



Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment,
so that those who do not see might see,
and those who do see might become blind."

John 9:39

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 22, 2020

**St. John the Evangelist Church
309 Lotz Avenue, Altoona, PA 814-942-5503
www.stjohnsaltoona.org
Office hours: Monday - Friday 9:00-3:00**

PASTORAL STAFF

Monsignor Michael Becker - mbecker253@aol.com

Deacon Gene Neral - gene@lifeinfocus.net

Mr. Chris Ringkamp - Parish Council President chris@icfdaj.org

Ms. Jena Bowman - 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 - Director of Faith Formation mswope726@gmail.com

Mr. Mark Krepich - Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults mark.krepich@gmail.com

Mr. Ken Dunmire - Maintenance

MARY, HEALTH OF THE SICK

This ancient image of Mary, Health of the People of Rome, was visited by Pope Francis recently as he prayed for all those suffering from the corona virus.

May his prayer be ours:



O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.
You know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.
Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

A Few Words from the Pastor:

MAKING A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION - For Catholics, perhaps the single most direct consequence of the corona-virus lockdowns is the inability to get to Mass on Sunday. Moreover, there's the very real prospect that many Catholics may be forced to watch Holy Week liturgies on TV or their computers rather than attending in person and receiving the Eucharist.

In light of the restrictions related to the virus, this may be a good time to dust off the traditional concept of "spiritual communion," meaning a type of participation in the Mass for people who, for one reason or another, are not able to get to church. St. Thomas Aquinas once defined a Spiritual Communion as "an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament and in lovingly embracing Him as if we had actually received Him."

In a nutshell, the idea is that the desire to receive the Eucharist is a grace in itself, and, if one offers up that desire in prayer to God, it can become an occasion for even greater grace and spiritual growth. The most common prayer for a Spiritual Communion is one given us by St. Alphonsus Liguori:

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

WORDS FROM POPE FRANCIS: In the face of the suffering in Italy due to the corona virus, on Monday morning at Mass Pope Francis offered these words of encouragement: "I am thinking of families who are cooped up. May the Lord help them to discover new ways, new expressions of love, of living together in this new situation. It's a beautiful opportunity to creatively rediscover affection.... Let's pray for families so that the relationships within the family at this moment might flourish always for the good."

PRAY, FAST, GIVE ALMS! This is what the Lord asks of us in Lent! Daily Mass is certainly an option for your Lenten observance, as are Stations of the Cross. Fasting is how we learn to say "no" to ourselves and "yes" to God and to others. When one fasts, someone else must eat in their place. This leads to Almsgiving. Our Catholic Ministries Drive is a graced opportunity to give to the support of the Church in meeting the countless needs of the poor and underprivileged of our diocese.



CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE – *Ignite Your Faith* for Christ's Mission has been launched throughout our Diocese. During Lent and throughout the year, we are challenged to renew our spiritual devotions and duties – and one of those holy duties is to support the Church. Thank you for supporting these vital ministries with sacrificial gifts of prayer and treasure. 100% of your donation goes directly to these ministries. Our parish goal is \$44,423. If EVERY-

PARISH SCHEDULE

All Daily and Weekend Masses and Stations of the Cross are cancelled until further notice.

Sunday Mass will continue to be broadcast at 11:00 AM on Sundays with Bishop Mark as the presider.

These broadcasts will be available on the Diocesan website and social media.

All parish gatherings and meetings are also cancelled until further notice.

FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE

All Faith Formation classes and events have been cancelled until further notice.

ONLINE OFFERTORY: If you find yourself away from St. John's for any reason 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" page and follow the instructions to create an account and schedule your contributions.* If you want to continue to place your envelope in the basket when you are present at Mass, just check the "I gave online" box. You can also drop the envelope in the mailbox outside the Parish Center on Lotz Avenue or mail your contribution envelopes to our office – 309 Lotz Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602. Thank you!



