



## St. John the Evangelist Church

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

### **PASTORAL STAFF**

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 Patricia Jimenez - Director of Music  
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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**

### **December Prayer Intention of Pope Leo**

*For Christians in Areas of Conflict*

For Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.



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

#### **LECTORS**

Sat. Dec. 20-4:00 PM - John Sukala, Joyce Cunningham  
 Sun. Dec. 21-8:00 AM - Ginny Reeder, Mike Greslick  
 Sun. Dec. 21-11:00 AM - James Krug, Camille Krug

#### **ALTAR SERVERS**

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

#### **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

Sat. Dec. 20- 4:00 PM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED  
 Sun. Dec. 21-8:00 AM - Daniel Turcovsky, Diane Turcovsky  
 Sun. Dec. 21-11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Barbara Bundy,  
 Ken Gorman, Bob Olson, Susanna Tomlinson, NOT FILLED

#### **MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY**

Sat. Dec. 20- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, Dennis Moughemer,  
 Karen Moughemer, Jeremy Truscello  
 Sun. Dec. 21- 8:00 AM - Jane Becker, John Becker, Ray Kennedy,  
 Mary Truesdale  
 Sun. Dec. 21- 11:00 AM - Dolores Capriotti, Lou Ann Clark,  
 Mary Grace Horton, Peg Madden

#### **SACRISTAN**

Sat. Dec. 20- 4:00 PM - Ray King, Mary King  
 Sun. Dec. 21- 8:00 AM - Ashley Greslick  
 Sun. Dec. 21- 11:00 AM - Dolores Capriotti

#### **SCRIP**

Sat. Dec. 20- 4:00 PM - Julie Beiswenger, Becky Merilli  
 Sun. Dec. 21- 8:00 AM - Marge Rudolph, NOT FILLED  
 Sun. Dec. 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:

**O COME, O COME EMMANUEL:** The **O Antiphons** are a set of seven ancient liturgical antiphons used during the last seven days of Advent (Dec 17–23). Each begins with “O” and invokes Christ under a different biblical title drawn primarily from Isaiah. They form the basis of the hymn *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*. **O Sapientia** — O Wisdom (Dec 17), **O Adonai** — O Lord (Dec 18), **O Radix Jesse** — O Root of Jesse (Dec 19), **O Clavis David** — O Key of David (Dec 20), **O Oriens** — O Dayspring (Dec 21), **O Rex Gentium** — O King of the Nations (Dec 22), **O Emmanuel** — O God-with-Us (Dec 23).

**BREAKFAST WITH SANTA:** We have a very special visitor coming to St. John's this Sunday! Please join us this Sunday from 9-11am in Fr. Bailey Hall to meet with Santa and have some breakfast with your parish family. Stop over after the 8am Mass or before the 11am Mass to grab a bite to eat and visit with Santa. All ages are welcome!

**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 this Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM. Please join us.

**Penance SERVICE ELSEWHERE** – Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.

**VOCATIONS APPEAL:** Our diocese is hosting a special vocation appeal, with Bishop Bartchak 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. Your support is very much appreciated!

**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.

**FULTON COUNTY CATHOLIC MISSION:** On Thursday December 4th, we took two carloads of winterwear to St. Stephen's in McConnellsburg. We were welcomed by a few parishioners who were preparing Angel Tree gifts. We also met with Community Action and Love's Closet. Everyone passes on their "Thank you's" to St. John's. Your generosity is phenomenal!

### SAVE THE DATES!

**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 at Cracker Barrel and refreshments following all weekend masses in the Gathering Space

**Solemnity of Mary Masses:** Wednesday, December 31st at 4pm & Thursday, January 1st at 10am

**Madrigal Feast Jubilee:** Friday, January 2nd at 5:30pm in Fr. Bailey Hall

**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](mailto: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 December 14th

### Sunday, Dec. 14 - Third Sunday of Advent

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

11:00 AM - Mass for *Bill Hermesky* requested by  
Barbara Bundy

### Monday, Dec. 15- Advent Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Dave Hagan* requested by  
Michele & Lance DeFrancisco

### Tuesday, Dec. 16 - Advent Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Leo & Cecelia Long* requested by  
Dee Schmerbeck

### Wednesday, Dec. 17 - Late Advent Weekday

5:30 PM - Confessions

6:00 PM - Mass for *Michael Rudolph* requested by  
Chuck & Mary Beth Edmonds

### Thursday, Dec. 18 - Late Advent Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Dorothy L. Hufford* requested by  
Bob & Ginny Reeder

### Friday, Dec. 19 - Late Advent Weekday

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

### Saturday, Dec. 20 - Vigil of Fourth Sunday of Advent

3:15 PM - Confessions

4:00 PM - Mass for *Fred Mazzarella* requested by  
Karen Mazzarella

### Sunday, Dec. 21 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM - Mass for *Florence Dancha* requested by  
Robin Lestochi & Ken McCracken

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.

