

# 2025 Jubilee Year Pilgrims of Hope



**The Exaltation of the  
Holy Cross  
September 14, 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  
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Iris Tatar - Director of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd  
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Pat & Sue Podoletz - OCIA  
paddypodo@gmail.com mrspodo@hotmail.com  
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**

### **September Prayer Intention of Pope Francis**

Our Relationship with Creation

We pray that inspired by St. Francis, we  
might experience our independence with  
all creatures who are loved by God and  
worthy of love and respect.



### **NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS**

#### **LECTORS**

Sat. Sept. 20-4:00 PM - Maria Spayd, NOT FILLED  
Sun. Sept. 21-8:00 AM - Mary Truesdale, Susan Podoletz  
Sun. Sept. 21-11:00 AM - Camille Krug, John Sukala

#### **ALTAR SERVERS**

Sat. Sept. 20- 4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, Sadie Swope  
Sun. Sept. 21- 8:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED  
Sun. Sept. 21-11:00 AM - Evie Koch, Aidan Schurr

#### **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

Sat. Sept. 20- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, NOT FILLED  
Sun. Sept. 21-8:00 AM - Jennifer Helsley, NOT FILLED  
Sun. Sept. 21-11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Lou Ann Clark,  
Ken Gorman, Bob Olson, Susanna Tomlinson. NOT FILLED

#### **MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY**

Sat. Sept. 20- 4:00 PM - Betsy Lloyd, Jeremy Truscello,  
Larry VanSickel, Paula VanSickel  
Sun. Sept. 21- 8:00 AM - Jane Becker, John Becker, Ginny Reeder,  
Jane Strasser  
Sun. Sept. 21- 11:00 AM - Faith Formation Students

#### **SACRISTAN**

Sat. Sept. 20- 4:00 PM - Ray King, Mary King  
Sun. Sept. 21- 8:00 AM - NOT FILLED  
Sun. Sept. 21- 11:00 AM - Dolores Capriotti

#### **SCRIP**

Sat. Sept. 20- 4:00 PM - Lori Baker, Marge Rudolph  
Sun. Sept. 21- 8:00 AM - Erika Yasolsky, Heather Yasolsky  
Sun. Sept. 21- 11:00 AM - Carolyn English, 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:

### A PRAYER FOR OUR EARTH

by Pope Francis

All powerful God, you are present in the universe and in the smallest of your creatures.  
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love,  
that we may protect life and beauty.  
Fill us with your peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.  
O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,  
so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives,  
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,  
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.  
Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.  
Teach us to discover the worth of the whole of your creation,  
to be filled with awe and contemplation,  
to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature  
as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day.  
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle, for justice, love and peace.

**POPE LEO AND OUR BISHOPS ON VIOLENCE IN AMERICA:** Following the assassination of conservative activist Charlie Kirk as well as the school shooting in Minneapolis in August, Pope Leo has spoken out forcefully against violence. In August he released a book of his first speeches, titled *Peace Be With You*, which emphasizes his commitment to an "unarmed and disarming" peace. The U.S. bishops' conference echo his sentiments, calling for prayer in a "perilous moment" and stating that "church leaders must emphasize that the roots of such violence lie in the rejection of God and of the dignity of the human person".

**ADULT ED RESUMES: I BELIEVE IN GOD!!** 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 Augustine 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 Wednesday evening study is discontinued until the new year. I have a commitment to teach our permanent deacons on that same evening. Watch the bulletin for the startup date for the new year!

**TOP 5 HOMETOWN FAVORITE!** We were notified that we made the Altoona Mirror's TOP 5 Hometown Favorite Place of Worship! Next round of voting begins this Sunday, September 14th. See details on how to vote and additional information on the contest in the bulletin notice below. Thank you for voting and letting our community know what a great parish we have here at St. John's! With your help we can ma

### SAVE THE DATES!

**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) See flyer for information!

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

**Pumpkinfest:** Saturday, October 11th-More details to come!

**Diocesan Pilgrimage Bus Trip to Washington, DC:** Friday, October 17th-Call office to register



**St. John the Evangelist Church for voted Top 5 Favorite Places of Worship!** Please go to the Altoona Mirror webpage to vote daily for the 2025 Hometown Favorites beginning September 14th-21st. You can vote once daily on the website. Please share with your family and friends and encourage them to vote for St. John's! Additional contest details and information can be found on the Altoona Mirror Website. Winners announced on December 8th. Please vote for St. John's!

## ***Schedule for the Week of September 14th***

### **Sunday, Sept. 14 - The Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

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

11:00 AM - Mass for *Mildred Dixon* requested by  
Grove & Gia Dixon

### **Monday, Sept. 15 - Our Lady of Sorrows**

8:30 AM - Mass for *Caroline Carr* requested by  
the Sibold family

### **Tuesday, Sept. 16 - Sts. Cornelius & Cyprian**

8:30 AM - Mass for *Deceased members of Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth* requested by Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth

### **Wednesday, Sept. 17 - Weekday**

5:30 PM - Confessions

6:00 PM - Mass for *Alison Costa* requested by  
Doug & Maria Spayd

### **Thursday, Sept. 18 - Weekday**

8:30 AM - Communion Service

### **Friday, Sept. 19 - Weekday**

8:30 AM - Communion Service

### **Saturday, Sept. 20 - Vigil of 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

3:15 PM - Confessions

4:00 PM - Mass for *Leo & Cecelia Long* requested by  
Dave & Connie McManuels

### **Sunday, Sept. 21 - 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:00 AM - Mass for *Ida Prosperi* requested by  
John Prosperi

11:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

**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.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:rolson0581@aol.com) or call 814-696-0581.

