



SECOND SUNDAY OF

Easter

(OR SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY)

APRIL 19, 2020

St. John the Evangelist Church
309 Lotz Avenue, Altoona, PA 814-942-5503
www.stjohnsaltoona.org

PASTORAL STAFF

Monsignor Michael Becker - mbecker253@aol.com

Deacon Gene Neral - gene@lifeinfocus.net

Mr. Chris Ringkamp - Parish Council President chris@icfdaj.org

Ms. Jena Bowman - Business Manager stjohnchurch@atlanticbb.net

Mrs. Deborah Johnson - Director of Music/Pastoral Associate dj219@msn.com

Mr. & Mrs. Bill & Norma Foose - Stephen Ministry norma.foose@yahoo.com

Mrs. Megan Swope - Director of Faith Formation mswope726@gmail.com

Mr. Mark Krepich - Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults mark.krepich@gmail.com

Mr. Ken Dunmire - Maintenance

CO-VID 19: Prayer to Mary, Health of the Sick



O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.

You know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Jesus said to Thomas,
"Have you come to believe because you have seen me?
Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

John 20:29

Copyright © J.S. Paluch Co. Inc.

Photos:

© Adam Ján Figeľ / Adobe Stock,
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass
(c) 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970, CCD.

A Few Words from the Pastor:

HOW TO PRAY DURING THE PANDEMIC – We know the crisis is urgent, and we feel powerless. But perhaps feeling small is the best reminder to pray. Prayer is how we actively practice believing, so simply, so confidently, that God has the whole world in his hands. It's where we "let petitions and praises shape our worries into prayers, letting God know our concerns" (Phil. 4:6–7). Remember that prayer is never the last resort of God's people. **It is our first point of action.**

Here is a good place to start with our prayer. My hope is that it can provide words for us as we pray collectively (if also virtually!) as a church body. We believe there is a God who bends his ear to listen, and so we pray:

- ◆ For the sick and infected: God, heal and help. Sustain bodies and spirits. Contain the spread of infection.
- ◆ For our vulnerable populations: God, protect our elderly and those suffering from chronic disease. Provide for the poor, especially the uninsured.
- ◆ For the young and the strong: God, give them the necessary caution to keep them from unwittingly spreading this disease. Inspire them to help.
- ◆ For our local, state, and federal governments: God, help our elected officials as they allocate the necessary resources for combatting this pandemic. Help them to provide more tests.
- ◆ For our scientific community, leading the charge to understand the disease and communicate its gravity: God, give them knowledge, wisdom, and a persuasive voice.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY (also known as the Feast of the Divine Mercy) is celebrated on the Sunday after Easter, the Octave Day of Easter. The feast day is observed by Roman Catholic as well as some Anglicans. It is originally based on the Catholic devotion to the Divine Mercy that Faustina Kowalska reported as part of her encounter with Jesus, and is associated with special promises from Jesus and indulgences issued by the Catholic Church. We are grateful for Deacon Gene who will be preaching this Sunday.

FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION – The pandemic has certainly upended our life as a parish. The celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation, as well as First Eucharist, have been indefinitely postponed. Parents are urged to help their children to see that the delay can be a blessing. Each child will have even more time to prepare, to grow in an even deeper desire to receive the Eucharist and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

April Prayer Intention of Pope Francis

Freedom from Addiction

We pray that those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied.



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 4:23-31; Ps 2:1-9; Jn 3:1-8
Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37; Ps 93:1-2, 5; Jn 3:7b-15
Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26; Ps 34:2-9; Jn 3:16-21
Thursday: Acts 5:27-33; Ps 34:2, 9, 17-20; Jn 3:31-36
Friday: Acts 5:34-42; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Jn 6:1-15
Saturday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14; Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17; Mk 16:15-20
Sunday: Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11;
1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35

Divine Mercy Prayer

You expired, O Jesus,
but the source of life gushed forth for souls
and an ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world.
O Fount of Life,
unfathomable Divine Mercy,
envelop the whole world
and empty Yourself out upon
us.
O Blood and Water,
which gushed forth from the
Heart of Jesus
as a fount of mercy for us,
I trust in You.
Amen.

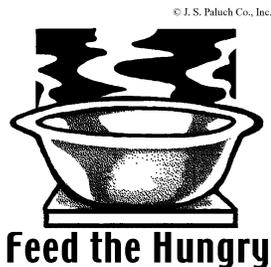


YOU CAN GET OUR BULLETIN EMAILED TO YOU EACH WEEK: The bulletin is the center of our parish communication, and we want to keep you informed. We are now offering to send you the parish bulletin directly to your email every week. It's a great way to stay connected anytime. You can begin by using this link:

<https://ebulletin.jspaluch.com>

or by texting the word 'BULLETIN' to 94090.

