



**Sixth Sunday in  
Ordinary Time  
February 15, 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  
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Ken Dunmire - Maintenance

### **MASS SCHEDULE**

**MONDAY - 8:30 AM    TUESDAY - 8:30 AM  
ASH WEDNESDAY - 8:30 AM & 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**

Wed. Feb. 18-6:00 PM - Mireille Crevecoeur, Patrick Schurr  
Sat. Feb. 21-4:00 PM - Jeremy Truscello, Joyce Cunningham  
Sun. Feb. 22-8:00 AM - Daniel Turcovsky, Diane Turcovsky  
Sun. Feb. 22-11:00 AM - Dave Auerbeck, Jim Campbell

#### **ALTAR SERVERS**

Wed. Feb. 18-6:00 PM - Camille Krug, Aidan Schurr  
Sat. Feb. 21-4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, Sadie Swope  
Sun. Feb. 22-8:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED  
Sun. Feb. 22-11:00 AM - Estella Koch, Evie Koch

#### **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

Wed. Feb. 18-6:00 PM - Daniel Turcovsky, Diane Turcovsky  
Sat. Feb. 21-4:00 PM - Connie Baker, NOT FILLED  
Sun. Feb. 22-8:00 AM - Mike Greslick, Ginny Reeder  
Sun. Feb. 22-11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy, Dolores Capriotti,  
Ken Gorman, Susanna Tomlinson, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED

#### **MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY**

Wed. Feb. 18-6:00 PM - Connie Baker, Dolores Capriotti,  
Carolyn English, Patrick Podoletz  
Sat. Feb. 21-4:00 PM - Dennis Moughemer, Karen Moughemer,  
Larry VanSickel, Paula VanSickel  
Sun. Feb. 22-8:00 AM - Jane Becker, John Becker, Ed Stoltz,  
Mary Truesdale  
Sun. Feb. 22-11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Wendy Campbell,  
Mitchell Evans, Mary Horton

#### **SACRISTAN**

Wed. Feb. 18-6:00 PM - Barbara Bundy  
Sat. Feb. 21-4:00 PM - Mary & Ray King  
Sun. Feb. 22-8:00 AM - Ashley Greslick  
Sun. Feb. 22-11:00 AM - Dolores Capriotti

#### **SCRIP**

Sat. Feb. 21-4:00 PM - Julie Beiswenger, Becky Merilli  
Sun. Feb. 22-8:00 AM - Lori Baker, NOT FILLED  
Sun. Feb. 22-11:00 AM - Peg Madden, Marge Rudolph

## A Few Words from the Pastor:

**SAVE THE DATES!** We will be having a Parish Mission on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>, featuring Catholic speaker Paul Koleske. Paul is a contemporary Catholic Christian Inspirational Speaker, Musician, Composer & Recording Artist from Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. The theme of the mission is "Igniting the Light of Christ Within You."

**LENT AT ST. JOHN'S !** *The holy season of Lent begins Wednesday! The word "Lent" is an old English word for "Spring." It is thus to be considered a time of joy, as we anticipate the new life which comes with our share in the Resurrection of the Lord. Note the times for Mass and the Distribution of Ashes, as well as our Soup Supper which follows evening Mass on Ash Wednesday.*

**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. Please join us!

**ADULT ED IN LENT** – Our Sunday morning sessions will continue through the Lenten Season, as we will complete our discussions of the Creed and turn toward the deeper reflections on the Passion of the Lord.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** - To encourage greater participation for Stations, and to promote a greater love for the Holy Eucharist, our Friday evening devotions will begin at 5:00 with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, with Stations of the Cross beginning at 5:30. Stations will conclude with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Please consider joining us!

**FASTING AND ABSTINENCE:** Remember that the Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence from meat. Throughout the season of Lent, however, DAILY FASTING can strengthen our will, remind us of the hungers of the human family, and certainly can put us in mind of our hunger for God. Remember that Jesus fasted 40 days and 40 nights in the desert. Our fasting is closely related to our care for the poor: when I fast, another person must eat in my place!

**OPERATION RICE BOWL** - we are participating again this year in Operation Rice Bowl, which is a good companion to our Lenten prayer and fasting. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are the three pillars of the spiritual life.

**SPIRITUAL READING** - An essential part of the Christian life is prayerful reflection. This is especially so within the season of Lent. We will again be making available a booklet of daily meditations for use throughout the Lenten Season. Consider this Lent to be a personal retreat!

**POPE LEO SPEAKS!** The Pope's Wednesday General Audience is a weekly gathering in which the Holy Father meets pilgrims and visitors for prayer, teaching, and a blessing. While popes have long held audiences with the faithful, the modern form of the Wednesday audience began in the 20th century, particularly under Pope Pius XII, who held regular midweek gatherings for pilgrims in Rome. After the Second Vatican Council, Pope Paul VI established the audience as a consistent weekly catechetical event, using it to teach and explain the Council's vision for the Church. Pope Paul's successors have continued this tradition, with this General Audience remaining an important expression of the Pope's pastoral ministry and a visible sign of the Church's unity with the successor of St. Peter.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!** We joyfully welcome all new members who have recently joined our parish community! This weekend we will begin welcoming our newly registered members during the weekend masses by introducing each member/family and offering a personalized welcome basket. Please join us in welcoming the following families: Chad & Colleen Beck, Richard & Diane Bunn, John & Colleen Ciprich, Delaney Hurd, Adam & Beth Macak, Francis Snyder, Francis & Theresa Solarczyk, Rebecca Solarczyk, Kayla & Christoper Tsikalas and Brandon & Sarah Yusko. Your presence is a blessing, and we look forward to growing in faith together. May you find here a place of prayer, friendship, and spiritual growth. We are so glad you're here — welcome home!

