



## Fifth Sunday of Lent

### March 22, 2026

# St. John the Evangelist Church

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

#### PASTORAL STAFF

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 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 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. 28-4:00 PM - Laverne Kovacs, Joyce Cunningham  
 Sun. Mar. 29-8:00 AM - Norma Foose, Bill Foose  
 Sun. Mar. 29-11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy, John Sukala

##### ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. Mar. 28-4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, Sadie Swope  
 Sun. Mar. 29-8:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED  
 Sun. Mar. 29-11:00 AM - Estella Koch, Evie Koch

##### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. Mar. 28-4:00 PM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED  
 Sun. Mar. 29-8:00 AM - Ginny Reeder, NOT FILLED  
 Sun. Mar. 29-11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Ken Gorman,  
 Susanna Tomlinson, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED

##### MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. Mar. 28-4:00 PM - Connie Baker, Jeremy Truscello,  
 Larry VanSickel, Paula VanSickel  
 Sun. Mar. 29-8:00 AM - Ashley Greslick, Mike Greslick,  
 Ray Kennedy, Mary Truesdale  
 Sun. Mar. 29-11:00 AM - Dolores Capriotti, Lou Ann Clark,  
 Peg Madden, Patrick Podoletz

##### SACRISTAN

Sat. Mar. 28-4:00 PM - Mary & Ray King  
 Sun. Mar. 29-8:00 AM - Ashley Greslick  
 Sun. Mar. 29-11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan

##### SCRIP

Sat. Mar. 28-4:00 PM - Lori Baker, NOT FILLED  
 Sun. Mar. 29-8:00 AM - Amber Yasolsky, Heather Yasolsky  
 Sun. Mar. 29-11:00 AM - Peg Madden, Marge Rudolph

## A Few Words from the Pastor:

**OUR PARISH MISSION!** We will be having a Parish Mission on the evenings of March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>, 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. Do plan on joining us!!!

**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 PRAYER FOR PEACE!** Pope Leo XIV's monthly prayer intention for March is "for disarmament and peace." Pope Leo begins his prayer by recalling that the Lord has shaped every human being in His image and likeness and that He created us "for communion, not for war," "for fraternity, not for destruction." Lord Jesus, You who greeted your disciples saying, "Peace be with you," grant us the gift of your peace and the strength to make it a reality in history. Today we lift up our prayer for peace in the world, asking that nations renounce weapons and choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy."

Pope Leo asked the Lord to help us "disarm our hearts of hatred, resentment, and indifference, so that we may become instruments of reconciliation. Help us understand that true security does not come from control fueled by fear, but from trust, justice, and solidarity among peoples."

**SUNDAY ADULT ED & WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY** – Last weekend was our last session until after Easter. Stay tuned!

**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!

**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!

**Adoration/Stations of the Cross:** Friday, March 27th- Adoration at 5pm followed by Stations of the Cross at 5:30pm

**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](http://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 22nd**

### **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

### **Monday, March 23 - Lenten Weekday**

8:30 AM - Mass for *Elizabeth Sibold* requested by  
the Sibold family

### **Tuesday, March 24 - Lenten Weekday**

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

### **Wednesday, March 25 - The Annunciation of the Lord**

5:30 PM - Confessions

6:00 PM - Mass for *Suzanne Caldwell* requested by  
Mary Molnar

### **Thursday, March 26 - Lenten Weekday**

8:30 AM - Mass for *Robert Loth* requested by  
David & Bonnie Loth

### **Friday, March 27 - Lenten Weekday**

8:30 AM - Communion Service

### **Saturday, March 28 - Vigil of Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**

3:15 PM - Confessions

4:00 PM - Mass for *Intentions of Mary & Ray King*  
requested by Mary & Ray King

### **Sunday, March 29 - Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**

8:00 AM - Mass for *Angie Auerbeck* requested by  
Ron & Becky Merilli

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

**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.

### **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!

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER:** At this point in our Lenten journey, it is tempting to grow weary of the spiritual disciplines we have taken on. Today's readings inspire us to remain faithful, in grateful response to a God who loves us so much. What's more, these readings give us wonderful guidance on just how to make this grateful response.

The disciplines of Lent and the disciplines of a stewardship way of life are wonderful gifts that free us from too great an attachment to 'the flesh.' The sacrifices we make in a particular way during this holy season, and every day when we truly embrace a stewardship way of life, are not meant to restrict our freedom and joy. Quite the contrary – they are tools to help us find the real freedom and joy that only come when we make room in our lives for God. In fact, the more we allow God to take over every aspect of our lives, the freer and more joyful we become.

As we journey ever closer to the powerful days of Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and the Passion and Resurrection of our Lord, let us intensify our Lenten resolutions and our stewardship way of life. Let us invite the Holy Spirit to take over more and more of our lives. By Easter, we will be freer to rejoice in Him and truly pleasing to God.

### **March 7th/8th**

Envelopes	\$ 4,090.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 1,065.00
Heating & Cooling	\$ 95.00
Ash Wednesday	\$ 10.00
Holy Thursday	\$ 25.00
Holy Land Good Friday	\$ 10.00
Easter Offering	\$ 25.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 185.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$ 35.00
Online Giving	\$ 2,679.75
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 8,219.75</b>

**2026 Catholic Ministries Drive Goal: \$37,300**

**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 22<sup>nd</sup>-March 24<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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!

### **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. **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  
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](http://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 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](mailto: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.

**SCRIP NEWS:** Planning your Easter dinner? Looking for items to fill Easter baskets? Don't forget to pick up Scrip cards for all your Easter needs!