



**Twenty-second Sunday
in Ordinary Time
September 1, 2024**

St. John the Evangelist Church

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

PASTORAL STAFF

Monsignor Michael Becker - mbecker253@aol.com
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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

The Cry of the Earth

We pray that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the earth and of victims of natural disasters and climatic change, and that all will undertake to personally care for the world we live in.



NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS

LECTORS

Sat. Sept. 7- 4:00 PM - Jeremy Truscello, James Krug
Sun. Sept. 8-8:00 AM - Mike Greslick, Mark Krepich
Sun. Sept. 8-11:00 AM - Susanna Tomlinson, Susan Podoletz

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. Sept. 7- 4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, Sadie Swope
Sun. Sept. 8- 8:00 AM - Nicholas Helsley, NOT FILLED
Sun. Sept. 8-11:00 AM - Lexi Tatar, Iris Tatar

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. Sept. 7- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, NOT FILLED
Sun. Sept. 8-8:00 AM - Jennifer Helsley, Ginny Reeder
Sun. Sept. 8-11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy, Lou Ann Clark,
Francel Dandrea, Kenneth Gorman, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. Sept. 7- 4:00 PM - Carolyn English, Coleen Langguth,
Betsy Lloyd, NOT FILLED
Sun. Sept. 8-8:00 AM - Ed Stoltz, Jane Strasser, Larry VanSickel,
Paula VanSickel
Sun. Sept. 8-11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Walter Bloom,
Dee Capriotti, Peg Madden

SACRISTAN

Sat. Sept. 7- 4:00 PM - Ray King, Mary King
Sun. Sept. 8- 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci
Sun. Sept. 8- 11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy

SCRIP

Sat. Sept. 7- 4:00 PM - Lori Baker, Julie Beiswenger
Sun. Sept. 8- 8:00 AM - Chris Palazzi, NOT FILLED
Sun. Sept. 8- 11:00 AM - Gary Johnson, Patrick Podoletz

MASS TIME CHANGE! Labor Day Mass on Monday, September 2nd will be celebrated at 9am. 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.

AN ENCYCLICAL ON THE ENVIRONMENT: *LAUDATO SI* - The Encyclical takes its name from the invocation of Saint Francis of Assisi, "*Praise be to you, my Lord*" which in the *Canticle of the Creatures* reminds us that the earth, our common home "is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us". We ourselves "are dust of the earth (cf. Gen 2:7); our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters. This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. Her cry, united with that of the poor, stirs our conscience to acknowledge our sins against creation. Taking the words of the "beloved" Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the Pope reminds us: "For human beings ... to destroy the biological diversity ... by causing changes in its climate...; to contaminate the earth's waters, its land, its air, and its life — these are sins".

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

OUR PARISH BIBLE STUDY: Our new priest, Father Ashok, is leading our weekly bible study, which is held each Wednesday evening at 6:45 in the parish center. Please plan to participate! 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!**

A PRACTICAL SUGGESTION FOR THIS SEASON OF CREATION: "GO OUTSIDE": Connecting with creation and being reminded of God's goodness is a powerful way to motivate ourselves and others to care for our earth. Not only that, but numerous research studies show that spending time in creation is so good for us in many ways – mentally, physically and spiritually. Make some time this week to spend time in nature and give thanks for this beautiful world God created. Plant something in the garden, walk in your local reserve or find a nearby hiking track. Share with a friend or family member what you saw, heard and experienced. Give thanks to God for creating such a precious and amazing world.

SAVE THE DATES!

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

Adult Ed: Sunday, September 8th at 9:15am in the cafeteria-Focus on the book of Genesis

Children's Liturgy: Sunday, September 8th at the 11am Mass-Kid friendly readings and activities during Mass

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

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.

