

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

AUGUST
29
2021

Humbly welcome the word that
has been planted in you and
is able to save your souls.

James 1:21b



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

PASTORAL STAFF

Monsignor Michael Becker - mbecker253@aol.com; allinall214@gmail.com
Deacon Gene Neral - gene@lifeinfocus.net
Kristina Hoyne - Parish Council President - inaugh@aol.com
Jena Bowman - Business Manager - stjohnchurch@atlanticbb.net
Deborah Johnson - Director of Music/Pastoral Associate - dj219@msn.com
Diane Ryan - Faith Formation Coordinator/Secretary - stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net
Mark Krepich - Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults - mark.krepich@gmail.com
Ken Dunmire - Maintenance

NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS

LECTORS

Sat. Sept. 4 - 4:00 PM - Joyce Cunningham,
Maria Spayd

Sun. Sept. 5 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci,
Ginny Reeder

Sun. Sept. 5 - 10:00 AM - Bill Foose, Norma Foose

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. Sept. 4 - 4:00 PM Keaton Swope,
Ryan Donoughe

Sun. Sept. 5 - 8:00 AM- Mai Linh Do, Nicholas Helsley

Sun. Sept. 5 - 10:00 AM- NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. Sept. 4 - 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, David Loth

Sun. Sept. 5 - 8:00 AM - Lou Ann Clark

Sun. Sept. 5 - 10:00 AM - Dolores Capriotti,
Kenneth Gorman

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. Sept. 4 - 4:00 PM - Carolyn English, Billy Sweet,
Betsy Lloyd, Judy Sneath

Sun. Sept. 5 - 8:00 AM - Helen Miller , Charlie Moore,
Ed Stoltz, , Mary Truesdale

Sun. Sept. 5 - 10:00 AM - Mary Grace Horton, Wendy
Campbell, Patrick Podoletz, Peg Madden

SACRISTAN

Sat. Sept. 4 - 4:00 PM - Jane Byrne

Sun. Sept. 5 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci

Sun. Sept. 5 - 10:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan

SCRIP

Sat. Sept. 4 - 4:00 PM - Julie Beiswenger, Mary Haenig

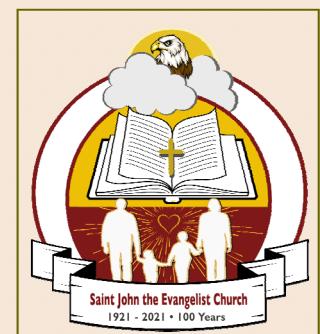
Sun. Sept. 5 - 8:00 AM - Erika & Heather Yasolsky

Sun. Sept. 5 -10:00 AM - Peg Madden, Marge Rudolph

August Prayer Intention of Pope Francis

The Church

Let us pray for the Church, that She may receive
from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength
to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.



A Few Words from the Pastor:

THE SEASON OF CREATION BEGINS! The Season of Creation has a special significance for the Catholic Church, particularly since Pope Francis established 1 September as an annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. The Season of Creation is marked throughout the Christian world from 1 September to 4 October (Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi) and celebrates the joy of creation as well as encouraging awareness-raising initiatives to protect the natural environment. Throughout this holy season, our bulletin will carry quotes from Laudato Si, the encyclical on the environment by Pope Francis. Take time to reflect on the beauty of creation, and consider your personal or family efforts in caring for our common home.

IN CHRIST-LIKE CHARITY FOR OTHERS, WEAR A MASK!

The diocese of Pittsburgh has begun to again require the wearing of masks at all liturgies by everyone. This has been in response to the Delta variant which is exceptionally transmissible, and has begun to affect more and more children. Thus, it would seem wise for us to follow their example. Certainly those who are not vaccinated need to wear a mask at Mass. Certainly children under the age of 12 need to be wearing masks as well. Because Blair County has recorded a "substantial" transmission of COVID-19, the CDC recommends that people wear masks indoors, even if they are fully vaccinated. This preventive care is for the common good of everyone!

