

PASTOR'S CORNER

A MOTHER/SON PATH TO HOLINESS - Few mother-son relationships in Christian history are as well-known as the relationship of Monica and Augustine. Monica, a devout Christian, prayed ceaselessly for the conversion of her son Augustine, whose early life was a life of reckless behavior and intellectual searching. Her prayers were answered, and Augustine was baptized by St. Ambrose, bishop of Milan, in 386. Augustine would go on to become one of the most prolific teachers in Christendom, and his Confessions and City of God are classics in religious literature. Their holiness of life is celebrated annually on August 27 & 28.

FOR THE COMMON GOOD, WEAR A MASK! The diocese of Pittsburgh has begun to again require the wearing of masks at all liturgies by everyone. This has been in response to the Delta variant which is exceptionally transmissible, and has begun to affect more and more children. Thus, it would seem wise for us to follow their example. Certainly those who are not vaccinated need to wear a mask at Mass. Certainly children under the age of 12 need to be wearing masks as well. Because Blair County has recorded a "substantial" transmission of COVID-19, the CDC recommends that people wear masks indoors, even if they are fully vaccinated. This preventive care is for the good of everyone!

PREPARING OUR ATRIUM - Over the next few weeks we will be preparing our atrium at St. John's for our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. (Currently, that space is used as our day chapel.) The atrium is a prepared environment for children, and is one of the important elements that helps the relationship between God and the child to flourish. After a theme has been presented by the catechist, the child is free to choose an activity that will make possible the inner dialogue with the "Interior Teacher." How does the atrium help to nourish this relationship? The atrium can be compared to a retreat house facilitating recollection and silence. The atrium is a place for religious life, for community and worship—not a classroom for instruction. The atrium is a place of meaningful work through which the child can have a conversation with God. The atrium was the place in the early church where the catechumens were prepared for life in the church. For the child, too, the atrium is a place of preparation for involvement in the larger worship community.

OUR "CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD" (CGS) TEAM - In July I accompanied two parishioners to St. Thomas More parish in Indiana PA for special training for CGS: Iris Tatar and Mary Truesdale. They are taking the lead in preparing our atrium and will serve as our Catechists for our 3 to 6 year old children who will begin this adventure in faith in October. We are grateful for their commitment!

MEETING FOR LECTORS - Please mark your calendar for Thursday, August 26, AT 7:00 PM for a special meeting of all those who are planning to serve as lectors during this coming year. This meeting will take place in the church. This gathering will give us an opportunity to meet one another, review some of the basics for good liturgical proclamation, and give some practice for those who are beginning this ministry for the first time.

GIVE US THIS DAY - We have been given multiple sample copies of *GIVE US THIS DAY*, a monthly prayer aid that we are encouraging parishioners to consider. There are envelopes available in the vestibule that can be placed in the collection basket or mailed to the rectory. To avoid the high costs of postage, your monthly issue will be available for pick up in the vestibule. If you would like to receive this beautiful monthly booklet, but find the price a bit high, there are complimentary subscriptions available through the generosity of good hearted-parishioner. Just contact the pastor.

THE SEASON OF CREATION? The Season of Creation has a special significance for the Catholic Church, particularly since Pope Francis established September 1st as an annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. The Season of Creation or Creation Time, is marked throughout the Christian world from September 1 to October 4 (Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi) and celebrates the joy of creation as well as encouraging awareness-raising initiatives to protect the natural environment. How might we as a parish celebrate this important season?

CCD REGISTRATION: Parents, please register your children for 2021-2022 CCD classes now. The forms are in the back of the church and in the rectory CCD mailbox.

40 HOURS DEVOTION - A devotional prayer centered around Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held at Our Lady of the Alleghenies Church in Lilly (608 Main Street) on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday - September 12th, 13th and 14th. A Devotional Service will begin each evening at 7:00pm with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during the day. Everyone is welcome to attend!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

Sun August 22- Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wed August 25 5:15-6:00 p.m. Pro-Life Rosary



Monday, August 23 - Saint Rose of Lima, Virgin

8:30 a.m.

†Ed Noye (*Holy Trinity Catholic School*)

Tuesday, August 24 - Saint Bartholomew, Apostle

8:30 a.m.

