



Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

March 29, 2026

St. John the Evangelist Church

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

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Monday, March 30th: Morning Mass 8:30 AM

Tuesday, March 31st: Morning Mass 8:30 AM Tenebrae 7:00 PM

Wednesday, April 1st: Evening Mass 6:00 PM

Holy Thursday, April 2nd: Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:00 PM

Good Friday, April 3rd: Stations of the Cross 12:00 PM

The Passion of the Lord 7:00 PM

Holy Saturday, April 4th: Blessing of Easter Food Baskets - 12:00 PM

Easter Vigil 8:30 PM

Easter Sunday, April 5th: 8:00 AM & 11:00 AM

NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS

LECTORS

Thurs. Apr. 2- 7:00 PM- Estella Koch, Evie Koch

Fri. Apr. 3- 7:00 PM- Jeremy Truscello, Barbara Bundy, Ginny Reeder

Sat. Apr. 4- 8:30 PM - James Krug, Camille Krug, NOT FILLED,
Laverne Kovacs, Patrick Schurr

Sun. Apr. 5- 8:00 AM - Gary Johnson, Mike Greslick

Sun. Apr. 5- 11:00 AM - Dave Auerbeck, Susanna Tomlinson

ALTAR SERVERS

Thurs. Apr. 2-7:00 PM– Abigail Hovance, Aidan Schurr,
Sadie Swope, Lexi Tatar

Fri. Apr. 3- 7:00 PM– Estella Koch, Evie Koch, Sadie Swope,
Lexi Tatar

Sat. Apr. 4- 8:30 PM - Abigail Hovance, Estella Koch, Evie Koch,
Aidan Schurr, Sadie Swope

Sun. Apr. 5- 8:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED

Sun. Apr. 5- 11:00 AM - Madison Kantoski, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Thurs. Apr. 2- 7:00 PM- Lou Ann Clark, Jennifer Helsley,
Ginny Reeder, Daniel Turcovsky, Diane Turcovsky, NOT FILLED

Sat. Apr. 4- 8:30 PM - Barbara Bundy, Dolores Capriotti,
Joyce Cunningham, Ken Gorman, Bob Olson, NOT FILLED

Sun. Apr. 5 - 8:00 AM - Ashley Greslick, NOT FILLED

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS CONTINUED

Sun. Apr. 5- 11:00 AM - Lou Ann Clark, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED,
NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Thurs. Apr. 2- 7:00 PM- Carolyn English, Ashley Greslick,
Mike Greslick, Ray Kennedy

Fri. Apr. 3- 7:00 PM– Jane Becker, John Becker, Wendy Campbell,
Mitchell Evans

Sat. Apr. 4- 8:30 PM - Ginny Reeder, Marge Rudolph,
Larry VanSickel, Paula VanSickel

Sun. Apr. 5- 8:00 AM - Jane Becker, John Becker, Carolyn English,
Ed Stoltz

Sun. Apr. 5- 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Walter Bloom,
Mary Horton, Peg Madden

SACRISTAN

Thurs. Apr. 2- 7:00 PM– Ashley Greslick

Sat. Apr. 4- 8:30 PM - Dolores Capriotti

Sun. Apr. 5- 8:00 AM - Ashley Greslick

Sun. Apr. 5- 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan

SCRIP

Scrip will not be sold during Holy Week or on Easter Sunday. Scrip will be sold again the weekend of April 11th/12th. Happy Easter!

A Few Words from the Pastor:

THE SACRED TRIDUUM: sundown on Holy Thursday to sundown on Easter Sunday is considered the most solemn part of the liturgical year. This three-day period is referred to as the *Easter Triduum*, also known as the *Sacred Triduum*, or *Paschal Triduum*. The word "triduum" comes from the Latin word *triduum*, which comes from *tris* ("three") + *dies* ("day"). Basically, the Sacred Triduum is one great festival recounting the last three days of Jesus' life on earth, the events of his Passion and Resurrection, when the Lamb of God laid down his life in atonement for our sins.

