

# The Catholic Register

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## Diocese Launches E-Newspaper, Revamps *The Catholic Register*

*A Special Message From Communications Director Tony DeGol*

If you are like me, your iPhone, iPad, or other mobile devices are a big part of your life. Granted, we probably spend too much time attached to our gadgets, but they are certainly valuable tools for staying informed and communicating with others.



TONY DeGOL

e-newspaper. The new on-line site will offer regular e-mail updates and breaking news alerts delivered to the inbox of all who register. Please visit the new e-newspaper today at **proclaim.dioceseaj.org** and, while you're there, sign up for the e-mail updates.

We realize not everyone uses a computer or mobile devices, and some still love holding a newspaper in their hand. With that in mind, the diocese will continue to publish *The Catholic Register*, but with some changes.

Beginning in April, *The Catholic Register* will be published monthly instead of biweekly and home delivery through the United States Postal Service will end. Copies of *The Catholic Register* will be sent to all parishes in the diocese where they will be available to parishioners along with parish bulletins. Parishes have been asked to make sure that homebound members receive a copy of each edition.

Devoted readers of *The*

*Catholic Register* may have noticed our efforts over the past year to feature more diocesan-related news – especially the remarkable happenings at our parishes and schools. That emphasis on local news will certainly continue in the redesigned *Register*.

This transition to a multimedia approach is not unique to Altoona-Johnstown. In fact, other dioceses in Pennsylvania and around the country are making similar changes in the way they communicate. When you think about it, it makes sense. The Church has important information to share and amazing stories to tell. Why not take advantage of all of the tools available?

In that spirit, the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown is also working on plans to enhance its social media presence and to publish a magazine. Stay tuned for great things to come!

Whether you prefer television, print, the web, or social media, the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown has you covered. So keep watching *Proclaim!* every Sunday morning, visit **proclaim.dioceseaj.org** and sign-up for regular e-mail updates, keep an eye out for *The Catholic Register* at your parish, and like the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown on Facebook.

And most importantly, please be assured of our commitment to continue **Proclaiming the Good News of Altoona-Johnstown!**

### Long Time Employees To Retire



BRUCE A. TOMASELLI

There is a familiar saying that “teamwork makes the dream work.”

Sadly, *The Catholic Register* team will soon be a little lighter.

After long and distinguished careers, Frances Logrando and Bruce Tomaselli will retire from the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown at the end of the month.

Fran has served as Secretary of the *Register* office for more than 40 years. During that time, she oversaw many of the administrative aspects of the paper such as finances, circulation, and archiving.

Bruce came to the diocese more than 30 years ago after a career in the secular newspaper industry. He has served as



FRANCES LOGRANDO

reporter, photographer, and advertising manager. Most recently, he assumed the layout of the newspaper following the sudden passing of the longtime editor Monsignor Timothy Steiner.

At a time when some organizations measure their employees' tenure in months, not years, Fran's and Bruce's decades-long commitment to the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown and Catholic journalism is remarkable.

Bishop Mark and I thank Fran and Bruce for their dedicated service, and we join our entire diocesan family in wishing them good health and many other blessings as they begin the next chapter of their lives.

--Tony DeGol

# Parishes Announce Communal Penance Service Schedule

During this season of Lent, Catholics are invited to experience the merciful forgiveness of God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Many parishes in the diocese are sponsoring Communal Penance Services during these Lenten days. The following is a schedule. The information is also available on the diocesan website and Facebook page. Please consult individual parishes for other Reconciliation opportunities leading to Easter.

**March 17**  
4:00 p.m. – Saint John the Evangelist, Altoona

**March 19**  
6:30 p.m. – Saint Stephen, McConnellsburg  
7:00 p.m. – Saint Clement, Johnstown

**March 21**  
7:00 p.m. – Immaculate Conception, Dudley

**March 24**  
3:00 p.m. – Holy Spirit, Lock Haven (Saint Agnes worship site)  
4:30 p.m. – Saint Mark, Altoona

**March 27**  
6:30 p.m. – Saint Joseph, Renovo

**April 1**  
6:30 p.m. – Holy Name, Ebensburg

**April 2**  
7:00 p.m. – Saint Francis Xavier, Cresson

**April 3**  
6:30 p.m. – Church of the Transfiguration, Conemaugh  
7:00 p.m. – Saint Augustine, St. Augustine

**April 4**  
6:00 p.m. – Saint Anthony of Padua, Windber  
7:00 p.m. – Our Lady of the Alleghenies, Lilly  
7:00 p.m. – Saint Patrick, Johnstown

