



**Third Sunday of  
Lent  
March 8, 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. 14-4:00 PM - Joyce Cunningham, Laverne Kovacs  
 Sun. Mar. 15-8:00 AM - Ginny Reeder, Mike Greslick  
 Sun. Mar. 15-11:00 AM - Evie Koch, Estella Koch

**ALTAR SERVERS**

Sat. Mar. 14-4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, Sadie Swope  
 Sun. Mar. 15-8:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED  
 Sun. Mar. 15-11:00 AM - Camille Krug, Aidan Schurr

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

Sat. Mar. 14-4:00 PM - Connie Baker, NOT FILLED  
 Sun. Mar. 15-8:00 AM - Jennifer Helsley, NOT FILLED  
 Sun. Mar. 15-11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy, Dolores Capriotti,  
 Lou Ann Clark, Ken Gorman, Bob Olson, Susanna Tomlinson

**MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY**

Sat. Mar. 14-4:00 PM - Jeremy Truscello, Larry VanSickel,  
 Paula VanSickel, NOT FILLED  
 Sun. Mar. 15-8:00 AM - Carolyn English, Ray Kennedy, Ed Stoltz,  
 Mary Truesdale  
 Sun. Mar. 15-11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Wendy Campbell,  
 Mitchell Evans, Mary Horton

**SACRISTAN**

Sat. Mar. 14-4:00 PM - Mary & Ray King  
 Sun. Mar. 15-8:00 AM - Ashley Greslick  
 Sun. Mar. 15-11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy

**SCRIP**

Sat. Mar. 14-4:00 PM - Julie Beiswenger, Becky Merilli  
 Sun. Mar. 15-8:00 AM - Erika Yasolsky, Heather Yasolsky  
 Sun. Mar. 15-11:00 AM - Peg Madden, Marge Rudolph

## A Few Words from the Pastor:

**SAVE THE DATES!** We will be having a Parish Mission on 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."* See the flyer for more details. Invite your family, friends and neighbors!

**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!

**WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY:** On Wednesday at 6:45 PM in the parish center (following our evening Mass), we gather to reflect on the Sunday readings. Our sessions last about an hour. Please join 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. Remember that Jesus fasted 40 days and 40 nights in the desert. 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!** Titled, "Listening and Fasting: Lent as a Time of Conversion," the papal message asked Catholics to come together as a community to listen to the word of God and to the vulnerable. The pope also invited the faithful to engage in a *"very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbor.* Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgment, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves." Instead, he asks that we strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities. In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace."

### SAVE THE DATES!

**Adoration/Stations of the Cross:** Friday, March 13th- Adoration at 5pm followed by Stations of the Cross at 5:30pm

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

**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](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. Thank you for supporting the Catholic Ministries Drive and our diocese's vital ministries.

## **Schedule for the Week of March 8th**

### **Sunday, March 8 - Third Sunday of Lent**

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

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

### **Monday, Mar. 9 - Lenten Weekday**

8:30 AM - Communion Service

### **Tuesday, Mar. 10 - Lenten Weekday**

8:30 AM - Mass for Harry Carr requested by the Sibold family

### **Wednesday, Mar. 11 - Lenten Weekday**

5:30 PM - Confessions

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

### **Thursday, Mar. 12 - Lenten Weekday**

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

### **Friday, Mar. 13 - Lenten Weekday**

8:30 AM - Communion Service

### **Saturday, Mar. 14 - Vigil of Fourth Sunday of Lent**

3:15 PM - Confessions

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

### **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

**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 15th at 4:00pm

**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.

**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.

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER:** Today's readings on this third Sunday of Lent presents us with the theme of "thirst" and show us that a stewardship way of life can both satisfy our spiritual thirst for Christ and help us to satisfy Christ's thirst for souls. For some mysterious reason, God has chosen to include us in His plan for bringing all people to salvation through Him. We live out our part in His plan through a stewardship way of life. It is an indescribable privilege to live this way. Yet, our Lord does not wish us to be concerned about our unworthiness for such a high calling. He demonstrates this throughout the Scriptures by calling the "unworthy." In today's passage, He chooses the Samaritan women. She is a woman with a "past" and even a current living situation that is scandalous. But He calls her to conversion, and she responds to His call, becoming a disciple for her whole village. He is calling to us too, to live as His modern-day disciples. This Lent, let us resolve to respond to His call with passion and commitment. Let us do our part to quench His thirst for the salvation of all.

### **February 21st/22nd**

Envelopes	\$ 3,461.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 717.00
Heating & Cooling	\$ 116.00
Black & Indian	\$ 212.00
Ash Wednesday	\$ 739.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 25.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,632.35
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 6,902.35</b>

### **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!

**DON'T FORGET ABOUT SCRIP!** Don't forget to buy scrip for your home improvement purchases! Whether you're picking out new furniture, remodeling the kitchen, or repainting your favorite room, big projects don't come cheap. On the plus side, big spending means big rebates for St. John's, so don't forget to order scrip for purchases at Lowes, Home Depot, etc. Have questions still? Stop by the Scrip table at any weekend mass and our volunteers will be happy to help answer any questions.

### **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 • 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:

Marian Monios

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!

**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

**FISH FRY:** The Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament will have their Annual Lenten Fish Fry Lunch all Fridays during Lent, except Good Friday. Cost is \$12 for a fish sandwich, mac & cheese and coleslaw. Drive thru Cathedral Alley Door Pick up from 10:30am-1pm. Orders of 10 or more will be delivered if you call ahead at 814-944-4603.

**KIDS CLUB DINO-MITE ADVENTURE:** Inviting all children ages 3 – 8 to a **FREE ROAR** and **EXPLORE** hands-on experience in science and art, featuring dinosaurs. Tuesday, March 10 from 5:30 – 7 p.m. @Bishop Guilfoyle Academy Hollidaysburg Campus, 321 Spruce Street. See flyer in Gathering Space for details!

### **FAITH FORMATION NEWS**

**March 8th-Class**

**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**

**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).*

**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!

**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. Offering Preschool through Grade 5 at our Eldorado and Fairview campuses, and Preschool through Grade 3 (growing to grade 5) at our Hollidaysburg campus. Junior and Senior High School students attend school at our Pleasant Valley Campus. 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.



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