

TWENT-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
August 25, 2024
 Mass Intentions

August 25, Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time
 8:00AM+Jane Byrne (Butch Winkler)
 10:00AM+John Kirsch (Don Sgro)
 5:00PM Pro Popolo/For the People
Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church 11:30AM

August 26, Monday, Weekday
 12:00PM+Mary Weakland (Marie, Sharon & Diane)

August 27, Tuesday, Saint Monica
 12:00PM+Eddie Flanagan (Albert Schlecht)

August 28, Wednesday, Saint Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
 12:00PM+Rita McCloskey (Dick & CeCe Haines)

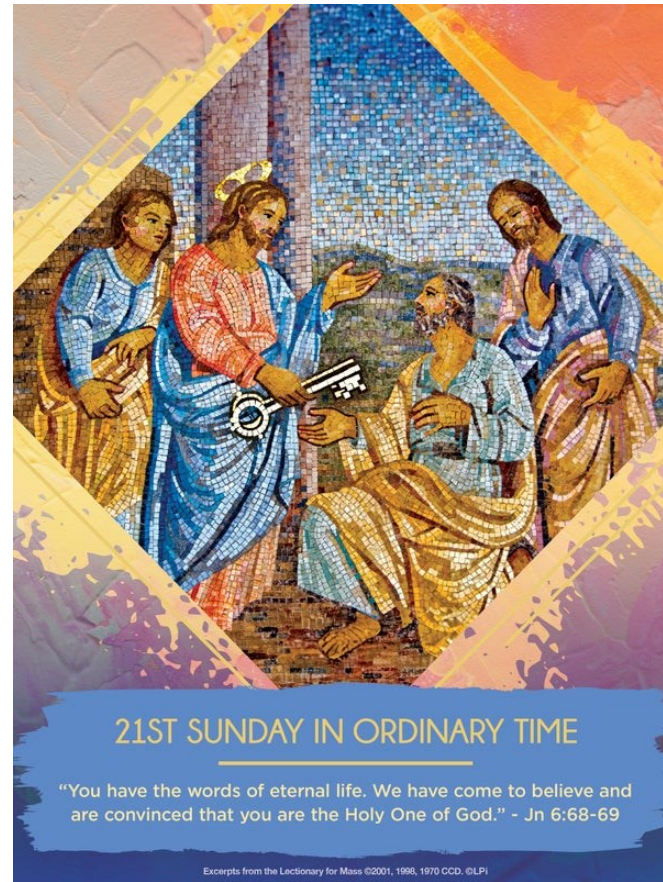
August 29, Thursday, The Passion of Saint John the Baptist
 12:00PM+Souls in Purgatory (Anonymous)

August 30, Friday, Weekday
 12:00PM+Madeline Vogel (Family)

August 31, Saturday, Weekday
 12:00PM+Mary Coleman (Allan Axinn Family)
 Vigil: Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
 5:00PM+Denny Donley (Joe & Mary Smithmyer)

September 1, Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
 8:00AM+Barbara Knott Chisko (Linda Kutz)
 10:00AM+Etta Pastore (Family)
 5:00PM Pro Popolo/For the People
Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church 11:30AM

**JESUS NEEDS YOU,
 DON'T SAY NO!**
*Vocations Are
 Everybody's Business*



Stewardship Reflections

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 a radical change 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.”

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

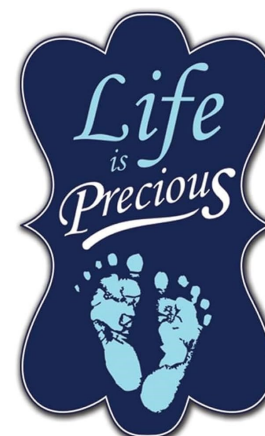
Sunday, August 18, 2024 \$ 6,906.85
 Thank you for your financial and spiritual support.



