

2025 Jubilee Year Pilgrims of Hope



**Twenty-second Sunday
in Ordinary Time
August 31, 2025**

St. John the Evangelist Church

309 Lotz Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602 814-942-5503

PASTORAL STAFF

Monsignor Michael Becker - mbecker253@aol.com
Deacon Gene Neral - gene@lifeinfocus.net
Patricia Jimenez - Director of Music
pjimenez@dioceseaj.org
Mimi Crevecoeur - Business Manager
stjohnchurch@atlanticbb.net
Diane Ryan - Faith Formation Coordinator/Secretary
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Iris Tatar - Director of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
iristat38@gmail.com
Pat & Sue Podoletz - OCIA
paddypodo@gmail.com mrspodo@hotmail.com
Ken Dunmire - Maintenance

MASS SCHEDULE

LABOR DAY- MONDAY - 9:00 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 & 10:00 AM

August Prayer Intention of Pope Francis

For Mutual Coexistence
Let us pray that societies where
coexistence seems more difficult might
not succumb to the temptation of
confrontation for ethnic, political,
religious, or ideological reasons.



NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS

LECTORS

Sat. Sept. 6-4:00 PM - Jeremy Truscello, Maria Spayd
Sun. Sept. 7-8:00 AM - Mary Truesdale, NOT FILLED
Sun. Sept. 7-11:00 AM - Susan Podoletz, Susanna Tomlinson

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. Sept. 6- 4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, Sadie Swope
Sun. Sept. 7- 8:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Sun. Sept. 7-11:00 AM - Estella Koch, Evie Koch

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. Sept. 6- 4:00 PM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Sun. Sept. 7-8:00 AM - Jennifer Helsley, Mike Greslick
Sun. Sept. 7-11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Barbara Bundy,
Dolores Capriotti, Ken Gorman, NOT FILLED , NOT FILLED

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. Sept. 6- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, Betsy Lloyd, Larry VanSickel,
Paula VanSickel,
Sun. Sept. 7- 8:00 AM - Carolyn English, Ginny Reeder,
Daniel Turcovsky, Diane Turcovsky
Sun. Sept. 7- 11:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Lou Ann Clark,
Mary Grace Horton, Peg Madden

SACRISTAN

Sat. Sept. 6- 4:00 PM - Ray King, Mary King
Sun. Sept. 7- 8:00 AM - Ashley Greslick
Sun. Sept. 7- 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan

SCRIP

Sat. Sept. 6- 4:00 PM - Lori Baker, NOT FILLED
Sun. Sept. 7- 8:00 AM - Amber Yasolsky, Heather Yasolsky
Sun. Sept. 7- 11:00 AM - Peg Madden, Marge Rudolph

MASS TIME CHANGE! Just a reminder that the Summer Mass Schedule for the 2nd Sunday Mass will be 10:00am through Labor Day weekend. Mass will return to 11:00am on Sunday, September 7th.

A Few Words from the Pastor:

THE SEASON OF CREATION, SEPTEMBER 1 – OCTOBER 4! The Season of Creation has a special significance for the Catholic Church, particularly since Pope Francis established 1 September as an annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. The Season of Creation is marked throughout the Christian world from 1 September to 4 October (Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi) and celebrates the joy of creation as well as encouraging awareness-raising initiatives to protect the natural environment. Throughout this holy season, our bulletin will carry quotes from *Laudato Si*, the encyclical on the environment by Pope Francis. Take time to reflect on the beauty of creation and consider your personal or family efforts in caring for our common home.

A WORD ON THE ENVIRONMENT FROM POPE LEO:

The theme of this World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, chosen by our beloved Pope Francis, is "Seeds of Peace and Hope." In proclaiming the Kingdom of God, Jesus often used the image of the seed. As the time of his Passion drew near, he applied that image to himself, comparing himself to the grain of wheat that must die in order to bear fruit (cf. Jn 12:24). Seeds are buried in the earth, and there, to our wonder, life springs up, even in the most unexpected places, pointing to the promise of new beginnings. ...In Christ, we too are seeds, and indeed, "seeds of peace and hope." The prophet Isaiah tells us that the Spirit of God can make an arid and parched desert into a garden, a place of rest and serenity. In his words, "a spirit from on high will be poured out on us, and the wilderness will become a fruitful field, and the fruitful field a forest. Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness abide in the fruitful field. The work of righteousness will be peace, and the work of righteousness, quietness and trust forever. My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places."

ADULT ED RESUMES: GOING BACK TO BASICS !!! Our Sunday morning adult ed gatherings will resume on September 14th. Our sessions will be a deep dive into the CREED. Printed materials will be available, as well as video presentations. Making use of content provided by the Aquinas Institute and available on "Formed", each session will provide enlightening insight and engaging Q&A interaction. What better way to complete our Jubilee Year than by a journey into the basics of our Catholic Faith!

OUR PARISH BIBLE STUDY: Our weekly bible study gathers each Wednesday at 6:45 in the parish center. Please plan on joining us! This is an excellent way to prepare for the coming Sunday, as we reflect on the readings for that day!

