



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@lifeinfocus.net
 Patricia Jimenez - Director of Music
 pjimenez@dioceseaj.org
 Mimi Crevecoeur - Business Manager
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 Pat & Sue Podoletz - OCIA
 paddypodo@gmail.com mrspodo@hotmail.com
 Ken Dunmire - Maintenance

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY IMMACULATE CONCEPTION 8:30 AM & 6:00 PM
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 Francis

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

Mon. Dec. 8-8:30 AM - Norma Foose, Bill Foose
 Mon. Dec. 8-6:00 PM - Mireille Crevecoeur, Bob Olson
 Sat. Dec. 13-4:00 PM - Maria Spayd, Joyce Cunningham
 Sun. Dec. 14-8:00 AM - Mary Truesdale, NOT FILLED
 Sun. Dec. 14-11:00 AM - Patrick Schurr, Iris Tatar

ALTAR SERVERS

Mon. Dec. 8-8:30 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
 Mon. Dec. 8-6:00 PM - Camille Krug, Aidan Schurr
 Sat. Dec. 13- 4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, Sadie Swope
 Sun. Dec. 14- 8:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
 Sun. Dec. 14-11:00 AM - Estella Koch, Evie Koch

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Mon. Dec. 8-8:30 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
 Mon. Dec. 8-6:00 PM - Jennifer Helsley, Ginny Reeder
 Sat. Dec. 13- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, NOT FILLED
 Sun. Dec. 14-8:00 AM - Ashley Greslick, Mike Greslick
 Sun. Dec. 14-11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Barbara Bundy,
 Dolores Capriotti, Lou Ann Clark, Ken Gorman,
 Susanna Tomlinson

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

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
 Sat. Dec. 13- 4:00 PM - Betsy Lloyd, Jeremy Truscello
 Larry VanSickel, Paula VanSickel
 Sun. Dec. 14- 8:00 AM - Ginny Reeder, Daniel Turcovsky,
 Diane Turcovsky, NOT FILLED
 Sun. Dec. 14- 11:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Wendy Campbell,
 Mary Grace Horton, Peg Madden

SACRISTAN

Mon. Dec. 8-8:30 AM - NOT FILLED
 Mon. Dec. 8-6:00 PM - NOT FILLED
 Sat. Dec. 13- 4:00 PM - Ray King, Mary King
 Sun. Dec. 14- 8:00 AM - Ashley Greslick
 Sun. Dec. 14- 11:00 AM - Dolores Capriotti

SCRIP

Sat. Dec. 13- 4:00 PM - Lori Baker, NOT FILLED
 Sun. Dec. 14- 8:00 AM - Erika Yasolsky, Heather Yasolsky
 Sun. Dec. 14- 11:00 AM - Peg Madden, Marge Rudolph

A Few Words from the Pastor:

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION – On Monday we celebrate the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**, honoring Mary's unique grace of being conceived without original sin. As a **Holy Day of Obligation**, all are invited to join us for Mass as we give thanks for Mary's "yes" and God's saving work in her life. Let us come together as a parish family to honor our Blessed Mother and seek her guidance as we prepare our hearts for Christ during Advent. Masses for the Holy Day will be celebrated at 8:30 AM and 6:00 PM.

THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE – On Friday we celebrate the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary who appeared to Saint Juan Diego in 1531 on Tepeyac Hill (near present-day Mexico City). She is one of the most important religious and cultural symbols in Mexico and across the Americas. According to tradition, the Virgin Mary appeared several times to Juan Diego, asking him to build a church on the site. As proof for the bishop, she caused roses to bloom in winter and left her image miraculously imprinted on Juan Diego's cloak (the **tilma**).

VOCATION APPEAL: This 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. 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.

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 next Sunday, December 14th at 4:00 PM. Please join us.

OTHER PENANCE SERVICES IN THE AREA – St. Mary's in Hollidaysburg-Sunday, December 7th at 4pm, Mount Carmel-December 15th at 7pm, Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament-December 17th at 6pm. Check the full listing at <https://www.dioceseaj.org/advent-and-christmas-2025/>.

