



# Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time August 18, 2024

## St. John the Evangelist Church

309 Lotz Avenue, Altoona, PA 814-942-5503

### PASTORAL STAFF

Monsignor Michael Becker - mbecker253@aol.com  
Rev. Ashok Kumar Alphonse - aalphonse@dioceseaj.org  
Deacon Gene Neral - gene@lifeinfocus.net  
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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 & 10:00 AM

### August Prayer Intention of Pope Francis

Political Leaders

We pray that political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and for the common good, especially caring for the poor and those who have lost their jobs.



### NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS

#### LECTORS

Sat. Aug. 24- 4:00 PM - John Majcher, Joyce Cunningham  
Sun. Aug. 25-8:00 AM - Diane Turcovsky, Daniel Turcovsky  
Sun. Aug. 25-10:00 AM - Camille Krug, James Krug

#### ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. Aug. 24- 4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, Sadie Swope  
Sun. Aug. 25- 8:00 AM - Nicholas Helsley, NOT FILLED  
Sun. Aug. 25-10:00 AM - Colin Schurr, Liam Schurr

#### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. Aug. 24- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, NOT FILLED  
Sun. Aug. 25-8:00 AM - Ginny Reeder, Darlene Scarpaci  
Sun. Aug. 25-10:00 AM - Barbara Bundy, Dolores Capriotti,  
Lou Ann Clark, Susanna Tomlinson

#### MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. Aug. 24- 4:00 PM - Carolyn English, Coleen Langguth,  
Betsy Lloyd, NOT FILLED  
Sun. Aug. 25-8:00 AM - Mike O'Neill, Mary Truesdale,  
Paula VanSickel, Larry VanSickel  
Sun. Aug. 25-10:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Walter Bloom,  
Wendy Campbell, Peg Madden

#### SACRISTAN

Sat. Aug. 24- 4:00 PM - Ray King, Mary King  
Sun. Aug. 25- 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci  
Sun. Aug. 25- 10:00 AM - Dolores Capriotti

#### SCRIP

Sat. Aug. 24 - 4:00 PM - Julie Beiswenger, Marge Rudolph  
Sun. Aug. 25- 8:00 AM - Erika Yasolsky, Heather Yasolsky  
Sun. Aug. 25- 10:00 AM - Chris Palazzi, Patrick Podoletz

**MASS TIME CHANGE!** Just a reminder that the Summer Mass Schedule for the 2nd Sunday Mass will be 10:00am now through Labor Day weekend. Mass will return to 11:00am on Sunday, September 8th.

## A Few Words from the Pastor:

**IN TWO WEEKS, THE SEASON OF CREATION BEGINS!** The Season of Creation has a special significance for the Catholic Church, particularly since Pope Francis established 1 September as an annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. The Season of Creation is marked throughout the Christian world from 1 September to 4 October (Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi) and celebrates the joy of creation as well as encouraging awareness-raising initiatives to protect the natural environment. Throughout this holy season, our bulletin will carry quotes from *Laudato Si*, the encyclical on the environment by Pope Francis. Take time to reflect on the beauty of creation and consider your personal or family efforts in caring for our common home.

**ADULT ED RESUMES: GOING BACK TO THE VERY BEGINNING!!!** Our Sunday morning adult ed gatherings will resume in September. The focus of our sessions will be the book of Genesis, the cherished and inspiring first book of the bible. Materials will be available, as well as video presentations. How in our modern age are we to understand and interpret these ancient texts which have so much to teach us about Creation, the Fall, and God's Covenant with us? Genesis is full of stories which inspire us and challenge us. Do join us for the journey! Our study of Genesis will begin on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 in the school cafeteria. We do hope you can join us. Bring your bible!

**WHOEVER EATS MY FLESH AND DRINKS MY BLOOD:** Until the end of August we continue our reading of the sixth chapter of the Gospel of John, his discourse on the Bread of Life! Some have questioned whether Jesus is inviting us to be cannibals! Nonsense! In this most holy sacrament Jesus is inviting us to embrace his presence with us under the form of bread and wine! Thomas Aquinas helps us understand this. The Accidents (features) of bread and wine remain, but the Substance has been changed. It looks and tastes like bread and wine (accidents), but its deepest reality (substance) is truly Christ's Body and Blood. "Transubstantiation" is the theological term we use to help us understand this miracle.

**OUR PARISH BIBLE STUDY:** Our weekly bible study gathers each Wednesday at 6:45 in the parish center. Please plan on joining us! This is an excellent way to prepare for the coming Sunday, as we reflect on the readings for that day!

**IS GOD CALLING YOU?** We are in the process of forming our OCIA team (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) formerly called RCIA. We ask for your prayers that the Lord will raise up from among us a leaders and catechists to carry on this important ministry in the parish. Already we have two families who have inquired about joining the Catholic Church, so we need your help! Might God be calling YOU to be part of our team in sharing your faith? Embrace your vocation to be a missionary disciple!

