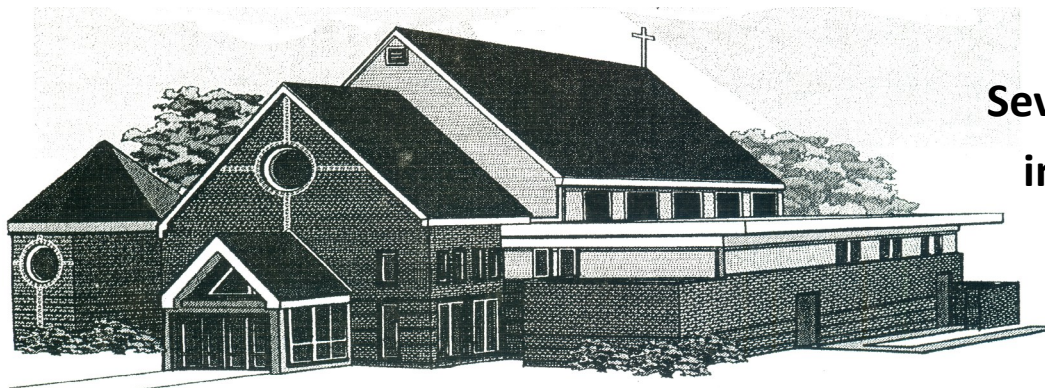




**Seventeenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
July 26, 2026**

**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
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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

July Prayer Intention of Pope Leo

For respect for human life
Let us pray for the respect and protection
of human life in all its stages, recognizing it
as a gift from God.



NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS

LECTORS

Sat. Aug. 1- 4:00 PM - Jeremy Truscello, Maria Spayd
Sun. Aug. 2- 8:00 AM - Ginny Reeder, Mary Truesdale
Sun. Aug. 2- 10:00 AM - Evie Koch, Estella Koch

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. Aug. 1- 4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, Sadie Swope
Sun. Aug. 2- 8:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Sun. Aug. 2- 10:00 AM - Camille Krug, Aidan Schurr

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. Aug. 1- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, David Loth
Sun. Aug. 2- 8:00 AM - Mike Greslick, Jennifer Helsley
Sun. Aug. 2- 10:00 AM - Dolores Capriotti, Lou Ann Clark,
Ken Gorman, Bob Olson

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. Aug. 1- 4:00 PM - Betsy Lloyd, Larry VanSickel, Paula VanSickel,
NOT FILLED
Sun. Aug. 2- 8:00 AM - Jane Becker, John Becker, Carolyn English,
Ray Kennedy
Sun. Aug. 2- 10:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Walter Bloom,
Mary Horton, Patrick Podoletz

SACRISTAN

Sat. Aug. 1- 4:00 PM - Linda McAleer
Sun. Aug. 2- 8:00 AM - Ashley Greslick
Sun. Aug. 2- 10:00 AM - Barbara Bundy

SCRIP

Sat. Aug. 1- 4:00 PM - Julie Beiswenger, Becky Merilli
Sun. Aug. 2- 8:00 AM - Lori Baker, NOT FILLED
Sun. Aug. 2- 10:00 AM - Peg Madden, Marge Rudolph

****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:

PARISH PICNIC TIME! This Sunday we will be celebrating our annual summer picnic. Following our 10:00 AM Mass, join us in Bailey Hall for good food and fellowship! This is a real practical example of what the Eucharist means, that we break bread together and enjoy the blessings of one another's company. We are grateful to the Altoona Sweet Adeline's Chorus who will provide our entertainment! Please join us for this special annual parish event!

VOCATIONS APPEAL: Next Sunday is our diocese's Fishers of Men Vocation Appeal. Bishop Bartchack is asking for your support to fund the formation of our new seminarians and to strengthen the work of our Vocation Office. Thanks be to God, the number of our seminarians is growing—which also means the cost of formation is increasing. We also have dozens of men actively discerning a call to the priesthood, which is a great blessing! Your financial support is essential for supporting our future priests! Learn more and make a gift by visiting ajvocations.org/give. Thanks for your generosity.

SAINTS OF THE WEEK: The Memorial of Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus is celebrated this Wednesday. Pope Francis established this joint obligatory memorial in 2021 to honor the three siblings from Bethany, highlighting their evangelical witness, close friendship with Jesus, and the hospitality they offered Him during His earthly ministry. These close friends of Jesus are siblings, and Jesus would often spend time at their home. They personify the three theological virtues:

- **Martha:** Represents **faith**. She is a model of Christian hospitality and service, most notably her confession of Jesus as the Messiah in the Gospel of John.
- **Mary:** Represents **love (charity)**. Known for sitting at the feet of Jesus, she chose the "better part" of contemplative listening and devotion.
- **Lazarus:** Represents **hope**. Through his resurrection, he manifests the Christian expectation of new life and the resurrection of the dead.

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.

