

SACRED HEART CHURCH ♥ SAINT MARY CHURCH



ADORATION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT

Sunday, February 17th
1:00 pm - Sacred Heart

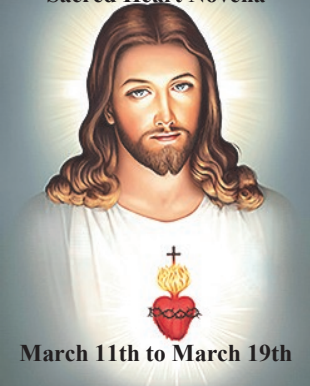


Sunday, March 10, 2024

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God. - Jn 3:20-21

Sacred Heart Novena



March 11th to March 19th

ALTOONA, PENNSYLVANIA 16602

Sacred Heart Rectory: 511 20TH STREET
Telephone: 814-943-8553
Fax: 814-943-1556

Sacred Heart Email: sacredheartaltoona@dioceseaj.org
Website: www.sacredheartaltoona.org
Sacred Heart Formation Center: 814-944-3922
Sacred Heart Food Pantry: 814-943-4529

Saint Mary Rectory: 1401 5TH AVENUE
Telephone: 814-942-2416
FAX: 814-944-5049

Saint Mary Email: stmaryaltoona@dioceseaj.org
Website: <http://stmaryschurchaltoona.wixsite.com/saintmarys>

DIRECTORY OF PARISH STAFF

Rev. Lubomír J. Strečok, Pastor of Sacred Heart and Administrator of Saint Mary

Kellie Rivera, Sacred Heart Parish Secretary
Joel Caracciolo, Sacred Heart Parish Council Chairperson
James Rokosky Sacred Heart Finance Council Chairperson
Judy Wahl, Sacred Heart Director of Religious Education
Patrick Dorman, Sacred Heart Choir Director

Anita Wavrek, Saint Mary Parish Secretary
Joseph Eckels, Saint Mary Finance Council Chairperson
Debbie Bartley, Saint Mary Director of Religious Education
Jim Mock, Saint Mary Director of Christian Initiation
Terry Carnicella, Saint Mary Choir Director

Terry Carnicella, Jean Ann Mitchell, Karen Koehle, Mary Villani, Organists

CELEBRATIONS OF THE EUCHARIST

Saturday Vigil Masses: **4:00 p.m.** (Saint Mary) **5:30 p.m.** (Sacred Heart)
Sunday Masses: **8:00 a.m.** (Saint Mary) **10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon** (Sacred Heart)
Weekday Masses: Monday-Friday: **7:45 a.m.** (Sacred Heart)

CELEBRATIONS OF THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (Confessions)

Saturday: 12:30 p.m. (Sacred Heart)
Saturday: 3:00 p.m. (Saint Mary)
or by appointment

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK: You are encouraged to notify the rectory as soon as there is a serious illness. You are also asked to notify the rectory when a relative is admitted to a hospital or nursing home.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: The Sacrament of Baptism for Infants normally takes place during a weekend celebration of the Eucharist or on Sundays at 1:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart or 9:00 a.m. at Saint Mary. For the baptism of their first child, parents are expected to attend a baptismal session with Fr. Lubomír. Please call the rectory office for an appointment. Godparents for infants must be at least 16 years of age, confirmed, and regularly practicing the faith with a freedom to receive the Eucharist. Sponsor certificate for Godparents is necessary and can be obtained from their parish office of their current Church of registration.

CHRISTIAN INITIATION: Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Catholic Church should contact a member of the parish staff.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY MATRIMONY: Please call the Pastor/Administrator nine months in advance to make arrangements for instruction and planning the marriage ceremony.

FOOD PANTRY: The Sacred Heart Food Pantry will be open on Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. until 1:45 p.m.

REGISTRATION OF PARISHIONERS: We are always happy to welcome new parishioners to Sacred Heart Parish and Saint Mary Parish. Please introduce yourself to a member of the parish staff and register at the rectory. Registration, the practice of stewardship, and regular participation in the Eucharist indicate that a person is an active member of the parish and is eligible to act as a godparent or sponsor. As a Church community seeking to be faith-filled disciples and good stewards, the sacrifice of our time, talent and treasure is essential for the common good.

