

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 19, 2023

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

PASTORAL STAFF

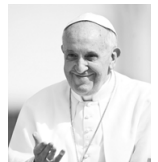
Monsignor Michael Becker - mbecker253@aol.com
Rev. Brian Norris - bnorris@dioceseaj.org
Deacon Gene Neral - gene@lifeinfocus.net
Jena Bowman - Business Manager
stjohnchurch@atlanticbb.net
Deborah Johnson - Director of Music/Pastoral Associate
dj219@msn.com
Diane Ryan - Faith Formation Coordinator/Secretary
stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net
Iris Tatar - Director of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
iristat38@gmail.com
Mark Krepich - Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults
mark.krepich@gmail.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

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. 25 - 4:00 PM - Joyce Cunningham, David Langguth
Sat. Mar. 26 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci, Ginny Reeder
Sun. Mar. 26 - 11:00 AM - Donna Moyer, Dave Auerbeck

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. Mar. 25 - 4:00 PM - Sadie Swope, NOT FILLED
Sat. Mar. 26 - 8:00 AM - Nicholas Helsley, Amber Yasolsky
Sun. Mar. 26 - 11:00 AM - Camille Krug, Bob Olson

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. Mar. 25 - 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, NOT FILLED
Sun. Mar. 26 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci
Sun. Mar. 26 - 11:00 AM - Dolores Capriotti, Susanna Tomlinson

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. Mar. 25 - 4:00 PM - Betsy Lloyd, Larry VanSickel, Paula VanSickel,
NOT FILLED
Sat. Mar. 26 - 8:00 AM - Jane Becker, John Becker, Carolyn English,
Mike O'Neill
Sun. Mar. 26 - 11:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Marilyn Bevan, Wendy
Campbell, Patrick Podoletz

SACRISTAN

Sat. Mar. 25 - 4:00 PM - Jane Byrne
Sat. Mar. 26 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci
Sun. Mar. 26 - 11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy

SCRIP

Sat. Mar. 25 - 4:00 PM - Becky Merilli, Julie Beiswenger
Sat. Mar. 26 - 8:00 AM - Christopher Palazzi, Heather Yasolsky
Sun. Mar. 26 - 11:00 AM - Peg Madden, Marge Rudolph

A Few Words from the Pastor:

COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE - All are encouraged to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the Lenten Season. Please join us this Sunday at 4:00 PM, when a number of priests will be here at St. John's to assist with individual confessions.

COMMUNION FROM THE CUP - Bishop Mark has directed that parishes may begin distributing Holy Communion under both forms at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, April 6, 2023. This permission to resume the practice of offering the Precious Blood will be introduced gradually in such a way that parishioners may come to their own readiness to receive. More instruction on this will be forthcoming in subsequent bulletins.

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!!

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. Reservations are to be made by May 1st.

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE 2023 –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. You can place your Commitment Card in the offertory basket, or you can send it in the mail or make an online gift at www.dioceseaj.org/giving.

FASTING AND ABSTINENCE - Every Catholic of any age is encouraged to do some measure of fasting during the Lenten season. Fasting can strengthen our will, remind us of the hungers of the human family, and certainly can put us in mind of our hunger for God. Remembering that Jesus fasted in the desert, we are called to imitate him in this sacred season. You are also required to abstain from meat on the Fridays of Lent. My fasting is closely related to my care for the poor: “when I fast, another person must eat in my place!”

ADULT FAITH FORMATION: We will finish up our series, *Forgiven*, with a video about the Sacrament of Reconciliation on March 19th, and a video about the Paschal Mystery on March 26th. There will be no class on Palm Sunday or Easter, April 2nd and 9th. We will resume on Sunday, April 16th, and continue to meet through Sunday, May 21st. All are welcome to join us on Sunday mornings from 9:00 to 10:30 in the St Johns school cafeteria. For more information call Mary Petrak at 814-502-6076.



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 19

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

4:00 PM - Parish Penance Service

Monday, March 20 - St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:30 AM - Mass for *Ron Peschock* requested by
Ron & Joyce Cunningham

Tuesday, March 21 - Lenten Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Margareta H. Goch*

Wednesday, March 22 - Lenten Weekday

5:30 PM - Confessions

6:00 PM - Mass for *Charles Moore* requested by
Dan & Mary Mealey

Thursday, March 23 - Lenten Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass For *Reta Mae Loth* requested by
David & Bonnie Loth

Friday, March 24 - Lenten Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass For *Helen Baca* requested by Family

5:00 PM - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

5:30 PM - Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 25 - Vigil of The Fifth Sunday of Lent

4:00 PM - Mass for the Health and Well-being of *Anna Marie Pfeil* requested by Family

Sunday, March 26 - The Fifth Sunday of Lent

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

11:00 AM - Mass for *Patricia Ward-Johnson* requested by
Chris & Iris Tatar

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29;

Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or

Lk 2:41-51a

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

Wednesday: Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18;

Jn 5:17-30

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: Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Ps 40:7-11; Heb 10:4-10;

Lk 1:26-38

Sunday: Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-8; Rom 8:8-11;

Jn 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]

PENANCE SERVICES IN OUR AREA:

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: 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 Reflection*, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, Inc. 2020/02/14)

March 4/5

Envelopes	\$ 4,165.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 565.00
Children's Offering	\$ 5.40
Ash Wednesday	\$ 10.00
Black & Indian Missions	\$ 25.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$ 50.00
Catholic Education	\$ 185.00
Parish Development	\$ 110.00
Easter Flower Offering	\$ 175.00
Easter Offering	\$ 10.00
Holy Thursday	\$ 10.00
Good Friday Holy Land	\$ 10.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,445.00
Total Offertory	\$ 6,765.40

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. If you are registered with My Own Church, you can log in and download your statement yourself.

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 21st** 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 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***

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES: Looking for a rewarding career in a faith-filled environment? Locations throughout the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese have current openings in a variety of fields. For a complete listing and full details go to <https://www.dioceseaj.org/employment>.

SACRED HEART NOVENA: The 58th 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 (6th Avenue and 20th 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.

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 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: 11th Grade Rite of Sending at 11:00 Mass (Candidates & Sponsors/Parents)
- April 2: 9:15 - 10:45 AM Class
- April 9: NO CLASS

If you would like more information or have questions, please contact Diane Ryan at 814-942-5503 or email 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

EASTER FLOWERS: All memorial donations for Easter flowers should be submitted by Monday, April 3, in order to be acknowledged in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

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.

SELL YOUR OWN STUFF SALE: Holy Trinity is 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.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FUNDRAISER: We are excited to team up with Hoss's Steak and Sea House to raise money for a very worthy cause. Please consider visiting the Hoss's location(s) listed below on 3/26/2023 to aid us in raising money to benefit Knights of Columbus.

Please cut out this coupon (including the Group number) and present it on 3/26/2023 at Hoss's in Duncansville. Hoss's will then donate 20%* or 25%** of your total check paid to Knights of Columbus

DISTRIBUTING INVITATIONS ON HOSS'S PROPERTY IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED AND WILL DISQUALIFY OUR ORGANIZATION! Thank you for your cooperation!
Group #127813