NO THURSDAY MORNING MASS: Due to a planned power outage by Penelec, the church, school and parish office will not have power Thursday morning, July 30th. We will not have morning mass and the Parish Office will be closed. If you need assistance from the office please email stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net. St. Michael Church in Hollidaysburg has a Thursday morning mass at 7:45am, Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament has a daily mass at noon, St. Rose of Lima has Thursday morning mass at 8:30am in addition to other morning masses at local parishes.

SAVE THE DATES!

Annual Parish Picnic: Sunday, July 26th after the 10am Mass in Fr. Bailey Hall (gym)

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

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

ST. JOHN'S ANNUAL PICNIC-THIS SUNDAY, JULY 26TH: Please plan on joining your parish family this Sunday, July 26th following the 10am mass for our Annual Parish Picnic. The parish will provide chicken, hot dogs and shredded beef. Please bring a dish to share in a disposable tray or bowl, if possible. A basket raffle will be conducted and the proceeds will be donated to St. John's Social Committee. Entertainment will be provided by the Altoona Sweet Adeline's Choir. We are most grateful to the committee for all the hard work they have been doing in preparing for this wonderful parish event! Please join us as we celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the Altoona Johnstown Diocese and the 250th year of our great nation with fun, food and fellowship!



St. John the Evangelist Church was nominated for Favorite Place of Worship! Voting starts Sunday! 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 July 26th

Sunday, July 26 - Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

10:00 AM - Mass for *Tom Semelsberger* requested by
Fran Semelsberger

Monday, July 27 - Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Sue Caldwell* requested by
Susanna Tomlinson & Arise Group

Tuesday, July 28 - Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Andrew Dancha, Jr.* requested by
Vicki Faretta

Wednesday, July 29 - Sts. Martha, Mary and Lazarus

5:30 PM - Confessions

6:00 PM - Mass for *Susan Neral Gandy* requested by
Deacon Gene Neral

Thursday, July 30 - Weekday

8:30 AM - No Mass due to planned power outage

Friday, July 31 - St. Ignatius of Loyola

8:30 AM - Mass for *Melvin & Pauline Weyandt* requested
by Linda Weyandt

Saturday, August 1 - Vigil of Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

3:15 PM - Confessions

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

Sunday, August 2 - Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

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

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!

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. To volunteer for parish ministries or discuss how St. John's may be present to your faith journey, kindly call 814-942-5503 to schedule a meeting with Monsignor Becker.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: The stewardship way of life could be described as a daily pursuit of the kingdom of heaven. Today's readings show us the critical importance of recognizing the kingdom of heaven in our midst and prioritizing our lives in order to obtain it.

When we pursue Godly – rather than worldly – priorities, we can do so with great peace because, as St Paul reminds us in the Second Reading from Romans, “all things work for good for those who love God and are called according to his purpose.” All things – not just the major, life-altering decisions, but the countless tiny ones we make on a daily basis as we strive to serve the Lord and advance the kingdom of heaven.

Let us pray for the wisdom to recognize the kingdom of heaven in our midst and intensify our efforts to pursue it starting right now. There is no time to lose, and we will obtain the immeasurable joy that only comes when we live as disciples of Jesus.

July 11th & 12th

Envelopes	\$	5,185.00
Loose Offerings	\$	654.00
Mission Cooperative	\$	756.00
Peter's Pence	\$	50.00
Heating & Cooling	\$	40.00
Online Giving	\$	1,894.75
Total Offertory	\$	8,579.75

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. **We will be receiving a check for \$11,355 for our overage in June. 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 • Donna Fornwalt
Erin Jones • Marianne Jones • Ray King • Sally Langham
Elsie MacCullagh • Dave Madden • Ron Merilli
Mike Nagle • Olga Romerowicz • Bette Richards
Anne Showalter • Cathy Stapelfeld • Walter Sweedo
Tim Temofonte • Wally Wargo • Lois Werfel
All Garvey Manor Residents

JOURNEY THROUGH LOSS: The next session will be offered at Holy Family Parish in Portage from 6:30-8:00 beginning on Wednesday, July 29. *Journey Through Loss* is a 9-week Christian based Bereavement Support Program for adults who are grieving the death of a loved one. Friends and family members from other parishes and denominations are most welcome. Thoughts from a former participant: "It was a prayerful time, a time for memories, tears, laughter, and sharing."
For more information or to register contact Mary Petrak, 814 502-6076, mfpetrak@hotmail.com

ONLINE OFFERTORY: If you find yourself away from St. John's for any reason - illness, inclement weather or vacation, you can continue to express your gratitude to God through the secure online giving option that we have offered for more than a decade. Join the many parishioners who already take advantage of it. From the parish website, www.stjohnsaltoona.org, click on the "Donate Online" button on the left of the page and follow the instructions to create an account and schedule your contributions. You may continue to place your envelope in the basket when you are present at Mass - just check the "I gave online" box. You can also mail your contribution envelopes to our office - 309 Lotz Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602. Thank you!

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.

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.

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.

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. If it rains, the Mass will be celebrated inside the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel, next to the Shrine.