Our parish’s target is \$45,930. All contributions beyond our parish goal will remain for use within our parish. **\$52,694 has been pledged. (The pledge balance is \$4,350.)** If all pledges are paid, we will have reached 114% of our target. Thank you.

Basilica of Saint Michael’s the Archangel Parish Family in Loretto

On behalf of the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel Parish Family in Loretto, all the faithful of the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese are invited to outdoor Masses every Sunday evening at 7 PM at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Alleghenies concluding on Sunday, September 1. Please bring a lawn chair. In the event of inclement weather, the Mass will be



A note of gratitude was received from Precious Life, Inc. The Cathedral raised \$2,192.94! Thank you so much for helping in this year’s Campaign. 135 churches raised a total of \$130,085.

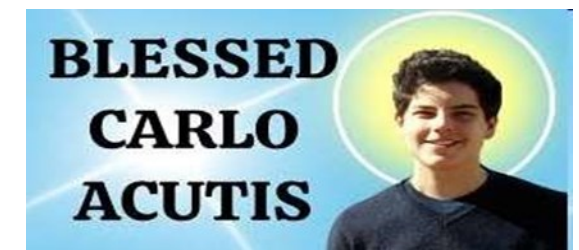


Catholic Charities is in need of clear backpacks to distribute to local junior and senior high school students. If you’re able to help, there are collection boxes at our entrances. Thank you.



Wedding Anniversary Celebration

Bishop Mark and the Family Life Office cordially invite all couples celebrating **1,5,10,15,20,25,30,40,45,50,55,60+ years of marriage in 2024** (and their families) to attend the Annual **Wedding Anniversary Liturgy**. Couples may attend Sunday, **September 8 in Altoona** at the 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 **2:00p.m.** Most Rev. Bishop Mark will be the celebrant and homilist at each celebration. Refreshments and snacks will be available after the mass for Anniversary couples and families. **Reservations must be made through your parish for either celebration by Tuesday, August 27th.**



Our parish has the entire exhibit of Eucharistic miracles prepared by Blessed Carlo Acutis (1999-2006). Portions of the exhibit are displayed in the side chapels of the cathedral. Blessed Sacrament.

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEP-ER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

August 25, 2024

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

The famous Russian novelist Fyodor Dostoyevsky said, "Love in action is a harsh and dreadful thing." In the Gospel reading this week, Jesus does something harsh and dreadful — he watches his own disciples abandon him. What could possibly be loving about that?

Well, we notice the context is Jesus' teaching about eating and drinking his body and blood. His followers hear this and say, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" (John 6:60). We shouldn't imagine we'd do anything different, because not even the ones who stay, like Peter, seem to understand what Jesus is saying. Then we hear this devastating line, "Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him" (John 6:66). Besides the night of the Last Supper, only now do Jesus' disciples abandon him. And, painfully, Jesus just lets them go.

The best way to make sense out of this is love. Jesus is God's love in action. He wants to become one with those whom He loves. He wants to love them as His own body. Yes, the oneness manifested in the Eucharist sounds harsh and dreadful because it is rooted in love which is willing to risk abandonment and separation to attain its goal: to be one body with the beloved. It is both terrifying and wonderful that Jesus will risk losing us in order to be one with us. Our response? Lord, we cannot grasp a love so great, but please help us never to abandon it, either. Father John Muir ©LPi

Reverence in Taking Holy Communion to Homebound People

When Holy Communion is taken to homebound people it should be carried close to the heart by using either a blouse or shirt pocket, or by using a burse. The host should not be placed in a pants pocket or purse. If you don't have a burse and you plan to take Holy Communion to someone regularly, you are asked to wear or purchase a shirt or blouse

with a pocket.



