

2025 Jubilee Year Pilgrims of Hope



Third Sunday of Lent
March 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
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

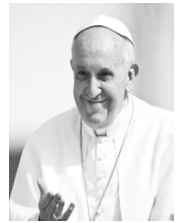
MASS SCHEDULE

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 in



NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS

LECTORS

Sat. Mar. 29- 4:00 PM - Joyce Cunningham, Maria Spayd
Sun. Mar. 30-8:00 AM - Ginny Reeder, Darlene Scarpaci
Sun. Mar. 30-11:00 AM - Jim Campbell, John Sukala

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. Mar. 29- 4:00 PM - Chloe Truscello, Jeremy Truscello
Sun. Mar. 30- 8:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Sun. Mar. 30-11:00 AM - Camille Krug, Liam Schurr

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. Mar. 29- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, David Loth
Sun. Mar. 30-8:00 AM - Daniel Turcovsky, Diane Turcovsky
Sun. Mar. 30-11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Dolores Capriotti,
Francel Dandrea, Ken Gorman, Bob Olson,
Susanna Tomlinson

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. Mar. 29- 4:00 PM - Dennis Moughemer, Karen Moughemer,
Larry VanSickel, Paula VanSickel
Sun. Mar. 30-8:00 AM - Jane Becker, John Becker, Ray Kennedy,
Ed Stoltz
Sun. Mar. 30-11:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Wendy Campbell,
Lou Ann Clark, Peg Madden

SACRISTAN

Sat. Mar. 29- 4:00 PM - Ray King, Mary King
Sun. Mar. 30- 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci
Sun. Mar. 30- 11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy

SCRIP

Sat. Mar. 29- 4:00 PM - Julie Beiswenger, Becky Merrill
Sun. Mar. 30- 8:00 AM - Erika Yasolsky, Heather Yasolsky
Sun. Mar. 30- 11:00 AM - Chris Palazzi, 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:

OUR LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE - An essential element of Lenten living is the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Its importance in ones' spiritual life cannot be stressed enough. This afternoon at 4 PM we will be celebrating our Lenten Penance Service, when several priests will be present to assist with individual confessions. We come before God and acknowledge our sinfulness in thought, word, and deed!

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.

A QUIZ FOR THE SPIRITUALLY MINDED! The popular Christian writer Brian McClaren has recently published a book entitled *Naked Spirituality*. The subtitle to this book is "A Life with God in 12 Simple Words." I invite you to prayerfully read them, one at a time, and consider why he has included this word and what it has to do with your spiritual life! This will open your eyes and heart to a deeper sense of the Sacred! Share with your family and friends!

HERE! THANKS! O! SORRY! HELP! PLEASE! WHEN! NO! WHY! BEHOLD! YES! SILENCE!

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!

LOOKING AHEAD: Our heating and air-conditioning unit for the church is on its last legs! We are getting bids on replacing it, and we know it will be costly! More information on how you can help will be forthcoming!

SAVE THE DATES!

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

Adoration/Stations of the Cross: Friday, March 28th Adoration at 5pm followed by Stations of the Cross at 5:30pm

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 by April 1st. 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 or contact the Parish Office to sign up.

Schedule for the Week of March 23

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

Monday, March 24- Lenten Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Margareta H. Goch* requested by family

Tuesday, March 25- The Annunciation of the Lord

8:30 AM - Mass for *Bradley Johnson* requested by Meg & Bill Hough

Wednesday, March 26- Lenten Weekday

6:00 PM - Mass for *Betty J. Caldwell* requested by Pete & Carol Rogers

Thursday, March 27- Lenten Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Kathy Wagner* requested by Joanne Orsena

Friday, March 28 - Lenten Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Patricia Fromknecht* requested by Bob & Ginny Reeder

Saturday, March 29- Vigil of Fourth Sunday of Lent

4:00 PM - Mass for *Mike Rudolph* requested by Betty & Al Abraham

Sunday, March 30- Fourth Sunday of Lent

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

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

2025 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE: Today is Commitment Weekend for the 2025 Catholic Ministries Drive. Your sacrificial gift of prayer and treasure will make an immediate and lasting impact on our ministries that focus on evangelization, serving those in need and formation of our priests and deacons. During Lent, and throughout the year, we are challenged to renew our spiritual devotions and duties-and one of those holy duties is to support our Church. 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. There is no limit to what we can accomplish together in Christ. If you didn't bring your pledge card to mass this weekend, or send it in this past week, please prayerfully consider making a donation this coming week or in the future. Our diocese's ministries need your support. All contributions received beyond our parish goal come directly back to the parish and will be used for general expenses here at St. John's. Thank you for supporting the Catholic Ministries Drive and our diocese's vital ministries.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: Today's readings capture the essence of God's Lenten message to us, His people, offering words of compassion and mercy as well as warning of the need to repent and make the most of the gift of time He has given us. Jesus offers the parable of the unfruitful fig tree to further illustrate this truth. The owner of the orchard came searching for fruit on a fig tree he had planted in his orchard. Finding no fruit on the tree after three years, he told the gardener to cut it down. But the gardener intercedes and asks for one more year to cultivate and fertilize the tree in hopes it would bear fruit in the future. The fig tree was not dying, it simply wasn't doing much of anything at all. Can this be said of us and our lives at times as well? The season of Lent is a time to reflect carefully on the way we spend our time. Do we give first priority to God, tending to our spiritual growth and sacramental life with diligence? Do we give next priority to our loved ones, focusing intentionally on them each day without distractions from phones, screens, or thoughts of work? If not, now is the moment to repent of our waste of time or of misplaced priorities on our use of time. God is merciful but just. Let's turn to Him and ask Him to make our lives fruitful while we still have time to do so.

March 8/9

Envelopes	\$ 4,607.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 437.00
Parish Development	\$ 280.00
Catholic Education	\$ 55.00
Ash Wednesday	\$ 735.00
Black & Indian Mission	\$ 104.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 70.00
Catholic Relief	\$ 100.00
Online Giving	\$ 2,471.40
Total Offertory	\$ 8,859.40

2025 Catholic Ministries Drive Goal: \$42,700

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.

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!

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
Bernie Beiswenger • 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.

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.

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!

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.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

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

May 4th-Last Class! May Crowning and First Holy Communion at 11am Mass

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

EASTER EGG HUNT AND SPRING FLING BRUNCH:

Please join us on Sunday, April 6th after the 11am Mass in the gym for our annual Easter Egg Hunt and Spring Fling Brunch. Children 13 and under are invited to participate in the Easter Egg Hunt and everyone of all ages is invited to join us for a Spring Fling Brunch with soup, sandwiches, salad, and lots of sweets! We will also have crafts and games for the children in the gym after the Egg Hunt. In case of inclement weather, the Easter Egg Hunt will be moved indoors. Please join us!

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES: Next week our parish will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to vulnerable people here and abroad. Next week, please give generously to the collection and reveal Christ's love to those most in need. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

ST. ROSE OF LIMA PRO-LIFE COMMITTEE: This week shows progress with our Gabriel Project. Our space in the Maria Parish Center is being readied for use. Soon we will be able to purchase items, such as diapers, wipes, bottles, etc. and begin to stock our shelves. We will be purchasing a phone, setting up our communication system, and installing a sign designating St. Rose as a Gabriel Project Center. We are continuing with plans for our *Stuff the Diaper Bag* project. Thank you for your support. If you have any questions, please contact Carole Housum at 814-937-0380. Our next meeting is March 25th at 6PM in the St. Rose Community Room, please feel free to join us.

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