



**23rd Sunday in
Ordinary Time
September 10, 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
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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

September Prayer Intention of Pope Francis

For People Living on the Margins

We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.



NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS

LECTORS

Sat. September 16 - 4:00 PM - Joyce Cunningham, Iris Tatar
 Sun. September 17 - 8:00 AM - Amber Yasolsky, Mike Greslick
 Sun. September 17 - 11:00 AM - Camille Krug, John Sukala

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. September 16 - 4:00 PM - Chloe Truscello, Jerermy Truscello
 Sun. September 17 - 8:00 AM - Emily Miller, Nicholas Helsley
 Sun. September 17 - 11:00 AM - Faith Formation Students

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. September 16 - 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, NOT FILLED
 Sun. September 17 - 8:00 AM - Lou Ann Clark, Darlene Scarpaci
 Sun. September 17 - 11:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Cecelia Bloom, Bob Olson, Susanna Tomlinson

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. September 16 - 4:00 PM - Carolyn English, Betsy Lloyd, Karen Moughemer, Dennis Moughemer
 Sun. September 17 - 8:00 AM - Ray Kennedy, Ginny Reeder, Larry VanSickel, Paula VanSickel
 Sun. September 17 - 11:00 AM - Faith Formation Students

SACRISTAN

Sat. September 16 - 4:00 PM - Mary & Ray King
 Sun. September 17 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci
 Sun. September 17 - 11:00 AM - Dolores Capriotti

SCRIP

Sat. September 16 - 4:00 PM - Julie Beiswenger, Becky Merilli
 Sat. September 17 - 8:00 AM - Erika Yasolsky, Heather Yasolsky
 Sun. September 17 - 11:00 AM - Christopher Palazzi, Patrick Podoletz

A Few Words from the Pastor:

WORRIED ABOUT YOUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN? You are not alone! Millions of mothers have watched their children abandon their Catholic faith in a chaotic, stressful and struggling world. At St. Rose, we are in the beginning stage of forming a "Prayer Community" of Catholic women who are being called by the Holy Spirit to imitate St. Monica as they attend this prayer ministry in our parish. What is involved? **Like St. Monica, mother of St. Augustine, we will pray fervently for our children to return to the practice of their Catholic faith, and for our children to always stay close to their faith. All mothers, young and old, who believe in the mother's power of prayer, are urged to participate, praying as a group one hour a week before the Blessed Sacrament. Our mission is to encounter God through prayer for ourselves and our children. This group will be open to women from all parishes! Stay tuned for the time and initial informational meeting!**

OUR SACRED STORY: 40 WEEKS SURE SOUNDS LIKE A HUGE COMMITMENT! Since this program is principally a personal journey of prayer, your reading and praying weekly does NOT involve meetings each week. Books will be made available after Mass this weekend and next, and I will speak about this prayer journey at Mass and in the bulletin! This spiritual journey can be made in the privacy of your own home, and your own heart. Sharing your journey with others is certainly up to you!

"LET JUSTICE AND PEACE FLOW" – This is the theme of this year's ecumenical *Season of Creation*, inspired by the words of the prophet Amos: "Let justice flow on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream" (5:24). The evocative image used by Amos speaks to us of what God desires. God wants everyone to strive to be just in every situation, to live according to his laws and thus to enable life to flourish. September 1 was declared by Pope Francis as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. This time of prayer and reflection will extend until October 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

MOUNTAIN LION BACKPACK PROGRAM COLLECTION: On Sunday, September 17th our Faith Formation students will be participating in the various ministries during the 11am Mass. Seeing the Mass through children's eyes is always a refreshing change! In addition to the Children's Liturgy, our Faith Formation students will be collecting donations for the Mountain Lion Backpack Program for the next few weeks. Please place donations in the box labeled for the Mountain Lion Backpack Program in the Gathering Space. Most needed items include mac & cheese, rice krispie treats, cracker packs, pop tarts, ramen noodles, pudding cups, fruit cups, 100% juice boxes, cereal bowls/cup and canned pasta/soups. Thank you for your support!

THANK YOU: CDA Court Prince Gallitzin #2625 would like to express their sincere gratitude to all the parishioners for their recent donations to our annual Baby Drive. Through your generosity those items were able to benefit 3 agencies, Catholic Charities, Precious Life and Kid's First. God bless you all!

LECTOR TRAINING: Have you ever wondered what God's Voice is like? Have you ever wanted God to speak directly to you? Have you ever thought you could lend God your voice to speak to others? Lectors lend their voice to God so He can reach His People when they proclaim the readings at Mass. He speaks through the lector to make His Word come alive again and again. Have you ever considered becoming a lector and being God's partner in this ministry? Lector training will be offered in the coming weeks. If you are interested, call Bob Olson at 814-696-0581.

FALL ADULT FAITH FORMATION TOPICS:

September 17 to October 1: *Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist*. This series explores "the truth and beauty of Christ's real presence in the Eucharist, from its origins in Sacred Scripture, to its profound role in the life of the Church and her members.

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. Johns 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.

