



**Twenty-first Sunday
in Ordinary Time
August 25, 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
Patricia Jimenez - Director of Music
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Iris Tatar - Director of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
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aalphonse@dioceseaj.org
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. 31- 4:00 PM - Maria Spayd, David Langguth
Sun. Sept. 1-8:00 AM - Mary Truesdale, Susan Podoletz
Sun. Sept. 1-10:00 AM - Bob Olson, Patrick Schurr

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. Aug. 31- 4:00 PM - Chloe Truscello, Jeremy Truscello
Sun. Sept. 1- 8:00 AM - Nicholas Helsley, NOT FILLED
Sun. Sept. 1-10:00 AM - Evie Koch, Estella Koch

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. Aug. 31- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, NOT FILLED
Sun. Sept. 1-8:00 AM - Diane Turcovsky, Daniel Turcovsky
Sun. Sept. 1-10:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Barbara Bundy,
Dolores Capriotti, Kenneth Gorman

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. Aug. 31- 4:00 PM - Carolyn English, Coleen Langguth,
Betsy Lloyd, NOT FILLED
Sun. Sept. 1-8:00 AM - Jane Becker, John Becker, Ed Stoltz,
Jane Strasser
Sun. Sept. 1-10:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Peg Madden, NOT FILLED,
NOT FILLED

SACRISTAN

Sat. Aug. 31- 4:00 PM - Ray King, Mary King
Sun. Sept. 1- 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci
Sun. Sept. 1- 10:00 AM - Barbara Bundy

SCRIP

Sat. Aug. 31 - 4:00 PM - Lori Baker, Becky Merilli
Sun. Sept. 1- 8:00 AM - Chris Palazzi, Marge Rudolph
Sun. Sept. 1- 10:00 AM - Gary Johnson, 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:

THE SEASON OF CREATION, SEPTEMBER 1 – OCTOBER 4! 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.

A WORD ON THE ENVIRONMENT FROM POPE FRANCIS - *"Experts clearly point out how the choices and actions put in place this decade will have an impact for thousands of years. Our knowledge about the impact of our actions on our Common Home and those who inhabit it, and will inhabit, has greatly expanded... This has also increased our sense of responsibility before God, who has entrusted us with the care of Creation, before our neighbors and before future generations. A very solid scientific consensus indicates that we are presently witnessing a disturbing warming of the climatic system. In recent decades this warming has been accompanied by a constant rise in the sea level and, it would appear, by an increase of extreme weather events."*

ADULT ED RESUMES: GOING BACK TO THE VERY BEGINNING!!! Our Sunday morning adult ed gatherings will resume on September 8th. 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 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. Given that this is beginning of the Season of Creation, the story of creation is an excellent place to start our study.

MASTER, TO WHOM SHALL WE GO? By the end of his discourse on the Bread of Life, we find many disciples leave the company of Jesus because this teaching was too difficult. Jesus asks Peter, "Do you also want to leave?" The response of Peter acknowledges how important this teaching is. "You have the words of eternal life!"

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!

SAVE THE DATES!

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

Faith Formation Meeting/Meet the Teacher: Sunday, September 15th at 9:15 in the gym

A WOMEN'S DAY OF REFLECTION: St. Benedict Parish, Johnstown will be hosting Award Winning Author and Speaker, Liz Kelly for A Women's Day of Reflection, "Jesus Approaches: What Contemporary Women Can Learn about Healing, Freedom & Joy from the Women of the New Testament" This one-day event will be held from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM September 28, 2024. The day will start off with taking a fresh look at the encounters that women had with Jesus while you grow in confidence and skill praying with Scripture and making the Gospel your own. The day will include Mass, Adoration, opportunities for confession and fellowship and the opportunity to strengthen the tether between your heart and the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This event is Free and open to all, A Lunch and Refreshments will be served so an RSVP is required. A love offering will be taken. For more information contact St. Benedict Rectory at (814) 266-9178 or Deacon Michael Russo at 814-288-3036 or email at michael.russo@atlanticbb.net.

Schedule for the Week of August 25th

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*

Monday, August 26- Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for "*The Legion of Mary*" Members &
their ministry

Tuesday, August 27- St. Monica

8:30 AM - Mass for *Frank Mento* requested by
Bob & Ginny Reeder

Wednesday, August 28- St. Augustine

6:00 PM - Mass for *James Reilly* requested by
Janet Weyer

Thursday, August 29 - The Passion of St. John the Baptist

8:30 AM - Mass for *Barbara Neral* requested by
Florence Dancha

Friday, August 30 - Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Margareta H. Goch* requested by
family

Saturday, August 31- Vigil of 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 PM - Mass for *Ronald Costa* requested by
Maria & Doug Spayd

Sunday, September 1 - 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

10:00 AM - Mass for *Robert J. Cole* requested by
Mary Ann Cole

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

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.

CMD UPDATE: We have surpassed our goal for the Annual CMD and have received a check for \$3,615 so far! Donations will continue to be accepted through December 2024. Thank you for your support!

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: Our readings today challenge us to reflect on how we are living as disciples of Christ. They offer us examples of how we should be living, and they present us with an opportunity to make radical changes in our lives – reminding us to serve only our one Lord and to serve our spouse and our family faithfully. With these readings in mind, we must strive each day to live intentionally as disciples of Christ. It starts with commitment – incorporating personal daily prayer and increasing that prayer week by week, incorporating prayer into our marriages and families, frequenting the sacraments, and serving others. Through this time with the Lord and service to those around us, He will reveal where to go next. Today, let us pray for the strength to live our lives as Joshua proclaimed, "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

August 10/11

Envelopes	\$ 5,048.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 703.00
Parish Development	\$ 45.00
Catholic Education	\$ 45.00
Assumption of Mary	\$ 75.00
Mission Co-op	\$ 511.00
Online Giving	\$ 2,689.90
Total Offertory	\$ 9,116.90

2024 Catholic Ministries Drive Goal: \$42,400

January 1, 2024 - July 31, 2024

Gifts/Pledges - \$46,305.00

Total Gifts Received - \$46,015.00

Pledge Balance - \$290.00

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.

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 • Idy Caporuscio
Betsie Claar • Betty Dennis • Sally Langham
Dan Roberts • Anne Showalter • Mary Frances Stokan
Tim Temofonte • Wally Wargo • Lois Werfel**

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 SEPTEMBER:

September 8th-Harry Murphy

September 9th-Mary Swalga

September 17th-Margaret Madden

September 19th-Marie Engleman

September 25th-Fran Semelsberger

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.

GIVE US THIS DAY: It's time to renew our Give Us This Day order for December 2024-November 2025. Samples are available in the Gathering Space. If you are a current subscriber, renewal envelopes are included with your September copy. New subscribers may use the envelopes provided with the samples. We can order either the standard print for \$33 or the large print for \$44 for an annual subscription. Orders are due by October 1st. Please contact the Parish Office with questions. Thank you!

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.

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 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.

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/ or by contacting Deacon Michael Russo, Director at (814) 288-3036. All are welcome!