

2025 Jubilee Year Pilgrims of Hope



First Sunday of Lent
March 9, 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. 15- 4:00 PM - David Langguth, Maria Spayd
Sun. Mar. 16-8:00 AM - Bill Foose, Norma Foose
Sun. Mar. 16-11:00 AM - Bob Olson, Richard Consiglio

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. Mar. 15- 4:00 PM - Chloe Truscello, Jeremy Truscello
Sun. Mar. 16- 8:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Sun. Mar. 16-11:00 AM - Aidan Schurr, Colin Schurr

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. Mar. 15- 4:00 PM - David Loth, NOT FILLED
Sun. Mar. 16-8:00 AM - Ashley Greslick, Mike Greslick
Sun. Mar. 16-11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Dolores Capriotti,
Francel Dandrea, Ken Gorman, Susanna Tomlinson,
NOT FILLED

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. Mar. 15- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, Coleen Langguth,
Larry VanSickel, Paula VanSickel
Sun. Mar. 16-8:00 AM - Carolyn English, Ray Kennedy,
Ginny Reeder, Jane Strasser
Sun. Mar. 16-11:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Wendy Campbell,
Lou Ann Clark, Peg Madden

SACRISTAN

Sat. Mar. 15- 4:00 PM - Ray King, Mary King
Sun. Mar. 16- 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci
Sun. Mar. 16- 11:00 AM - Dolores Capriotti

SCRIP

Sat. Mar. 15- 4:00 PM - Lori Baker, Marge Rudolph
Sun. Mar. 16- 8:00 AM - Chris Palazzi, NOT FILLED
Sun. Mar. 16- 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:

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!

A LENTEN CONFESSION - An essential element of Lenten living is the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Its importance in our spiritual life cannot be stressed enough. On Sunday, March 23rd, 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!

PRAYER FOR AN AILING POPE: Although improving, our beloved Pope Francis faces continued health struggles and 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 a morning session on 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!

ECUMENICAL TAIZE PRAYER SERVICE: All are invited to participate in the simple and beautiful Evening Prayer of Taizé on Sunday, March 9th, at 3 pm, at First Lutheran Church, 1401 12th Avenue, Altoona 16601. There will be a social after the Evening Prayer Service. All are welcome.

SAVE THE DATES!

Adoration/Stations of the Cross: Friday, March 14th 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!

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

Schedule for the Week of March 9

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*

Monday, March 10- Lenten Weekday

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

Tuesday, March 11- Lenten Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Robert Ritchey* requested by
Bob & Ginny Reeder

Wednesday, March 12- Lenten Weekday

6:00 PM - Mass for *Reta M. Loth* requested by
David & Bonnie Loth

Thursday, March 13- Lenten Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Jeanette Luke* requested by
Sue Partenheimer

Friday, March 14 - Lenten Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Dave Petrak* requested by
the DuPont Family

Saturday, March 15- Vigil of Second Sunday of Lent

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

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

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: And so it begins – the holy and, for some, daunting season of Lent. This is the season in our liturgical year when the Church encourages us to increase our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to enter more deeply into the mystery of our Lord’s Passion and Death and to celebrate more fully His Resurrection. Our outlook as Christian stewards can help us embrace this season with enthusiasm and even joy. As grateful stewards ourselves, we can look at these 40 days as “soil” that God is giving us as a gift to grow closer to Him and become more like Him. We can choose to use each of the days intentionally to make a generous response to our God, who sent His only Son to deliver us from the affliction and oppression caused by sin. If we find this difficult sometimes, then we’re doing it right! It means we will have some wonderful ‘first fruits’ to present to our Lord at the close of the season; we will be prepared to enter into the grace-filled days of the Triduum and we will, through the power of the Holy Spirit, be resurrected as a new creation with our Lord come Easter. Let us begin!

February 22/23

Envelopes	\$ 3,997.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 443.00
Parish Development	\$ 60.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 60.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,448.90
Total Offertory	\$ 6,008.90

2025 Catholic Ministries Drive announcement and details coming next weekend!

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.

THANK YOU! A big thank you to everyone who made soup, donated bread and helped with setting up, serving and cleaning up for the Ash Wednesday Soup Supper. Our Faith Formation students also did a great job serving our parishioners. We collected \$947 for Haiti in donations and appreciate everyone’s generosity. Thank you to everyone for attending and helping make this a successful event!

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).

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!

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

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.

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 or 814-632-3509.

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

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

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

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

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

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!

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 90 boxes so far 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!

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.

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. We look forward to having the band play at our church picnic this coming summer!