

# 2025 Jubilee Year Pilgrims of Hope



**Our Lord, Jesus Christ,  
King of the Universe  
November 23, 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  
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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 (THANKSGIVING)- 9:00 AM**  
**FRIDAY - 8:30 AM SATURDAY - 4:00 PM**  
**SUNDAY - 8:00 AM & 11:00 AM**

### **November Prayer Intention of Pope Francis**

*For the Prevention of Suicide*

Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.



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

#### **LECTORS**

Sat. Nov. 29-4:00 PM - Maria Spayd, John Sukala  
Sun. Nov. 30-8:00 AM - Susan Podoletz, Mike Greslick  
Sun. Nov. 30-11:00 AM - Dave Auerbeck, Jim Campbell

#### **ALTAR SERVERS**

Sat. Nov. 29- 4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, Sadie Swope  
Sun. Nov. 30- 8:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED  
Sun. Nov. 30-11:00 AM - Estella Koch, Evie Koch

#### **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

Sat. Nov. 29- 4:00 PM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED  
Sun. Nov. 30-8:00 AM - Jennifer Helsley, Ginny Reeder  
Sun. Nov. 30-11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Dolores Capriotti,  
Ken Gorman, Bob Olson, Susanna Tomlinson, NOT FILLED

#### **MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY**

Sat. Nov. 29- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, Jeremy Truscello,  
Larry VanSickel, Paula VanSickel  
Sun. Nov. 30- 8:00 AM - Ed Stoltz, Jane Strasser, Mary Truesdale,  
NOT FILLED  
Sun. Nov. 30- 11:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Wendy Campbell,  
Lou Ann Clark, Peg Madden

#### **SACRISTAN**

Sat. Nov. 29- 4:00 PM - Ray King, Mary King  
Sun. Nov. 30- 8:00 AM - Ashley Greslick  
Sun. Nov. 30- 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan

#### **SCRIP**

Sat. Nov. 29- 4:00 PM - Lori Baker, Marge Rudolph  
Sun. Nov. 30- 8:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED  
Sun. Nov. 30- 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:

**FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING:** Today the liturgical year closes, as it does each year, with the feast of Christ the King. This year, in fact, marks the hundredth anniversary of the feast. Though the roots of the feast are biblical, the feast itself is a modern innovation, established by Pope Pius XI in 1925. How shall we understand this day? We are called to acknowledge that our loyalty to Christ the King must supersede and check our loyalty to any ruler, any nation-state, any structure of corporate power. Our deepest problem today is not the evacuation of divinity from the public sphere, but rather the idolatry of the nation. As in Pius XI's time, authoritarian leaders try to harness Christianity to bolster their power. The Church needs to reject the unfaithful and counterproductive attempt to ride the coattails of authoritarians back to social relevance. Catholics and all Christians need to place discipleship before patriotism. We are not simply Americans who have "No Kings"; we are Christians who have no king but Jesus. (Commonweal Magazine, November 2025)

**THE YEAR OF ST. MATTHEW** – Our Sunday gospels come to us in a three-year cycle. The three synoptic gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke lay out for us the life and ministry of Jesus. Next Sunday, the first Sunday of Advent, we begin a new Liturgical year, and this will be the **Year of Matthew**. Saint Matthew, also known as Levi, was one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus and the traditional author of the Gospel according to Matthew. Before being called by Jesus, he worked as a tax collector in Capernaum—an occupation often viewed negatively in Jewish society. After accepting Jesus' invitation, Matthew became a devoted follower and later a key figure in spreading the Christian message. His Gospel, written primarily for a Jewish audience, emphasizes Jesus as the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy and highlights teachings such as the Sermon on the Mount. Christian tradition holds that Matthew preached in regions such as Judea and possibly Ethiopia or Persia.

**OUR THANKSGIVING DAY MASS, 9:00 AM** - While Thanksgiving in the United States is now largely a secular holiday, it has strong religious roots. Its religious significance generally centers on the core idea coming from Judeo-Christian traditions of offering gratitude to God for the blessings of a bountiful harvest. This celebration dates to the 1621 harvest feast shared by the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag Indians. Early Thanksgiving observances in the colonies often involved church services dedicated to praising God for protection, harvest, and community. This tradition continues to the present as churches and synagogues throughout our nation observe this day with prayers of thanksgiving, deeds of charity, and a general reflection on God's goodness.

