



**26th Sunday in  
Ordinary Time  
October 1, 2023**

**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  
 Patricia Jimenez - Director of Music  
 pjimenez@dioceseaj.org  
 Stephanie Baker-Business Manager  
 sbaker@dioceseaj.org  
 Diane Ryan - Faith Formation Coordinator/Secretary  
 stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net  
 Iris Tatar - Director of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd  
 iristat38@gmail.com  
 Mark Krepich - Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults  
 mark.krepich@gmail.com  
 Ken Dunmire - Maintenance

**MASS SCHEDULE**

**MONDAY - 8:30 AM TUESDAY - 8:30 AM**  
**WEDNESDAY - 6:00 PM**  
**THURSDAY - 8:30 AM FRIDAY - 8:30 AM**  
**SATURDAY - 4:00 PM**  
**SUNDAY - 8:00 AM & 11:00 AM**

**October Prayer Intention of Pope Francis**

**For the Synod**

We pray for the Church, that she may  
 adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle  
 at every level, and allow herself to be  
 guided by the Holy Spirit towards the  
 peripheries of the world.



**NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS**

**LECTORS**

Sat. October 7 - 4:00 PM - David Langguth, John Majcher  
 Sun. October 8 - 8:00 AM - Diane Turcovsky, Daniel Turcovsky  
 Sun. October 8 - 11:00 AM - Susan Podoletz, Dave Auerbeck

**ALTAR SERVERS**

Sat. October 7 - 4:00 PM - Lexi Tatar, Iris Tatar  
 Sun. October 8 - 8:00 AM - Emily Miller, Nicholas Helsley  
 Sun. October 8 - 11:00 AM - Aidan Schurr, Colin Schurr

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

Sat. October 7 - 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, NOT FILLED  
 Sun. October 8 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci, NOT FILLED  
 Sun. October 8 - 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Kenneth Gorman,  
 Bob Olson, Susanna Tomlinson, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED

**MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY**

Sat. October 7 - 4:00 PM - Carolyn English, Betsy Lloyd,  
 Karen Moughemer, Dennis Moughemer  
 Sun. October 8 - 8:00 AM - Ray Kennedy, Ed Stoltz, Jane Strasser,  
 Mary Truesdale  
 Sun. October 8 - 11:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Wendy Campbell,  
 Dolores Capriotti, Patrick Podoletz

**SACRISTAN**

Sat. October 7 - 4:00 PM - Jane Byrne  
 Sun. October 8 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci  
 Sun. October 8 - 11:00 AM - Dolores Capriotti

**SCRIP**

Sat. October 7 - 4:00 PM - Lori Baker, Christopher Palazzi  
 Sat. October 8 - 8:00 AM - Erika Yasolsky, Heather Yasolsky  
 Sun. October 8 - 11:00 AM - Peg Madden, Marge Rudolph

## A Few Words from the Pastor:

**OUR SACRED STORY RETREAT BEGINS THIS WEEKEND!** Even if you have not yet gotten a book, more have been ordered. I will take time each weekend to give the focus of the week, encouraging us to take those 15 minutes daily to deepen our life of prayer and our love for Christ. As we begin with Week 1, take time to read the introductory pages and then carefully follow the guidance which Father Watson, our author, provides. Each Sunday I will comment on the week that is beginning, giving encouragement as we embark on this spiritual journey. St. Ignatius of Loyola, pray for us!

**TAKE LORD, RECEIVE!** Throughout the time of our retreat, we will be offering a special prayer after communion, a prayer that comes from the heart of St. Ignatius. We will also be distributing holy cards with two of his most popular prayers.

**A NEW ROOF!** Our new roof is complete! Interestingly, as they were banging away on the roof in the morning and we were inside celebrating daily Mass, our readings from the Old Testament were telling the story of the rebuilding of the temple after the Babylonian Exile. Thus, we had appropriate sound effects for the liturgy of the Word! There are no coincidences in this world!!!!

**SOME BIG BUCKS COMING OUR WAY** – The Independent Catholic Foundation of the diocese gives annual “Impact Grants” to those parishes who apply with their particular pastoral needs. We applied for this Grant, and we were approved for funding for FORMED, Catholic Social Media, and Alpha! We have received \$3,550.00 for St. John's! God is so good to us!

