

**PALM SUNDAY OF  
THE LORD'S PASSION  
ST. JOHN THE  
EVANGELIST CHURCH  
309 LOTZ AVENUE  
814-942-5503  
[www.stjohnsaltoona.org](http://www.stjohnsaltoona.org)**

#### **HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:**

**MONDAY: MASS 8:30AM**  
**TUESDAY: MASS 8:30AM**  
**WEDNESDAY: MASS 7:00PM**  
**TENEBRAE 7:45PM**  
**HOLY THURSDAY: MORNING PRAYER 8:30AM**  
**MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER 7:00PM**  
**FRIDAY: MORNING PRAYER 8:30AM**  
**STATIONS OF THE CROSS 12:00PM**  
**THE PASSION OF THE LORD 7:00PM**  
**HOLY SATURDAY: MORNING PRAYER 8:30AM**  
**BLESSING OF EASTER BASKETS 12 NOON**  
**EASTER VIGIL 8:30PM**  
**EASTER SUNDAY MASSES: 8:00AM & 11:00AM**

#### **APPOINTMENTS**

##### **ACOLYTES:**

Thurs. Mar. 29 - 7:00 PM - Jack Donoughe, Ryan Donoughe, Claire Nackley, Keaton Swope  
 Fri. Mar. 30 - 7:00 PM - Nicholas Helsley, Amber Yasolsky, NOT FILLED  
 Sat. Mar. 31 - 4:00 PM - Sarah Geishauser, Mai Linh Do, Amber Yasolsky, Nate Rudolph  
 Sun. Apr. 1 - 8:00 AM - Emily & Ethan Miller  
 Sun. Apr. 1 - 11:00 AM - Caitlin & Tyler Conigy

##### **LECTORS**

Thurs. Mar. 29 - 7:00 PM - Mark Sloan, Mark Krepich  
 Fri. Mar. 30 - 7:00 PM - Donna Moyer, Diane Turcovsky, Daniel Turcovsky  
 Sat. Mar. 31 - 4:00 PM - Matt Michelone, Claudia Anderson, David Langguth, Fran Semelsberger, Bob Olson  
 Sun. Apr. 1 - 8:00 AM - Joyce Cunningham, Tim Rea  
 Sun. Apr. 1 - 11:00 AM - Susanna Tomlinson, Richard Karcher

##### **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

Thurs. Mar. 29 - 7:00 PM - Dolores Capriotti, Barb Bundy, Bob Olson, Debbie Dougherty, Kenneth Gorman, Susanna Tomlinson  
 Sat. Mar. 31 - 4:00 PM - Daniel Turcovsky, Diane Turcovsky, Mary Truesdale, David Lee, Connie Baker, Barbara Bundy  
 Sun. Apr. 1 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci, Fran Semelsberger  
 Sun. Apr. 1 - 11:00 AM - Donna Moyer, Marilyn Bevan, Cecelia Bloom, Walter Bloom Dolores Capriotti, Lou Ann Clark

##### **MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY:**

Thurs. Mar. 29 - 7:00 PM - Fran Semelsberger, Daniel Turcovsky, Diane Turcovsky, Ed Stoltz  
 Fri. Mar. 30 - 7:00 PM - Darlene Scarpaci, Dennis Moughemer, Karen Moughemer, Fran Semelsberger  
 Sat. Mar. 31 - 4:00 PM - Charlie Moore, NOT FILLED  
 Sun. Apr. 1 - 8:00 AM - Jane Becker, John Becker, Ray Kennedy, Mike O'Neill  
 Sun. Apr. 1 - 11:00 AM - Patrick Podoletz, Peg Madden, Pauline Adams, NOT FILLED

##### **SACRISTAN:**

Thurs. Mar. 29 - 7:00 PM - Barbara Bundy  
 Fri. Mar. 30 - 7:00 PM - NOT FILLED  
 Sat. Mar. 31 - 4:00 PM - Barbara Bundy  
 Sun. Apr. 1 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci  
 Sun. Apr. 1 - 11:00 AM - NOT FILLED

#### **March Prayer Intention of Pope Francis**

##### **FORMATION OF SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT**

That the Church may appreciate the urgency of formation in spiritual discernment, both on the personal and communitarian levels.



