

2025 Jubilee Year Pilgrims of Hope



**The Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary and Joseph**
December 28, 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
stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net
Iris Tatar - Director of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
iristat38@gmail.com
Pat & Sue Podoletz - OCIA
paddypodo@gmail.com mrsposito@hotmail.com
Ken Dunmire - Maintenance

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY - 8:30 AM TUESDAY - 8:30 AM
WEDNESDAY SOLEMNITY OF MARY VIGIL - 4:00 PM
THURSDAY SOLEMNITY OF MARY - 10:00 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

Wed. Dec. 31-4:00 PM - Patrick Schurr, Iris Tatar
Thurs. Jan. 1-10:00 AM - Mireille Crevecoeur, Susanna Tomlinson
Sat. Jan. 3-4:00 PM - Jeremy Truscillo, Joyce Cunningham
Sun. Jan. 4-8:00 AM - Mary Truesdale, Susan Podoletz
Sun. Jan. 4-11:00 AM - Iris Tatar, Laverne Kovacs

ALTAR SERVERS

Wed. Dec. 31-4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, NOT FILLED
Thurs. Jan. 1-10:00 AM - Aidan Schurr, Sadie Swope
Sat. Jan. 3-4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, Sadie Swope
Sun. Jan. 4-8:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Sun. Jan. 4-11:00 AM - Madison Kantoski, Lexi Tatar

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Wed. Dec. 31-4:00 PM - Daniel Turcovsky, Diane Turcovsky
Thurs. Jan. 1-10:00 AM - Jennifer Helsley, David Loth
Sat. Jan. 3-4:00 PM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Sun. Jan. 4-8:00 AM - Jennifer Helsley, NOT FILLED
Sun. Jan. 4-11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Barbara Bundy,
Dolores Capriotti, Ken Gorman, Susanna Tomlison,
NOT FILLED

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Wed. Dec. 31-4:00 PM - Ray Kennedy, Ginny Reeder,
Jane Strasser, NOT FILLED
Thurs. Jan. 1-10:00 AM - Jane Becker, John Becker,
Carolyn English, Patrick Podoletz
Sat. Jan. 3-4:00 PM - Connie Baker, Larry VanSickel,
Paula VanSickel, NOT FILLED
Sun. Jan. 4-8:00 AM - Carolyn English, Ashley Greslick,
Mike Greslick, Ginny Reeder
Sun. Jan. 4-11:00 AM - Lou Ann Clark, Mitchell Evans, Mary Horton,
Peg Madden

SACRISTAN

Wed. Dec. 31-4:00 PM - Barbara Bundy
Thurs. Jan. 1-10:00 AM - Dolores Capriotti
Sat. Jan. 3-4:00 PM - Mary & Ray King
Sun. Jan. 4-8:00 AM - Ashley Greslick
Sun. Jan. 4-11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan

SCRIP

Sat. Jan. 3-4:00 PM - Lori Baker, Marge Rudolph
Sun. Jan. 4-8:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Sun. Jan. 4-11:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED

A Few Words from the Pastor:

MASSES FOR NEW YEARS, THE FEAST OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD: January 1st is a holy day of obligation. Masses for the feast will be held at 4 o'clock on New Year's Eve, and 10 o'clock on New Year's Day.

A FAMILY NEW YEAR PRAYER

Our Loving Father,
We thank You for the gift of family
and for walking with us through the past year.
As we enter this new year together,
we invite You into our home and into our hearts.
Cover our family with Your love and protection.
Give us unity in times of disagreement, patience in moments of stress,
and joy in the everyday moments we share.
Guide our decisions, bless our work and studies,
and help us to support one another with kindness and understanding.
May our home be a place of peace, laughter, and faith.
When challenges come, remind us to lean on You and on each other.
When blessings come, help us to remain grateful and humble.
We commit this new year to You.
Lead our family in health, hope, and purpose,
and keep us close to You and to one another.
All this we ask through Jesus Christ, the newborn Prince of Peace.
Amen.

WHY DO WE MAKE NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS? At its heart, the tradition has religious roots, reflecting a universal truth: Each new year offers a fresh start—a chance to grow, to heal, and to become better versions of ourselves. New Year's resolutions can also be personal goals—related to health, habits, finances, or individual growth. Whether religious or secular, the core reason for making resolutions remains the same: self-examination, letting go of what no longer serves us, and committing to positive change.

SOME SUGGESTED PERSONAL SPIRITUAL RESOLUTIONS

- Begin or end each day with prayer, even if brief and simple.
- Read a portion of sacred or inspirational text regularly (daily or weekly).
- Practice gratitude by thanking God for at least one blessing each day.
- Seek forgiveness quickly and choose reconciliation over resentment.
- Spend time in silence or reflection to listen for God's guidance.
- Commit to living with greater patience, kindness, and humility.

FAMILY SPIRITUAL RESOLUTIONS

- Pray together regularly as a family (daily or weekly).
- Share faith stories, reflections, or lessons during meals or gatherings.
- Create a peaceful home atmosphere by speaking with love and respect.
- Serve others together through acts of kindness or community service.
- Celebrate milestones with prayer and thanksgiving.