**PET BLESSING** – Next Sunday, October 8, at 1:00 PM, we will have our annual pet blessing. Coming just a few days after the feast of St. Francis and the conclusion of the Season of Creation, we are grateful for the way in which our pets are such a wonderful sign of the goodness of God.

**REACHING OUT TO OUR HOMEBOUND** - Because there are so many who are homebound, we are undertaking a special initiative to regularly reach out with personal visits and the Eucharist to all of those who are not able to join us for Sunday liturgy. If you are interested in participating in this ministry, please call the parish office. ALSO, if you have anyone who is homebound and is not currently being visited, call our parish office. Mary Susick will be coordinating this ministry. Given the great inspiration of Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta, the Council decided to name this as our “Mother Teresa Ministry.”

**POPE FRANCIS SPEAKS ABOUT OUR SEASON OF CREATION:** “When we talk about the environment, about creation, my thoughts turn to the first pages of the Bible, the Book of Genesis, which states that God placed man and woman on earth to cultivate and care for it. And the question comes to my mind: What does cultivating and caring for the earth mean? Are we truly cultivating and caring for creation? Or are we exploiting and neglecting it?”

### SAVE THE DATES!

**St. John's Annual Pet Blessing:** Sunday, October 8th at 1pm in the circle in front of the church

**17th Annual PumpkinFest:** Saturday, October 14th from 10am to 4pm on Allegheny Street in Hollidaysburg

**Hymn Sing:** Sunday, October 15th at 2pm in the church

**St. John's Annual Trunk or Treat:** Sunday, October 29th at 12:30pm in the St. John's parking lot

### FALL ADULT FAITH FORMATION TOPICS:

October 8 to November 19: The Search *The Search*, hosted by Chris Stefanick, guides us through seven videos examining life and death, sorrow and happiness, and science and faith. Astrophysicists, psychologists, astronauts, neuroscientists, professors, athletes, artists, and the beauty of the cosmos all point us to the person of Jesus Christ.

We meet on Sunday mornings from 9:00 to 10:30 in the St. John's school cafeteria. Please consider joining us for food, fellowship, and the opportunity to deepen your faith.

For more information contact Mary Petrak, 814-502-6076 or mfpetrak@hotmail.com.

**ANNUAL PET DRIVE:** CDA Court Prince Gallitzin # 2625 will be conducting their annual Pet Drive to benefit the Humane Society throughout the month of October. Any items can be placed in the provided box located in the church gathering space. As always thank you for your awesome generosity.

## ***Schedule for the Week of October 1st***

### **Sunday, October 1 - 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

11:00 AM - Mass for *Bill Sweet* requested by  
Pat & Sue Podoletz

### **Monday, October 2 - The Holy Guardian Angels**

8:30 AM - Mass for *Frank Mento* requested by  
Bob & Ginny Reeder

### **Tuesday, October 3- Weekday**

8:30 AM—Mass for *Barbara Neral* requested by  
Deacon Gene Neral

### **Wednesday, October 4 - St. Francis of Assisi**

6:00 PM - Mass for *Ida Proserpi* requested by  
John Proserpi

### **Thursday, October 5 - Weekday**

8:30 AM - Mass for *Bill Sweet* requested by  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Shedlock

### **Friday, October 6 - Weekday**

8:30 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

### **Saturday, October 7- Vigil of 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

4:00 PM - Mass for *Alex Marchi* requested by  
Ed & Debbie Ergler & family

### **Sunday, October 8 - 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:00 AM - Mass for *Bob Cooney* requested by  
Ginger Cooney

11:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

**BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Please email any upcoming bulletin announcements to Diane Ryan at [stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net](mailto:stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net) or call the Parish Center at 814-942-5503. Bulletin announcements need to be submitted by Wednesday to be included in the following weekend bulletin.