## A Few Words from the Pastor:

**Tenebrae** – Please join us for the prayerful observance of “Tenebrae” this Holy Week. The word itself is Latin for “shadows” or “darkness.” The service is unique among our religious practices, because of its focus upon the gradual darkening of the church. Candles are extinguishing, one by one, while a series of readings and psalms are chanted or recited. The church is left in only the darkest of shadows. It is meant to capture the looming darkness which comes upon the world at the death of Christ. *We will be celebrating Tenebrae here at St. Johns on Wednesday evening of Holy Week, with Mass at 7:00 followed by Tenebrae.*

**Holy Thursday Mass and Adoration** – the Mass of the Lord’s Supper is a beautiful time to renew our love for the Eucharist. Following Mass, there is adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the Day Chapel until 10. This time of adoration coincides with the time that Jesus spent in the Garden of Olives after the Last Supper. “Could you not watch with me one hour?”

**Good Friday** – Stations of the Cross will be prayed at noon on Good Friday, with a time of prayer before the cross throughout the day. The Solemn Commemoration of the Passion will be observed at 7:00 on Good Friday evening.

**The Blessing of Easter Baskets: A Cherished Catholic Easter Tradition** - The blessing of the Easter Basket has been a cherished Catholic ritual for centuries among families of Eastern European origin and adopted by people of all ethnic backgrounds who enjoy this richly symbolic custom. On Holy Saturday, families prepare their Easter Baskets to be later blessed at church. After Easter Sunday’s Resurrection Mass, the family and guests would share this blessed fare and exchange good wishes. **Our Easter Basket Blessing here at St. John’s will take place on Holy Saturday at noon.** Please come and bring your baskets!

**Liturgical Reflection...**Today is Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. The Christian world begins its holiest of weeks. Today we enter the sacred city Jerusalem where our Lord is met with shouts of Hosannas, only later to be handed over to crucifixion and death. Lent will end this week before the great Three Days of the Lord’s death and resurrection. Can you name what must die in your life so that new life can enter? For forty days we have fasted, prayed, and given alms. We will die with the Lord, only to rise with him. For the living and the dead, these are the days commemorating our salvation in Jesus Christ. Death and resurrection ground our faith. We dare to enter the holy city to die and rise with our Lord.

**The Easter Vigil** – Considered the “Mother of all Liturgies,” our Easter Vigil will be celebrated at 8:30 PM on Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. At this liturgy we will be welcoming Ashley Greslick into full membership in the Catholic Faith, as she will receive the sacrament of Confirmation and will receive the Eucharist for the first time.

**Easter Masses** - The Glories of the risen Christ will be celebrated at our Easter liturgies on Sunday morning at 8 and 11 o’clock. He is Risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Confessions this week** – I will be available for Confessions this Holy Week on Wednesday at 6:00 PM. Have you made your Lenten confession?

**Remember your Rice Bowls** – Throughout the Lenten Season families have been participating in Operation Rice Bowl as a way of supporting our sister parish in Haiti. Thank you for your kindness, and we ask that these rice bowls be returned to the church at your earliest convenience. I know how much the people of Haiti appreciate what we do for them!

**The Season of Sacramental Life is Upon Us** – With the Easter Season just around the corner, we celebrate the glorious life of Christ and his Church, particularly as the sacramental life of God’s people comes to the fore. On Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, our high school juniors will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation through the ministry of Bishop Mark, and in fellowship with young people from the other city parishes. Our annual Mass of the Anointing of the Sick is scheduled for Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00 PM, and our First Communion will be celebrated here at St. John’s on April 29<sup>th</sup> at the 11:00 Mass.

**Adult Ed** – We will be taking a break from Adult Ed until the Sunday after Easter, when we will continue reflecting on the Encyclical of Pope Francis, “Joy of the Gospel.” As always, all are most welcome.

### UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

March 25 - Easter Egg Hunt  
March 28 - Tenebrae - 7:30 PM  
March 29-April 2 - PARISH OFFICE CLOSED  
March 29 - Mass of the Lord’s Supper - 7:00 PM  
March 30 - Stations of the Cross & Meditations -12:00PM  
March 30 - Observance of the Lord’s Passion - 7:00 PM  
March 31 - Blessing of Easter Baskets - 1200PM  
March 31 - Easter Vigil - 8:30 PM  
April 1 - Easter Sunday Masses at 8:00AM and 11:00AM  
April 22 - Mass of Anointing - 2:00PM  
April 29 - First Communion - 11:00AM

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup> - No Class / Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 1 - No Class / Happy Easter!



The Butterfly is one of the significant symbols of Easter. Its whole life cycle is meant to symbolize the life of Jesus Christ.

