

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 21, 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.

September 21, 2025 Twenty-fifth in Ordinary Time

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

September 28, 2025 Twenty-sixth in Ordinary Time

Edward Heverly (Karen Querry)

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 June is the month most associated with weddings in the United States, September has become more popular in recent years. Wedding celebrations always require some savvy planning, and people who have a talent for hospitality in the mix. At the wedding feast at Cana, the mother of Jesus was recruited to deal with some of the details of the banquet, and when a very understandable crisis arose, she did what she could to rescue the party. Anyone who has ever run out of ice, dessert, or table settings knows the stress!

Slowly, the memory of Jesus Christ's blessing of this marriage feast led the Church to form a way to bless marriages. A thousand years ago weddings migrated from the family home to the doors of the church, where the celebration was held in public view. From this practice came a prayer called the "Nuptial Blessing," one of the most solemn prayers in our tradition. It is very much like the prayers by which baptismal water and chrism are consecrated, the ordination prayer over a priest, and the Eucharistic Prayers over bread and wine. Four hundred fifty years ago, weddings moved inside the church building. All of this gives married couples good reason to celebrate their anniversaries well, especially with the clinking of glasses filled with good wine. —James Field, copyright J.S. Paluch Co

RE-DIRECTION

Love does not consist in gazing at each other, but in Looking outward in the same direction. —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—The Lord never forgets the sins of those who take advantage of the poor (Amos 8:4-7).

Psalm—Praise the Lord who lifts up the poor (Psalm 113).

Second Reading—God our savior wills everyone to be saved (1 Timothy 2:1-8).

Gospel—The one who is trustworthy in small matters is also trustworthy in great ones (Luke 16:1-13 [10-13]).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: Ezr 1:1-6; Ps 126:1b-6; Lk 8:16-18

Tues: Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Ps 122:1-5; Lk 8:19-21

Wed: Ezr 9:5-9; Tb:13:2,3-4abefghn, 7-8; Lk 9:1-6

Thurs: Hg 1:1-8; Ps 149:1b-6a,9b; Lk 9:7-9

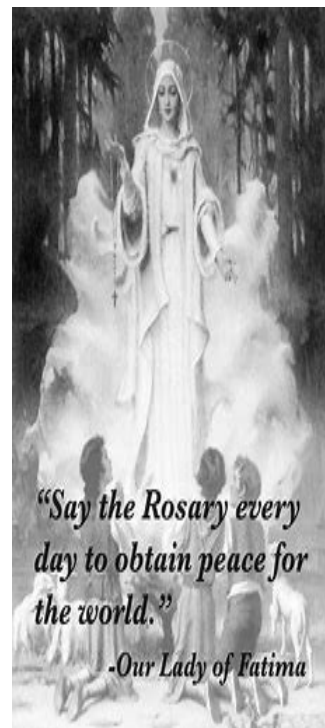
Fri: Hg 2:1-9; Ps 43:1-4; Lk 9:18-22

Sat: Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a; Jer 31:10-12ab, 13; Lk 9:43b-45

Sun: Am 6:1a,4-7; Ps 146:7-10; 1 Tm 6:11-16; Lk 16:19-31

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 \$ 1441.00.

Thank you.

St. Mary's News:

Bible Readings & Faith Sharing Sessions: begin October 2

St. Joseph Room Church Basement

9:30am, facilitator Joan Keller (814-696-3951)

Read daily and weekend scriptures, discuss passages as they relate to our lives. Questions call the rectory office between 8am-1pm Monday thru Friday.

Group Sessions on "The Chosen"

Blessed Mother Room Church

6:00pm-7:30pm, October 6, 13, 20, December 1, 15

Facilitator: Fr. Mariusz

If interested in attending call the rectory office.

Blessing of the Animals: October 4, 10:00am

In honor of St. Francis of Assisi, Fr. Mariusz will have the Annual Blessing of the Animals at St. Mary's Rectory Parking Lot. It is meant to give individuals with animals a chance to reflect on the positive connection they have to our physical and emotional well-being.

St. Mary's Parish Life Committee Covered Dish Dinner

Dinner will be in Memorial Hall Cafeteria, meat dish will be stuffed meatloaf. Bring your favorite side dish or dessert and join us for food, fun and fellowship.

Do you have a Last Will and Testament, Living Will, and/or Power of Attorney Prepared?

If interested, call the office, 1 or 2 attorneys are willing to offer appointments at St. Mary's if enough interest.

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 Catholic Ministries Drive target for Our Lady of Fatima Parish is \$10,200. So far, 26 donations amounting to \$5,325 has been received or 53% 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 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

GOD IS ON THE SIDE OF THE POOR

Two of today's readings make it quite clear that God is on the side of the poor. Amos describes in detail the exploitation of the poor and needy. The psalm repeats that God acts to benefit the poor and lowly. But Luke turns things upside down, telling a tale of a conflicted steward, about to be fired, who demonstrates his cleverness and is rewarded. Like the community to whom Paul writes in Timothy, these readings are personal, directed to believers, members of the Jewish and Christian communities, who struggle to deal with personal choices about how to conduct their lives. They offer an outline for how God wishes us to live in a world as complicated and as confusing as our

OWN. J.S. Paluch

TIMING—It is never the wrong time to do the right thing.

—Anonymous



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.

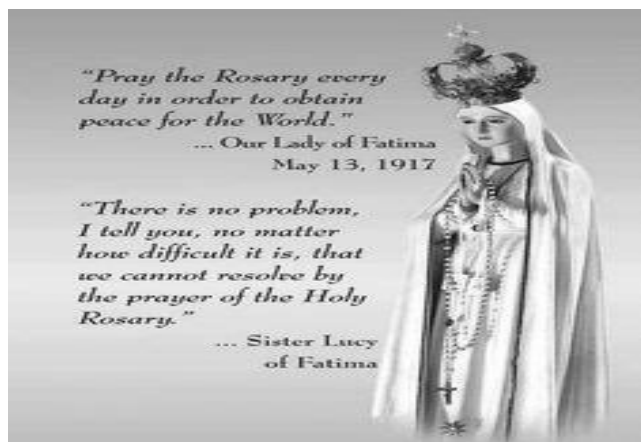
Inspire us to know You better and open our hearts to hear Your call. We ask this through our Lord. Amen

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After today's readings, we can't say we have not been warned about the dangers of mixed-up priorities. God's Word is so very clear today on the necessity of putting Him first in all areas of our lives.

What can we learn from the curious parable to help us avoid the worldly thinking condemned in our First Reading, and give ourselves away as Jesus did as is described in our second Reading? We know this 'bad steward' was clever and energetic. He put thought, prudence, and creativity into the plans he made for his self-serving ends and carried out his plans with great success.

What if we put that kind of effort into our own tasks as good stewards of all God's gifts to us? Into our ministries, into the ways we could make more time for prayer as individuals, as couples, as families, and as a parish? What if we got as creative as the 'bad steward' in the use of our finances so that we could give more generously to the poor and the advancement of God's kingdom on earth? That's our lesson and our challenge.



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.

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