

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 7, 2025

Our Lady of Fatima Parish
2000 12th Avenue
www.ourladyoffatimaaltoona.org
Office Hours:
Tuesdays and Thursdays
11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
Parish Office: 814-942-0371

Our Lady of Fatima Parish
Rev. Mariusz Gorazd, Administrator
Residing at St. Mary's Rectory, Altoona
Emergency Phone Number 814-942-2416

Administrative Assistant
Paula Hall

Eucharist: Sunday: 11:30 AM
Holy Days: 6:00 PM

Confession-Sunday 11:00am-11:25am

Holy Communion for the home bound - weekly:
Patty Flanagan 942-0371 for arrangements.
Religious Education—Contact St. Mary's at
814-942-2416

Our Lady of Fatima Church is open
Sunday through Saturday: 7:30 AM - 5PM
for visits before the Blessed Sacrament.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals will be held
at Our Lady of Fatima.

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick
Parishioners wishing to receive the sacrament of
healing may call the office.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH IS A
RESULT OF THE MERGER BETWEEN THE
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCHES OF
SS. PETER & PAUL AND ST. LEO THE
GREAT IN 1995.

*****IF YOU HAVE A GLUTEN ALLERGY,
PLEASE RECEIVE COMMUNION FROM
FR. MARIUSZ GORAZD'S LINE*****

THE FATIMA TOWERS

OUR LADY OF FATIMA MASS INTENTIONS

11:30 A.M.

September 7, 2025 Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

John Kasun, Jr [B 9/4] (Eileen Edwards)

September 14, 2025 The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Colleen Douglas [B 9/10] (Renee & Lisa Frucella)

ATTENTION!! FYI!!

OUR LADY OF FATIMA OFFICE IS NOW LOCATED IN THE CHURCH!!

Since the sale of the Rectory, the Church Office is now located inside the Church in the Reconciliation Room. Hours will remain the same:

Tuesdays and Thursdays

11Am-4PM

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Eastern Catholic and Orthodox Christians share a love for the Byzantine liturgy because it is during the Eucharist that the Church is most true to its identity, expresses its integrity, and discovers its vocation. Eastern Catholic and Orthodox Christians celebrate essentially the identical liturgy, with only very slight variations. It is a fairly complex ritual weaving together three separate layers of prayers; a liturgy prayed in the sanctuary by priests, often hidden by a curtain or screen; a liturgy sung by the assembly and led by a deacon in front of a screen formed of painted icons; and a third layer of private prayer by the priest, who prays in support of the deacon and the faithful. It is an eyes-wide-open experience, gorgeous in visuals, and filled with the sound of God's people singing prayer. The energy of the worship centers on the presence of Christ, largely through an awareness of heaven touching earth when the Church gathers to celebrate.

In the late twentieth century, Latin Rite Catholics were encouraged to embrace a style of worship that was "full, conscious, and active," a value that has never been lost in the East. The liturgy has great impact in its beauty, in its poetry and contemplation, and by the actions of bowing, signing with the cross, and chanting that are required of the assembly. Contact with the Eastern Church reveals some key values that have been obscured in our own Church and are slowly being recovered.—James Field, Copyright J.S. Pauluch Co

Continue to Change

When you're through changing, you're through. —Anonymous

Our Lady of Fatima Traveling Statue

Our Lady of Fatima traveling statue is available to sign out and take home. Please ask Chris Keagy after mass or contact the office if interested.

During September, the Sanctuary Candle is being lit in memory of John Kasun, Jr

By Kathy and the Kasun Family

Thank you.



Please Update Information

Parishioners are asked to please update their contact information with the parish office. If you have had a change of address, discontinued a land line phone number, or have a new cell phone number, inform the office or put a note in your envelope.

Today's Readings

First Reading—You sent your holy spirit from on high and thus were the paths of those on earth made straight (Wisdom 9:13-18B).

Psalms—In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge (Psalm 90).

Second Reading—Paul asks Philemon to accept back his slave Onesimus as a brother (Philemon 9-10, 12-17).