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 9th, St. Catherine of Bologna

4:00 p.m. (SM) Thomas Frank (Marlene Steinbugl)
5:30 p.m. (SH) Rosella Greiner (Dennis & Daniel Greiner)

Sunday, March 10th, The 4th Sunday of Lent

8:00 a.m. (SM) Mike & Mary Melnick (The Family)
10:00 a.m. (SH) Pro Populo (Living & Deceased members of Sacred Heart and Saint Mary's Parishes)
12:00 p.m. (SH) Jim Consalvo (Sister & Aunt Josie)

Monday, March 11th, Opening of the Sacred Heart Novena

NO MORNING MASS

7:00 p.m. (SH) Betty Dalansky (Steve & Jann Dalansky)

Tuesday, March 12th

7:45 a.m. (SH) Mary Ann Dietrick (Roy & Lynn Holtz)
11:30 a.m. (SH) Decease members to the Moffa Family (Moffa Foundation)
7:00 p.m. (SH) Donald & Robin Porta (Connie Burket & Beatrice Faws)

Wednesday, March 13th

7:45 a.m. (SH) Peter Hocht (Susan Galant)
11:30 a.m. Stanley Galant (Joyce Prunto)
7:00 p.m. Roberta Alderisio (Rose Ehgartner)

Thursday, March 14th

7:45 a.m. (SH) Scott Galant (John & Alice McKnight)
11:30 a.m. (SH) Martin Roesch (Linda Settle)
7:00 p.m. (SH) Leo, Rosella and Daved Greiner (Dennis & Daniel Greiner)

Friday, March 15th

7:45 a.m. (SH) Ted & Marcella Adams (Their Children)
11:30 a.m. (SH) Pat Cellini (Richard & Bernice Cellini)
7:00 p.m. (SH) Ed McConnell (McDonald & Wertz Families)

Saturday, March 16th

9:00 a.m. (SH) Phyllis Hartman (David Ross)
11:30 a.m. (SH) Ted & Marcella Adams (Their Children)
4:00 p.m. (SM) Karl Burgmeier (The Talley Family)
5:30 p.m. (SH) Clara Benettie (Bill & Deborah Aigner)

Sunday, March 17th, The 5th Sunday of Lent, St. Patrick's Day

8:00 a.m. (SM) Patricia Conlon Harshbarger (The Family)
10:00 a.m. (SH) Pro Populo (Living & Deceased members of Sacred Heart and Saint Mary's Parishes)
12:00 p.m. (SH) Dr. Gilot (Wife, Muriel Gilot)

Weekly Collection at Sacred Heart, February 26, 2024

Envelopes	\$4,155.00
Loose Change	\$367.00
Total	\$4,522.00

Weekly Collection at Saint Mary, February 126, 2024

Envelopes	\$5,389.00
Loose Change	\$60.00
Total	\$5,449.00

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Awake, O Sleeper!

This morning came a little earlier than I would have liked — Day-light Savings Time always does. Sometimes that morning sunlight seems more intrusive than illuminating. You're still half-lost in sleep, and that sun is demanding of you a lot more than you're ready to give. I've said it, and I'm sure you've said it, too. "Just five more minutes." You hit the "snooze" button on your iPhone once (maybe twice? Show of hands?) and turn away from the window.

So many kings of the Old Testament were steadfast in their sleepy ways, rejecting the light their God tried to share with them. Likewise, John tells us that, though Light — Christ — was sent into the world, the world preferred darkness.

Sometimes it seems, when reading through Scripture, that all throughout salvation history, God has been trying to pull back the curtains, to rouse us from our defiant slumber. And we resist Him. Time and time again, we resist Him.

Light brings a certain responsibility with it. It seems to compel productivity. Furthermore, there's no hiding in the light. Any photographer worth his salt knows how to manipulate it, highlighting the good and casting some merciful shade on the bad.

As we enter into the fourth week of Lent, we're getting so close to the main event. Can we handle the light that will come on Easter morning, bursting into the tomb as the stone is rolled away? Can we keep ourselves from hitting the "snooze" button on our souls, and sit up to face the dawn of a new day?