TENEBRAE – Tenebrae is the Latin word for darkness and night. It is a religious service of Western Christianity held during the three days preceding Easter Day, and characterized by gradual extinguishing of candles, and by a "strepitus" or "loud noise" taking place in total darkness near the end of the service. Our Tenebrae service here at St. John's will be held this Tuesday evening at 7:00. Please join us for this very moving ceremony!

HOLY THURSDAY MASS AND ADORATION - The evening Mass on Holy Thursday is referred to as *The Mass of the Lord's Supper*. This is where the Church re-lives the institution of the Eucharist and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at the Last Supper, as well as the institution of the priesthood, which took place the evening before Jesus was crucified. The **Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday begins at 7:00 PM** and concludes with a procession of the Blessed Sacrament around the church, with continued adoration until 10PM.

GOOD FRIDAY: Stations and Veneration of the Cross at Noon. The commemoration of the Lord's Passion at 7:00. This is the day of the Lord's crucifixion, the day Jesus died for the sins of the world. This is a mandatory day of fasting and abstinence. The parish altar looks very different on Good Friday: it is plain and bare. There is no consecrated Host in the tabernacle at the main altar of the church; it was carried away on Holy Thursday night to the "altar of repose" to signify Jesus' death. The candle by the tabernacle is blown out, and the tabernacle doors are left open to show that it is empty. Jesus is gone. This is quite dramatic, reminding us that Good Friday is a solemn day of mourning and prayer. The ceremony on Good Friday is not a Mass—it is a communion service using the consecrated hosts from Holy Thursday. Good Friday is the only day of the year on which no Masses are offered.

HOLY SATURDAY: On this day Christ is in the tomb. There is no daytime Mass on Holy Saturday. It is still a day of fasting and sorrow before the Easter Vigil begins that evening. We recall, with Mary and the disciples, that Jesus died and was separated from them for the first time as He lay in the tomb. The faithful often continue their Good Friday fast through Holy Saturday. In the Apostles Creed we pray "He descended into hell" (translated hades, that is, the temporary abode of the dead—not the eternal lake of fire) which describes what Jesus did in the time between his burial and Resurrection.

THE BLESSING OF THE EASTER BASKET: Our Easter Basket blessing will take place on Holy Saturday at noon. Please come and bring your baskets!

THE EASTER VIGIL - A **vigil Mass is held after nightfall on Holy Saturday at 8:30 PM** in celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. This is called the Easter Vigil: the most glorious, beautiful, and dramatic liturgy for the Church. The vigil is divided into four parts: 1) the Service of Light, 2) the Liturgy of the Word, 3) the Liturgy of Baptism, and 4) the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

EASTER SUNDAY: The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes

it this way: "Easter is not simply one feast among others, but the 'Feast of feasts', the 'Solemnity of solemnities', just as the Eucharist is the 'Sacrament of sacraments'. St. Athanasius calls Easter 'the Great Sunday' and the Eastern

SAVE THE DATES!

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

Youth Protection Class: Saturday, April 25th from 8am-12pm—Complete clearances and paperwork to work with children for Church activities. More details to come!

May Crowning: Sunday, May 3rd at the 11am Mass—All children are invited to participate!

First Holy Communion: Sunday, May 3rd at the 11am Mass

Schedule for the Week of March 29th

Sunday, Mar. 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*

Monday, Mar. 30- Monday of Holy Week

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

Tuesday, Mar. 31 - Tuesday of Holy Week

8:30 AM - Mass for *Marian Monios* requested by Jackie & Sam Long & family

Wednesday, April 1 - Wednesday of Holy Week

6:00 PM - Mass for *Earl Costa* requested by Maria & Doug Spayd

Thursday, April 2- Holy Thursday

7:00 PM - Mass of the Lord's Supper

Friday, April 3 - Friday of the Passion of the Lord

7:00 PM - Observance of the Lord's Passion

Saturday, April 4- Holy Saturday

8:30 PM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

Sunday, April 5- Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

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

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

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: We begin this Holy Week with the reading of the Lord's Passion from the Gospel of Matthew. It is fitting that we Christian stewards focus our minds and hearts intensely this week on the steps of our Brother and Savior as He laid down His very life for us.

