



**25th Sunday in  
Ordinary Time  
September 24, 2023**

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

**PASTORAL STAFF**

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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 30- 4:00 PM - Joyce Cunningham, Maria Spayd  
 Sun. October 1- 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci, Ginny Reeder  
 Sun. October 1- 11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy, Bob Olson

**ALTAR SERVERS**

Sat. September 30- 4:00 PM - Chloe Truscello, Jeremy Truscello  
 Sun. October 1 - 8:00 AM - Emily Miller, Nicholas Helsley  
 Sun. October 1- 11:00 AM - Evie Koch, Estella Koch

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

Sat. September 30- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, NOT FILLED  
 Sun. October 1 - 8:00 AM - Diane Turcovsky, Daniel Turcovsky  
 Sun. October 1- 11:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Cecelia Bloom, Dolores Capriotti, Susanna Tomlinson, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED

**MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY**

Sat. September 30- 4:00 PM - Betsy Lloyd, Karen Moughemer,  
 Dennis Moughemer, NOT FILLED  
 Sun. October 1 8:00 AM - Jane Becker, John Becker, Lou Ann Clark,  
 Mike O'Neill  
 Sun. October 1- 11:00 AM - Wendy Campbell, Mary Grace Horton,  
 Peg Madden, Patrick Podoletz

**SACRISTAN**

Sat. September 30- 4:00 PM - Mary & Ray King  
 Sun. October 1- 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci  
 Sun. October 1- 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan

**SCRIP**

Sat. September 30- 4:00 PM - Julie Beiswenger, Becky Merilli  
 Sat. October 1 - 8:00 AM - Amber Yasolsky, Heather Yasolsky  
 Sun. October 1 - 11:00 AM - Jane Byrne, Carolyn English

## A Few Words from the Pastor:

**40 WEEKS: PREPARING FOR THE JOURNEY!** It has been encouraging that so many have taken a **40 Weeks** book for our parish retreat! More have been ordered! 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 will begin Week I next Sunday, the first Sunday of October.** That will give plenty of time to read a gospel slowly and prayerfully over the next week. Our author reminds us not to be looking ahead, but to use these first days to gently enter the world and life of Jesus. *St. Ignatius of Loyola, pray for us!*

**A NEW ROOF!** We continued to make progress on our new roof. The cost for this project is \$37,000. Many thanks to all of those who so regularly support our parish family. Additional gifts to assist this roofing project are welcome!

**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?"

### **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.

**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.

**8 SAINTS YOUTH GROUP EVENT:** Campfire Rosary...Saturday, 10/7, 7pm in the side yard of St. Michael's Church in Holidaysburg! 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. What to bring: Lawn Chair for all. How long does it take to say the Rosary? 18 minutes This powerful prayer can be a very moving experience for your whole family, providing great quality time! We'll have instruction sheets for anyone who may need assistance or possibly has never prayed the Rosary before-we're here to guide you-absolutely no shaming! Looking for 5 students to volunteer to lead a decade of the Rosary-Earn a \$5 Sheetz Gift Card. 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.

## ***Schedule for the Week of September 24***

### **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*

### **Monday, September 25 - Weekday**

8:30 AM - Mass for *Thomas Semelsberger* requested by Fran Semelsberger

### **Tuesday, September 26- Weekday**

8:30 AM—Mass for *Margareta H. Goch*

### **Wednesday, September 27 - St. Vincent de Paul**

6:00 PM - Mass for *Jude Theibeit* requested by Dee Schmerbeck

### **Thursday, September 28 - Weekday**

8:30 AM - Mass for *Billy Sweet* requested by Ron & Joyce Cunningham

### **Friday, September 29 - St. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael**

8:30 AM - Communion Service

### **Saturday, September 30- Vigil of 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

4:00 PM - Mass for *Grady Weyandt* requested by his mother, Linda Weyandt

### **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

**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.

**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:** As stewards, the way we prioritize our time will often be at odds with the world's priorities. Jesus offers us a glimpse of the "Godly logic" of the Father. The laborers were relying on human logic and human calculations. Christian stewards can grumble and complain too. When we compare ourselves to others and believe that not everyone is contributing as much as we are to the parish, the neighborhood, or even within our family, we do not think clearly. We must remember that it is a great privilege to have been called by the Father to work in His vineyard. Living the stewardship way of life brings us meaning, depth and purpose. Let's embrace this Godly thinking and thank Him for calling us to this way of life. ([CatholicSteward.com](http://CatholicSteward.com) 2020/09/18)

### ***September 9/10***

|                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Envelopes              | \$ 5,757.00        |
| Loose Offerings        | \$ 406.00          |
| Catholic University    | \$ 152.00          |
| Parish Development     | \$ 210.00          |
| All Souls Day          | \$ 10.00           |
| All Saints Day         | \$ 10.00           |
| Retired Medical        | \$ 50.00           |
| Online Giving          | \$ 2,419.75        |
| <b>Total Offertory</b> | <b>\$ 9,014.75</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.

### **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:** 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:** A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar. Today Jesus is saying to us: "Why are you idle? Go into my vineyard." Family, where "the last will be first," is the "vineyard" entrusted to us in today's gospel. Successful families are constructed by "laborers," who work hard on family relationships, and not by couch potatoes.

### **FAITH FORMATION NEWS**

**September 24th-No Class**

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

**October 8th-No Class**

**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).*

**MOUNTAIN LION BACKPACK PROGRAM:** We will continue to collect donations for the Mountain Lion Backpack Program through September. Thank you for helping us fight childhood food insecurity in our area!

**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 Turcowsky 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! (Please ensure your pets do well in crowds and with other animals).