**LITURGICAL MINISTRIES SCHEDULE
FOR MARCH 16TH AND MARCH 17TH**

(Also posted on the Sacred Heart Facebook page)

Time and Location	Altar Servers	Lectors	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Organist/Cantor
Saturday 4:00 p.m. Saint Mary	Volunteer	Jim Adams	Host-Helen Schmitt Chalice-Ruth Westley	Jean Ann Mitchell
Saturday 5:30 p.m. Sacred Heart	Lucas Farabaugh Xavier Farabaugh Stu Trotter	Theresa Adams	Host-Daniel Greiner Chalice-Cathy Keefe	Jean Ann Mitchell Maddie Trotter
Sunday 8:00 a.m. Saint Mary	Lily Butterbaugh Mira Sparacino	Mary Rose Poorman	Host-Debbie Bartley Chalice-Tina Johnston	Terry Carnicella
Sunday 10:00 a.m. Sacred Heart	Henry Drumm Reagan Noel	James Rokosky Ava Rokosky	Host-Jann Delansky Chalice-Barb Gerhart Chalice-Julie Carnicella	Mary Villani Luke Rokosky
Sunday 12:00 p.m. Sacred Heart	Lucas Rivera Cruz Rivera	April Lauver	Host-Jim Imler Chalice-Marlene Brown	Mary Villani Judy Wahl



PRO-LIFE CORNER “When two men are fighting in a forest and they are attacked by a wild beast they quickly become a united force against a common danger. So it should be today with Jews, Protestants, and Catholics. There is a common enemy (Abortion). “Therefore let there be a common front against a common affront” Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen.

PRO-LIFE ROSARY meets every Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. in Sacred Heart Church. All are welcome to attend. No commitments. Come when you can!

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

by Bud Ozar

Today’s gospel speaks of light and darkness. Often a parent is deliberately “left in the dark.” Darkness can be comforting for it makes no demands on us. Light can be disturbing for it forces us to take action.

Parents walk a delicate balance of when to “sit in the dark” and when to “turn on the lights.”

SACRED HEART NOVENA The 59th Annual Novena in HONOR OF THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS will be held from Monday, March 11 to Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at Sacred Heart. Solemn Opening Mass will be celebrated on Monday, March 11, at 7:00 p.m. A complete schedule will be available on the first night of the novena in the church.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be held every Friday (including Good Friday) at Sacred Heart at 5:30 p.m. Saint Mary’s will have Stations of the Cross at 7:00 p.m. followed by evening Mass. (There will be no evening Mass on March 15 due to Sacred Heart Novena).

SMALL GROUP SESSION St. Mary’s and Sacred Heart are offering Lenten Small Group Session Conversations on “The Veil Removed” Video. These sessions will be held in the St. Mary’s Rectory on Wednesday Evenings at 6:00 PM. The sessions are scheduled for February 28, March 13 and will end on March 20. They will run approximately an hour and a half to two hours. Please sign up by calling the St. Mary’s Rectory at 814-942-2416 or the Sacred Heart Rectory at 814-943-8553. This is open to all who interested and you do not need to commit to all 4 sessions.

ST. MARY’S CHRISTIAN MOTHER/LCBA #1290 have placed the names of the 11th grade Confirmation Students and the 2nd grade First Communion Students on the bulletin board at the front entrance of St. Mary’s. If you want to be the “Prayer Pal” to one of these children as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation or First Holy Communion, please take their name from the bulletin board. The date they will receive the Sacrament is written on the back. Thank you for praying for our children.

ST. PATRICK SCHOOL Looking for a nurturing and academically enriching environment for your child? Look no further! St. Patrick School is now accepting registrations for students entering Pre-K-8th grade for the 2024-2025 school year. At St. Patrick School, we believe that faith and education go hand in hand. With small class sizes and dedicated teachers, we provide personalized attention to every student. Secure your child’s spot today and join us in shaping young minds and nurturing future leaders. Contact St. Patrick School’s office at 814-695-3819 for more information or to schedule a tour. We can’t wait to welcome your family into ours! Scholarships available.

SAINT MARY CANDLE MEMORIAL: The Altar Candles and Sanctuary Lamp will burn the week of March 10th in loving memory of Paul Roesch and Agnes Najbuch from Family.