UNDERSTANDING THE CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD - The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is the result of a long period of careful observation of children by Sofia Cavalletti, a Catholic Scripture scholar, and her Montessori collaborator, Gianna Gobbi, in Rome. Their work began in earnest in 1954, and has spread to over 65 countries world-wide. Why begin with three-year-olds? Sofia has noted that "children from 3 to 6 years of age demonstrate particular sensitivity to Jesus Christ, the good Shepherd, who protects his sheep and calls them by name. She writes, "Young children have a natural ability to enjoy their relationship with God in a very deep way. Children are capable of enjoying the presence of God; they are able to give themselves totally to God's love. It is only before the age of six that children are completely inside this joy."

Taking guidance from the gospel, Sofia grounds the CGS on the words of Jesus, "I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children."

PREPARING OUR ATRIUM - Over the next few weeks we will be preparing our atrium at St. John's for our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. (Currently, that space is used as our day chapel.) The atrium is a prepared environment for children, and is one of the important elements that helps the relationship between God and the child to flourish. The atrium can be compared to a retreat house facilitating recollection and silence. The atrium is a place for religious life, for community and worship—not a classroom for instruction. The atrium is a place of meaningful work through which the child can have a conversation with God. For the child, too, the atrium is a place of preparation for involvement in the larger worship community.

POPE GREGORY, OUR SAINT OF THE WEEK! Pope Gregory I (540 - 604), commonly known as Saint Gregory the Great, was the bishop of Rome from 3 September 590 to his death. He is known for instigating the first recorded large-scale mission from Rome, the Gregorian Mission, to convert the then-pagan Anglo-Saxons in England to Christianity. Gregory is also well known for his writings, which were more prolific than those of any of his predecessors as pope. He is also known for his love of the liturgy, and for his composition of "Gregorian Chant."

COLLECTION FOR CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY – Each year in September the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops asks each parish to take up a collection in support of the Catholic University of America. Since 1903, The Catholic University of America has been blessed by the generosity of parishioners around the country through the National Collection. Catholic University is the national university of the Catholic Church. Gifts to the National Collection — the only "second collection" taken for higher education in the U.S. — support students during this crucial time and help the University conduct critical research that will serve parishes and dioceses throughout the country. An envelope is provided in your packet. Please be generous!

40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF MARY CELEBRATION

Wednesday, September 8 at Saint Catherine of Siena Shrine, Old Rt. 22, Duncansville

7:15 a.m. Rosary in the Church • 7:45 a.m. Mass in the Church • 11:30 a.m. Outdoor Rosary at the Shrine
12:00 noon Outdoor Mass at the Shrine (please bring chair) • 5:30 p.m. Outdoor Mass at the Shrine with Rosary procession (please bring chair) In the event of inclement weather, the outdoor Masses will be celebrated in the church.

NO CONTINUOUS ROSARY, NO FOOD AND NO EXHIBITS

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

- Please complete your Faith Formation Registration for the 2021-2022 year so we can complete our planning and ordering for the upcoming year. Forms can be found in the Gathering Space or on the St. John's website.
- We are still searching for a few more catechists, aides and substitutes for this year. Our class numbers average around 8 students so they are very manageable and can easily incorporate small group activities. Please consider this very important role in guiding our young parish members through their faith journey! If you would like more information or have questions, please contact Diane Ryan at 814-942-5503 or stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net.
- Our Parent Meeting is scheduled for September 12th. This meeting is for ALL Faith Formation Parents, including 2nd Grade and 9th-11th Grade Catholic School parents. Schedules for the upcoming year will be discussed. At this time, we are planning on returning to in-person classes and will be taking safety precautions to keep our children and teachers safe.

WILL YOU HELP THE COMMUNITY GROW IN FAITH? The Word of God has a formative influence on us over time. The Word of God (read at Liturgy) is not a history lesson. It is not a story. It is not a set of rules to live by. The Word of God is a living and dynamic presence achieving His Saving Plan about which it speaks as the lector proclaims it. When the lector proclaims the good news in the liturgy, the Word goes forth from the lector and is fulfilled in the hearing of the believers. *Lector training begins in September.*

PADRE PIO RELICS: The Windber Catholic Parishes invites you to venerate three Relics of St. Padre Pio at St. Anthony of Padua Church, Windber on Tuesday, September 14, 9AM-8PM. We will have our traditional Noon Novena Mass in honor of St. Anthony of Padua and St. Padre Pio. At 6PM, we will have a Mass in honor of St. Padre Pio. The Church will be open the entire day for veneration. Also, confessions will be heard from 9-11:30AM and from 1-5:30PM.