†Jean Lane (*Joseph & Vicki Pacovsky*)

Wednesday, August 25 - Saint Louis; Saint Joseph Calasanz, Priest

8:30 a.m.

†Members of the Altar Rosary Society

Thursday, August 26

8:30 a.m.

†Rosemary McConnell (*Holy Trinity Catholic School*)

Friday, August 27 - Saint Monica

8:30 a.m.

†Geraldine Stevens (*Mary Engelman*)

Saturday, August 28 - Vigil of the Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00p.m.

†Bill Love (*Family*)

Sunday, August 29 - Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Mass For the People

10:30 a.m. †Eugene Stoltz (*Vinny Johnson*)

ST. JOSEPH'S TABLE: St. Leonard's Home will host its annual celebration of St. Joseph's Table on Saturday, September 11, at the American Legion Post 516 Social Hall at Legion Park in Hollidaysburg. The event includes a meal including wine and dessert, prizes for bidding and entertainment. Take out dinners will be available from 3-5 PM and dine in from 5:30 – 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$30, and reservations are available by calling Sister Cynthia at 814-695-9581 during business hours. All proceeds benefit St. Leonard's charity care fund. St. Leonard's Home has provided quality personal care services in its beautiful mansion since 1947. Inquiries are welcome.

**PARISH SACRIFICIAL GIVING
AUGUST 7/8, 2021**

Regular	\$6,756.00	Children's	\$17.00
Loose	\$461.00	Holy Day	\$471.00
Parish Life	\$5.00	Christmas	\$216.00
		Total	\$7,963.20

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

In today's Gospel, we hear that many of Jesus' disciples cannot accept his teachings and instead return to their former way of life, abandoning Him altogether. Jesus asks the Apostles, "Do you want to leave too?" Peter speaks up for the twelve responding "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." Peter came to the realization (to paraphrase), "I don't really see any better options, Lord. I've tried life with you and it's hard. But I've tried life without you and it's harder. It doesn't satisfy me. Where else am I going to? I choose You, Lord." And, so he humbly chooses to rely on God. How can we keep going when it gets tough? Peter's honest answer to the choice Jesus poses shows us a way to stay true to a stewardship way of life. The demands of a stewardship way of life can be difficult. And the teachings of Christ can be hard to accept. Remembering blessings and relying on Him are two keys to this beautiful way of life. (*Stewardship Reflection, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, Inc. 2018/08/09*).

UPCOMING FALL CLASSES: Faith formation is a life-long endeavor. By virtue of our baptism, we are called to continually grow closer to Christ through a life of prayer, service, and knowledge of our faith. The following classes will be offered with the option for Zoom or in person attendance: Heart of Faith taught by Deacon Dave Lapinski, Our Lady of Victory, State College and Old Testament taught by Fr. Brian Saylor, St. Rose of Lima, Altoona. New Testament will be offered in 2 locations: Msgr. Michael Becker will be teaching at St. Patrick School, Johnstown and Mr. Christopher Klopp will be teaching at St. Matthew, Tyrone. For a description of classes, locations, times, registration forms and to learn more about our programs please visit www.dioceseaj.org/lay-ecclesial-ministry/ or contact Marybeth at (814) 361-2000/ mheinze@dioceseaj.org. All are welcome!

FRIDAYS IN LORETTO: Please join us as we gather to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and the Rosary for our country, world and religious freedom each Friday in the Basilica of St. Michael, Loretto at 3PM.

Deacon Jim's "A Moment with Our Lady"

Benoîte-Vaux, or Blessed Glen in English, in eastern France, has been a place of pilgrimage in honor of Mary for eight centuries. Hidden in the forest between Verdun and Bar-le Duc, the shrine of Benoîte-Vaux is one of the oldest pilgrimages in the Lorraine region.

According to tradition, one day some woodsmen, attracted by heavenly songs, wandered up to an uprooted oak. There they discovered a statue of the Virgin Mary. Amazed, they decided to place it in an oratory, where in time more and more pilgrims came to visit it. In 1180, the Bishop of Verdun sent some Norbertine monks to oversee the shrine.

