

SACRED HEART CHURCH ♥ SAINT MARY CHURCH



Easter Sunday

April 20, 2025

ALTOONA, PENNSYLVANIA 16602

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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
Rev. Ashok Kumar Alphonse, Weekend Assistant

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
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.

Saturday, April 19th, Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil Mass

8:30 p.m. (SH) Richard Picano (Wife, Debra Picano)

Sunday, April 20th, Easter Sunday

8:00 a.m. (SM) Emilia Lightner (Marylou Lightner & Family)

10:00 a.m. (SM) Jim Showalter (Barry & Dee Bradfield)

10:00 a.m. (SH) Jean Hughes (Sacred Heart Food Pantry Volunteers)

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

Monday, April 21st

7:45 a.m.. (SH) Gary Rupert Jr. (Mother)

Tuesday, April 22nd

7:45 a.m. (SH) Rev. David Roesch (Linda Settle)

Wednesday, April 23rd

7:45 a.m. (SH) Ted & Marcella Adams (Adams Children)

Thursday, April 24th

7:45 a.m. (SH) Susan Bauer (George & Polly Cardone)

Friday, April 25th

7:45 a.m. (SH) Regina Kelly (Ellen Kelly & Family)

Saturday, April 26th

4:00 p.m. (SM) George Ehgartner (Family)

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

Sunday, April 27th, The 2nd Week of Easter

8:00 a.m. (SM) John Erik Bomeisl (Aunt Chris Paul)

10:00 a.m. (SH) Paulette Johns (Rita Sangiorgi)

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

A Family Perspective

By Bud Ozar

Today’s gospel instructs us Jesus “had to rise from the dead.” The dying we experience with unmet expectations in marriage and parenting is normal to family life. Families must rise above disappointments and be Easter people all year long.

Weekly Collection at Sacred Heart April 6th, 2025

Envelopes \$5,977.00

Loose Change \$596.26

Total \$6,573.26

Weekly Collection at Saint Mary, April 6th, 2025

Envelopes \$7,590.00

Loose Change \$58.00

Total \$7,648.00

EVERY DAY STEWARDSHIP

He is risen! He is truly risen! This is what the celebration of Easter is all about – the truth that Jesus was crucified for our sins and three days later rose from the dead, conquering death once and for all. We proclaim this truth every Sunday in the Nicene Creed: “For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate, He suffered death and was buried and rose again on the third day, in accordance with the Scriptures.” Amazing!

We know it’s true, but this Easter Sunday, let’s ask ourselves if we live as if it’s true. Do we simply recite this portion of our Creed week after week, or do we live as witnesses to this glorious reality? And how are we, as Christian stewards, to live as a ‘witness’ all these years later without firsthand knowledge? We may have to look a little more closely to ‘bear witness’, but if we try then we can have just as real an experience of the empty tomb and the redeeming power of the Resurrection.

We become witnesses of His glory when we: prayerfully read the Scriptures knowing they are a living love letter from God with a message to each one of us, each time we receive the precious Body and Blood of our Lord in the Eucharist, when we experience His personal and healing power in our hearts during Reconciliation, and when we pour out our lives in loving service to those around us and experience the deep satisfaction that only comes when we are imitating our Saviour. This Easter, don’t just recite the Creed – resolve to live as if it’s true. Experience Jesus for yourself every day from now on. You will be a powerful witness to the truth that He is risen! He is truly risen!

**LITURGICAL MINISTRIES SCHEDULE
SATURDAY, APRIL 26TH AND SUNDAY, APRIL 27TH**

(Also posted on the Sacred Heart Facebook page)

Time and Location	Altar Servers	Lectors	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Organist/Cantor
Saturday, 4:00 St. Mary’s	Volunteer	Jim Woomer	Host-Jim Adams Chalice-Laurie Woomer	Karen Koehle Joan Keller
Saturday, 5:30 Sacred Heart	Lucas Farabaugh Xavier Farabaugh	Theresa Adams	Host-Dennis Greiner Chalice-Clair Servello	Karen Koehle Patrick Dorman
Sunday, 8:00 St. Mary’s	Braden Jubeck Levi Bailey	Brian Jubeck	Host-Mary Rose Poorman Chalice-John Dibert	Terry Carnicella
Sunday, 10:00 Sacred Heart	Jaqueline Bevan Harry Bevan	James Rokosky	Host-Barb Gerhart Chalice-Julie Carnicella Chalice-Patty Wolf	Mary Villani Luke Rokosky
Sunday 12:00 Sacred Heart	Vivienne Compton Jack Compton	Mary Lou Appleman	Host-Jim Imler Chalice-Becky Kowalczyk	Mary Villani Ryleigh Stollings

