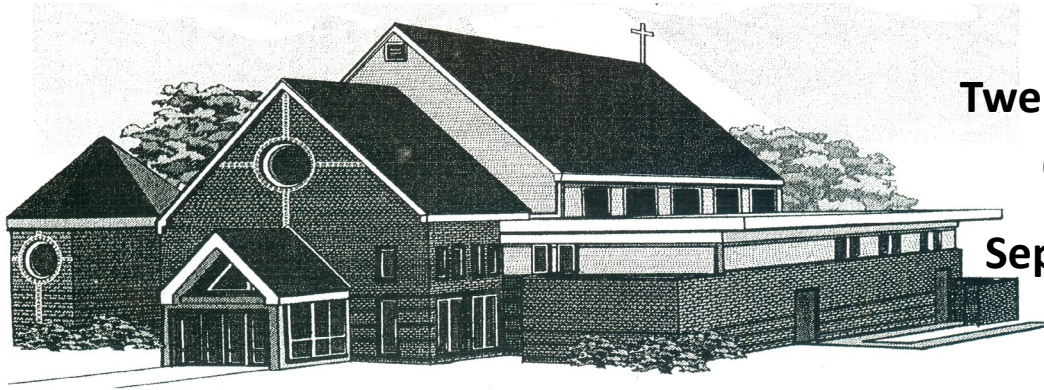




**Twenty-fifth Sunday in
Ordinary Time**

September 20, 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 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

September Prayer Intention of Pope Leo

For the care of water

Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital source, so that everyone may have equal access to it.



NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS

LECTORS

Sat. Sept. 26- 4:00 PM - Maria Spayd, Jeremy Truscello
Sun. Sept. 27-8:00 AM - Mary Truesdale, Mireille Crevecoeur
Sun. Sept. 27-11:00 AM - Laverne Kovacs, Dave Auerbeck

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. Sept. 26- 4:00 PM - Sadie Swope, NOT FILLED
Sun. Sept. 27- 8:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Sun. Sept. 27- 11:00 AM - Aidan Schurr, NOT FILLED

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. Sept. 26- 4:00 PM - David Loth, NOT FILLED
Sun. Sept. 27- 8:00 AM - Daniel Turcovsky, Diane Turcovsky
Sun. Sept. 27- 11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy, Dolores Capriotti,
Estella Koch, Susanna Tomlinson

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. Sept. 26- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, Betsy Lloyd, Larry VanSickel,
Paula VanSickel
Sun. Sept. 27- 8:00 AM - Ashley Greslick, Mike Greslick,
Ginny Reeder, Ed Stoltz
Sun. Sept. 27- 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Walter Bloom,
Mary Horton, Peg Madden

SACRISTAN

Sat. Sept. 26- 4:00 PM - Mary King
Sun. Sept. 27- 8:00 AM - Ashley Greslick
Sun. Sept. 27- 11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy

SCRIP

Sat. Sept. 26- 4:00 PM - Patrick Podoletz, Marge Rudolph
Sun. Sept. 27- 8:00 AM - Erika Yasolsky, Heather Yasolsky
Sun. Sept. 27- 11:00 AM - Carolyn English, NOT FILLED

A Few Words from the Pastor:

TODAY IS CATECHETICAL SUNDAY! The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, designates the third Sunday of September each year as Catechetical Sunday. This year's theme is taken from the Gospel of Luke, when Jesus says that "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me... to bring good news to the poor." The theme connects catechesis with Jesus' mission: bringing hope, healing, freedom, and the Good News to people, especially the poor, brokenhearted, and forgotten. The USCCB presents catechesis not simply as teaching information about Catholicism, but as helping people encounter Christ and become witnesses to the Gospel.

PET BLESSING ON OCTOBER 4! Our annual blessing of pets will be celebrated on Sunday, October 4th, at 1:00 PM. This year, however, we will be celebrating this event in **Tuckahoe Park** on Union Avenue, and faith communities from around the city are invited to participate! This event is sponsored by the Interfaith Alliance and is an opportunity for we of the Catholic persuasion can share our love for St. Francis of Assisi, the loving protector of animals. There will be a representative of the Animal Shelter present, with prayers and song to celebrate the beauty of God's many creatures. Our love for pets is universal!

LOOKING AHEAD TO ADULT ED! – 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 online from Amazon. I will also have copies available. Our first session will be held on September 27. Plan on joining us!

WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES! Next Sunday, the last Sunday of September, the Catholic Church throughout the world observes a special day of prayer for our migrant brothers and sisters who have been forced by poverty or violence to leave their homes in search of safe shelter. The Pope's message this year focuses particularly on children and minors who experience migration and forced displacement, emphasizing their dignity, protection, family unity, education, and welcome. For this 112th World Day, the theme, "even just one of these children," draws our attention to the minors directly involved in the experience of migration and flight, to the care owed to them, and to the Lord's promise that "whoever receives one such child in my name receives me."

POPE LEO SPEAKS ON THE SEASON OF CREATION! Pope Leo has chosen the theme "**They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.**" These words of the prophet Isaiah are at the heart of the pope's message that makes a striking connection between war, poverty, peace, and the destruction of creation. War damages ecosystems, contaminates water and land, destroys food supplies, drives people from their homes, and leaves wounds that can last for generations.

SAVE THE DATES!

Faith Formation Meet the Teacher/Parent & Student Meeting: Sunday, September 20th at 9:30am in the gym

Blessing of the Pets: Sunday, October 4th at 1pm at Tuckahoe Park in Altoona

20th Annual Pumpkin Fest: Saturday, October 10th from 10am-4pm in Hollidayburg

Annual Hymn Sing: Sunday, October 18th-More details to come!

Annual Trunk or Treat: Sunday, October 25th at 1pm in the parking lot



St. John the Evangelist Church was voted Top 5 Favorite Place of Worship! Please go to the Altoona Mirror webpage to vote daily for the 2026 Hometown Favorites beginning September 13th-20th. You can vote once daily on the website. Our link is: <https://www.altoonamirror.com/HometownFavorites#/gallery/558108712> Please share with your family and friends and encourage them to vote for St. John's! Additional contest details and information can be found on the Altoona Mirror Website. 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!**

PUMPKIN FEST: The 20th Annual Pumpkin Fest will be on Saturday, October 10th from 10am-4pm on Allegheny Street between Front & Union Streets. St. John's will be selling homemade soups again at their booth. If you are able to make 5-10 quarts of soup, please sign up on the kiosk. We are also looking for volunteers for various time slots on the day of the Pumpkin Fest to help sell soup. If you are interested in helping at the booth, please sign up on the kiosk. All profits will benefit the Social Committee and upcoming Parish Events. Contact Ginny Reeder at 814-695-7671 for questions or more information. Thank you for supporting our Parish!

Schedule for the Week of September 20th

Sunday, September 20 - Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM - Mass for *John Caporuscio* requested by
Bob & Ginny Reeder

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

Monday, September 21 - St. Matthew

8:30 AM - Mass for *Ida Prosperi* requested by
John Prosperi

Tuesday, September 22 - Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Carol Bismark* requested by
Dee Schmerbeck

Wednesday, September 23 - St. Pius of Pietrelcina

5:30 PM - Confessions

6:00 PM - Mass for *Fred & Karen Mazzarella* requested by
Karen Mazzarella

Thursday, September 24 - Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Robert Ritchey* requested by
Bob & Ginny Reeder

Friday, September 25 - Weekday

8:30 AM - Communion Service

Saturday, September 26 - Vigil of Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

3:15 PM - Confessions

4:00 PM - Mass for *Mary Patricia & Jack Larrabee*
requested by Mr. & Mrs. William Stokan

Sunday, September 27 - Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

11:00 AM - Mass for *Tony Vocco* requested by
Dee & Allen Capriotti

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!

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.

THANK YOU! CDA Court Prince Gallitzin # 2625 would like to convey their utmost gratitude and appreciation to all the parishioners for their generosity in providing items needed for their recent Blessing Bag Project, 115 blessing bags were filled and all the remaining items were given to Family Services to be distributed to the homeless in need. May God bless you all!

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: Though we can never fully grasp the infinite perfection of God and His ways, a basic knowledge of Scripture reveals that God's logic and priorities often differ from worldly logic and priorities. What does this mean for us who call ourselves His disciples and stewards? It means that our way of life should look decidedly different from a "worldly" way of life.

In our Gospel passage from Matthew, Jesus offers us a glimpse of the "Godly logic" of the Father through a parable of a landowner hiring workers for his vineyard. The landowner finds workers throughout the day, but pays them all the same at the end. This angered the laborers who had worked longest and they grumbled against the landowner. But those laborers were relying on human logic, and not thinking as God does.

