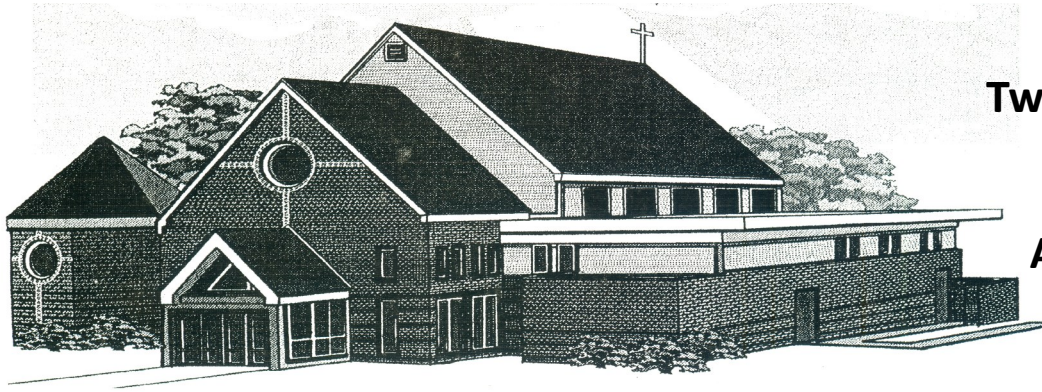




**Twentieth Sunday in
Ordinary Time
August 16, 2026**

**St. John the Evangelist Church
309 Lotz Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602 814-942-5503**

PASTORAL STAFF

Monsignor Michael Becker - mbecker253@aol.com
Deacon Gene Neral - gene@lifeinfocus.net
Patricia Jimenez - Director of Music
pjimenez@dioceseaj.org
Mimi Crevecoeur - Business Manager
stjohnchurch@atlanticbb.net
Diane Ryan - Faith Formation Coordinator/Secretary
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Iris Tatar - Director of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
iristat38@gmail.com
Pat & Sue Podoletz - OCIA
paddypodo@gmail.com mrspodo@hotmail.com
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

August Prayer Intention of Pope Leo

For evangelization in the city
Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.



NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS

LECTORS

Sat. Aug. 22- 4:00 PM - Maria Spayd, Jeremy Truscello
Sun. Aug. 23-8:00 AM - Mary Truesdale, Ginny Reeder
Sun. Aug. 23-10:00 AM - Dave Auerbeck, Patrick Schurr

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. Aug. 22- 4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, Sadie Swope
Sun. Aug. 23- 8:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Sun. Aug. 23- 10:00 AM - Camille Krug, Aidan Schurr

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. Aug. 22- 4:00 PM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Sun. Aug. 23- 8:00 AM - Mike Greslick, Jennifer Helsley
Sun. Aug. 23- 10:00 AM - Barbara Bundy, Ken Gorman,
Bob Olson, Susanna Tomlinson

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. Aug. 22- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, Dennis Moughemer,
Karen Moughemer, Marge Rudolph
Sun. Aug. 23- 8:00 AM - Carolyn English, Mike O'Neill,
Daniel Turcovsky, Diane Turcovsky
Sun. Aug. 23- 10:00 AM - Dolores Capriotti, Lou Ann Clark,
Mitchell Evans, Mary Horton

SACRISTAN

Sat. Aug. 22- 4:00 PM - Mary King
Sun. Aug. 23- 8:00 AM - Ashley Greslick
Sun. Aug. 23- 10:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan

SCRIP

Sat. Aug. 22- 4:00 PM - Lori Baker, Marge Rudolph
Sun. Aug. 23- 8:00 AM - Erika Yasolsky, Heather Yasolsky
Sun. Aug. 23- 10:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED

****Mass Time Change - Our 2nd Mass on Sunday will begin at 10am and will continue with this schedule through Labor Day weekend ****

A Few Words from the Pastor:

