

SACRED HEART CHURCH ♥ SAINT MARY CHURCH



ALTOONA, PENNSYLVANIA 16602

Sacred Heart Rectory: 511 20TH STREET
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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 23rd, St. Turibius**

4:00 p.m. (SM) James & Barbara Adams (Jim & Linda Adams)

5:30 p.m. (SH) Russ Clinger (Clair & Nancy Servello)

Sunday, March 24th, Palm Sunday, Holy Week begins

8:00 a.m. (SM) Joe & Mary Patricia Doyle (Joe & Jane Doyle)

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 (Bill & Deborah Aigner)

Monday, March 25th, Monday of Holy Week

7:45 a.m. (SH) Ed McConnell (The McConnell Family)

Tuesday, March 26th, Tuesday of Holy Week

7:45 a.m. (SH) Stanley Galant (Joyce Pruonto)

Wednesday, March 27th, Wednesday of Holy Week

7:45 a.m. (SH) Pat Cellini (Ron & Eileen Roefaro)

Thursday, March 28th, Thursday of Holy Week

7:00 p.m. (SH) Rev. David Roesch and Barbara & Marty Reosch (Kathleen Foster)

7:00 p.m. (SM) Mary Grove (Children & Grandchildren)

Friday, March 29th, Passion of the Lord, Good Friday

(SH or SM) NO MASS

11:30 a.m. (SM) Passion of the Lord

1:00 p.m. (SH) Passion of the Lord

Saturday, March 30th, Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil

(SH & SM) NO SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

8:00 p.m. (SH) Bernadine Lauer (Ray & Cathy Keefe)

Sunday, March 31st, Easter Sunday, The Resurrection of the Lord

8:00 a.m. (SM) Nancy Foster (Butch & Judy Muehler)

10:00 a.m. (SH) Joseph Toomey (John & Elaine Toomey)

10:00 a.m. (SM) Clara Bennetti (St. Mary Marion Choir)

12:00 p.m. (SH) Pro Populo (Living & Deceased members of Sacred Heart and Saint Mary's Parishes)

Weekly Collection at Sacred Heart, March 10, 2024

Envelopes \$7,295.40

Loose Change \$242.00

Total \$7,537.40**Weekly Collection at Saint Mary, March 10, 2024**

Envelopes \$4,428.90

Loose Change \$76.00

Total \$4,504.90**EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP**

Today we celebrate Palm Sunday – the beginning of our Holy Week. Our liturgy starts with the account of Jesus humbly entering into Jerusalem riding a donkey. People put cloaks and palm branches in His pathway crying, “Hosanna, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” It is with great joy that Christ was being honored as king, still in the same breath, we are filled with sorrow as we reflect on Christ’s passion and death. Thankfully, we know the glorious outcome of this painful journey. Today, as we read about the climax of Christ’s mission here on earth, we are reminded that He is the Perfect Steward, a model for us all on our stewardship journey.

Our First Reading, from the prophet Isaiah, portrays a suffering servant. The suffering servant, in many ways, foreshadows what Jesus endured during His passion – “I gave my back to those who beat me... my face I did not shield from buffets and spitting.” Christ endured such tortures, knowing that He did not deserve them, but still He humbly submitted to them.

As we embark on this Holy Week, let us take some time to reflect on the life of Christ as He is our model Steward, and may we strive to imitate Him daily.

***ON THE COVER On Saturday, March 9, 2024, students from St. Mary experienced the Sacrament of First Reconciliation. (Left to Right: Grace, Rev. Lubomir Strock and Owen) Congratulations to each them!**

**LITURGICAL MINISTRIES SCHEDULE
FOR MARCH 30TH AND 31ST
(Also posted on the Sacred Heart Facebook page)**

Time and Location	Altar Servers	Lectors	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Organist/Cantor
Saturday 8:00 p.m. Sacred Heart Easter Vigil	Lucas & Xavier Farabaugh	Jann Dalansky James Rokosky Deb Picano Jim Imler Steve Dalansky	Host-Jean Lutchko Chalice-Theresa Adams	Jean Ann Mitchell Pat Dorman Paula Imler Luke Rokosky Choir
Sunday 8:00 a.m. Saint Mary	Grayson Dodson Braden Jubeck	Brian Jubeck	Host-Tina Johnston Chalice-Ruth Westley	Terry Carnicella
Sunday 10:00 a.m. Sacred Heart	Henry Drumm Reagan Noel	Matthew Drumm Lynn Nagle	Host-Cathy Keefe Chalice-Cathy Seymore	Tom Liszka Choir
Sunday 10:00 a.m. Saint Mary	Lucas Helsel Volunteer	Jill Helsel	Host-Laurie Woomer Chalice-Jim Woomer Chalice-Dee Bradfield	Karen Koehle Marian Choir
Sunday 12:00 p.m. Sacred Heart	Lucas Rivera Cruz Rivera	Ron Adams April Lauver	Host-Keri Condron Chalice-Becky Kowalczyk	Mary Villani Betsy Chilcote

PRO-LIFE CORNER

With the pro-abortion forces so deeply entrenched it is sometimes easy to feel like David confronting Goliath. But like David, we must expose ourselves to the dangers prayerfully and trust in God totally so that God can bring about a victory.

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**

The Passion of Jesus makes it clear, no one escapes suffering. Suffering is inevitable but no one should suffer alone. That is one of the primary roles of families, to stand with and support each other in suffering.