**MISSION COOPERATION APPEAL:** Fr. Binu Rathappilil and all the Vincentian Missionaries thank you for your prayers and generous mission offering last weekend. Your offering will help them carry out their many missionary, educational and charitable activities in their missions and will help educate young men studying for priesthood. If you did not have an opportunity to make an offering, you may still make a donation using the Missionary Cooperative Collection envelopes available in the Gathering Space. Thank you for your generous support!

### **SAVE THE DATES!**

**Christopher Benos-Sounds of Summer Concert:** Sunday, August 18th at 3pm in the Church

**Blessing of the Backpacks:** Sunday, August 25th at the 10am Mass-Students bring your backpacks to mass!

**2024-2025 John & Helen Despot Scholarship:** Saturday, August 31st All applications due to the Parish Office

**LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULING For September 7, 2024 – January 1, 2025** It's time to schedule for the Fall. If you have internet access please enter your NOT available dates in your profile in **Ministry Scheduler Pro**. Here is the direct link to that website – [www.rotundasoftware.com/ministry/teammates](http://www.rotundasoftware.com/ministry/teammates). There is also a link from our parish website ([WWW.STJOHNSALTOONA.ORG](http://WWW.STJOHNSALTOONA.ORG)) and a link in the email reminder you will receive soon. There are cards available in the gathering space for those who do not have access to the internet. If you are not able to update your profile online or visit the church to fill out a card, you may give me a call on a weekday evening between 7 PM and 10 PM or on the weekends at 814-932-2223. **Please update your profile online or call me or fill out a card and return it by midnight on Sunday, August 18th.** Family members can fill out one card front and back. Thank you for your service to our faith community throughout the year!

## Schedule for the Week of August 18th

### Sunday, August 18 - 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

10:00 AM - Mass for *Fred Mazzarella* requested by  
Karen Mazzarella

### Monday, August 19- Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Bill Seiler* requested by  
Ron & Joyce Cunningham

### Tuesday, August 20- St. Bernard

8:30 AM - Mass for *Jim Reilly* requested by  
Bernie & Julie Beiswenger

### Wednesday, August 21- St. Pius X

6:00 PM - Mass for *Bob & Diane Long* requested by  
Dee Schmerbeck & family

### Thursday, August 22 - The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:30 AM - Mass for *Jane Byrne* requested by  
Bernie Earl Eger

### Friday, August 23 - Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Jean Lester* requested by  
Charles Lester

### Saturday, August 24- Vigil of 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 PM - Mass for *Bill Schmerbeck* requested by  
Dee Schmerbeck

### Sunday, August 25 - 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM - Mass for *Cierra Clark* requested by  
Bill & Norma Foose

10:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

**BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Please email any upcoming bulletin announcements by Wednesdays to Diane Ryan at [stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net](mailto:stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net) or call the Parish Center at 814-942-5503.

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER:** Jesus said to the crowd, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life..." We can hardly blame the crowd for their shock at this statement – eating the Flesh and drinking the Blood of our Lord should cause us a bit of shock. Yet how easy it is to show up at Mass Sunday after Sunday, receiving the Eucharist as simply part of a weekly routine. If we really spent time contemplating the gift our Lord is offering us in this sacrament, we would be awestruck at the love and power in this gift. Through it, our Lord is giving us the very best He has to give – Himself. Not even the greatest theological scholar or the holiest of saints can fully understand this mystery. The Eucharist is the ultimate inspiration for a stewardship way of life. When we contemplate this gift of God, we will want to make a joyful return to Him. Mass will become anything but routine and we will live each day as His passionate disciples.

### August 3/4

Envelopes	\$ 5,268.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 394.00
Parish Development	\$ 50.00
Catholic Education	\$ 170.00
Assumption of Mary	\$ 20.00
Online Giving	\$ 2,823.90
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 8,725.90</b>

### **2024 Catholic Ministries Drive Goal: \$42,400**

January 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024

Gifts/Pledges - \$44,915.00

Total Gifts Received - \$43,435.00

Pledge Balance - \$980.00

**ALPHA:** The Alpha course is being held at St. Michael's parish hall in Hollidaysburg this fall. Information and registration cards are in the Gathering Space on the table if you are interested. Please come and see what Alpha has to offer. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jane Becker at 814-414-9836.

**MOTHER THERESA MINISTRY:** If you know of a parishioner not currently on our list that is in a nursing facility, hospital or homebound that would like a visit or cards please text or call Mary Susick at 814-207-0185.

**MUSIC MINISTRY:** Our St. John music ministry provides beauty, joy, comfort, and inspiration for our liturgies and festive parish celebrations through the musical gifts, generosity and commitment of our members. Music ministry outreach includes Adult Choir, Youth Choir, Handbell Choir, cantors, soloists, and instrumentalists, and occasional seasonal events in our community. If you carry a tune in your heart, want to learn, and have a desire to sing with us, call or text 814-414-7529.