NEW BALTIMORE TAKE OUT SPAGHETTI DINNER on Sunday, September 12, from 10:30AM to 1:00 PM. *Meals may be picked up at St. John's hall in New Baltimore and include spaghetti and meatballs, salad, bread and dessert. Adults (12 and over) \$9, Children (3 -11) \$4. Pre-order by calling 814-733-2210 or by sending an email to dwambaugh@dioceseaj.org or . Please leave your name, phone number, preferred time of pick-up and the number of adult and child orders. Payment should be made at time of pick-up. WALK-INS are also welcome!* Sponsored by Knights of Columbus of St. John's Parish.

ST JOHN'S PRAYER LIST

Please call Ginny Reeder (695-7671) or email her at gyny.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:*

Aiden • Seth Alexander • Amy B. • Scott Brenneman
Dan Burley • Cari Ann • Robert Cole • Michelle Cooney
Mary Lee Madigan-Davis • Betty Dennis
Michael DeStefano • Gary Ellis • Bernadine Farrell
Kathy Felty • Leann Frazier • Matt Gormley
Randy Horton • Alexandra Hudson Tim Jimenez
Amy Langenbacher • Lisa • Sherri Maffettone
Genevieve Mathias • Susie Miller • Karrie McCall
Sylvia Louise Mills • Barbara Moore • Ailani Myers
Patricia Olson • Mary Oricko • Linda Pletcher
Mona Porta • Connie R Mary Rajnish • Allison Recker
Vicki Riley • Laurn Ryan • Olga Romerowicz
Mike Rudolph • Pat Seiler • Bruce Shank
Anne Showalter • Tim Temofonte • Bill Teufel
Kathy Wagner • Lois Werfel • Len Whitten
Daronda Wooldridge • Milan & Family
HOME WITH THE LORD: Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of:
Mary Ellen Leidy – mother of Coleen Langguth
Bob Bundy, Sr. - father-in-law of Barbara Bundy
Ken Hartman - brother of Barb Aubrey
Barbara Neral
Jim DeStefano

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

STEWARSHIP CORNER: There is a potential opportunity every Sunday for us to increase our understanding and wisdom in what it means to live a stewardship way of life. Our focus as Catholics should be on eternal life, not on the particulars of the life we experience on earth. That does not mean that we do not strive to live holy lives and we do not commit ourselves to lives of service and love. Just as Moses addresses the hypocrites and their practice of faith, James, too, reminds us that what we do is more important than merely giving a show of faith: "Be doers of the Word, and not hearers only." Jesus calls the elders hypocrites and points out to them how their priorities are out of order and that they need (and we do, also) to be more concerned about cleansing their hearts than their hands. One of the adages associated with stewardship is that we need to "possess loosely." That includes some of the traditions to which we may cling. (*Stewardship Reflection*, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, Inc. 2015/08/12)

August 15, 2021

Envelopes	\$ 4,242.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 1,214.00
Children's Offerings	\$ 3.00
Catholic Education	\$ 25.00
Catholic Register	\$ 45.00
Missionary Cooperative	\$ 50.00
Assumption of Mary	\$ 758.00
Food Bank Collection	\$ 100.00
<i>Subtotal</i>	\$ 6,437.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,924.00
Total Offertory	\$ 8,361.00

BOWLING LEAGUE: St John's Bowling League begins Friday, September 10th. League members can pick-up a full schedule on the kiosk in the Gathering Space. We're still filling teams, and new members are welcome. Call Gary Johnson at 814-696-2683 for details.