### SAVE THE DATES!

**St. Vincent DePaul Care Packages:** Please return all boxes to the Gathering Space by Sunday, February 15th

**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

**Paul Koleske Parish Mission:** Sunday, March 22nd-Tuesday, March 24th-More details to come!

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

## **Schedule for the Week of February 15th**

### **Sunday, Feb. 15 - 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:00 AM - Mass for *Ida Prosperi* requested by  
John Prosperi

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

### **Monday, Feb. 16 - Weekday**

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

### **Tuesday, Feb. 17 - Weekday**

8:30 AM - Mass for *Jane Byrne* requested by  
Anna Mae Widney

### **Wednesday, Feb. 18 - Ash Wednesday**

8:30 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

6:00 PM - Mass for *Fred Fornwalt* requested by  
Joyce Villani

### **Thursday, Feb. 19 - Thursday after Ash Wednesday**

8:30 AM - Mass for *Sheri Ventre* requested by  
Bob & Ginny Reeder

### **Friday, Feb. 20 - Friday after Ash Wednesday**

8:30 AM - Communion Service

### **Saturday, Feb. 21 - Vigil of First Sunday of Lent**

3:15 PM - Confessions

4:00 PM - Mass for *Ann Bender* requested by  
Doug & Maria Spayd

### **Sunday, Feb. 22 - First Sunday of Lent**

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

11:00 AM - Mass for *Tom Semelsberger* requested by  
Fran Semelsberger

**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.

**LAST CALL! 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!

### **LENT SCHEDULE FOR ST. JOHN'S:**

Ash Wednesday-February 18th : Masses at 8:30am & 6pm. Soup supper following 6pm Mass in Fr. Bailey Hall

Adoration and Stations of the Cross: Fridays during Lent with Adoration beginning at 5:00pm and Stations beginning at 5:30pm

Lent Penance Service: Sunday, March 15th at 4:00pm

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER:** Today's readings challenge us to reflect on the true state of our hearts as it relates to stewardship. Do we think of stewardship as something we take care of once a year, simply a matter of ticking off boxes on a commitment card – or do we choose to embrace it as a spirituality and way of life that allows us to grow in conformity to Christ every day?

The concept of stewardship helps us to live out the fundamental choice to put God first. Stewardship is not meant to be a mere external exercise in which we participate on an occasional basis. It is meant to be embraced as a way of life that involved a continuous conversion of heart.

Our Lord is asking us not only for exterior acts, but for a true change of heart. In stewardship terms, that means seeing everything as a gift from Him, to be used for His glory and the good of others. In the week ahead let us examine the state of our hearts to ask ourselves if we have chosen to allow stewardship to become a way of life for us. Only then will we experience its true depth and heart-changing possibilities. The choice is ours.

### **January 31st/February 1st**

Envelopes	\$	4,702.00
Loose Offerings	\$	645.00
Heating & Cooling	\$	90.00
Catholic Education	\$	230.00
Black & Indian	\$	30.00
Online Giving	\$	2,183.90
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>7,880.90</b>

### **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** are available upon request. 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!

**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.

### **ST JOHN'S PRAYER LIST**

Please call Ginny Reeder (695-7671) or email her at [ginnen.reeder@gmail.com](mailto:ginnen.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 • Deb Bloom • Walt Bloom  
Idy Caporuscio • Cheryl Dennis • Ed Drexler  
Charles Elder • Carol Field • Donald Free  
Donna Fornwalt • Mark Hastings • Melissa Horne  
Michael Horton • 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 souls of:

Suzanne Caldwell  
Mary Lee Destefano, sister-in-law of Loretta Olson  
John Patz  
May they rest in the peace and joy of the Lord.

**ST. PATRICK'S SCHOOL REGISTRATION:** St. Patrick School in Newry is now accepting registrations for students entering Pre-K through 8th grade for the 2026-27 school year. Our Catholic education combines faith and learning, with a low-student-to-teacher ratio, with dedicated faculty providing personalized attention to every child. Contact the school office at 814-695-3819 to learn more and schedule a private tour. We look forward to welcoming your family!

**FISH FRY:** The Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament will have their Annual Lenten Fish Fry Lunch beginning Ash Wednesday and all Fridays during Lent, except Good Friday. Cost is \$12 for a fish sandwich, mac & cheese and coleslaw. Drive thru Cathedral Alley Door Pick up from 10:30am-1pm. Orders of 10 or more will be delivered if you call ahead at 814-944-4603.

**FISH FRY:** Our Lady of Lourdes Famous Fish Fry Serving every Friday during Lent including Good Friday Take out begins 3:30pm Eat in begins 4:30pm Cost \$16 Hand breaded/Fried Haddock or our delicious Baked Haddock Homemade Mac & Cheese or French Fries Pick 2- Stewed Tomatoes, Coleslaw, or Applesauce Dessert, Lemonade & Coffee included

### **FAITH FORMATION NEWS**

**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

**March 22nd**-Easter Egg Hunt/Spring Fling Brunch after 11am Mass in Gym

**March 29th**-No Class-Palm Sunday

**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).*

**MARRIAGE PREP 2026:** The Marriage Preparation Schedule for 2026 is available at [www.dioceseaj.org](http://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.

**SCRIP:** Use gift cards for budget planning! Gift cards are a great way to stick to your monthly budget—or help your kids stick to a budget. Buy gift cards for a set amount to pay for travel, food from restaurants, clothing, home improvements, and more. When gift cards run out of money, you've reached your monthly budget. Check or track your eGift card and reloadable card balance with your Wallet in the RaiseRight mobile app. Questions about Scrip? Stop by the Scrip table before or after any weekend mass and our volunteers will be happy to help you!

**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.