**MINISTRY FAIR:** Ever wonder what ministries we have here at St. John's or how you can participate? Not sure who to contact if you are interested in becoming more actively involved within the Parish Community and beyond? Come to the Ministry Fair on Sunday, September 28th from 9am to 1pm in Fr. Bailey Hall for information!

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER:** Today's readings focus on the personal, passionate, and merciful love of God which should fill us with unending gratitude to Him. This gratitude is the fuel, if you will, that keeps the stewardship way of life rolling along.

How can we demonstrate our gratitude to such a God? By living as His good stewards. We thank Him by offering back to Him the very best of ourselves – the talents He has given us (to use for His glory), the time He has given us (to spend with Him in prayer), and the material resources He has given us (to advance His kingdom).

In so doing, we can make the words of St. Paul, a former enemy of Christ, our own stewardship motto: "I am grateful to Him who has strengthened me, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he considered me trustworthy in appointing me to the ministry." We must keep rolling, Christian stewards!

### ***August 30th & 31st***

Envelopes	\$	3,078.00
Loose Offerings	\$	151.00
Heating & Cooling	\$	110.00
Missionary Coop	\$	10.00
Catholic Education	\$	10.00
Online Giving	\$	2,143.90
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,502.90</b>

### **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**

**2025 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE:** Our Catholic Ministries Drive supports 10 ministries throughout our diocese, which all fall into one of our three main focuses of evangelization, serving those in need, or formation of our priests and deacons. Since we have already met our goal for 2025, any additional funds received moving forward will come directly back to the parish to be used where needed. Thank you for supporting the Catholic Ministries Drive and our diocese's vital ministries!

**GRANT AWARDS:** We recently received 2 annual grants. The St. John Parish Endowment Fund provided \$437.75 for administrative and other parish expenses. The John and Kathleen Hazenstab Endowment Fund provided \$1,294.74 for general operating expenses of the Parish. We are grateful to the families for creating this fund for our benefit. It is administered by our endowment partner, the Independent Catholic Foundation, Altoona, in an investment portfolio that is completely aligned with the ethical, moral, and social teachings of the Catholic Church.. Learn more about the ICF at [www.icfoundation.us](http://www.icfoundation.us).

### **ST JOHN'S PRAYER LIST**

Please call Ginny Reeder (695-7671) or email her at [ginny.reeder@gmail.com](mailto: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

**HOME WITH THE LORD: Your prayers are requested  
for the repose of the soul of:**

**Mary Louise Rajnish**

**May she rest in the peace and joy of the Lord.**

**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.

### **DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE BUS TRIP TO WASHINGTON DC:**

The Diocese of Altoona Johnstown has contracted 14 buses for our own local Jubilee Pilgrimage, as most of us will not be able to go to Rome. The trip to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC is on Friday, October 17, 2025. The day will include a tour of the Shrine, confessions and 2:00 PM Mass with Bishop Mark Bartchak in the Upper Church. You can purchase a basic lunch at the shrine Cafeteria or bring a lunch. There will be a rest stop on the way to Washington and a dinner stop on the way back home. The dinner cost is on your own. Reservations and paid bus fee will continue up to September 26th. Please contact Diane Ryan at 814-942-5503 to reserve a seat. The cost of the trip is \$60 per person, which includes the gratuity for the driver. The bus will leave at 7a.m. from PNC field. There are limited seats available. If you are planning to carpool please go to the Diocesan website: [www.dioceseaj.org](http://www.dioceseaj.org) to give us your numbers.

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

### **FAITH FORMATION NEWS**

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

September 28th - No Class

October 5th- Class & Mentor Meeting for Confirmation Students after 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](mailto:stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net).*

**OCIA:** The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) is a process providing for those adults, unbaptized or baptized, who are seeking to know more about the Catholic faith and become a part of that faith. Here at St. John's the process is also open to those adult Catholics who have been away from the church and are seeking to become closer to Christ. If you are interested in growing in your faith, please contact Pat at 717-575-4224 or Sue at 717-575-1142.

**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, or for the spiritual and temporal wellbeing of a person or persons who are living, especially on the occasion of a wedding anniversary or birthday, or for someone's personal/private/health intention. Knowing that the Mass is being celebrated for someone's intention can be more beneficial and comforting than any other expression of sympathy, concern, and love. Mass cards are available so that you can notify the person or family of your request. Though not obligatory, the usual offering within the Diocese of Altoona Johnstown is \$10.00. We are currently scheduling masses for the 2025 and 2026 year. If you have any questions, or to submit an intention, please call the office at 814-942-5503.

**MOTHER THERESA MINISTRY:** If you know of a parishioner not currently on our list that is in a nursing facility, hospital or homebound that would like a visit or cards please text or call Mary Susick at 814-207-0185.

**VOLUNTEERS WELCOME:** Please join the Lakemont Lions in service to our community as a volunteer. More information or to join, contact Mike O'Neill at 814-615-3538.