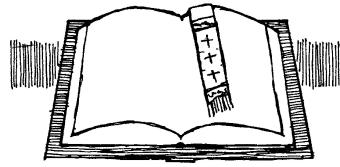
HAITI STUDENT SPONSORSHIP 2021-2022: For \$150 you can sponsor a student in our sister parish, Sts. Peter and Paul in Haiti. This donation helps with tuition, books, uniform, and lunch. In the Gathering Space you will find the display with envelopes. If you are renewing, please take your renewal envelope. If you are new, take one for a new sponsorship. You can return the envelopes in the collection or mail to the office

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, BELLWOOD, welcomes all Pilgrims! Thursday, September 9: Confessions at 5:00 pm, Mass at 6:00pm Fr. David Roesch guest celebrant. Friday, September 10: Confessions at 5:00 PM, Mass at 6:00 PM, Fr. Alan Thomas guest celebrant. Saturday, September 11: Confessions at 3:30 PM., Saturday Mass at 4:00 PM, Bishop Mark main celebrant. Sunday, September 12, 9:00 AM, outdoor Sunday Mass at Shrine of St. Joseph, Celebrant: Fr. Jozef Kovacik, Pastor. St. Joseph Table Social to follow.

ST. JOSEPH MISSION CHURCH SHRINE at Hart's Sleeping Place will be open on September 5, from 12 Noon to 3:00 PM for the final self-guided tour day. On Saturday, October 9, please come back to celebrate Mass at 4:00 PM with Bishop Mark for the 191st Anniversary of the Dedication of the Church by Servant of God, Demetrios Gallitzin. Directions and full history can be found on the website: www.sjmc1830.com

ST. JOSEPH AND HIS WORLD: Mike Aquilina is the award-winning author of more than fifty books on Catholic history, doctrine, and devotion. His works have been translated into many languages. He has hosted eleven television series and several documentary films and is a frequent guest on Catholic radio. He will be speaking at Our Mother of Sorrows Church, Johnstown, August 30th at 7:00 pm. Mr. Aquilina will speak primarily on his book St. Joseph and His World. In this Year of St. Joseph, join us for this fascinating talk!

ST. JOSEPH'S TABLE: St. Leonard's Home will host its annual celebration of St. Joseph's Table on Saturday, September 11, at the American Legion Post 516 Social Hall at Legion Park in Hollidaysburg. The event includes a meal including wine and dessert, prizes for bidding and entertainment. Take out dinners will be available from 3-5 PM and dine in from 5:30 – 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$30, and reservations are available by calling Sister Cynthia at 814-695-9581 during business hours. All proceeds benefit St. Leonard's charity care fund.



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August 29, 2021

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and is able to save your souls.

— James 1:21b

Schedule for the Week

Sunday, August 29 – The 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM - Mass for *David Ganz* requested by
Jack & Yvonne Novak

10:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

Monday, August 30 – Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Ron Peschock* requested by
Michele DeFrancisco

Tuesday, August 31 – Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Jean Dardzinski* requested by
Richard & Joyce Lowe

Wednesday, September 1 – World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

5:30 PM - Confessions
6:00 PM - Mass for *Fred Mazzarella* requested by
Karen Mazzarella

Thursday, September 2 – Weekday

8:30AM– Mass for *Jerry Johnson* requested by
Richard & Joyce Lowe

Friday, September 3 – St. Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church

8:30AM– Mass for *Barbara Neral* requested by
Deacon Gene & Family

Saturday, September 4 - Vigil of The 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

3:00 PM - Confessions
4:00 PM - Mass for *Zane Treece* requested by
Lloyd & Luensmann Families

Sunday, September 5 – The 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*
10:00 AM - Mass for *Richard Sernulka* requested by
Betty Dennis

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Thes 4:13-18; Ps 96:1, 3-5, 11-13; Lk 4:16-30
Tuesday: 1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Lk 4:31-37
Wednesday: Col 1:1-8; Ps 52:10-11; Lk 4:38-44
Thursday: Col 1:9-14; Ps 98:2-6; Lk 5:1-11
Friday: Col 1:15-20; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 5:33-39
Saturday: Col 1:21-23; Ps 54:3-4, 6, 8; Lk 6:1-5
Sunday: Is 35:4-7a; Ps 146:7-10; Jas 2:1-5; Mk 7:31-37

September Prayer Intention of Pope Francis *An environmentally sustainable lifestyle*

We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.

