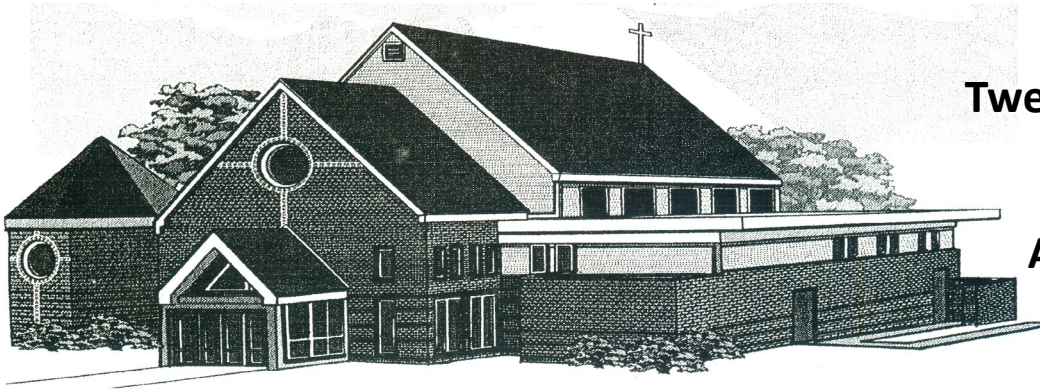




**Twenty-first Sunday in
Ordinary Time
August 23, 2026**

**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 & 10:00 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. 29- 4:00 PM - Laverne Kovacs, Maria Spayd
Sun. Aug. 30-8:00 AM - Mike Greslick, Mary Truesdale
Sun. Aug. 30-10:00 AM - James Krug, Camille Krug

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. Aug. 29- 4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, Sadie Swope
Sun. Aug. 30- 8:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Sun. Aug. 30- 10:00 AM - Aidan Schurr, NOT FILLED

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. Aug. 29- 4:00 PM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Sun. Aug. 30- 8:00 AM - Jennifer Helsley, Ginny Reeder
Sun. Aug. 30- 10:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Barbara Bundy,
Bob Olson, Susanna Tomlinson

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. Aug. 29- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, Dennis Moughemer,
Karen Moughemer, Jeremy Truscello
Sun. Aug. 30- 8:00 AM - Ray Kennedy, Ed Stoltz,
Daniel Turcovsky, Diane Turcovsky
Sun. Aug. 30- 10:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Lou Ann Clark,
Jared Miller, Patrick Podoletz

SACRISTAN

Sat. Aug. 29- 4:00 PM - Linda McAleer
Sun. Aug. 30- 8:00 AM - Ashley Greslick
Sun. Aug. 30- 10:00 AM - Dolores Capriotti

SCRIP

Sat. Aug. 29- 4:00 PM - Julie Beiswenger, Becky Merilli
Sun. Aug. 30- 8:00 AM - Erika Yasolsky, Heather Yasolsky
Sun. Aug. 30- 10:00 AM - Peg Madden, Marge Rudolph

****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:

SAINT OF THE WEEK! - As we get to know Pope Leo, and attend to his teaching and preaching, it is clear that our first American Pope is very proud of his Augustinian heritage. And he has every reason to be! St. Augustine is considered one of our greatest saints! He was born in 354 in North Africa to St. Monica, whose prayers played a central role in his conversion. A brilliant but restless young man, Augustine searched for truth through philosophy and various religious teachings. In Milan, the preaching of St. Ambrose led him toward Christianity, and he was baptized in 387. He later became a priest and Bishop of Hippo, serving the Church through his preaching and writings. His famous works, *Confessions* and *The City of God*, made him one of Christianity's greatest theologians. He died in 430 and is remembered as "Doctor of the Church and Doctor of Grace." He is perhaps best known for his prayer, "*our hearts are restless, O Lord, until they rest in you!*"

A PRAYER FOR OUR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Heavenly Father, as our children return to school, watch over them and keep them safe.

Bless them with curious minds, kind hearts, and the courage to face new challenges.

Guide their teachers and all who care for them. Help our children to be patient with one another, to respect and encourage their classmates, and to use their gifts for the good of others.

When they are anxious, give them peace. When they struggle, give them perseverance.

When they succeed, keep them humble and grateful.

May their classrooms be places of learning, friendship, respect, and joy.

Keep them close to You each day and bring them home safely to their families.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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!

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

Faith Formation Meet the Teacher/Parent & Student Meeting: Sunday, September 20th at 9:30am in the gym

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!

Schedule for the Week of August 23rd

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

Monday, August 24 - St. Bartholomew

8:30 AM - Mass for *Cheryl Dennis* requested by
Betty Dennis & family

Tuesday, August 25 - Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Bob & Diane Long* requested by
Dee Schmerbeck

Wednesday, August 26 - Weekday

5:30 PM - Confessions

6:00 PM - Mass for *Florence Dancha* requested by
Vicki Faretta

Thursday, August 27 - St. Monica

8:30 AM - Communion Service

Friday, August 28 - St. Augustine

8:30 AM - Communion Service

Saturday, August 29 - Vigil of Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

3:15 PM - Confessions

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

Sunday, August 30 - Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM - Mass for *Irene Greslick* requested by
Mike & Ashley Greslick

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

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!

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.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: Our readings today reveal beautiful truths about our God, and they challenge us to look at the truth about ourselves as well. Our Gospel passage, from Matthew, leads us to take a serious look at whether our lives give God the glory He deserves. It comes in the form of a question that Jesus poses to the disciples. He leads up to it gently enough: "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they offer varying responses. Then, Jesus gets personal with them, "But who do you say I am?" Peter gets the answer right, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Jesus is getting personal with us today. He poses the same question to each one of us who call ourselves His stewards and modern-day disciples. Surely, we would not hesitate to answer just as Peter did, that Jesus is the Christ, Son of the living God. But do our lives truly reflect this answer?

The gifts and blessings that God has given us – our time, our talents, our material possessions – are meant to be used in a manner that says "Christ is my Savior and I am His disciple." The most eloquent praise we can offer Him is a life lived in grateful response to His unfathomable love. This is the beauty and power of a stewardship way of life.

August 8th & 9th

Envelopes	\$	4,786.00
Loose Offerings	\$	850.00
Heating & Cooling	\$	51.00
Assumption of Mary	\$	400.00
Online Giving	\$	1,975.95
Total Offertory	\$	8,062.95

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:*

Barbara • 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
Suzana Mladenovska • Mike Nagle • Olga Romerowicz
Bette Richards • Anne Showalter • Cathy Stapelfeld
Walter Sweedo • Tammy • Tim Temofonte
Wally Wargo • Lois Werfel • Holly Whitmire
All Garvey Manor Residents

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

Judy Ann Flaig, grandmother of Ashley Greslick
May she rest in the peace and joy of the Lord.

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.

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 will be available in the Gathering Space. If you have any questions, please contact Jane Becker at 414-9836.

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.

CLASS REUNION: The Bishop Guilfoyle Class of 1986 is planning their 40th class reunion. The date is set for November 13 & 14, 2026. All classmates and spouses are welcome. Please contact Reneé Francis-Luciano @ 814-329-0858 for further information.

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!