

**Third Sunday of Lent**  
**March 12, 2023**

**St. John the Evangelist Church**  
**309 Lotz Avenue, Altoona, PA 814-942-5503**  
**[www.stjohnsaltoona.org](http://www.stjohnsaltoona.org)**

**PASTORAL STAFF**

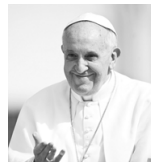
Monsignor Michael Becker - mbecker253@aol.com  
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Ken Dunmire - Maintenance

**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**

**March Prayer Intention of Pope Francis**  
**For Victims of Abuse**

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.



**NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS**

**LECTORS**

Sat. Mar. 18 - 4:00 PM - Maria Spayd , NOT FILLED  
Sat. Mar. 19 - 8:00 AM - Diane Turcovsky, Daniel Turcovsky  
Sun. Mar. 19 - 11:00 AM - Bob Olson, Jim Campbell

**ALTAR SERVERS**

Sat. Mar. 18 - 4:00 PM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED  
Sat. Mar. 19 - 8:00 AM- Emily Miller, Chloe Truscello  
Sun. Mar. 19 - 11:00 AM - Aidan Schurr, Colin Schurr

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

Sat. Mar. 18 - 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, NOT FILLED  
Sun. Mar. 19 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci  
Sun. Mar. 19 - 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Barbara Bundy

**MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY**

Sat. Mar. 18 - 4:00 PM - Betsy Lloyd, Billy Sweet, Dennis Moughemer, Karen Moughemer  
Sat. Mar. 19 - 8:00 AM - Ginny Reeder, Ed Stoltz, Larry VanSickel, Paula VanSickel  
Sun. Mar. 19 - 11:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Wendy Campbell, Patrick Podoletz, Peg Madden

**SACRISTAN**

Sat. Mar. 18 - 4:00 PM - Ray & Mary King  
Sat. Mar. 19 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci  
Sun. Mar. 19 - 11:00 AM - Dolores Capriotti

**SCRIP**

Sat. Mar. 18 - 4:00 PM - Becky Merilli, Christopher Palazzi  
Sat. Mar. 19 - 8:00 AM - Erika & Heather Yasolsky  
Sun. Mar. 19 - 11:00 AM - Jane Byrne, Carolyn English

## A Few Words from the Pastor:

**OUR GRATITUDE** – Many thanks to all those who have “taken a step” in their sacred giving to the parish! God is never outdone in generosity. May His blessings be upon you in abundance!

**OUR COMMITMENT TO STEWARDSHIP!** We might best consider Lent as our “Stewardship Season”! We are grateful to those who have already pledged for the coming year and encourage prayerful reflection on the measure of our giving in return for God’s many blessings. Our pledge of prayer, service and sacrificial giving is our commitment to the ways in which we can give ourselves to God’s work, commit our lives to God’s service, and use our blessings to build up God’s kingdom. We have mailed to each household a brightly colored brochure: **Sacred Giving in a World of Plenty**, which is particularly instructive, as you consider “taking a step” in your commitment to the financial support of our parish. Remember that your giving will not only help St. John’s meet its rising operating expenses, but it will do YOU a world of spiritual good!!

**FEEDING THE HUNGRY!** As was reported in last Monday’s edition of the Altoona Mirror, the SNAP program, (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), is being cut, so that families in need will receive significantly less assistance. This will affect not only families, but senior citizens. Your generosity to our Second Sunday Food collection is so very important. Cash donations can be placed in the collection at any time and are always deeply appreciated.

**PENANCE SERVICE** - Our Lenten Penance Service is next Sunday, March 19, at 4:00 PM. This is a great opportunity to make your Lenten confession and to receive the Lord’s forgiveness as you prepare for Easter. A number of priests from the Altoona Area will assist with this penance service. We hope to see you there.

**SAINT PATRICK’S DAY** - Bishop Mark Bartchak has granted a dispensation from the obligation of Catholics in the diocese to abstain from meat on Friday, March 17, 2023, the Feast of Saint Patrick. Any Catholic in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown who chooses to accept this dispensation should perform some other act of penance in its place. Catholics who choose to observe the traditional Lenten abstinence from meat on that day are not required to perform any other penitential acts.

**CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE 2023** –Today is Commitment Sunday for the 2023 Catholic Ministries Drive – TOGETHER WE SERVE. Your sacrificial gifts of prayer and treasure will make an immediate impact on ministries that care for the poor, strengthen family life, nurture our youth, and provide leadership development for clergy and laity. 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. We are challenged to open our eyes and see those in our midst that bring hope to life through their time and talent in serving the community through the 14 ministries supported by the Catholic Ministries Drive. If you didn’t bring your Commitment Card to Mass this weekend, please bring it next weekend, or you can send it in the mail or make an online gift at [www.dioceseaj.org/giving](http://www.dioceseaj.org/giving).

**A SPRING TRIP TO LONGWOOD GARDENS** – On Monday, May 13, we are planning a bus trip to Longwood Gardens, one of the premier gardens in the United States. We will be departing at 7:00 AM from our parking lot, with a rest stop on the way, and will be returning by 10:00 PM. You are encouraged to take a lunch on the bus. For lunch or dinner, there is a wonderful restaurant at the Gardens which is open until 4. The cost per person is \$115, which includes travel, entrance to the gardens, and a tip for our driver. To make reservations, call the parish office at 814-942-5503.

*You're Invited!*

**BRUNCH FOR THE WHOLE BUNCH!** Please join us in Fr. Bailey Hall (gym) after the 11:00 AM Mass on Sunday, March 19 for brunch during our Easter Egg Hunt. Everyone is welcome! Enjoy a bite to eat while the children hunt for eggs. Even if you don’t have any children participating in the Egg Hunt, please join us for the brunch and enjoy the fellowship of our parish community. We hope to see you there!

Adoration  
of the  
Blessed Sacrament



**EUCHARISTIC ADORATION AND STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** In an attempt to encourage greater participation for Stations, and to promote a greater love for the Holy Eucharist, our Friday evening devotions will begin at 5:00 with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, with Stations of the Cross beginning at 5:30. Stations will conclude with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Please consider joining us!



## Schedule for the Week of March 12

### Sunday, March 12 - The Third Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM - Mass for *Bob Cooney* requested by  
Ginger Cooney

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

### Monday, March 13 - Lenten Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Tom Semelsberger* requested by  
Barb & Dave Hastings

### Tuesday, March 14 - Lenten Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Mary Ann Rossman* requested by  
David & Bonnie Loth

### Wednesday, March 15 - Lenten Weekday

5:30 PM - Confessions

6:00 PM - Mass for *Patricia Ward-Johnson* requested by  
St. Rose of Lima Legion of Mary

### Thursday, March 16 - Lenten Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass For *Frank Ringkamp* requested by  
Ron & Becky Merilli

### Friday, March 17 - Lenten Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass For *Rita Fromknecht* requested by  
The Fromknecht Family

5:00 PM - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

5:30 PM - Stations of the Cross

### Saturday, March 18 - Vigil of The Fourth Sunday of Lent

4:00 PM - Mass for *Cheryl Ann Cherry* requested by  
Bob & Ginny Reeder

### Sunday, March 19 - The Fourth Sunday of Lent

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

11:00 AM - Mass for *Donald Tatar* requested by  
Chris & Iris Tatar

#### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc, 8-9;  
Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20;  
Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Lk 11:14-23

Friday: Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-11ab, 14, 17; Mk 12:28-34

Saturday: Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab;  
Lk 18:9-14

Sunday: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23:1-6; Eph 5:8-14;  
Jn 9:1-41[1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]

#### PENANCE SERVICES IN OUR AREA:

St. Matthew, Tyrone - March 13 @ 7:00 PM

St. Mary, Altoona - March 15 @ 5:30 PM

St. John the Evangelist, Altoona - March 19 @ 4:00 PM

Saint Therese, Altoona - March 25 @ 10:00 AM

St. Rose of Lima, Altoona - March 26 @ 5:00 PM

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Altoona - March 27 @ 7:00 PM

Cathedral, Altoona - March 29 @ 6:00 PM

Our Lady of Lourdes, Altoona - March 30 @ 5:30 PM

St. Mary, Hollidaysburg - April 2 @ 4:00 PM

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER:** Jacob's well is a very important part of the Old Testament and New Testament belief in God's providence. It has provided water for people of the Holy Land since the time of Abraham. The conversion of the Samaritan woman after her personal encounter with Jesus Christ is an example of God's unifying love. She is transformed by faith to take action.

