

First Sunday of Lent

February 18, 2024

St. John the Evangelist Church

309 Lotz Avenue, Altoona, PA 814-942-5503

PASTORAL STAFF

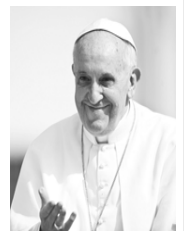
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 pjimenez@dioceseaj.org
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 mark.krepich@gmail.com
 Ken Dunmire - Maintenance

MASS SCHEDULE

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

February Prayer Intention of Pope Francis

The Terminally Ill
 We pray that those with a terminal illness,
 and their families, receive the necessary
 physical and spiritual care and
 accompaniment.



NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS

LECTORS

Sat. February 24- 4:00 PM - Maria Spayd, David Langguth
 Sun. February 25- 8:00 AM - Diane Turcovsky, Daniel Turcovsky
 Sun. February 25- 11:00 AM - Donna Moyer, Richard Consiglio

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. February 24- 4:00 PM - Lexi Tatar, Iris Tatar
 Sun. February 25- 8:00 AM - Emily Miller, Nicholas Helsley
 Sun. February 25- 11:00 AM - Camille Krug, Aidan Schurr

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. February 24- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, NOT FILLED
 Sun. February 25 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci, NOT FILLED
 Sun. February 25 - 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Walter Bloom,
 Cecelia Bloom, Barbara Bundy, Dolores Capriotti,
 Kenneth Gorman

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. February 24- 4:00 PM - Dennis Moughemer,
 Karen Moughemer, Paula VanSickel, Larry VanSickel
 Sun. February 25- 8:00 AM - Carolyn English, Ashley Greslick,
 Mike Greslick, Ginny Reeder
 Sun. February 25- 11:00 AM - Wendy Campbell, Lou Ann Clark,
 Peg Madden, Patrick Podoletz

SACRISTAN

Sat. February 24- 4:00 PM - Jane Byrne
 Sun. February 25- 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci
 Sun. February 25- 11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy

SCRIP

Sat. February 24 - 4:00 PM - Julie Beiswenger, Becky Merilli
 Sat. February 25 - 8:00 AM - Erika Yasolsky, Heather Yasolsky
 Sun. February 25 - 11:00 AM - Peg Madden, Marge Rudolph

A Few Words from the Pastor:

WEEK 19 OF OUR SACRED STORY RETREAT: *We have now begun to reflect on the Five Step Structure of Daily Sacred Story Prayer: CREATION, PRESENCE, MEMORY, MERCY, ETERNITY. The third of these meditations is MEMORY. This step is familiar to all who do an examination of conscience. In this "review of the day" we are recall that every violation of love committed by me and against me is in my memory, and I ask God to reveal them to me, especially those that have manifested themselves to me today. I know how important it is to examine my life daily. I then come before Christ, the Divine Physician, to be healed.*

A PARISH BIBLE STUDY ON THE GOSPEL OF MARK. We meet at 6:45 on Wednesday evenings in the parish center. Bring your favorite bible and prepare to embark on an inspiring Lenten Journey.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS - 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!

FASTING AND ABSTINENCE: Remember that the Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence from meat. Throughout the season of Lent, however, DAILY 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. Remember that Jesus fasted 40 days and 40 nights in the desert. Our fasting is closely related to our care for the poor: when I fast, another person must eat in my place!

OPERATION RICE BOWL - we are participating again this year in Operation Rice Bowl, which is a good companion to our Lenten prayer and fasting. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are the three pillars of the spiritual life.

SPIRITUAL READING - An essential part of the Christian life is prayerful reflection. This is especially so within the season of Lent. We will again be making available a booklet of daily meditations for use throughout the Lenten Season. Consider this Lent to be a personal retreat!

OUR SACRED STORY OF THE WEEK - The Catholic Church celebrates the feast of the Chair of St. Peter on Thursday, February 22. This feast commemorates Christ's choosing Peter to sit in his place as the servant-authority of the whole Church. Jesus told Peter that "you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church." The feast originated around the "cathedra" of Peter, the place where the Bishop of Rome resided and governed. The "cathedra" was a fixed "seat" of the Bishop, placed in the mother church of the Diocese – hence the word "cathedral" – which was the symbol of the Bishop's authority who, as a successor of the Apostles, is called to protect the flock and transmit the teaching of the Gospel to the Christian community.

CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE: "STRENGTH IN CHRIST" is set for March 3 from 11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Mount Aloysius College in Cresson. The theme is *J2J: Journey to Jesus*. Nationally recognized speaker and musician Cooper Ray will be the keynote presenter. Father Michael Pleva and Father Brian Norris will also share their incredible faith journeys. The day includes lunch and Mass at 5:00 p.m. with Bishop Mark. There is no cost. Seating is limited, so register before February 23 online at dioceseaj.org or pick up a hard copy registration form in the Gathering Space!

SAVE THE DATES!

President's Day: Monday, February 19th Parish Office will be closed

Parish Breakfast: Thursday, February 22nd after the 8:30am Morning Mass at The Dream in Hollidaysburg

Adoration and Stations of the Cross: Friday, February 23rd-Adoration at 5pm and Stations at 5:30pm

Nutrition Classes: Saturday, March 2nd, 9th & 16th in Parish Center - Cost is \$60

Lent Penance Service: Sunday, March 3rd at 4pm

Easter Egg Hunt: Sunday, March 17th after 11am Mass in the Gym

THANK YOU! A big thank you to everyone who made soup, donated bread and helped with setting up, serving and cleaning up for the Ash Wednesday Soup Supper. Our Faith Formation students also did a great job serving our parishioners. We collected \$716 for Haiti in donations and appreciate everyone's generosity. Thank you to everyone for attending and helping make this a successful event!

Schedule for the Week of February 18th

Sunday, February 18 - 1st Sunday of Lent

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

11:00 AM - Mass for *Mercia Crevecoeur* requested by
Mimi Crevecoeur & family

Monday, February 19 - Lenten Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Sheri Ventre* requested by
Bob & Ginny Reeder

Tuesday, February 20 - Lenten Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Bob Long* requested by
John Bismark

Wednesday, February 21 - Lenten Weekday

6:00 PM - Mass for *Bob Bundy* requested by
Barbara Bundy

Thursday, February 22 - The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

8:30 AM - Mass for *Jacqueline Douge* requested by
Mimi Crevecoeur & family

Friday, February 23 - Lenten Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Tom Semelsberger* requested by
Fran Semelsberger

Saturday, February 24 - Vigil of 1st Sunday of Lent

4:00 PM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

Sunday, February 25 - 2nd Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM - Mass for *Barbara Neral* requested by
Ed & Debbie Ergler

11:00 AM - Mass for *Thanksgiving Mass for Mimi
Crevecoeur* requested by Mimi Crevecoeur

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS: Please email any upcoming bulletin announcements to Diane Ryan at stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net or call the Parish Office at 814-942-5503. Bulletin announcements need to be submitted by Wednesday to be included in the following weekend's bulletin.

LENT SCHEDULE FOR ST. JOHN'S:

Adoration and Stations of the Cross: Fridays during Lent with Adoration beginning at 5:00pm and Stations beginning at 5:30pm

Lent Penance Service: Sunday, March 3rd at 4:00pm

The Year of Mark: A Parish Bible Study: Wednesdays at 6:45pm in the Parish Center starting January 31st until March 20th (No class on Ash Wednesday)

NUTRITION CLASSES: Jody Petrunak will be offering a series of 3 Nutrition Classes in the Parish Center on March 2nd, 9th & 16th to help spread the word on the benefits of eating healthy and to help decrease the risk of chronic diseases. Cost is \$60 and registration forms are available in the Gathering Space. If you have any questions or would like more information, please email Jody at jodyp168@gmail.com.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: As we celebrate our first Sunday of Lent, our readings today remind us why we partake in this 40-day Lenten journey – to prepare our hearts for the resurrection of Christ on the glorious Easter morning. Just like Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert where He was tempted by Satan, we too are called to 'the desert' – tempted by Satan to turn away from God. We should strive to fully participate in this Lenten season by mirroring Jesus, the model steward by Whom we are called to imitate. Through our time in 'the desert', we will confront evil by weeding out the roots of sin in our lives through fasting. And we will be sustained and nourished in the desert by prayer. If we willingly choose to spend this Lent like Jesus, we will be ready to receive the glorious gift of Himself and partake in the riches that pour forth from that Gift. Let us strive to purify our hearts for the remainder of these 40 days so that we might be ready to receive all that God plans to bless us with on Easter.

February 3rd/4th

Envelopes	\$ 7,520.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 632.00
Catholic Education	\$ 110.00
Ash Wednesday	\$ 10.00
Black & Indian	\$ 30.00
Online Giving	\$ 2,878.90
Total Offertory	\$ 11,180.90

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.

BEAUTIFUL EUCHARIST BOOK: Our diocese has been promoting the Eucharistic Revival for the past 2 years. Matthew Kelly has written a very interesting, easy to read book titled "Beautiful Eucharist." This book invites us to encounter Jesus through the Eucharist to heal us and bring peace and clarity to our lives. These books are available to all parishioners in the Gathering Space thanks to a generous donation from a parishioner. Please feel free to take one!