***ON THE COVER** On Saturday, March 9, 2024, students from St. Mary's experienced the Sacrament of First Reconciliation. (Left to Right: Grace Burgmier, Rev. Lubomir Strock and Owen Zeak) Congratulations to each them!

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.

ST. MARY'S CEMETERY CLEAN UP Spring is coming and it is time to clean up the Christmas decorations from the cemetery. We are asking everyone to remove their Christmas decorations from the graves and take them home with you by March 31. If they are not removed by that date, they will be removed and thrown away. If you know of anyone who is out of the area, please notify them of the clean-up or clean the grave-site up for them.

SPRING SERIES The Carmelite Community of the Word is offering A Five Week Spring Series on April 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29, 2024 at the CCW Incarnation Center from 10AM – 12N and at the Basilica of St. Michael in Loretto from 6-8PM. This series will take a new and fresh look at Jesus: who he is, what he is really like, what he taught, and what he did for our salvation. This encounter with Christ will inspire and empower you to center your entire life around him as you come to know and love him in an ever deeper and more intimate way. Pre-registration for either location is required by March 27. To register for either program, contact 814-886-4098 or email: CommunityofficeCCW@gmail.com or srmarilynw@CCWCommunity.org. Please provide your name, address, phone and email and include the name of the program you wish to attend. You may also register by mailing your information to: Incarnation Center Retreats, 394 Bem Road, Galitzin, PA 16641.

SAINT MARY CANDLE MEMORIAL: The Altar Candles and Sanctuary Lamp will burn the week of March 24, 2024, in loving memory of Tom Furrer from the St. Mary Parish Camp Committee.



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.

ST. MARY'S CHRISTIAN MAOTHER/LCBA #1290 will hold the monthly meeting for March on Monday, April 8th at 6:15 PM for Rosary and the meeting will begin at 6:30 PM. All old and new Members are invited to attend.

Please join in praying for the Priests of our Diocese

**This week we are praying for Rev. Carl A. Spishak
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

GOSPEL MEDITATION

March 24th 2024

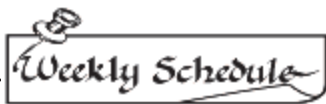
PALM SUNDAY

A few months before they married, my twenty-three-year-old sister and her fiancé planned a cross-country road trip to visit his family. My parents told them that they could only go if they slept in separate hotel rooms, offering to foot the bill. It might sound prudish, but my parents wanted the young couple to understand that their approaching unity was close, but not yet. Patience solidifies love.

What could this possibly have to do with Palm Sunday? It's usually overlooked, but the Gospels tell us that, after entering Jerusalem, Jesus "looked around ... and since it was late, went out to Bethany with the twelve" (Mk 11:11) for the night. Who cares? Why include this detail? Jews in those days believed that the new Davidic King would one day re-enter and "marry" the city. A new future marked by fidelity would begin for God's people. Israel's God would be in union with His people forever. Without over-sexualizing the metaphor, perhaps Jesus refused to sleep in Jerusalem to remind us of his marital purpose. He was entering Jerusalem as the bridegroom-king. It was almost time, but not yet. Soon he will sleep in Jerusalem in the tomb and then something new will begin: his one body, his Church.

Lenten challenge: This Holy Week, I challenge you to keep this image in your mind all the way until Easter Sunday: Jesus is the faithful bridegroom who patiently prepares his bride for their new life together. Go to the Good Friday liturgy and kiss the cross. When you do, let that gesture be the long-awaited "I do" to our faithful God, who always waits for us.—
Father John Muir





Saturday, March 23rd

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 24th, Palm Sunday, Holy Week begins

8:00 a.m. **Holy Mass** (SM)

9:00 a.m. **No Religious Education Classes** (SM)

9:45 a.m. **Religious Education students, Catholic School Students and Parents meet in the Sacred Heart Formation Center for the Blessing of the Palms and Palm Sunday Procession** (SH)

10:00 a.m. **Holy Mass / Students will attend mass with their Catechists / then attend classes** (SH)

11:00 a.m. **Pre K - 11 Religious Education Classes** (SH)

12:00 p.m. **Holy Mass** (SH)

Monday, March 25th

11:00 a.m. **Chrism Mass - Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament**

Wednesday, March 27th

10:00 a.m. **Sacred Heart Food Pantry Open** (SH)

3:00 p.m. **Pro-Life Rosary said in the Church** (SH)

Holy Thursday, March 28th

Diocesan Offices Closed

7:00 p.m. **Mass of The Lords Supper** (SH)

7:00 p.m. **Mass of The Lords Supper** (SM) - Rev. Gardner, Celebrant

Good Friday, March 29th

No Mass

Diocesan Offices Closed

11:30 a.m. **Celebration of the Lords Passion** (SM)

1:00 p.m. **Celebration of the Lords Passion** (SH)

5:30 p.m. **Stations of the Cross** (SH)

6:00 p.m. **Volunteers Needed to Decorate the Church for Easter** (SH)

Holy Saturday, March 30th

No Sacrament of Reconciliation (SH or SM)

12:00 noon **SH & SM - Blessing of the Easter Baskets** (SH)

8:00 p.m. **Easter Vigil Mass** (SH)

Easter Sunday, March 31st, The Resurrection of the Lord

8:00 a.m. **Holy Mass** (SM)

9:00 a.m. **No Religious Education Classes** (SM)

10:00 a.m. **Holy Mass** (SH)

10:00 a.m. **Holy Mass** (SM) - Rev. Gardner, Celebrant

11:00 a.m. **No Religious Education Classes** (SH)

12:00 p.m. **Holy Mass** (SH)