More than 844 million people did not have access to safe water even in the year 2020. This continues to cause dehydration, disease from lack of sanitation, and political turmoil. As good stewards and caretaker of the earth you and your entire family can take time to become more aware of the amount of water that you use daily and take action to eliminate wasteful habits. Every small act can contribute to big steps of change.

(*Stewardship Reflection*, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, Inc. 2020/02/07)

#### February 25/26

Envelopes	\$ 2,935.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 612.00
Children's Offering	\$ 10.00
Ash Wednesday	\$ 76.00
Parish Development	\$ 185.00
Black & Indian Missions	\$ 133.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,834.00
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 5,524.00</b>

2023 Catholic Ministries Drive Goal - \$41,761

**2023 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS** are available upon request. Please call the Parish Office at 814-942-5503 to request your giving statement. **A contribution statement will not be mailed to you unless you call the office to request it.** If you are registered with My Own Church, you can log in and download your statement yourself.

**SAVING "SOLES":** The Boy Scouts of Troop 49 have collected over **3,285** pairs of new and gently used shoes! **Thank you** to everyone who helped us meet and exceed our goal!

**Boy Scout Troop 49 wants to thank you for all your support - we couldn't have done it without you!**

#### ARE YOU, A FRIEND, OR FAMILY MEMBER GRIEVING THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE?

Grief is a long and lonely journey. Please consider joining us for **Sharing the Journey**, an ongoing bereavement support group that will meet on the third Tuesday of each month. Our next meeting is on **Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>** from 6:00 to 7:30 at the St. John's Parish Center. These informal gatherings are intended to provide the opportunity to share, or to listen to others who have experienced loss, and to open our hearts to Jesus.

There is no need to pre-register. You are welcome to come as often as you would like. For more information contact Mary Petrak, (814) 502-6076

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

Please call Ginny Reeder (695-7671) or email her at [giny.reeder@gmail.com](mailto:giny.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:*

**Aiden • Seth Alexander • Janine Anna • Joshua Banks  
Bernie Beiswenger • Diane Blyler • Scott Brenneman  
Dan Burley • Cari Ann • Michelle Cooney  
Ron Cunningham • Flo Dancha • Mary Lee DeStefano  
Michael DeStefano • Charlie Elder • Kathy Felty  
Leann Frazier • Ed Garlena • Gerry Gonsman  
Sherryl Hartman • Bill Hoefler • Don James  
Nancy James • Lisa Jimenez • Tim Jimenez  
Marianne Jones • Neveah Langenbacher • Lisa  
Elsie MacCullagh • Sherri Maffettone  
Genevieve Mathias • Angela Mazzei • Susie Miller  
Karrie McCall • James Mclarren • Sylvia Louise Mills  
Donna Moyer • Ailani Myers • Deacon Gene Neral  
Patricia Olson • Linda O'Sullivan • Sara Parrish  
Mary Rajnish • Ryan Raybuck • Allison Recker  
Bette Richards • Vicki Riley • John Rita • Carol Rodgers  
Olga Romerowicz • Mike Rudolph • Bruce Shank  
Anne Showalter • Betsy Slat • David Sunderland  
Patty Swanson • Rick Swanson • Tim Temofonte  
Marion Tessitore • Mary Truesdale • Kathy Wagner  
Lois Werfel**

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

***Joy Lynn Soliday-Arend, sister-in-law of  
Mary Grace and Michael Horton***

**LENTEN PARISH MISSION:** Holy Name Parish, Ebensburg is sponsoring a Lenten Parish Mission with Fr. Vincent Lampert, Exorcist for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. He is also pastor of St. Peter and St. Michael Parishes in Brookville, Indiana. The mission will take place on Monday and Tuesday, March 13 and 14 at 7:00 P.M. in the church. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**GARVEY MANOR SALE:** From now until May 9, friends of the community at Garvey Manor, will be collecting items for a sale that will benefit residents on the campus. If you have household items, garage items, decorations, books, paintings that you want to donate, take those items to the Sarina house between 8 am and 5 pm. **No clothes or shoes.** Please share this with friends.

