



## Second Sunday of Lent February 25, 2024

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

#### PASTORAL STAFF

Monsignor Michael Becker - mbecker253@aol.com  
 Deacon Gene Neral - gene@lifeinfocus.net  
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 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. March 2- 4:00 PM - Jeremy Truscello, Iris Tatar  
 Sun. March 3- 8:00 AM - Mike Greslick, Darlene Scarpaci  
 Sun. March 3- 11:00 AM - Susan Podoletz, Dave Auerbeck

##### ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. March 2- 4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, Sadie Swope  
 Sun. March 3- 8:00 AM - Emily Miller, Nicholas Helsley  
 Sun. March 3- 11:00 AM - Liam Schurr, Aidan Schurr

##### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. March 2- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, NOT FILLED  
 Sun. March 3- 8:00 AM - Diane Turcovsky, Daniel Turcovsky  
 Sun. March 3- 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Walter Bloom,  
 Cecelia Bloom, Barbara Bundy, Dolores Capriotti,  
 Bob Olson

##### MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. March 2- 4:00 PM - Betsy Lloyd, Dennis Moughemer,  
 Karen Moughemer, NOT FILLED  
 Sun. March 3- 8:00 AM - Ginny Reeder, Mary Truesdale,  
 Paula VanSickel, Larry VanSickel  
 Sun. March 3- 11:00 AM - Wendy Campbell, Lou Ann Clark,  
 Peg Madden, Patrick Podoletz

##### SACRISTAN

Sat. March 2- 4:00 PM - Ray & Mary King  
 Sun. March 3- 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci  
 Sun. March 3- 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan

##### SCRIP

Sat. March 2- 4:00 PM - Lori Baker, Julie Beiswenger  
 Sat. March 3- 8:00 AM - Chris Palazzi, Marge Rudolph  
 Sun. March 3- 11:00 AM - Jane Byrne, Carolyn English

## A Few Words from the Pastor:

**WEEK 20 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 fourth of these meditations is MERCY. In our Daily Examen, after reflecting upon all of life as God's gift, that He is fully present to us and us to Him, and having reviewed our day and noticed our failure to love as Christ has loved, we now beg our God's mercy. "I believe that forgiveness is the only path to healing and illumination. I beg for the grace of forgiveness and the grace to forgive, especially for the sins and failures of this day, and from my past life. I will seek Christ's healing in the Sacrament of Reconciliation."*

**A LENTEN CONFESSION** - An essential element of Lenten living is the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Its importance in our spiritual life cannot be stressed enough. Next Sunday, March 3rd, at 4 PM, we will be celebrating our Lenten Penance Service, when several priests will be present to assist with individual confessions. We come before God and acknowledge our sinfulness in thought, word, and deed!

**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. Our fasting is closely related to our care for the poor: when I fast, another person must eat in my place!

**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!

**TO BE CLEAR!** - The church has continued to affirm that marriage is the union of a man and a woman. It's perennial teaching on marriage is unchanged. Such unions are blessed in the holy sacrament of matrimony. The recent approval of a blessing for same-sex couple is not to be understood as an approval of a "marriage." Should such a couple approach a priest for a blessing, the following may be offered: *"Lord, look at these children of yours, grant them health, work, peace, and mutual help. Free them from everything that contradicts your gospel and allow them to live according to your will. Amen."*

It is important to remember that God blesses us not because **WE** are good, but because **HE** is good!

**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. Hard copy registration forms are available in the Gathering Space!

### SAVE THE DATES!

**Adoration and Stations of the Cross:** Friday, March 1st-Adoration at 5pm and Stations at 5:30pm

**Catholic Ministries Drive Commitment Weekend:** Saturday, March 2nd & Sunday, March 3rd

**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

**Diocesan Lenten Communal Penance Service:** Wednesday, March 20th at 6pm-Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament

## Schedule for the Week of February 25th

### 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

### Monday, February 26 - Lenten Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *George Semko* requested by Karen Mazzarella

### Tuesday, February 27 - Lenten Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Vincenza Mento* requested by Bob & Ginny Reeder

### Wednesday, February 28 - Lenten Weekday

6:00 PM - Mass for *Pam Jones* requested by Bob & Ginny Reeder

### Thursday, February 29 - Lenten Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Bob Long* requested by ACHS Class of "56" Girls

