



Fourth Sunday in
Ordinary Time
February 1, 2026

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 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

February Prayer Intention of Pope Leo

For Children with Incurable Diseases
Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.



NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS

LECTORS

Sat. Feb. 7-4:00 PM - Jeremy Truscello, Joyce Cunningham
Sun. Feb. 8-8:00 AM - Mary Truesdale, NOT FILLED
Sun. Feb. 8-11:00 AM - Faith Formation Students

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. Feb. 7-4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, Sadie Swope
Sun. Feb. 8-8:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Sun. Feb. 8-11:00 AM - Evie Koch, Aidan Schurr

EUCARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. Feb. 7-4:00 PM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Sun. Feb. 8-8:00 AM - Mike Greslick, Ginny Reeder
Sun. Feb. 8-11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Dolores Capriotti, Ken Gorman, Estella Koch, Bob Olson, NOT FILLED

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. Feb. 7-4:00 PM - Connie Baker, Larry VanSickel, Paula VanSickel, NOT FILLED
Sun. Feb. 8-8:00 AM - Jane Becker, John Becker, Daniel Turcovsky, Diane Turcovsky
Sun. Feb. 8-11:00 AM - Faith Formation Students

SACRISTAN

Sat. Feb. 7-4:00 PM - Mary & Ray King
Sun. Feb. 8-8:00 AM - Ashley Greslick
Sun. Feb. 8-11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan

SCRIP

Sat. Feb. 7-4:00 PM - Julie Beiswenger, Becky Merilli
Sun. Feb. 8-8:00 AM - Lori Baker, Marge Rudolph
Sun. Feb. 8-11:00 AM - Carolyn English, NOT FILLED

A Few Words from the Pastor:

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION: Also known as Candlemas Day, this feast on Monday February 2nd marks a transition point in the Church year, as it brings the 40 days of the Christmas cycle to its close. We are now turning our attention to the events that lead us to Lent and Easter.

BLESSING OF THROATS: The feast of St. Blaise occurs on Tuesday, February 3rd. At all Masses next weekend we will be blessing throats. Blaise was bishop of Sebaste (in modern-day Turkey/Armenia region) and was both a physician and a bishop. He was known for holiness, healing, and care for the sick, and martyred around the year 316 during Roman persecution. According to tradition, he miraculously healed a boy who was choking on a fish bone. Because of this, Christians began asking his intercession for throat problems.

ADULT ED: Our Sunday morning Adult Ed continues, as we will continue our discussion of the Nicene Creed. ALL ARE WELCOME! First timers are especially welcome to our study and fellowship, which begins at 8:15ish and concludes by 10:30ish!

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY: On Wednesday at 6:45 PM in the parish center (following our evening Mass), we gather to reflect on the Sunday readings. Our sessions last about an hour. Matthew the Evangelist will be our faithful companion! Please join us!

POPE LEO SPEAKS! In his weekly audience this week, Pope Leo continued his catechesis series dedicated to the Second Vatican Council and its documents. He focused again on the Dogmatic Constitution Dei Verbum, on Divine Revelation. He highlighted the close relationship between Sacred Scripture and Tradition, meaning the *living transmission of the Gospel through the Holy Spirit*. The Word of God “is not fossilized, but rather it is a living and organic reality that develops and grows in Tradition. Thanks to the Holy Spirit, Tradition understands it in the richness of its truth and embodies it in the shifting coordinates of history.” In this regard, the expression of Saint Gregory the Great is famous: “The Sacred Scriptures grow with the one who reads them”. In this regard, the proposal of the holy Doctor of the Church John Henry Newman in his work entitled *The Development of Christian Doctrine* is striking. He affirmed that Christianity, both as a communal experience and as a doctrine, is a dynamic reality, in the manner indicated by Jesus himself in the parables of the seed (cf. Mk 4:26-29): a living reality that develops thanks to an inner vital force, the Holy Spirit.

SAVE THE DATES!

Blessing of Throats: Saturday, February 7th & Sunday, February 8th at all weekend Masses

Ash Wednesday: Wednesday, February 18th Masses at 8:30am & 6pm

Ash Wednesday Soup Supper: Wednesday, February 18th after the 6pm Mass in Fr. Bailey Hall

Lent Communal Penance Service: Sunday, March 15th at 4pm

Spring Fling Brunch & Easter Egg Hunt: Sunday, March 22nd after the 11am Mass in Fr. Bailey Hall

Confirmation 2026: Sunday, April 19th at 2pm at St. John's-All are welcome to attend!

