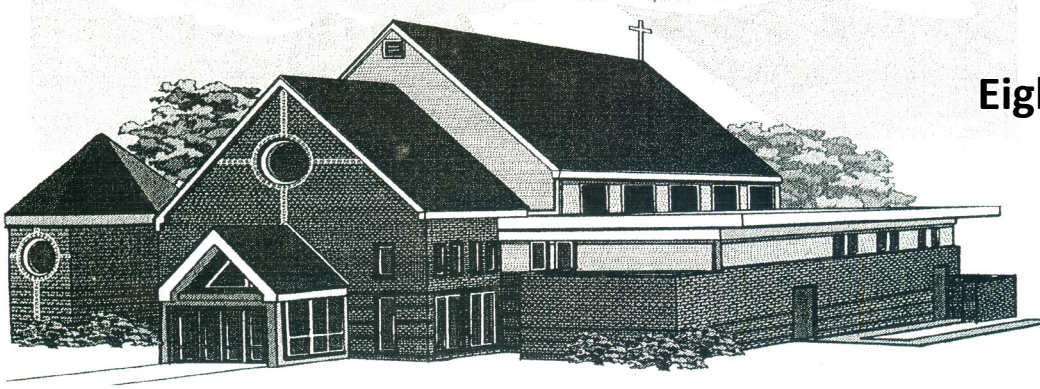




**Eighteenth Sunday in
Ordinary Time
August 2, 2026**

**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 & 10:00 AM

August Prayer Intention of Pope Leo

For evangelization in the city
Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.



NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS

LECTORS

Sat. Aug. 8- 4:00 PM - Joyce Cunningham, Maria Spayd
Sun. Aug. 9- 8:00 AM - Mike Greslick, NOT FILLED
Sun. Aug. 9- 10:00 AM - Susan Podoletz, Laverne Kovacs

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. Aug. 8- 4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, Sadie Swope
Sun. Aug. 9- 8:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Sun. Aug. 9- 10:00 AM - Estella Koch, Evie Koch

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. Aug. 8- 4:00 PM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Sun. Aug. 9- 8:00 AM - Daniel Turcovsky, Diane Turcovsky
Sun. Aug. 9- 10:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Dolores Capriotti,
Bob Olson, Susanna Tomlinson

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. Aug. 8- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, Betsy Lloyd, Marge Rudolph,
Jeremy Truscello
Sun. Aug. 9- 8:00 AM - Mike O'Neill, Ginny Reeder, Ed Stoltz,
Mary Truesdale
Sun. Aug. 9- 10:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Lou Ann Clark,
Mitchell Evans, Jared Miller

SACRISTAN

Sat. Aug. 8- 4:00 PM - Mary King
Sun. Aug. 9- 8:00 AM - Ashley Greslick
Sun. Aug. 9- 10:00 AM - Barbara Bundy

SCRIP

Sat. Aug. 8- 4:00 PM - Lori Baker, Marge Rudolph
Sun. Aug. 9- 8:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Sun. Aug. 9- 10:00 AM - Carolyn English, NOT FILLED

****Mass Time Change - Our 2nd Mass on Sunday will begin at 10am and will continue with this schedule through Labor Day weekend ****

A Few Words from the Pastor:

SUPPORTING OUR FUTURE PRIESTS! This week our bishop is encouraging us to actively participate in the formation of our future priests. This appeal comes in the very week when we honor the patron of parish priests, St. John Vianney. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and is a sign of hope at a time when we are sorely in need of more priests to serve our parishes.

SECOND SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION – Hunger has no season! Year in and year out, everyone needs to eat! Our second Sunday food collection is an opportunity for us to meet the needs of those in our neighborhoods who suffer from food insecurity. They count on us to share our blessings. Please be generous!

FEAST OF THE WEEK! In the Christian tradition, the **Transfiguration (August 6th)** commemorates the moment when Jesus was revealed in divine glory before Peter, James, and John on a mountain. His face "shone like the sun," and his clothes became dazzling white (Matthew 17:1–8). The event offers the disciples a glimpse of Christ's divine nature and points toward the hope of the Resurrection. By contrast, on August 6, 1945, the United States dropped the atomic bomb "Little Boy" on Hiroshima. Tens of thousands of people were killed immediately, with many more dying later from burns and radiation. The bombing ushered humanity into the nuclear age and remains one of the most sobering events in modern history. For many Christians—especially in Japan—the coincidence of these dates has become deeply symbolic: The light of the Transfiguration is understood as God's life-giving, transforming glory. The flash over Hiroshima was a man-made light that brought immense destruction. The contrast highlights two very different uses of power: *divine power that reveals love and life versus human power capable of unprecedented devastation*. The juxtaposition of these two August 6 events reminds us that the choice before humanity is between a light that gives life and a light that destroys.