**CHRISTMAS GIFTS FROM THE HOLY LAND** – Next weekend representatives of the Catholic community of Bethlehem will be here with religious items crafted in the Holy Land. This persecuted community is in great need of our support. Please be generous in your purchases.

**ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE, December 14<sup>th</sup>** – An important element in our spiritual life is the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. A personal confession to a priest requires humility and honesty. We cannot grow spiritually without this sacrament, for it invites us to encounter our sinfulness and to experience the healing of Christ, our Divine Physician. Our parish communal Penance Service will be celebrated on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM. Please join us.

### SAVE THE DATES!

**Angel Tree:** Saturday, November 15-Sunday, December 7 -Tree will be set up and ornaments available with requests

**Thanksgiving Day Mass:** Thursday, November 27th at 9am

**Immaculate Conception:** Monday, December 8th Masses at 8:30am & 6pm

**Monsignor Becker's 76th Birthday:** Tuesday, December 9th Morning Mass at 8:30am followed by breakfast at Cracker Barrel at 9:30am

**Breakfast with Santa:** Sunday, December 14th from 9am-11am in Fr. Bailey Hall

**Advent Penance Service:** Sunday, December 14th at 4pm

**Christmas Eve Masses:** Wednesday, December 24th at 4pm & 10pm

**Christmas Day Mass:** Thursday, December 25th at 10am

**Feast of St. John the Evangelist:** Saturday, December 27th Mass at 8:30am followed by breakfast and refreshments following weekend all masses in the Gathering Space-More info to come!

## ***Schedule for the Week of November 23rd***

### **Sunday, Nov. 23 - Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**

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

11:00 AM - Mass for *Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Novak* requested by Chuck & Judy Stephens

### **Monday, Nov. 24 - St. Andrew Dung-Lac**

8:30 AM - Mass for *Rose Marie Moczydlowski* requested by Barbara Bundy

### **Tuesday, Nov. 25 - Weekday**

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

### **Wednesday, Nov. 26 - Weekday**

5:30 PM - Confessions

6:00 PM - Mass for *Vincenza Mento* requested by Bob & Ginny Reeder

### **Thursday, Nov. 27 - Weekday (Thanksgiving)**

9:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

### **Friday, Nov. 28 - Weekday**

8:30 AM - Communion Service

### **Saturday, Nov. 29 - Vigil of First Sunday of Advent**

3:15 PM - Confessions

4:00 PM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

### **Sunday, Nov. 30 - First Sunday of Advent**

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

11:00 AM - Mass for *Fred Mazzarella* requested by Karen Mazzarella

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER:** On this Feast of Christ the King, our readings show us that we serve the greatest of Kings, who is at the same time the humblest of Kings. Christ is the perfect model of servant leadership. And what an indescribable privilege that He has called us to be servant leaders – stewards in the work of advancing His Kingdom. What powerful lessons this King teaches us from the Cross. We learn that true leadership is displayed in emptying ourselves for others; that true greatness is displayed by way of humility; that none of us is worthy of the call to stewardship of His kingdom but that all of us, like the good thief, are welcomed and invited to take up this call. Following in His footsteps will involve suffering and sacrifice. Yet how can we say no to the King who loves us so completely and promises that His faithful stewards will one day be with Him in Paradise?

### ***November 8th/9th***

Envelopes	\$	5,304.00
Loose Offerings	\$	227.00
Heating & Cooling	\$	255.00
Catholic Education	\$	10.00
Hurricane Relief	\$	2,480.00
All Souls Day	\$	45.00
All Saints Day	\$	35.00
Catholic Charities	\$	10.00
I Give Catholic	\$	10.00
Christmas Flowers	\$	10.00
Online Giving	\$	2,539.90
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>10,925.90</b>

### **2025 Catholic Ministries Drive Goal: \$42,700**

**January 1, 2025 - October 31, 2025**

**Gifts/Pledges - \$52,205.00**

**Total Gifts Received - \$51,805.00**

**Pledge Balance - \$400.00**

**BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Please email any upcoming bulletin announcements to Diane Ryan at stjohndsecretary@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.

**MADRIGAL FEAST JUBILEE:** Despite the decline of congregational singing under the Medieval Church, musical forms were still being cultivated which were inspired by biblical texts. "Of the Father's Love Begotten" by Prudentius is from the 5th century, and its tune, DIVINUM MYSTERIUM from the 11th century. "All Glory Laud and Honor" by Theodulph of Orleans was written around 820. "All Creatures of our God and King" by Francis of Assisi was written in 1225. "Be Thou My Vision" is an Irish hymn from the 8th century. "O Sacred Head Now Wounded" was written by Bernard of Clairvaux in 1153. The tune we sing to "When I Survey" (HAMBURG) is based on a Gregorian chant. Our madrigal feast jubilee music will truly inspire our celebration of the newborn King of Kings. Reservations are filling quickly!