FOOD DRIVE: Just a reminder that we will continue to collect food for our local food banks. The need is greater than ever now. Simply drop off your donations under the rectory carport. Monetary donations can go into the offertory box. Simply add a note that your donation is for our food bank collection.



THANKS TO OUR BULLETIN ADVERTISERS: Because of the generosity and support of those businesses and individuals who purchase advertising space on the back cover of our bulletin, we are able to provide you with news and information about your parish and your faith. Take a look at the ads that run every week, and patronize our advertisers—and when you do, let them know that you're patronizing them because you saw their ad in our bulletin. Then thank them personally for supporting our parish community. For information on advertising please contact J.S. Paluch Co., Inc. 1-800-945-6629.



Online Giving is available for you to make contributions to the church. This option makes use of current technology and security standards and allows you to easily

setup recurring contributions. It also enables our church to take advantage of new tools to become more efficient. Online Giving is intended to be a convenient tool for you to use, and we strongly support both Online Giving and Offering Envelopes for contributions to the parish. Online Giving is the electronic way to participate in weekly offertory.

Start giving online today!

1. Visit our church website at stjohnsaltoona.org and click on the online giving link.
2. Create an account.
3. Schedule your recurring gifts.

Please prayerfully consider giving online.

ST JOHN'S PRAYER LIST

Please call Ginny Reeder (695-7671) or email her at giny.reeder@gmail.com to add or remove someone from the prayer list. PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING and their caregivers and give thanks for those who have recovered. *Lord we ask for your blessings and care for these and all people in need:*

Baby Adam • Baby Aiden • Baby Maddie • Cari Ann James Aubrey • Julie Beiswenger • Robert Cole Millie Grace Capon • Betty Dennis Michael DeStefano • Jim Duffy • Bernadine Farrell Kathy Felty • Christine Finklestine • Helen Fornwalt Leann Frazier • Molly Grenfell • Denny Horton Randy Horton • Brian Kopp • Lisa • Joan Litzinger Sherri Maffettone • Louis Jack Mathias • Bryson Miller Mildred Miller • Susie Miller • Barbara Moore Donna Moyer • Ailani Myers • Nancy • Patricia Olson Mary Oricko • Linda Pletcher • Karen Price Ron Peschock • Mary Rajnish • Allison Recker Vicki Riley • Allison Ritchey • Olga Romerowicz Cari Roth • Mike Rudolph • Fr. Robert Rustin Peggy Seiler • Bruce Shank • Anne Showalter Tim & Dina Temofonte • Patty Teufel • Rose Wargo Lois Werfel • Carol White • William Wieland Noah Wills • Milan & Family

HOME WITH THE LORD: Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of:

**Michael A Maier, father of Mike (Loane) Maier
Richard Bender - brother of Carol Field
Mary Jo Sibert - sister of Carol Field**

May they rest in the peace and joy of the Lord.

Stewardship at St. John's

April 5, 2020

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Envelopes | \$ 7,242.00 |
| Loose | \$ 1,860.00 |
| Catholic Education | \$ 45.00 |
| Catholic Relief Services | \$ 115.00 |
| Catholic Home Missions | \$ 45.00 |
| Easter Flowers | \$ 165.00 |
| Easter Offering | \$ 2,060.00 |
| Ash Wednesday | \$ 20.00 |
| Holy Thursday | \$ 330.00 |
| Good Friday | \$ 370.00 |
| Food Bank Donations | \$ 490.00 |
| <i>SubTotal</i> | <i>\$ 12,742.00</i> |
| Online Giving | \$ 3,203.00 |
| Total Offertory | \$ 15,945.00 |

Restore*Repair*Rejoice

Payments/Donations \$144,404
Pledge Payment Committed \$30,412
Total Pledges/Donations \$174,816

Catholic Ministries Drive

Last Update: February 29, 2020
Target \$ 44,423
Payments/Donations \$ 18,550
Pledge Payments Committed \$ 1,000
Total Gifts \$ 19,550



SECOND SUNDAY OF

Easter

(OR SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY)

APRIL 19, 2020

Sunday Readings

April 19, 2020

Second Sunday of Easter (or Sunday of Divine Mercy)

Reading 1

Acts 2:42–47

They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their property and possessions and divide them among all according to each one's need. Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes. They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 118:2–4, 13–15, 22–24

R. (1) **Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love is everlasting.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

Let the house of Israel say,

“His mercy endures forever.”