BOGUS EMAIL! Several parishioners have informed me that they have received an email from me requesting assistance. **These are fraudulent!** I do not have a g-mail account with the address mbecker253@gmail.com. The only valid email address is mbecker253@aol.com. Please delete and do not respond to any g-mail account reputed to be from me.

SAVE THE DATES!

Despot Scholarship Applications Due: Sunday, August 31st Return to the Collection Basket or Parish Office

Labor Day Mass: Monday, September 1st at 9am

Confirmation Parent & Student Meeting: Sunday, September 7th 9:30am-10:45am in the gym

Faith Formation Meet the Teacher & Meeting: Sunday, September 21st from 9:30am-10:45am followed by Children's Liturgy at the 11am Mass

St. John's Ministry Fair: Sunday, September 28th 9am-1pm in Fr. Bailey Hall (gym) More details to come!

Annual Blessing of Pets: Sunday, October 5th at 1pm in the circle in front of the Church

Diocesan Pilgrimage Bus Trip to Washington, DC: Friday, October 17th-Details below!

Pumpkinfest: Saturday, October 18th-More details to come!

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE BUS TRIP TO WASHINGTON DC:

The Diocese of Altoona Johnstown is having bus trip for a Jubilee Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC on Friday, October 17, 2025. Trip will include a tour of the Shrine, confessions and Mass with the Bishop. You can purchase lunch at the Shrine Cafeteria or bring a lunch. There will be a rest stop on the way to Washington and a stop on the way back to Altoona for dinner on your own. To make reservations beginning August 4th, please call Diane Ryan at 814-942-5503. The cost of the trip is \$60.00/person, which includes the gratuity for the driver. The bus will leave at 7 am from PNC Field (Altoona Curve) Parking Lot.

Schedule for the Week of August 31st

Sunday, Aug. 31 - 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM - Mass for *Florence Bacho* requested by
Dan & Diane Turcovsky

10:00 AM - Mass for the *50th Wedding Anniversary of Mary Grace & Mike Horton* requested by sons Paul & Chris

Monday, Sept. 1 - Weekday

9:00 AM - Mass for *Florence Dancha* requested by
David & Donna Steigerwalt

Tuesday, Sept. 2 - Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Ronald Barnhart* requested by
Robert & Diane Budd

Wednesday, Sept. 3 - St. Gregory the Great

5:30 PM - Confessions

6:00 PM - Mass for *Betty J. Caldwell* requested by
Danis Simmons

Thursday, Sept. 4 - Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Michael Rudolph* requested by
Chuck & Mary Beth Edmonds

Friday, Sept. 5 - Weekday

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

Saturday, Sept. 6 - Vigil of 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

3:15 PM - Confessions

4:00 PM - Mass for *Leo & Wilhelmina Baker* requested by
Rusty & Lori Baker

Sunday, Sept. 7 - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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.

ANNUAL WEDDING ANNIVERSARY LITURGY: Bishop Mark Bartchak and the Family Life Office cordially invite all couples celebrating 1, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60+ years of marriage in 2025 (and their families) to attend the Annual Wedding Anniversary Liturgy. Couples may attend Sunday, September 21 in ALTOONA at Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament or Sunday, September 28 in JOHNSTOWN at St. John Gualbert Cathedral. Both locations are handicap accessible. Liturgies in each location begin at 2:00 p.m. Most Rev. Bishop Mark will be the celebrant and homilist at each celebration. Refreshments/snacks will be available after the mass for anniversary couples and their families. Reservations must be made through your parish for either celebration by Friday, September 12th.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: Today's readings remind us of a chief virtue that characterizes the Christian steward: humility. This is a virtue that is widely thought of as a form of self-abasement. But that understanding is off the mark. Humility is simply the awareness of who (and Who's) we truly are. On one hand, we are children of the Most High God who loved us into existence; children whose Father sent His son to die for our sins, children who, by virtue of our Baptism, have the Holy Trinity dwelling within us. On the other hand, we are children who are completely dependent on God for our very existence and for every breath we take. The Christian steward lives with an awareness of these two realities – our great dignity as sons and daughters of God, and our total dependence on Him for all that we are and all that we have been given. Our attitude and how we serve and share should be centered on true humility – recognizing that we are all 'little' ones in the eyes of God. We are all His children; brothers and sisters invited to our Father's heavenly banquet.

August 16th & 17th

Envelopes	\$	3,778.00
Loose Offerings	\$	353.00
Heating & Cooling	\$	540.00
Assumption	\$	985.00
Missionary Coop	\$	1,595.00
Online Giving	\$	1,598.52
Total Offertory	\$	7,874.52

2025 Catholic Ministries Drive Goal: \$42,700

January 1, 2025 - July 31, 2025

Gifts/Pledges - \$50,385.00

Total Gifts Received - \$49,685.00

Pledge Balance - \$700.00

MUSIC MINISTRIES: Calling all Music Makers! Our St. John music ministries support our liturgies and festive parish celebrations through hymns, anthems, solos, and instrumental praise. If you carry a tune in your heart and want to sing or share your musical talent, please contact Patti at 814-414-7529. Adult Choir rehearsal will start on Wednesday, September 3rd at 7:00 p.m. Youth Choir will meet on Thursdays from 6:00-6:45 beginning September 11. Handbell Ensemble will begin on Thursday, September 11 at 7:00 p.m. Come and join your voice with ours!