ST VINCENT DEPAUL CARE PACKAGES: Your SVDP Conference continues in its efforts to serve the poor and needy by collecting care packages to help show those in need that they are not forgotten. Once again, we are asking you to put together a care package for someone who fits into one of the following categories: Senior, Homeless, New Mom, Expectant Mom, Single Parent – Male, or Single Parent – Female. Boxes will be available the weekend of January 17th/18th and should be returned by February 15th. If you would like to put together a care package, please pick up a box and detailed flyer from the table at the entry of the Church and fill it with items suitable for the person it is intended for and then seal up the box. Please list who the box is for on the line under St John the Evangelist (i.e. Senior, Homeless, New Mom, Expectant Mom, Single Parent-Male, Single Parent - Female) and return to the Gathering Space of the Church when done. Once again, our SVDP Conference would like to thank all those who help make our programs possible and the lives of the needy a bit easier. **God Bless You All!**

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.

Schedule for the Week of February 1st

Sunday, Feb. 1 - 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM - Mass for *Rich Rauch* requested by
Jane Strasser

11:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

Monday, Feb. 2 - The Presentation of the Lord

8:30 AM - Mass for *John Caporuscio* requested by
Bob & Ginny Reeder

Tuesday, Feb. 3 - Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Jason & Jarrett Mazzarella* requested
by Karen Mazzarella

Wednesday, Feb. 4 - Weekday

6:00 PM - Mass for *Deceased members of Sisters of the
Holy Family of Nazareth* requested by Sisters of the
Holy Family of Nazareth

Thursday, Feb. 5 - St. Agatha

8:30 AM - Mass for *Fred Mazzarella* requested by
Karen Mazzarella

Friday, Feb. 6 - Weekday

8:30 AM - Communion Service

Saturday, Feb. 7 - Vigil of 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

3:15 PM - Confessions

4:00 PM - Mass for *Janella M. Corl* requested by
Bob & Ginny Reeder

Sunday, Feb. 8 - 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM - Mass for *Andrew Jr. & Florence Dancha*
requested by Vicki Faretta

11:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

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.

CALLING ALL SOUP MAKERS! We are looking for volunteers to make soup or donate bread for our Annual Ash Wednesday Soup Supper on February 18th following the 6pm Mass. If you are able to make soup or donate bread, please sign up on the kiosk. We invite all parishioners and visitors to join us in Fr. Bailey Hall after Mass for dinner as we begin our Lenten journey together as a parish community!

FINAL CMD UPDATE: The 2025 Catholic Ministries Drive ended on December 31st. We exceeded our goal by \$9,885! Did you know that anything over our goal comes back to the church? Additional funds will go to our Heating and Cooling Fund to replace our current aging system. We are looking at HVAC options for replacement and bids. Thank you to everyone who has donated! Your financial support is greatly appreciated!

STEWARSHIP CORNER: Today's Gospel Reading from Matthew recounts what we know as Christ's Sermon on the Mount. This entire reflection could be devoted to that, of course, but as always, there are also messages that are important in the other readings. The Sermon on the Mount is the first of five teachings Jesus gives us in the Gospel of Matthew. The Lord gives this relatively early in His Ministry, not long after He has been baptized. In the entire New Testament this is the longest continuous section of Jesus speaking, and it is perhaps the most widely quoted part of the four Canonical Gospels. It contains, after all, the central rules of discipleship. Today's Gospel provides us with instructions from Jesus as to what kind of people His disciples should be. There are more than enough key words on which to reflect and pray: poor, mourn, meek, hunger, mercy, peacemakers, clean and persecuted – to name a few. We could concentrate on each one, but it is worth pointing out that these all are traits the Lord calls us to. For example, when Jesus says that to be blessed, we need to 'hunger and thirst for righteousness,' He is reminding us of what our focus in life should be. In our world people hunger for many things that may not be that important – things like power, success, wealth, possessions and comfort. The idea of being righteous in His eyes is more important than any of those.

