

**I was  
blind**

**and now I see**

**MARCH 31, 2019  
FOURTH SUNDAY  
OF LENT**

**St. John the Evangelist Church  
309 Lotz Avenue, Altoona, PA  
814-942-5503**

**[www.stjohnsaltoona.org](http://www.stjohnsaltoona.org)**

**Office hours: Monday - Friday 9:00-3:00**

**UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS**

- April 5 - Stations of the Cross - 7:00 PM
- April 8 - Parish Council Meeting - 7:00 PM
- April 9 - Eucharistic Minister Training - 7:00 PM
- April 12 - Stations of the Cross - 7:00 PM
- April 13 - Love Feast
- April 14 - Second Sunday Food Collection

**APPOINTMENTS**

**ACOLYTES**

- Sat. Apr. 6 - 4:00 PM - NOT FILLED , NOT FILLED
- Sun. Apr. 7 - 8:00 AM - Mai Linh Do, Sarah Geishauser
- Sun. Apr. 7 - 11:00 AM - Estella Koch, Alexandria Auerbeck

**LECTORS**

- Sat. Apr. 6 - 4:00 PM - Maria Spayd, Mark Sloan
- Sun. Apr. 7 - 8:00 AM - Joyce Cunningham, Tim Rea
- Sun. Apr. 7 - 11:00 AM - Claudia Anderson, Patrick Schurr

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

- Sat. Apr. 6 - 4:00 PM - Dorothy Yingling\*
  - Sun. Apr. 7 - 8:00 AM - Daniel Turcovsky\*
  - Sun. Apr. 7 - 11:00 AM - Donna Moyer, Bob Olson, Lou Ann Clark\*
- \*needed only if Deacon Gene is not at Mass*

**MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY**

- Sat. Apr. 6 - 4:00 PM - Betsy Lloyd, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
- Sun. Apr. 7 - 8:00 AM - Fran Semelsberger, Mike O'Neill, Charlie Moore, Ed Stoltz
- Sun. Apr. 7 - 11:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Marilyn Bevan, Peg Madden, Patrick Podoletz

**SACRISTAN**

- Sat. Apr. 6 - 4:00 PM - Mary & Ray King
- Sun. Apr. 7 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci
- Sun. Apr. 7 - 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan

**SCRIP**

- Sat. Apr. 6 - 4:00 PM - Becky Merrill, Julie Beiswenger
- Sun. Apr. 7 - 8:00 AM - Erika & Heather Yasolsky
- Sun. Apr. 7 - 11:00 AM - Peg Madden, Marge Rudolph

**MASS SCHEDULE**

- MONDAY • TUESDAY • THURSDAY • FRIDAY 8:30AM**
- WEDNESDAY 6:00PM**
- SATURDAY - 4:00PM • SUNDAY - 8:00AM & 11:00AM**

**PASTORAL STAFF:**

- Msgr. Michael Becker** *mbecker253@aol.com*
- Deacon Gene Neral** *gene@lifeinfocus.net*
- Mr. Patrick Podoletz** Parish Council President  
*ppodoletz@atlanticbb.net*
- Mrs. Mary Ann Mirobelli** Business Manager  
*stjohnchurch@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. Megan Swope** Religious Education Director  
*mswope726@gmail.com*
- Mr. Mark Krepich** Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults  
*mark.krepich@gmail.com*
- Mr. Ken Dunmire** Maintenance

## A Few Words from the Pastor:

**PARISHIONERS "ARISING"** – We are most grateful to Jane Becker for her leadership in coordinating the Arise Program for our parish. We are also appreciative of the time and energy given by our small group leaders. There are 103 parishioners participating this Lent. That is a 10% increase from the fall session! We are truly "arising" to encounter in new and enriching ways the mystery of Christian Discipleship!

**WHAT ARE THE "SCRUTINIES"?** – On the middle three Sundays of Lent, (3, 4, 5), there are very special rites celebrated at liturgies where the Elect are present. The Elect are those in our midst who are preparing for Baptism. The scrutinies are rites for self-searching and repentance and have above all a spiritual purpose. The scrutinies are meant to uncover, and then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good. These rites, should complete the conversion of the elect and deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ and to carry out their decision to love God above all. Mandy Aungst is our Elect, and we pray for her she approaches the saving waters of Baptism this Easter Vigil.

**MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY** – This Sunday, March 31, after all Masses, we will be recruiting for the Ministry of Hospitality in our parish. The responsibilities are manageable and the rewards are great. Greeting people as they arrive at Mass, taking up the collection, and distributing bulletins are the principal tasks. You are already coming to Mass. Come early and be the welcoming face of the parish!

**MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST** – Next Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, we will be recruiting Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist. This ministry gives one a more intimate sharing in the Mass, as these ministers share the Bread of Life and the Cup of Blessing at Mass. There will then be a special training session on Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM in the Church.

**OUR LENTEN DISPLAY** – You will see in the Gathering Space a moving display of the Cross of Christ, with the smaller crosses of those crucified with him. Take a nail from the basket nearby and place it in one of the crosses, indicating an effort that you are making in prayer, fasting or almsgiving for the Lenten Season. You may wish to place one each time you come to Mass during this Lent. Perhaps you may wish to carry a nail in your pocket for a week as a reminder of this sacred time of penance.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** - We would like to place a greater focus on the Stations of the Cross, a venerated tradition in the Catholic Faith in which we journey with Christ to Calvary. Stations are observed each Friday of Lent at 7:00 PM. Mark your calendar, and make a mental note to walk in the steps of Jesus this Lent.

**RESTORE! REPAIR! REJOICE!** – We are most grateful for the generous response we have gotten thus far to our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary capital campaign. We have received 73 gifts and pledges, and we are still early in our campaign. Brochures and pledge cards are still available in the Gathering Space. A visible result of this campaign will be the replacement of the padding on our kneelers, which has been worn thin over the years and about which many have expressed concern. We have been in contact with the company which installed them, and are proceeding.

**TRIP TO LONGWOOD GARDENS** – Take a leap into spring by coming on a bus trip to Longwood Gardens on Saturday, April 27. Longwood Gardens is the living legacy of Pierre S. du Pont, inspiring people through excellence in garden design, horticulture, education, and the arts. It consists of over 1,077 acres of gardens, woodlands, and meadows in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, in the Brandywine Creek Valley. It is one of the premier horticultural display gardens in the United States. Our chartered bus will leave the St. John's parking lot at 7:00AM, returning by 11:00PM. The cost per person is \$90. You may sign up in the Gathering Space.

**APRIL FOOLS' DAY** – Its origins are obscure. The predominant theory holds that it dates from about 1582, the year France adopted the Gregorian Calendar, which switched the beginning of the new year from what is now the end of March (around the time of the vernal equinox) to the first of January. According to popular lore, some folks, out of ignorance, stubbornness, or both, continued to ring in the New Year on April first and were made the butt of jokes and pranks on account of their "foolishness." This became an annual celebration which ultimately spread throughout Europe and other parts of the world.

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS**

### **Religious Education Schedule**

March 31: No class

April 7: Class in session - 9:15 AM - 10:45 AM

April 7: ALL 11th grade confirmation students, including BG students - Rite of Sending Forth at 11AM mass with candidate/sponsor mandatory meeting to follow immediately

*Any questions regarding Religious Education classes or schedule, please contact Megan Swope at [mwswope726@gmail.com](mailto:mwswope726@gmail.com) or (814)631-8273*

**THE CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION** : This week, we take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection to help Jesus in disguise. This collection helps six Catholic agencies provide relief and support to struggling communities and work for peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters here and around the world. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection. Learn more about the collection at [www.usccb.org/catholic-relief](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-relief).

**LOVE FEAST:** For those who have taken slips for non-perishables, we will need them returned to the gathering space under the identified coat rack by Monday, April 8. Our final committee meeting will be Tuesday, April 9 at 6 PM in the church gathering space.