The Catholic University of America

Next weekend, the (arch) diocese will take up the National Collection for the Catholic University of America. Catholic University is a national research university, in the heart of Washington D.C., with over 5,700 undergraduate and graduate students in more than 250 academic programs. By giving to the collection, you are supporting future Catholic leaders, both religious and lay, who are being formed by an exceptional, faith-rooted education. The University's various research and training initiatives support dioceses and parishes in responding to the most pressing needs of their faithful. A few examples of how the University serves the Church and nation include The Catholic Project, an initiative that aims to heal the breach of trust may have experienced as a result of the crisis in the Church; a master's program in Ecclesial Administration and Management; and a credentialing program that prepares recent graduates to serve as campus ministers. Visit: **collection.catholic.edu** to learn more.



Basket Bingo

Our Basket Bingo is being held on Sunday, September 29, 2024 at the Father Kelley Hall, 5th Street and 25th Avenue. We are taking donations of gift cards, monetary gifts, or if you have a theme basket that you would like to do or donate for, we can always add to it. We are also taking donations of water, and soda, that can be dropped off at the Parish Office, between 9:00 AM- 4:00 PM. If you have any questions please feel free to call Paula at 814-944-4603 the Parish office, or Lorraine Beck 1-240-676-6704 or Paula's cell 814-215-5949.

Basket Bingo Tickets

Basket Bingo tickets are now on sale at the 13th Avenue door after all masses and at the Parish Office: \$25.00 per person, a value pack may be bought for an additional \$30.00. If you have any question call the Parish Office at 814-944-4603, Paula Clemens 814-215-5949 or Lorraine Beck 1-240-676-6704. Tickets will also be available at the door on the day

The Church of Altoona-Johnstown
THE CATHEDRAL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

ONE CATHEDRAL SQUARE, Altoona, Pennsylvania 16601-3315

Church Office: 814-944-4603

THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - AUGUST 25, 2024

CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS:

The process of formation for those seeking God through membership in the Catholic Christian community.

INFANT BAPTISM:

Arrange in advance for pre-baptismal instructions.

CONFIRMATION:

Ninth, tenth and eleventh grade students are invited to participate in the Confirmation Preparation Process.

RECONCILIATION:

Wednesday: 7:00 PM, Saturday: 12:30 PM.
By appointment, by texting or calling 814-937 8240 Communal Penance Services: Advent and Lent.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK:

Upon Request and Communal celebration

MARRIAGE:

Arrange nine months in advance. Couples expected to participate in pre-marriage preparation program.

DEVOTIONS:

Eucharistic Adoration - Normally, the First Wednesday 12:30 PM - 6:45 PM
Eucharistic Day - Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ.

PRO-LIFE ROSARY

Sponsored by the Christian Mothers on Thursdays after the noon Mass.

Most Reverend Mark L. Bartchak, J.C.D., Bishop

Reverend Monsignor Stanley Carson, Administrator

Paula Clemens, Parish Secretary

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Chris Laraia - Pre-K thru 12 - 814-312-7317
Religious Education Office: Sundays - 814-943-7424
E-mail: claraia@dioceseaj.org

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

Leslie C. Thayer, MM, CAGO
Music Ministry Office - 814-944-2044
E-mail: lthayer@dioceseaj.org

CHRISTIAN INITIATION TEAM - 814-944-4603

CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME - 814-944-4603

MAIL MINISTRY TO ELDERLY, HOMEBOUND, SERIOUSLY SICK, AND GRIEVING - 814-944-4603

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM:

September through April: Pre-Kindergarten thru 12.
Sunday morning 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM Pre-Kindergarten thru 8. Grades 9-11 Sunday Evening at 6:15.

Church Office: 814-944-4603

E-MAIL: altcathedral@dioceseaj.org

Fax: 814-942-4337

WEB

www.altoonacathedral.org



Facebook

www.facebook.com/cathedralofaltoona



Mass Times

Sunday: 5:00 PM (Vigil) 8:00 AM 10:00 AM 5:00 PM
Weekday: 12:00 Noon
Saturday: 12:00 Noon

Serving the People of God in the City of Altoona Since 1851