail.com](mailto:donah31049@gmail.com) or 814-632-3509.

**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 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

March 30th-Class-Stations of the Cross All Grade Activity  
11th Grade Rite of Sending at 11am Mass-Catholic and Public 11th Grade Students should attend.

April 6th-Class-Easter Egg Hunt to follow the 11am Mass

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

**STRENGTH IN CHRIST Men's Conference:** Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://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 21<sup>st</sup>.* Online registration is encouraged due to limited seating.

**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](mailto: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).

**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](mailto:holyspiritministry20@gmail.com) or calling 814-207-9110. All are welcome!