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AUGUST
29
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James 1:21b



GOD'S LAWS

Today's readings provide some interesting parallels and contrasts. The first reading is an account of Moses who, having delivered the Law to the Israelites, admonishes them to "observe them [its statutes] carefully." The author of the Letter of James likewise instructs fellow Christians to "welcome the word" they have received, that they may become "doers of the words and not hearers only." The psalmist praises "whoever walks blamelessly and does justice" by listing a few examples of what is required for that—descriptions that apply equally to both Jewish and Christian traditions. On the other hand, when the scribes and Pharisees point out that the disciples have not properly washed their hands before eating (which is, as Mark explains, the usual Jewish practice) Jesus scolds them sharply for being too focused on human rules—even ritual ones—instead of God's laws.

MOSAIC LAW: WHAT GOD WANTS OF THE PEOPLE

Moses gives the Israelites their Law, which provided the structure for daily life. As recorded in the Bible, over half of the Law is about rituals for worship and sacrifice. A related concept is the concept of a person's ritual purity (or cleanliness), which is required for participation in both social and religious activities, since persons become unclean by physical contact with other unclean persons, animals, or objects. Other ways a person becomes unclean include the presence of skin lesions, bleeding, or a bodily discharge. Unclean persons are required to purify themselves to be again considered clean. Despite the Law's complexity, observant Jews considered it a privilege, not a burden, to observe its precepts, and they continue to do so today.

ON THE OTHER HAND . . .

The scribes and Pharisees are focusing on the disciples' failure to properly wash their hands prior to eating. But nowhere in the biblical texts of the Law are there regulations regarding the washing of hands before or after meals. These regulations, as described by Mark, are merely practices like those that arise in all societies; if they continue long enough, they can seem like sacred duties, sanctified as "the traditions of their elders."

This distinction is the source of the tension in these three readings. Moses and James both tell their people that they are recipients of a divine gift that requires special care, while Jesus is practically livid when the scribes and Pharisees react harshly to the disciples' failure to wash their hands according to Jewish practices.

Such a distinction between divine law and human practices is valuable for our own lives. When we hear of another's misdeeds, we should evaluate the seriousness of the offense before forming our own impression. Is this truly a serious moral matter? Or something less weighty? Carefully discerning the seriousness of such matters might reveal that things are not as grave as they first appear. Such care is an exercise in Christian charity, one way of acting on the word we have received, the word of the Risen Christ.

TODAY'S READINGS

Deuteronomy 4:1–2, 6–8
Psalm 15:2–3, 3–4, 4–5
James 1:17–18; 21b–22, 27
Mark 7:1–8, 14–15, 21–23

The Alpha Course

Starting Wednesday,

September 8, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

Explore the real meaning of your life!

