

Our Lady of the Alleghenies

Lilly, PA

NEWSLETTER

March 2025

Volume 29

Number 3

Lent Begins

Ash Wednesday March 5th

In Lent, we often think about giving something up, which is a good thing. In a sense, that is what prayer, fasting and almsgiving are.

In Lent we may be giving up food, video games, television, money or some personal time. But it isn't just the "giving up" that we should focus on. With these practices we are also able to do something.

So, when we give up personal time, we do so to spend time in prayer with the Lord. When we give up food or technology, we can be united with those who don't have enough to eat, or perhaps we have more time to spend with family. When we give up money, it is so we are able to assist those in need.

This Lent don't just focus on what you and your family are not doing. Rather, help your family to focus positively on the good that your penitential practices can bring about.

In Christ, Andre McCarville
Director, Family Life Office
Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

A Prayer for Lent

God of all mercy and steadfast love, we do not always live the way you want us to. Forgive us. Help us during this season of Lent to examine how we can be more faithful followers of Jesus Christ, your son. Guide us in our pilgrimage of discipleship. May our words and actions truly reflect you will for us.

Amen.



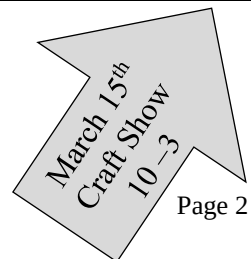
The Essential Catholic Prayer Book,
Liquori Publications
Growing in Faith
March 2007

March 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <i>Distribution of Ashes</i> During 8:00 am Mass During 6:00 pm Mass on Wednesday, March 5, 2025				March 15 Craft Fair Saturday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm Hall		1 Mass 8:00am  Confessions 3:15 – 3:45
2 Diocesan Pro-Life Committee Presentation 2:00pm - 3:00pm Hall	3	4 Cinch Card Party 6:30pm Hall	5 Ash Wednesday  Fast and Abstinence Masses at: 8:00 am 6:00 pm Blessed ashes distributed at both Masses	6	7  Stations of the Cross 6:00 pm	8 Mass 8:00  Confessions 3:15 – 3:45
9 Turn Clocks ahead. Daylight Saving Time Begins 	10	11  St. Vincent de Paul Society (2 nd Tuesday) 2:00 PM Hall Cinch Card Party 6:30pm Hall	12	13	14  Stations of the Cross 6:00 pm	15 Mass 8:00  Confessions 3:15 – 3:45 Craft Show 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

The **Spring Craft Show** will be **March 15th** from **10am-3pm** in the church hall. Many craft vendors will be attending and there will be chicken noodle soup and sandwiches for sale in the kitchen.





March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
16	17 	18 Cinch Card Party 6:30pm Hall	19 Mass 6:00 pm Confessions after Mass 6:30pm – 7:30pm	20 First Day of Spring 	21  Stations of the Cross 6:00 pm	22 Mass 8:00  Confessions 3:15 – 3:45
23	24 Adult Ed. Class 6:00pm Church	25 Cinch Card Party 6:30pm Hall	26  Knight of Columbus (4th Wednesday of month) 6:30 pm Church	27	28  Stations of the Cross 6:00 pm	29 Mass 8:00  Confessions 3:15 – 3:45
30	31 BYOB Dance planning meeting 6:00pm Hall	Life is Like a Clock Life is like a clock. The hands of time go only forward, never backward. Life is not like a movie. It can never be rerun for a second showing. Life is not like an automobile. It has no reverse gear. Life is not like a pencil. You cannot erase your mistakes. Today is your opportunity to do all that you can do, so do the best you can today.				

Anniversary Milestones

Congratulations to Jeffrey and Susan Wilson who are celebrating their 59th wedding anniversary on March 5th.





Happy Birthday to...