Gospel—Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion? (Luke 14:25-33).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: Col 1:24-2:3; Ps 62:6-7, 9; Lk 6:6-11

Tues: Col 2:6-15; Ps 145:1b-2, 8-11; Lk 6:12-19

Wed: Col 3:1-11; Ps 145:2-3, 10-13ab; Lk 6:20-26

Thurs: Col 3:12-17; Ps 150:1b-6; Lk 6:27-38

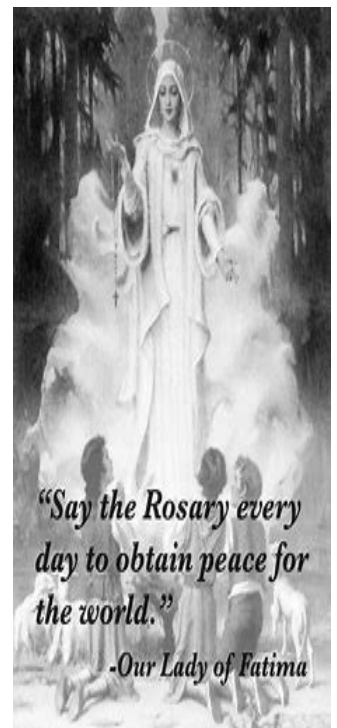
Fri: 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14; Ps 16:1b-2a, 5, 7-8, 11; Lk 6:39-42

Sat: Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-38; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17

Sun: Ex 32:7-11, 13-14; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19; 1 Tm 1:12-17; Lk 15:1-32[1-10]

Prayer to Our Lady of Fatima

O Most Holy Virgin Mary, Queen of the most holy Rosary, you were pleased to appear to the children of Fatima and reveal a glorious message. We implore you, inspire in our hearts a fervent love for the recitation of the rosary. By meditating on the mysteries of the redemption that are recalled therein may we obtain the graces and virtues that we ask, through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer.
Amen.



Thank You Very Much

Your prayers, volunteerism, and financial support are deeply appreciated. The contributions for August 31 was \$1173.80. Thank you.

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

In the future, our Mass on holy days of obligation will be back to 6:00 P.M.

POST-SUMMER CHALLENGES With any luck, summer delights will continue a while past last weekend's Labor Day: refreshing or enjoyable relaxation. Truth is, for some of us, this year's Labor Day came way too early. With many schools back in session for a while, mealtimes and driving schedules needed readjustment to coordinate youth sports with adult commitments. No surprise that this weekend's scriptures sound a little like post-summer challenges. Wisdom reminds us that believers in God can never be content with "timid deliberations" and "unsure plans." Paul challenges longtime friend and follower Philemon to "let the good you do be voluntary." Jesus instructs "great crowds" traveling with him—including us—on three things necessary for all true disciples to accomplish. On this early autumn weekend, our scriptures describe disciples' lifelong labors. —Copyright J.S. Paluch Co.



The Catholic Ministries Drive target for Our Lady of Fatima Parish is \$10,200 . So far, 25 donations amounting to \$5,195 has been received or 51% of our goal. Thank you.

The CMD is more than a fundraiser—it's a call to live out our faith through action. Every gift supports vital ministries that bring Christ's love to our neighbors in need. From nurturing vocations and strengthening the Catholic education to feeding the hungry and comforting the sick, your generosity fuels the mission of the Church in our diocese.

Please prayerfully consider making a gift to the CMD. Every dollar stays within our diocese and directly supports the ministries that touch lives every day. Together, we can build a stronger, more vibrant Church rooted in faith, hope, and love.

2025 Annual Wedding Anniversary Celebration
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 2025 (and their families) to attend the Annual Wedding Anniversary Liturgy. Couples may attend Sunday, September 21 in ALTOONA at Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament or Sunday, September 28 in JOHNSTOWN at St. John Gualbert Cathedral. Both locations are handicap accessible. Liturgies in each location begin at 2:00PM. Most Rev. Bishop Mark will be the celebrant and homilist at each celebration. Refreshments/shacks 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 12th.

"SPONSORS OF HOPE" CAMPAIGN

The Permanent Diaconate Community of the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese is launching a "Sponsors of Hope" campaign to raise funds to continue supporting our foreign missions program. With the guidance of our dedicated contact, Pakistani priest Father Khalil Maqsood, we have opened a school for the "Brickyard Children," who work daily in the brickyards and have no opportunity to receive an education. In addition, we have been helping the many persecuted Christians who are deprived of the basic necessities of life, such as food, medicine and clothing. Hopefully, by joining our efforts to raise funds, we can not only help further the education of these impoverished children but also serve as a beacon of hope by bringing the mercy of Christ and His love into their world. Though the main thrust of our work is helping the children, our long-term goal is to continue to reach out by providing food, medical supplies, clothing, and prayerful support through the guidance of our trusted friend, Father Khalil. We also provide assistance in India and other parts of the world as the need arises. We are now open to anyone who may want to join us on this journey. For more information please see the Deacon's Website: <https://www.deaconaj.org>



You are invited to help Our Lady of Fatima Parish by supporting this year's FHF fundraiser which will take place on Wednesday, October 22, from 8 AM until 11 PM. A donation of \$5.00 for a shopping pass entitles you to 25% off the lowest sale price. Our parish keeps the \$5.00 donation. More details are available on the pass. They are available in our office and following our weekend Mass.



