



Third Sunday of Lent

March 3, 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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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

March Prayer Intention of Pope Francis

The New Martyrs
 We pray that those who risk their lives for
 the Gospel in various parts of the world
 inflame the Church with their courage and
 missionary enthusiasm.



NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS

LECTORS

Sat. March 9- 4:00 PM - Joyce Cunningham, Jeremy Truscello
 Sun. March 10- 8:00 AM - Norma Foose, Bill Foose
 Sun. March 10- 11:00 AM - Camille Krug, James Krug

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. March 9- 4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, Sadie Swope
 Sun. March 10- 8:00 AM - Emily Miller, Nicholas Helsley
 Sun. March 10- 11:00 AM - Aidan Schurr, Colin Schurr

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. March 9- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, NOT FILLED
 Sun. March 10- 8:00 AM - Diane Turcovsky, Daniel Turcovsky
 Sun. March 10- 11:00 AM - Cecelia Bloom, Walter Bloom,
 Lou Ann Clark, Kenneth Gorman, Bob Olson, Susanna Tomlinson

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. March 9- 4:00 PM - Carolyn English, Betsy Lloyd, Paula VanSickel,
 Larry VanSickel
 Sun. March 10- 8:00 AM - Ray Kennedy, Mike O'Neill, Ed Stoltz,
 Jane Strasser
 Sun. March 10- 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Wendy Campbell,
 Dolores Capriotti, Mary Grace Horton

SACRISTAN

Sat. March 9- 4:00 PM - Jane Byrne
 Sun. March 10- 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci
 Sun. March 10- 11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy

SCRIP

Sat. March 9- 4:00 PM - Gary Johnson, Marge Rudolph
 Sat. March 10- 8:00 AM - Erika Yasolsky, Heather Yasolsky
 Sun. March 10- 11:00 AM - Chris Palazzi, Patrick Podoletz

A Few Words from the Pastor:

WEEK 21 OF OUR SACRED STORY RETREAT: *We have been reflecting on the Five Step Structure of Daily Sacred Story Prayer: CREATION, PRESENCE, MEMORY, MERCY, ETERNITY. The fifth of these meditations is ETERNITY. This step in our daily examen invites us to look "forward" with great confidence to a future which is brimming with grace. Having reflected upon my need for God, my brokenness, and my need for healing, I believe now the grace of forgiveness will open my heart. It will make my every thought word and deed bear fruit that endures to eternity. In this step I desire to be graced with the profound consciousness of the healing love of Christ Jesus. Going forward, everything in my life is to serve the great work of Christ for Universal Reconciliation and Peace.*

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. This 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. Our leader this week while I am on retreat will be Mark Krepich, our RCIA Director. 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 are making available a booklet of daily meditations for use throughout the Lenten Season. Consider this Lent to be a personal retreat!

CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE: "STRENGTH IN CHRIST" is set for Sunday, March 3 from 11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Mount Aloysius College in Cresson. 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!

A PASTOR'S RETREAT – I will be making my annual retreat this week at Holy Cross Abbey in Berryville, Virginia. Your prayerful support is greatly appreciated! Be assured that your concerns and those of your loved ones will be in my daily prayers and Eucharist! I am grateful to Deacon Gene and Father Kurdziel for their assistance with daily Mass and Communion Services.

SAVE THE DATES!

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

Adoration and Stations of the Cross: Friday, March 8th-Adoration at 5pm and Stations at 5:30pm

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 March 3rd

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

Monday, March 4 - Lenten Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Dolores Burchfield* requested by
Marilyn & Ron Adams

Tuesday, March 5 - Lenten Weekday

8:30 AM - **Communion Service**

Wednesday, March 6 - Lenten Weekday

6:00 PM - Mass for *Henri Prosperi* requested by
John Prosperi

Thursday, March 7 - Lenten Weekday

8:30 AM - **Communion Service**

Friday, March 8 - Lenten Weekday

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

Saturday, March 9 - Vigil of 4th Sunday of Lent

4:00 PM - Mass for *Bill Schmerbeck* requested by
Dave & Connie McManuels

Sunday, March 10 - 4th Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM - Mass for *Ida Prosperi* requested by
John Prosperi

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

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: This week marks the halfway point in our season of Lent. Our readings call us to roll up our sleeves and persevere through the remainder of Lent by committing to a more faithful life with Christ. In our Gospel today, Jesus purifies the temple area because it is being misused as a marketplace. He becomes angry at their lack of reverence for God. He becomes angry at their lack of reverence for God. He spills the coins of the money changers and overturns tables, saying, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace." Those who were with Him asked for a sign for doing this and He said, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." No one understood that He was referring to the death and resurrection of His Body. This season of Lent is only halfway done – there is still time to work through our shortcomings and purify our hearts for the glorious Easter morning. Let us not waste another moment. Let us commit to living more faithfully God's commandments, let us seek God's mercy and let us invite God to transform our hearts.

February 17th/18th

Envelopes	\$ 3,256.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 425.00
Parish Development	\$ 195.00
Black & Indian	\$ 140.00
Ash Wednesday	\$ 1,225.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,398.90
Total Offertory	\$ 6,639.90

2024 Catholic Ministries Drive Goal: \$42,400

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

ST ROSE OF LIMA SVDP CONFERENCE CARE PACKAGE PROGRAM 2024 THANK YOU:

With the assistance of the parishioners from St Rose of Lima, St John the Evangelist and St Patricks, the St Rose SVDP Conference continued in its efforts to serve the poor and needy. Our Conference helped make living through the tough times a little bit easier for the seniors, homeless, new and expectant moms and the single parents in our community by supplying Care Packages for their use. Through the collection period, the St Rose SVDP Conference delivered over 150 care packages to these needy individual and families with the help of Family Services and WIC. The members of the St Rose SVDP Conference would like to take this time to thank all our donors who make our programs possible and the lives of the needy a bit easier.
God Bless You All!

2024 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE: Today is Commitment Weekend for the 2024 Catholic Ministries Drive. Your sacrificial gift of prayer and treasure will make an immediate and lasting impact on our ministries that focus on evangelization, serving those in need and formation of our priests and deacons. 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 our Church. This year, our campaign theme is Encountering Christ. During this time of Eucharistic Revival, Encountering Christ is an invitation to grow in your living relationship with Christ in the Eucharist, to open your heart to serving your brothers and sisters, and to fulfill your holy duty of supporting the Church by gifts of time, talent and treasure. If you didn't bring your contribution to mass this weekend or send it in this past week, please prayerfully consider making a donation this coming week or in the future. Our diocese's ministries need your support. 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.

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
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:

Michael Ebersole, husband of Amy Ebersole

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 MARCH:

March 5th-Melvin Engleman

March 8th-James Reilly

March 9th-Raymond Bacon & Elaine Dodson

March 17th- Carol Field

March 20th-Marianne Jones & Vicky Riley

March 22nd-Donna Moyer

March 26th-Bette Richards

March 28th-Elsie MacCullagh

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.

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.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

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

March 31st-No Class-Easter Sunday

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 March 3rd at 4pm at St. John's Church for their annual Lenten penance service; then afterwards join us for a movie in the parish center. Anyone ages 18-39 are welcome to join. If you are interested in attending or interested in learning more please email us at 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.

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.

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