AMERICAN MARTYR: THE STANLEY ROTHER STORY is a feature-length documentary about Blessed Stanley Rother, the first U.S.-born Catholic priest officially recognized by the Church as a martyr. The film chronicles his life, his missionary work in Guatemala, and his murder in 1981. Stanley Rother was born on a farm near Okarche, Oklahoma, in 1935. After being ordained a priest, he volunteered to serve the Indigenous Tz'utujil people of Santiago during the Guatemalan Civil War. He learned their language, helped translate the New Testament into Tz'utujil, and became deeply devoted to the people he served. As violence escalated, many missionaries left the country. Rother briefly returned to Oklahoma but decided to go back, saying: "The shepherd cannot run." A few months later, on July 28, 1981, armed men entered his rectory and murdered him. His witness to the faith eventually led Pope Francis to recognize him as a martyr. He was beatified in 2017, and his feast day is celebrated on July 28. ***The movie will be playing here in Altoona at AMC Theater on Convention Center Drive in Duncansville on August 25–26 at 7:00.***

OUR SEASON OF CREATION - Each year from September 1 to October 4, the Christian family unites for this worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. It is a special season where we celebrate God as Creator, acknowledging Creation as the divine continuing act that summons us as collaborators to love and care for the gift of all that is created. As followers of Christ from around the globe, we share a common call to care for Creation. We are co-creatures and part of all that God has made. Our well-being is interwoven with the well-being of the Earth. We rejoice in this opportunity to safeguard our common home and all beings who share it with us. This year the theme for the Season is "Living Water," taken from the beautiful book of the prophet Ezekiel.

SAVE THE DATES!

OCIA Meeting: Sunday, August 16th Informational meeting after the 10am Mass in the Parish Center

Backpack Blessing: Sunday, August 30th at the 10am Mass-Students bring your backpacks to Mass!

Despot Scholarship Applications Due: Sunday, August 30th Return to the Collection Basket or Parish Office

Alpha: September 8th-November 17th from 6-8:15pm in St. John's cafeteria

Diocesan Family Conference: Saturday, September 19th at Bishop Carroll High School in Ebensburg

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULING For September 12, 2026 – December 31, 2026 It's time to schedule ministries for the Fall and Winter of 2026. If you have internet access, please enter the dates that you are NOT available in the Profile section of Ministry Scheduler Pro. Here is the direct link to that website – <https://www.rotundasoftware.com/ministry/teammates> There is also a link from our parish website (<https://www.stjohnsaltoona.org>) and 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, visit the church to fill out a card, or just have general questions about ministry scheduling, please call Mike Greslick on a weekday evening between 6 PM and 9 PM or anytime on the weekends at 814-577-5292. Feel free to reach out via email as well to mike.greslick@gmail.com. Please update your profile online, call Mike, or fill out a card and return it by Noon on August 30th. The next schedule will then be generated and go live on or around September 1. Family members can fill out one card front and back. Thank you for your service to our faith community throughout the year!

DIOCESAN FAMILY CONFERENCE CELEBRATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DIOCESE: The diocesan family conference will be held on Saturday, September 19th at Bishop Carroll Catholic High School, Ebensburg. This conference has been designed for every generation, from young children and teens to parents, grandparents, clergy and parish leaders. This day includes the annual Men's and Women's Conferences, Shycon (**also a discipleship event for Senior High Confirmation candidates**) and Junior High Youth Day. This day-long event will offer inspiring keynote presentations, engaging break-out sessions, opportunities for prayer and fellowship, food and the Vigil Mass for Sunday. You may register online at: dioceseaj.org or copies of the registration booklet are available in the Gathering Space or by contacting the parish office. Please also prayerfully consider being a Sponsor for this day. Information on the day and to be a sponsor are in the registration booklet. For additional information contact Francine Swope at fswope@dioceseaj.org OR (814)317-2646.