**April 6**  
10:00 a.m. – Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, Altoona

**April 7**  
5:00 p.m. – Saint Joseph, Bellwood  
5:00 p.m. – Saint Rose of Lima, Altoona  
7:00 p.m. – Saint John the Baptist, New Baltimore

**April 8**  
6:00 p.m. – Our Mother of Sorrows, Johnstown  
7:00 p.m. – Holy Family, Portage  
7:00 p.m. – Immaculate Conception, New Germany  
7:00 p.m. – Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Altoona  
7:00 p.m. – Saint Matthew, Tyrone  
7:00 p.m. – Saint Monica, Chest Springs

**April 9**  
6:30 p.m. – Saint Mary, Nanty Glo  
7:00 p.m. – Good Shepherd, Port Matilda  
7:00 p.m. – Saint Aloysius, Cresson

**April 10**  
5:30 p.m. – Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Johnstown  
6:30 p.m. – Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona  
7:00 p.m. – Queen of Archangels, Clarence  
7:00 p.m. – Saint Demetrius, Gallitzin  
7:00 p.m. – Saint Nicholas, Nicktown

**April 11**  
5:30 p.m. – Our Lady of Lourdes, Altoona  
6:00 p.m. – Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Windber  
6:30 p.m. – Saint John Gualbert Cathedral, Johnstown  
7:00 p.m. – Saint Benedict, Carrolltown

**April 14**  
2:00 p.m. – Our Lady of Victory, State College  
4:00 p.m. – Saint Mary, Hollidaysburg

**April 15**  
5:00 p.m. – Saint Benedict, Johnstown

**April 17**  
7:00 p.m. – Saint Andrew, Johnstown

Go to Saint Joseph with your needs.

## TRIDUUM IN HONOR OF SAINT JOSEPH



Sunday, March 17, 5pm  
Monday, March 18, 5pm  
Tuesday, March 19, 7pm  
117 Clinton Street, Johnstown PA

Saint John Gualbert Cathedral

Confession after evening Mass on March 17 & 18.  
Saint Joseph Table Reception at SJGC Activity Center immediately following the closing Mass on March 19.

Mark the petition; fill in name (optional); place in petitions basket.  
*Please place my petition before Saint Joseph during the Triduum.*

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thanksgiving  | <input type="checkbox"/> Employment     | <input type="checkbox"/> Holy Father       | <input type="checkbox"/> Recovery from Illness   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Happy Death   | <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Help | <input type="checkbox"/> Priests/Religious | <input type="checkbox"/> Recovery from Addiction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poor Souls    | <input type="checkbox"/> Happy Marriage | <input type="checkbox"/> Parish Family     | <input type="checkbox"/> Return to Sacraments    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peace of Mind | <input type="checkbox"/> Safe Pregnancy | <input type="checkbox"/> Vocations         | <input type="checkbox"/> World Peace             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Good Health   | <input type="checkbox"/> Happy Family   | <input type="checkbox"/> Respect for Life  | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Intention       |

Other Intention(s):

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

# In The Alleghenies

## Catholic Charities Seeks Nominations For Annual Awards

Do you know someone worthy of recognition for his or her selfless deeds?

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown is seeking nominations for its two prestigious annual awards.

The Monsignor William M. Griffin Humanitarian Award honors adults demonstrating a significant, long-term commitment (professional or volunteer) to serving the poor, marginalized, and most vulnerable within our eight-county diocese.

The Matthew 25 Youth Humanitarian Award salutes elementary and high school students who demonstrate exceptional service to their communities, especially service to the poor and needy. This service must be above and beyond required school community service hours and service as a parish altar server.

More information, award criteria, and nomination forms for both awards are on the diocesan website and Facebook

page. Nominations are due by Friday, March 29. Questions may be directed to the Altoona office of Catholic Charities at (814) 944-9388.

The winners will be honored at the annual Catholic Charities Recognition Dinner on Thursday, June 6 at the Casino at Lakemont Park in Altoona.

### Mass, Healing Service

Father Bob Hilz of the Loretto Franciscans will offer a Mass and Healing Service with the Anointing of the Sick at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 27 at Saint John Vianney Church, 3513 William Penn Avenue, Mundy's Corner, PA 15909. All are welcome.