SAVE THE DATES!

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

Schedule for the Week of December 28th

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*

Monday, Dec. 29- Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

8:30 AM - Mass for *Michael Rudolph requested by
Chuck & Mary Beth Edwards*

Tuesday, Dec. 30 - Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

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

Wednesday, Dec. 31 - Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

4:00 PM - Mass for *Deceased members of Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth requested by Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth*

Thursday, Jan. 1 - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

10:00 AM - Mass for *Mary Catherine Majestic requested by Barbara Bundy*

Friday, Jan. 2 - Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen

8:30 AM - Mass for *Joyce Cordek requested by
Larry Cordek*

Saturday, Jan. 3- Vigil of The Epiphany of the Lord

3:15 PM - Confessions

4:00 PM - Mass for *Betty J. Caldwell requested by
Leslie Ventre*

Sunday, Jan. 4 - The Epiphany

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

11:00 AM - Mass for *Sister Mary Ann Palko requested by
Barbara Bundy*

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.

HAPPY NEW YEAR! In this New Year, may God's unfailing hope lift your spirit, renew your strength, and guide you to fulfill your dreams. Have a blessed and hope-filled year ahead! Happy New Year from the St. John's Staff!

2025 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE: Our Catholic Ministries Drive supports 10 ministries throughout our diocese, which all fall into one of our three main focuses of evangelization, serving those in need, or formation of our priests and deacons. Any funds received beyond the goal come directly back to the parish to be used where needed. Currently we are \$9,535 over our goal amount! Thank you for supporting the Catholic Ministries Drive!

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: Today, as we continue our celebration of the Christmas season, we focus our attention in a special way on the Holy Family. This is a great time to thank God for the gift of family life. The Catechism of the Catholic Church refers to the family as the "domestic church", so today's feast is also a fitting time to consider the importance of the virtue of hospitality – a fundamental aspect of the stewardship way of life – within the context of our domestic churches. Why is hospitality so important to a stewardship way of life, beginning with family life? Well, we can hardly expect our family members to pray together, study their faith, and serve others if we have a home where we are disconnected from each other or the atmosphere is stressful and tense. Of course there will be moments like this. But we must be intentional in creating homes where everyone feels cherished, accepted and important. We want our homes to be the place where we can get recharged and filled up to go out and bring love to everyone we encounter outside our home. Lest we think that the Holy Family is somehow unable to sympathize with our struggles, we see in our Gospel passage from Matthew that this Family was certainly not free from trials and stress, quite the contrary. The very life of the newborn Jesus was threatened by Herod's extreme jealousy such that the family had to flee suddenly into a foreign land for protection until Herod's death. Yet Mary and Joseph remained united and ever obedient to the leading of the Holy Spirit for direction. Who better to turn to for help and inspiration for our own families?! Happy feast day to all families living a stewardship way of life!

December 13th/14th

Envelopes	\$	4,438.00
Loose Offerings	\$	2,935.00
Heating & Cooling	\$	480.00
Catholic Education	\$	10.00
Retirement Fund	\$	378.00
Thanksgiving	\$	100.00
Christmas Flowers	\$	255.00
Christmas Offering	\$	900.00
Immaculate Conception	\$	484.00
Online Giving	\$	1,448.90
Total Offertory	\$	11,428.90

2025 Catholic Ministries Drive Goal: \$42,700

January 1, 2025 - December 15, 2025

Gifts/Pledges - \$52,635.00

Total Gifts Received - \$52,235.00

Pledge Balance - \$400.00

THANK YOU! Thank you to Cindy Trimarco for hosting the Christmas Centerpiece class and for donating the proceeds of \$200 to our Charity Fund for our local food banks. We appreciate your generosity!

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
Ed Drexler • Charles Elder • 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
Heather Yasolsky

HOME WITH THE LORD: Your prayers are requested
for the repose of the soul of:
Jack Moyer, husband of Donna Moyer
May he rest in the peace and joy of the Lord.

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.

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.

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.

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 year. Please call the Parish Office to submit an intention.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

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

February 8th-Family Lent Event and Youth Liturgy at
11am Mass

February 15th-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.*

MARRIAGE PREP 2026: The Marriage Preparation Schedule for 2026 is available at 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.

NIGHT OF WORSHIP FOR VOCATIONS: Holy Spirit Ministries and Fr. Brian Norris invite you to a very special Night of Worship with Eucharistic Adoration for Vocations. It will be held on Tuesday, January 6th, 7-8pm at St. Michael Church, Hollidaysburg. The evening will include a special talk from Fr. Norris on how all the faithful can help promote and pray for vocations. The evening of prayer will also include Eucharistic Adoration with beautiful praise and worship music, followed by prayer ministry. All are most welcome!

Prayer for Vocation

O God

Hear our prayer

And let our cry come to You.

Bless the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

With many vocations to the

Priesthood, diaconate, and religious life.

Give Your sons and daughters

The confidence to accept Your call,

And the love to follow always

In the footsteps of Your beloved Son

With courage and dedication to Your will.

Amen