



The Epiphany of the Lord
January 4, 2026

St. John the Evangelist Church
309 Lotz Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602 814-942-5503

PASTORAL STAFF

Monsignor Michael Becker - mbecker253@aol.com
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Pat & Sue Podoletz - OCIA
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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. 10-4:00 PM - Maria Spayd, Jeremy Truscello
Sun. Jan. 11-8:00 AM - Norma Foose, Bill Foose
Sun. Jan. 11-11:00 AM - Susanna Tomlinson, Jim Campbell

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. Jan. 10-4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, Sadie Swope
Sun. Jan. 11-8:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Sun. Jan. 11-11:00 AM - Camille Krug, Aidan Schurr

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. Jan. 10-4:00 PM - Connie Baker, NOT FILLED
Sun. Jan. 11-8:00 AM - Mike Greslick, Ginny Reeder
Sun. Jan. 11-11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Barbara Bundy,
Dolores Capriotti, Lou Ann Clark, Ken Gorman, NOT FILLED

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. Jan. 10-4:00 PM - Larry VanSickel, Paula VanSickel, NOT FILLED,
NOT FILLED
Sun. Jan. 11-8:00 AM - Ray Kennedy, Ed Stoltz, Daniel Turcovsky,
Diane Turcovsky
Sun. Jan. 11-11:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Wendy Campbell,
Mitchell Evans, Peg Madden

SACRISTAN

Sat. Jan. 10-4:00 PM - Mary & Ray King
Sun. Jan. 11-8:00 AM - Ashley Greslick
Sun. Jan. 11-11:00 AM - Dolores Capriotti

SCRIP

Sat. Jan. 10-4:00 PM - Lori Baker, NOT FILLED
Sun. Jan. 11-8:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Sun. Jan. 11-11:00 AM - Peg Madden, Marge Rudolph



Happy New Year! Prayers and Blessings to you and your family!
May you shine the light of Christ in the new year!



A Few Words from the Pastor:

A BUSY MONTH AHEAD!

January 4 -- Feast of the Epiphany - The Tomb of the Magi, also known as the Shrine of the Three Kings, is housed in Cologne Cathedral, Germany. According to Christian tradition, it contains the relics of the Three Wise Men who followed the star to Bethlehem and presented gifts of **gold, frankincense, and myrrh** to the infant Jesus (Matthew 2:1–12). The shrine, dating from the **12th–13th century**, is one of the most important reliquaries in the Christian world. While its authenticity cannot be historically proven, it stands as a powerful symbol of **faith, pilgrimage, and the revelation of Christ to all nations**. “*We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.*” (Matthew 2:2)

January 11 – Feast of the Baptism of the Lord - The Baptism of Jesus took place in the River Jordan, where He was baptized by John the Baptist (Matthew 3:13–17). As Jesus came up from the water, the heavens opened, the Holy Spirit descended like a dove, and the voice of the Father declared, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” This sacred event marks the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry and reveals the Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It also affirms the call of all Christians to repentance, obedience, and new life through baptism.

January 12 – Martin Luther King Day - 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.

January 18 – 25 -- The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The theme of this week of Prayer comes from the Letter to the Ephesians: “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling” (Eph 4:4). The prayers and reflections were prepared by an ecumenical group coordinated by the Armenian Apostolic Church. This Church is one of the oldest Christian communities in the world and the **national church of Armenia**. It belongs to the Oriental Orthodox tradition. Christianity was first preached in Armenia by **Apostles Bartholomew and Thaddeus** in the 1st century. Armenia became the **first nation in the world to adopt Christianity as its state religion in 301 AD**, under **King Tiridates III**, through the evangelization of **Saint Gregory the Illuminator**. This earned Armenia the title of “the first Christian nation.”

January 25 -- The Seventh Sunday of the Word of God - will be celebrated on Sunday 25 January 2026, with the motto: “The word of Christ dwells among you” (Col 3:16). The Sunday of the Word of God is a profoundly pastoral initiative to make it clear how important it is in the daily life of the Church and our communities to refer to the Word of God, a Word that is not confined to a book, but which remains ever alive and becomes a concrete and tangible sign. The biblical expression chosen for the celebration of the seventh edition of the *Sunday of the Word of God* is taken from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians: “The word of Christ dwells among you” (3:16).