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**SPECIAL SPRING BREAK:** Over two dozens students from Mount Aloysius College in Cresson, will use spring break to volunteer at a Honduras Orphanage. Some of the students pictured (left to right) are: Front row--Sarah McVicker, Noah Ports, Abby Fletcher, Dakota Couturiaux, Jodi Reynolds, and Nicole Petonic. Second row--Katie Mirance, Brianna Byler, Leah Frerichs, Nicholas Goldyn, and Liz Burkardt. Back row--Dylan Matta, Daniel Roberts, Will Kanich, Luke Lockard, Pete Smerecky, and Amy Koren. The group of Mounties will work in El Hogar de Ninos Emmanuel, an orphanage located in San Pedro Sula. Brianna Baker, Mercy Center coordinator and head volleyball coach, will lead the efforts in Honduras. "We're all inspired to give back because it's made us realize how fortunate we are and how important giving back to others is," Baker said. "The students learn so much from stepping out of their comfort zone and reaching out to others who need it. It's about engaging in the lives of those we meet and making as much of an impact as we can."

### Bus Trip To Holocaust Museum

A bus trip to the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C. is planned for Monday, April 8. A Lodestar charter bus will leave at 6 a.m. from the parking lot of Saint Patrick Church at the corner of Park Avenue and Village

Street in Moxham. The bus will return to the church at approximately 8:30 p.m..

The cost of the trip is \$70. There are 55 seats available. To reserve a seat, please call: 814-255-9797 or 814-241-3736 no later than March 20.

### SFU Offers Night To Relax

Saint Francis University will present singer Kathy Troccoli for "Comfort By Candlelight" at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 18 at the Immaculate Conception Chapel located on Franciscan Way in

Loretto. She offers a night of encouragement, hope, laughter and love. The doors open at 6:15 p.m. More information can be obtained by calling Denise Farabaugh at 814-472-3172.

### Coming Up On Proclaim

**March 24** -- In celebration of their second consecutive national championship, a coach and two captains from the Bishop McCort Catholic High School cheerleading team join the Bishop.

**March 31** -- Paul and Louise Krug, members of Saint Joseph Parish in Bellwood, explain how their participation in ARISE Together in Christ has deepened their spirituality.



Cyril of Jerusalem

c. 315-386

FEAST March 18

Cyril lived when the Arian heresy was roiling Christianity. Raised and educated in Jerusalem, he was ordained by St. Maximus and succeeded him as bishop of Jerusalem around 350. His episcopate lasted until his death, but he spent 16 years in exile, turned out by emperors influenced by the Arian bishop of Caesarea who claimed ecclesiastical jurisdiction over Jerusalem. The Council of Antioch sent St. Gregory of Nyssa to investigate Cyril and his diocese. He reported that Jerusalem was rife with factionalism and Arianism, but that Cyril was orthodox. He is famous for his extant "Catechetical Instructions," some of which consist almost entirely of carefully interwoven scriptural passages. Pope Leo XIII named him a doctor of the church in 1882.

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**ACOLYTE:** Diocesan seminarian Brian Norris, a member of Saint Mary Parish in Hollidaysburg, was recently instituted as Acolyte, meaning he now has the responsibility of caring for the Holy Eucharist. Brian attends Saint Mary Seminary in Baltimore, where his in his first year of Theology studies.

**Now Showing****“How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World” (Universal)**

Visuals are sumptuous, but the story scant as writer-director Dean DeBlois wraps up a trilogy of animated adventures in all three of which, based on books by Cressida Cowell, he has had a hand. Now the ruler of the community of Vikings whose

aversion to dragons he cured, the lad (voice of Jay Baruchel) at the center of the franchise continues his romance with his true love (voice of America Ferrera) even as he battles a villain (voice of F. Murray Abraham) intent on ensnaring his beloved

pet fire-breather. There's a melancholy feel to the script's ultimate lesson in altruism, though, like the values throughout, it's a message in keeping with a Christian perspective. Yet the dialogue often breaks down into wooden declarations so self-satisfied they're grating. Still, it's a feast for the eyes that's safe for all but timid tots and those too impressionable for the vaguely pagan milieu. Characters in peril, much thoroughly stylized combat, mythological references, fleeting childish scatological humor. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested.

