



Fourth Sunday of Lent March 15, 2026

St. John the Evangelist Church

309 Lotz Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602 814-942-5503

PASTORAL STAFF

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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 Leo

For Disarmament and Peace
 Let us pray that nations move to effective
 disarmament, particularly nuclear
 disarmament and that world leaders
 choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy
 instead of violence.



NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS

LECTORS

Sat. Mar. 21-4:00 PM - Maria Spayd, Joyce Cunningham
 Sun. Mar. 22-8:00 AM - Daniel Turcovsky, Diane Turcovsky
 Sun. Mar. 22-11:00 AM - Jim Campbell, Richard Consiglio

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. Mar. 21-4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, Sadie Swope
 Sun. Mar. 22-8:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
 Sun. Mar. 22-11:00 AM - Madison Kantoski, Lexi Tatar

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. Mar. 21-4:00 PM - Connie Baker, NOT FILLED
 Sun. Mar. 22-8:00 AM - Michael Greslick, Jennifer Helsley
 Sun. Mar. 22-11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy, Lou Ann Clark,
 Ken Gorman, Bob Olson, Susanna Tomlinson, NOT FILLED

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. Mar. 21-4:00 PM - Betsy Lloyd, Dennis Moughemer,
 Karen Moughemer, Jeremy Truscello
 Sun. Mar. 22-8:00 AM - Jane Becker, John Becker, Ginny Reeder,
 Ed Stoltz
 Sun. Mar. 22-11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Walter Bloom,
 Wendy Campbell, Dolores Capriotti

SACRISTAN

Sat. Mar. 21-4:00 PM - Mary & Ray King
 Sun. Mar. 22-8:00 AM - Ashley Greslick
 Sun. Mar. 22-11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy

SCRIP

Sat. Mar. 21-4:00 PM - Julie Beiswenger, Becky Merilli
 Sun. Mar. 22-8:00 AM - Erika Yasolsky, Heather Yasolsky
 Sun. Mar. 22-11:00 AM - Lori Baker, Carolyn English

A Few Words from the Pastor:

PENANCE SERVICE, SUNDAY AT 4:00 – all are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity for celebrating the sacrament of Penance. As usual, there will be several priests who will be present to assist with individual confessions. There is no better way to observe this holy season of Lent and to prepare for the great feast of Easter!

OUR PARISH MISSION! We will be having a Parish Mission on the evenings of March 22nd, 23rd & 24th, featuring Catholic speaker Paul Koleske. Paul is a contemporary Catholic Christian Inspirational Speaker, Musician, Composer & Recording Artist from Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. The theme of the mission is *"Igniting the Light of Christ Within You."* Sessions are scheduled at 4:00 PM on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday of that week. Invite your family, friends and neighbors! Do plan on joining us!!!

SUNDAY ADULT ED & WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY – This week will be our last sessions until after Easter. Stay tuned!

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!

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.

POPE LEO'S LENTEN MESSAGE! Amid the violence of war, Pope Leo continues to proclaim a faith that calls for unity. In his Wednesday audience this week, he highlighted that "Unified in Christ, Lord and Saviour of every man and woman, the Church can never turn inwards on herself, but is open to everyone and is for everyone. It is a great sign of hope—especially in our times, traversed by so many conflicts and wars—to know that the Church is a people in which women and men of different nationalities, languages, and cultures live together in faith. It is a sign placed in the very heart of humanity, a reminder and prophecy of that unity and peace to which God the Father calls all His children."

A SUMMER TOUR! I am organizing a 10 day tour this summer to experience the highlights of Britain, Ireland and Scotland. The estimated cost for a twin room is **\$3,850** per person, with an additional \$1,200 for airfare. This trip is scheduled from July 10 – 19, with departure from Dulles International Airport. For more details, go to the website for the [Britain and Ireland Highlights Tour | Grand European Travel](https://www.getours.com/tours/britain-ireland-highlights). <https://www.getours.com/tours/britain-ireland-highlights>. Please give me a call if you are interested!

SAVE THE DATES!

Lent Communal Penance Service: Sunday, March 15th at 4pm

Adoration/Stations of the Cross: Friday, March 20th- Adoration at 5pm followed by Stations of the Cross at 5:30pm

Spring Fling Brunch & Easter Egg Hunt: Sunday, March 22nd after the 11am Mass in Fr. Bailey Hall

Paul Koleske Parish Mission: Sunday, March 22nd-Tuesday, March 24th-More details to come!

