

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

September 14, 2025

Our Lady of Fatima Parish
2000 12th Avenue
Altoona, PA 16601
www.ourladyoffatimaaltoona.org

Office Hours:
Tuesdays and Thursdays
11:00AM to 4:00 PM
Parish Office located inside the church
814-942-0371

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: 6:00PM
Confession-Sunday 11:00AM to 11:25AM
Holy Communion for the home bound-
weekly: Patty Flanagan
Religious Education-Contact St. Mary's
814-942-2416

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

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick
will be scheduled by calling the office.

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

**OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH IS A
RESULT OF THE MERGER BE-
TWEEN 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.

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

September 21, 2025 Twenty-fifth in Ordinary Time

Sara Quinlin [B 9/14] (Connie McKnight)

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

Although New Year's Day has been fixed firmly on January 1 for several hundred years, Labor Day has the feel of a great dividing line between leisure and routine. The pace of life has since picked up, and new schedules and commitments crowd us. In the background is God's call to consider the third commandment, still life-giving and binding, to make holy the Lord's day by worship and rest. Jews see the Sabbath, Saturday, not so much as a day of worship, but as a day of rest, a day of renewing friendship with God by delighting in the beauty of creation and the joy of family and friends. It is a day for contemplating the wonder of God's creation, but not disturbing it.

For Christians in the first three centuries, the Lord's Day, Sunday, was not for rest, but worship. It was a regular work day. People met before dawn, and after Eucharist hurried off to daily routines. Today we come to Mass, but many hurry off to essential work, not a day of rest. The Lord's Day is not the Sabbath, but we can enhance Sunday's ability to transform us if we consider embracing some Sabbath values: having a family meal, going for a walk in a beautiful place, making room in our lives to open ourselves more fully to holiness of life in Christ.

REMOTELY SPEAKING —Television remote controls encourage couch potatoes to exercise their options while broadening their base. —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—"Why should your wrath blaze up against your own people, whom you brought out of Egypt?" (Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14).

Psalm—I will rise and go to my father (Psalm 51).

Second Reading—The grace of our Lord has been abundant (1 Timothy 1:12-17).

Gospel—There is great rejoicing in heaven and among the angels when a sinner repents (Luke 15:1-32 [1-10]).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: 1 Tm 2:1-8; Ps 28:2, 7-9; Lk 7:1-10

Tues: 1 Tm 3:1-13; Ps 101:1b-3ab, 5-6; Lk 7:11-17

Wed: 1 Tm 3:14-16; Ps 111:1-6; Lk 7:31-35

Thurs: 1 Tm 4:12-16; Ps 111:7-10; Lk 7:36-50

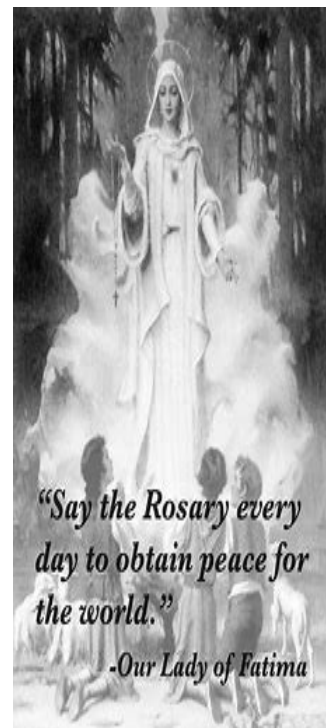
Fri: 1 Tm 6:2c-12; Ps 49:6-10, 17-20; Lk 8:1-3

Sat: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Ps 19:2-5; Mt 9:9-13

Sun: Am 8:4-7; Ps 113:1-2, 4-8; 1 Tm 2:1-8;
Lk 16:1-13[10-13]

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 September 7 was \$ 1629.00.

Thank you.

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

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

Precious Life, Inc.

It's with great joy that we share this year's Baby Bottle Campaign totals with you and your congregation. In 2023, we hit our record amount of \$137,823.46. Today, we are excited to share that we have exceeded that record with a total of **\$139,110.97!** This is incredible, and I am so thankful for the 130+ churches that partner with us from Blair, Bedford, and Cambria Counties. Your church, *Our Lady of Fatima*, helped us by raising **\$411.97!**

Words truly cannot express our deep level of gratitude for your life-giving participation in this year's campaign. YOU are making a difference!



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.



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 Catholic University of America

Starting September 7, the diocese is taking 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 many 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. Please give generously.

Please make all donations by October 5, 2025.

"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>



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.

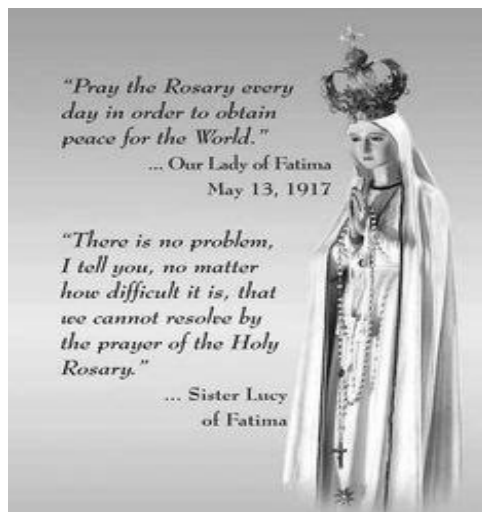
Inspire us to know You better and open our hearts to hear Your call. We ask this through our Lord. Amen

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Today's readings focus on the personal, passionate, and merciful love of God which should fill us with unending gratitude to Him.

How can we demonstrate our gratitude to such a God? By living as His good stewards. We thank Him by offering back to Him the very best of ourselves—the talents He has given us (to use to His glory), the time He has given us (to spend with Him in prayer), and the material resources He has given us (to advance His kingdom).

In so doing, we can make the words of St. Paul, a former enemy of Christ, our own stewardship motto: "I am grateful to Him who has strengthened me, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he considered me trustworthy in appointing me to the ministry." We must keep rolling, Christian stewards!



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 jthomspon@dioceseaj.org or 814-695-5579.

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

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