January 25 – 31 - Catholic Schools Week - an annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States, highlighting the value of faith-based learning, academic excellence, and community service. Its purpose is to celebrate the mission and contributions of Catholic schools, to recognize the work of students, teachers, staff, and families in nurturing faith, character, and academic growth, and to raise awareness of the importance of Catholic education in forming moral and responsible citizens.

SAVE THE DATES!

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

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

RECEIVE UP TO DATE INFORMATION FROM ST. JOHN'S WITH FLOCKNOTE: We want to communicate more effectively with you. But we also want to make it easy for you to control what types of announcements you get from us and how you are notified when we make them. And in order to do this we are using a simple service called FLOCKNOTE. Like sending "notes" to your "flock". This is all totally free for you to use and it's going to also make it easy for you to stay plugged in to the ministries or groups that you care about, all by text message or email updates. Your information will be completely safe and secure. And you can unsubscribe from any updates at any time! To join, 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 to register.

Schedule for the Week of January 4th

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

Monday, Jan. 5 - St. John Neumann

8:30 AM - Mass for *Florence Dancha* requested by
David & Donna Steigerwalt

Tuesday, Jan. 6 - Christmas Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Ronald Barnhart* requested by
Robert & Diane Budd

Wednesday, Jan. 7 - Christmas Weekday

6:00 PM - Mass for *Kathy Wagner* requested by
Bruno & Polly DeGol

Thursday, Jan. 8 - Christmas Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Denise Madden* requested by
Marian Monios

Friday, Jan. 9 - Christmas Weekday

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

Saturday, Jan. 10 - Vigil of The Baptism of the Lord

3:15 PM - Confessions

4:00 PM - Mass for *Gary Johnson* requested by
Dr. Joseph & Pam Klobuka

Sunday, Jan. 11 - The Baptism of the Lord

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

11:00 AM - Mass for *Mary, Marion, Elmer & Christine Stokes* requested by Len & Bob Stokes

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!

YOU'RE INVITED: Join the mix in 2026 at ALPHA...and unpack the Christian faith together. Meet a mix of new people! Alpha is for everyone! Each session unpacks a big question of life, faith and purpose. It's designed to spark conversation. Date: Thursday evenings, January 15th-March 26th from 6-8:15pm, dinner included at St. Mary Catholic Church Social Hall, Hollidaysburg. Email: ajourneywithalpha@gmail.com. Text or call Debbie Sault at 814-329-6653. Deadline to register is January 7th.



STEWARDSHIP CORNER: As our celebration of Christmas continues, this week we observe the great feast of The Epiphany of the Lord. The word 'epiphany' comes from Greek and means manifestation of appearance. The stewardship way of life is one in which we live in grateful response to God's countless manifestations in our lives.

As Christian stewards, we are all called to manifest God's love to each other in the sharing of our gifts. St. Paul describes this beautifully in our second reading in his letter to the Ephesians, saying, "You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for your benefit..." We have all been given unique and wonderful gifts from our good and generous God. He wants us to share these gifts to benefit others and so to give Him glory.

Let us rejoice in God's manifestations in our lives and be watchful for the new ways He is calling us to share ourselves and our gifts in gratitude to our King in the year ahead.

December 20th/21st

Envelopes	\$	4,700.00
Loose Offerings	\$	421.00
Heating & Cooling	\$	400.00
Catholic Education	\$	25.00
Retirement Fund	\$	50.00
Thanksgiving	\$	25.00
Christmas Flowers	\$	120.00
Christmas Offering	\$	560.00
Immaculate Conception	\$	70.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$	25.00
Online Giving	\$	1,866.52
Total Offertory	\$	8,262.52

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

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 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. Follow us on Facebook at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church or check out our parish website at <https://stjohnsaltoona.org>.

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 • 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: Shop gift cards from more than 750 top brands to earn on your daily purchases with the mobile app RaiseRight. Anytime you want, anywhere you go. Get the app: <https://www.raiseright.com/> Why not make the regular use of our Scrip program one of your New Year resolutions? Need more information so you can help the church with your everyday purchases? Stop at the scrip table in the Gathering Space after mass and talk to one of our volunteers.

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.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

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

February 18th-Ash Wednesday Soup Supper

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.

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.

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