- The first stage is the caterpillar, which stands for his life on earth.
- The second phase begins with the cocoon stage, portraying the crucifixion and burial of Jesus.
- The third and final stage is the butterfly, representing his raising from the dead in a glorified body.



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND MEDITATIONS:** Have you ever wondered how the people around Jesus felt as He walked His Passion? Come to Stations of the Cross on Good Friday at noon to find out. This will be the 24th year we have had our unique celebration of Good Friday Stations and Meditations at St. John's. The Meditations come from a writer's idea of the reactions Jesus may have received from people He met along His way to Calvary and reactions of people after His death.

**VISIT FROM FATHER BANIVE PERALTE:** Father Banive, the pastor of our sister parish, Sts. Peter and Paul in Mar-mont, Haiti, will be our guest the weekend of April 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>. You will have a chance to hear from him at all three masses. Other social gatherings will be announced later. Also, there are a few more students waiting for sponsorship. Please check the display in the Gathering Space. The amount is \$150 for the school year. Thank you to all who have already sponsored students.

### PASTORAL STAFF:

- Msgr. Michael Becker *mbecker253@aol.com*
- Deacon Gene Neral *gene@lifeinfofocus.net*
- Mr. Mark Krepich  
RCIA  
*mark.krepich@gmail.com*
- Mr. Patrick Podoletz  
Parish Council President  
*ppodoletz@atlanticbb.net*
- Mrs. Deborah Johnson  
Director of Music/Pastoral Associate  
*dj219@msn.com*
- Mr. & Mrs. Bill & Norma Foose  
Stephen Ministry  
*norma.foose@yahoo.com*
- Mrs. Mary Ann Mirobelli  
Business Manager  
*stjohnchurch@atlanticbb.net*
- Mrs. Mary Haenig  
Religious Education Director  
*mshaenig@gmail.com*
- Mr. Ken Dunmire  
Maintenance

**THE FRIAR'S NOOK GIFT SHOP:** Celebrate Easter and Spring Sacraments by receiving 20% off your entire purchase at The Friar's Nook Gift Shop through the month of March! The Friar's Nook is located across from St. Bernardine Monastery at 793 Monastery Road, Hollidaysburg. The Friar's Nook Gift Shop will be holding an Easter bake sale Monday through Wednesday of Holy Week (March 26<sup>th</sup> – March 28<sup>th</sup>). The bake sale will include Franciscan inspired Easter bread and ethnic cookies. Fresh product brought in daily!

**CONTACT ALTOONA** is currently looking for Volunteers with the power to listen. Sign up for the 2018 Spring Volunteer Training Classes now and obtain the skills necessary to help those in need. Volunteers of CONTACT Altoona are anonymous and take calls from area residents who simply need someone to talk to; a lonely senior, a person in crisis, someone who is limited when it comes to outside interactions. Spring training begins Monday, April 9 and will be every Monday and Tuesday for five weeks from 6:00PM – 8:30PM until it concludes on Tuesday, May 8. . If you are interested in giving back to your community, please call the CONTACT Altoona Administrative Offices at 814-946-0531.

**TEEN SHELTER:** The gift cards for Domino's pizza are very much appreciated so please continue to donate them.

### ST JOHN'S PRAYER LIST

*It is a Spiritual Work of Mercy to pray for the sick. If you know of someone in the parish who is ill or has passed away and in need of prayers, please call Ginny Reeder (695-7671) or email her at [gabby.reeder@gmail.com](mailto:gabby.reeder@gmail.com) to add their name to the prayer 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:*

**Baby Adam • Julie Beiswenger • Millie Bilski • Jen Buda  
Robert Cole • Millie Grace Capon • Mary Lee DeStefano  
Michael DeStefano • Keith DeMastens • Carol Field  
JoAnne Gerardine • Dianna Green • Brian Kopp  
Adam Leiden • Sherri Maffettone • Bryson Miller  
June Miller • Karan Pasquariello • Ron Peschock  
Dave Petrak • Bob & Mary Rajnish • Allison Recker  
Olga Romerowicz • Maureen Smithe • Dianne Stultz  
Tim & Dina Temofonte • Patty Teufel • Lois Werfel  
Noah Wills • Formation of Spiritual Discernment**

