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4th Sunday of Lent
March 30th, 2025

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY - Lenten Weekday
12:05 PM - Victoria Kelly
(Req. by Debbie Rolish)

TUESDAY - Lenten Weekday
12:05 PM - John Slovikovski Sr.
(Req. by Christine & Rebecca Bumbernick)

WEDNESDAY - Lenten Weekday
5:30 PM - Paul Schmidt
(Req. by Don & Laurie Blasko)
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following Mass

THURSDAY - Lenten Weekday
12:05 PM - Esperanza "Cha Cha" Bair
(Req. by Ron Cleaver)
Visitation Lenten Penance Service @ 5:30 PM

FRIDAY - Lenten Weekday
12:05 PM - Krumenacker & Oravec Families
(Req. by Dick & Gaile Krumenacker)
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following Mass

3:00 PM - Stations of the Cross

SATURDAY - Vigil of 5th Sunday of Lent
4:00 PM - Pro Populo

SUNDAY - 5th Sunday of Lent
9:00 AM - Anthony & Julia Alekna
(Req. by grandson Ron Cleaver)

SANCTUARY CANDLE

The sanctuary Candle is once again offered for Fr.
John's two personal intentions. If you have
a free moment this week, please remember these
intentions in your prayers.

The daily readings may be found at either USCCB.ORG
or with the daily readings listed in the back of the mis-
salette.

Rectory Office Hours: Monday through
Friday, 9:00AM - 3:00PM

IN LOVING MEMORY: The Sanctuary Lamp is avail-
able for your intentions by calling the
parish office. Please attempt to request your inten-
tions as early as possible. A \$10 donation is sug-
gested.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE: Confessions are heard
from 6:30 until 7:00 PM on Wednesday Evenings.
**DURING THE JUBILEE YEAR, CONFESSIONS WILL BE
HEARD FROM 3:00 PM until 3:40 PM THE FIRST SATUR-
DAY OF EVERY MONTH. Confession may ALWAYS
be arranged with Fr. John personally by calling the
rectory office. Please avail yourselves to this life-
giving sacrament!**

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: Scheduled no less
than nine months prior to the date of marriage.
Four preparation sessions with the pastor, as well as
all diocesan requirements, must be met. **All Cath-
olic candidates for Marriage must be registered,
practicing members of a parish at least 6 months
prior to scheduling the wedding. There are NO EX-
CEPTIONS.**

INFANT BAPTISM: Baptisms are generally celebrat-
ed during one of the Sunday Liturgies. Pre-
baptismal instructions must be completed by the
parents at least 3 weeks prior to the celebration of
the sacrament. Catholic godparents must obtain
a letter of eligibility from their pastors four weeks in
advance. Baptisms are never celebrated during
the Season of Lent.

ANointing OF THE SICK: Celebrated after any
Sunday Mass as requested and as a parish during
the Easter Season.

Eucharistic Adoration: Every Wednesday and
Friday following Mass.

MEMBERSHIP: Forms are located on the back
page of the bulletin (or on the parish website) to
be filled out and sent to the parish. Registrations
are also welcome by phone.

\$\$\$ INCOME \$\$\$
 Collection - March 23, 2025

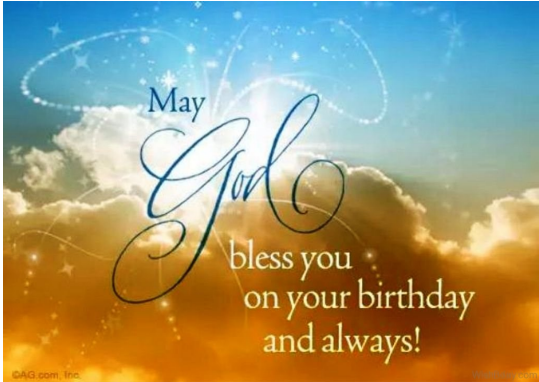
Loose Money.....	\$343.00
Sunday Collection.....	\$2667.00
Easter Flowers.....	\$20.00
Ash Wednesday.....	\$10.00
Votive Candles.....	\$131.00
St. Peregrine.....	\$30.00
Parking Lot Rent.....	\$105.00

TOTAL: **\$3306.00**

 Let us continue to pray for the members of our parish community who serve in the military, as well as for the sick, elderly and homebound members of our parish especially:

Anonymous Petitioners, Pat Balagusz, John Bair, Ralph Blair, David Clark, Ronald Cleaver, Dolores Danner, Francis Dietz, Dorothy Fisher, Barbara Fox, Paul Harnish, Catherine Heinlein, Mary Carol Hill and children, Donna Johnson, Gianna Kniss, Karen Kohan, Betsy Konar, Marylee Konicky, Madeleine Krueger, Dick Krumenacker, Gaile Krumenacker, Victoria Leftie, Michael Letzo, Joanne Macri, Patricia Mainhart, Marianne Mangiafico, Pat Meagher, Myla Minner, Pauline Molchany, Larry Oravetz, Anna Petro, Francis Petro, Jean Petroro, Anna Marie Pfeil, Maria Petro-Sanders, Mia Bella Rastall, Stacy Roberts, Sean Rován, Stephen Sanders, Jennifer Schellhammer, Rose Sigg, Allegra Slick, Father John Slovickovski, Shirley Slovickovski, Ken Turner, Megan Var-mecky, Christi Vaorek, Carrie Young

Please join us in remembering members of our parish family who celebrate their birthdays the week of March 31st to April 6th:



Christine Bumbernick	Lynette Corona
Connie Grunza	Jessica Martella
Craig Moore	Allyana Stephens
Barbara Costlow	Bonnie Trigona

For the Good of the Vineyard and Our Particular Part



The invitations to participate in all of the devotions associated with the spiritual life and vigor of our parish continue to be extended to all parishioners. We pray the rosary every Saturday evening at approximately 3:30 PM prior to mass as well as every Tuesday at 6:00 PM. On Wednesdays, Mass is celebrated at 5:30 PM followed by adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 6:30 PM. Adoration of the Blessed

Sacrament also occurs following the 12:05 PM Mass until 1:30 PM. We also pray the litany of St. Joseph since Wednesday is dedicated to him as the patron of the Universal Church. Remember the parish intention for the rosary is for Fr. John’s health, however, personal intentions for the Rosary and adoration are your own. BOTH OF THESE DEVOTIONS WOULD MAKE AN EXCELLENT ADDITION TO ANY LENTEN REGIMINE THAT ONE MIGHT CHOOSE TO ENTER MORE DEEPLY INTO THE PROCESS OF CONVERSION DURING THE LENTEN SEASON.

A reminder on Eucharistic Etiquette: Strict silence is to be observed in both the nave and the main vestibule of the Church from the time the Eucharist is removed from the tabernacle for Adoration until is reposed in the tabernacle once the devotional period is completed. Thank you.

Visitation Walk Through Basket Party Update - As previously requested, we are in of already made baskets, new or never used items, gift cards , lottery tickets and spirits for our basket of cheer.

JUBILEE YEAR CONCERT

On Thursday, April 3rd at 7:00 PM the Westminster Cathedral Choir of Boys and Men, London England will be performing at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona. The concert is free to the public; however, a ticket is required for admission. We have a very small number of tickets available, and the parish is arranging a carpool to attend the event. If you are interested, please sign up in the main vestibule of the Church by next weekend, Tickets are available on a first come, first serve basis. Also, a free will offering will be taken up at the concert.

VISITATION PARISH PILGRIMAGE:

We are currently planning a jubilee year pilgrimage to The National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg Maryland for Friday, May 16, 2025. The Pilgrimage will include luxury bus transportation to and from the Shrine, a tour of the basilica and the grounds, Mass and dinner. The cost of the trip is \$65 per person. If you are interested, please sign up in the main vestibule of the Church by April 15th. There are 22 seats left for this pilgrimage! We look forward to sharing the day with you.



From Pope Francis to the Pew:

In his Sunday Angelus message, Pope Francis reflected upon the parable in the Gospel which speaks about the patience of God, who urges us to make our life a time of conversion. Jesus uses the image of a barren fig tree, which has not borne the anticipated fruit and which, nevertheless, the farmer does not want to cut down: he wants to fertilize it again since “it may bear fruit in the future” (Lk 13:9). This patient farmer is the Lord, who works the soil of our lives with care and waits confidently for our return to Him. He also noted that in the long period of his hospitalization that had the opportunity to experience the Lord’s patience, which he also saw reflected in the tireless care of the doctors and healthcare workers, as well as in the care and hopes of the relatives of the sick. He also said that this trusting patience, anchored in God’s unfailing love, is indeed necessary in our lives, especially when facing the most difficult and painful situations.

The Pope also expressed his sadness at by the resumption of heavy Israeli bombing on the Gaza Strip, causing many deaths and injuries and called for an immediate halt to the weapons; and for the courage to resume dialogue, so that all hostages may be released and a final ceasefire reached. He noted that in the Strip, the humanitarian situation is again very serious and requires urgent commitment from the conflicting parties and the international community. Finally he expressed his pleasure that pleased that Armenia and Azerbaijan have agreed on the final text of their peace agreement.