**PRO-LIFE CORNER**

“What irony that a society confronted with plastic bags filled with the remains of aborted babies should be more concerned about the problem of recycling the plastic.” Plastic can be recycled; children cannot. Winifred Egan

PRO-LIFE ROSARY As Catholics, we proclaim that human life is a precious gift from God; that each person who receives this gift has responsibilities toward God, self and others; and that society, through its laws and social institutions, must protect and nurture human life at every stage of its existence. The USCCB Committee on Pro-Life is inviting Catholics to join a focused effort of prayer for the end of abortion and for the protection of women and pre-born children.

Join us at Sacred Heart every Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. in the Church. All are welcome to attend. No commitments. Come when you can!

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT is scheduled today **April 20th and April 27th** at Sacred Heart Church following the 12:00 noon Masses. Eucharistic Adoration is adoring the True Presence of our Lord Jesus Christ— His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity-in the Holy Eucharist.

NEEDED! EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION – Sacred Heart Church is seeking dedicated parishioners to serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Current Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion and those interested in becoming new EOMs are encouraged to volunteer their time and talents. For more information contact the church office at 814-943-8553.

NEW YORK The Mount Carmel Parish Social Committee is sponsoring a three-day trip to New York City with Fr. Frank on August 22, 23 & 24. The cost of the trip is: single \$1,380.00/person; double \$1,155.00/person; triple \$1,040.00; quad \$980.00. Trip includes: transportation, Hotel Edison-2 nights, Broadway plays, dinner at Tony DiNapoli's, Freedom Tower Observation level, New York City Dinner Cruise, Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral, Little Italy, time for shopping. Call the Mt Carmel Parish Office during the week at 814-942-8501.

JUBILEE CELEBRATION PILGRIMAGE To the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington D.C. Save the Date! The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown invites you to join us for a Jubilee Celebration Pilgrimage on Friday, October 17, 2025. Busses will depart from Altoona and arrive in Washington for a special Liturgy with Bishop Mark Bartchak as Celebrant along with other priests of the diocese. There will be a tour of the shrine and all of its chapels and oratories, with the opportunity for Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions. Registrations will open in summer 2025, more information can be found at the main entrances of the churches.

SACRED HEART FOOD PANTRY The food pantry is in need of plastic grocery bags again. There will be a labeled box in the back of the church for collection. Thank you very much!



SAINT MARY CANDLE MEMORIAL: The Altar Candles and Sanctuary Lamp will burn the week of April 20, 2025, in loving memory of Bernard and Thelma Stoehr From the Family.

SAINT MARY PRAYER CHAIN: Please call the St. Mary's Rectory at 814-942-2416.



PLEASE PRAY FOR...Kathy Ansman, Mark Blackie, Rod Baronner, Dan Bauer, Dave Bauer, Dennis Born, Vince Bumann, Jack Chilcote, Harry Chiridon, Karen Claar, Brandon Conaway, Shirley Conlon, Denise Conrad, James Conrad, Kathy Corl, William Costlow, Bob Decker, Colette DiMemmo, Margaret Dodson, Tim Dodson, Joan Donnelly, Matthew Dorman, Nate Dorman, Amelia Doughurty, Lois Duncan, Thomas Duncan, Paul Dunmire, Ashley Eagen, Corinda Ermin, Roberta Farabaugh, Herman Frederick, Katie Gehl, Pat Harpster, Leighton Hess, Dolly Holzer, Lucy Horton, Raymond Kargo, Carol Keagy, Kenny Anthony Keagy, Russell Keith, John Kleine, Sue Koehle, Ruth Lamca, Cyndi Lansberry, John Leshene, Beth Lloyd, Charles McGrain, Shirley McIntyre, Mason Wayne McManus, Paul Angelo Morelli, Bev Mueller, Bonnie Neal, Jessica Neff, Lee Neff, Kevin O'Rourke, Mark Pacifico, Sarah Rihnovich, Nancy Servello, Laura Snyder, Alex Walter, Margo Wascherl, Alan Watson, Joan Weston, Hank Williams, Renee Williams, Mikayla Yanchik.

