



# Fourth Week of Advent: Trusting God's Love

December 21, 2025

**St. John the Evangelist Church  
309 Lotz Avenue, Altoona, PA 814-942-5503**

## MASS SCHEDULE

**MONDAY-DECEMBER 22ND- 8:30 AM      TUESDAY-DECEMBER 23RD -8:30 AM**  
**WEDNESDAY-DECEMBER 24TH - 8:30 AM      VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD - 4:00 PM & 10:00 PM**  
**THURSDAY-DECEMBER 25TH-THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD - 10:00 AM**  
**FRIDAY-DECEMBER 26TH- 8:30 AM**  
**SATURDAY-DECEMBER 27TH-FEAST OF ST. JOHN - 8:30 AM**  
**SATURDAY-DECEMBER 27TH- 4:00 PM**  
**SUNDAY-DECEMBER 28TH-8:00 AM & 11:00 AM**

## **NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS**

### LECTORS

Wed. Dec. 24-4:00 PM - Jim Campbell, Barbara Bundy  
Wed. Dec. 24-10:00 PM - Susan Podoletz, Mimi Crevecoeur  
Thurs. Dec. 25-10:00 AM - Laverne Kovacs, Gary Johnson  
Sat. Dec. 27-8:30 AM - Barbara Bundy  
Sat. Dec. 27-4:00 PM - Joyce Cunningham, Maria Spayd  
Sun. Dec. 28-8:00 AM - Mike Greslick, Susan Podoletz  
Sun. Dec. 28-11:00 AM - Jim Campbell, Richard Consiglio

### ALTAR SERVERS

Wed. Dec. 24-4:00 PM-Abigail Hovance, Aidan Schurr, Sadie Swope  
Wed. Dec. 24-10:00 PM - Bob Olson, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED  
Thurs. Dec. 25-10:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED  
Sat. Dec. 27-8:30 AM - Aidan Schurr, NOT FILLED  
Sat. Dec. 27- 4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, Sadie Swope  
Sun. Dec. 28- 8:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED  
Sun. Dec. 28-11:00 AM - Estella Koch, Evie Koch

### EUCARISTIC MINISTERS

Wed. Dec. 24-4:00 PM - Connie Baker, Dolores Capriotti, Ginny Reeder, Susanna Tomlinson, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED  
Wed. Dec. 24-10:00 PM - Ken Gorman, Bob Olson, NOT FILLED  
Thurs. Dec. 25-10:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED  
Sat. Dec. 27-8:30 AM - Daniel Turcovsky, Diane Turcovsky  
Sat. Dec. 27- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, NOT FILLED  
Sun. Dec. 28-8:00 AM - Jennifer Helsley, Ginny Reeder  
Sun. Dec. 28-11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Barbara Bundy, Dolores Capriotti, Lou Ann Clark, Ken Gorman, Susanna Tomlinson

### MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Wed. Dec. 24-4:00 PM - Walter Bloom, Peg Madden, Dennis Moughemer, Karen Moughemer, Patrick Podoletz, Ed Stoltz  
Wed. Dec. 24-10:00 PM - Marilyn Bevan, Ray Kennedy, Mary Truesdale, Jeremy Truscello  
Thurs. Dec. 25-10:00 AM - Jane Becker, John Becker, Carolyn English, NOT FILLED  
Sat. Dec. 27-8:30 AM - Dolores Capriotti, Patrick Podoletz  
Sat. Dec. 27- 4:00 PM - Carolyn English, Jeremy Truscello, Larry VanSickel, Paula VanSickel  
Sun. Dec. 28- 8:00 AM - Ed Stoltz, Jane Strasser, Mary Truesdale, NOT FILLED  
Sun. Dec. 28- 11:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Wendy Campbell, Mary Grace Horton, Peg Madden

### SACRISTAN

Wed. Dec. 24-4:00 PM - Dolores Capriotti  
Wed. Dec. 24-10:00 PM - Barbara Bundy  
Thurs. Dec. 25-10:00 AM - Mary King, Ray King  
Sat. Dec. 27-8:30 AM - Barbara Bundy  
Sat. Dec. 27- 4:00 PM - Ray King, Mary King  
Sun. Dec. 28- 8:00 AM - Ashley Greslick  
Sun. Dec. 28- 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan

### SCRIP

Sat. Dec. 27- 4:00 PM - Lori Baker, NOT FILLED  
Sun. Dec. 28- 8:00 AM - Lori Baker, NOT FILLED  
Sun. Dec. 28- 11:00 AM - Peg Madden, Marge Rudolph

## A Few Words from the Pastor:

**OUR CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE:** Christmas Masses at 4:00PM and 10:00PM on Christmas Eve, and 10:00AM on Christmas Day.

