

PASTOR'S CORNER

THE SEASON OF CREATION BEGINS! The Season of Creation has a special significance for the Catholic Church, particularly since Pope Francis established 1 September as an annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. The Season of Creation is marked throughout the Christian world from 1 September to 4 October (Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi) and celebrates the joy of creation as well as encouraging awareness-raising initiatives to protect the natural environment. Throughout this holy season, our bulletin will carry quotes from *Laudato Si*, the encyclical on the environment by Pope Francis. Take time to reflect on the beauty of creation, and consider your personal or family efforts in caring for our common home.



IN CHRIST-LIKE CHARITY FOR OTHERS, 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 common good of everyone!

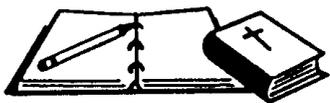
UNDERSTANDING THE CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD - The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is the result of a long period of careful observation of children by Sofia Cavalletti, a Catholic Scripture scholar, and her Montessori collaborator, Gianna Gobbi, in Rome. Their work began in earnest in 1954, and has spread to over 65 countries world-wide. Why begin with three-year-olds? "Young children have a natural ability to enjoy their relationship with God in a very deep way. Children are capable of enjoying the presence of God; they are able to give themselves totally to God's love. It is only before the age of six that children are completely inside this joy."

Taking guidance from the gospel, Sofia grounds the CGS on the words of Jesus, "I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children."

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. 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. For the child, too, the atrium is a place of preparation for involvement in the larger worship community.

POPE GREGORY, OUR SAINT OF THE WEEK! Pope Gregory I (540 - 604), commonly known as Saint Gregory the Great, was the bishop of Rome from 3 September 590 to his death. He is known for instigating the first recorded large-scale mission from Rome, the Gregorian Mission, to convert the then-pagan Anglo-Saxons in England to Christianity. Gregory is also well known for his writings, which were more prolific than those of any of his predecessors as pope. He is also known for his love of the liturgy, and for his composition of "Gregorian Chant."

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES! Having gathered our lectors this past week for updates and training, we are planning a similar meeting for those who have offered to serve as ministers of hospitality. The Hospitality Ministry is the church's first effort of friendliness and kindness. They are the wide smile and warm handshake of the congregation to those who enter. This ministry has a simple, but important goal - to serve the Lord by making everyone who attends a service feel welcome and important from the moment they arrive at church. I have scheduled a meeting for Sunday afternoon, September 12, at 4 PM. While most parish meetings happen in the evenings, with two parishes I am running out of evenings. Please plan on joining us, even if you've not submitted your blue card!



Religious Education News

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.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

Sun. August 29 - Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Wed. September 1- 5:15-6:00 p.m. Pro-Life Rosary



Monday, August 30

8:30 a.m.
 † Members of the Altar Rosary Society

Tuesday, August 31

8:30 a.m.
 † Ed Noye (*Trinity Catholic School Board*)

Wednesday, September 1

8:30 a.m.
 † Gerry Stevens (*Ron Skupien*)

Thursday, September 2

8:30 a.m.
 † Eugene Bettwy (*Greg & Ruth Miller*)

Friday, September 3 - Memorial of Saint Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church

8:30 a.m.
 † Justin Dodson (*Family*)

Saturday, September 4 - Vigil of the Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00p.m.
 † John Sutusky (*Bernie & Kay Geishauer*)

Sunday, September 5 - Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Mass For the People
 10:30 a.m. † Diane Stasky (*Olive & Jamie*)

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	\$5,014.00	Children's	\$28.00
Loose	\$257.15	Holy Day	\$295.00
Parish Life	\$28.00	Christmas	\$17.00
		Total	\$5,639.15

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: There is a potential opportunity every Sunday for us to increase our understanding and wisdom in what it means to live a stewardship way of life. Our focus as Catholics should be on eternal life, not on the particulars of the life we experience on earth.

That does not mean that we do not strive to live holy lives and we do not commit ourselves to lives of service and love. Just as Moses addresses the hypocrites and their practice of faith, James, too, reminds us that what we do is more important than merely giving a show of faith: "Be doers of the Word, and not hearers only."

Jesus calls the elders hypocrites and points out to them how their priorities are out of order and that they need (and we do, also) to be more concerned about cleansing their hearts than their hands. One of the adages associated with stewardship is that we need to "possess loosely." That includes some of the traditions to which we may cling. (*Stewardship Reflection, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, Inc. 2015/08/12*)

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!

GIVE US THIS DAY: You can place your \$30 payment in the envelope in the back of the church and drop it in the collection. Please return your envelope before October 1 so that we may place the order. *The subscription runs from December 2021 through November 2022.*

FAMILIES AND THE GOSPEL: (*Mark 7:1-8,14-15, 21-23*) In today's gospel Jesus warns "what comes from within can defile" a person. Families need to worry about "outside influences" but also about "inside influences." The values our children carry for a life time are learned at home. Habits of the Hearth are the most powerful influences on a child. That's the good news! That can also be the bad news! *Reprinted with permission: A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar.*

Deacon Jim's "A Moment with Our Lady"

"Do not worry about this illness or about any other misfortune. Am I, your Mother, not here at your side? Are you not protected by my shadow? Am I not your safety?" The humble Indio, Juan Diego of Cuautilan, heard these words on the lips of the Blessed Virgin, in December 1531, at the foot of Tepeyac Hill, today called Guadalupe, after asking for the healing of a relative.

... Dear brothers and sisters who experience suffering in a particular way, you are called to a special mission in the new evangelization and to find your inspiration in Mary, Mother of love and human pain. You are supported in this difficult witness by health-care workers, family members and the volunteers who accompany you on your daily path of suffering.

