



St. John the Evangelist Church

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

PASTORAL STAFF

Monsignor Michael Becker - mbecker253@aol.com
 Deacon Gene Neral - gene@lifeinfofocus.net
 Patricia Jimenez - Director of Music
 pjimenez@dioceseaj.org
 Mimi Crevecoeur - Business Manager
 stjohchurch@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

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. Dec. 6-4:00 PM - John Sukala, Joyce Cunningham
 Sun. Dec. 7-8:00 AM - Mike Greslick, Ginny Reeder
 Sun. Dec. 7-11:00 AM - Estella Koch, Lily Davis
 Mon. Dec. 8-8:30 AM - Norma Foose, Bill Foose
 Mon. Dec. 8-6:00 PM - Mireille Crevecoeur, Bob Olson

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. Dec. 6- 4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, Sadie Swope
 Sun. Dec. 7- 8:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
 Sun. Dec. 7-11:00 AM - Evie Koch, Aidan Schurr
 Mon. Dec. 8-8:30 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
 Mon. Dec. 8-6:00 PM - Camille Krug, Aidan Schurr

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. Dec. 6- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, NOT FILLED
 Sun. Dec. 7-8:00 AM - Daniel Turcovsky, Diane Turcovsky
 Sun. Dec. 7-11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy, Dolores Capriotti,
 Lou Ann Clark, Ken Gorman, Bob Olson, Susanna Tomlinson
 Mon. Dec. 8-8:30 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
 Mon. Dec. 8-6:00 PM - Jennifer Helsley, Ginny Reeder

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. Dec. 6- 4:00 PM - Betsy Lloyd, Dennis Moughemer,
 Karen Moughemer, Jeremy Truscello
 Sun. Dec. 7- 8:00 AM - Jane Becker, John Becker, Carolyn English,
 Ray Kennedy
 Sun. Dec. 7- 11:00 AM - Faith Formation Students
 Mon. Dec. 8-8:30 AM - Connie Baker, Ed Stoltz, Mary Truesdale,
 NOT FILLED
 Mon. Dec. 8-6:00 PM - Patrick Podoletz, Jane Strasser,
 Daniel Turcovsky, Diane Turcovsky

SACRISTAN

Sat. Dec. 6- 4:00 PM - Ray King, Mary King
 Sun. Dec. 7- 8:00 AM - Ashley Greslick
 Sun. Dec. 7- 11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy
 Mon. Dec. 8-8:30 AM - NOT FILLED
 Mon. Dec. 8-6:00 PM - NOT FILLED

SCRIP

Sat. Dec. 6- 4:00 PM - Julie Beiswenger, Becky Merilli
 Sun. Dec. 7- 8:00 AM - Amber Yasolsky, Heather Yasolsky
 Sun. Dec. 7- 11:00 AM - Peg Madden, Marge Rudolph

A Few Words from the Pastor:

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. This 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.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FROM THE HOLY LAND – This 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.

VOCATION APPEAL: Next Sunday our diocese is hosting a special vocation appeal. Bishop Bartchak is asking for your financial support in funding our renewed efforts to promote vocations to the priesthood. To ensure our parishes have priests for the future, our vocation office has developed a robust plan to reach out to young men and invite them to consider the priesthood. You are encouraged to read our bishop's letter about these efforts which is contained in today's bulletin. You can also learn more and make a gift by visiting ajvocations.org/give.

PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS: In keeping with our diocesan vocation initiative, we will be offering after communion a special prayer for vocations to the priesthood. This prayer will serve as a weekly reminder of our need for priests to serve the needs of our diocese.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE, December 14th – 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 14th 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

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!

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULING For January 1, 2026 - May 25, 2026 It's time to schedule ministries for the Winter/Spring of 2026. If you have internet access, please enter the dates that you are NOT available in the Profile section of **Ministry Scheduler Pro**. Here is the direct link to that website – <https://www.rotundasoftware.com/ministry/teammates>. There is also a link from our parish website (<https://www.stjohnsaltoona.org>) and in the email reminder you will receive soon. There are cards available in the gathering space for those who do not have access to the internet. If you are not able to update your profile online, visit the church to fill out a card, or just have general questions about ministry scheduling, please call Mike Greslick on a weekday evening between 6 PM and 9 PM or anytime on the weekends at 814-577-5292. Feel free to reach out via email as well to mike.greslick@gmail.com. **Please update your profile online, call Mike, or fill out a card and return it by Noon on December 14th.** The schedule for the next round will be generated on or around December 15th. Thank you for your service to our faith community throughout the year!