Schedule for the Week of September 10

Sunday, September 10 - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

11:00 AM - Mass for *Deceased members of the Leary family* requested by Pat & Sue Podoletz

Monday, September 11 - Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Fr. Paul Turnbull* requested by Barb Bundy

Tuesday, September 12 - Weekday

8:30 AM—Mass for *George & Genie Semko* requested by Karen Mazzarella

Wednesday, September 13 - St. John Chrysostom

6:00 PM - Mass for *Deceased members of the John Docherty and Stibich* requested by Dan & Judy Roberts

Thursday, September 14 - The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

8:30 AM - Mass for *Bradley Johnson* requested by Ron & Joyce Cunningham

Friday, September 15 - Our Lady of Sorrows

8:30 AM - Communion Service

Saturday, September 16- Vigil of 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 PM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

Sunday, September 17 - 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM - Mass for *Billy D. Sweet* requested by Bob & Ginny Reeder

11:00 AM - Mass for *Donald Briggs* requested by Pat & Sue Podoletz

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS: Please email any upcoming bulletin announcements to Diane Ryan at 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.

FRASSATI LAUREL HIGHLANDS GROUP EVENT: Is the lady of the home going to the Diocesan Women's Conference on Saturday, September 16th with the rest of the family wondering what to do? Join us at Canoe Creek State Park at 10am with Fr. Justin Treon as he takes us "to the heights" both spiritually and literally as he leads the group in prayer and a hike up the mountain. Contact Jerry Foust at 814-659-9625 for more information.

FATIMA DEVOTIONS: The Franciscan Friars, T.O.R., from Loretto, invite you to participate with them in celebrating Fatima Devotions on Wednesday, September 13th, 2023, at 6:30pm in the Gardens (In case of inclement weather we will be at the Immaculate Conception Chapel on the campus of St. Francis University). The presider will be Fr. Timothy Harris, T.O.R. We are looking forward to seeing you.

EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL: The next series "Beginning Again" will be held on Saturday, October 14th at Father Kelley Hall, St. Therese of the Child Jesus Parish from 9am to 11:30am. Cost is \$10. Registration forms are available in the Gathering Space.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: Stewardship is also about being stewards of relationships. True love means seeking the good of the other. Love sometimes requires us to speak up when it would be easier to remain silent. Other times, love calls us to keep our mouths shut when we would prefer to "put someone in their place." Love is not taking to Twitter or Facebook to vent our frustrations about someone who has offended us. But neither is allowing a brother (or sister) to sin against us without speaking up. Jesus teaches us to confront the offending person directly and discretely, with the goal of restoring the relationship if possible. This is how we steward our relationships even through rocky waters. (CatholicSteward.com 9/04/2020)

August 26/27

Envelopes	\$ 4,227.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 210.00
Parish Development	\$ 135.00
Assumption	\$ 25.00
Mission Co op	\$ 100.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,608.75
Total Offertory	\$ 6,305.75

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. Haiti is enduring difficult times causing high prices, shortages, food insecurity, disorder, and endangerment. 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.

DESPOT SCHOLARSHIP: The 2023 John and Helen Despot Scholarship Fund will be offering two \$500 scholarships this year and is available to any child of St. John's Parish who is attending a Catholic elementary/middle school (K-8th) this school year. Applications are available in the Gathering Space or in the Parish Office and must be submitted by September 25th. Scholarships will be awarded in October. Contact the office for questions or more information.

40 HOURS DEVOTION: Our Lady of the Alleghenies Parish in Lilly will be holding its Annual 40 Hours Devotion on Sunday, September 10th through Tuesday, September 12th. A Devotional Service will be offered each evening with Fr. Justin Treon as homilist. Everyone is welcome!

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:*

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

Bereavement Support: Our parishes would like 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, Sept. 13 at 9:30 AM

Tuesday, Sept. 26 at 6:30 PM

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

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, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, enabling them to more fully live out the call to evangelize the world about Jesus Christ. St. John's is part of this program. 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. More news as it develops. For more information please contact Mary Lee Madigan-Davis at 814-931-2651 or 8Saints@gmail.com.

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.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Meet the Teacher/Parent Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, September 10th from 9:15am to 10:45am in the school gym. Parents and students in Faith Formation both public and catholic should attend. Our first class will be Sunday, September 17th followed by Children's Liturgy at the 11am Mass.

2nd Grade Catholic School students must be registered to receive their First Communion at St. John's in the spring. 9th-11th Grade Catholic School students must be registered to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Although not required, Catholic School students are always welcome in our Faith Formation biweekly classes for enrichment and opportunities to meet other parishioners in their age group.

We are looking forward to starting a new year of Faith Formation!

If you would like more information or have questions, please contact Diane Ryan at 814-942-5503 or email stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net.

CAMPUS MINISTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: If you would like to provide pastoral leadership to the Penn State Altoona campus faith community through Catholic ministry outreach including evangelization, liturgy and music, faith formation, and social programs under the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, then consider our Campus Minister opening. For a listing of qualifications and responsibilities and to apply online go to <https://www.dioceseaj.org/employment>.

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 for reservations.

MIRACLES OF THE EUCHARIST ACROSS THE WORLD: The "Miracles of the Eucharist Across the World" exhibit will be hosted by St. Benedict Parish, 2310 Bedford St., Johnstown, PA in conjunction with their Forty Hours Celebration in September. This beautiful exhibit was designed by Blessed Carlo Acutis, an English-born Italian Catholic whose life was cut short at the age of 15 when he died from Leukemia. The exhibit will be available for visitation in the St. Benedict Church Hall on Saturday, Sept. 16 from 1 to 8:30 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 17 from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. The display features information about the many Eucharistic Miracles that have occurred throughout the world from the first century until modern times. Mark your calendar and plan to make a visit to see this wonderful exhibit.