BIRTH OF MARY CELEBRATION: Tuesday, September 8th at St. Catherine of Siena Church/Shrine, Old Rt.22,Duncansville. Mass times: 7am, 12:05pm and 5:30pm. Evening Mass and Rosary Procession at the Shrine. Bishop Mark Bartchak, celebrant. Please bring a lawn chair. Inclement weather, the outdoor mass will be celebrated in the church. Rosary at 7:30am, 11:15am, 1pm and 4:30pm. Food, exhibits and crafts in the church hall. Conclude the day with birthday cake for all in the church hall.

Schedule for the Week of August 16th

Sunday, August 16 - Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

10:00 AM - Mass for *Gene & Eileen O'Neill* requested by
O'Neill family

Monday, August 17 - Weekday

8:30 AM - Communion Service

Tuesday, August 18 - Weekday

8:30 AM - Communion Service

Wednesday, August 19 - Weekday

5:30 PM - Confessions

6:00 PM - Mass for *Lynda Miller* requested by
Robert & Diane Budd

Thursday, August 20 - St. Bernard

8:30 AM - Mass for *Bill Schmerbeck* requested by
Dee Schmerbeck

Friday, August 21 - St. Pius X

8:30 AM - Mass for *Rita Kibler* requested by
Tom Forr family

Saturday, August 22 - Vigil of Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

3:15 PM - Confessions

4:00 PM - Mass for *Stephen Kaduck* requested by
Mr. & Mrs. William Stokan

Sunday, August 23 - Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

10:00 AM - Mass for *Anne Zelnosky* requested by
St. John's Parishioners

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.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: The Parish Office is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9am to 3pm unless otherwise noted on door to accommodate appointments and vacations. Thank you!

ALPHA: Alpha will be starting every Tuesday beginning September 8th through November 17th here at St. John's in the cafeteria from 6-8:15pm. Dinner is included. Registration forms are available in the Gathering Space. If you have any questions, please contact Jane Becker at 414-9836.

GABRIEL PROJECT: A Pro-life Ministry dedicated to helping moms and babies in the Altoona area with baby items as needed. Any mom needing assistance should call 814-440-1021.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: Our readings today remind us that God is ever-faithful, even when we are not. They challenge us as Christian stewards to show our love for this faithful God through actions, and to lean in to our trust in Him even when it seems He is not answering our prayers. Jesus certainly challenged the Canaanite woman in today's Gospel passage from Matthew. She called out to Him on behalf of her daughter, who was being tormented by a demon. What did Jesus do in reply to this mother's desperate plea? Nothing. He "did not say a word in answer to her." But she was undeterred and continued to call out to Him. Jesus did not give her what she asked for right away. Instead, He continued to challenge the woman's faith. And she rises to the challenge to such an impressive degree that Jesus exclaims, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." Imagine hearing those words proclaimed over us by God. Truly, there could be no higher honor than hearing our Lord say that to us. So we must accept the difficulties that come with the stewardship way of life. Some days will be a true challenge, but those are the days when God is making saints of us. Let's embrace the hard days. The deep joy that eventually comes will be so worth it.

August 1st & 2nd

Envelopes	\$	6,004.00
Loose Offerings	\$	555.00
Catholic Education	\$	207.00
Heating & Cooling	\$	227.00
Peter's Pence	\$	50.00
Online Giving	\$	2,467.95
Total Offertory	\$	9,510.95

2026 Catholic Ministries Drive Goal: \$37,300

January 1, 2026 - July 31, 2026

Gifts/Pledges - \$60,348.00

Total Gifts Received - \$60,098.00

Pledge Balance - \$250.00

ANNUAL WEDDING ANNIVERSARY LITURGY: 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 2026** (and their families) to attend the Annual Wedding Anniversary Liturgy. Couples may attend Sunday, **September 13** in **ALTOONA** at Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament or Sunday, **September 20** 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 Friday, September 11th.**