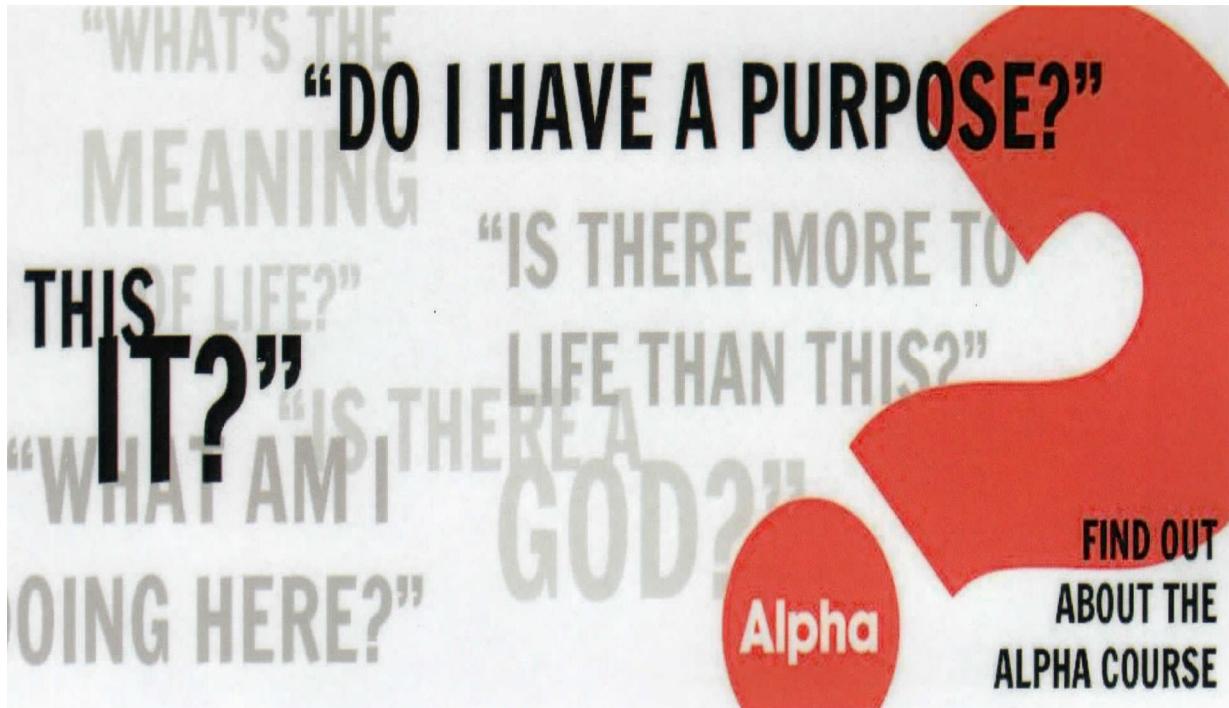
WHEN: Wednesday Evenings with Supper at 6:00

STARTING: Wednesday, September 8, 2021

WHERE: Saint Joseph Parish Hall, Bellwood, Pa

TIME: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

To Register, please complete the Registration Form, and place it in the Collection Basket by September 5.





Diocesan Workshop on:

Deepening Your Experience of Faith Sharing and Lectio Divina

Sr. Linda LaMagna, CCW

& Diocesan Evangelization Team

Register Online Now!

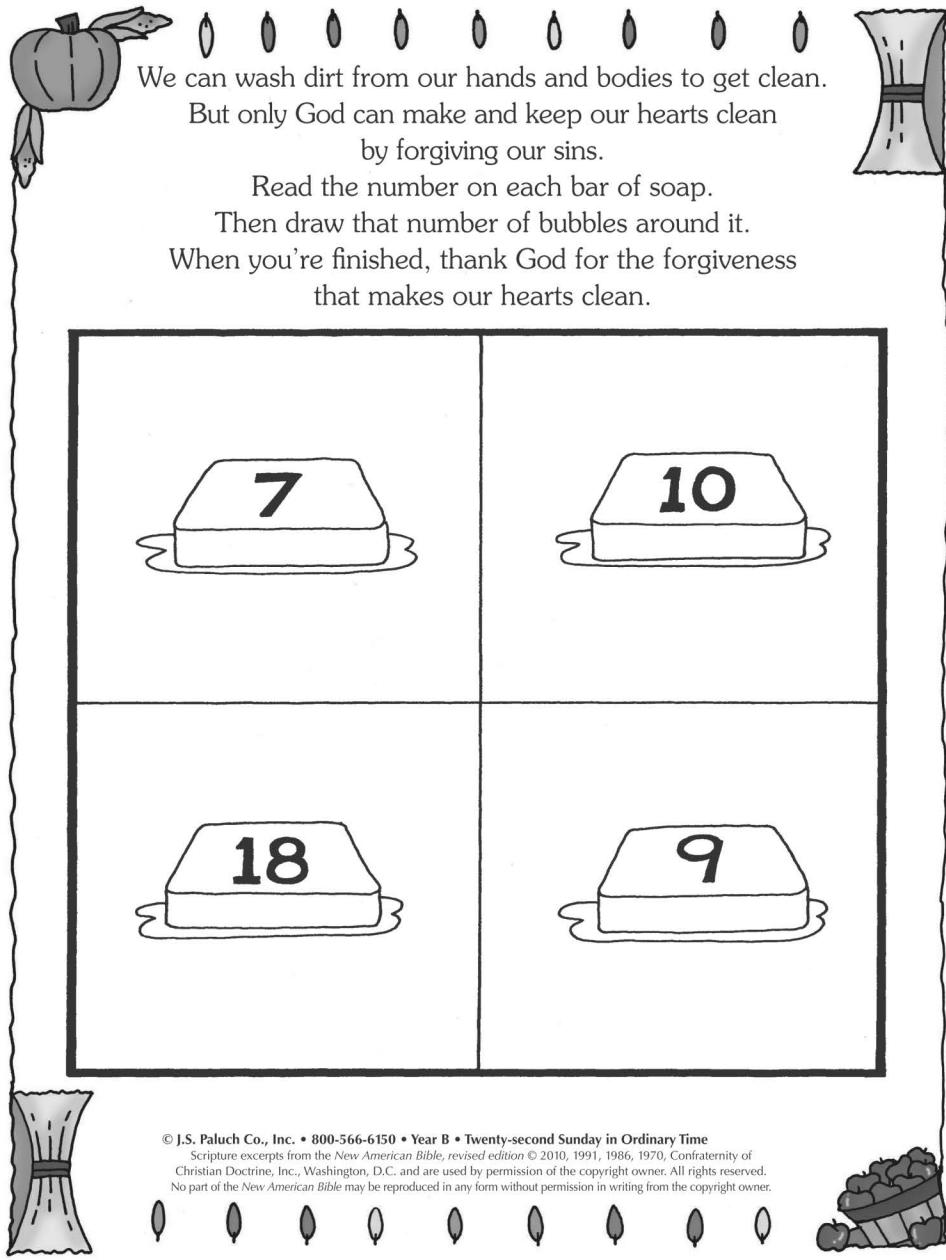
**Saturday, September 25, 9:30-11:30 AM
Mount Aloysius College, Bertschi Hall
Cresson, PA**