**MASS FOR WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS:** Remember your loved ones on Sunday, October 29, 2023 with a televised Mass Celebrated by Bishop Mark Bartchak at 11:00 am on WATM ABC 23 and will rebroadcast that night at 9:00 p.m. on Breezeline Channel 9. The Mass will also be able to view, at your convenience, online, at the Diocese Vimeo page at [vimeo.com/user53173075](https://vimeo.com/user53173075). All spouses will be acknowledged and remembered at Mass. All persons who have lost a spouse through death throughout the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese are invited to register by contacting the Family Life Office (814) 317-2643 or email [familylife@dioceseaj.org](mailto:familylife@dioceseaj.org). When registering, please give your name, address, phone number and the name of your spouse who has passed away. The last day to register is Tuesday, October 24, 2023. The event is sponsored by the Diocesan Family Life Office and the Catholic Ministries Drive.

**DESPOT SCHOLARSHIP EXTENDED:** Applications for the 2023 John and Helen Despot Scholarship Fund will be accepted until Monday, October 2nd. Please contact the office with questions or for an application.

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER:** "Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but also for those of others." In other words, Paul continues, "Have in you the same attitude that is also in Christ Jesus." Whether we are at work or school or within our own homes, our actions should be focused on others first in imitation of Christ, Who is always perfectly focused on others. We are called to a high and holy standard — living as Christ's disciples every day and with every person the Lord places in our path. But we can move towards this goal in "baby steps." We can even take a step backward from time to time because our Father is merciful and kind. What matters is that we keep baby-stepping along, assured of the grace we need to more closely imitate the actions and attitudes of Christ. This is the beauty of the stewardship way of life.

### ***September 16/17***

Envelopes	\$ 3,808.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 165.00
Parish Development	\$ 25.00
Retired Medical	\$ 20.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,683.75
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 5,701.75</b>

**HAITI STUDENT SPONSORSHIP 2023-2024:** It's a new school year and time again to renew or join the Student Sponsorship Program for the children at Sts. Peter and Paul School in Marmont, Haiti. The requested donation is \$160 per student for the school year. Your donation provides tuition, books, supplies, and lunch for the student. Keeping the school open and educating is an essential foundation for the community. Envelopes for renewals or new participants are in the Gathering Space. Just drop them back in the collection basket or the office. Please note that you may not be sponsoring the same student each year. We try our best but your student could have completed 6th grade or moved. Thank you for the great support you have always given.

**HYMN SING:** St John Chancel Choir is hosting a hymn-sing Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 in in our sanctuary. Guest musicians representing the 8 Saints parishes of the Altoona Deanery in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown will present favorite anthems or hymns. YOU will have three opportunities to call out the number of YOUR favorite hymn from the Breaking Bread missal. One great hour of praise and fellowship; how can we keep from singing?

**ANNUAL MARIAN CELEBRATION:** Please join us for our Annual Marian Celebration with a Family Mass and Rosary on October 1st at 3pm at St. Benedict Church in Johnstown. Bishop Mark Bartchak will be the principal celebrant. The theme this year is Mary, Mother & Model of Vocations.

### **ST JOHN'S PRAYER LIST**

Please call Ginny Reeder (695-7671) or email her at [giny.reeder@gmail.com](mailto: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:*

**All Garvey Manor Residents • Britta Albright  
Charles Bassett • Idy Caporuscio • Michelle Cooney  
Mary Lee DeStefano • Nancy Fogel • Sherryl Hartman  
Kay Laratonda • Patricia Olson • Ryan Raybuck  
Anne Showalter • Reed Stellabotte • Tim Temofonte  
Marion Tessitore • Mary Truesdale • Dorothy Yingling**

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

Jean Lester

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

**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT:** We are working with St. Michael and St. Mary's parishes to offer support to anyone dealing with a loss. Our programs are designed to acknowledge the pain and the loss, while offering positive ideas for coping. Consider joining us for any or all of the following:

Bereavement Gatherings are held monthly in the St. Michael Convent Building (the house between the church and the school). Upcoming dates are:

Wednesday, Oct. 11 at 9:30AM

Tuesday, Oct. 24 at 6:30 PM

Journey Through Loss is a seven-week program for those who have lost a loved one through death. The next session begins on Wednesday, January 10. We will meet weekly from 6:30-8:00 PM at the St. Michael Convent Building in Hollidaysburg.