Schedule for the Week of September 1

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

Monday, September 2- Weekday

9:00 AM - Mass for *Gary Bevan* requested by
Marilyn Bevan

Tuesday, September 3- St. Gregory the Great

8:30 AM - Mass for *Barbara Neral* requested by
Deacon Gene Neral

Wednesday, September 4- Weekday

6:00 PM - Mass for *Jane Byrne* requested by
Joe & Joan Keller

Thursday, September 5 - Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Mary Ann (Koehle) Weakland*
requested by Betsy Lloyd & family

Friday, September 6 - Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Christine Finklestine* requested by
Bob & Ginny Reeder

Saturday, September 7- Vigil of 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 PM - Mass for *Mercia Crevecoeur* requested by
Mimi Crevecoeur & family

Sunday, September 8 - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

11:00 AM - Mass for *Mary, Elmer, Marion & Christine
Stokes* requested by Len & Bob Stokes

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS: Please email any upcoming bulletin announcements to Diane Ryan at stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net or call the Parish Office at 814-942-5503. Bulletin announcements need to be submitted by Wednesday to be included in the following weekend's bulletin.

LABOR DAY MASS: In the Catholic tradition, work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continued participation in God's creative action. As we mark Labor Day each year, we are invited in a special way to reflect on the persistence of low wages and inequality in our workplaces. In your own experience of work—in an office setting, serving others, as a student, or working in the home—how have you experienced work as a form of participation in God's creative action? *Join us for Mass on Labor Day, Monday, September 2nd at 9am!*

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!

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: Our readings today call us to pause for a moment and consider how we respond to God's love for us each day. It begins by rising each day with a prayer of thanksgiving, offering our daily tasks as a prayer to the Lord, seeking ways to share our gifts and talents with others, saying a prayer of thanksgiving before meals, sharing words of affirmation to a loved, or taking time to reflect on how much God loves us and how we can best love Him in return. This is how we ought to live our lives as Christian stewards – by recognizing our lives as a gift and an opportunity to love God in response to how He has loved us. So let us look inward at our hearts and ask ourselves why we live our faith the way we do. Let us strive to pray with meaning, attend Mass with attention, serve others out of love for God and recognize just how blessed we are. It is in these simple moments that we love extraordinarily and honor God wholeheartedly.

August 17/18

Envelopes	\$ 2,915.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 761.00
Parish Development	\$ 119.00
Catholic Education	\$ 5.00
Assumption of Mary	\$ 704.00
Mission Co-op	\$ 1,000.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,202.92
Total Offertory	\$ 6,706.92

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

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.

CHICKEN BBQ: The Knights of Columbus will be having a Chicken BBQ on October 13, 2024, from 11am-1pm at our council hall. Cost is \$12. Drive through take out service only! Proceeds benefit St Vincent De Paul Needs Department. Contact Dan Turcovsky for tickets.

CELEBRATE CATECHESIS: Those who Labor in the Vineyard of the Lord serve with a joyful enthusiasm to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ at all times in all ways, often with little or no compensation for their generosity of time and talent. Perhaps today we can seek a catechist, youth minister, adult faith formation minister, or OCIA team member to express our appreciation for their willingness to share their faith with our parishioners and our community.

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**

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

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS: Court Prince Gallitzin # 2625 serves all 11 parishes and beyond. New members are always welcome! On Monday, September 9, 2024, please come and join us for our monthly meeting in the St. Rose of Lima community room at 5:30 pm with the business meeting beginning at 6pm. To view some of the court activities we have done, go to www.CDA2625.com. If you have any questions, please contact Regent Donna Hoover at donna31049@gmail.com or 814-632-3509.

FATIMA DEVOTIONS: Please join us for Fatima Devotions along with the dedication and blessing of the new Stations of the Cross and Garden Benches on Friday September 13, 2024, at 6:30pm in the Sunken Gardens, Loretto PA. (In case of inclement weather everything will be at the Immaculate Conception Chapel at Saint Francis University.) The Homilist will be Fr. Joseph, Lehman, T.O.R., Minister Provincial.

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.

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. Our first Children's Liturgy will be offered on Sunday, September 8th at the 11am Mass.

THE CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD: Why is it called "Atrium" anyway? The word "atrium" actually means "portico, or porch entrance to a large house." The Atrium was a term given to this space by Maria Montessori. It was chosen because in the ancient church, the atrium was a gathering space between the Church Proper and the street. It was the place where the catechumens, those preparing for initiation to the Church, would receive instruction. The Atrium has a similar purpose for our children, as it is a place to help them enter into full, conscious and active participation in the liturgical and communal life of the Church. To learn more about the Atrium or to schedule a tour, contact Iris Tatar at iristat38@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!