

**Fourth Sunday in Lent  
March 15, 2026  
Mass Intentions**

**March 15, Sunday, Fourth Sunday in Lent**

8:00AM+John Bettwy, Ann. (Tim & JoAnn Bettwy)  
10:00AM+Angie Auerbeck (Cathy & Kerry Hallinan)  
5:00PM Pro Popolo/For the People

**March 16, Monday, Lenten Weekday**

12:00PM+ Linda Cacciotti, Birthday (Carl & Family)

**March 17, Tuesday, Saint Patrick, Bishop**

12:00PM+Karl Burgmeier, Ann. (Daughter Carol)

**March 18, Wednesday, Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church**

12:00PM+Our God Parents (McNelis All Stars and Friends)

**March 19, Thursday, Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

12:00PM+Mary Ann Hofer (Christian Mothers)

**March 20, Friday, Lenten Weekday**

12:00PM+Robert W Douglas (J Donald & Eileen Douglas)

**March 21, Saturday, Lenten Weekday**

12:00PM+Kieran Patrick Milliken (Jolene Seteckd)

**Vigil : Fifth Sunday in Lent**

5:00PM+Nancy Jones (Dolly Summers)

**March 22, Sunday, Fifth Sunday in Lent**

8:00AM+Anthony, "Tony" Labriola (Anonymous)  
10:00AM+Barb Karl (Vicky & Tom McGraw)  
5:00PM Pro Popolo/For the People



**Cathedral's Lenten Schedule**

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

**Sunday Evening Prayer:** at 4:00 P.M. on March 15, and 22.

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

**OFERTORY COLLECTIONS**

Sunday, March 8, 2026 \$ 10,699.38

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



First Communion Preparation will take place during a parent/child session on Tuesday, March 17. The meeting/session will be held in the Cathedral basement from 6:30-8:00 P.M. A parent must accompany your child to the meeting. 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.



The next Men's Group Meeting is Thursday, March 19, at 7:00 P.M. in our hall. It's the Solemnity of St. Joseph, the spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. About 25-30 men, parishioners and non-parishioners, have been enjoying the presentations, fellowship, and food. To be on the contact list and receive more information and reminders contact Randy Isenberg at 814-931-5021 or email him at randyisenberg@yahoo.com

**Holy Thursday Pilgrimage**

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, 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 from St. Rose of Lima Church parking lot, and is at no charge. You may also carpool with family and friends. Please call St. Rose of Lima rectory to sign up for the bus at 814-944-8509. Thank You.



**Our Parish Easter Hunt**

Our Parish Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Sunday, March 29th in the lower parking lot, beginning at 2:00P.M. Bring your own basket. There will be a special appearance by the Easter Bunny. Hop on over for some egg-cellent fun! Anyone wishing to donate candy for the Easter Egg Hunt may drop off their donations at the Church Office Monday-Thursday 8:30AM-4:30PM, and Friday 8:00AM-3:00PM.



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.

**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.

**CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE 2026**

The 2026 *Catholic Ministries Drive* has begun throughout our diocese. 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. So far, \$5,275 has been pledged.



### 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.

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

March 15, 2026, 4th Sunday of Lent, John 9:1-41

If you are like me, it's easy to fixate on our shadows: failures, guilt, shame. Especially when we suffer, it is easy to want to blame ourselves or others. In this week's Gospel, Jesus' disciples ask about the blind man, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents?" (John 9:2) They, like us, focus on blame. But Jesus sees the entire situation differently: "Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him." He does not deny sin, but he sees deeper — through the light of mercy, not the lens of judgment. The scene hinges on Jesus' strange claim: "I am the light of the world" (John 9:5). He sees things differently than everyone. They see shadows and light. He is the light.

Thought experiment: imagine you are the sun looking at everything on the earth. What do you see? Everything. What do you not see? Shadows. Everything is illuminated. If you see it, it is illuminated. For the light, nothing is dark.

Because he is the light, Jesus sees us in the glow of his redemptive love. Even our sin becomes a place where his glory can shine. The man's healing is not just about sight — it is about seeing as Christ sees. Lent is not a season of staring into darkness. It is a time to step into the light — to let Christ's gaze reframe how we see ourselves and one another. Lenten challenge: Spend 10 quiet minutes this week asking Jesus to show you how he sees you. Not through shame or fear, but through the light of his mercy.

— Father John Muir ©LPi



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.



### **ALTOONA CATHOLIC HIGH AND BG ALUMNI DIRECTORY**

Bishop Guilfoyle Academy has partnered with Publishing Concepts (PCI) to update contact information. Alumni of Altoona Catholic High School and BG will be receiving a post card in the mail over the next several weeks. Please know that PCI is a trusted, PCI DSS-compliant company, meaning that your contact information is secure and carefully protected, and will only be used for the purpose of this project.

BG Academy encourages alumni to respond to PCI during this outreach for updates. There is absolutely no obligation to purchase the directory. Thank for you helping us stay contacted. Questions? Contact the Advancement Office at [advancement@bguilfoyle.org](mailto:advancement@bguilfoyle.org).

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

ONE CATHEDRAL SQUARE, Altoona, Pennsylvania 16601-3315

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT, MARCH 15, 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](mailto:scarson@dioceseaj.org)

**Secretary E-mail:**

[pclemens@dioceseaj.org](mailto:pclemens@dioceseaj.org)

**Fax:** 814-942-4337

#### Mass Times

**Sunday:**

5:00 PM (Vigil)

8:00 AM

10:00 AM

5:00 PM

**Weekday:**

12:00 Noon

**Saturday:**

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](mailto:claraia@dioceseaj.org)

#### **DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY**

Mr. Bob Long 814-944-2044, [rlong@dioceseaj.org](mailto: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](http://www.altoonacathedral.org)

Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/cathedralofaltoona](http://www.facebook.com/cathedralofaltoona)



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