Confirmation 2026: Sunday, April 19th at 2pm at St. John's-All are welcome to attend!

CMD 2026: 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's theme, Sent to Serve, reminds us that, by virtue of our baptism, each of us has been Sent to Serve, entrusted with gifts that are meant to be shared for the good of others. St. Peter teaches us, "As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1Peter 4:10). If you didn't bring your pledge card to mass this weekend, or send it in this past week, please prayerfully consider making a donation this coming week or in the future. Donations can also be made online at www.dioceseaj.org/giving. Our diocese's ministries need your support. All contributions received beyond our parish goal of \$37,300 will be used to fund parish projects such as Heating & Cooling and Tree Removal. Once we reach 70% of our goal, we will receive a \$1,000 bonus check! Thank you for supporting the Catholic Ministries Drive and our diocese's vital ministries.

Schedule for the Week of March 15th

Sunday, March 15 - Fourth Sunday of Lent

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

11:00 AM - Mass for *Sister Melaney* requested by
Barbara Bundy

Monday, Mar. 16 - Lenten Weekday

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

Tuesday, Mar. 17 - Lenten Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Deceased members of Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth* requested by Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth

Wednesday, Mar. 18 - Lenten Weekday

5:30 PM - Confessions

6:00 PM - Mass for *Monic White* requested by
Mimi Crevecoeur

Thursday, Mar. 19 - St. Joseph

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

Friday, Mar. 20 - Lenten Weekday

8:30 AM - Communion Service

Saturday, Mar. 21 - Vigil of Fifth Sunday of Lent

3:15 PM - Confessions

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

Sunday, March 22 - Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM - Mass for *Andrew Jr. & Florence Dancha* requested by Vicki Faretta

11:00 AM - Mass for *Duane Misiura* requested by
Julie Sagaities

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.

PARISH MISSION: Catholic Christian speaker, singer, songwriter and recording artist, Paul Koleske, will be offering a parish mission, 'IGNITING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST WITHIN YOU' March 22nd-March 24th at 4:00 p.m. here at St. John's. He will give you inspirational direction to experience an increased presence of the Holy Spirit in your life! Paul has been on EWTN and is known throughout the nation for his music and speaking presentations. This mission will empower you to live a more successful spiritual life! For additional information on Paul's ministry go to www.paulkoleske.com. Contact St. John's Parish Office at 814-942-5503 for questions. All are invited and this Mission is free to attend. Please join us!

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: Today's readings on this fourth Sunday of Lent are filled with contrasting images – God's vision versus human vision, the light of Christ versus the darkness of sin, spiritual blindness versus spiritual sightedness. Embracing a stewardship way of life can free us from spiritual blindness, allow us to see as God sees, and help us to reflect the light of Christ's love in the way we live our daily lives. In our Gospel passage from John, Christ says of Himself, "I am the light of the world." This passage recounts a miracle our Lord performs, restoring sight to a man born blind. The man responds to the Pharisees who question him about his healing by declaring to them that Jesus "opened my eyes." These Lenten days are an excellent time for us to ask Jesus to open our eyes, too. Let us ask Him to show us where we may be suffering from spiritual blindness, perhaps even in subtle ways. As we continue on our Lenten journey, let's intensify our efforts in any of these areas where we have become a little blinded so that by Easter, we are truly living as children of the light.

February 28th/March 1st

Envelopes	\$	5,639.00
Loose Offerings	\$	798.00
Heating & Cooling	\$	210.00
Catholic Education	\$	155.00
Black & Indian	\$	25.00
Ash Wednesday	\$	270.00
Easter Flowers	\$	100.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$	10.00
Online Giving	\$	2,318.75
Total Offertory	\$	9,525.75

2026 Catholic Ministries Drive Goal: \$37,300

EASTER EGG HUNT AND SPRING FLING BRUNCH:

Please join us on Sunday, March 22nd after the 11am Mass in the gym for our annual Easter Egg Hunt and Spring Fling Brunch. Children 13 and under are invited to participate in the Easter Egg Hunt and everyone of all ages is invited to join us for a Spring Fling Brunch with soup, sandwiches, salad, and lots of sweets! We will also have crafts and games for the children in the gym after the Egg Hunt. In case of inclement weather, the Easter Egg Hunt will be moved indoors. Please join us! All are welcome!