Both programs are Christian based. All denominations are welcome! For more information call/text: Debbi Chapman at 912-713-5412 or Mary Petrak at 814-502-6076.

**8 SAINTS:** 8 Saints is a pilot program to facilitate collaboration and resource sharing among the eight southern parishes of Blair County. The parishes include St. John's and St. Rose in Altoona, St. Mary's and St. Michael's in Hollidaysburg, St. Patrick's in Newry, St. Thomas More in Roaring Spring, St. Catherine's in Duncansville and St. Joseph's in Williamsburg. This will be accomplished by members sharing their many gifts, enabling them to more fully live out the call to evangelize the world about Jesus Christ. The programs and events of this collaboration will include existing parish ministries, and those identified later. A team is planning a multi-parish youth group and a young Catholic professionals group. For more information please contact Mary Lee Madigan-Davis at 814-931-2651 or [8Saints@gmail.com](mailto:8Saints@gmail.com).

**ROSARY RALLY FOR AMERICA NEEDS FATIMA:** Saturday October 14th at noon at American Legion Park, Hollidaysburg, PA. Please park at the Social Hall and Rosary will be said between Social Hall and Juniata Street. Join us for prayers for our nation. Questions to Dennis Dombrsky at 814-215-7776.

### **FAITH FORMATION NEWS**

**October 1st-Class 9:15am-10:45am**

**October 8th-No Class**

**October 15th-Class 9:15am-10:45am**

**October 15th - 9:15am-10:45am Required Fall Sessions  
for ALL 9th and 10th Grade Students in the gym**

*If you would like more information or have questions,  
please contact Diane Ryan at 814-942-5503 or email  
[stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net](mailto:stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net).*

**8 SAINTS YOUTH GROUP EVENT:** Campfire Rosary on Saturday, 10/7, 7pm in the side yard of St. Michael's Church in Hollidaysburg! Open to all students in grades 7-12 and their families, plus our guests from the 8 Saints Parishes. In case of rain on Saturday, the event will be moved to Sunday, 10/8 at 7pm. Please bring a lawn chair. Enjoy...Hot dogs, sauerkraut, hot chocolate, and of course Smores afterwards, PLUS...Don't forget the all competitive ZOMBIE GLOW STICK TAG! (Hopefully 2 divisions-Jr. High/Sr. High) Please RSVP by Friday 10/6 so that we may prepare enough food-Parents, Please text Tim Baranik @ 814-207-7008.

**CHICKEN BBQ:** The Knights of Columbus in Hollidaysburg is having its annual "Help Us Help You" Chicken BBQ on Sunday, October 15th. It will be Take-Out only from 11am until 1pm. Tickets are \$12. Meals should be picked up at 324 Bedford Street in Hollidaysburg. St. John's will receive the proceeds for the tickets that we sell. Tickets will be available after masses and in the Parish Office. Thanks for your support!

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:** The Annual Bishop's Mass and Dinner will be held at St. Michael the Archangel Basilica at Loretto on Sunday, October 8th beginning with Mass at 2pm with Bishop Mark as Celebrant. This year Bishop Mark will be honored with an Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity following the Mass, wives and family are welcome to attend. Dinner will follow in the St. Michael's Social Center. Reservations are required for both the Degree and dinner. Please contact Dan Turcovsky for more information or email [wdrusty@aol.com](mailto:wdrusty@aol.com) for reservations.

**FRANCISCAN CREATION FESTIVAL:** Join us for the Franciscan Creation Festival Saturday, Oct. 7th, 10:00 AM-4:00 PM! St. Bernardine Monastery and the Friar's Nook Gift Shop is located at 793 Monastery Road, Hollidaysburg. Parking and entry are free for the festival! The event will have craft vendors, food trucks, children's activities, and a petting zoo. The Friar's Nook Gift Shop will be having a Fall Fling Sale as well as our very popular garage sale! The Rosary will take place at 3:00, Pet Blessing at 3:30, and Catholic Mass at 4:00. Please bring a lawn chair or blanket if you are staying for Mass. This event is for all ages, and pets too!