1	Maddax Laret	14	Carol Cox	20	Madeline Conrad
	Joseph Mardula		Stephanie Eckenrode		Cynthia Hartline
	Julia Myers		William McGowan		Charles Shedlock
	Mary Rainey	15	Greta Hurley	21	Zachary Eckenrode
5	Faber Conrad Sr.	16	Valerie Borlie	22	Margaret Lukacs
6	Horace Pysher		Anelaine Scott	23	William McGowan III
7	Madison Clinemyer	17	Joseph Batdorf	25	Cynthia Giblock
	William Leahey		Allura Nesbella		Adrienne Rabatin
	Regina Siuniak		Hunter Pyo	26	Robert Kunrod
8	Monica Barlick		Shawn Stevens	27	Lillian Guzik
9	Jonathan Bossler	18	Francis Wyland	28	Kiersten Petrunak
	Timothy Salony	19	Travis Braatz	30	Gerald Behe
	Holly Tremel		Danielle Dunmyer	31	Carmella Drass
10	Kathleen Bost		Richard Leja		Kip Maurer
12	Cyrus Lee	19	Catherine Serre		Linda Wheeler
			Dayne Summerville		

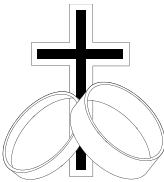


Special Birthday Celebrations

The following members of the parish family will be celebrating special birthdays this month.



Margaret Lukacs	99	Reginia Siuniak	86	Madeline Conrad	81
Robert Kunrod	98	Faber Conrad Sr.	81		



Wedding Anniversaries

March 5	Jeffrey and Susan Wilson
March 12	Vance and Kelley Brown
March 16	Chris and Amber Kertes
March 24	Guido and Tara Fabbri

Please call Fr. Matthew, the Pastor, if there are any necessary corrections.

1. Call to order at 6:30pm
 - a. **Attended:** Deacon Sam, John Hurley, Michael Summerville, Joy Eckenrode, Matthew Hoover, Barbara Bart, George Nesbella, Colleen Keagy, Alexis Eckenrode, Amy Hazlett
 - b. **Absent:** John Bossler, Ed Myers
 - c. **Excused:** Amber Boring
2. Opening Prayer - Fr. Matthew
3. Reading of minutes from the last council meeting December 16, 2024, were read. Motion was made to approve, was seconded, and passed unanimously.
4. Visitor Presentation - Council welcomed Stu Sibold, Diocesan Pro Life Group Representative. Pro Life catholic ministry dedicated to helping moms and babies in the Diocese of Altoona - Johnstown Respect Life Committee. The Gabriel Project is a Pro Life Catholic Ministry
5. Financial Council Report
 - a. Broken heating unit in the hall had to be replaced cost was \$5,011.21
 - b. Current Balances of the 2024/2025 Fiscal Year were reviewed (as of 2/3/25)
 - i. Cash in bank, general \$156,224.98
 - ii. Cash in bank, maintenance #6222 \$5,328.00
 - iii. Cash in bank, small games \$1,000.00
 - iv. Cash in bank, mass stipend \$2,540.00
 - v. Fiscal Year Net Income +\$57,206.98
6. Old Business
 - a. New sidewalk will go in after weather breaks - estimated \$9,000.00
7. New Business
 - a. Fundraising/social events
 - i. To help spread the burden put on any one person spearheading fundraising events, Fr. asked current heads of each event if they wished to continue.
 1. Current heads who said Yes were Amy Hazlett for the Craft Fair and Anna Leahey (if we choose to try the Christmas dance again)
 2. The following events are left without a head planner and, if no other volunteers come forward to head these events, they may not be held in 2025: Basket Raffle and Rummage Sale. *Colleen Keagy agreed to head the May BYOB dance.*



- a. Fr. will not ask the previous heads of these events to head again out of respect for their situations and their reasoning's as to why they removed themselves from this role.
 - b. **Addendum:** Amy pointed out that the 2024 Craft Fair was missed within the Finance Council Meeting as one of our fundraisers. Below is the updated breakdown from the Finance Council Minutes:
 - “Review calendar year of 2024 Fundraising event income:***
 - i. *The total Fundraising profit = +\$26,262.72*
 - ii. *Bigger events breakdown:*
 - 1. *Festival = +\$12,728.99*
 - 2. *Basket Raffle = +\$6,701.91*
 - 3. *Rummage Sale = +\$3,906.30*
 - a. *Note: total of Basket Raffle & Rummage Sale is +\$10,608.21*
 - 4. *Craft Fair = +\$1,270.66*
 - 5. *May BYOB Dance = +\$1,061.00*
 - 6. *Various 50/50s = +\$558.00*
 - 7. *Formal Christmas Dance = +\$80.86*
 - iii. *The Fundraising Committee is in the process of reorganizing. We will need volunteers to spearhead the Basket Raffle & Rummage Sale if we wish to continue having them.”*
- 8. Reports from Committees
 - a. Cemetery Committee - no report
 - b. Festival Committee - Fr. Matthew as representative
 - i. Meeting of all Heads of Booths was Monday, January 27th, at 6:30 pm.
 - ii. A Glider has been donated for raffle
 - iii. Three food vendors have committed. No food will be offered by the parish
 - iv. Charlene's Dance and Felix and the Hurricanes will be the entertainment
 - v. Basket Raffle within the Festival this year will be expanded
 - c. Vocation Committee - Joan Walters and/or Renee Behe (as representatives)
 - i. Prayer Crucifix program initial review. The dates are all filled up until April 2025. No problems have been reported.