In the 19th century, the shrine flourished. A large monastery was built, and the statue was crowned by Pope Pius IX on September 8, 1875. The present church dates from 1705. The statue of Our Lady, venerated as "Queen of Peace, Comfort of the Afflicted" represents the Virgin holding an apple (the symbol of sin) and baby Jesus.

Benoîte-Vaux continues to attract many pilgrims. Today it is a place of reflection and renewal for the Christians of the diocese and beyond, under the loving gaze of Mary.

IS GOD CALLING YOU TO BECOME A DEACON?

If so, you and your wife (if married) are invited to join Bishop Mark and Deacon Michael Russo at the "Bishop's Night of Vocations" on **Tuesday, September 28th at 7 p.m.** at the US Hotel Tavern, Hollidaysburg. Reservations for this event are required and can be made by contacting Marybeth at (814) 361-2000. The deadline for reservations is September 6th. For more information on the Permanent Diaconate please visit us online at www.dioceseaj.org/ Diaconate/ or by contacting Deacon Michael Russo, Director at (814) 288-3036. All are welcome!

40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF MARY

CELEBRATION will be held on Wednesday, September 8 at Saint Catherine of Siena Shrine, Old Rt. 22, Duncansville.

7:15 a.m. Rosary in the Church

7:45 a.m. Mass in the Church

11:30 a.m. Outdoor Rosary at the Shrine

12:00 noon Outdoor Mass at the Shrine (please bring chair)

5:30 p.m. Outdoor Mass at the Shrine with Rosary procession (please bring chair)

In the event of inclement weather, the outdoor Masses will be celebrated in the church.

NO CONTINUOUS ROSARY, NO FOOD AND NO EXHIBITS

Address petitions to: Birth of Mary Celebration,
P.O. Box 88, Duncansville, PA 16635
Donations Welcome

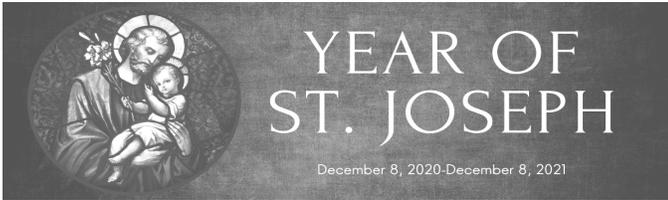
Readings for the Week of August 22, 2021

Sunday	Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b; Ps 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21, 22-23; Eph 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32; Jn 6:60-69
Monday	Saint Rose of Lima, Virgin 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10; Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b; Mt 23:13-22
Tuesday	Feast of Saint Bartholomew, Apostle Rv 21:9b-14; Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18; Jn 1:45-51
Wednesday	Saint Louis; Saint Joseph Calasanz, Priest 1 Thes 2:9-13; Ps 139:7-8, 9-10, 11-12ab; Mt 23:27-32
Thursday	1 Thes 3:7-13; Ps 90:3-5a, 12-13, 14 and 17; Mt 24:42-51
Friday	Memorial of Saint Monica 1 Thes 4:1-8; Ps 97:1 and 2b, 5-6, 10, 11-12; Mt 25:1-13
Saturday	Memorial of Saint Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church 1 Thes 4:9-11; Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9; Mt 25:14-30
Sunday	Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Dt 4:1-2, 6-8; Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5; Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27; Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23



While all Catholics are required to attend and participate in Mass, in person, many of us have watched the Liturgy at home on the TV for well over a year. So, yes, we have to readjust to God's call. To help us adjust, Msgr. Becker and Fr. Spishak have provided large decals to be distributed after each Mass. Please accept them, as many as you want, and do your part in encouraging others to paste them on their autos or on their refrigerators as reminders. You are asked to make a contribution to cover the cost of these decals by using the separate offering box found in the vestibule. Your gift will go to the support of our seminarians.

SPIRITUAL BOUQUET: Our parish is offering a spiritual bouquet to Saint Joseph, during the year of Saint Joseph. Please take one of the tri-fold pamphlets, compliments of Altoona Catholic Daughters, which are on the table in the foyer of the church. A few prayers and resources are within the pamphlet, along with an area to mark your personal pledge for private and/or public prayer and the intentions for which you plan to pray for. Prayerfully contemplate your selections before making them and then keep one copy for yourself and return the other to the parish in the collection basket or by mail. This is all anonymous, please do not include any personal information. If you have any questions, please contact the parish office.