**LENTEN FISH DINNERS**Queen Of Peace Parish Center in Patton (Upper Level) Fridays of Lent (including **Good Friday**), beginning **Friday, March 8 - April 19, 4-7 PM****MENU Includes:**

Choice of (6 oz. cod loin) baked, fried fish or Salmon 2 patties; choice of baked potato or french fries. In addition, fresh baked rolls, stewed tomatoes, macaroni &amp; cheese, haluski, cole slaw, dessert &amp; beverage. Pierogies A La Carte. Baked goods available for sale.

For your convenience, please park in the Parish Center parking lot above the hall.

**4-7 PM** Adults, \$10/Children (5-12), \$5/Children (under 5),  
Takeout's available in the lower level of Parish Center

**Vocation View***By Father  
Matthew Reese**Diocesan  
Director Of  
Vocations*

Recently, I had a conversation with one of my seminarians who was telling me some of his thoughts about his generation, known as Millennials. Something he said struck me. He said that this generation is afraid of permanent commitment.

I pondered this point he made and realized that trying to help young men commit to a lifelong vocation of priesthood can be daunting when there is a fear of permanent commitment. I have had several men throughout my nearly six years as vocation director be in contact with me and show promise of having good qualities for the priesthood, but they all failed to make a commitment. In fact, some are still searching for their vocation today.

How can someone help another deal with this fear and take the risk of commitment? One must help another see that God is trustworthy. If God is calling someone to the vocation of priesthood then one must understand that the call is worthy of our trust. If there is a fear of permanent commitment, that is an indicator of a lack of trust in God, and if there is a lack of trust in God, that is an indicator of doubt. In the end, what really needs to be strengthened is faith in God.

**Father Matthew Reese is the diocesan Director of Vocations. E-mail him at [vocations@dioceseaj.org](mailto:vocations@dioceseaj.org) or call him at (814) 695-5579.**

**Luddy Scholarship Applications Available**

The Monsignor Joseph M. Luddy Scholarship Foundation is accepting applications for its annual awards.

The following criteria will be utilized in the selection process:

1. Applicants must be current or former residents of Blair County, Pennsylvania.

2. Financial need, established scholastic achievement and faculty recommendations will be considered.

3. Attendance or acceptance into a graduate education program in the fields of social work or the Roman Catholic priesthood. The social work program must be accredited by the Council on Social Work Education and the priesthood-training program must be sanctioned by the Roman Catholic Church.

Application forms are available at colleges and universities in Pennsylvania and surrounding states. Students may also obtain an application by contacting the Monsignor Joseph M. Luddy Scholarship Foundation

c/o The Greater Altoona Jewish Federation directly. Please call (814)515-1182 or email [altoonafed@gmail.com](mailto:altoonafed@gmail.com) to request an application. Completed applications and transcripts are to be submitted by May 1, 2019. Announcement of the award will be made in July.

The Foundation was established as a memorial to Monsignor Luddy's work in the fields of social services and the Roman Catholic priesthood. He was serving as the Director of Catholic Social Services for the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese as well as Chaplain at Garvey Manor at the time of his death in 1984.

The intent of the Foundation is to offer an annual scholarship award. Individuals, fraternal, and civic organizations who wish to donate to the Foundation can send their tax-deductible contributions to the Monsignor Joseph M. Luddy Scholarship Foundation c/o The Greater Altoona Jewish Federation 1308 17th Street, Altoona, PA 16601.

# April Is Child Prevention Awareness Month



By Sharon Doty, J.D., M.H.R.

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**Ideas for April in recognition of Child Prevention Awareness Month:**

## Blue Monday and Blue Sunday

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. The color representing this commitment is blue. There are a number of ways that parishes and schools can raise awareness during the month of April and draw attention to the need for prevention efforts to increase. Blue Monday and Blue Sunday are two ideas that can help us accomplish our goal of creating safe environments for all God's children.

Blue Monday is a project of the National Exchange Club. The project was created to educate members and the community about the scope, nature, and consequences of child abuse and child sexual abuse and to promote positive efforts in the community to end this problem. The project is simple—every member wears blue on Mondays during April. The intention is to draw attention to the issue by wearing blue, and letting others know what Blue Monday is about. Any school or parish could take on this project as part of a month-long commitment to address this issue in our schools and communities and raise awareness about the plight of many children in our environments.<sup>1</sup>

