

**Second Sunday in Lent
March 1, 2026
Mass Intentions**

March 1, Sunday, Second Sunday in Lent

8:00AM+John Kirsch (Friends of the Family)
10:00AM+Patricia Vargo (Ron & Marilyn Adams)
5:00PM Pro Popolo/For the People

March 2, Monday, Lenten Weekday

12:00PM Special Intention Matthew Wineland (Patty)

March 3, Tuesday, Saint Katherine Drexel, Virgin

12:00PM+Susan Bauer (Daughter)

March 4 Wednesday, Saint Casimir

12:00PM Special Intention (McLucas/O'Connor Families)

March 5, Thursday, Lenten Weekday

12:00PM+Amelia Seiler (John & Beverly Buterbaugh)

March 6, Friday, Lenten Weekday

12:00PM+Rita Kibler (Jim & Steph Kilcoyne)

March 7, Saturday, Saints Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs

12:00PM+Hannah Wilkens (Rich & Nanci Hall)

Vigil : Third Sunday in Lent

5:00PM+Alfred Rutolo, Anniversary (Family)

March 8, Sunday, Third Sunday in Lent

8:00AM+Doris Smith (Richard & Marcia Smith)
10:00AM+Paul Luke (Jim & Terri Riley)
5:00PM Pro Popolo/For the People



Cathedral's Lenten Schedule

Stations of the Cross: Fridays at 5:30 P.M.

Sunday Evening Prayer: Beginning the Second Sunday of Lent at 4:00 P.M.

Communal Penance Service: Wednesday, March 25, at 6:00 P.M.

OFERTORY COLLECTIONS

Sunday, February 22, 2026 \$ 9,789.67

Thank you for your monetary and personal contributions to the life of our parish.



First Communion Preparation will take place during parent/child sessions on Tuesday, March 17. All meetings/sessions will be held in the Cathedral basement from 6:30-8:00 P.M. A parent must accompany your child to the meetings. A copy of your child's baptismal certificate is required. Please contact Chris Laraia (814-312-7317 or claraia@dioceseaj.org.) if you are unable to attend a meeting so that make-up work can be assigned.

First Communion will take place on Sunday, April 26, at the 10:00 A.M. Mass.



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 between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast. In addition to these obligations, additional forms of fast and abstinence may be observed.

Stewardship Reflections

Our readings for this second Sunday of Lent offers us, as Christian stewards, the motivation to continue our 40 day journey towards deeper holiness.

The first reading from the book of Genensis describes God's call to Abram (who would later be called Abraham). God instructs Abram to leave his home and set out to a land that God had chosen for him. Abram's response is an ancient example of good stewardship. Instead of clinging to his comfortable way of life, to the only home he has ever known, he recognizes that all he has is a gift from God, puts his trust in God, and obeys. And God rewards him saying, "I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing."

To "be a blessing" is the true aim of a stewardship way of life. It is also an excellent way to live out the season of Lent. The sacrifices we take on, the spiritual disciplines we practice, and the extra acts of service we perform during this season, all give glory to God and transform our lives into a blessing for others. Let us rely on God's strength to aid us in our spiritual disciplines as we move through Lent. We will arrive at Easter with deeper holiness, as a blessing of God and others, and as better stewards of all God's gifts to us.

Basket Bingo

SAVE THE DATE! Mark your calendars for **Sunday, September 27, 2026**, for our basket bingo at Father Kelley Hall. It is never too early to drop off donations for the baskets at the Parish Office. Paula is there from 8:30AM to 4:30PM, except Fridays till 3:00PM.



We will have Eucharistic Adoration on Wednesday, March 4, from after the noon Mass until benediction at 6:45 P.M. There's a sign-up sheet on the table in the cross-aisle.



Our Parish's Lenten Drive-Thru Fish Fry Luncheon is served starting Ash Wednesday, and Fridays, except Good Friday. The cost is \$12.00 for a fish sandwich, mac and cheese and coleslaw. The meal is available from 10:30 A.M. until 1:00 P.M. Orders of 10 or more will be delivered, if you call ahead 814-944-4603. If you are getting more than 10 dinners, for a pick-up please call ahead to order at 814-944-4603.

ST. ELISABETH CONVENT, MINSK, BELARUS

A Sister from St. Elisabeth Convent will be available in the vestibule next weekend selling beautiful religious articles to support their ministry of providing mental health support, care for orphans, and shelter for the homeless.

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE 2026

The 2026 *Catholic Ministries Drive* begins throughout our diocese this weekend. This year's theme, **Sent To Serve**, reminds us that, by virtue of baptism, each of us has been *Sent to Serve*, entrusted with gifts that are meant to be shared for the good of others.

Please reflect on Bishop Mark's invitation to prayerfully consider supporting nine of our diocesan ministries

The 2026 Catholic Ministries Drive target for the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament is \$53,700.