SAINT MARY PRAYER CHAIN: Please call the St. Mary’s Rectory at 814-942-2416



PLEASE PRAY FOR....Kathy Ansman, Mark Blackie, Rod Baronner, Dan Bauer, Dave Bauer, Damian Branas, Ron Buckreis, Vince Bumann, Jack Chilcote, Harry Chirdon, Karen Claar, Brandon Conaway, Shirley Conlon, Denise Conrad, James Conrad, Kathy Corl, Bob Decker, Tim Dodson, Joan Donnelly, Matt Dorman, Nate Dorman, Amelia Doughurty, Lois Duncan, Thomas Duncan, Sam Dunio, Ashley Eagen, Ruth Ann Frederick, Herman Frederick, Phyllis Hauser, Leighton Hess, Ralph Hildebrand, Lucy Horton, Austin Judy, Lynn Judy, Raymond Kargo, Russell Keith, Kenny Anthony Keagy, Carol King, John Kleine, Sue Koehle, Ruth Lamca, Cyndi Lansberry, John Leshene, Janet Lego, Beth Lloyd, Michael Macaluso II, Charles McGrain, Shirley McIntyre, Paul Angelo Morelli, Bev Mueller, Bonnie Neal, Jessica Neff, Lee Neff, Kevin O'Rourke, Gail Pearson, Scott Reimer, Sarah Rihnovich, Patti Robinson, Nancy Servello, Laura Snyder, Alex Walter, Margo Wascherl, Alan Watson, Joan Weston, Hank Williams, Mikayla Yanchik.

LENTEN SMALL FAITH SHARING GROUP All are welcome to join a small faith sharing group during Lent, with Scripture focusing on the Eucharist. The meetings will be held on Monday evenings: Feb.19 through March 25 from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in the Sacred Heart Formation Center. A sign-up sheet will be in the Church vestibule beginning the weekend of February 3rd & 4th. Please contact Group Facilitator Judy Wahl: jwahl@dioceseaj.org or call 814-944-3922 for more information. Thank you.

FAMILY LENTEN PROJECT CARE PACKAGES FOR COUCH SURFING (HOMELESS) CHILDREN

Saint Mary’s and Sacred Heart Churches are participating in a **FAMILY LENTEN PROJECT for Homeless Children in the Altoona Area School District. These children range in age from kindergarten to 12th grade and are identified as having no permanent address (couch surfing – going from location to location).**

Below are items that we will be collecting to put into packages for these children. Please place your donations in the Blessed Mother Room at St. Mary’s or at the Main Entrance at Sacred Heart. This project will begin Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024, to Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024.

HYGIENE ITEMS: Toothpaste, Bar Soap, Washcloth, Deodorant, Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Wash, Body Lotion, Mouthwash, Feminine Hygiene Products

PERSONAL ITEMS: Socks, Underwear, T-Shirts/Zip front Hoodies (not white), Hair Accessories (comb, brush, barrettes, hair clips, headbands, etc.)

If you would like to participate but do not want to go out to purchase items, we will accept monetary donations and do the shopping for you! Put your monetary donation in an envelope marked “Family Lenten Project” and drop it in the collection basket at either church.

TURKEY DINNER The Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel in Loretto Annual Men’s Turkey Dinner will be held on Sunday, March 17th 11AM – until sold out. Turkey dinner with all of the trimmings and a Basket Raffle. Dine in for \$14 or take-out for \$15. Thanks for your support! Enjoy!

GOSPEL MEDITATION

March 10th 2024

THE 4TH WEEK OF LENT

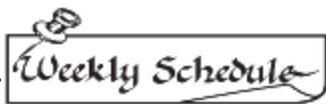
Our national pastime isn't baseball. It's what the Bible calls "condemning the world." We generally enjoy pronouncing curses upon those whom we see as trouble, wrong, or evil. Don't believe me? Listen to almost any podcast, cable news network, or social media platform to hear it. It will be some version of: "We all agree that if they are eradicated, things will be great." Condemning is almost always clothed in virtue. It basks in its good intentions. That's why it is so attractive. Condemning seems like our best path to saving what is good.

What a shock, then, to hear Jesus announce: "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him" (Jn 3:17). He comes to save the world, as we all want, but he will accomplish it without an act of condemnation. How hard it is to accept this! Condemning feels godlike. I judge who and what must be lost to protect the good. But in the light of Jesus' endless mercy and love, this is the least godlike thing we can do.