January 17th/18th

Envelopes	\$	3,824.00
Loose Offerings	\$	2,988.00
Heating & Cooling	\$	356.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$	15.00
Online Giving	\$	1,846.52
Total Offertory	\$	9,029.52

2025 Catholic Ministries Drive Goal: \$42,700

January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025

Gifts/Pledges - \$52,885.00

Total Gifts Received - \$52,585.00

Pledge Balance - \$300.00

2025 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS will be available upon request beginning January 30th. Please call the Parish Office at 814-942-5503 to request your contribution statement to be mailed or picked up in the Parish Office. A contribution statement will not be mailed to you unless you call the office to request it. Thank you for your generous support!

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.

ST JOHN'S PRAYER LIST

Please call Ginny Reeder (695-7671) or email her at 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 • Wilbur J. Arend
Stephanie Baker • Barbara • Idy Caporuscio
Cheryl Dennis • Mary Lee Destefano • Ed Drexler
Charlies 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 • Janet McNulty • Adena Delozier Mertz
Marian Monios • Mary Ann • Barb Nagle
Mary O Fleming • Richard Olson • John Patz
Pat Rauch • Bette Richards • Dan Roberts
Darlene Scarpaci • Anne Showalter
Cathy Stapelfeld • Donna Taddy • Tammy
Tim Temofonte • Lois Werfel • Heather Yasolsky

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

Angela Auerbeck, mother of Dave Auerbeck,
Aunt of Ginny Reeder

May she rest in the peace and joy of the Lord.

NEW AT ST. JOHN'S: Sometime Helpers is our new ministry for those who have limited time or are new to volunteering in the parish. All ministries and programs of the parish often have a need for some small task to be done or one-time assistance; maybe making posters, office work, set-up and clean-up, obtaining supplies. There can be many possibilities. Sometime Helpers is a list of people who sign up with their names and emails through the office. When there is a request for assistance, it will be sent to all those on the list. If it is a fit for you, you will respond to the person who requested assistance. **YOU ARE UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO VOLUNTEER WHEN YOU ARE NOT AVAILABLE.** The Parish Council is reaching out to those who do not have time or familiarity for a large commitment but would like to "put their toes in the water" to being involved in our many endeavors. We hope this offers you an accommodating opportunity to enter more into our Church Community. Call the Parish Office at 814-942-5503 or email stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! We invite you to shower with cards Marian Monios, who will be turning 95 on January 31st. She would love to hear well wishes from her parish family. May God bless her with good health and happiness. St. John's wants to wish her the happiest of birthdays! Cards can be sent to:
The Lutheran Home-Marian Monios
916 Hickory Street Rm 227B
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

February 1st-No Class

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

February 15th-No Class

February 18th-Ash Wednesday Soup Supper

February 22nd-Class

March 1st-No Class

March 8th-Class

March 15th-No Class-Confirmation Mentor Meeting after 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.

DEAR FRIENDS,

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your kind prayers, loving support, and the beautiful condolence cards. I extend my special thanks to everyone who attended the Memorial Mass. It truly meant a great deal to me. During this difficult time, I felt deeply that I was not alone—that you were all with me. Your presence and prayers gave me a sense of peace and reassurance, and I felt I was in safe hands. My family was greatly comforted by your prayers and was deeply moved by the love and support I have received here. Please keep my family in your continued prayers. Please know that my family and I are deeply grateful and keep all of you in our prayers. With sincere gratitude, Fr. Ashok

HEALING MASS: Holy Spirit Ministry will hold a special Healing Mass on Tuesday, February 3rd at 7pm, at St. Michael Church, Hollidaysburg. This powerful night of hope and healing is for all who are suffering physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Fr. Jeremy Mohler will be the main celebrant. Praise and worship will precede the Mass at 6:30pm and prayer ministry will follow the Mass. If you are struggling physically, or from an addiction, or hurting or struggling in any way, come and experience the healing power of Jesus and be set free! All are welcome!

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS: Court Prince Gallitzin # 2625 serves all 11 parishes and beyond. New members are always welcome! On Monday, February 9, 2026 please come and join us for our monthly meeting in the St. Rose of Lima community room at 5:30 p.m. with the business meeting beginning at 6 p.m. If you have any questions please contact Regent Donna Hoover at 814-632 - 3509 or donnah31049@gmail.com.