Let the house of Aaron say,

“His mercy endures forever.”

Let those who fear the LORD say,

“His mercy endures forever.”

R. **Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love is everlasting.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

I was hard pressed and was falling,
but the LORD helped me.

My strength and my courage is the LORD,
and he has been my savior.

The joyful shout of victory
in the tents of the just:

R. **Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love is everlasting.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.

By the LORD has this been done;
it is wonderful in our eyes.

This is the day the LORD has made;
let us be glad and rejoice in it.

R. **Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love is everlasting.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

Reading 2

1 Pt 1:3–9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you who by the power of God are safeguarded through faith, to a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the final time. In this you rejoice, although now for a little while you may have to suffer through various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold that is perishable even though tested by fire, may prove to be for praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Although you have not seen him you love him; even though you do not see him now yet believe in him, you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, as you attain the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Gospel

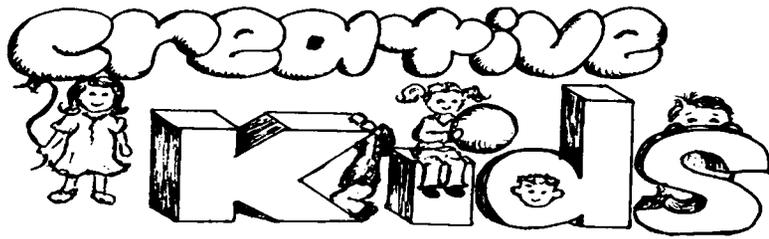
Jn 20:19–31

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.”

Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe.” Thomas answered and said to him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”

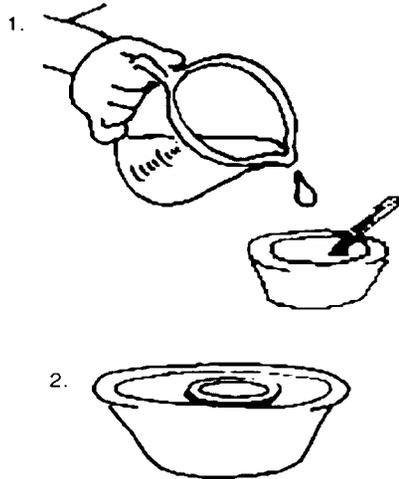
Now, Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.



"I Can't Believe It!"

Directions:

1. In a small bowl, mix ¼ cup water with 1 tablespoon of baking soda.
2. Place the bowl inside a larger bowl.
3. What do you think will happen if you add ¼ cup vinegar to the mixture. Why do you think that?
4. Add the vinegar.
 - *What happened?
 - *Were you right?
 - * Why do you think it happened?



GOD'S WORD FOR CHILDREN!

Second Sunday of Easter

Jesus appeared to His disciples and said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." Then Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

Acts 2:42-47 Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24
1 Pt 1:3-9 Jn 20:19-31

Directions: Put the following words in alphabetical order.

| | | |
|-------|-----------|--------|
| PEACE | DISCIPLES | FATHER |
| JESUS | HOLY | SPIRIT |

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

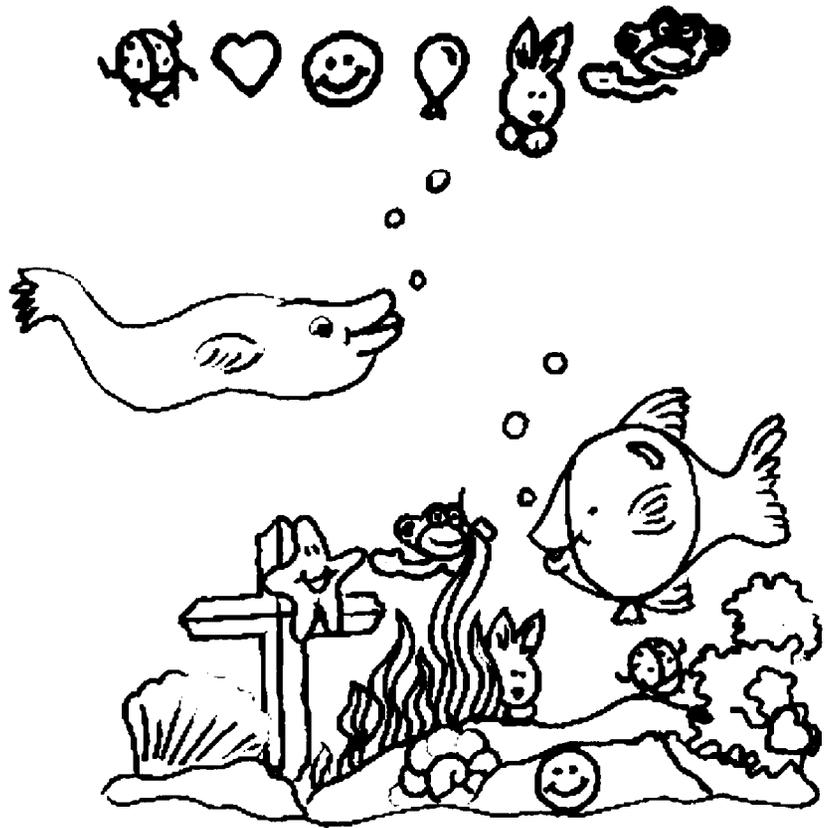
1. DISCIPLES 2. FATHER
3. HOLY 4. JESUS
5. PEACE 6. SPIRIT