ST JOHN'S PRAYER LIST

Please call Ginny Reeder (695-7671) or email her at ginny.reeder@gmail.com to add or remove someone from the prayer list. **Prayer list will be cleared in June.** **Contact Ginny or the office to have names added or kept on the 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:*

Idy Caporuscio • Dr. Kip Dolphin • Ed Drexler
Lois Dullinger • Charles Elder • Patty Flanagan
Donna Fornwalt • Erin Jones • Marianne Jones
Ray King • Sally Langham • Elsie MacCullagh
Dave Madden • Ron Merilli • Suzana Mladenovska
Mike Nagle • Olga Romerowicz • Bette Richards
Anne Showalter • Cathy Stapelfeld • Walter Sweedo
Tim Temofonte • Wally Wargo • Lois Werfel
Holly Whitmire • All Garvey Manor Residents

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 to receive Communion at home, a visit or cards please text or call Mary Susick at 814-207-0185.

HEALING MASS: Holy Spirit Ministry will hold a special Healing Mass on Tuesday, August 18th at 7pm at St. Michael Church, Hollidaysburg. Praise and worship will precede the Mass at 6:30pm and prayer ministry will follow the Mass. Fr. David Dodd, TOR will be the main celebrant. All are welcome to join and experience the healing power of Jesus!

OCIA MEETING: Our OCIA journey begins in September. OCIA, the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, is a journey for those who have an interest in becoming Catholic or would like to finish their initiation into the Catholic faith. We will have an informational meeting on August 16th after the 10:00 Mass in the Parish Center. If you have any questions please contact Pat Podoletz at 717-575-4224, or Sue Podoletz at 717-575-1142.

ST. JOHN'S BOWLING LEAGUE: Are you looking for something fun for the whole family to do together? Do you have just a little "SPARE" time every two weeks? Roll on down to Holiday Bowl and join our St. Johns Bowling League. This is a Just for Fun League and we would love to have you! We don't care if you enjoy spending the whole time in the gutter or if the pins fear you as soon as you walk onto the lane. We hope that you will join us at Holiday Bowl. We will begin September 11, 2026 and there is a sign up sheet located on the bulletin board in the Gathering Space. Any questions, please call JR Mendez at (814)761-2181.

SCRIP TIP: Pick up all the gear your favorite students need for the new school year and earn rebates at the same time! Fill those new backpacks with pencils, pens, binders, and everything else they need to be successful students!

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH: MEET THE TEACHER/ PARENT & STUDENT MEETING 9:30AM-GYM

Registration Forms for the 2026-2027 Faith Formation Year are now available in the Gathering Space.

All public school students entering Kindergarten through 9th grade should be registered with the Faith Formation Program.

All catholic school students entering 2nd grade and 9th grade should be registered with the Faith Formation Program of their home parish to prepare for Sacraments. Catholic school students do not receive the sacraments through the school.

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

2026 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 School in the Altoona or Hollidaysburg area. The students and guardian(s) must be registered members of the parish. Applications are available in the Gathering Space or in the parish office. All applications must be submitted by August 30th and will be awarded in September. If you have any questions, please contact the parish office at 942-5503.

NEW! 2026 DESPOT FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP: Established in 2024 by Dave Despot for the benefit of students entering, or continuing to attend grades 9-12 at Bishop Guilfoyle Academy in the amount of \$320. Eligible students shall be members of St. John the Evangelist Parish who are actively participating in parish ministries, such as, but not limited to, altar server, choir, musician, hospitality ministry, etc. Applications are available in the Gathering Space or in the parish office. All applications must be submitted by August 30th and will be awarded in September. If you have any questions, please contact the parish office at 942-5503.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS: Please join us on Sunday, August 30th 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. Please join us! Children's Liturgy is also returning the weekend of August 30th and will continue on Sundays during the 2nd Mass. During Children's Liturgy 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. Please join us!