This can happen to us Christian stewards as well. We can grumble and complain when we compare ourselves to others and sense that not everyone is contributing as much as we are to the parish, the neighborhood, within our family, at work, and so on. At those moments, we need to think bigger! We must remember that it is a great privilege to have been called by the Father to work in His vineyard. The more time we are given to do His work, the greater the gift.

September 5th & 6th

Envelopes	\$	4,551.00
Loose Offerings	\$	191.00
Heating & Cooling	\$	10.00
Catholic Education	\$	83.00
Mission Coop	\$	10.00
Assumption of Mary	\$	25.00
Online Giving	\$	3,377.95
Total Offertory	\$	8,247.95

2026 Catholic Ministries Drive Goal: \$37,300

January 1, 2026 - August 31, 2026

Gifts/Pledges - \$75,690.00

Total Gifts Received - \$75,440.00

Pledge Balance - \$250.00

2026-2027 HAITI STUDENT SPONSORSHIP: \$160 per student for the school year. This support is dedicated to the student and the operating costs, which include books, supplies, uniforms, lunch and salaries.

Thank you for your generosity in the past years. Sts. Peter & Paul is now supporting many, many families who have fled their homes to escape the gangs and violence. St. John's dedication to this mission has been and is crucial to the survival of our sister parish and community. Have no doubt your prayers and donations make the difference personally for each fellow Haitian Catholic. Thank you, again, for being a blessing to Haiti.

ST JOHN'S PRAYER LIST

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

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

HOME WITH THE LORD: Your prayers are requested for the repose of the souls of:

Rod Baronner, brother of Marilyn Bevan
R. Russell Price, husband of Joan Price
May they rest in the peace and joy of the Lord.

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.

GABRIEL PROJECT: Thank you for the many generous donations collected so far for our moms in need. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and making a difference in many lives. We are collecting winter clothing and diapers in sizes 4-8. Any mom needing assistance should call 814-440-1021. Thank you for your support!

OCIA: The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) is a process providing for those adults, unbaptized or baptized, who are seeking to know more about the Catholic faith and become a part of that faith. Here at St. John's the process is also open to those adult Catholics who have been away from the church and are seeking to become closer to Christ. If you are interested in growing in your faith, please contact Pat at 717-575-4224 or Sue at 717-575-1142.

GIVE US THIS DAY: It's time to renew our Give Us This Day order for December 2026-November 2027. Samples are available in the Gathering Space. If you are a current subscriber, renewal envelopes are included with your September copy. New subscribers may use the envelopes provided with the samples. We can order either the standard print for \$44 or the large print for \$58 for an annual subscription. Orders are due by October 5th. Please contact the Parish Office with questions. Thank you!

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH: MEET THE TEACHER/ PARENT & STUDENT MEETING 9:30AM-GYM

September 27th- No Class

October 4th- Class - 9:15-10:45am

Registration Forms for the 2026-2027 Faith Formation Year are now available in the Gathering Space.

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.

HONOR OUR TEACHERS ON CATECHETICAL SUNDAY:

The U.S. Bishops have designated Sunday, September 20th, as Catechetical Sunday to honor all those who share in the evangelizing and teaching mission of the Church. Catechesis means "to echo." Believers who embrace the Gospel of Jesus Christ as the best news ever proclaimed are eager to "echo" the Good News everywhere. At St. John's, we are so grateful for the dedicated ministry of these persons who have accepted the call to catechize our youth and children in our Faith Formation Program. We acknowledge, with gratitude our catechists and volunteers: Donna Messner, Adam Macak, Beth Macak, Kristina Hoyne, Carole Litzinger, Jared Miller, Patrick Podoletz and Allison Kendall. Please join us in thanking all of these outstanding leaders of our parish for their dedication and commitment to sharing the faith with our youngest members of St. John's Parish! THANK YOU!!

BG CLASS OF 1978 ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP: If your child transferred into the BG school system this year (Pre-K through 12), he or she may be eligible to receive an \$880 award from the BG Class of 1978 Scholarship Endowment. Please download an application from the Independent Catholic Foundation's "Grants & Scholarships" webpage at www.icfoundation.us. Please give your pastor or parish administrator ample time to sign it. The Foundation will accept completed applications until 4:00 PM, Thursday, October 1.



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