- d. Craft Fair 2025 - Amy Hazlett (Head)
 - i. The Spring Craft show is set for Saturday, March 15, 2025 from 10 am to 3 pm in the church hall. Seventeen spots are currently reserved. Chicken noodle soup and a sandwich will be sold from the kitchen. The next meeting will be Wednesday February 5th at 6:30 pm at P.J.'s Tavern in Cresson to finalize details.
- e. B.Y.O.B. Dance in May - Colleen Keagy (Head)
 - i. It will be on Friday, May 9, 2025, from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm
 - ii. Music - D.J. Brian Lundberg
 - iii. Meeting to be scheduled around April to plan for this event
- 9. Non-Committee Reports
 - a. 2025 Jubilee Year - Amber Boring (Parish Ambassador)
 - i. Review how the year has begun. Additional pilgrim passports have been ordered from the Diocese
 - ii. Information on possible Rome/Vatican City State Pilgrimage coming soon
 - 1. There will be an informational meeting for all interested upcoming
 - b. Youth Appointee Report - Jacob Bossler - no report
 - c. Adult Education - Colleen Keagy (Chair)
 - i. Historical Class on Monday, February 24, 2025, at 6 pm.
 - d. Youth Religious Education & Sacramental prep - Fr. Matthew (as DRE)
 - i. New process for Confirmation – 8th graders have been invited to begin preparation for possibly being confirmed as early as next year
 - e. Maintenance Issues
 - i. Had discussion regarding redirecting entrance to the Hall/basement to elsewhere due to possible hazard of icicles forming over the Hall/basement entrance door
- 10. Comments from Fr. Matthew
 - a. New members for the 2025/2026 Parish Council will be elected on Pentecost Sunday, June 8, 2025.
- 11. Closing Prayer
- 12. Adjournment 7:45 pm
 - a. Next meeting: **Monday, April 7, 2025 at 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm**

The Benefits of a Midday Ritual

A midday ritual can serve as a much-needed reset to recharge your energy and refocus. As the day progresses, it's easy to get lost in work or daily tasks, but taking a break can improve your efficiency and mental clarity. Start by stepping away from your workspace to take a short walk, stretch, or do a quick breathing exercise.

Eating a nutritious lunch is also a crucial part of a midday ritual. A well-balanced meal can sustain your energy levels and prevent afternoon fatigue. Try to choose foods that are rich in protein, healthy fats, and vegetables to keep you full and energized for the rest of the day.

Incorporating a moment of mindfulness or meditation into your midday routine can further reduce stress and help reset your mind. Even just 5 minutes of deep breathing or guided relaxation can help you feel more centered and less overwhelmed.

Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary - March 19

St. Joseph was a carpenter, and he must have died in the presence of Jesus and Mary. He is the patron saint of carpenters, workers and of a happy death. St. Luke's story of Jesus being lost in the temple indicates that Joseph was a devout man and a loyal father. We can also presume from the story that Joseph was a great influence on the young Jesus during his formative years.

This is a family feast, especially for Fathers, the workers in the family and for any families with terminally ill or aged members. A father, a worker, or an aged person might lead the family in the meal prayer on this day. Here is a sample:

St. Joseph, you accepted the great responsibility of husband and father with graciousness. Help all fathers to be models of goodness and faithfulness.

You developed your laboring skills and brought dignity to work. Help all in this family who work to develop their skills to the best of their ability and to serve others with love.

St. Joseph, you died in the company of Jesus and Mary. Help all we know who face death to take comfort in the knowledge that they too are loved by your wife, Mary and your foster son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.