

2025 Jubilee Year Pilgrims of Hope



Fifth Sunday of Lent

April 6, 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
WEDNESDAY - 6:00 PM
THURSDAY - 8:30 AM FRIDAY - 8:30 AM
SATURDAY - 4:00 PM
SUNDAY - 8:00 AM & 11:00 AM

April Prayer Intention of Pope Francis

For The Use of the New Technologies
We pray that the use of new technologies
will not replace human relationships, will
respect the dignity of the person, and will
help us face the crises of our times.



NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS

LECTORS

Sat. Apr. 12- 4:00 PM - Joyce Cunningham, Maria Spayd
Sun. Apr. 13-8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci, NOT FILLED
Sun. Apr. 13-11:00 AM - James Krug, Camille Krug

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. Apr. 12- 4:00 PM - Chloe Truscello, Jeremy Truscello
Sun. Apr. 13- 8:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Sun. Apr. 13-11:00 AM - Aidan Schurr, Liam Schurr

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. Apr. 12- 4:00 PM - David Loth, NOT FILLED
Sun. Apr. 13-8:00 AM - Jennifer Helsley, Ginny Reeder
Sun. Apr. 13-11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Barbara Bundy,
Lou Ann Clark, Francel Dandrea, Ken Gorman,
Susanna Tomlinson

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. Apr. 12- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, Betsy Lloyd, Larry VanSickel,
Paula VanSickel
Sun. Apr. 13-8:00 AM - Carolyn English, Ashley Greslick,
Mike Greslick, Mary Truesdale
Sun. Apr. 13-11:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Wendy Campbell,
Dolores Capriotti, Mary Grace Horton

SACRISTAN

Sat. Apr. 12- 4:00 PM - Ray King, Mary King
Sun. Apr. 13- 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci
Sun. Apr. 13- 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan

SCRIP

Sat. Apr. 12- 4:00 PM - Julie Beiswenger, Becky Merilli
Sun. Apr. 13- 8:00 AM - Erika Yasolsky, Heather Yasolsky
Sun. Apr. 13- 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:

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION: For many centuries, the 5th Sunday of Lent was called "Passion Sunday," while the Sunday after it was called, "Palm Sunday." Currently the Roman Rite denotes Palm Sunday as "**Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion**," combining the two observances. Passion Sunday also marked the beginning of a special sub-season called "Passiontide," which extended up until Holy Saturday. During this time the Church's liturgy became more somber and a sorrowful mood was reflected in the various practices that occurred in the liturgy. Palm Sunday was the same celebration as it is today, with the procession of palm branches and the reading of the Passion narrative.

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!

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE 2025 –Your sacrificial gifts of prayer and treasure will make an immediate impact on ministries that care for the poor, strengthen family life, nurture our youth, and provide leadership development for clergy and laity. 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 the Church. We are challenged to open our eyes and see those in our midst that bring hope to life through their time and talent in serving the community through the many ministries supported by the Catholic Ministries Drive. You can place your Commitment Card in the offertory basket, or you can send it in the mail or make an online gift at www.ajdiocese.org/giving.

BRUNCH FOR THE WHOLE BUNCH! Please join us in Fr. Bailey Hall (gym) after the 11:00 AM Mass on Sunday, April 6th for a Spring Fling Brunch during our Easter Egg Hunt. Everyone is welcome! Enjoy a bite to eat while the children hunt for eggs. Even if you don't have any children participating in the Egg Hunt, please join us for the brunch and enjoy the fellowship of our parish community. We hope to see you there!

WELCOME BACK MARY ANN AND THANK YOU DAN! We would like to welcome back Mary Ann Mirobelli, our previous Business Manager, who will be helping out with finances in the Parish Office. We are so grateful that someone with Mary Ann's experience will be back in the office to keep things running smoothly. We would also like to say thank you to our parishioner Dan McGrath, who has been helping with finances since February. Thanks Dan for keeping the lights on and the water running the last few months! We are certainly blessed to have such wonderful help!

SAVE THE DATES!

Easter Egg Hunt: Sunday, April 6th after the 11am Mass in the gym

Adoration/Stations of the Cross: Friday, April 11th Adoration at 5pm followed by Stations of the Cross at 5:30pm

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-RSVP's due by April 7th!

May Crowning: Sunday, May 4th at the 11am Mass-All children are invited to participate!