**Patris Corde, 3. An Obedient Father,
Teacher of Children**

During the return journey, “When Joseph heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. He went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth.” (Mt. 2:22-23) Joseph taught Jesus to walk, taking him by the hand: he was like a father who raises an infant to his cheeks, bending down to him, and feeding him.

As head of the family, Joseph taught Jesus to be obedient to his parents. During the hidden years in Nazareth, Joseph being a craftsman surely transmitted his modest trade to his Son, according to the customs of the time, as a master to his apprentice. Thanks to Joseph’s workshop, work takes on great worth, since Jesus dedicated to it much time. Jesus learned at the school of Joseph, (not only the Carpenter’s trade) to do the will of the Father.

All this makes it clear that Saint Joseph was called by God to serve the person and mission of Jesus directly through the exercise of his fatherhood, and in this way he cooperated in the fullness of time and in the great mystery of salvation and is truly a minister of Salvation.

**St. Joseph, obedient father,
teacher of children, pray for us.**

(Pope Francis Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde*, 3. Dec. 8, 2020, Jacques Gauthier, Catholic Book Publishing, N.J., 2014) **2021, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Liturgy Committee, Liturgy Office, Mary, Mother of the Church Pastoral Center, 2713 W. Chestnut Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601.**

PRINCE GALITZIN CHAPEL HOUSE OPEN: Faithful are invited to come early to the outdoor Mass and visit one of the most historic sites in the diocese. The Prince Gallitzin Chapel House, located next to the Shrine, will be open for *self-guided tour from 3:00-6:00 p.m. on August 29*. The humble structure was the home and personal chapel of the Prince-Priest and Servant of God Demetrius Gallitzin. Today, it stands as a museum, which contains artifacts from Father Gallitzin’s personal life. Outdoor Masses will be celebrated at the Our Lady of the Alleghenies Shrine in Loretto every Sunday night at 7:00 p.m. continuing through Labor Day weekend – September 5. Those attending are asked to bring their own lawn chair. In the event of inclement weather, Mass will be celebrated inside the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel next to the Shrine.

**St. Rose of Lima’s St. Vincent de Paul
Conference Weekly Reflection for August 22 -
Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time:**

In today’s Gospel, Jesus asks “Do you also want to leave?” We must ask ourselves if we really want to hear the good news of his love for us and for others. Is the word of God able to break into our consciousness, change us and call us to hear the cries of the poor?

This month, through your gifts and prayers, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to hear the cries of the poor. For the past four weeks, we have been diligently collecting your donations for the homeless and have delivered much needed items to the poor and needy.

If you know of someone in need, please visit our website (<http://strosesvdp.org>) to inform us of their situation. We will do our best to help out in any way we can. We encourage all parishioners to use our website to help us help those in need. Thank you!

HOMELESS SUPPORT: During these ongoing difficult times, the burden placed upon the homeless population in our area is unrelenting. Therefore, your SVDP Conference is once again asking Parish members to help support the local homeless shelter.

During the month of August, we are asking Parish members to donate needed items, a list of which is as follows: toilet paper, tissues, hand soap, soap or shower gel, laundry detergent, deodorant, shampoo, toothbrushes and toothpaste. We are told that the paper products are most in demand.

There’s no minimum to kindness, and the sky is the limit. No matter how small, your donation counts as a huge help, and will really make a difference! If you decide to donate, please place your donation in the Poor Box at the entrance to the Church.

With our heartfelt gratitude, we are happy to collect these goods you wish to donate and get them to those in need. Thank you for your continued generosity to the poor and needy and may God Bless You and Keep You Safe!

PADRE PIO RELICS: The Windber Catholic Parishes invites you to venerate three Relics of St. Padre Pio (his blood, hair and scab from his wound). The relics will be at St. Anthony of Padua Church, Windber on Tuesday, September 14, 9am-8pm. We will have our traditional Noon Novena Mass in honor of St. Anthony of Padua and St. Padre Pio. At 6pm, we will have a Mass in honor of St. Padre Pio. The Church will be open the entire day for veneration. Also, confessions will be heard from 9-11:30am and from 1-5:30pm.