

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**March 17, 2024**  
**Mass Intentions**

**March 17, Sunday, Fifth Sunday Of Lent**  
 8:00AM+Linda Cacciotti, Birthday (Carl & Family)  
 10:00AM+Kirk Kling, Birthday (Weaver Family)  
 5:00PM Pro Popolo/For the People  
**Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church 11:30 AM**

**March 18, Monday, Lenten Weekday**  
 12:00PM+Souls in Purgatory (Anonymous)

**March 19, Tuesday, Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
 12:00PM+Bill Anthony (McNelis All Stars and Friends)

**March 20, Wednesday, Lenten Weekday**  
 12:00PM+Paul Caracciolo (Vicki & Rod Hamer)

**March 21, Thursday, Lenten Weekday**  
 12:00PM+Mary Modico (Tami Cross)

**March 22, Friday, Lenten Weekday**  
 12:00PM+Dan & Mariam Burns (M/M Dave Hanekamp)

**March 23, Saturday, Lenten Weeday**  
 12:00PM+Barbara Shoemaker (Renee Luciano & Tim Bryan)  
**Vigil: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**  
 5:00PM+Marti Stefanon (Ronald & Eileen Roefaro)

**March 24, Sunday, Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**  
 8:00AM+Sandy Cuomo, Anniversay (Family)  
 10:00AM+Bob Eger (BGHS Class of 1968)  
 5:00PM Pro Popolo/For the People  
**Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church 11:30 AM**



Our parish's Easter Egg Hunt is on Sunday, March 24th, beginning at 2:00 P.M. in the lower level parking lot. Bring your own basket. There will be a special appearance by the Easter Bunny. Hop on over for egg-cellent fun!



The 2024 *Catholic Ministries Drive* has begun. Our sacrificial gifts of prayer and treasure will make an immediate and lasting impact on our ministries that focus on evangelization, serving those in need, and the formation of priests and deacons. This year, our campaign's theme is **Encountering Christ**. During this time of the Eucharistic Revival, **Encountering Christ** is an invitation to grow in our living relationship with Christ in the Eucharist, to open our hearts to serving our brothers and sisters, and to fulfill our holy duty of supporting the Church by gifts of our time, talent, and treasure. Our diocese's ministries need our support. Our parish's target is \$45,930. All contributions beyond our parish goal will remain for use within our parish. As of March 12, 37 parishioners have pledged/contributed \$10,575.00. Thank you.

**Confirmation Announcement**

Sunday, March 17th, 2024. 11th Grade Final Session and Interview, 2:30-4:30 in the Cathedral Hall. Sponsor or parent must attend with student. All make up work **must** be turned in.



**March 24, Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord** Palm will be blessed at the beginning of all Masses. We will gather, depending on the weather, either in the narthex or on the portico.

**March 25, Monday, Chrism Mass at 11:00 A.M.**

**March 28, Holy Thursday, Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 P.M.**

**March 29, Good Friday, Commemoration of the Lord's Passion at 1:00 P.M.**

**March 30, Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil Mass at 8:00 P.M.**

**March 31, Easter Sunday, Masses at 8:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M. Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church at 11:30 A.M. (There is no 5:00 P.M. Mass on Easter Sunday.)**

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION**  
 Sunday, March 10, 2024 \$ 8,064.45  
 Thank you for your financial and spiritual support.

**Inquiry Sessions of Christian Initiation of Adults**

Are you interested in the Catholic Church? Do you know someone who might be interested in seeking information about our Catholic faith? The Cathedral Christian Initiation Team will begin weekly meetings in the Church from 11:00 AM until 12:00 Noon (after the 10:00 Mass) for all those seeking information on the Catholic Church. No commitments are made at this time. These are informal Inquiry Sessions to discuss aspects of our faith with anyone who might be thinking of joining the Catholic Church. All are welcome; bring a friend. If you are interested in joining or would like more information, please contact Carol Galioto at (814)327-4841.



**Fish Lunches**

Our parish's Annual Fish Fry Lunch is being sold on Fridays during Lent, except Good Friday. The drive-thru lunches will be available from 10:30 A.M until 1:00 P.M. The cost is \$10.00 for a large fish sandwich, mac & cheese, and cole slaw. For ten or more lunch purchases, delivery is available, but you need to call ahead and pre-order at 814-944-4603. Take out and cash only.

**WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES - ENGAGE PARISHIONERS IN DAILY MASS AND PRAYER**

**Sunday:** Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15 (12a)/ Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33

**Monday:** Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/ Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Jn 8:1-11

**Tuesday:** 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

**Wednesday:** Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Jn 8:31-42

**Thursday:** Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 8:51-59

**Friday:** Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7/Jn 10:31-42

**Saturday:** Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13/Jn 11:45-56

**Next Sunday:** Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 (2a)/Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14:1—15:47 or 15:1-3

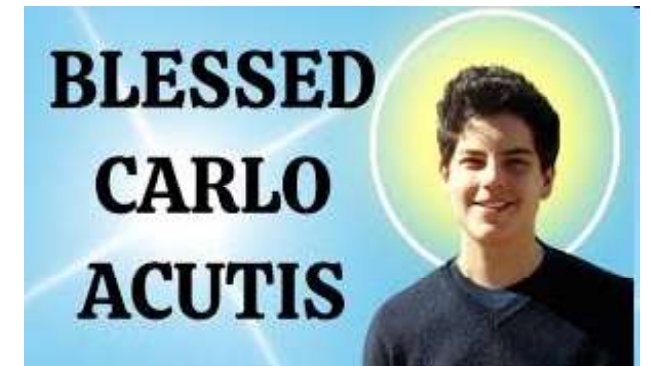


Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence. Abstinence refers to not eating meat at all on those days. Persons 14 years of age and older are to abstain. Fasting refers to one full meal, with two small meals, no eating between meals. People who have reached their 18th birthday and up to their 59th are obligated to fast. In addition to these obligations, additional forms of fast and abstinence may be observed.

**Sung Evening Prayer and Benediction**

You are encouraged to pray sung evening prayer before the Blessed Sacrament beginning on the Second Sunday of Lent at 6:30 P.M. Vespers will be concluded with Benediction.

**Stations of the Cross will be prayed during Lent on Fridays at 5:30 P.M.**



Our parish now has the entire exhibit of Eucharistic miracles prepared by Blessed Carlo Acutis (1999-2006). Portions of the exhibit will be displayed in the side chapels of the cathedral. You are encouraged to deepen your appreciation of the Eucharist by reading about the extraordinary ways the Lord has revealed Himself in the gift of the Blessed Sacrament.

**GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE**

March 17, 2024

5th Sunday of Lent

A middle-aged woman sat on the couch in my parish office and recounted to me a shocking list of terrible calamities in her life: addictions, terminal illnesses, financial loss, broken relationships, and so on. She smiled as she did so. "Please forgive me," I asked, "but you seem to be smiling as you share this." She said, "Father John, I am totally overwhelmed. But I'm smiling because I just can't wait to see what good things God does with this mess." She expected God would manifest His glory when she most needed it.

This week in the Gospel, God speaks from heaven for the third and final time in Jesus' earthly ministry. It's at a tough moment. Gentiles seek Jesus, who announces his terrible suffering, and then boldly prays, "Father, glorify your name!" John then writes: Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it and will glorify it again." Was the task of drawing the whole non-Jewish world to himself overwhelming? Or was it the terrible specter of crucifixion? Whatever it was, the crushing weight triggers his turning to the Father with an unshakeable expectation of divine glory to burst through. And indeed, it did on Easter Sunday. In our burdens, our greatest strength is to turn to God and boldly ask Him for His glory.

Lenten challenge: This week, I invite you to list out everything which is a burden to you. Write it down. Then add these words: "Father, glorify Your name in all these things!" Put that paper in your pocket or purse when you come to Holy Week liturgies next week. You might smile at the most unlikely times



**Cathedral parish's Lenten Penance Service is on Wednesday, March 20, at 6:00 P.M. (7:00 P.M. Confessions are cancelled that evening.)**

The season of Lent begins with the call to "Repent, and believe in the Gospel."

We have all sinned and are in need of repentance...we need to turn away from sin and turn to the Lord. The Holy Spirit helps us to acknowledge our sins; and then, is present in the Sacrament of Reconciliation where we experience the tender mercy of God.

**Contribution Reports**

Contribution reports for income tax purposes may be obtained by calling Paula at the Parish Office, 814-944-4603.