**TOILETRIES NEEDED:** The American Rescue Mission is in need of toilet articles (soaps, razors, toilet paper, toothpaste/toothbrushes, shampoos etc) for their clients. Please place in the PINK BASKETS in the Gathering Space during this Lenten Season!

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER:** Through Baptism, we see the light that is Jesus Christ. May we be the light in the darkness of today's world through the wise use our time, talent, and treasure.

### **Stewardship at St. John's**

#### *Offertory for March 24*

Envelopes	\$ 3,134.00
Loose	\$ 678.00
Children's	\$ 5.00
Ash Wednesday	\$ 1.00
<i>SubTotal</i>	<i>\$ 3,818.00</i>
Online Giving	\$ 1,518.00
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 5,336.00</b>

#### ***Restore\*Repair\*Rejoice***

Payments/Donations	\$73,817
Pledge Payment Collectible	\$41,966
Total Pledges/Donations	\$115,783

**2018 giving statements are available by calling the Parish Office at 814-942-5503. You can also download your statement by logging in to My Own Church.**

## **ST JOHN'S PRAYER LIST**

Please call Ginny Reeder (695-7671) or email her at [gabby.reeder@gmail.com](mailto:gabby.reeder@gmail.com) to add or remove someone from 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 • Baby Aiden • Cari Ann • Judy Baird  
Jen Buda • Robert Cole • Millie Grace Capon  
Mary Lee DeStefano • Michael DeStefano • Jim Duffy  
Charlie Elder • Helen Fornwalt • Leann Frazier  
Fran Fulare • Dianna Green • Ken Hartman  
Karen Horton • Boni Javier • Brian Kopp • Lisa  
Sherri Maffettone • Ron Merilli • Bryson Miller  
June Miller • Barbara Moore • Patricia Olson  
Mary Oricko • Jeff Price • Karen Price • Ron Peschock  
Mary Rajnish • Allison Recker • Olga Romerowicz  
Mike Rudolph • Anne Showalter • Dianne Stultz  
Patti Sweet • Tim & Dina Temofonte • Patty Teufel  
Lois Werfel • Noah Wills • Amber Yasolsky  
Milan & Family**

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

**Bishop Joseph Adamec**

**Irene Sloan, mother of Mark (Joanne) Sloan  
Daniel J. Sclafani, brother of Mary (Ray) King  
May they rest in the peace and joy of the Lord.**

**SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SHOE DRIVE UPDATE:** Thanks to all who have donated shoes. Our parish donated 36 pairs of shoes last weekend, bringing the total to 134! This is the last weekend to donate shoes. Thank you!

### ***STAY INFORMED AND ENGAGED IN DIOCESAN NEWS:***

The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown has launched an online newspaper *Proclaim!: The Good News of Altoona-Johnstown* featuring diocesan news, information, and commentary – including happenings at parishes and schools. Visit the site at [proclaim.dioceseaj.org](http://proclaim.dioceseaj.org) and sign up for regular e-mail updates delivered to your inbox. Beginning soon, monthly editions of *The Catholic Register* will be available here at the parish.

**LOVE IN AN AGE OF LONELINESS:** A Day Retreat on the Family. An opportunity to reflect on marriage and home life and be inspired by the Catholic vision for the family. Featuring talks by well-known speakers and authors Kimberly Hahn and Mike Aquilina, Mass with Bishop Mark, Confession, Adoration, and lunch. Saturday, June 22nd, starting at 9am at St. Joseph's Catholic Academy in Boalsburg, PA. The first 100 to register will receive a free copy of *The First Society* by Scott Hahn. Spaces are limited. Register at: <https://stjoacad.org/love-in-an-age-of-loneliness/>

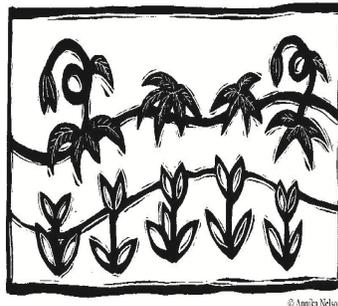
**2019 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE:** Thank you to all parishioners who have responded. Please join them in supporting our parish and a select group of ministries that provide outreach to the poor, family life, youth and seminarians. If you did not receive a pledge card in the mail, extra envelopes are available in the Gathering Space, or you may give online at [www.dioceseaj.org](http://www.dioceseaj.org). 100% of your gift goes directly to these ministries! On behalf of these vital ministries, thank you for your sacrificial gifts of prayer and treasure.