**MADRIGAL FEAST JUBILEE:** How fare thee? Granmercy for your quick responses to the Noble Court's invitations to the January 2nd Epiphany feast. Dress according to your fashion, but dress thee warmly. The hall doors will open at 5:30 PM with brass quartet fanfare. Wassailing and the bringing of the bar's head commence shortly past 6:00 PM. Prithiee send inquiry to [pjimenez@diocesaj.org](mailto:pjimenez@diocesaj.org) for further information. Anon and God's speed until then.

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\* **ANGEL TREE 2025:** THANK YOU! A BIG thank you to  
\* everyone who donated and helped organize our Angel  
\* Tree this year! We supported 9 children, provided 77  
\* gifts and collected \$4,750 in gift cards. Your generosity  
\* is very much appreciated and we were able to brighten  
\* the Christmas season for so many in need in our area.  
\* THANK YOU!  
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**STEWARDSHIP CORNER:** Good news, Christian stewards – we are gaining ground on our Advent mountain climb and it is time to take a moment to rejoice in the Good News that our Savior will come again in triumph one day. Today's readings on this Gaudete ('Rejoice') Sunday are filled with reminders of God's final victory over suffering and injustice, and encouragement to remain steadfast in our mission to live as faith-filled disciples. Our Gospel passage, from Matthew, connects the prophecy of Isaiah to the arrival of Jesus almost word for word. In this passage we find the imprisoned John the Baptist sending his disciples to ask Jesus if he is indeed the long-awaited Messiah. Jesus' reply is almost identical to Isaiah's prophetic words. He says, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, and the dead are raised..." The Savior really has arrived just as promised! Yet that arrival was 700 years after Isaiah's prediction. God always fulfills his promises, but patience and firmness of heart are required as we await his perfect timing. Let us rejoice in the knowledge that God has called us to enter this kingdom. Let us keep our hearts firmly fixed on this eternal goal and strive with all our might to give God and others the very best of ourselves in gratitude for such a privilege.

### **November 29th/30th**

Envelopes	\$	4,476.00
Loose Offerings	\$	221.00
Heating & Cooling	\$	190.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$	10.00
Retirement Fund	\$	10.00
Thanksgiving	\$	638.00
Christmas Offering	\$	25.00
Christmas Flowers	\$	360.00
I Give Catholic	\$	225.00
Immaculate Conception	\$	15.00
Online Giving	\$	1,253.90
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>7,423.90</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**

### **PROCLAIM! TO AIR CHRISTMAS SHOW AND MASS**

The *Proclaim!* TV Christmas special *Joy to the World: Christmas in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown* will air on Sunday, December 21 at 6:00 p.m. on WWCP FOX 8. The one-hour show will highlight the spirit of Christmas throughout the diocese and include beautiful music from parish and Catholic school choirs, as well as the *Proclaim!* priests' choir. The *Proclaim!* TV Christmas Mass will air live from Saint John Gualbert Cathedral in Johnstown on Christmas Eve, December 24, at 4:00 p.m. on WATM ABC 23 with Bishop Mark as celebrant and homilist.

### 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 • Mary Lauterbach  
Elsie MacCullagh • Dave Madden • Marian Monios  
Mary Ann • Mary O Fleming • John Patz • Bette Richards  
Dan Roberts • Darlene Scarpaci • Anne Showalter  
Donna Taddy • Tammy • Tim Temofonte • Lois Werfel  
Heather Yasolsky

**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.

**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.

### **CHRISTMAS LIVE CENTERPIECE CLASS:**

Come join in the fun of making a live pine centerpiece arrangement for the Holidays!

When: Sunday, December 14th

Time: 6:00-8:30pm

Where: Saint John's cafeteria

Cost: Suggested donation of \$10 which will be donated to local food banks

Please bring small hand pruners, latex gloves and your Christmas spirit!

Class limited to first 12 adults.

Call Cindy Trimarco 814-935-2778 to sign up and for any questions. Deadline December 12th.

### FAITH FORMATION NEWS

**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

**January 18th**-No Class

**January 25th**-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!

**MARRIAGE PREP 2026:** The Marriage Preparation Schedule for 2026 is available at [www.dioceseaj.org](http://www.dioceseaj.org) under Ministries and then Marriage Preparation. Brochures with dates and additional information are available on the kiosk in the Gathering Space. Contact the Family Life Office at 814-317-2643 for questions.

**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.