



**Fifth Sunday in  
Ordinary Time  
February 8, 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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 Iris Tatar - Director of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd  
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 Pat & Sue Podoletz - OCIA  
 paddypodo@gmail.com mrsposito@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. 14-4:00 PM - Jeremy Truscello, Maria Spayd  
 Sun. Feb. 15-8:00 AM - Norma Foose, Bill Foose  
 Sun. Feb. 15-11:00 AM - James Krug, Camille Krug

#### **ALTAR SERVERS**

Sat. Feb. 14-4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, Sadie Swope  
 Sun. Feb. 15-8:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED  
 Sun. Feb. 15-11:00 AM - Aidan Schurr, NOT FILLED

#### **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

Sat. Feb. 14-4:00 PM - Connie Baker, NOT FILLED  
 Sun. Feb. 15-8:00 AM - Daniel Turcovsky, Diane Turcovsky  
 Sun. Feb. 15-11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Barbara Bundy,  
 Dolores Capriotti, Ken Gorman, Bob Olson,  
 Susanna Tomlinson

#### **MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY**

Sat. Feb. 14-4:00 PM - Dennis Moughemer, Karen Moughemer,  
 Larry VanSickel, Paula VanSickel  
 Sun. Feb. 15-8:00 AM - Carolyn English, Ray Kennedy,  
 Ginny Reeder, Ed Stoltz  
 Sun. Feb. 15-11:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Mary Horton, Peg Madden,  
 Patrick Podoletz

#### **SACRISTAN**

Sat. Feb. 14-4:00 PM - Mary & Ray King  
 Sun. Feb. 15-8:00 AM - Ashley Greslick  
 Sun. Feb. 15-11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy

#### **SCRIP**

Sat. Feb. 14-4:00 PM - Lori Baker, NOT FILLED  
 Sun. Feb. 15-8:00 AM - Marge Rudolph, NOT FILLED  
 Sun. Feb. 15-11:00 AM - Peg Madden, Marge Rudolph

## A Few Words from the Pastor:

**POPE LEO SPEAKS: OLYMPIC PEACE** -- Pope Leo XIV has appealed for respect for the ancient tradition of the Olympic Truce, as the Milano-Cortina Winter Games get underway in northern Italy this week. Speaking at the Angelus last Sunday, the Pope said the Olympics and Paralympics represent an important message of fraternity while rekindling hope for a peaceful world. "This is also the meaning of the Olympic truce, a very ancient custom that accompanies the holding of the Games," he said. The Olympic truce is a tradition dating back to 776 BC in ancient Greece, when states would lay their arms before and during the Games. "I hope that those who care deeply for peace among peoples, and all those in positions of authority, will take this opportunity to make concrete gestures to ease tensions and seek dialogue," said the Pope.

**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 in just ten days! 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.

**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!

### SAVE THE DATES!

**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!

**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 February 8th***

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

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

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

### **Monday, Feb. 9 - Weekday**

8:30 AM - Mass for *Michael Rudolph* requested by  
his wife & children

### **Tuesday, Feb. 10 - St. Scholastica**

8:30 AM - Mass for *Angie Auerbeck* requested by  
Julie Sagaities

### **Wednesday, Feb. 11 - Weekday**

6:00 PM - Mass for *Betty J. Caldwell* requested by  
Pete & Carol Rogers

### **Thursday, Feb. 12 - Weekday**

8:30 AM - Mass for *George & Denise Semko* requested by  
Karen Mazzarella

### **Friday, Feb. 13 - Weekday**

8:30 AM - Communion Service

### **Saturday, Feb. 14 - Vigil of 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

3:15 PM - Confessions

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

### **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*

**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.

**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!

**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.

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER:** Today's readings are part pep talk and part marching orders for us as Christian stewards. They offer wonderfully clear guidance on what matters most to God in the way we prioritize our lives and the way He intends for us to use the gifts He has given us.

The first reading, from the prophet Isaiah, gives us very straightforward instructions: "Thus says the Lord: Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed, and the homeless; clothe the naked when you see them, and do not turn your back on your own." The Lord gives no wiggle room here – care for our brothers and sisters in need is a "must-do" for the Christian steward. Note, too, that these instructions require action – to share, to shelter, to clothe, and to hang in there with your family members, even the demanding ones.

Our Gospel passage, from Matthew, sends us out on our stewardship way with a bang as Jesus declares to us, His disciples, that we are the "salt of the earth" and the "light of the world." But, He adds, salt no longer gives flavor if allowed to go stale, and light cannot bring its blessed brightness if left hidden. Therefore we must act! We must live our lives so that others will see the things that we do – the ways that we serve others, care for the vulnerable, prioritize our family relationships, and, above all, our love for God – and then give Him glory!

#### **January 24th/25th**

Envelopes	\$ 4,039.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 211.00
Heating & Cooling	\$ 80.00
Christmas	\$ 50.00
Retirement for Religious	\$ 50.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,328.90
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 5,758.90</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**

**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!

**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 [ginny.reeder@gmail.com](mailto: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 • 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  
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 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](mailto:stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net).

**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](mailto:donnah31049@gmail.com).

### **FAITH FORMATION NEWS**

**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

**March 22nd**-Class

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

**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

**SCRIP NEWS:** Do you enjoy eating out? You could be earning the church between 4% and 15% of your dining out bill by using scrip. We have Applebee's, Arby's, Burger King, Chili's, Chipotle, Cracker Barrel, Denny's, The Dream, Dunkin Donuts, Eat N' Park, Hoss's/Marzoni's, Jethro's, King's, Olive Garden (Longhorn), Outback, Panera, Papa John's, Pizza Hut, Starbucks, Subway, Texas Roadhouse, Wendy's and Zach's in stock. Sign up online for scrip now with the RaiseRight app and you could order scrip at the restaurant to pay the bill using any smart phone. Or order from a home computer and print the e-card out to use at the restaurant. Using Scrip makes supporting the church with your everyday budget easy. Looking for more information about Scrip or how to use Scrip? Stop by the Scrip table after any mass and ask one of our friendly volunteers for more information!