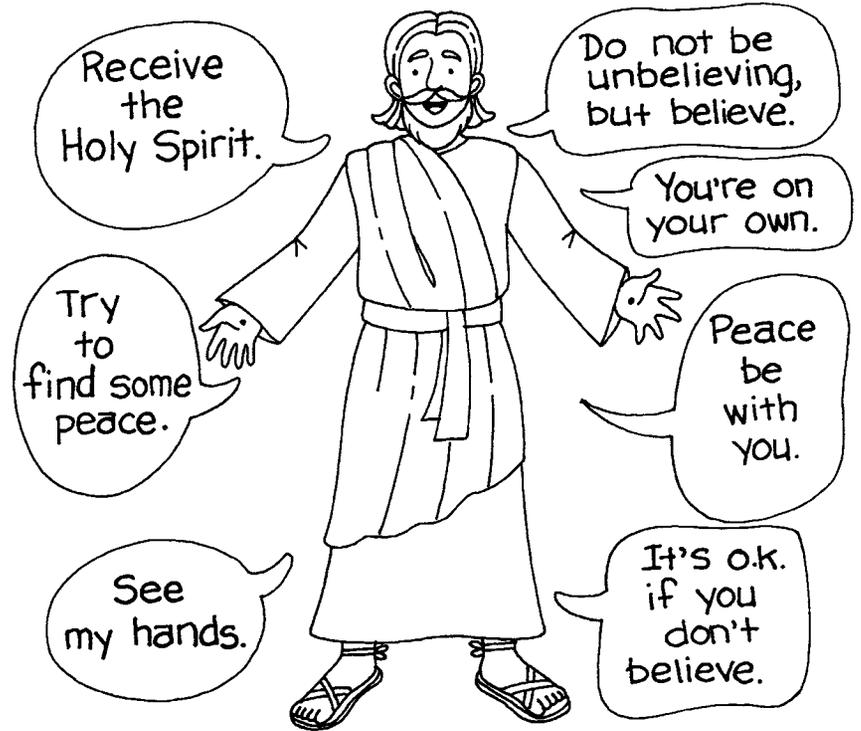
Thomas did not believe that Jesus was risen until he saw Jesus with his own eyes.



Directions: Use your eyes to find the hidden pictures below.



After his resurrection Jesus appeared twice to his disciples in a locked room. Cross out the speech bubbles that do not tell what he said during these visits. You can read the story in your Bible at John 20:19-31.





Consider Remembering Your Parish in Your Will.
For further information, please call the Parish Office.

COM PROS
INCORPORATED
814-946-8100
Telephone Systems
Two-Way Communications
400 Highland Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602
www.comprosinco.com



VICTOR J. RIZZO, D.C.
CHIROPRACTOR
502 LOGAN BLVD.
944-3536



AUTO • HOMEOWNERS
LIFE • BUSINESS
COMMERCIAL
Elaine Ormsby
814.206.0080
elaine@imperialagency.com
www.imperialagency.com
Now Servicing Altoona and Surrounding Areas



Get this weekly bulletin delivered by email - for FREE!

Sign up here:

<https://www.jspaluch.com/BulletinSubscribe.aspx>

Courtesy of J.S. Paluch Company, Inc.



FRANK'S AUTO SERVICE CENTER
FRANCIS GIVLER, JR., Owner

Certified Auto Technician 400 S. Logan Blvd.
814-943-4942 Altoona, PA 16602-4102

Roland Crevecoeur Jr. M.D. FAAP, MACP



Pediatric Cardiology and other Medical Consultations, LLC
"Specializing in Pediatrics, Pediatric Heart and Hypertension Disease for nearly a decade in Central PA"

1890 North Juniata Street, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648
(814) 695-0632 • Accepting New Patients Again

FINDaPARISH.com

The Most Complete
Online National
Directory of
Catholic Parishes

Check It Out Today!