### Friday, March 1 - Lenten Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Robert J. Ritchey* requested by Bob & Ginny Reeder

### Saturday, March 2 - Vigil of 3rd Sunday of Lent

4:00 PM - Mass for *Regina Schall* requested by Michael, Denise & families

### Sunday, March 3 - 3rd Sunday of Lent

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

11:00 AM - Mass for *Barbara Neral* requested by Deacon Gene Neral

**BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Please email any upcoming bulletin announcements to Diane Ryan at [stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net](mailto: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

**CONGRATULATIONS TO JARED MILLER, OUR ELECT!** Last Sunday evening, Jared Miller, our catechumen was named an "Elect" by Bishop Mark. This signifies that Jared may be baptized, confirmed and receive the Holy Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. Jared has been part of our faith community since the Fall of 2022 and was accepted into the Order of Catechumens during the last Easter season. Please continue to pray for Jared as he begins his final spiritual preparation for the Easter sacraments.

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER:** Our readings today are a powerful testimony to God's profound love for each one of us. This is an important message that is conveyed during this holy season of Lent as we partake in the suffering, death and resurrection of God's only Son. It is also a reminder for us, as Christian stewards, to surrender all that we have to the Gracious Giver. God desires to have an intimate relationship with us. As we entrust our lives to God, He will more fully reveal Himself to us. We will more clearly see Christ in our lives as He truly is and, in turn, we will become more dazzling ourselves. Let us strive to journey up the mountain with Jesus during this Lenten season – growing in our intimate relationship with Him. May we reflect on His profound love for us on this journey. And let us pray for total surrender to His providence.

### **February 10th/11th**

Envelopes	\$ 4,032.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 235.00
Children's Offerings	\$ 11.00
Parish Development	\$ 20.00
Ash Wednesday	\$ 90.00
Online Giving	\$ 2,454.90
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 6,842.90</b>

2024 Catholic Ministries Drive Goal: \$42,400

**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.

**2024 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE:** The new 2024 Catholic Ministries Drive begins throughout the diocese this weekend. This year's theme is Encountering Christ, which is an invitation to grow in your relationship with Christ and to open your heart to serve Him through serving our brothers and sisters. Our CMD supports 10 ministries throughout our diocese that focus on evangelization, serving those in need, or formation of our priests and deacons. Please reflect on Bishop Mark's invitation when it arrives in your mail, and prayerfully consider supporting our diocesan ministries. You may return your pledge card and donation through the mail, make your payment online, or return to your parish through the offertory. All contributions received beyond our parish goal will remain with the parish. Thank you for supporting the Catholic Ministries Drive and our diocese's vital ministries.

**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. Registrations due February 26th. If you have any questions or would like more information, please email Jody at [jodyp168@gmail.com](mailto:jodyp168@gmail.com).

### 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:*

All Garvey Manor Residents • Britta Albright  
Charles Bassett • Idy Caporuscio • Eleanor Christine  
Michelle Cooney • Mary Lee DeStefano • Kathy Ganz  
Devon McCarter Graham • Marlene Hartman  
Sallie 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 souls of:*

*John E. Wolfe, husband of Patty Wolfe*

*Guy Langham, husband of Sallie Langham*

*May they 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.

**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. Time: 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM Cost: \$10.00

### FAITH FORMATION NEWS

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

March 24th-No Class-Palm Sunday

*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).*

**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](mailto:mfpetrak@hotmail.com).

**BLAZIN' ANGELS:** Our next event will be on Sunday, March 3rd. Please join us for the Lenten Penance Service at 4pm in the church followed by a movie in the Parish Center. If you are interested in attending or interested in learning more please let us know by emailing us at [blazinangels.yagroup@gmail.com](mailto:blazinangels.yagroup@gmail.com).

**THEOLOGY ON TAP:** Please join us for a Young Adult Theology on Tap Event on March 7th at 6pm at Jethro's. Theology on Tap is an event designed to bring young adult Catholics (ages 21 - 39) together into one community. The premise of the event will be a social time and then a brief theological talk by Father Brian Norris. The plan is for this to be a monthly event with new speakers each month.

**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 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.