MANY THANKS! - On Thursday a group of parishioners made a trip to St. Stephen's parish in Fulton County, where we delivered many boxes of clothing and winterwear for distribution to those most in need. We are most grateful to those who made the journey to the McConnellsburg, and especially to those who donated to this important initiative.

SAVE THE DATES!

Angel Tree: Sunday, December 7th Wrapped gifts due in the Gathering Space

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 December 7th

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

Monday, Dec. 8- The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:30 AM - Mass for *Dave Hagan* requested by

Marian Monios

6:00 PM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

Tuesday, Dec. 9 - Advent Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Kathy Wagner* requested by

Joanne Orsena

Wednesday, Dec. 10 - Advent Weekday

5:30 PM - Confessions

6:00 PM - Mass for *Florence Dancha* requested by

Michele Collins

Thursday, Dec. 11 - Advent Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Leroy Musselman* requested by

Anna Musselman

Friday, Dec. 12 - Advent Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Frank & Elizabeth Schmerbeck*

requested by Dee Schmerbeck

Saturday, Dec. 13 - Vigil of Third Sunday of Advent

3:15 PM - Confessions

4:00 PM - Mass for *Bob & Diane Long* requested by

Dave & Connie McManuels

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

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: As we begin the second week of Advent, let us recall our motto for this season: we are climbing God's holy mountain. Our readings inspire us and help us focus on this journey toward holiness. Our first reading from the prophet Isaiah continues the theme of a journey towards the holy mountain, the Kingdom of God. The prophet gives us a beautiful glimpse of this mountain, where Christ will reign forever. It will be a place of peace, justice, and harmony among all God's creatures. "There shall be no harm or ruin in all my holy mountain... (This) dwelling shall be glorious." As we straighten the paths of our own hearts and minds, we become more hospitable people, better stewards of God's grace and mercy, and far more open and ready to invite others into our lives, homes and parishes. We climb farther up God's holy mountain and attract others to join us on the path toward holiness. This is preparation fitting for our merciful Savior.

November 22nd/23rd

Envelopes	\$	2,683.00
Loose Offerings	\$	218.00
Heating & Cooling	\$	260.00
Hurricane Relief	\$	52.00
Catholic Charities	\$	35.00
Thanksgiving	\$	65.00
Christmas Flowers	\$	55.00
I Give Catholic	\$	110.00
Immaculate Conception	\$	10.00
Online Giving	\$	1,531.90
Total Offertory	\$	5,019.90

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 stjohndsecr-tary@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.

* **ANGEL TREE 2025:** Please remember to return
* wrapped gifts with the tags, and food gift cards to the
* Gathering Space by Sunday, December 7th. Food tags
* for Giant Eagle, Martin's, Weis and Walmart can be
* attached to the purchased gift card and placed in the
* box located on the scrip table. These cards will be
* distributed to families in need by Catholic Charities next
* week. Gifts must be wrapped and returned the
* weekend of December 6th & 7th so that delivery can be
* organized. Please contact the Parish Office at 814-942-
* 5502 with any questions. Thank you for your
* generosity.

#IGIVECATHOLIC UPDATE: A BIG thank you to everyone who supported our #IGIVECATHOLIC campaign over the last few weeks! Between online and envelope donations we have collected \$930 so far! Although online donations are no longer available, we can still accept envelope donations. Envelopes are available in the Gathering Space. Stay tuned for updates as we make the upgrades to our Heating and Cooling System!

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.

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 • 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

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.

MADRIGAL FEAST JUBILEE: WE ARE SOLD OUT! See you
on January 2nd! Doors open at 5:30pm. Thank you for
supporting our music and social ministries!

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 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

January 18th-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.*

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!

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. Any-
one 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, sopra-
no, Arlene Huth, mezzo-soprano, Thomas Delahoy, tenor
and James White, bass. Asa Carns will provide accompani-
ment on the organ. The Messiah offers a unique oppor-
tunity for people to enjoy a timeless classic. All are wel-
come to attend and sing along or just listen.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: Memorial donations for Christ-
mas 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.