Schedule for the Week of November 30th

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

Monday, Dec. 1- Advent Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Helen Baca* requested by
family & friends

Tuesday, Dec. 2 - Advent Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Carol Bismark & Donna Long*
requested by Dee Schmerbeck

Wednesday, Dec. 3 - St. Francis Xavier

5:30 PM - Confessions

6:00 PM - Mass for *Andrew Jr. & Florence Dancha*
requested by Vicki Faretta

Thursday, Dec. 4 - Advent Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Bradley Johnson* requested by
Paul & Susie Snyder

Friday, Dec. 5 - Advent Weekday

8:30 AM - Communion Service

Saturday, Dec. 6 - Vigil of Second Sunday of Advent

3:15 PM - Confessions

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

Sunday, Dec. 7 - Second Sunday of Advent

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

11:00 AM - Mass for *Betty J. Caldwell* requested by
Pat & Mark Waring

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: Today we begin the beautiful season of Advent. It is a season meant for preparation – but for what exactly are we preparing? Two things actually – the celebration of our Savior’s birth and the anticipation of His second coming. These are weighty tasks that have eternal consequences. So, let us Christian stewards make the words of the Prophet Isaiah our motto for the season: “Come, let us climb the Lord’s mountain to the house of the God of Jacob, that He may instruct us in His ways and we may walk in His paths.” How can we Christian stewards prepare ourselves and our families for a holy celebration of Jesus’ birth on Dec 25 and for his certain second coming at a date we do not know? We can push back against the world’s pressure to have the ‘perfect Christmas.’ Scale back on the material kind of gift-giving, the complicated menus, and the unessential trappings of the season so that we have more time for spiritual preparation: confession, weekday Mass, adoration, family prayer time, lighting the Advent wreath, and performing acts of kindness. It may feel like a mountain to climb, but in the end, we will be prepared to celebrate a truly meaningful Christmas, we will have become more like our Savior, and we will be ready for Him to come again. Let’s go climb the Lord’s mountain.

November 15th/16th

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|------------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Envelopes | \$ | 4,850.00 |
| Loose Offerings | \$ | 792.00 |
| Heating & Cooling | \$ | 294.00 |
| Hurricane Relief | \$ | 240.00 |
| Catholic Charities | \$ | 242.00 |
| Thanksgiving | \$ | 35.00 |
| Christmas Flowers | \$ | 40.00 |
| Online Giving | \$ | 1,513.52 |
| Total Offertory | \$ | 8,006.52 |

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: Our enchanting evening of feasting, music and merriment is taking place on Friday, January 2nd. Tickets are \$25. Please send your reservations in by this Sunday, November 30th. Flyers with additional information and registration tickets are available in the Gathering Space. Please join us for this special evening!

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!

#IGIVECATHOLIC: We want to thank all of those who have participated in our #iGiveCatholic Advanced Giving thus far to help our parish with our Heating and Cooling Fund. #iGiveCatholic is just 2 days away, coming this Tuesday, December 2nd! You are welcome to still give online at iGiveCatholic.org, through the designated envelopes in the Gathering Space or at the Parish Office. Thank you for helping us Give Catholic and for supporting our parish!

LECTOR WORKBOOKS: The 2026 Lector Workbooks are available in the Gathering Space for our lectors. Please pick one up. Thank you to our lectors!

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 • 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

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

Janella M. Corl, sister of Ginger Cooney & Becky Merrill
May she rest in the peace and joy of the Lord.

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.

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.

GABRIEL PROJECT: The Altoona Gabriel Project now has 14 churches that have joined our ministry. We have over 60 moms and babies using our services. We are currently in need of boys size 2t clothing, diaper cream, and baby wash. Monetary donations are also appreciated for pack n' plays, cribs, and high chairs. We are not in need of diapers and wipes at this time. Thank you for your continued generosity in helping those who are in need. The Gabriel project number is 814-440-1021.

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 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

January 4th-No Class

January 11th-Class & Confirmation Mentor Meeting
following 11am Mass in the gym

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.

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.

MESSIAH SING ALONG: The Academy of Sacred Music will present a Messiah Sing Along at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 19, at the Hollidaysburg Church of the Brethren, 1028 Penn Street, Hollidaysburg. There is no admission charge, but a free will offering will be collected. Bob Long, founder of the academy and Hollidaysburg native will conduct. Although attendees are not required to sing, the academy is encouraging members of choirs and choral groups to bring their Messiah scores and support the concert. Anyone who wants to be part of the event is invited to attend. A few scores will be available for participants to borrow. Along with audience participation, the concert will feature several soloists including Julie Hanlon, soprano, Arlene Huth, mezzo-soprano, Thomas Delahoy, tenor and James White, bass. Asa Carns will provide accompaniment on the organ. The Messiah offers a unique opportunity for people to enjoy a timeless classic. All are welcome to attend and sing along or just listen.

SCRIP TIP: Use Scrip on All Things Holiday! Gift cards are great for gift giving, but you can also use scrip on everything you need this season, including:

- Greeting and holiday cards
- Holiday decorations
- Food and ingredients
- Snowsuits, sleds, and outerwear
- Traveling for the holidays? Use scrip to book your flights, hotels, and rental cars. If you're road tripping to grandma's house, grab gift cards for gas stations that you can register and reload along the way.