

2025 Jubilee Year Pilgrims of Hope



**Twenty-fifth Sunday in
Ordinary Time
September 21, 2025**

St. John the Evangelist Church

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

PASTORAL STAFF

Monsignor Michael Becker - mbecker253@aol.com
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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. 27-4:00 PM - Maria Spayd, Joyce Cunningham
Sun. Sept. 28-8:00 AM - Mike Greslick, Mary Truesdale
Sun. Sept. 28-11:00 AM - Bob Olson, Richard Consiglio

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. Sept. 27- 4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, Sadie Swope
Sun. Sept. 28- 8:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Sun. Sept. 28-11:00 AM - Camille Krug, Aidan Schurr

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. Sept. 27- 4:00 PM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Sun. Sept. 28-8:00 AM - Daniel Turcovsky, Diane Turcovsky
Sun. Sept. 28-11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy, Dolores Capriotti,
Ken Gorman, Susanna Tomlinson. NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. Sept. 27- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, Betsy Lloyd,
Larry VanSickel, Paula VanSickel
Sun. Sept. 28- 8:00 AM - Ray Kennedy, Mike O'Neill, Ginny Reeder,
Ed Stoltz
Sun. Sept. 28- 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Walter Bloom,
Lou Ann Clark, NOT FILLED

SACRISTAN

Sat. Sept. 27- 4:00 PM - Ray King, Mary King
Sun. Sept. 28- 8:00 AM - Ashley Greslick
Sun. Sept. 28- 11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy

SCRIP

Sat. Sept. 27- 4:00 PM - Lori Baker, NOT FILLED
Sun. Sept. 28- 8:00 AM - Erika Yasolsky, Heather Yasolsky
Sun. Sept. 28- 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:

COME TO OUR MINISTRY FAIR! Next Sunday, September 28th, in Bailey Hall! A Ministry Fair is a very practical but also deeply spiritual event in a Catholic parish. Its importance goes beyond “sign-ups” — it helps build up the parish as the living Body of Christ. Why should we take time to visit the fair? First, it reminds us that parish life isn’t just attending Mass but involves actively participating in the mission of the parish. The fair can also help a parishioner find a ministry that suits them, one that fits their skills, schedule, and passion. Further, parishioners often know only a small circle of people. When you come to a ministry fair, you meet ministry leaders and volunteers and see the “family” dimension of parish life. A fair shows that the Church is a place where people care, serve, and grow — which can draw people deeper into faith.

OUR POPE’S BIRTHDAY! The universal Church and men and women of goodwill across the globe rejoice as Pope Leo XIV celebrated his birthday last Sunday, 14 September, when he turned 70. Birthday greetings arrived from all over the world for our Holy Father, offering him their sincere wishes for spiritual and personal well-being. In his childhood suburb of Dolton, Illinois, a celebration took place with gospel music, balloons, and the local community gathering outside his boyhood home. *On a personal note, this is the first time in my life when I have actually been older than the pope!* “Ad multos annos!” May you be blessed “with many years!”

ADULT ED PAUSES NEXT WEEK! Because of our Ministry Fair, our Sunday morning adult ed gatherings will pause next week, to resume on October 5. Our sessions are a deep dive into the CREED. 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!

BLESSING OUR PETS! In celebration of the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi on October 4, we will be holding our annual Pet Blessing on Sunday, October 5th at 1pm in front of the church. This is a wonderful opportunity to do something special for those creatures of God that bring us such joy; St. Francis of Assisi, pray for us!

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 ends this Sunday, September 21st. 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 make St. John’s the Top Place of Worship!

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-See details below!

Diocesan Pilgrimage Bus Trip to Washington, DC: Friday, October 17th-Call office to register by September 26th

PUMPKIN FEST: The 19th Annual Pumpkin Fest will be on Saturday, October 11th from 10am-4pm on Allegheny Street between Front & Union Streets. St. John’s will be selling homemade soups again at their booth. If you are able to make 5-10 quarts of soup, please sign up on the kiosk. We are also looking for volunteers for various time slots on the day of the Pumpkin Fest to help sell soup. If you are interested in helping at the booth, please sign up on the kiosk. All profits will benefit the Social Committee and upcoming Parish Events. Contact Ginny Reeder at 814-695-7671 for questions or more information. Thank you for supporting our Parish!



