

**27th Sunday in
Ordinary Time
October 8, 2023**

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

PASTORAL STAFF

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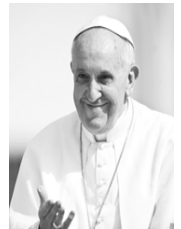
MASS SCHEDULE

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

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 14 - 4:00 PM - Maria Spayd, Iris Tatar
 Sun. October 15 - 8:00 AM - Susan Podoletz, Ginny Reeder
 Sun. October 15 - 11:00 AM - Richard Consiglio, Patrick Schurr

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. October 14 - 4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, Sadie Swope
 Sun. October 15 - 8:00 AM - Emily Miller, Nicholas Helsley
 Sun. October 15 - 11:00 AM - Bob Olson, Aidan Schurr

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. October 14 - 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, NOT FILLED
 Sun. October 15 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci, NOT FILLED
 Sun. October 15 - 11:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Cecelia Bloom,
 Barbara Bundy, Dolores Capriotti, Kenneth Gorman,
 Susanna Tomlinson

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. October 14 - 4:00 PM - Betsy Lloyd, Karen Moughemer,
 Dennis Moughemer, NOT FILLED
 Sun. October 15 - 8:00 AM - Ashley Greslick, Mike Greslick,
 Mike O'Neill, Mary Truesdale
 Sun. October 15 - 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Mary Grace Horton,
 Peg Madden, Patrick Podoletz

SACRISTAN

Sat. October 14 - 4:00 PM - Jane Byrne
 Sun. October 15 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci
 Sun. October 15 - 11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy

SCRIP

Sat. October 14 - 4:00 PM - Julie Beiswenger, Becky Merilli
 Sat. October 15 - 8:00 AM - Christopher Palazzi, Erika Yasolsky
 Sun. October 15 - 11:00 AM - Chris Palazzi, Patrick Podoletz

A Few Words from the Pastor:

THE SYNOD ON SYNODALITY - More than 400 people gathered at the Vatican on Wednesday to officially begin the Synod on Synodality. This gathering represents bishops and laypeople from all over the world, gathering to reflect upon the life of the church and how we might continue to grow and speak more faithfully the gospel of Jesus Christ. In preparation for this Synod, parishes and dioceses throughout the world have elicited suggestions which serve now as the basis for discussions, which will continue for the next 4 weeks. There have been 19 synods since the time of the second Vatican Council. Synodality is the way in which the church continues to reflect upon her mission and ministry. What is unique about this synod is the wide variety of people represented, particularly the inclusion of the laity, both men and women. Previous synods have often been limited to just bishops.

OUR SACRED STORY RETREAT BEGINS WITH WEEK ONE --“AFFIRMATIONS”! Father Watson begins our retreat in Week One by inviting us to prayerfully reflect on what he terms “affirmations.” These thoughtful verses give us a glimpse of what lay ahead for our Sacred Story Retreat. Read them slowly and prayerfully, reflecting on how each of them connects to your own story. 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. 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.

PET BLESSING – This 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 Mary Susick, our project coordinator, at 814-207-0185 or the parish office. ALSO, if you have anyone who is homebound and is not currently being visited, call Mary Susick or our parish office. Given the great inspiration of Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta, the Council decided to name this as our “Mother Teresa Ministry.”

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

Dinner at the Heidelberg: Thursday, October 26th at 5pm

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.

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 8th

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*

Monday, October 9 - Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Leonard Majestic* requested by

Barbara Bundy

Tuesday, October 10- Weekday

8:30 AM—Mass for *Ida Prosperi* requested by

John Prosperi

Wednesday, October 11 - Weekday

6:00 PM - Mass for *Bradley Johnson* requested by

Joe McCloskey Jr.

Thursday, October 12 - Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Cierra Clark* requested by

Ron & Joyce Cunningham

Friday, October 13 - Weekday

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

Saturday, October 14- Vigil of 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Sunday, October 15 - 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM - Mass for *Grace Moore* requested by

Bob & Ginny Reeder

11:00 AM - Mass for *Fred Mazzarella* requested by

Karen Mazzarella

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: We have been given so many gifts and blessings by our Heavenly Father. Yet, in our fallen state, it is all too easy to take them for granted. Our readings today teach us that we must live with an intentional awareness of our many blessings and use them gratefully to glorify God. By Baptism, we have received the gift of salvation and membership in the Kingdom of God – we are not ‘tenants’ called to work in the ‘vineyard’ and produce fruit for it’s owner, our Heavenly Father. This calling is a gift from God to be treasured above all other gifts. So let us live each day with a profound awareness of all that we have been given by God. Let us use our intellect to think on these gifts throughout the day and resolve to use all our gifts for God’s glory. We will find peace, joy and purpose as we do.

