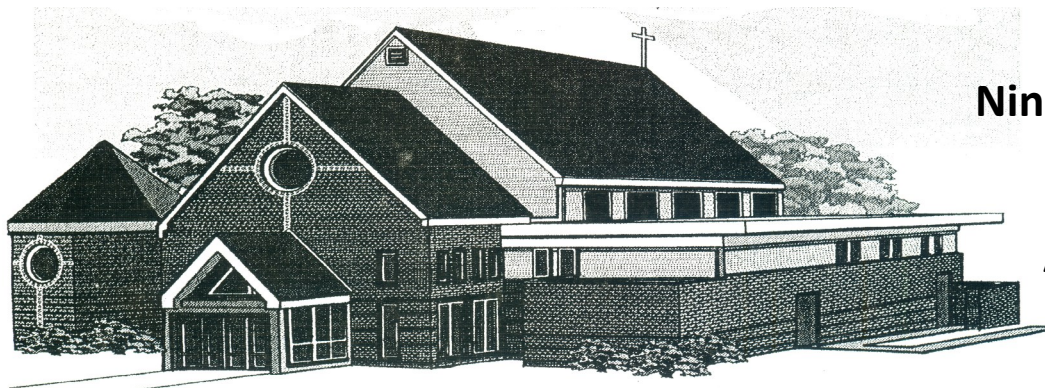




**Nineteenth Sunday in
Ordinary Time
August 9, 2026**

**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
VIGIL OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
FRIDAY - 6:00 PM
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

Fri. Aug. 14- 6:00 PM - Richard Consiglio, Dave Auerbeck
Sat. Aug. 15- 4:00 PM - Jeremy Truscello, Joyce Cunningham
Sun. Aug. 16-8:00 AM - Susan Podoletz, Maria Spayd
Sun. Aug. 16-10:00 AM - Jim Campbell, Barbara Bundy

ALTAR SERVERS

Fri. Aug. 14-6:00 PM - Camille Krug, NOT FILLED
Sat. Aug. 15- 4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, Sadie Swope
Sun. Aug. 16- 8:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED
Sun. Aug. 16- 10:00 AM - Camille Krug, Aidan Schurr

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Fri. Aug. 14-6:00 PM - Daniel Turcovsky, Diane Turcovsky
Sat. Aug. 15- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, David Loth
Sun. Aug. 16- 8:00 AM - Mike Greslick, Jennifer Helsley
Sun. Aug. 16- 10:00 AM - Dolores Capriotti, Lou Ann Clark,
Ken Gorman, Susanna Tomlinson

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Fri. Aug. 14-6:00 PM - Carolyn English, Mary Horton, Peg Madden,
Ginny Reeder
Sat. Aug. 15- 4:00 PM - Dennis Moughemer, Karen Moughemer,
Larry VanSickel, Paula VanSickel
Sun. Aug. 16- 8:00 AM - Jane Becker, John Becker, Ginny Reeder,
Mary Truesdale
Sun. Aug. 16- 10:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Wendy Campbell,
Peg Madden, Patrick Podoletz

SACRISTAN

Fri. Aug. 14-6:00 PM - Dolores Capriotti
Sat. Aug. 15- 4:00 PM - Linda McAleer
Sun. Aug. 16- 8:00 AM - Ashley Greslick
Sun. Aug. 16- 10:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan

SCRIP

Sat. Aug. 15- 4:00 PM - Lori Baker, NOT FILLED
Sun. Aug. 16- 8:00 AM - Amber Yasolsky, Heather Yasolsky
Sun. Aug. 16- 10:00 AM - Peg Madden, Marge Rudolph

A Few Words from the Pastor:

THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION! On Saturday, August 15, the church celebrates the Assumption of Mary into Heaven. The Vigil Mass will be held on Friday, August 14th at 6:00. Our Saturday 4:00 Mass will be the Mass of Sunday. Because the Feast is on a Saturday, the obligation is not observed.

A PASTOR'S CLASS REUNION! I will be away this week for a class reunion. The four of us entered the Josephinum seminary as freshmen in high school in September of 1963! We will meet up in Salt Lake City, where one of us resides! I am grateful to for the help in covering the Masses on the weekend.

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.***

DID YOU KNOW? "The dog days of August" refers to the hottest, most humid stretch of summer in the Northern Hemisphere, often associated with sluggishness and oppressive heat. It is a slow, lazy, or unproductive time, when people tend to take vacations and activity slows down. The expression, however, comes from astronomy rather than dogs. In ancient times, people noticed that the brightest star in the night sky, **Sirius** (the "Dog Star") in the constellation Canis Major, rose and set with the Sun during the hottest part of the summer. The Romans called this period *dies caniculares* ("days of the dog"), believing Sirius added to the Sun's heat. *Now you know the full story!*

SAVE THE DATES!

