



Second Sunday in  
Ordinary Time  
January 18, 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  
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stjohnchurch@atlanticbb.net  
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stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net  
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iristat38@gmail.com  
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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**

### **January Prayer Intention of Pope Leo**

*For Prayer With The Word of God*  
Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us build a more fraternal and missionary Church.



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

#### **LECTORS**

Sat. Jan. 24-4:00 PM - Maria Spayd, Laverne Kovacs  
Sun. Jan. 25-8:00 AM - Ginny Reeder, Mike Greslick  
Sun. Jan. 25-11:00 AM - John Sukala, Patrick Schurr

#### **ALTAR SERVERS**

Sat. Jan. 24-4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, Sadie Swope  
Sun. Jan. 25-8:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED  
Sun. Jan. 25-11:00 AM - Estella Koch, Evie Koch

#### **EUCARISTIC MINISTERS**

Sat. Jan. 24-4:00 PM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED  
Sun. Jan. 25-8:00 AM - Daniel Turcovsky, Diane Turcovsky  
Sun. Jan. 25-11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy, Dolores Capriotti, Ken Gorman, Susanna Tomlinson, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED

#### **MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY**

Sat. Jan. 24-4:00 PM - Connie Baker, Dennis Moughemer, Karen Moughemer, Jeremy Truscello  
Sun. Jan. 25-8:00 AM - Carolyn English, Ray Kennedy, Ed Stoltz, Mary Truesdale  
Sun. Jan. 25-11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Walter Bloom, Wendy Campbell, Lou Ann Clark

#### **SACRISTAN**

Sat. Jan. 24-4:00 PM - Mary & Ray King  
Sun. Jan. 25-8:00 AM - Ashley Greslick  
Sun. Jan. 25-11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy

#### **SCRIP**

Sat. Jan. 24-4:00 PM - Julie Beiswenger, Becky Merilli  
Sun. Jan. 25-8:00 AM - Lori Baker, NOT FILLED  
Sun. Jan. 25-11:00 AM - Peg Madden, Marge Rudolph

## A Few Words from the Pastor:

**POPE LEO TEACHES!** As this new year unfolds, Pope Leo in his weekly audiences will invite us to reflect on the documents of the Second Vatican Council. In his words: Dear brothers and sisters, we begin today a new series of teachings dedicated to the Second Vatican Council and to reflecting on its documents. The work of the Council Fathers paved the way for a new ecclesial season, placing at its center the mystery of salvation and the unity between God and his people. At the same time, it opened the Church to seek dialogue with the people of goodwill for a more just and fraternal world. We see that the documents have lost none of their relevance and are pertinent to the demands and challenges of today. Closely studying the Council documents will help us to be attentive interpreters of the signs of the times, and to proclaim the Gospel to all. As we make our journey of rediscovering the teachings of the Second Vatican Council, let us welcome the past with its rich tradition; let us consider the present with its joys and sorrows; and let's look towards the future with an urgent appeal for greater justice, love and peace.

**MARTIN LUTHER KING JR:** remains a towering figure in the struggle for civil rights, renowned for his eloquent speeches and unwavering commitment to justice and equality. Central to King's philosophy were numerous biblical passages that profoundly influenced his vision and rhetoric. King's reliance on scripture was not merely rhetorical; it provided moral clarity and strength. His use of specific verses helped articulate a compelling argument for social change grounded in faith-based principles. He is certainly someone whose courage we are called to imitate!

**ADULT ED:** Our Sunday morning Adult Ed resumes this Sunday, January 18, when over the next few weeks, we will complete 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:** We will restart our weekly Bible Study on Wednesday, January 14 at 6:45 PM in the parish center (following our evening Mass). We will continue our reflections on the Sunday readings. Our sessions last about an hour. Matthew the Evangelist will be our faithful companion! Please join us!

**THINK SPRING!** Many of us are gardeners, and we would like to form a "Garden Club" here at the parish to tend the many flower gardens that surround the church. We will soon have a sign-up sheet on the kiosk to solicit your help! Pray for a sunny spring!

**CONFIRMATION 2026:** With much appreciation and excitement, we would like to announce that our Confirmation candidates will be confirmed here, in our own parish, on Sunday, April 19th at 2pm! The Bishop has graciously given his approval to confirm our 18 candidates at St. John's rather than the Cathedral this year with myself conferring this important sacrament to our 9th, 10th and 11th grade candidates. We encourage our parish family to join us at mass on April 19th to support and celebrate our young adults who are ready to take this next step in their faith journey.