**Basket Bingo Coming Soon**

It's that time of the year again, to start thinking about having fun. Our Basket Bingo will take place on Sunday, September 29, 2024 at the Father Kelly Hall, 5th Street and 25th Avenue. We are now taking donation, new items, gift cards, and monetary gifts.



**The Blessing will take place at Noon on Holy Saturday at Our Lady of Fatima Church**

A typical Eastern European Easter Basket would include a variety of symbolic foods. The basket would contain all or some of these items: bacon (a symbol of God's abundant mercy), bread (representing the staff of life given by God, Easter Bread/Paska Bread (reminiscent of the risen Lord), butter, sometimes shaped like a lamb, (symbolic of the Paschal Lamb), candles (symbolic of Jesus the Light of the world), cheese (to remind Christians of moderation), colored eggs (indicate hope, new life, and Christ rising from the tomb), ham (symbolize great joy and abundance), linked sausage/kielbasa (symbolic of the chains of death that were broken when Jesus rose from the dead), horseradish (reminds us of the bitterness and harshness of the Lord's passion), salt (adds zest to life and preserves us from corruption), sweets (suggest the promise of eternal life or the good things to come).

**THE CHURCH OF ALTOONA-JOHNSTOWN  
THE CATHEDRAL  
OF THE  
BLESSED SACRAMENT**

**ONE CATHEDRAL SQUARE, ALTOONA, PENNSYLVANIA 16601-3315  
CHURCH OFFICE: 814-944-4603**

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT- MARCH 17, 2024**

**CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS:**

The process of formation for those seeking God through membership in the Catholic Christian community.

**INFANT BAPTISM:**

Arrange in advance for pre-baptismal instructions.

**CONFIRMATION:**

Ninth, tenth and eleventh grade students are invited to participate in the Confirmation Preparation Process.

**RECONCILIATION:**

Wednesday: 7:00 PM, Saturday: 12:30 PM.

Communal Penance Services: Advent and Lent.

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK:**

Upon Request and Communal celebration

**MARRIAGE:**

Arrange nine months in advance. Couples expected to participate in pre-marriage preparation program.

**DEVOTIONS:**

Eucharistic Adoration - First Wednesday - 12:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Eucharistic Day - Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM:**

September through April: Pre-Kindergarten thru 12.

Sunday morning 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM

Pre-Kindergarten thru 8.

Sunday Evening 6:15 PM- 8:15 PM

Grades 9 thru 12.

**WEB: [WWW.ALTOONACATHEDRAL.ORG](http://WWW.ALTOONACATHEDRAL.ORG)**

**FAX: 814-942-4337 0**

**E-MAIL: [ALTCATHEDRAL@DIOCESEAJ.ORG](mailto:ALTCATHEDRAL@DIOCESEAJ.ORG)**

<https://www.facebook.com/cathedralofaltoona>

Sunday: 5:00 PM (Vigil)  
8:00 AM  
10:00 AM  
5:00 PM

**Most Reverend Mark L. Bartchak, J.C.D., Bishop**

**Reverend Monsignor Stanley Carson, Administrator**

**Paula Clemens, Parish Secretary**

**DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Chris Laraia - Pre-K thru 12 - 814-312-7317

Religious Education Office: Sundays - 814-943-7424

E-mail: [claraia@dioceseaj.org](mailto:claraia@dioceseaj.org)

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY**

Leslie C. Thayer, MM, CAGO

Music Ministry Office - 814-944-2044

E-mail: [lthayer@dioceseaj.org](mailto:lthayer@dioceseaj.org)

**CHRISTIAN INITIATION TEAM - 814-944-4603**

**CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME - 814-944-4603**

**MAIL MINISTRY TO ELDERLY, HOMEBOUND, SERIOUSLY SICK, AND GRIEVING - 814-944-4603**

**HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

Web: [www.holytrinitycatholic.school](http://www.holytrinitycatholic.school)

Eldorado Campus (Pre-K thru Grade 5) - (814)942-7835

Fairview Campus (Pre-K thru Grade 5) - (814)381-7011

**BISHOP GUILFOYLE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

Web: [www.bishopguilfoyle.org](http://www.bishopguilfoyle.org) - 814-944-4014

Weekday: 12:00 Noon

Saturday: 12:00 Noon

***SERVING THE PEOPLE OF GOD IN THE CITY OF ALTOONA SINCE 1851***