The Altoona Gabriel Project is a Catholic Pro-Life ministry dedicated to helping moms and babies with supplies, as well as providing spiritual and emotional support. Cathedral parish is a part of a group effort of several Altoona area parishes.

The Cathedral has a collection crib at the alley entrance of the Cathedral for non-perishable baby items (diapers, wipes, clothing, bibs, towels, blankets, etc.)

The Cathedral will also be a site for the distribution to moms and babies in our section of the city. Items will be distributed on Thursdays from 1:30-2:30 P.M. If you would know of someone in need of support, or would like to volunteers, please call 814-440-1021.

HUMILITY...is a virtue we don't see much in our times. It seems that bragging, swaggering, and arrogance dominate our fashion for everything and our Internet conversations. Who hasn't been irritated by the "trolls" who try (usually with bad grammar and poor spelling) to start an online fight with those whose opinions do not align with theirs? Our stores, catalogs, and online shopping sites are full of useless items geared in use and price to the very rich, as ordinary, useful things seem to fade off the sales scene. As the rich get richer, the poor get poorer and the middle class is fading away. What is the antidote to this? Humility is a good place to start. Devotion to God is worth more than riches. "The father of orphans and the defender of widows is God in his holy dwelling. God gives a home to the forsaken; [God] leads forth prisoners to prosperity." J.S. Paluch Co



Loving and Generous God, it is You who call us by name and ask us to follow You. Help us to grow in the Love and Service of our Church as we experience it today.

Give us the energy and courage of Your Spirit to shape its future. Grant us faith-filled leaders who will embrace Christ's Mission of love and justice.

Bless the Church of Altoona-Johnstown by raising up dedicated and generous leaders from our families and friends who will serve Your people as Sisters, Priests, Brothers, Deacons and Lay Ministers.

Inspire us to know You better and open our hearts to hear Your call. We ask this through our Lord. Amen

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Today's readings make very clear the demands that will be made of those wanting to be called disciples of Christ. We must be prepared to give our all to Him. But in the end, the life of discipleship—the stewardship way of life—is the only life that can truly satisfy.

He knows that if we do not live with great intentionality—putting Him first before all else—we will easily be swallowed up by the earthly cares that weigh us down—our material things, our status, and our egos. He knows that these things cannot satisfy us. He knows this because He is our Maker, and He made us for more.

The Jubilee 2025 Pilgrim's Passport needs to be returned or postmarked by September 8 and sent to: Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Pastoral Center 2713 West Chestnut Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601 to be eligible for prizes: Overnight stay in Washington DC the weekend of the Pilgrimage, October 17, an overnight stay in Pittsburgh, or the monetary amounts, and various gift cards. There are several weeks left to travel and visit Holy Sites in our five deaneries!

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO THE BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

October 17, 2025, Friday—Bishop Mark will celebrate Mass in the upper church at 2:00PM and visitors will be able to tour this historic Catholic landmark throughout the day.

Registration and busing information:

Those interested in participating are welcome to travel on their own OR register and pay to ride on one of the diocesan-organized busses that will be leaving from Altoona, Johnstown, Ebensburg, Somerset, and State College. *Credit cards are not accepted for the bus reservation payment.

REGISTRATION IS DUE BY SEPTEMBER 20.

Contact Jeanne Thompson with further questions jthomson@dioceseaj.org or 814-695-5579.

You can also visit the Pilgrimage Page on the Diocesan Website.

The Value of Education—What greater or better gift can we offer the republic than to teach and instruct our youth?

—Cicero

LONGABERGER BASKET AND VERA BRADLEY BINGO

Sunday, September 28, 2025 1:00P.M. (doors open noon)

Father Kelley Hall (429 25th Ave, Altoona, PA 16601)
Please contact: Cathedral Parish Office (814)944-4603 or pclemens@dioceseaj.org