STEWARSHIP CORNER: The curing of the Blind Man gave hope to the community that they were deserving of God's love no matter what their circumstance. Reflect on the words of Pope Francis this week, "To protect creation, to protect every man and every woman, to look upon them with tenderness and love, is to open up a horizon of hope; it is to let a shaft of light break through the heavy clouds; it is to bring warmth of hope!" (Pope Francis, March 19, 2013)

May I be the light in the darkness of this world by generously sharing my time, my talents, and all of my resources, in the name of Jesus.

Stewardship at St. John's

March 15, 2020

Envelopes	\$ 3,270.00
Loose	\$ 541.00
Children's Offerings	\$ 2.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 85.00
<i>SubTotal</i>	\$ 3,898.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,468.00
Total Offertory	\$ 5,366.00

Second Sunday Food Collection - \$330

Restore*Repair*Rejoice

Payments/Donations \$143,032
Pledge Payment Committed \$31,335
Total Pledges/Donations \$174,367

2020 Catholic Ministries Drive Goal - \$44,423

Payments/Donations \$18,550
Pledge Payments Committed \$1,000
Total Gifts \$19,550

ST JOHN'S PRAYER LIST

Please call Ginny Reeder (695-7671) or email her at gyny.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 • Baby Maddie • Cari Ann James Aubrey • Julie Beiswenger • Robert Cole Millie Grace Capon • Betty Dennis Michael DeStefano • Jim Duffy • Bernadine Farrell Kathy Felty • Christine Finklestine • Helen Fornwalt Leann Frazier • Molly Grenfell • Randy Horton Brian Kopp • Lisa • Joan Litzinger • Sherri Maffettone Bryson Miller • Mildred Miller • Susie Miller Barbara Moore • Donna Moyer • Ailani Myers • Nancy Patricia Olson • Mary Oricko • Linda Pletcher Karen Price • Ron Peschock • Mary Rajnish Allison Recker • Vicki Riley • Allison Ritchey Olga Romerowicz • Cari Roth • Mike Rudolph Fr. Robert Rustin • Peggy Seiler • Anne Showalter Tim & Dina Temofonte • Patty Teufel • Lois Werfel Carol White • William Wieland • Noah Wills **Milan & Family**

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

Melanie Hesser, niece of Father Jim Coveney

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

Please respect the person's right to privacy and secure permission before placing a name on the Prayer List.

When a person recovers, please call the office and have their name removed from the list.

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 to provide struggling communities with relief and support and to 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.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13b; Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Ps 40:7-11; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38

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

Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-21, 23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12; Jn 7:40-53

Sunday: Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-8; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]

As we grow closer to Easter this week,
we focus on Virtues!

Virtue is God's big, bright blinking neon sign
pointing to the BEST VERSION OF YOURSELF
saying "Happiness this way!"



So choose a rock from the Lent Scene and
keep it with you and focus on that particular virtue
as we grow closer to God!

Prudence

Find the good in every situation
And choose to do it

Justice

Give both God & neighbor
Everything they deserve

Fortitude

Strength to resist temptation,
Overcome obstacles and conquer fear

Temperance

Balance in use of created things,
using them in moderation & for good



The habit to do the good &
give the best of yourself!

VIRTUES:

cardinal- through education
and effort with the
help of grace.

Theological- Through,
with and for God

The goal of a virtuous
Life is to be like GOD!

Faith

Belief in God &
belief
in all He has said
and revealed to
us

Hope

Desire for the
Kingdom of
Heaven, placing
our trust in
Christ's promises

Charity

Love God above
all things for His
own sake and our
neighbor as ourself



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

**COM
PROS**
INCORPORATED

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

**VICTOR J. RIZZO, D.C.**

CHIROPRACTOR

502 LOGAN BLVD.

944-3536

AUTO • HOMEOWNERS
LIFE • BUSINESS
COMMERCIAL
Elaine Ormsby
814.206.0080
elaine@imperialagency.com
Now Servicing Altoona
and Surrounding Areas

**Get this weekly bulletin delivered by email - for FREE!**

Sign up here:

<https://www.jspaluch.com/BulletinSubscribe.aspx>

Courtesy of J.S. Paluch Company, Inc.