Encompass Health

Rehabilitation Hospital of Altoona

2005 Valley View Boulevard
Altoona, PA 16602

(814) 944-3535

Offering Physical Therapy,
Occupational Therapy,
& Speech Therapy

Ask For Us By Name!!!

Say Good-bye to Clogged Gutters!



CALL BY 12/31 TO RECEIVE
75% OFF LABOR*
*After 12/31/19 customer will be eligible for 50% off labor. Does not include cost of material. Offer expires 3/31/20.

Receive a \$25 Lowe's Gift Card with FREE in-home estimate!
All participants who attend an estimated 60-90 minute in-home product consultation will receive a \$25 gift card. Retail value is \$25. Offer sponsored by LeafGuard Holdings Inc. Limit one per household. Company procures, sells, and installs seamless gutter protection. This offer is valid for homeowners over 18 years of age. If married or involved with a life partner, both cohabitating persons must attend and complete presentation together. Participants must have a photo ID, be able to understand English, and be legally able to enter into a contract. The following persons are not eligible for this offer: employees of Company or affiliated companies or entities, their immediate family members, previous participants in a Company in-home consultation within the past 12 months and all current and former Company customers. Gift may not be extended, transferred, or substituted except that Company may substitute a gift of equal or greater value if it deems it necessary. Gift card will be mailed to the participant via first class United States Mail within 21 days of receipt of the promotion form. Not valid in conjunction with any other promotion or discount of any kind. Offer not sponsored or promoted by Lowe's and is subject to change without notice prior to resumption. Expires 3/31/20.



LeafGuard® is guaranteed never to clog or we'll clean it for FREE*

- Seamless, one-piece system keeps out leaves, pine needles, and debris
- Eliminates the risk of falling off a ladder to clean clogged gutters
- Durable, all-weather tested system not a flimsy attachment

ENGLERT **LeafGuard**
Get it. And forget it.®

Call today for your FREE estimate and in-home demonstration

CALL NOW 412-528-1877

LeafGuard operates as LeafGuard of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania under HICPA license number PA126357 and in West Virginia under license number WV055024.

*Guaranteed not to clog for as long as you own your home, or we'll clean your gutters for free.



Catholic Cruises and Tours and The Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America

Take your FAITH ON A JOURNEY.
Call us today at 860-399-1785 or email eileen@CatholicCruisesandTours.com
www.CatholicCruisesandTours.com



The Stevens Mortuary, Inc.

Joseph J. Stevens, Supervisor
Altoona 944-9365

Plank, Stitt & Stevens Funeral Home

David J. Mason, Supervisor
Hollidaysburg 695-1551

If You Live Alone You Need MDMedAlert!

- ✓ Ambulance 24 Hour Protection at HOME and AWAY!
 - ✓ Police
 - ✓ Fire
 - ✓ Friends/Family
- FREE Shipping Solutions as Low as
FREE Activation
NO Long Term Contracts \$19.95 a month



This Button SAVES Lives!
As Shown GPS, Lowest Price Guaranteed!



"I have peace of mind. Mom remains independent."

CALL NOW! 800.809.3352

GPS Tracking w/Fall Detection
Nationwide, No Land Line Needed
EASY Set-up, NO Contract
24/7 365 Monitoring in the USA

MDMedAlert
Safe-Guarding America's Seniors Nationwide!

ONE PARISH

Download Our Free App or Visit
MY.ONEPARISH.COM

Grow in your faith, find a Mass, and connect with your Catholic Community with OneParish!



Protecting Seniors Nationwide

Medical Alert System

\$29.95/Mo. billed quarterly

- One Free Month
- No Long-Term Contract
- Price Guarantee
- Easy Self Installation



Call Today! Toll Free 1.877.801.8608



Your Catholic Credit Union

all St. John parishioners are eligible to join

www.arcfcu.org • 814-946-0857

McAler's
Since 1886

Plumbing, Heating, Air Conditioning



- Registered Master Plumbers • Residential & Commercial
- Free Estimates • Neat & Clean Is Our Trademark • Quality Work
- Non-Smoking Employees • An Altoona Tradition

1008 Chestnut Ave. • Altoona

942-7153

Please Cut Out This "Thank You Ad" and Present It The Next Time You Patronize One of Our Advertisers

Thank You

Thank you for advertising in our church bulletin. I am patronizing your business because of it!