Dollars raised over our goal will be returned to our parish.



THE SHRINES OF ITALY PILGRIMAGE

Msgr. Stan Carson will be making a pilgrimage to Rome and some of the shrines of Italy from Monday, October 12, to Thursday, October 22, 2026. Brochures are at the entrances of the cathedral. Details can also be found at

<https://gateway.gocollette.com/link1377752>

You may also call Brenda Ajay at 888-462-9299.

The 61st Annual Novena

In Honor of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus will be held from Monday, March 16 to Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at Sacred Heart Church (6th Avenue and 20th Street, Altoona Pa). **Solemn Opening Mass will be celebrated on Monday, March 16, at 7:00PM.** A complete schedule will be available on the first night of the novena in the church.

Christian Mothers Meeting

The regular Christian Mothers meeting will be on Wednesday, March 11th. All women of the parish are invited. We will be discussing upcoming projects. If you have ideas for future activities, please join us. Meetings are held in the Education Center in the lower part of the Parish Center. Rosary is recited at 6:00pm and meeting starts at 6:30pm. If you would like more information about joining this ministry, please call Carol Galioto at (814)327-4841.

Christian Mother's Homebound Outreach Again this year, Cathedral Christian Mothers will be delivering a special gift to our homebound for Easter. If you know of a parishioner who would appreciate a visit and a small gift, please let us know. Contact any Christian Mother or Lorraine Beck (814-942-7774), Mary Gene Vogel (814-943-6431), or Carol Galioto (814-327-4841) before March 11th.



THE
GABRIEL
PROJECT

The Altoona Gabriel Project is a Catholic Pro-Life ministry dedicated to helping moms and babies with supplies, as well as providing spiritual and emotional support Our parish has a collection crib at the alley entrance for non-perishable baby items (diapers, wipes, clothing, bibs, towels, blankets, etc..).

The Cathedral is a distribution site on Thursdays from 1:30-2:30 P.M..

If you know of moms who need help, call 814- 440-1021.

Respect Life Committee Update

In October, 2025, many of you spiritually adopted a baby and committed to pray for this baby daily for nine months. We would like to update you on progress your baby is making!

At only six weeks, your baby's nose, mouth and ears were starting to take shape, and their intestines and brain were beginning to develop.

At ten weeks, your baby had completed the most critical portion of development. Their tiny limbs could bend and fine details like nails were starting to form. Now at 12 weeks, he or she is kicking, stretching, and even hiccupping as their diaphragm develops. Your baby's reflexes kick in: Their fingers will soon begin to open and close, toes will curl, and their mouths will make sucking movements. Your little baby is about the size of a lime. As we begin the second trimester, your baby's tiny fingers have fingerprints, and their veins and organs will be clearly visible through their skin. If the baby is a girl, her ovaries contain more than 2 million eggs.

Please continue to pray for your spiritually adopted infant and all unborn babies, including those who may be in danger of abortion. Pray that God may provide wisdom and guidance to all mothers and fathers as they journey through the most precious time of their lives.

We will continue to keep you updated on the progress of your baby and are looking forward to holding a baby shower in the Spring!

The Church of Altoona-Johnstown **THE CATHEDRAL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

ONE CATHEDRAL SQUARE, Altoona, Pennsylvania 16601-3315

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT, MARCH 1, 2026

CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS:

The process of formation for those seeking God through membership in the Catholic Church.
Call 814-944-4603

INFANT BAPTISM:

Arrange in advance for pre-baptismal instructions.

CONFIRMATION:

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

RECONCILIATION:

Wednesday: 7:00 PM, Saturday: 12:30 PM or by appointment, by texting or calling 814-937-8240

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 - Normally, the First
Wednesday 12:30 PM - 6:45 PM

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

PRO-LIFE ROSARY

Sponsored by the Christian Mothers on Thursdays after the noon Mass.

Church Office: 814-944-4603

Msgr. Carson E-mail:

scarson@dioceseaj.org

Secretary E-mail:

pclemens@dioceseaj.org

Fax: 814-942-4337

Mass Times

Sunday:	Weekday:
5:00 PM (Vigil)	12:00 Noon
8:00 AM	
10:00 AM	Saturday:
5:00 PM	12:00 Noon

Most Reverend Mark L. Bartchak, J.C.D., Bishop
Reverend Monsignor Stanley Carson, Rector
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

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

Mr. Bob Long 814-944-2044, rlong@dioceseaj.org

CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME - 814-944-4603

GABRIEL PROJECT-814-440-1021

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM:

September through April: Pre-Kindergarten thru 12.
Sunday morning 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM Pre-Kindergarten thru 8. Grades 9-12 Sunday evening at 6:15 P.M.

WEB

www.altoonacathedral.org

Facebook

www.facebook.com/cathedralofaltoona



Serving the People of God in the City of Altoona Since 1851