Lenten challenge: This week, I invite you to give up the delicious experience of condemning whomever in the world you most would like to see gone. Perhaps write down their names. Secondly, I invite you to consider fasting from any media that feeds the tasty but deadly tendency to condemn.— *Father John Muir*

GUEST SPEAKER The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown proudly presents: Dr. Edward Sri, a nationally recognized theologian and speaker, for a 2-day event celebrating the national Eucharistic revival. To be held at the Mount Aloysius College Athletic Convocation and Wellness Center 7373 Admiral Perry Hwy, Cresson. Friday, April 19th from 7-9:30 p.m. for High School, College, and Young Adults. The topic will be: Men, Women, and the Mystery of Love (incorporating the *Art of Living*) and When You Pray: *Trust, Surrender and the Transformation of Your Soul*. On Saturday, April 20th from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for the General Public the topic will be: *Into his Likeness: Be Transformed as a Disciple of Christ; When You Pray: Trust, Surrender and the Transformation of Your Soul, and Vibrant Faith in a Secular Age*. There is no cost to attend! Register today! Online @ www.DIOCESEAJ.ORG or by mail in form available at each parish.

GARVEY MANOR CONFRATERNITY OF THE BROWN SCAPULAR. This faith-filled group meets on the first Saturday of each month in the Chapel at Garvey Manor. We begin the rosary at 9:30 a.m. and attend the 10 a.m. Mass, followed by spiritual reflection led by Sister Jacinta under the loving protection of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in the Hall. Membership is open to any Catholic who would find it spiritually beneficial to be united with others in pursuit of holiness. If interested call Sister Jacinta (814) 695-5571.



Saturday, March 9th

12:30 p.m. **Sacrament of Reconciliation** (SH)
2:00 p.m. **First Reconciliation** (SM)
3:00 p.m. **Sacrament of Reconciliation** (SM)
4:00 p.m. **Vigil Mass** (SM)
5:30 p.m. **Vigil Mass** (SH)

**Sunday, March 10th, The 4th Week of Lent, Daylight Savings Time -
Move Clocks ahead**

Diocesan Collection—Catholic Relief Services (SH&SM)
8:00 a.m. **Holy Mass** (SM)
9:00 a.m. K-8 **Religious Education Classes** (SM)
10:00 a.m. **Holy Mass** (SH)
11:00 a.m. **PreK-10 Religious Education Classes** (SH)
 11th grade Candidate/Sponsor Session, 12 until 2:00 (SH)
12:00 p.m. **Holy Mass** (SH)

Monday, March 11th

NO MORNING MASS

Wednesday, March 13th

10:00 a.m. **Sacred Heart Food Pantry Open** (SH)
3:00 p.m. **Pro-Life Rosary said in the Church** (SH)

Friday, March 15th

5:30 p.m. **Stations of the Cross** (SH)
7:00 p.m. **Stations of the Cross only** (SM)

Saturday, March 16th

12:30 p.m. **Sacrament of Reconciliation** (SH)
3:00 p.m. **Sacrament of Reconciliation** (SM)
4:00 p.m. **Vigil Mass** (SM)
5:30 p.m. **Vigil Mass** (SH)

Sunday, March 17th, The 5th Week of Lent, St. Patrick's Day

8:00 a.m. **Holy Mass** (SM)
9:00 a.m. K-10 **Religious Education Classes** (SM)
 11th grade Group Session-9:00 am (SM)
10:00 a.m. **Holy Mass** (SH)
11:00 a.m. **Pre-K-11 Religious Education Classes** (SH)
12:00 p.m. **Holy Mass** (SH)

Please join in praying for the Priests of our Diocese

**This week we are praying for Rev. John Brezovec
Senior Priest of the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese**

O Jesus, you are the eternal High Priest, the Good Shepherd, the Source of life. Through the singular generosity of Your most sensitive heart, You have given us our priests for the purpose of fulfilling in us that plan of sanctification which Your grace inspires in our hearts. We beg You come to their aid with Your merciful assistance.

O Jesus, may they possess faith which energizes their actions, Hope which is unshakable in trials, And charity which permeates their endeavors. Through their constant meditation, may your word, Which is an outpouring of eternal wisdom, Become the everlasting nourishment of their interior life; And may their conduct and suffering reflect the example of Your life and Passion, So as to serve for our instruction, and as a beacon of consolation in our sorrows.

O Lord, grant that our priests be detached from all worldly interests, and labor only for Your glory. With a pure conscience may they persevere in their duties faithfully until their dying breath. And when death has claimed their bodies, and they place back into Your hands the account of their faithful stewardship, May they enjoy in You, Lord Jesus, their divine teacher on earth, the everlasting reward of the crown of justice in the splendor of the Saints. Amen