

2025 Jubilee Year Pilgrims of Hope



**Twenty-third Sunday in
Ordinary Time
September 7, 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

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. 13-4:00 PM - Joyce Cunningham, Jeremy Truscello
Sun. Sept. 14-8:00 AM - Daniel Turcovsky, Diane Turcovsky
Sun. Sept. 14-11:00 AM - Bob Olson, Jim Campbell

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. Sept. 13- 4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, Sadie Swope
Sun. Sept. 14- 8:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Sun. Sept. 14-11:00 AM - Camille Krug, Aidan Schurr

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. Sept. 13- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, NOT FILLED
Sun. Sept. 14-8:00 AM - Ginny Reeder, Jennifer Helsley
Sun. Sept. 14-11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Barbara Bundy,
Dolores Capriotti, Lou Ann Clark, Ken Gorman,
Susanna Tomlinson

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. Sept. 13- 4:00 PM - Carolyn English, Betsy Lloyd,
Larry VanSickel, Paula VanSickel,
Sun. Sept. 14- 8:00 AM - Ashley Greslick, Mike Greslick,
Mike O'Neill, Ed Stoltz
Sun. Sept. 14- 11:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Wendy Campbell,
Mary Grace Horton, Peg Madden

SACRISTAN

Sat. Sept. 13- 4:00 PM - Ray King, Mary King
Sun. Sept. 14- 8:00 AM - Ashley Greslick
Sun. Sept. 14- 11:00 AM - Dolores Capriotti

SCRIP

Sat. Sept. 13- 4:00 PM - Julie Beiswenger, Becky Merrill
Sun. Sept. 14- 8:00 AM - Erika Yasolsky, Heather Yasolsky
Sun. Sept. 14- 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:

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.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has called Catholics to a deeper reverence and respect for God's creation and encourages Catholics to respond to environmental challenges, especially as they disproportionately affect our poor and vulnerable neighbors across the United States and the world. Environmental justice ensures the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, in the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws and policies. This principle requires equitable access to a healthy environment and protection from disproportionate health and environmental hazards for all communities.

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!

COUNCIL OF NICAIA: On 20 May 2025, the Christian world commemorated the 1700th anniversary of the opening of the Council of Nicaea, which took place in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey) in the year 325. This was the first ecumenical council in history, and it produced the creed that, completed by the First Council of Constantinople in 381, has become the distinctive expression of the Church's faith in Jesus Christ. This anniversary occurs within the Jubilee Year, which is centered on the theme "Christ our Hope," and it coincides with the common celebration of Easter by Christians of both East and West. Additional anniversary events will occur in late October.

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!

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 next Sunday, September 14th. Stay tuned for more details on how to vote. Thank you for voting and letting our community know what a great parish we have here at St. John's!

SAVE THE DATES!

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 11th-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, please call Diane Ryan at 814-942-5503. The cost of the trip is \$60.00/person, which includes the gratuity for the driver. Reservations due by September 20th. The bus will leave at 7 am from PNC Field (Altoona Curve) Parking Lot.

Schedule for the Week of September 7th

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*

Monday, Sept. 8 - Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:30 AM - Mass for *Rita Kibler* requested by
the Tom Forr family

Tuesday, Sept. 9 - St. Peter Claver

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

Wednesday, Sept. 10 - Weekday

5:30 PM - Confessions

6:00 PM - Mass for *George & Johanna Semko* requested by
Karen Mazzarella

Thursday, Sept. 11 - Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Fr. Paul Turnbull* requested by
Barbara Bundy

Friday, Sept. 12 - Weekday

8:30 AM - Communion Service

Saturday, Sept. 13 - Vigil of The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

3:15 PM - Confessions

4:00 PM - Mass for *Paul Spayd* requested by
Doug & Maria Spayd

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

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.

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.

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 make very clear the demands that will be made of those wanting to be called disciples of Christ. We must be prepared to give our all to Him. But in the end, the life of discipleship – the stewardship way of life – is the only life that can truly satisfy.

He knows that if we do not live with great intentionality – putting Him first before all else – we will easily be swallowed up by the earthly cares that weigh us down – our material things, our status, and our egos. He knows that these things cannot satisfy us. He knows this because He is our Maker, and He made us for more.

August 23rd & 24th

Envelopes	\$	2,549.00
Loose Offerings	\$	2,203.00
Heating & Cooling	\$	335.00
Missionary Coop	\$	110.00
Online Giving	\$	1,273.90
Total Offertory	\$	6,470.90

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

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.

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!

Not interested in singing? Consider being a sound technician! Training will be provided but the slide keys program is easy to understand and maneuver. Contact Patti for details!

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

**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.**

CATHOLIC FOUNDATION GALA FEATURING JAY

PATERNO: The Independent Foundation will celebrate its 35th anniversary on Sunday, September 14th at the Blair County Convention Center. Gala guests will enjoy a delightful social hour beginning at 4pm followed by a gourmet dinner, award presentations, and Jay Paterno's inspiring reflections of his family's Catholic legacy. The Master of Ceremonies will be WTAJ News Anchor Marty Radovanic. 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.

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.

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

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.

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. OCIA will begin on Tuesday, September 9th at 7:00pm. If you are interested in growing in your faith, please contact Pat at 717-575-4224 or Sue at 717-575-1142.

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.

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.

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, Communion or cards please text or call Mary Susick at 814-207-0185.