Blue Sunday Child Abuse Prevention is also a project designed to raise awareness about child abuse, child sexual abuse and prevention. The Blue Sunday movement was founded in 1996, in Texas, as a non-profit organization working to promote prevention efforts in churches nationwide. The goal was to bring together Child Protection Services and faith communities to impact this issue. This year, Blue Sunday is April 29, 2018. It is "A Day of Prayer for Abused Children and Those Who Rescue them."<sup>2</sup> The

## Reporting Child Abuse

Bishop Mark L. Bartchak and the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown are firmly committed to protecting children and young people. If you have any information concerning suspected sexual or other abuse of minors, you are urged to report it immediately to

- PA Child Line **1 - 800- 932 - 0313** (intake is available 24/7)
- Pennsylvania Attorney General Hotline **(888) 538 - 8541**
- Pennsylvania State Police Headquarters **(717) 783 - 5599** or your local Pennsylvania State Police Station
- Your local police department

If there is an indication of imminent danger, you should call 911 immediately.

The Diocese reports all information regarding sexual abuse of minors to law enforcement. You are urged to do the same. Anyone may and should report suspected child sexual abuse.

To report to the Diocese any suspected abuse of a minor, please call Jean Johnstone at **(814) 944 - 9388**.

intention of this organization is to prevent further abuse. This project begins with prevention but also includes efforts to provide for those who are victims. As a whole, Blue Sunday concentrates more on providing support for victims and interrupting abuse so that nothing further happens.

The focus of these two programs is the traditional way we have dealt with abuse over the years. However, utilizing these types of resources during the month of April can be valuable and useful for a church interested in raising awareness about this issue.

As US Catholics, we are familiar with preventing child sexual abuse at the source of the problem—identifying risky behavior on behalf of the adult, and learning how to address it. Most others are concentrating their efforts on stopping abuse before it goes any further and providing intervention for victims. While these are worthwhile efforts, they are not enough, by themselves, to stop abuse from happening. However, even a little bit of action can go a long way. Catholic parishes participating in this Blue Sunday project can bring a new awareness to prevention efforts and help further the cause of safe environments across the country.

If your church is looking to draw attention to the issue of child sexual abuse in a positive way during National Child Abuse Prevention Month, being involved with Blue Sunday is a good way to engage. For church administrators, planning activities including the homily and special prayers on Blue Sunday, or on any Sunday within the month of April, is a way to bring the entire faith community together to make a difference. Including information within your bulletin about how April is the National Child Abuse Prevention Month is also helpful for the community.

There is also action that can be taken by church employees and volunteers, who can join the Blue Sunday effort and invite other churches in the community. Calling attention to this risk for our children can only

help in our efforts to promote safer environments and protect children from ever encountering an abusive situation. As facilitators, maybe one of the projects you can take on is to personally wear blue every Monday during April, and encourage others to do the same—or even wear blue during your facilitation of the Protecting God's Children (PGC) sessions. Inform the administrators at your parish or school regarding the fact that April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and encourage them to insert information into the bulletin. You could also encourage everyone to come together on April 29th with a special treat to celebrate the work done, and to draw attention to this risk in your community and raise awareness about what we can do to stop it.

Go Blue in April!

Footnotes:

1. You can find more information here: <https://www.nationalexchangeclub.org>
2. You can find more information here: <http://www.bluesunday.org/>

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*For inquiries on youth protection and safe environment efforts within the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown please contact Cindy O'Connor at (814) 695-5579, extension 2621 or via email at [coconnor@dioceseaj.org](mailto:coconnor@dioceseaj.org).*

## Assistance And Resources For Victims And Survivors

The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown is committed to the safety and protection of children and youth, and to supporting the victims and survivors of sexual abuse. The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR) and trained professionals serving local agencies greatly assist with the needs of victims of sexual assault and their loved ones in the healing process.

In an effort to educate the public and raise awareness of the support available in our community, the diocese continues to refer victims and survivors to the resources provided by PCAR and the local centers to help spread the word. The diocese's collaboration with these agencies is limited to our mutual desire to help those who are suffering and is not an endorsement of other policies or positions the agencies may hold.

No one should suffer alone. If you need of help, please take advantage of the contact information on this page. Please join the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown in praying for all those who have been affected by sexual abuse in our society. May God grant them healing and peace.

PCAR partners with a network of rape crisis center programs to bring help, hope and healing around issues of sexual violence to all 67 counties in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. To find services within Pennsylvania call **PCAR at 1-888-772-7227**.