LOOKING AHEAD! – We will again be having our adult ed session on Sunday morning this fall, with a very timely topic. Using his book *Insane for the Light: A Spirituality for our Wisdom Years*, Ronald Rohlheiser will provide an insightful look at how we are to grow spiritually as we deal with the delights and challenges of growing older. For those wishing to get a head start, this book is available on Amazon.

SAVE THE DATES!

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass Schedule: Vigil Mass on Friday, August 14th at 6pm

Feast Day Mass on Saturday, August 15th at 4:00pm

Backpack Blessing: Sunday, August 30th at the 10am Mass-Students bring your backpacks to Mass!

Despot Scholarship Applications Due: Sunday, August 30th Return to the Collection Basket or Parish Office

Alpha: September 8th-November 17th from 6-8:15pm in St. John's cafeteria

Diocesan Family Conference: Saturday, September 19th at Bishop Carroll High School in Ebsburg

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR FUTURE PRIESTS: The efforts of our Vocations Office are working! We have three new seminarians this year, which brings our total to four men in formation for the priesthood. In addition, we have launched new programs to reach young men, including the popular "Loggia Nights" at the cathedral in Altoona. Thanks be to God, we now have dozens of teens and young men who are seriously considering priesthood! To support our seminarians and these increased efforts, we truly need your financial support. Bishop Bartchack has asked all Catholics to consider a generous gift. Please make your donation online at ajvocations.org/give, or use the envelope in your pew.



St. John the Evangelist Church was nominated for Favorite Place of Worship! Please go to the Altoona Mirror webpage to vote daily for the 2026 Hometown Favorites beginning July 26th through August 2nd. Voting is simple! Just search for Altoona Mirror Hometown Favorites, go to Services, then Place of Worship. Scroll down to St. John the Evangelist and VOTE! The top 5 nominees in each category will move onto the finals which will be announced in September. Final voting will take place September 13th-20th. Winners announced on December 7th. Last year we made it to the top 5- this year let's be the winner! **Please vote for St. John's every day!**

Schedule for the Week of August 2nd

Sunday, August 2 - Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

10:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

Monday, August 3 - Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Barbara Neral* requested by
Deacon Gene Neral

Tuesday, August 4 - St. John Vianney

8:30 AM - Mass for *Jean & Theresa Joacin* requested by
Mimi Crevecoeur

Wednesday, August 5 - Weekday

5:30 PM - Confessions

6:00 PM - Mass for *Michael Rudolph* requested by
his wife & children

Thursday, August 6 - Transfiguration of the Lord

8:30 AM - Mass for *Sue Caldwell* requested by
Ron & Joyce Cunningham

Friday, August 7 - Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Deceased members of the Sisters of
the Holy Family of Nazareth* requested by
Sr. Cynthia & Sr. Thea

Saturday, August 8 - Vigil of Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

3:15 PM - Confessions

4:00 PM - Mass for *Bob Cole* requested by
Mary Ann Cole

Sunday, August 9 - Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

10:00 AM - Mass for *Frank Zitzlsperger* requested by
Barbara Bundy

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.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: The Parish Office is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9am to 3pm unless otherwise noted on door to accommodate appointments and vacations. Thank you!

GRADUATE & STUDENT MASS: Bishop Mark will celebrate the annual outdoor Mass for students entering or returning to college and their families on August 2 at 7:00 pm at the Our Lady of the Alleghenies Shrine in Loretto. Recent high school graduates entering the military or workforce are also invited. During the Mass, the Bishop will offer a special blessing to the young adults and present them with a small gift. Please bring your own lawn chairs.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: This week we celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord. According to most Catholic scholars and theologians, the Transfiguration is the culminating point of the Lord's public life. His Baptism is considered to be the starting point of that public life, and the Ascension is the end.

The Transfiguration was part of an ongoing miracle. Perhaps the real miracle was the way that Jesus kept from displaying His glory most of the time. When the three apostles present became aware of the full divinity of Jesus, it is reported that "They fell prostrate and were very much afraid." Is that how we react when we become aware of the presence of God? Are we a bit fearful?

Knowing God, appreciating God, and embracing God should give us confidence. God's grace is amazing, and that needs to be our reality. Remember that Jesus is on His way to crucifixion and temporary death. We are on that same path, but the Transfiguration is a reminder to us of the hope we have in the saving grace of the Lord.