**SPRING INTO SPRING:** Next Sunday, APRIL 7, after the 11 o'clock Mass, we plan to meet in the day chapel to discuss ideas and plans for grounds maintenance. Anyone who is, has been or wants to be involved in keeping our plantings attractive is encouraged to attend. In the meantime, you will note that mulch has been delivered to 2 areas. We would like to at least have mulch distributed in front of the church by Easter. Feel free at your convenience to enter the shed next to the rectory to borrow a wheelbarrow, shovel, rake, etc. to use. If you have any questions, please let Joyce Cunningham know: 695-5346 or, for texts, 814-874-5678.

**FAMILY HOSPICE SEEKS NEW VOLUNTEERS:** Family Hospice, Part of UPMC HNA (Home Nursing Agency), is now recruiting volunteers. Volunteers have the rewarding privilege of supporting patients with life-limiting illnesses and their caregivers through a significant and inevitable season of life. Hospice volunteers make an impact in various ways, such as visiting with patients, providing relief for caregivers, making phone calls, supporting grieving family members, and more. Volunteer involvement is determined by the individual's skills, desires, and schedule. Specialized training is provided for new volunteers. For more information or to apply as a volunteer, contact Catherine Zimmerman-Moyer at 814-502-5948 or visit [homenursingagency.com](http://homenursingagency.com).

**Liturgical Reflection...** The devotion prompting the faithful to visit the Blessed Sacrament draws them into an even deeper share in the paschal mystery and leads them to respond gratefully to the gift of him who through his humanity pours divine life into the members of his Body. Abiding with Christ the Lord, the faithful enjoy the Lord's intimate friendship and pour out their hearts before him for themselves and for those dear to them, and they pray for the peace and salvation of the world. Offering their entire lives with Christ to the Father in the Holy Spirit, believers derive from the Holy Sacrament an increase in faith, hope, and charity. Order for the Solemn Exposition of the Holy Eucharist, Introduction, Number 5.

2019, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 South Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648



Fourth Sunday of Lent  
March 31, 2019

Whoever is in Christ is a new creation:  
the old things have passed away;  
behold, new things have come.

— 2 Corinthians 5:17

## SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

### **Sunday March 31 - Fourth Sunday of Lent**

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

11:00AM-Mass for *Edward Bastian* requested by  
Rich & Joyce Lowe

### **Monday April 1 - Lenten Weekday**

7:30AM-Eucharistic Adoration

8:10AM-Morning Prayer

8:30AM-Mass for *Cheryl Marier*

### **Tuesday April 2 - Lenten Weekday**

7:30AM-Eucharistic Adoration

8:10AM-Morning Prayer

8:30AM- Mass for *Daniel Monahan*

### **Wednesday April 3 - Lenten Weekday**

5:00PM-Eucharistic Adoration/Confessions

6:00PM-Mass for *Joe Robeson*

6:45PM-Rosary

### **Thursday April 4 - Lenten Weekday**

7:30AM-Eucharistic Adoration

8:10AM-Morning Prayer

8:30AM- Mass for *Tiffany Mickens* requested by  
Linda Weyandt, her aunt

### **Friday April 5 - Lenten Weekday**

7:30AM-Eucharistic Adoration

8:30AM-Morning Prayer & Communion Service

7:00PM - Stations of the Cross

### **Saturday April 6 - Vigil of Fifth Sunday of Lent**

3:00 PM - Confessions

4:00PM-Mass for *Hilda Neal* requested by  
Bernie & Julie Beiswenger

### **Sunday April 7 - Fifth Sunday of Lent**

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

11:00AM-Mass for *Serena Stevens* requested by  
Brenda & Joe Franco

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30

Thursday: Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23;  
Jn 5:31-47

Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30





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