In Pope Francis’ prepared catechesis for his weekly Wednesday Audience, he continued with his set of reflections on certain personal encounters with Jesus that that enlighten life and bring hope. Below you will find it in its entirety:

“After contemplating the encounter between Jesus and Nicodemus, who went in search of Jesus, today we will reflect on those moments in which it seems that He is in fact waiting right there, at that crossroads in our life. They are encounters that surprise us, and at the beginning we are perhaps even a little diffident; we try to be prudent and to understand what is happening. This was probably also the experience of the Samaritan woman, mentioned in chapter four of John’s Gospel (cf. 4:5-26). She did not expect to find a man at the well at noon; indeed she hoped to find no one at all. In fact, she goes to fetch water from the well at an unusual hour, when it is very hot. Perhaps this woman is ashamed of her life, perhaps she has felt judged, condemned, not understood, and for this reason she has isolated herself, she has broken off relations with everyone.

To go to Galilee from Judea, Jesus would have had to choose another road and not pass through Samaria. It would also have been safer, given the tense relations between the Jews and the Samaritans. Instead, He wants to pass through there, and stops at that very well, right at that time! Jesus waits for us and lets Himself be found precisely when we think that there is no hope left for us. The well, in the ancient Middle East, is a place of encounter, where at times marriages are arranged; it is a place of betrothal. Jesus wants to help this woman understand where to find the true answer to her desire to be loved. The theme of desire is fundamental to understanding this encounter. Jesus is the first to express His desire: “Give me a drink!” (v. 10). For the sake of opening a dialogue, Jesus makes Himself appear weak, in order to put the other person at ease, making sure that she is not frightened. Thirst is often, even in the Bible, the image of desire.

But Jesus here thirsts first of all for the woman’s salvation. “He who was asking drink”, says Saint Augustine, “was thirsting for the faith of the woman herself”. Whereas Nicodemus had gone to Jesus at night, here Jesus meets the Samaritan woman at midday, the time when there is most light. It is indeed a moment of revelation. Jesus makes Himself known to her as the Messiah and also sheds light on His life. He helps her to reread her history, which is complicated and painful: she has had five husbands and is now with a sixth who is not a husband. The number six is not accidental, but usually indicates imperfection. Perhaps it is an allusion to the seventh bridegroom, the one who will finally satiate this woman’s desire to be truly loved. And that bridegroom can only be Jesus. When she realizes that Jesus knows her life, the woman shifts the conversion to the religious question that divided Jews and Samaritans. This happens sometimes to us too when we pray: at the moment in which God is touching our life, with its problems, we lose ourselves at times in reflections that give us the illusion of a successful prayer. In reality, we have raised barriers of protection. However, the Lord is always greater, and to that Samaritan woman, to whom according to cultural precepts He should not even have spoken, He gives the highest revelation: He speaks to her of the Father, who is to be adored in spirit and truth. And when she, once again surprised, observes that on these things it is better to wait for the Messiah, He tells her: “I am he, the one who is speaking with you” (v. 26). It is like a declaration of love: the One you are waiting for is Me; the One who can finally respond to your desire to be loved. At that point the woman runs to call the people of the village, because mission springs precisely from the experience of feeling loved. And what proclamation could she have brought, if not her experience of being understood, welcomed, forgiven? It is an image that should make us reflect on our search for new ways to evangelize. Just like a person in love, the Samaritan forgets her water jar, leaving it at Jesus’ feet. The weight of that jar on her head, every time she returned home, reminded her of her condition, her troubled life. But now the jar is left at Jesus’ feet. The past is no longer a burden; she is reconciled. And it is like this for us too: to go and proclaim the Gospel, we first need to set down the burden of our history at the feet of the Lord, to consign to Him the weight of our past. Only reconciled people can bring the Gospel.”

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE

Last weekend the beginning of the Annual Catholic Ministries Drive for the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. You should have received materials in the mail during this past week (*if not, please contact the parish office*). Your generous gift to the diocesan Church directly effects the work of spreading the gospel throughout our eight county region by supporting parish and family life, Campus ministries, the formation of seminarians, deacons, and priests, Catholic Charities, Communication Ministry (televised Sunday Mass and Proclaim) and many other diocesan sponsored ministries. Please consider even a small gift to support this work in our portion of the Lord’s vineyard. May God bless you for your kindness.