September 23/24

Envelopes	\$ 4,232.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 376.00
Parish Development	\$ 390.00
Retired Medical	\$ 315.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,543.75
Total Offertory	\$ 6,856.75

SOUND SYSTEM: Thank you for supporting #iGiveCatholic! The monies collected were used to purchase and upgrade our sanctuary sound system. Your generosity and kindness are humbly appreciated as we work to enhance our worship experience.

HYMN SING: St John Chancel Choir is hosting a hymn-sing Sunday, October 15th 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?

FATIMA DEVOTIONS: The Franciscan Friars, T.O.R., from Loretto, invite you to participate with them in celebrating the Fatima Devotions on Friday, October 13th, 2023, at 6:30pm at the Immaculate Conception Chapel on the campus of St. Francis University. The presider will be Fr. Malachi VanTassell, T.O.R.

OUR LADY OF CHAMPION: Originally named Our Lady of Good Help, is the only church approved apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the United States. The Most Reverend David L. Ricken, D.D., J.C.L. Bishop of the Diocese of Green Bay, WI.. declared that October 9 the established day of the Blessed Virgin Mary’s 2nd and 3rd apparition to Adele Brise be celebrated as a solemnity on the grounds of the National Shrine. The first solemnity of our Lady of Champion will be celebrated on October 9, 2023 at 11:00 AM CT.

MOTHER TERESA MINISTRY: If you are interested in participating in our new ministry of reaching out to our local homebound through visits, cards and/or prayers please check out the information on display in the Gathering Space. Forms are available to complete if you are interested in helping or would like to offer the name/ information for someone who would like to be visited. Forms can be completed and returned to the folder on the display. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Susick at 814-207-0185.

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. 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. 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.

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 • Marlene Hartman
Kay Laratonda • Kathy Mittermeier
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:
Virginia Burket
Jean Lester
May they 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.

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 Dombrosky at 814-215-7776.

PARISH MISSION: St. Benedict Parish in Johnstown will be hosting Fr. Frank DeSiano for their Parish Mission, "Renewed in the Eucharist." It will be held from 7-8:30pm on October 22, 23 and 24. Each evening will include powerful talks, images, videos and music for reflection. Practical tools will be offered to help us choose what better leads to a deepening of God's life in us. All are welcome! A love offering will be taken. For more information contact Deacon Michael Russo at 814-288-3036 or by email at michael.russo@atlanticbb.net

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

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**

October 22nd-No Class

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

8 SAINTS YOUTH GROUP EVENT: Sunday, October 22 (more info: google the GAP bike trail) Starting in southwestern PA near Deal, PA and biking (mostly downhill) to Cumberland, MD. Enjoy the beautiful fall foliage as our own Fr. Alan leads us to the Eastern Continental Divide and through the Big Savage Tunnel on our way to Cumberland, MD. This should be an awesome experience! We'll start with mass near Deal and end with a great meal at Puccini's Wood Fired Pizza restaurant near Cumberland. Spread the word on this one! Looking for families who may have vehicles large enough to transport bikes, and possibly then meet the group in Cumberland, MD. Parents-Please text Tim Baranik (814-207-7008) if you feel you may be able to help us out!

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.

EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL: St. Mary's Church in Nanty Glo is sponsoring a Eucharistic Revival on October 22, 23, & 24. A period of private Eucharistic Adoration begins at 5:30pm and services begin at 6:30pm. Confessions will be heard on Sunday and Monday evenings. Sunday evening will be ladies only night with 2 women speakers and Monday evening will be men's only night with 2 men speakers. Tuesday evening will be a family night with Fr. Brian Norris presiding at the service and speaking. All are welcome!

BASKET BINGO: Holy Trinity Catholic School will be having a Basket Bingo on Sunday, November 5th. Doors open at 3:30pm. General Admission tickets are \$35.00 and Value Pack tickets are \$65.00. See the flyer in the kiosk for more information!