SOUND TECHNICIANS NEEDED: Persons willing to monitor our digital sound iPad during worship services are needed to rotate with other sound technicians. Training will be provided but the slide keys program is easy to understand and maneuver. You can still sit anywhere in the sanctuary. Email Patti Jimenez, pjimenez@dioceseaj.org, or call/text her at 814-414-7529 for more information. Better yet, chat with a trained tech for the real buzz. Will you meet this call of ministry?

ST JOHN'S PRAYER LIST

Please call Ginny Reeder (695-7671) or email her at ginny.reeder@gmail.com to add or remove someone from the prayer list. **Prayer list will be cleared in June.** **Contact Ginny or the office to have names added or kept on the 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
Barbara • Idy Caporuscio • Betty Dennis • Duane
Carol Field • Mark Hastings • Melissa Horne
Tim Jimenez • Jason Robeson • Ray King
Rosanne Krawick • Sally Langham • Elsie MacCullagh
Dave Madden • Marian Monios • John Patz
Dan Roberts • Darlene Scarpaci • Anne Showalter
Mary Frances Stokan • Donna Taddy • Tammy
Tim Temofonte • Lois Werfel

CATHOLIC FOUNDATION GALA BENEFITS CATHOLIC

CHARITIES: The Independent Catholic Foundation will celebrate its 35th anniversary on Sunday, September 14 at 4:00 PM in the Blair County Convention Center. Guests will enjoy a delightful social hour followed by a gourmet dinner, and award presentations. The Master of Ceremonies will be WTAJ News Anchor Marty Radovanic. Guest Speaker Jay Paterno will offer reflections on his family's dedication to Penn State Catholic Campus Ministry. Individual tickets are \$65. Business attire preferred. For complete details including ticket purchases and corporate sponsorship opportunities, please visit www.icfoundation.us or call (814) 201-2080.

ST. JOHN'S BOWLING LEAGUE: A new season will begin on Friday, September 12th, continuing every other week through April. We are a fun, noncompetitive league that welcomes bowlers of all abilities. Please consider joining us for the fun and fellowship of an occasional night out at Holiday Bowl! There will be a sign-up sheet on the kiosk in the Gathering Space. For more information, call Jr. Mendez at 814-761-2181.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The Human Needs Office of St. Vincent de Paul in Altoona is run by a small group of volunteers who offer compassion, prayer and financial assistance to those in need. Volunteers make calls to those in need, set up visits, corroborate the need request and coordinate payments. The ever-increasing demand for assistance from the community continues to create a backlog for assistance and more volunteers are needed. If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact Alice Sturm at 814-312-0156.

44TH ANNIVERSARY OF MARY CELEBRATION: Monday, September 8th at St. Catherine of Siena Church and Fatima Shrine. Mass times: 7:45am, 12:05pm, 5:30pm
Rosary: 8:15am, 11:15am, 1pm, 4:30pm
Food, exhibits, religious raffle, rosary makers, and crafts in church hall. Coffee & donuts after morning Mass. Conclude the day with birthday cake and beverages for ALL in the church hall.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Confirmation Parent & Student Meeting: Sunday, September 7th 9:30am-10:45am in the gym

Faith Formation Meet the Teacher & Meeting: Sunday, September 21st from 9:30am-10:45am followed by Children's Liturgy at the 11am Mass

Registration forms for the 2025-2026 Faith Formation year are available in the Gathering Space.

All public school students entering kindergarten through 11th grade should be registered with the Faith Formation Program.

All catholic school students entering 2nd grade and 9th-11th grade should be registered with the Faith Formation Program to prepare for Sacraments.

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

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED: St. John's is currently accepting new altar servers. We especially welcome our incoming 4th graders! All training will be provided by Deacon Gene and Iris Tatar. Please consider sharing your time and talent in assisting in the celebration of the mass. You may call the parish office or email iristat38@gmail.com to start training.

SEEKING LECTORS: Have you ever considered serving the parish as a Lector? If you are interested, please contact Bob Olson for more information at rolson0581@aol.com or call 814-696-0581.

"SPONSORS OF HOPE" CAMPAIGN: The Permanent Diaconate Community of the Altoona-Johnstown diocese is launching a "Sponsors of Hope" campaign to raise funds to continue supporting our foreign missions program. Though the main thrust of our work is helping the children, our long-term goal is to continue to reach out by providing food, medical supplies, clothing, and prayerful support through the guidance of our trusted friend, Father Kahlil. We also provide assistance in India and other parts of the world as the need arises. We are now open to anyone who may want to join us on this journey. If you would like to know more about our foreign missions program, we have provided information in the gathering space. Or please see the Deacon's Website: <https://www.deaconaj.org>

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS: Court Prince Gallitzin # 2625 serves all 11 parishes and beyond. New members are always welcome! On Monday, September 8, 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.

WANTED: Caregiver in the Altoona Area. Call Vicky at 814-660-6531 for more information.