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION:** Bishop Mark Bartchak and the Family Life Office cordially invite all couples celebrating 1, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60+ years of marriage in 2024 (and their families) to attend the Annual Wedding Anniversary Liturgy. Couples may attend Sunday, September 8 in ALTOONA at Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament or Sunday, September 15 in JOHNSTOWN at St. John Gualbert Cathedral. Both locations are handicap accessible. Liturgies in each location begin at 2:00 p.m. Most Rev. Bishop Mark will be the celebrant and homilist at each celebration. Refreshments/snacks will be available after the mass for anniversary couples and their families. Reservations must be made through your parish for either celebration by Tuesday, August 27th.

### 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. **Prayer list has been cleared at the end of May. Requests to remain on the list must be resubmitted for June.** 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 • Idy Caporuscio  
Betsie Claar • Betty Dennis • Sally Langham  
Dan Roberts • Anne Showalter • Mary Frances Stokan  
Tim Temofonte • Wally Wargo • Lois Werfel**

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

Patricia Olson, mother of Robert Olson  
May she rest in the peace and joy of the Lord.

**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT:** Dealing with a loss, whether in the past or recent, is difficult and lonely. St. John, St. Michael, and St. Mary Parishes offer support groups that will allow you to acknowledge the pain and to learn positive strategies for coping.

*Journey Through Loss* is a seven-week program at St. Johns for those who have lost a loved one through death. Sessions are held several times a year. Call Mary Petrak, 814-502-6076, for more information.

*St. Michael and St. Mary Parishes* offer monthly meetings for those who have experienced a loss. Call Debbi Chapman, 912-713-5412, for dates and information.

### **BIRTHDAY CORNER FOR AUGUST:**

August 4th-Franklin Jones

August 8th-Mary Ann Cole

August 11th-Donna Harpster

August 25th-Olga Romerowicz

August 26th-Florence Dancha

August 28th-John Moyer

August 31st-John Patz

Something new-sending individual cards to our "senior" (80 and older) parishioners. If you wish to send a birthday card, use the address in your Parish Directory, place card in the Collection Basket or take to the Parish Office and the cards will be forwarded.

**2024 JOHN AND HELEN DESPOT SCHOLARSHIP:** The John and Helen Despot Scholarship Fund will be offering 3 \$400 scholarships this year. This scholarship is available to any child of St. John's parish who is attending a Catholic elementary school during the 2024-2025 school year. Applications are available in the Gathering Space or in the parish office. All applications must be submitted by August 31st and will be awarded in early September. If you have any questions, please contact the parish office at 942-5503.

### FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Registration for the 2024-2025 school year for Kindergarten-11th Grade is now available. Catholic School students in Sacramental Preparation in Grades 2, 9,10 & 11 should also register to begin preparing for the upcoming Sacraments but are also always welcome to join us in any grade for additional Faith Formation. Forms will be available in the Gathering Space or can be requested by phone or email.

**\*\*Parent Meeting/Meet the Teacher will be Sunday, September 15th at 9:15am 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).*

**BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS:** Please join us on Sunday, August 25th at the 10am Mass for a Blessing of the Backpacks! Students of all ages are welcome to bring their backpacks to the 10am for a special blessing. Children participating in the backpack blessing will also receive a backpack tag, pencil and ruler/bookmark. We will be collecting school supplies (backpacks, folders, notebooks, crayons, scissors, pencils, gluesticks, reusable bottles, etc.)that weekend for local students in need. Thank you for your support!

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY:** We are looking for volunteers who would be interested in helping our Faith Formation team start up Children's Liturgy during the 11am Mass at least once a month as we did several years ago. We gather the younger children during the readings and homily to provide a kid friendly version of the readings and other activities. Children are returned to the parents after the homily is finished. Volunteers would need to have all clearances completed. Please contact Diane Ryan in the office at 814-942-5503 or email at [stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net](mailto:stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net) if you are interested in helping.

**BLAZIN' ANGELS:** Sunday August 25th, Blazin' Angels will be hosting a game/movie night in the St. John's Parish Center. Feel free to bring in games, snacks, or drinks to join in the fun. For more information or questions visit our facebook group Blain' Angels, or through our email: [blazinangels.yagroup@gmail.com](mailto:blazinangels.yagroup@gmail.com).

**IS GOD CALLING YOU TO BECOME A DEACON?** Do you believe that God might be calling you to discern the Ordained Ministry of Christ the Servant, as a Permanent Deacon in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown? If so, you and your wife (if married) are invited to join Bishop Mark and Deacon Michael Russo at the "Bishop's Night of Vocations" on Wednesday, October 2nd at 7 p.m. at the US Hotel Tavern, Hollidaysburg. Reservations for this event are required and can be made by contacting Jessica at (814) 361-2000. The deadline for reservations is Sept. 2. For more information on the Permanent Diaconate please visit us online at [www.dioceseaj.org/Diaconate/](http://www.dioceseaj.org/Diaconate/) or by contacting Deacon Michael Russo, Director at (814) 288-3036. All are welcome!