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

**Dorothy Roberto**

*May she rest in the peace and joy of the Lord.*

**OUR PARISH FAMILY:** Donna Harpster has been a parishioner at St John's since 1987. Growing up, she was a member of St Mary's Parish in Altoona and attended their elementary school. She worked at Penn State Altoona for 34 years as a Staff Assistant and Event Coordinator, and retired in 2003. Before retiring from Penn State, she began part-time work with the Altoona Curve as an Administrative Assistant. She has continued that work, and now works part-time in their off-season and full-time during baseball season. Donna has a grown son and daughter, and three granddaughters. Her daughter, Barb, is also a parishioner and choir member here. She also has two sisters who live in this area, and said "family is my priority". Last year brought both good times and bad for her family, as her granddaughter Katie was married but two of Donna's nieces were diagnosed with cancer. Both nieces are now in remission, which Donna attributes to "a lot of prayers" including a special healing Mass that the family attended at the Cathedral. Donna sings with our choir and the Hollidaysburg Community Chorus, and is also Secretary of the Altoona Curve Booster Club. Donna said she loves St John's, loves being in our choir, loves the way that Msgr Becker includes the children in the liturgies, and finds our parishioners "very welcoming". She also appreciates the variety of parish activities that are offered, and said she had a "great time" at this year's Mardi Gras. When she occasionally attends Mass elsewhere, she said "I just want to get back to St John's".



*Whether you are a new or longtime parishioner, we'd love to feature you in a future bulletin. We'll only include information that you provide and only what you want us to share. If you're willing, please contact: Cecelia Bloom, at 695-2806 or [ceceb13@verizon.net](mailto:ceceb13@verizon.net).*

**ST. LEONARD'S HOME:** Worried about a loved one? St. Leonard's Home in Hollidaysburg provides medication management, personal hygiene assistance, socialization, meals, housekeeping and a 24 hour staff in a home-like environment. We serve men and women 55+ for whom it is no longer safe to live alone. To tour our beautiful Victorian mansion or for more information, call Sr. Cynthia Meyer at 814-695-9581 during weekday business hours. We are a Catholic facility but accept all eligible applicants, and will assist with financial aid applications where applicable.

## **SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK**

### **Sunday March 25 - Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**

8:00AM-Mass for *People of the Parish*  
11:00AM-Mass for *Matthew Geishauser* requested by Jackie Gates & Jeanie Burger

### **Monday March 26 - Monday of Holy Week**

7:30AM-Eucharistic Adoration  
8:10AM-Morning Prayer  
8:30AM-Mass for *Henri Prosperi* requested by John Prosperi

### **Tuesday March 27 - Tuesday of Holy Week**

7:30AM-Eucharistic Adoration  
8:10AM-Morning Prayer  
8:30AM-Mass for *Edward Bastian*

### **Wednesday March 28 - Wednesday of Holy Week**

6:00PM-Eucharistic Adoration/Confessions  
7:00PM-Mass for *Joan Carney* requested by Jim & Roberta Lowry  
7:30PM - Tenebrae

### **Thursday March 29 - Holy Thursday**

8:30AM-Morning Prayer  
7:00PM-Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by Adoration until 10:00 PM

### **Friday March 30 - Good Friday**

8:30AM-Morning Prayer  
12:00PM - Stations of the Cross And Meditations  
7:00PM - Observance of the Lord's Passion

### **Saturday March 31 - Holy Saturday**

8:30AM-Morning Prayer  
12:00PM- Blessing of the Easter Baskets  
8:30PM-Mass for *People of the Parish*

### **Sunday April 1- Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord**

8:00AM-Mass for *People of the Parish*  
11:00AM-Mass for *People of the Parish*

### **READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: Is 42:1-7; Jn 12:1-11  
Tuesday: Is 49:1-6; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38  
Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a; Mt 26:14-25  
Thursday: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15  
Friday: Is 52:13 -- 53:12; Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn 18:1 -- 19:42







**Promote Your Business**  
**365 Days a Year With**  
**Custom Promotional Calendars!**

Makes a Great Gift For Clients  
**Call for brochure and pricing!**  
**800.566.6170**  
 customercare@jspaluch.com



**COM PROS**  
 INCORPORATED  
 814-946-8100  
 Telephone Systems  
 Two-Way Communications  
 400 Highland Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602  
 www.comprosinc.com



**FRANK'S AUTO SERVICE CENTER**  
 FRANCIS GIVLER, JR., Owner  
 Certified Auto Technician 400 S. Logan Blvd.  
 814-943-4942 Altoona, PA 16602-4102

**FINDaPARISH.com**

**Check It Out Today!**

**The Most Complete**  
**Online National**  
**Directory of**  
**Catholic Parishes**



**VICTOR J. RIZZO, D.C.**  
**CHIROPRACTOR**  
 502 LOGAN BLVD.  
**944-3536**

## HEALTHSOUTH

Rehabilitation Center  
 Regency Square

**ASK FOR US**  
**BY NAME!**

**Pat Leamer, MPT**  
 Physical Therapist  
 Clinic Manager  
 2900 Plank Road, Suite 2  
 Altoona, PA 16602

**(814) 941-0916**

Consider  
 Remembering  
 Your Parish in  
 Your Will.  
 For further information,  
 please call the Parish Office.



