



**24th Sunday in  
Ordinary Time  
September 17, 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  
 Rev. Justin Treon - jtreon@dioceseaj.org  
 Deacon Gene Neral - gene@lifeinfocus.net  
 Patricia Jimenez - Director of Music  
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 Diane Ryan - Faith Formation Coordinator/Secretary  
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 Iris Tatar - Director of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd  
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 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**

**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 23 - 4:00 PM - James Krug, NOT FILLED  
 Sun. September 24 - 8:00 AM - Diane Turcovsky, Daniel Turcovsky  
 Sun. September 24 - 11:00 AM - Susanna Tomlinson, Iris Tatar

**ALTAR SERVERS**

Sat. September 23 - 4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, Sadie Swope  
 Sun. September 24 - 8:00 AM - Emily Miller, Nicholas Helsley  
 Sun. September 24 - 11:00 AM - Camille Krug, Liam Schurr

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

Sat. September 23 - 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, NOT FILLED  
 Sun. September 24 - 8:00 AM - Lou Ann Clark, Darlene Scarpaci  
 Sun. September 24 - 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Barbara Bundy,  
 Kenneth Gorman, Bob Olson, NOT FILLED,  
 NOT FILLED

**MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY**

Sat. September 23 - 4:00 PM - Betsy Lloyd, Karen Moughemer,  
 Dennis Moughemer, NOT FILLED  
 Sun. September 24 - 8:00 AM - Ashley Greslick, Mike Greslick,  
 Ed Stoltz, Jane Strasser  
 Sun. September 24 - 11:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Wendy Campbell,  
 Dolores Capriotti, Patrick Podoletz

**SACRISTAN**

Sat. September 23 - 4:00 PM - Jane Byrne  
 Sun. September 24 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci  
 Sun. September 24 - 11:00 AM - Dolores Capriotti

**SCRIP**

Sat. September 23 - 4:00 PM - Lori Baker, NOT FILLED  
 Sat. September 24 - 8:00 AM - Chris Palazzi, Heather Yasolsky  
 Sun. September 24 - 11:00 AM - Peg Madden, Marge Rudolph

## A Few Words from the Pastor:

**WELCOME, STEPHANIE BAKER:** A belated but sincere welcome to our parish staff is extended to Stephanie Baker, who began during the summer to serve as our parish business manager. An alumna of St. John's school, Stephanie is the daughter of Ron and Becky Merilli. Stephanie and her husband Brodie share two children, Dominic who is in 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Bishop Guilfoyle and Payton who is in her 3<sup>rd</sup> year at Penn State. We welcome her "home" to our parish family!

**40 WEEKS: PRELIMINARIES!** Before embarking on the 40 Weeks, you are encouraged to read pages 1 – 12 of our text. You will notice that our author asks that you spend the first week or two reading one of the four gospels (your choice). He recommends that you consider a chapter or two each day, taking this time to immerse yourself in the life of Jesus and his teachings. So that we can be on the same page as a parish, I would suggest that **we actually begin Week I on the first Sunday of October.** That will give plenty of time to read a gospel slowly and prayerfully over the next two weeks. Our author reminds us not to be looking ahead, but to use these first days to prayerfully enter the world and life of Jesus. *St. Ignatius of Loyola, pray for us!*

**A NEW ROOF!** You will certainly notice that a new roof is being installed on our church. With the guidance of the parish finance Council, several bids were solicited, and our work has commenced. The cost for this project is \$34,000. Many thanks to all of those who so regularly support our parish family. Additional gifts to assist this roofing project are welcome!

**ELECTRICAL WORK IN THE GYM AND KITCHEN** - Because of the increased use of Bailey Hall for social events, and the frequency of fuses being blown because of the overload of appliances for such events, we are looking into an upgrade of our electrical system in the cafeteria and hall.

**REACHING OUT TO OUR HOMEBOUND** - Our parish council on Monday discussed one of the most important ways that we serve the members of our parish family. Because there are so many who are homebound, we are undertaking a special initiative to regularly reach out with visits and the Eucharist to all of those who are not able to join us for Sunday liturgy. We will be soliciting volunteers for this ministry and ask that if you have anyone who is homebound and is not currently being visited, please call the 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."

**"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.

**FAITH FORMATION AND CHILDREN'S LITURGY:** Our Faith Formation program has begun again for our students in Kindergarten through 11th grade. We had a great turn out last Sunday for our Parent Meeting and Meet the Teacher and students and catechists alike seems excited to get back into the classrooms together! We also welcome our Faith Formation students this Sunday, September 17th, who will be participating in the various ministries during the 11am Mass. We are grateful for their interest in sharing the ministries that enrich our Sunday Mass and are most appreciative of all those who have helped prepare them.

### 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 17***

### **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

### **Monday, September 18 - Weekday**

8:30 AM - Mass for *Barbara Neral* requested by John Hescox family

### **Tuesday, September 19- Weekday**

8:30 AM—Mass for *Kay Shedlock* requested by Mr. & Mrs. Larry Shedlock

### **Wednesday, September 20 - St. Andrew Kim**

6:00 PM - Mass for *John R. Caporuscio* requested by Bob & Ginny Reeder

### **Thursday, September 21 - St. Matthew**

8:30 AM - Mass for *Ida Prosperi* requested by John Prosperi

### **Friday, September 22 - Weekday**

8:30 AM - Mass for *George Goch* requested by family

### **Saturday, September 23- Vigil of 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

4:00 PM - Mass for *Fred Mazzarella* requested by Karen Mazzarella

### **Sunday, September 24 - 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:00 AM - Mass for *Robert J. Ritchey* requested by Bob & Ginny Reeder

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

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER:** We live our lives in a grateful response to the extravagant love of God. Christian stewards live a continuous call for conversion of heart, thoughts and emotions. We must recall all the gifts our good God has given us. The Father sent His only Son to die for us to free us from our sin "debts" and make eternal life with Him possible for us. Like the servant in the parable, it is impossible to repay this debt. All we can do is thank God by giving Him our whole selves and by treating our fellow debtors with the same compassion and forgiveness He has shown to us. What joy and freedom of heart we find in the stewardship way of life! (CatholicSteward.com 09/11/2020)

### ***September 2/3***

Envelopes	\$ 4,980.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 220.00
Catholic University	\$ 30.00
Catholic Education	\$ 120.00
Mission Co op	\$ 10.00
Retired Medical	\$ 50.00
Online Giving	\$ 3,099.75
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 8,509.75</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. 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.

**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.

**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.

**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, text Bob Olson at 814-932-7938 or email [rolson0581@aol.com](mailto:rolson0581@aol.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.

### **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**

**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 date is:

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](mailto:8Saints@gmail.com).

**FAMILIES AND THE GOSPEL:** September 17, 2023 A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar Unable to forgive another, means we are holding onto a past wrong and hoping for a better past. That is not going to happen. We must move on with our life by accepting we were unjustly treated and it will not be corrected. We aren't condoning the injustice. We just don't let it control our lives any longer. Forgiveness is critical to living a healthy life in the present.

### **FAITH FORMATION NEWS**

**September 17th-Class 9:15am-10:45am followed by  
Children's Liturgy at the 11am Mass**

**September 24th-No Class**

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

***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](mailto:stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net).*

**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.

**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!