CREATED FROM THE HEART Do you sew? Do you crochet? Or knit? Do you want to bring comfort to others? A new ministry called Created from the Heart may be for you. The next meeting will be **Saturday, May 10, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.** Everyone is welcome! If you have any questions please call Betsy Chilcote at 814-934-7737. *The group is in need of plastic grocery bags, they are used in the making of sleeping mats for the homeless. Bags can be placed in the gray bin at the main entrance of Sacred Heart Church

ST. MARY'S PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE GRADUATE RECOGNITION: we will be honoring our 2025 High School and College Graduates on Sunday, May 18, at the 8:00 Mass followed by Coffee and Donuts in the St. Mary's Rectory. Please join us as we celebrate together these new graduates as they embark on the next exciting journey of their life. If you have a high school or college student graduating this year, please contact the Rectory Office 814-942-2416.

DONUT AND COFFEE SOCIAL The Sacred Heart Social Committee along with all of the Sacred Heart Parish will be having a Donut and Coffee Social after the 10:00 a.m. mass on Sunday, May 18th to recognize our 2025 High School Graduates. Please join us in fellowship, all are welcome to attend.

CHRISTIAN MOTHERS LCBA #1290 Will be holding their monthly meeting on **Monday, May 5, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.**, with Rosary at 6:15 p.m. in the St. Mary's Church Basement.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

April 20, 2025

EASTER SUNDAY

When I was a young boy, my parents told me about their wedding. Then a few years later, they showed me my mother's wedding dress and my dad's suit. It was astonishing to see and touch garments that connected me to the event that led to my existence. Of course, I already believed they were married based on their word. But these holy garments made the event real and tangible for me.

Something like this is at play when St. John reports encountering in Jesus' tomb, "the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place" (John 20:7). Those two separate cloths, for his head and for his body respectively, meant a great deal to St. John and to the early Christians. Some years after the resurrection, there surfaced reports of two cloths with unusual characteristics, one bearing the image of a crucified man's body, another smaller one with the image of a wounded man's face. Some call them the Shroud of Turin and the Veil of Manoppello; they both can be seen today.

These two cloths have a long and complicated history, and scholars debate aspects of them. If you're curious, I encourage you to read about them. To be clear, I believe in the resurrection of Jesus because of the testimony of eyewitnesses and the gift of faith in the Church. Nevertheless, seeing these two mysterious cloths have made the life-giving event of Jesus' resurrection more real and tangible for me. Maybe they will for you, too.— *Father John Mui*

**Please join in praying for the Priests of our Diocese this week
we are praying for Most Rev. Mark L. Bartchak**

Bishop of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

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.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

HOLY SATURDAY April 19th

NO Confessions (SH or SM)

12:00 Noon, **Blessing of the Easter Baskets for SH & SM** (SH)

8:30 p.m. **Easter Vigil Mass** (SH)

EASTER SUNDAY, April 20, 2025, Easter Sunday

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

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

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

10:00 a.m. **Easter Holy Mass** (SM)

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

12:00 p.m. **Easter Holy Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** (SH)

Monday, April 21st

6:00 p.m. **11th grade students, Confirmation Rehearsal** (Cathedral)

Tuesday, April 22nd

6:00 p.m. **11th Grade Students meet prior to Confirmation** (Cathedral)

7:00 p.m. **Confirmation** (Cathedral)

Wednesday, April 23rd

10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. **Food Pantry is Open** (SH)

3:00 p.m. **Pro Life Rosary** (SH)

SATURDAY April 26th

12:30 Confessions (SH)

3:00 Confessions (SM)

4:00 p.m. **Holy Mass** (SM)

5:30 p.m. **Holy Mass** (SH)

SUNDAY, April 27, The 2nd Week of Easter

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

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

11:00 a.m. **PreK-11 Religious Education** (SH)

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

1:00 p.m. **Adoration of the Divine Mercy Sunday** (SH)

SHOE COLLECTION UPDATE Boy Scout Troop 49 would like to thank you for all of your donations, our shoe drive collected 3,867 pairs of shoes for a total profit of \$2,048.00. Troop 49 thanks you for your generous support, making it possible to help defray the cost of Scout Camp for our scouts.

INDOOR YARD SALE On Friday, April 11 and Saturday, April 12 from 8 am to 1 pm, St. Mark's in Altoona will have an indoor yard sale in the basement of the church at 6th Avenue and 4th Street. Over 23 Vendors and something for everyone. The Kitchen will be open.

ALTOONA CURVE BASEBALL tickets are available to the Altoona Curve vs. the Erie SeaWolves game on Friday, June 13, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$7 for registered, participating members and \$13 for nonmembers. Please stop by your church office if interested. We thank Denny Greiner of Sacred Heart for making the arrangements. To purchase tickets, please see Anita or Kellie at your churches office.



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