**GIVE US THIS DAY:** New subscriptions will begin in December! Books are available in the Gathering Space behind the Scrip table for pick up.

**#IGIVECATHOLIC:** Did you know that #iGiveCatholic is the first ever day of Catholic giving in our nation? It's a special day for us to give back and give thanks to the organizations that shape our souls. Join the movement and show your support for our parish. Advanced giving began Monday, November 17th until Monday, December 1st. #GivingTuesday is December 2nd! You can support St. John's with an offline gift of check or cash using the envelopes in the Gathering Space or online at iGiveCatholic.org. Thank you for your continued generosity!

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:** Memorial donations for Christmas flowers should be submitted online or by using the envelope provided in your packet. All requests should be received in the office by Monday, December 15th, to be acknowledged in the December 21st bulletin.

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

**TOASTY TODDLERS:** We are collecting for Toasty Toddlers again this year. Help keep our youngest community members warm by donating winter outer wear such as coats, hats and gloves. Size needed the most currently is 0-3 month snowsuits. Donations can be placed in the bin in the Gathering Space. The second distribution of outer wear will be on December 2nd. Thank you for supporting this worthy cause!

**ANGEL TREE:** The Angel Tree and tags are now available in the Gathering Space! Tags can be picked up after mass or during the week. Church doors are open daily from 8:30am to 2:00pm. You may not spend more than \$40 per gift. Return wrapped gifts with the tags attached to the Gathering Space by December 7th. Food tags (Martin's, Weis or Walmart) are also available on the tree to purchase from our Scrip program. Simply purchase the gift card and attach the tag to it. A designated box for these cards will be distributed to families in need by Catholic Charities. Please contact the Parish Office at 814-942-5503 with any questions.

**LECTOR WORKBOOKS:** The 2026 Lector Workbooks are available in the Gathering Space for our lectors. Please pick one up. Thank you to our lectors for helping with this important ministry and for sharing your time and talent!

**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.

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST:** Sunday, December 7th at St. Michael's Church hall from 8am to noon. All you can eat pancakes and sausage. \$6 for adults, \$3 for children under 12. See kiosk for more information!

### **FAITH FORMATION NEWS**

**November 22nd**-Confirmation Discipleship Event at St. Rose

**November 23rd**-Class (Safety Lessons)

**November 30th**-No Class-Happy Thanksgiving!

**December 7th**-Family Advent Event in gym and Children's Liturgy at 11am Mass

**December 14th**-No Class-Breakfast with Santa 9am-11am Penance Service at 4pm

**December 21st**-Class

**December 28th**-No Class

**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).*

**BREAKFAST WITH SANTA:** Please join us Sunday, December 14th from 9am-11am in Fr. Bailey Hall (School Gym) for breakfast, games, crafts, and photos with Santa. Please bring your own device to take pictures. Everyone is welcome! All parishioners are encouraged to stop over for breakfast. Santa will be checking his list to see who is naughty and who is nice, so stop over to make sure you are on the nice list and grab a bite to eat!

**HOSPITALITY HELP:** In this season of thanksgiving, a wonderful thing we can be thankful for is the warm sense of welcome here at St. John's. It starts at the door as we are greeted with a smile by Hospitality Ministers and continues throughout the Mass, aided by Altar servers, Lectors, Choir members and Extra-ordinary ministers of Communion. **It takes all of us to create this sense of community.** Hospitality Ministers greet people, distribute any needed supplies and information, take up the collection during Mass, and provide bulletins at the end. It's a role that really gets a person involved. If you have that welcoming spirit, we are asking you to share it with us by becoming part of our Hospitality Ministry. Please sign up on the kiosk in the gathering space, and you will be contacted with directions on how to get started. Thank you in advance!

**JOB OPENING:** St. Rose of Lima, Altoona is seeking dedicated candidates for a part-time Administrative Assistant. To view the full job description and apply, please visit the Careers page at <https://humanresources.dioceseaj.org>. Resumes can be emailed directly to the HR Office at [mporada@dioceseaj.org](mailto:mporada@dioceseaj.org).