FAMILIES AND THE GOSPEL: Jesus went into the desert to put his life in perspective. This Lent, take a fresh look at the difficult relationship in your life. Concentrate on the positive things that person does, not just the negatives. Try to understand why their behaviors "bug" you. Can you honestly share your feelings with them without attacking them? Make Lent a time to MEND and FORGIVE!

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:*

All Garvey Manor Residents • Britta Albright
Bill Arend • Charles Bassett • Idy Caporuscio
Eleanor Christine • Michelle Cooney
Mary Lee DeStefano • Kathy Ganz
Devon McCarter Graham • Marlene Hartman
Guy & Sally Langham • Bonnie & Mike Long
Connor McLaughlin • Kathy Mittermeier
Patricia Olson • Ryan Raybuck • Dan Roberts
Anne Showalter • Reed Stellabotte • Tim Temofonte
Mary Truesdale • Lois Werfel • Dorothy Yingling
Anne Zelnosky

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

*John E. Wolfe, husband of Patty Wolfe
May he rest in the peace and joy of the Lord.*

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT: Dealing with a loss, whether in the past or recent, is difficult and lonely. Our support groups will allow you to acknowledge the pain and to learn positive strategies for coping.

Journey Through Loss is a seven week program for those who have lost a loved one through death. Call Mary Petrak, 814-502-6076, for dates and information.

St. Michael and St. Mary Parishes offer monthly meetings for those who have experienced a loss. Call Debbi Chapman, 912-713-5412, for dates and information.

BIRTHDAY CORNER FOR FEBRUARY:

February 9th- Ron Cunningham
February 13th-Mary Louise Rajnish
February 16th- Lois Werfel & Joyce Cunningham
Something new-sending individual cards to our "senior" (80 and older) parishioners. If you wish to send a birthday card, use the address in your Parish Directory, place card in the Collection Basket or take to the Parish Office and the cards will be forwarded.

THINKING OF YOU! Two of our parishioners are currently at Maybrook and would love to receive some cards with well wishes. The address for Maybrook Hills is 301 Valley View Blvd, Altoona, PA 16602. Elsie MacCullagh is in RM 248B and Bette Richards is in RM 241A. Dorothy Yingling and Lois Werfel are back home and recovering. Cards can be sent to their addresses listed in the Parish Directory, placed in the Collection Basket or taken to the Parish Office.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

February 18th-No Class

February 25th-No Class

March 3rd-Class

March 3rd-11th Grade Spring Session in Gym 9:15am-10:45am-followed by The Rite of Sending at 11am Mass.
All 11th Grade students (Public and Catholic) should attend.

March 10th-No Class

March 17th-Class

March 17th-Easter Egg Hunt after 11am Mass

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

ADULT FAITH FORMATION: The Adult Faith Formation class meets on Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 10:45 on March 3 and March 17, April 7 and April 21, May 5. Our topic is A Biblical Walk through the Mass by Edward Sri. For more information contact Mary Petrak at 814-502-6076 or mfpetrak@hotmail.com.

BLAZIN' ANGELS: Join us on February 18th for some dodgeball fun at St. John the Evangelist's Fr. Bailey Hall from 6-9pm. Anyone ages 18-39 are welcome to join. If you are interested in attending or interested in learning more please let us know by emailing us at blazinangels.yagroup@gmail.com.

HELP NEEDED: A parishioner is in need of a volunteer to help with some light housekeeping once a week.. If you are interested or know of someone who might be, please contact the Parish Office at 814-942-5503 for more information.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION: The 2024 Marriage Preparation Series has released their upcoming schedule. Local sessions will be offered at St. John's April 15, 22, 29. Please contact the office for more information or take a pamphlet from the kiosk.

LENTEN LUNCH FISH FRY: At The Friar's Nook Gift Shop! Bites Food Truck will be serving up delicious food Fridays during Lent except Good Friday! Lunch includes fish sandwich, mac and cheese, and stewed tomatoes. The Friar's Nook Gift Shop at 793 Monastery Road, Hollidaysburg Time: 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM Cost: \$10.00

LENTEN FISH FRY: Our Lady of Lourdes Church Hall 2716 Broad Avenue, Altoona, PA
February 16th – March 29th Cost: \$14.00
3:30 for take out 4:30 for eat-in until 7:00pm or until sold out
Choose from our hand-breaded fried or baked haddock, homemade mac & cheese or hand-cut fries, homemade stewed tomatoes & coleslaw or applesauce & dessert.



**Download our RaiseRight
mobile app**