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass Schedule: Vigil Mass on Friday, August 14th at 6pm

Feast Day Mass on Saturday, August 15th at 4:00pm

OCIA Information Meeting: Sunday, August 16th 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

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.**

THANK YOU! We recently received a \$1,150 annual grant from the L. J. Fleckenstein Impact Grant Fund to assist with our annual subscription to FORMED, which is available to all parishioners to access diverse Catholic movies, audio-books, podcasts, shows, and more. To learn more about FORMED or how to sign up, contact the office. We are grateful to the Lou Fleckenstein family for creating this fund for our benefit. Our endowment partner, the Independent Catholic Foundation, Altoona, administers the fund in a Catholic-aligned investment portfolio. Charitable contributions to the endowment may be made at any time. Learn more about the ICF at www.icfoundation.us or by calling 814-201-2080.

Schedule for the Week of August 9th

Sunday, August 9 - Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

10:00 AM - Mass for *Frank Zitzlsperger* requested by
Barbara Bundy

Monday, August 10 - St. Lawrence

8:30 AM - Mass for *Fred Mazzarella* requested by
Karen Mazzarella

Tuesday, August 11 - St. Clare

8:30 AM - Mass for *Marian Monios* requested by
Dr. Joseph & Pam Klobuka

Wednesday, August 12 - Weekday

5:30 PM - Confessions

6:00 PM - Mass for *Andrew Jr. & Florence Dancha*
requested by Vicki Faretta

Thursday, August 13 - Weekday

8:30 AM - Communion Service

Friday, August 14 - St. Maximilian Kolbe (Morning)

8:30 AM - No morning Mass due to Vigil at 6pm

Friday, August 14 - Vigil of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Evening)

6:00 PM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

Saturday, August 15 - Vigil of Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

3:15 PM - Confessions

4:00 PM - Mass for *Carlo & Rosa Risoldi & family*
requested by Mary Ann Cole

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

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 will be available in the Gathering Space. If you have any questions, please contact Jane Becker at 414-9836 or ask one of the Alpha speakers after masses this weekend. Stay tuned for more details!

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: Stewardship spirituality invites us to surrender control of our lives to God in grateful recognition that all that we have is a gift from Him. While today's readings remind us that, of course, God is always in control of His creation and His creatures, they illustrate what amazing things can happen when we fully permit God to take charge of our lives – in other words, what can happen when we embrace the stewardship way of life. In our First Reading, from the First Book of Kings, Elijah the prophet is instructed to go outside and wait for the Lord. Elijah goes out and a series of spectacular phenomena occur – strong and heavy winds that crush rocks, followed by an earthquake, and then a fire. Yet, the Lord was not found in any of those. Rather, the Almighty was found in a 'tiny whispering sound.' It is all too easy to fail to recognize His presence and gifts in our lives - taking things like friends, family, material gifts, and even God Himself for granted. When we embrace the stewardship way of life - letting go of a tight hold over our money, our time and our talents - our lives become a grand adventure, rooted firmly and gratefully in the God Who always cares for us.

July 25th & 26th

Envelopes	\$	3,088.00
Loose Offerings	\$	537.00
Mission Co-op	\$	270.00
Heating & Cooling	\$	130.00
Online Giving	\$	840.25
Total Offertory	\$	4,865.25

2026 Catholic Ministries Drive Goal: \$37,300

January 1, 2026 - June 30, 2026

Gifts/Pledges - \$54,200.00

Total Gifts Received - \$52,825.00

Pledge Balance - \$1,375.00

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.

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

TECH ASSISTANCE NEEDED: We are looking for someone who can make a video to present in church. The topic is Haiti and all the photos and videos are on an android phone through WhatsApp. If you are tech savvy or know someone who is, please call the office. Your talent will be greatly appreciated!

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 am 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.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS: Court Prince Gallitzin # 2625 serves all 11 parishes and beyond. New members are always welcome! On Monday, August 10th, please come and join us for our monthly meeting in the St. Rose of Lima community room at 5:30 p.m. with the business meeting beginning at 6 p.m. If you have any questions please contact Regent Carol Galioto at 814-327-4841 or Carol54ann@Outlook.com.

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.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Registration Forms for the 2026-2027 Faith Formation Year are now available in the Gathering Space.
Classes will be begin in mid-September.

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!