**OUR PARISH FEAST DAY!** Please join your parish family for a special Mass celebrating the Feast of St. John the Evangelist on Saturday December 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM, with a gathering afterwards at Cracker Barrel! Do join us for our patronal feast!

**BLESSING FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS DINNER:** Just as the Eucharist is our great prayer of thanksgiving, so too is our family Christmas dinner a time to express our gratitude to our loving God. You are invited to voice this prayer as you gather for your Christmas feast:

### CHRISTMAS DAY TABLE PRAYER

Lord God of life,  
together with the beautiful traditions of decorating the Christmas tree,  
of singing carols and giving gifts,  
this Christmas dinner is an important part  
of our celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Come, Lord our God, and surround our feast day table  
as we delight in this joyous season of Christmas.  
Gift us in this meal with the taste of happiness  
as we savor this coming together of family and friends.  
As sparkling stars and singing angels  
rejoiced at the birth of the Christ child in Bethlehem,  
so may we take great joy in this our Christmas dinner celebration.  
May you, our loving God, bless this meal and bless our family,  
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the holy Spirit. Amen!

**OPLATKI:** are **thin, unleavened wafers** traditionally used in **Polish and Eastern European Christmas Eve celebrations**. Before Christmas Eve dinner, family members **share the oplatki**, breaking off pieces and **exchanging wishes** for health, happiness, and peace. It is made of **flour and water**, similar to a communion wafer. It represents **forgiveness, unity, and love**, rooted in Christian tradition. This sharing can be done before or after the Christmas Table Blessing.

### SAVE THE DATES!

**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!

**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

**JUBILEE 2025 PILGRIMS OF HOPE:** The official closing Mass for the Jubilee will be celebrated at all cathedrals worldwide on Sunday, December 28, 2025 on the Feast of the Holy Family. In the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown at the 11:00 am televised Mass at St. John Gualbert Cathedral, Bishop Mark L. Bartchak is the Main celebrant. Also at the 10:00 am Mass at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona, Msgr. Stanley C. Carson will be the Main Celebrant leading the Closing Jubilee Year Eucharistic celebration. All the faithful are encouraged to participate in prayer and if coming in person to please bring an offering of a non-perishable food item, paper or cleaning products for those in need to Mass in the spirit of charity as envisioned by Pope Francis for the Jubilee Year. We can all be Ambassadors of Hope.

## Schedule for the Week of December 21st

### 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*

### Monday, Dec. 22 - Late Advent Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Betty Caldwell* requested by  
Betty Peschock

### Tuesday, Dec. 23 - Late Advent Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Bill Schmerbeck* requested by  
Dee Schmerbeck

### Wednesday, Dec. 24 - Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord

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

10:00 PM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

### Thursday, Dec. 25 - Nativity of the Lord

10:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

### Friday, Dec. 26 - St. Stephen

8:30 AM - Mass for *Stephan Fix* requested by  
Brenday & Alex Fix

### Saturday, Dec. 27 - St. John/Vigil of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:30 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

3:15 PM - Confessions

4:00 PM - Mass for *Robert & Diane Long, Lottie Long Servello & Frank Ringkamp* requested by  
Chris & Melissa Ringkamp

### Sunday, Dec. 28 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

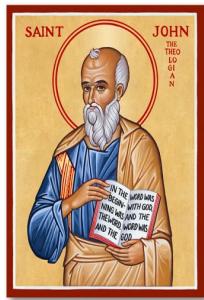
8:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

11:00 AM - Mass for *Gary Johnson* requested by  
Dr. Joseph & Pam Klobuka

**BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Please email any upcoming bulletin announcements to Diane Ryan at [stjohnsecretary@atlanticbbb.net](mailto:stjohnsecretary@atlanticbbb.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.

