

2025 Jubilee Year Pilgrims of Hope



**Eighth Sunday in
Ordinary Time
March 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
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MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY - 8:30 AM TUESDAY - 8:30 AM
ASH WEDNESDAY - 8:30 AM & 6:00 PM
THURSDAY - 8:30 AM FRIDAY - 8:30 AM
SATURDAY - 4:00 PM
SUNDAY - 8:00 AM & 11:00 AM

March Prayer Intention of Pope Francis

For Families in Crisis

We pray that broken families might discover the cure of their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in indifferences.



NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS

LECTORS

Wed. Mar. 5-6:00 PM - Mireille Crevecoeur, Iris Tatar
Sat. Mar. 8- 4:00 PM - Jeremy Truscello, Joyce Cunningham
Sun. Mar. 9-8:00 AM - Mary Truesdale, Mike Greslick
Sun. Mar. 9-11:00 AM - Susan Podoletz, Iris Tatar

ALTAR SERVERS

Wed. Mar. 5-6:00 PM - Camille Krug, Colin Schurr
Sat. Mar. 8- 4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, Sadie Swope
Sun. Mar. 9- 8:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Sun. Mar. 9-11:00 AM - Aidan Schurr, Liam Schurr

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Wed. Mar. 5-6:00 PM - Ashley Greslick, Mike Greslick
Sat. Mar. 8- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, David Loth
Sun. Mar. 9-8:00 AM - Daniel Turcovsky, Diane Turcovsky
Sun. Mar. 9-11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Barbara Bundy,
Dolores Capriotti, Lou Ann Clark, Bob Olson,
Susanna Tomlinson

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Wed. Mar. 5-6:00 PM - Lou Ann Clark, Patrick Podoletz,
Daniel Turcovsky, Diane Turcovsky
Sat. Mar. 8- 4:00 PM - Dennis Moughemer, Karen Moughemer,
Larry VanSickel, Paula VanSickel
Sun. Mar. 9-8:00 AM - Jane Becker, John Becker, Ginny Reeder,
Ed Stoltz
Sun. Mar. 9-11:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Wendy Campbell,
Mary Grace Horton, Peg Madden

SACRISTAN

Wed. Mar. 5-6:00 PM - Marilyn Bevan
Sat. Mar. 8- 4:00 PM - Ray King, Mary King
Sun. Mar. 9- 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci
Sun. Mar. 9- 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan

SCRIP

Sat. Mar. 8- 4:00 PM - Julie Beiswenger, Becky Merrill
Sun. Mar. 9- 8:00 AM - Erika Yasolsky, Heather Yasolsky
Sun. Mar. 9- 11:00 AM - Peg Madden, Marge Rudolph

A Few Words from the Pastor:

ASH WEDNESDAY SOUP SUPPER – There is a wonderful Lenten tradition at St. John’s of a special “Soup Supper” on Ash Wednesday, March 5th, following our evening Mass. We are grateful to those who are making soup or baking bread! All donations will be given to assist our Haitian Sister parish, Saints Peter and Paul!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS – To encourage greater participation for Stations, and to promote a greater love for the Holy Eucharist, our Friday evening devotions will begin at 5:00 with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, with Stations of the Cross beginning at 5:30. Stations will conclude with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Please consider joining us!

FASTING AND ABSTINENCE: Every Catholic of any age is encouraged to do some measure of fasting during the Lenten season. Fasting can strengthen our will, remind us of the hungers of the human family, and certainly can put us in mind of our hunger for God. Remember that Jesus fasted 40 days and 40 nights in the desert. You are also encouraged to abstain from meat on the Fridays of Lent. In fasting is closely related to our care for the poor: when I fast, another person must eat in my place!

OPERATION RICE BOWL - We are participating again this year in Operation Rice Bowl, which is a good companion to our Lenten prayer and fasting. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are the three pillars of the Lenten Season.

WELCOME! WELCOME! WELCOME! We affirm three members of our parish community who will be participating in the Rite of Election next Sunday at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament: Maggie Conrad, who will be seeking the sacrament of Confirmation as an adult, and Mitchell and Albertha Evans, who are seeking full membership in the Roman Catholic Church. I am most grateful for the coordination which Father Ashok and Patrick and Susan Podoletz have offered in preparing these candidates for the Easter sacraments!

PRAYER FOR AN AILING POPE: In these challenging times, as our beloved Pope Francis faces significant health struggles, the global Catholic community unites in prayer for his swift recovery. Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, we humbly come before You, the Divine Physician, seeking Your healing touch upon our Holy Father, Pope Francis. Grant him strength and courage as he endures this time of illness. Surround him with Your comforting presence, and guide the medical professionals entrusted with his care.