**CA\$H BA\$H:** Our Knights of Columbus is holding a Ca\$h Ba\$h at the East Freedom Fire Hall on Saturday, April 22, 2023. Tickets are \$40 each and include two dinners, beverages and one entry in the drawing. A basket raffle, multiple 50/50's and pull-tab tickets will also be offered throughout the evening. Cash and prizes valued at over \$2,500! Contact Chris Ringkamp (814-330-4074) or see any Knight for tickets.

### **FAITH FORMATION NEWS**

- March 12: NO CLASS
- March 19: 9:15 - 10:45 AM Class
- March 19: Easter Egg Hunt/Spring Fling Brunch in Father Bailey Hall (gym) after the 11:00 Mass
- March 26: 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Rite of Sending at 11:00 Mass (Candidates & Sponsors/Parents)
- April 2: 9:15 - 10:45 AM Class

*If you would like more information or have questions, please contact Diane Ryan at 814-942-5503 or email [stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net](mailto:stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net).*

#### **FISH FRIES:**

**Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament:** Lunch - Fridays of Lent, except Good Friday. The drive-thru lunches will be available from 11:00 A.M. until 1:30 P.M. Cost \$10.00.

**Our Lady of Lourdes:** Every Friday during Lent including Good Friday. Take out begins at 3:30. Eat in 4:30-7:00PM or until sold out. Cost \$14. Dessert, & drink with eat-in.

**St. Patrick, Newry:** Fridays during Lent, including Good Friday. 4:00 pm. Available for dine-in and take-out. Adults: \$20.00. Children 5-12: \$15.00. 4 and Under: Free

**LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR:** There will be a Life in the Spirit Seminar presented by the Holy Spirit Ministry, on Saturday, March 25th at St. Mary Church in Hollidaysburg. The retreat, which focuses on the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, will include dynamic spiritual teachings and testimonies by: • Fr. Nathan Malavolti, T.O.R. • Fr. Alan Thomas • Fr. Brad Balwin, T.O.R. • Andre McCarville, and others. It will also include celebration of Mass, Spirit-filled praise and worship, and small group faith sharing. Lunch and dinner will be provided. Adults \$25 (\$20 if registered by Feb. 25th), students are free of charge. To register call 814-931-0192 or email [auroraes4@gmail.com](mailto:auroraes4@gmail.com) Registration deadline is March 12th, or when at full capacity.

**SACRED HEART NOVENA:** The 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Novena in honor of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus will be held from Monday, March 20 to Tuesday, March 28, at Sacred Heart Church (6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Altoona.) Solemn Opening Mass will be celebrated on Monday, March 20, at 7:00 PM by Bishop Mark L. Bartchak as the Celebrant and Homilist. A complete schedule will be available on the first night of the novena in the church.

**SELL YOUR OWN STUFF SALE:** Holy Trinity is not having a Yard Sale this year. Please do not drop off any items. We will be having a "SELL YOUR OWN STUFF" event Saturday June 3rd. If you are interested in renting a space inside the Maria Parish Center for \$20.00 to "SELL YOUR OWN STUFF", please contact Jan at 814-942-7835.

# **St. John's Easter Egg Hunt & Spring Fling Brunch**

**When: Sunday, March 19th following the 11am Mass**

**Where: Meet in the gym for children to be placed into age groups and given directions for the Egg Hunt and for light refreshments**

**Who: Children 14 and under**

**Please sign up on the kiosk or call the Parish Office at 814-942-5503 if you are planning on attending so we can prepare for this event!**

**We are in need of candy donations to fill eggs. If interested in donating, please place donations in the marked box in the gathering space. In the case of inclement weather, the Easter Egg Hunt will be moved indoors.**

**Hope to see you there!**