... In receiving this invitation from the heart of the *Salus infirmorum*, you will be able to impress a unique mark on the new evangelization by proclaiming the Gospel of life, mysteriously mediated through the witness given by the Gospel of suffering.

Saint Pope John Paul II

CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY AND ROSARY:

Please join us Fridays in Loretto 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.

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.

TAKE OUT SPAGHETTI DINNER: The Knights of Columbus of St. John's Parish in New Baltimore are sponsoring a TAKE OUT Spaghetti Dinner On Sunday, September 12 from 10:30AM to 1:00 PM. The dinner includes spaghetti and meatballs, salad, bread and dessert. Adults (12 and over) \$9, Children (3 - 11) \$4. Pre-order online by sending an email to dwambaugh@dioceseaj.org or call 814-733-2210. Please leave your name, phone number, preferred time of pick-up and the number of adult and child orders. Meals may be picked up at St. John's hall in New Baltimore. Payment should be made at time of pick-up. WALK-INS are also welcome! All proceeds are donated to local food banks and local charities!

Readings for the Week of August 29, 2021

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
Monday	1 Thes 4:13-18; Ps 96:1 and 3, 4-5, 11-12, 13; Lk 4:16-30
Tuesday	1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Lk 4:31-37
Wednesday	Col 1:1-8; Ps 52:10, 11; Lk 4:38-44
Thursday	Col 1:9-14; Ps 98:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6; Lk 5:1-11
Friday	Memorial of Saint Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church Col 1:15-20; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Lk 5:33-39
Saturday	Col 1:21-23; Ps 54:3-4, 6 and 8; Lk 6:1-5
Sunday	Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Is 35:4-7a; Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10; Jas 2:1-5; Mk 7:31-37

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.

HOMEMADE ITALIAN TRIO DINNER: On Sunday, September 12, St. Joseph Parish, Williamsburg will be hosting our delicious Homemade Italian Dinner of lasagna, spaghetti, meatballs, salad & dessert. Meals are carry-out only and tickets (\$11.00) must be purchased in advance. For tickets call 814-599-1196, 814-414-6285, or 814-832-2314.

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



**Patris Corde, 3. An Obedient Father,
Faithful Servant**

St. Joseph's total obedience as a faithful servant to God is evidenced by his immediate actions in response to the four dreams from an angel sent by God. Joseph must have had a very rich interior life in order for him to hear angels, dwell in silence, give way to Mary, live chastely with her, share nonphysical intimacy with her and abide in loving attentiveness to God. St. Joseph saw Jesus grow daily in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favor.

According to Saint John Paul II, "Saint Joseph was called by God to serve the person and mission of Jesus, directly through the exercise of his fatherhood" and that in this way, "he cooperated in the fullness of time in the great mystery of salvation and is truly a minister of salvation."

Living the virtue of obedience to God should be our goal too. As we complete this month of August 2021, honoring and recognizing St. Joseph's exemplary life of obedience and mission, let us participate in some Spiritual and Corporal of Mercy, including our meditations and prayers to St. Joseph.

**St. Joseph, obedient father,
faithful servant, pray for us.**

(Pope Francis Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde*, 2020, 3. Dec. 8, 2020; Saint John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation *Redemptoris Custos*, 8. August 15, 1989). **2021, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Liturgy Committee, Liturgy Office, Mary, Mother of the Church Pastoral Center, 2713 W. Chestnut Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601.**

ST. JOSEPH AND HIS WORLD: Mike Aquilina is the award-winning author of more than fifty books on Catholic history, doctrine, and devotion. His works have been translated into many languages. He has hosted eleven television series and several documentary films and is a frequent guest on Catholic radio. He will be speaking at Our Mother of Sorrows Church, Johnstown, August 30th at 7:00 PM. Mr. Aquilina will speak primarily on his book *St. Joseph and His World*. In this Year of St. Joseph, join us for this fascinating talk!

ST. JOSEPH MISSION CHURCH SHRINE AT HART'S SLEEPING PLACE will be open on September 5, from 12 Noon to 3:00 PM for the final self-guided tour day. All are welcome! On Saturday, October 9, please come back to celebrate Mass at 4:00 PM with Bishop Mark for the 191st Anniversary of the Dedication of the Church by Servant of God, Demetrius Gallitzin. Directions and full history can be found on the website: www.sjmc1830.com.

**St. Rose of Lima's St. Vincent de Paul Conference
Weekly Reflection for August 29 - Twenty-Second
Sunday in Ordinary Time:**

The gospel today hits home closer than we may think. What traditions do we blindly cling to? Perhaps it is enough for us just to go to Mass on Sunday? Do we keep the letter of the law and miss entirely the spirit of the law? Interior righteousness means a heart turned to God. Purity of heart is expressed in righteous living: self - giving for the sake of others.

We pray that as you gave your gift to the homeless this past month, your heart was filled with the good news of God's love. God Bless You!

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!

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, BELLWOOD, WELCOMES ALL PILGRIMS! Thursday, September 9, Confessions at 5:00 PM, Mass at 6:00 PM Fr. David Roesch guest celebrant. Friday, September 10, Confessions at 5:00 PM, Mass at 6:00 PM, Fr. Alan Thomas guest celebrant. Saturday, September 11, Saturday evening Mass at 4:00 PM. Bishop Mark main celebrant; Confessions at 3:30 PM. Sunday, September 12, 9:00 AM, outdoor Sunday Mass at Shrine of St. Joseph, Celebrant: Fr. Jozef Kovacic, Pastor. St. Joseph Table Social to follow.