### SAVE THE DATES!

**Blessing of Throats:** Sunday, February 8th at 8am & 11am 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!**

## **Schedule for the Week of January 18th**

### **Sunday, Jan. 18 - 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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

11:00 AM - Mass for *Tim & Marie Farrell* requested by  
Cecelia Bloom

### **Monday, Jan. 19 - Weekday**

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

### **Tuesday, Jan. 20 - Weekday**

8:30 AM - Mass for *Guido Prosperi* requested by  
John Prosperi

### **Wednesday, Jan. 21 - St. Agnes**

6:00 PM - Mass for *Michael Rudolph* requested by  
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Hartsock

### **Thursday, Jan. 22 - Weekday**

8:30 AM - Mass for *Deceased members of the Veronese  
family* requested by Ray & Mary King

### **Friday, Jan. 23 - Weekday**

8:30 AM - Communion Service

### **Saturday, Jan. 24 - Vigil of 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

3:15 PM - Confessions

4:00 PM - Mass for *Katherine Costa* requested by  
Jim & Charlotte Sommer

### **Sunday, Jan. 25 - 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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

11:00 AM - Mass for *Fred Fornwalt* requested by  
Walt & Cecelia Bloom

**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.

**NEWCOMERS:** Welcome to our parish family! If you wish to participate fully in our parish life, please register in the office Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday, 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. or complete a Parish Registration Form provided in the Gathering Space and return it in the offertory collection. You may also call the Parish Office at 814-942-5503 or email [dryan@dioceseaj.org](mailto:dryan@dioceseaj.org) for more information. To volunteer for parish ministries or discuss how St. John may be present to your faith journey, kindly call 814-942-5503 to schedule a meeting with Monsignor Becker.

Our St. John's Flocknote is a great way to stay up to date! Information is sent by text or email. Text SJC1 to 84576. Then after it responds, make sure you click that link and complete the process. If you can't complete this on your mobile phone, please go online to [stjohnsaltoona.flocknote.com](http://stjohnsaltoona.flocknote.com) to register. Sign up with your email address or phone number. Join Flocknote today!

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER:** Today's readings provide clear and inspiring reminders of the most fundamental aspect of our identity – that of servants of our most high and holy God, His modern-day disciples and stewards. To be His servant is all that truly matters in this life, for us and for our children. Career paths, athletic accomplishments, the school we attend, or the city in which we live – all are secondary to the thing that matters most – that we have been called from the womb for the privilege of being God's servant. Let us examine our daily lives and encourage our children to do the same. Does the way I spend my time reflect that God comes first? Do prayer and weekly Mass, regular confession and time with my family 'rank ahead' of everything else on my calendar? Do I use my talents, skills and energy to serve my family, parish and community in thanksgiving and recognition that God's kingdom ranks ahead of any other goals or ambitions? Do I spend my money and use my material possessions to glorify God? Challenging questions, to be sure. But questions worthy of our high calling as Christian stewards offered a glorious mission in service of our Lord and His kingdom.

### **January 3rd/4th**

Envelopes	\$	4,671.00
Loose Offerings	\$	382.00
Heating & Cooling	\$	150.00
Catholic Education	\$	80.00
Christmas Offering	\$	370.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$	1,115.00
Online Giving	\$	2,828.90
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>9,596.90</b>

### **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**

**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.

**PALMS:** Please return any old palms to the Gathering Space basket by February 8th to prepare ashes for Ash Wednesday.

### **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  
Mary Lee Destefano • 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:

Susan Mock

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

### **PRAYER PAL 2026 COMMUNITY UNITED IN PRAYER:**

The members of the Church of the Brethren, St. Mary Parish, St. Michael Parish, Zion Lutheran Church all of Hollidaysburg, St. John the Evangelist Parish in Lakemont, St. Mark Parish and Holy Rosary Parish in Altoona and St. Joseph Parish in Williamsburg are happy to announce that Prayer Pal will be offered to all parishioners this Lenten season. A mailer was sent to all registered parishioners with all the details explaining this popular (private) prayer activity. Please take a few moments to read the mailer and join the over 285 participants from last year, in this rewarding and prayerful experience. If anyone has questions after reviewing your mailer, please feel free to call one of the committee members listed below:

Jane Becker 814-414-9836

Ryan Custead 814-502-7630

Mary Jo Lanzel 814-934-6793

Mary Leap 814-937-9789

Dave & Diane Madden 814-215-7677

Donna Messner 814-934-9023

Lisa Myers 814-934-0619

Dec. Kevin Nester 717-574-4856

Kathleen Winter 814-591-0248

\*\*Flyers are available in the Gathering Space if you didn't receive one in the mail. \*\*



### **FAITH FORMATION NEWS**

**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

**February 18th**-Ash Wednesday Soup Supper

**February 22nd**-Class

**March 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).*

**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.

**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.

**RESPECT LIFE PRESENTATION & SPECIAL BLESSING:** The Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament will be hosting a powerful and informative presentation by the Diocesan Respect Life Committee on Thursday, January 22, 2026, at 6 PM, in the Cathedral Hall (please use 13th Ave. or alley entrance-no steps). The presentation will include both the beauty and truth of the Church's teaching on the Sanctity of Human Life and personal testimonies. This will be followed by a special Blessing by Msgr. Carson for those participating in the March for Life on the following day in Washington, DC. All are welcome! Light refreshments will be served afterwards by the Christian Mothers. If you are unable to join us, please remember the marchers in your prayers.

**SPAGHETTI DINNER:** Support our Seminarians! January 21st from 4-7pm at St. Mary Social Hall in Hollidaysburg. Dine in and take out. \$10 for adults, \$5 for children. See flyer on the kiosk for more information on tickets.