July 18th & 19th

Envelopes	\$	3,656.00
Loose Offerings	\$	1,938.00
Catholic Education	\$	50.00
Mission Co op	\$	1,277.15
Heating & Cooling	\$	346.00
Online Giving	\$	3,506.55
Total Offertory	\$	10,773.70

2026 Catholic Ministries Drive Goal: \$37,300

January 1, 2026 - June 30, 2026

Gifts/Pledges - \$54,200.00

Total Gifts Received - \$52,825.00

Pledge Balance - \$1,375.00

****We have reached our goal!****

2026 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE: Our Catholic Ministries Drive supports 10 ministries throughout our diocese, which all fall into one of our three main focuses of evangelization, serving those in need, or formation of our priests and deacons. **Any additional funds received now will come directly back to the parish to be used for the replacement of our aging heating and cooling unit which will cost at least \$140,000. Donations still being accepted for the CMD by using the envelopes in the Gathering Space or online. Donations can also be made directly to the church by using the Heating and Cooling envelopes in your packet or the Heating and Cooling fund through online giving.** Thank you for supporting the Catholic Ministries Drive and our diocese's vital ministries!

ST JOHN'S PRAYER LIST

Please call Ginny Reeder (695-7671) or email her at 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:*

Idy Caporuscio • Dr. Kip Dolphin • Ed Drexler
Lois Dullinger • Charles Elder • Patty Flanagan
Donna Fornwalt • Erin Jones • Marianne Jones
Ray King • Sally Langham • Elsie MacCullagh
Dave Madden • Ron Merilli • Suzana Mladenovska
Mike Nagle • Olga Romerowicz • Bette Richards
Anne Showalter • Cathy Stapelfeld • Walter Sweedo
Tim Temofonte • Wally Wargo • Lois Werfel
Holly Whitmire • All Garvey Manor Residents



GOING ON VACATION? Please use Online Giving to catch-up on offertory. Go to **www.stjohnsaltoona.org** and click on the Online Giving link, it's quick and easy. Your support during summer months helps sustain our parish.

ALPHA: Alpha will be starting every Tuesday beginning September 8th through November 17th here at St. John's in the cafeteria from 6-8:15pm. Dinner is included. If you have any questions, please contact Jane Becker at 414-9836. Stay tuned for more details!

TECH ASSISTANCE NEEDED: We are looking for someone who can make a video to present in church. The topic is Haiti and all the photos and videos are on an android phone through WhatsApp. If you are tech savvy or know someone who is, please call the office. Your talent will be greatly appreciated!

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD: The 2026-2027 year is starting in September. Level 1 is for children ages 3-6 and Level 2 is for children ages 6-9. We meet Saturday mornings in our atrium -- the specially prepared place for our children to come to know The Good Shepherd. Please contact Iris at iristat38@gmail.com for more information about CGS and for an application. We are always welcoming anyone who would like to share their time and love of The Good Shepherd with our children. If you would like to volunteer, please email Iris.

GABRIEL PROJECT: A Pro-life Ministry dedicated to helping moms and babies in the Altoona area with baby items as needed. The current needs are diapers size 5, 6, 7, & 8 and Summer clothes (newborn to size 5T). Donations to purchase larger items are appreciated. Any mom needing assistance should call 814-440-1021.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Registration Forms for the 2026-2027 Faith Formation Year are now available in the Gathering Space.
Classes will be begin in mid-September.

All public school students entering Kindergarten through 9th grade should be registered with the Faith Formation Program.

All catholic school students entering 2nd grade and 9th grade should be registered with the Faith Formation Program of their home parish to prepare for Sacraments.
Catholic school students do not receive the sacraments through the school.

If you would like more information or have questions, please contact Diane Ryan at 814-942-5503 or email stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net.

2026 JOHN AND HELEN DESPOT SCHOLARSHIP: The John and Helen Despot Scholarship Fund will be offering 3 \$400 scholarships this year. This scholarship is available to any child of St. John's parish who is attending a Catholic School in the Altoona or Hollidaysburg area. The students and guardian(s) must be registered members of the parish. Applications are available in the Gathering Space or in the parish office. All applications must be submitted by August 30th and will be awarded in September. If you have any questions, please contact the parish office at 942-5503.

NEW! 2026 DESPOT FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP: Established in 2024 by Dave Despot for the benefit of students entering, or continuing to attend grades 9-12 at Bishop Guilfoyle Academy in the amount of \$320. Eligible students shall be members of St. John the Evangelist Parish who are actively participating in parish ministries, such as, but not limited to, altar server, choir, musician, hospitality ministry, etc. Applications are available in the Gathering Space or in the parish office. All applications must be submitted by August 30th and will be awarded in September. If you have any questions, please contact the parish office at 942-5503.

OCIA MEETING: Our OCIA journey begins in September. OCIA, the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, is a journey for those who have an interest in becoming Catholic or would like to finish their initiation into the Catholic faith. We will have an informational meeting on April 16th after the 10:00 Mass in the Parish Center. If you have any questions please contact Pat Podoletz at 717-575-4224, or Sue Podoletz at 717-575-1142.

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.