Padre Pio Bus Trip: Friday, May 2nd to the National Centre for Padre Pio in Barto, PA- **CANCELLED**

* **A NOTE OF THANKS:** To the Parishioners of St. John's: My family and I cannot say thank you enough for all of your *
* prayers and your overwhelming generosity. This has been a scary and unexpected journey but your thoughts and *
* prayers have aided in my recovery more than you know. The power of prayer is very real. Please accept my humble *
* thank you and God bless all of you. Stephanie Baker *

GABRIEL PROJECT: April 26, 2025 to June 29, 2025 the Altoona CDA court Prince Gallitzin # 2625 has teamed up with the Gabriel Project for a baby drive and will be collecting much needed baby items. If you would like to donate, please place your item(s) in the baby box provided in the church. Thank you very much for your help in this endeavor. God bless you all! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jennifer Crum - Waite @814-515-1067 or Mary Grace Horton @ 814-942-0397

Schedule for the Week of April 6

Sunday, April 6- Fifth Sunday of Lent

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

11:00 AM - Mass for *Hilda Neal* requested by

Julie & Bernie Beiswenger

Monday, April 7- Lenten Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *George Goch* requested by

family

Tuesday, April 8 - Lenten Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Rose & Edward Neral* requested by

Deacon Gene Neral

Wednesday, April 9 - Lenten Weekday

6:00 PM - Mass for *Grace Moore* requested by

Bob & Ginny Reeder

Thursday, April 10- Lenten Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Johanna & George Semko* requested

by Karen Mazzarella

Friday, April 11 - Lenten Weekday

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

Karen Mazzarella

Saturday, April 12- Vigil of Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

4:00 PM - Mass for *Alex Marchi* requested by

the Ergler family

Sunday, April 13- Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

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

Robin Lestochi & Ken McCracken

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.

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. 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: Once again this week we are reminded of what a loving and merciful God we serve. First from Isaiah, "Remember not the events of the past, the things of long ago consider not; see, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" Next from St Paul, "Forgetting what lies behind but straining forward to what lies ahead, I continue my pursuit toward the goal, the prize of God's upward calling, in Christ Jesus." Then the verse before the Gospel, "Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart; for I am gracious and merciful." And finally, from the Gospel, these words from Christ to the woman caught in adultery, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin anymore." A clear theme emerges from these verses – when we turn to God for forgiveness, He is indeed gracious and merciful. So much so, that not only will He forgive our sins without condemnation, He will make us completely new creations in Christ. Indeed, it seems our heavenly Father delights in doing this for His children. What gratitude we owe to Him! If ever you feel unworthy to be called His disciple – to serve in a ministry or to tell others about your faith – because of your past or because of a vexing sin you can't seem to overcome, take heart! Seek out God's forgiveness in the healing sacrament of Confession. Then, forget what is behind you, be filled with gratitude that He has made you brand new – and go! He's counting on you to share His good news through your witness and through your service to those around you.

March 22/23

Envelopes	\$ 2,703.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 314.00
Parish Development	\$ 20.00
Ash Wednesday	\$ 30.00
Catholic Relief	\$ 20.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 110.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,388.90
Total Offertory	\$ 4,585.90

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

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!

Penance Services and Fish Fry information can be found on the diocesan website at www.dioceseaj.org.

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 • Betty Dennis
Duane • Carol Field • Mark Hastings
Rosanne Krawick • Sally Langham • Elsie MacCullagh
Samantha McQuade • Marian Monios
Montgomery Family • 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 APRIL:

April 10th-Larry Field
April 12th-James & Barbara McLaren
April 15th-Deacon Gene Neral & Ray King
April 16th- Patricia Kenney
April 23rd-Donald Riley
April 24th-Betsy Lloyd

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, April 14, 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 814-632-3509 or dannah31049@gmail.com.

MASS INTENTION REQUESTS: Celebrating Mass for a definite intention is a long tradition in the Catholic Church. The intention may be for the repose of a deceased person's soul, the spiritual wellbeing of a person living, a wedding anniversary, a birthday, or for a personal/private intention. The usual offering for a mass intention is \$10. We are accepting intentions for the 2025-2026 year. Please call or visit the Parish Office to submit an intention.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

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

Watch for information about our Vacation Bible School this summer!

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

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! All are welcome!

MARRIAGE PREPARATION: The 2025 Marriage Preparation Series will offer sessions here at St. John the Evangelist on May 5th, 12th and 19th. Contact the Family Life Office at the diocese for additional information. Registrations are required and can be made online at www.dioceseaj.org under Ministries, Marriage Preparation or by emailing familylife@dioceseaj.org.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEACON GENE! Join us on Tuesday, April 15th in the Parish Center after the 8:30am Mass for a birthday breakfast to celebrate Deacon Gene's 85th Birthday. Please sign up on the kiosk if you are able to attend. Hope you can join us!

DIOCESAN LENTEN COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE: Bishop Mark Bartchak will be the presider at 3 Diocesan Lenten Communal Penance Services this coming week. Tuesday, April 8 at 7pm at Church of the Good Shepherd, Wednesday, April 9 at 6pm at Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament and Thursday, April 10 at 6pm at Saint John Gualbert Cathedral.



Rice Bowls can be returned to the parish by placing them in the basket provided in the Gathering Space.