

# 2025 Jubilee Year Pilgrims of Hope



**Second Sunday of Lent**  
**March 16, 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**

### **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**

Sat. Mar. 22- 4:00 PM - James Krug, Jeremy Truscello  
Sun. Mar. 23-8:00 AM - Diane Turcovsky, Daniel Turcovsky  
Sun. Mar. 23-11:00 AM - Dave Auerbeck, Gary Johnson

### **ALTAR SERVERS**

Sat. Mar. 22- 4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, Sadie Swope  
Sun. Mar. 23- 8:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED  
Sun. Mar. 23-11:00 AM - Estella Koch, Evie Koch

### **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

Sat. Mar. 22- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, David Loth  
Sun. Mar. 23-8:00 AM - Ashley Greslick, Mike Greslick  
Sun. Mar. 23-11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Barbara Bundy,  
Dolores Capriotti, Lou Ann Clark, Bob Olson,  
Susanna Tomlinson

### **MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY**

Sat. Mar. 22- 4:00 PM - Coleen Langguth, Betsy Lloyd,  
Dennis Moughemer, Karen Moughemer  
Sun. Mar. 23-8:00 AM - Jane Becker, John Becker, Ed Stoltz,  
Mary Truesdale  
Sun. Mar. 23-11:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Wendy Campbell,  
Mary Grace Horton, Peg Madden

### **SACRISTAN**

Sat. Mar. 22- 4:00 PM - Ray King, Mary King  
Sun. Mar. 23- 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci  
Sun. Mar. 23- 11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy

### **SCRIP**

Sat. Mar. 22- 4:00 PM - Lori Baker, Chris Palazzi  
Sun. Mar. 23- 8:00 AM - Erika Yasolsky, Heather Yasolsky  
Sun. Mar. 23- 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:

**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!

**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 Spiritual Life. Rice bowls give us an opportunity to support the poorest of the poor throughout the world through Catholic Relief Services.

**WE REJOICE:** We celebrate these candidates who are preparing for the Easter sacraments! 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.

**PRAYER FOR A POPE, RECOVERING FROM ILLNESS:** 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:** This Sunday we resume our Adult Ed sessions on Sunday, as we begin careful reading and study of Barbara Brown Taylor's book, *An Altar in the World*. We will discuss the first two chapters: *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!

**FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF MARY:** For well over a thousand years, the church has celebrated the life of St. Joseph with great celebration on March 19. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, a second feast of Joseph was added to the liturgical calendar, celebrating St. Joseph the Worker on May 1<sup>st</sup>. This feast was added to coincide with May Day, a European celebration of International Workers Day.

### SAVE THE DATES!

**Adoration/Stations of the Cross:** Friday, March 21st 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!

**Padre Pio Bus Trip:** Friday, May 2nd to the National Centre for Padre Pio in Barto, PA-See flyer for details & to sign up!

**PADRE PIO BUS TRIP :** St. John's will be sponsoring a bus trip to the National Centre for Padre Pio in Barto, PA on Friday, May 2, 2025. The bus will depart at Lowe's at 5:15am and return around 9:30pm. A variety of events/activities will be available to attend throughout the day. The cost is \$90. Please see flyer in the Gathering Space for more details and to sign up. Contact Cecelia Bloom 814-937-2130 or Marilyn Bevan 814-695-4181 for questions.

**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](mailto:iristat38@gmail.com) or contact the Parish Office to sign up.

## **Schedule for the Week of March 16**

### **Sunday, March 16- Second Sunday of Lent**

8:00 AM - Mass for *Bob Cooney* requested by  
Ginger Cooney & family

11:00 AM - Mass for *Patricia Olson* requested by  
Ron & Sue Nori

### **Monday, March 17- Lenten Weekday**

8:30 AM - Mass for *Tony Allen* requested by  
Dave & Connie McManuels

### **Tuesday, March 18- Lenten Weekday**

8:30 AM - Mass for *Betty Caldwell* requested by  
the Winkler family

### **Wednesday, March 19- St. Joseph**

6:00 PM - Mass for *Helen Adams* requested by  
Joe & Paula Adams

### **Thursday, March 20- Lenten Weekday**

8:30 AM - Mass for *Anthony Allen* requested by  
ACHS Class of "56"

### **Friday, March 21 - Lenten Weekday**

8:30 AM - Mass for *Mary Ann Rossman* requested by  
David & Bonnie Loth

### **Saturday, March 22- Vigil of Third Sunday of Lent**

4:00 PM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

### **Sunday, March 23- Third Sunday of Lent**

8:00 AM - Mass for *Florence Dancha* requested by  
Nancy Mincin

11:00 AM - Mass for *Elizabeth Sibold* requested by  
the Sibold family

**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.

### **LENT SCHEDULE FOR ST. JOHN'S:**

**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 in the church. Several priests will be available for individual confessions.