St. John the Evangelist Church voted Top 5 Favorite Place 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 21st

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*

Monday, Sept. 22 - Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *John Caporuscio* requested by
Bob & Ginny Reeder

Tuesday, Sept. 23 - St. Pius

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

Wednesday, Sept. 24 - Weekday

5:30 PM - Confessions

6:00 PM - Mass for *Robert Ritchey* requested by
Bob & Ginny Reeder

Thursday, Sept. 25 - Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *James Kenneth Longstreth* requested
by Marissa Longstreth

Friday, Sept. 26 - Weekday

8:30 AM - Communion Service

Saturday, Sept. 27 - Vigil of 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

3:15 PM - Confessions

4:00 PM - Mass for *Roseanna Weyer* requested by
Dee Schmerbeck

Sunday, Sept. 28 - 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

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.

HONOR OUR TEACHERS ON CATECHETICAL SUNDAY:

The U.S. Bishops have designated Sunday, September 21st, as Catechetical Sunday to honor all those who share in the evangelizing and teaching mission of the Church. Catechesis means "to echo." Believers who embrace the Gospel of Jesus Christ as the best news ever proclaimed are eager to "echo" the Good News everywhere. At St. John's, we are so grateful for the dedicated ministry of these persons who have accepted the call to catechize our youth and children in our Faith Formation Program. We acknowledge, with gratitude our catechists: Donna Messner, Adam Macak, Beth Macak, Kristina Hoyne, Carole Litzinger, Jared Miller, Patrick Podoletz and Stuart Sibold. Please join us in thanking all of these outstanding leaders of our parish for their dedication and commitment to sharing the faith with our youngest members of St. John's Parish! THANK YOU!!

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: After today's readings, we can't say we have not been warned about the dangers of mixed-up priorities. God's Word is so very clear today on the necessity of putting Him first in all areas of our lives.

What can we learn from the curious parable to help us avoid the worldly thinking condemned in our First Reading, and give ourselves away as Jesus did as is described in our Second Reading? We know this 'bad steward' was clever and energetic. He put thought, prudence, and creativity into the plans he made for his self-serving ends and carried out his plans with great success.

What if we put that kind of effort into our own tasks as good stewards of all God's gifts to us? Into our ministries, into the ways we could make more time for prayer as individuals, as couples, as families, and as a parish? What if we got as creative as the 'bad steward' in the use of our finances so that we could give more generously to the poor and the advancement of God's kingdom on earth? That's our lesson and our challenge.

September 6th & 7th

Envelopes	\$	8,107.00
Loose Offerings	\$	536.00
Heating & Cooling	\$	105.00
Missionary Coop	\$	100.00
Catholic Education	\$	80.00
Retired Priest	\$	50.00
Online Giving	\$	3,629.90
Total Offertory	\$	12,607.90

2025 Catholic Ministries Drive Goal: \$42,700

January 1, 2025 - August 31, 2025

Gifts/Pledges - \$51,225.00

Total Gifts Received - \$50,625.00

Pledge Balance - \$600.00

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!

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? At our Ministry Fair you can learn about and join church ministries, discover opportunities to serve, and find a place for your unique talents and gifts within the parish community. Come to the Ministry Fair on Sunday, September 28th from 9am to 1pm in Fr. Bailey Hall for information!

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 • Cheryl Dennis
Duane • Carol Field • Mark Hastings • Melissa Horne
Tim Jimenez • Ray King • Rosanne Krawick
Sally Langham • Elsie MacCullagh • Dave Madden
Marian Monios • Mary Ann • John Patz • Dan Roberts
Darlene Scarpaci • Anne Showalter • Donna Taddy
Tammy • Tim Temofonte • Lois Werfel

**HOME WITH THE LORD: Your prayers are requested
for the repose of the soul of:**
Franklin Jones, husband of Marianne Jones
May he 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 to give us your numbers.

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 to receive Communion at home, a visit or cards please text or call Mary Susick at 814-207-0185.

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.

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.

GIVE US THIS DAY: It's time to renew our Give Us This Day order for December 2025-November 2026. Samples are available in the Gathering Space. If you are a current subscriber, renewal envelopes are included with your September copy. New subscribers may use the envelopes provided with the samples. We can order either the standard print for \$33 or the large print for \$44 for an annual subscription. Orders are due by October 6th. Please contact the Parish Office with questions. Thank you!