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT ED: There will not be morning sessions on March 2nd and March 9th. We will resume our sessions on Sunday, March 16. All who wish to participate are encouraged to obtain Taylor’s book, *An Altar in the World*. We will discuss the first two chapters on the 16th: *The Practice of Waking Up to God (Vision) and the Practice of Paying Attention (Reverence)*. Even without the book, you are welcome to join our discussion!

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. I am most grateful to Almighty God for this privilege, and to Father Ashok and Deacon Gene for their help while I am away. 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

Adoration/Stations of the Cross: Friday, March 7th Adoration at 5pm followed by Stations of the Cross at 5:30pm

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!

Schedule for the Week of March 2

Sunday, March 2- 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

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

Monday, March 3- Weekday

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

Tuesday, March 4- Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Grady Weyandt* requested by
Linda Weyandt

Wednesday, March 5- Ash Wednesday

8:30 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

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

Thursday, March 6- Thursday after Ash Wednesday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Henri Prosperi* requested by
John Prosperi

Friday, March 7 - Friday after Ash Wednesday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Fred Mazzarella* requested by
Karen Mazzarella

Saturday, March 8- Vigil of First Sunday of Lent

4:00 PM - Mass for *Jim Reilly* requested by
Denny & Christine Stachmus

Sunday, March 9- First Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM - Mass for *Dr. Joseph Fye* requested by
Carolyn Fye

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!

A RECOMMITMENT TO END HUNGER: Since 1975, Catholics across the United States have come together each Lent to respond to global hunger through the CRS Rice Bowl program. Learn how people like you have made a local and global impact on the lives of our sisters and brothers in need and why our prayers and almsgiving are still needed today. During this holy season, let us recommit to sharing bread of life with our global family so that all people can reach their God-given potential. Visit crsricebowl.org/week-1 to read this week's Story of Hope.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: Today's readings exhort us Christian disciples to form ourselves – mind and heart – in imitation of Christ so we can better reflect His goodness in our daily lives.

Everything we have is a gift from God to be used for His honor and glory. This includes the gift of speech and, even more broadly, all forms of modern-day communication – email, text, Twitter, Facebook, etc. What comes forth from our mouths, and our phones and keyboards, reflects what is in our minds and hearts. Our ability to communicate with each other is itself a gift that we must steward well.

The more intentionally and frequently we look to Jesus as our mentor in these interactions, the more we will become like Him, our Teacher and our Lord. Then, all that we do and say (and Tweet and post) will bring others closer to Him. This is the life's work of the Christian steward. It is privileged work indeed.

February 15/16

Envelopes	\$ 3,119.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 216.00
Parish Development	\$ 120.00
Catholic Education	\$ 25.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,573.52
Total Offertory	\$ 5,053.52

ALTAR SERVERS WANTED: What better way to be involved in our liturgy and our parish life than as an altar server! If your children are in grade 4 or higher, they can be an altar server. We are all called to use our gifts and talents to serve God and others, and answering that call as an altar server is an act that reaps many blessings. As an added bonus, St. John 's has a special sector to altar serving where parents can serve with their children. Perhaps you have seen these families serving together; that is no accident! Our parents choose to serve with their children and share in the joy of deepening their Catholic faith together. Please consider joining this special ministry and receive detailed training as a server. You may contact Iris at iristat38@gmail.com or contact the Parish Office to sign up.

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 in the Gathering Space. Contact Mary Petrak at 814-502-6076 or mfpetrak@hotmail.com if you have questions.

“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

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 mpetrak@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 donnah31049@gmail.com or 814-632-3509.

PRO-LIFE ROSARY: Please join us on Mondays, beginning March 10th, at 5:30pm in the church as we pray the Pro-Life Rosary. All are welcome!

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

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

April 13th-No Class-Palm Sunday

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

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD: We are looking for an assistant in our Atrium sessions. We meet Saturday mornings from 9:00am-11:00am. As an assistant, you will work with our children using materials provided and reading scripture to them as they work. Clearances will need to be on file with the parish. This is a great opportunity for our older children who need service hours too! Please consider joining us as we pray, ponder, and meet Jesus with our youngest parishioners!

ADULT EDUCATION: Due to Monsignor being away, Adult Education will not meet the next 2 Sundays, March 2nd & 9th. Classes will resume on Sunday, March 16th. Please join us!

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.

LENT SCHEDULE FOR ST. JOHN'S:

Ash Wednesday Mass Times: March 5th at 8:30am and 6:00pm Ash Wednesday Soup Supper following the 6:00pm Mass in Fr. Bailey Hall (Gym)

Adoration and Stations of the Cross: Fridays during Lent with Adoration beginning at 5:00pm and Stations beginning at 5:30pm

Lent Penance Service: Sunday, March 23rd at 4:00pm

Prayer, Our Deepest Longing: Sundays at 6:00pm in the Parish Center beginning March 9th. Book discussion led by Mary Petrak.