FRANK'S AUTO SERVICE CENTER
FRANCIS GIVLER, JR., Owner

Certified Auto Technician 400 S. Logan Blvd.
814-943-4942 Altoona, PA 16602-4102

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"*1890 North Juniata Street, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648
(814) 695-0632 • Accepting New Patients Again**FINDaPARISH.com**

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

Check It Out Today!

• LeafGuard®
is guaranteed
never to clog or
we'll clean it for
FREE*

- Seamless, one-piece system keeps out leaves, pine needles, and debris
- Eliminates the risk of falling off a ladder to clean clogged gutters
- Durable, all-weather tested system not a flimsy attachment

Catholic Cruises and Tours and The Apostleship
of the Sea of the United States of America

Take your FAITH ON A JOURNEY.

Call us today at 860-399-1785 or email
eileen@CatholicCruisesandTours.comwww.CatholicCruisesandTours.com

(CST 2117890-70)

**Encompass Health**

Rehabilitation Hospital of Altoona

2005 Valley View Boulevard
Altoona, PA 16602**(814) 944-3535**Offering Physical Therapy,
Occupational Therapy,
& Speech Therapy

Ask For Us By Name!!!

Say Good-bye to Clogged Gutters!Receive a \$25 Lowe's Gift Card
with an in-home estimate!

All participants who attend an estimated 60-90 minute in-home products consultation will receive a \$25 gift card. Offer sponsored by LeafGuard Holdings Inc. Limit one per household. Company purchases, sells, and installs seamless gutter protection. This offer is valid for homeowners over 18 years of age. If married or involved with a life partner, both cohabitating individuals must be able to understand English and be capable of reading and understanding a contract. The following persons are not eligible for this offer: employees of Company or affiliated companies or entities, their immediate families, previous participants in a Company in-home consultation, and persons who have participated in a previous consultation with another company. Gift card may not be extended, transferred, or substituted except that Company may substitute a gift of equal or greater value if it deems necessary. Gift card will be mailed to the participant via first class United States Mail within 21 days of receipt of the completed survey. Not valid for any other offers or discounts. No cash value or exchange of any kind. Offer not sponsored or promoted by Lowe's and is subject to change without notice prior to reservation. Expires 3/31/20.

*Guaranteed not to clog for as long as you own your home, or we'll clean your gutters for free.

• Good
HOUSING
GUARANTEE

LeafGuard®
Get it. And forget it.®

**The Stevens Mortuary, Inc.**

Joseph J. Stevens, Supervisor

Altoona 944-9365

Plank, Stitt & Stevens Funeral Home

David J. Mason, Supervisor

Hollidaysburg 695-1551

If You Live Alone You Need MDMedAlert!

✓ Ambulance 24 Hour Protection at HOME and AWAY!

✓ Police

✓ Fire

✓ Friends/Family

FREE Shipping

FREE Activation

NO Long Term Contracts

\$19.95 a month



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

MDMedAlert
Safe-Guarding America's Seniors Nationwide!

**GPS Tracking w/Fall Detection
Nationwide, No Land Line Needed****EASY Set-up, NO Contract
24/7 365 Monitoring in the USA**This Button SAVES Lives!
As Shown GPS, Lowest Price Guaranteed!**ONE PARISH**Download Our Free App or Visit
MY.ONEPARISH.COMGrow in your faith,
find a Mass, and
connect with your
Catholic Community
with OneParish!

**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

378660 St John the Evangelist Church

Your Catholic Credit Union**WRC**
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

all St. John parishioners are eligible to join

www.arcfcu.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

Please Cut Out This "Thank You" 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!

www.jspaluch.com

For Ads: J.S. Paluch Co., Inc. 1-800-945-6629