**Sunday, September 26, 1:00-3:00 PM
Saint Matthew Church
Tyrone, PA**



www.dioceseaj.org/lectio-divina
llamagna@dioceseaj.org

God's Word for Children



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Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

We have so many blessings and good things in our lives!
Write in order every word with an even number
to find what James 1:17 says about this.
Today, look for the many things you can be grateful for.

Start

12 every 46 perfect 9 all 37 then

65 because 50 gift 24 is 91 things

45 isn't 73 time 16 from 78 above

" _____ "

(James 1:17)



Be doers of the word and not hearers only.
James 1 : 22



ALL YOU WHO LABOR

In the United States the first Monday in September is celebrated as Labor Day. In the 1800s laborers banded together to demand just and safe working conditions for adults and an end to child labor in factories. We have been celebrating this day as a federal holiday since 1894, but individual groups and states celebrated it even earlier.

The work we do is one way of showing our love for others. Think about teachers. Their love of learning is shared with their students. Imagine a baker who truly loves to create delicious pastries or bake nutritious bread. The people who buy and taste her work are in for a wonderful treat. Police officers and firefighters show their love by risking their own lives for the people they serve and protect. Artists and musicians put their love into the beauty they bring to the world with the work they do.

Think about your own work. How does the work you do show your love for others? As a student, studying and learning and being friends with your classmates is some important work that you do.

Make a list of the people you know and the work they do. Talk with members of your family to discover how their work shows their love for others. Think about sending them a note or calling them to thank them for what they do.

Jesus invites us, "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). Monday is a day of rest for all who labor—even you have no school! Let us pray in thanksgiving for all the workers in the world. Today there are many people who are unable to find work. Be sure to include them in your prayers.

September 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1		3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14		16	17	18
19		21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

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Participants must attend and complete presentation together. Participants must

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immigrant family members, previous participants in a Company

former Company customer. Gift may not be extended, transferred

or resold. Participants must be 18 years of age or older. Offer is open to

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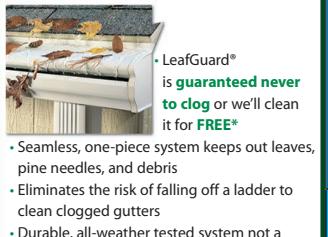
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