**Prayer, Our Deepest Longing:** Sundays at 6:00pm in the Parish Center beginning March 9th. Book discussion led by Mary Petrak. For questions, contact Mary at 814-502-6076 or [mfpetrak@hotmail.com](mailto:mfpetrak@hotmail.com).

**Adult Education:** Sunday mornings from 9:15am-10:45am in the cafeteria beginning March 16th. Discussions will be based on the book "An Altar in the World." All are welcome!

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER:** In last week's Gospel, we followed Jesus into the desert where He fasted and prayed. This week, He leads us up a mountain to witness His Transfiguration. Why these experiences? Because He is preparing us to go with Him in a few short weeks to a hilltop, Golgotha, where He will lay down His life for our sake – and finally He will take us to an empty cave where He triumphed over sin and death once and for all. Jesus perfectly understands our humanity. He knows we need to experience times of self-denial and testing, in order to arrive at mountain-top moments when we see and feel His glorious presence in our lives. The reason for all of our fasting and prayer and almsgiving during lent is to be reawakened to all God has done for humanity and to all that He has done for each of us personally. While there is nothing sinful in complacency in our daily routine, as Christian stewards we are called to so much more! We need to train ourselves, or allow Jesus to train us, to say 'Yes' to His will and to offer our lives back to Him. In doing so, we too become 'transfigured.' This is what it means to live fully awake; this is a stewardship way of life and it is glorious indeed.

### **March 1/2**

Envelopes	\$ 6,347.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 186.00
Parish Development	\$ 65.00
Catholic Education	\$ 65.00
Ash Wednesday	\$ 20.00
Black & Indian Mission	\$ 10.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 45.00
Online Giving	\$ 2,338.90
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 9,076.90</b>

**2025 Catholic Ministries Drive Goal: \$42,700**

**2025 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE:** The 2025 Catholic Ministries Drive begins throughout our diocese this weekend. This year's theme, "Follow Me" (Mt 16:24), invites us into a deeper relationship with Christ, as we share in His mission of love and service, proclaiming the Good News to all. Our Catholic Ministries Drive supports 10 ministries throughout our diocese, which fall into one of our three main focuses of evangelization, serving those in need, or formation of our priests and deacons. Please reflect on Bishop Mark's invitation when it arrives in your mail, and prayerfully consider supporting our diocesan ministries. You may return your pledge card and donation through the mail, make your payment online, or return your pledge card and donation to your parish through the offertory. All contributions received beyond our parish goal will be used for general expenses at St. John's. Thank you for supporting the Catholic Ministries Drive and our diocese's vital ministries.

### **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 • 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

**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.

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

**HOAGIE SALE:** The Heidelberg Country Club is having a hoagie sale with orders due Tuesday, March 25th. Hoagies can be ordered on the sign up sheet in the Gathering Space or by stopping into the Heidelberg. Pick up is Sunday, March 30th from 12-3pm at the Heidelberg.

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST:** Sunday April 6th, 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 at St. Michael Church Hall. 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!

### **FAITH FORMATION NEWS**

**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**

**April 20th-No Class-Easter Sunday**

**April 21st-11th Grade Confirmation Practice at 6pm**

**April 22nd-11th Grade Confirmation at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament at 7pm**

**April 27th-Class and 2nd Grade First Holy Communion Retreat**

*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).*

**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!

**ST. VINCENT DEPAUL CARE PACKAGE PROGRAM:** Thank you to everyone who participated in the St. Vincent DePaul Care Package Program this year! St. John's has collected over 100 boxes this year. Care Packages will be distributed across the area to help assist poor and needy individuals and families through the help of Family Services and the WIC program. Your support is greatly appreciated!

**ALTOONA COMMUNITY BAND:** Beginning March 26th, the Altoona Community Band will be rehearsing in our St. John's cafeteria on Wednesday evenings. If you are interested in learning more about the Altoona Community Band or would like more information on how to join the Altoona Community Band, please contact Daniel Klingbeil at 814-937-3523 or [composer413@yahoo.com](mailto:composer413@yahoo.com). We look forward to having the band play at our church picnic this coming summer!

**ST. ROSE OF LIMA PRO-LIFE COMMITTEE:** The Gabriel Project at St. Rose is continuing to grow and has received \$5,000 from the Diocesan Respect Life Office and \$500 from Christian Mothers at Our Lady of Lourdes. They are planning a "Stuff the Diaper Bag" project. The next meeting is March 25th at 6pm in the St. Rose Community Room. All are welcome! Contact Carole Housum at 814-937-0380 for questions or more information.