## Catholic Cruises and Tours

Brian or Sally, coordinators  
 an Official Travel  
 Agency of  
 Apostleship of  
 the Sea-USA  
**860.399.1785**  
 CST 2117990-70  
 www.CatholicCruisesAndTours.com



**WORKERS' COMPENSATION • CIVIL LITIGATION**  
**EMPLOYMENT/BUSINESS LAW**  
**ESTATES • WILLS • REAL ESTATE**

## If You Live Alone You Need LIFEWatch!

**24 Hour Protection at HOME and AWAY!**  
 ✓ Ambulance Solutions as Low as **\$19.95 a month**  
 ✓ Police  
 ✓ Fire  
 ✓ Friends/Family  
**FREE Shipping**  
**FREE Activation**  
**NO Long Term Contracts**

**CALL NOW! 800.809.3352** No Landline? No Problem!  
 \*Real Time GPS Tracking \*Fall Detection

"I have peace of mind... Mom remains independent."

MONITORED IN THE USA

**LIFEWatchUSA**  
 PERSONAL CARING SERVICE SINCE 1980

ACCREDITED BUSINESS

Please Cut Out This "Thank You Ad" and Present It The Next Time You Patronize One of Our Advertisers

**Thank You**

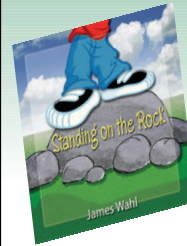
Thank you for advertising in our church bulletin.  
 I am patronizing your business because of it!

## Roland Crevecoeur Jr. M.D. FAAP, MACP



**Pediatric Cardiology and other Medical Consultations, LLC**  
 "Specializing in Pediatrics, Pediatric Heart and Hypertension Disease for nearly a decade in Central PA"  
 1800 North Juniata Street, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648  
**(814) 695-0632 • Accepting New Patients Again**

## Standing on the Rock CD by James Wahl



## FUN AND FAITH-FILLED MUSIC

for little ones, with 10 songs based on Bible stories and the teachings of Jesus.  
 This is a new music collection for preschool children and those who are in early grade school.



**WORLD LIBRARY PUBLICATIONS**  
 the music and liturgy division of J.S. Paluch Company, Inc.

**800-566-6150 • www.wlp.jspaluch.com/14028.htm**



## The Stevens Mortuary, Inc.

Joseph J. Stevens, Supervisor  
 Altoona 944-9365  
**Plank, Stitt & Stevens Funeral Home**  
 David J. Mason, Supervisor  
 Hollidaysburg 695-1551

**Life Matters**

For more information go to  
**www.usccb.org/respectlife**

## Saint Margaret Sunday Missal

An ideal companion for personal prayer.

In Stock & Ready to Order Today.  
**CALL OR ORDER ONLINE. \$39.95**



**800-566-6150 • www.wlpmusic.com**

## ONE PARISH

Download Our Free App or Visit  
**MY.ONEPARISH.COM**

Grow in your faith,  
 find a Mass, and  
 connect with your  
 Catholic Community  
 with OneParish!



## Altoona MEMORIAL STUDIO

When Only The Best Will Do  
**814-942-0101**  
 1006 Pleasant Valley Blvd.  
 Altoona, PA 16602  
 Corner of 10th & Pleasant Valley Blvd.



## Your Catholic Credit Union



all St. John parishioners are eligible to join

**www.arccfu.org • 814-946-0857**

## McAleer's

Since 1886  
**Plumbing, Heating, Air Conditioning**  
 • Registered Master Plumbers • Residential & Commercial  
 • Free Estimates • Neat & Clean Is Our Trademark • Quality Work  
 Non-Smoking Employees • An Altoona Tradition

**1008 Chestnut Ave. • Altoona 942-7153**



## Protecting Seniors Nationwide

## Medical Alert System



**\$29.95/Mo. billed quarterly**

- One Free Month
- No Long-Term Contract
- Price Guarantee
- Easy Self Installation



**Call Today! Toll Free 1.877.801.8608**