Throughout this story, there are several small acts of stewardship by those who encountered Jesus during this most eventful week. Each of these were simple acts of good stewardship, yet God used them in mighty ways. God invites each of us, too, to cooperate with Him in small ways through the sharing of our time, talents and material gifts. Small gifts can become mighty deeds when placed in God's service.

March 14th/15th

Envelopes	\$	3,650.00
Loose Offerings	\$	1,605.00
Heating & Cooling	\$	295.00
Ash Wednesday	\$	5.00
Black & Indian	\$	5.00
Easter Flowers	\$	565.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$	265.00
Online Giving	\$	1,517.77
Total Offertory	\$	7,907.77

2026 Catholic Ministries Drive Goal: \$37,300

Total contributions and pledges will be updated from the Diocese beginning in April for 2026

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS: Please email any upcoming bulletin announcements to Diane Ryan at stjohsecretary@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.

THANK YOU! A BIG thank you to everyone who came to our Easter Egg Hunt and Spring Fling Brunch last Sunday. We had a great turn out! Thank you also to everyone who donated food, candy and all those who helped serve lunch. Our Faith Formation students helped make the event a success by filling eggs, setting up and assisting during the hunt. We are certainly blessed at St. John's to have such amazing people supporting our parish events!

OCIA: Please keep Allison Kendall in your prayers this week as she makes her final preparations to receive Sacraments at the Easter Vigil. Allison will receive Baptism, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation. The parishioners of St. John's support you on this faith journey and welcome you into our community!



Rice Bowls can be returned to the parish by placing them in the basket provided in the Gathering Space by Easter Sunday.

PONTIFICAL GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION: At the request of the Holy Father, the Franciscans of the Holy Land promote the Pontifical Good Friday Collection in the US and around the world. Funds are distributed at the direction of the Vatican's Congregation for the Oriental Churches and support the people of the Holy Land and the pilgrims that visit, educational and ecclesial projects in the Middle East and ministries and programs entrusted by the Holy See to the Holy Land Franciscans. To learn more visit www.myfranciscan.org.

HOLY THURSDAY VOLUNTEERS: We are looking for several volunteers to sign up to have their feet washed during the Holy Thursday Mass at 7pm on April 2nd. If you are interested in volunteering, please sign up on the kiosk or call the Parish office at 814-942-5503. Thank you!

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.



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
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 • 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 souls of:
Bill Hoyne
Mary Lauterbach
May they rest in the peace and joy of the Lord.

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.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

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.

****Stay tuned for information about Vacation Bible School coming in June with ROAR! Life is wild, God is good!****

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS: Court Prince Gallitzin # 2625 serves all 11 parishes and beyond. New members are always welcome! On Monday, April 13th, please come and join us for our monthly meeting in the St. Rose of Lima community room at 5:30 p.m. with the business meeting beginning at 6 p.m. If you have any questions please contact Regent Donna Hoover at 814-632-3509 or dannah31049@gmail.com.

EASTER FLOWERS: All memorial donations for Easter flowers should be submitted by Monday, March 30th, in order to be acknowledged in the Easter Sunday bulletin.



Rice Bowls can be returned to the parish by placing them in the basket provided in the Gathering Space.

PASTORAL STAFF

Monsignor Michael Becker - mbecker253@aol.com

Deacon Gene Neral - gene@lifeinfocus.net

Patricia Jimenez - Director of Music
pjimenez@dioceseaj.org

Mimi Crevecoeur - Business Manager
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Diane Ryan - Faith Formation Coordinator/Secretary
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Iris Tatar - Director of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
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Pat & Sue Podoletz - OCIA

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Ken Dunmire - Maintenance