### **ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST FEAST DAY MASS AND**

**BREAKFAST:** All parishioners are welcome to attend morning mass on Saturday, December 27, at 8:30 AM to celebrate the feast day of St. John the Evangelist. After Mass we are planning to have breakfast at Cracker Barrel around 9:30 am. All are welcome to attend! Hope you will join us for a morning a good food and fellowship with your St. John's family!



**STEWARDSHIP CORNER:** As our Advent preparations draw to a close and Christmas fast approaches, it is fitting that today's readings demonstrate the intensity of the Father's perfect and passionate love for each of us, culminating in the gift of His own Son, Jesus Christ, on Christmas Day. As we reflect on the enormity of this gift, let us ask ourselves what we can offer in return. In our Gospel passage from Matthew, we find an unparalleled example of one who embraced the stewardship way of life in St Joseph, as he responds to God's call to him through the message of an angel. St Joseph immediately and humbly obeys the instruction from the angel: "Do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Open to this extraordinary role, he did as the angel commanded and 'takes Mary into his home.' Let us imitate St Joseph, then, as good stewards, giving our very lives to those around us in love and gratitude to God who has given us everything we have, especially His own Son, Jesus Christ. We will no doubt find that the more we give ourselves away, the more our generous Father will fill us with His grace and peace – these are truly the best Christmas gift we could receive.

December 6th/7th

Envelopes	\$	7,456.00
Loose Offerings	\$	567.00
Heating & Cooling	\$	150.00
Catholic Education	\$	70.00
Retirement Fund	\$	50.00
Thanksgiving	\$	30.00
Catholic Charities	\$	20.00
Christmas Flowers	\$	722.00
I Give Catholic	\$	50.00
Immaculate Conception	\$	135.00
Online Giving	\$	4,024.90
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>13,274.90</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**

### **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.



### ST JOHN'S PRAYER LIST

Please call Ginny Reeder (695-7671) or email her at [genny.reeder@gmail.com](mailto:genny.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  
Edward Drexler • Carol Field • Donald Free  
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 • Richard Olson • John Patz •  
Bette Richards • Dan Roberts • Darlene Scarpaci •  
Anne Showalter • Donna Taddy • Tammy •  
Tim Temofonte • Lois Werfel

**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.

**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.

**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, the spiritual wellbeing of a person living, a wedding anniversary, a birthday, or for a personal/private intention. The usual offering for a mass intention is \$10. We are accepting intentions for the 2026-2027 year. Please call the Parish Office to submit an intention.

### FAITH FORMATION NEWS

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  
February 1st-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).*

**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.

**SCRIP:** Did you know you can raise money for our parish when you buy food for your holiday gatherings ? Use scrip when you go grocery shopping for holiday get-togethers and earn rebates for St. John's. We have Walmart, Giant Eagle, Hometown Market, Martin's and Weis gift cards in stock. Drop off your order form at the scrip table as you come in to mass and pick it up on your way out after mass.

**THANK YOU!** The Allegheny Club of Hollidaysburg donated \$12,000 to our parish which will be used to cover general expenses for the parish for the upcoming year. We appreciate their continued support of our parish and others in our community each year!

### **PASTORAL STAFF**

Monsignor Michael Becker - [mbecker253@aol.com](mailto:mbecker253@aol.com)  
Deacon Gene Neral - [gene@lifeinfocus.net](mailto:gene@lifeinfocus.net)  
Patricia Jimenez - Director of Music  
[pjimenez@dioceseaj.org](mailto:pjimenez@dioceseaj.org)  
Mimi Crevecoeur - Business Manager  
[stjohnchurch@atlanticbb.net](mailto:stjohnchurch@atlanticbb.net)  
Diane Ryan - Faith Formation Coordinator/Secretary  
[stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net](mailto:stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net)  
Iris Tatar - Director of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd  
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Pat & Sue Podoletz - OCIA  
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Ken Dunmire - Maintenance