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 15th at 4:00pm

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. **Prayer list will be cleared in June.** **Contact Ginny or the office to have names added or kept on the 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 • Wilbur J. Arend
Stephanie Baker • Barbara • Deb Bloom • Walt Bloom
Idy Caporuscio • Cheryl Dennis • Ed Drexler
Lois Dullinger • Charles Elder • Carol Field • Donald Free
Donna Fornwalt • Mark Hastings • Melissa Horne
Michael Horton • Tim Jimenez • Ray King
Rosanne Krawick • Sally Langham • Mary Lauterbach
Elsie MacCullagh • Dave Madden • Janet McNulty
Adena Delozier Mertz • Barb Nagle • Mary O Fleming
Richard Olson • Pat Rauch • Bette Richards • Dan Roberts
Darlene Scarpaci • Anne Showalter
Cathy Stapelfeld • Donna Taddy • Tammy
Tim Temofonte • Rose Wargo • Lois Werfel
Heather Yasolsky

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

Mary Luckner

May she rest in the peace and joy of the Lord.

ST. PATRICK'S SCHOOL REGISTRATION: St. Patrick School in Newry is now accepting registrations for students entering Pre-K through 8th grade for the 2026-27 school year. Our Catholic education combines faith and learning, with a low-student-to-teacher ratio, with dedicated faculty providing personalized attention to every child. Contact the school office at 814-695-3819 to learn more and schedule a private tour. We look forward to welcoming your family!

2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR @ BISHOP GUILFOYLE ACADEMY: *Space is filling up fast and is limited in some grades at certain campuses.* Bishop Guilfoyle Academy students enjoy Catholic faith formation and academic excellence in an environment where calm classrooms, self-discipline and respect for others are the norm. Visit bishopguilfoyle.org for more information, including our household income chart to help you estimate tuition cost. BG is committed to meeting every family's financial need. Catholic families receive a special scholarship up to Grade 8. Schedule a tour today. Call 944-4015.

FISH FRY: Our Lady of Lourdes Famous Fish Fry Serving every Friday during Lent including Good Friday Take out begins 3:30pm Eat in begins 4:30pm Cost \$16 Hand breaded/Fried Haddock or our delicious Baked Haddock Homemade Mac & Cheese or French Fries Pick 2- Stewed Tomatoes, Coleslaw, or Applesauce Dessert, Lemonade & Coffee included

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

March 15th-No Class-Confirmation Mentor Meeting after 11am Mass in the gym

March 22nd-Class

March 22nd-Easter Egg Hunt/Spring Fling Brunch after 11am Mass in Gym

March 29th-No Class-Palm Sunday

April 5th-No Class-Easter Sunday

April 12th-Class

April 19th-No Class- Confirmation at St. John's at 2pm

April 26th-Class

May 3rd-Last Class-Children's Liturgy, First Communion & May Crowning at the 11am Mass

All public school students entering kindergarten through 11th grade should be registered with the Faith Formation Program.

All catholic school students entering 2nd grade and 9th-11th grade should be registered with the Faith Formation Program to prepare for Sacraments.

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

MOTHER THERESA MINISTRY: If you know of a parishioner not currently on our list that is in a nursing facility, hospital or homebound that would like to receive Communion at home, a visit or cards please text or call Mary Susick at 814-207-0185.

GABRIEL PROJECT: A Pro-life Ministry dedicated to helping moms and babies in the Altoona area with baby items as needed. The current needs are diapers size 5, 6,7, & 8 and Summer clothes (newborn to size 5T). Donations to purchase larger items are appreciated. Any mom needing assistance should call 814-440-1021.

HOLY THURSDAY PILGRIMAGE: Again this year, St. Rose of Lima is sponsoring a Holy Thursday Pilgrimage to Seven Churches, a traditional Holy Thursday devotion credited to St. Philip Neri in 1553. This practice originated in Rome and each church corresponds to the seven "stops or stations of the Way of the Cross" that were made by Jesus on his way to Calvary. These Holy Thursday visitations are an excellent grace filled way to end Lent and enter into the Triduum. We will be visiting St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, St. Mary's Adoration Chapel, St. John's Catholic Church, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and St. Rose of Lima. The bus will depart at 7:45 PM and is at no charge. You may also to carpool with family and friends. Please call St. Rose of Lima rectory to sign up for the bus at 814-944-8509. Thank you.