For information on Sexual Abuse Victim Assistance

and Service Agencies within the eight counties of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown (Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Centre, Clinton, Fulton, Huntingdon and Somerset) please refer to:

**Bedford County:** Your Safe Haven Inc. (800) 555-5671 or (814) 623-7664

**Blair County:** Family Services, Inc. (800) 500-2849 or (814) 944-3585

**Cambria/Somerset Counties:** Victim Services, Inc. (800) 755-1983 or (814) 288-4691

**Centre County:** Centre County Women's Resource Center (877) 234-5050 or (814) 234-5050

**Clinton County:** Clinton County Women's Center (570) 748-9509

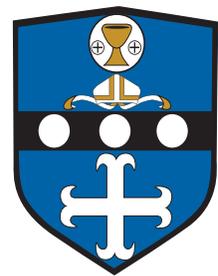
**Franklin/Fulton Counties:** Women in Need/ Victim Services (800) 621-6660 or (717) 264-4444

**Huntingdon/Mifflin/Juniata Counties:** The Abuse Network 24-Hour Hotline (717) 242-2444. Toll-Free PA Hotline (888) 810-2444; Mifflin County Office (717) 242-0715; Juniata County Office (717) 447-1885 and Huntingdon County Office (814) 506-8237 or (717) 242-2444

**Catholic Charities Inc. of The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown:** Victim Assistance Coordinator (814) 944-9388, extension 204.







# 2019 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE

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## MINISTRIES ALLOCATION REPORT FOR 2017-2018

The Catholic Ministries Drive solely exists to provide funds to support our 14 ministries. You can be assured that 100% of all CMD gifts are restricted to these ministries. **This report reflects dollars allocated in FY 2017-2018 to the ministries from support received in the 2016 Diocesan-wide campaign (formerly called the Annual Catholic Appeal).**



Dollars raised in 2016	\$2,545,922
Distributed to parishes over target	\$403,877
Allocation to ministries in FY 2017-2018	\$2,142,045



## NURTURING OUR YOUTH

**CAMPUS MINISTRY:** Supported thousands of students at Penn State Altoona and University Park, Juniata College, Lock Haven University, and Pitt at Johnstown. **\$567,711** funded music programming, worship and volunteer service groups, special mission projects, and the Christian Initiation program.

**EDUCATING YOUTH:** (Religious Education, grades K-12) Provided 6,709 public school students with religious education through parish-based programming. **\$33,844** funded program materials, service projects, and teacher education.

**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION:** Supported 2,986 children and adults receiving the Sacraments of Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, Confirmation and Marriage Preparation. **\$3,335** assisted parish-based programs with education materials, workshops and retreats.

**YOUTH MINISTRY:** (Grades 4-12) Provided 1,967 youth with camp and service project opportunities. **\$160,832** supported Camp Zacchaeus & Camp Timothy, Senior High Youth Conference, and regional Confirmation retreats.

### NURTURING OUR YOUTH

Campus Ministry | Educating Youth | Sacramental Preparation | Youth Ministry

### FORMING CLERGY AND LAITY

Adult Enrichment & Lay Ecclesial Ministry | Christian Initiation (RCIA) | Evangelization | Priests' Vocations | Ongoing Formation of Priests and Deacons

### CARING FOR THE POOR AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

Catholic Charities | Mandeville Diocese, Jamaica | Family Life | Fulton County Catholic Mission

# FORMING CLERGY AND LAITY

**ADULT ENRICHMENT AND LAY ECCLESIAL MINISTRY:** Provided 255 adults enhanced education to better understand their faith and to serve their parishes and Catholic community in a number of laity roles. **\$140,922** supported textbook and classroom materials, and faculty stipends.

**CHRISTIAN INITIATION:** (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) Welcomed 98 adults of all ages into the Church. **\$7,627** provided educational materials, facilities for classes and workshops, and liturgical celebrations.

**EVANGELIZATION:** Supported the active and non-active Catholic on their faith journey. **\$155,672** provided outreach programs, small prayer groups, and unique ministries held at all parishes, including the planning of *ARISE, Together in Christ* faith renewal program.

**PRIESTS' VOCATIONS:** Supported five young men in various stages of the seminary. **\$256,727** provided tuition, room and board, and textbook expenses.

**ONGOING FORMATION OF PRIESTS AND DEACONS:** Supported the spiritual renewal and continuing education of 53 Diocesan and 26 Religious priests, 38 Deacons and 12 men in Deacon formation. **\$84,950** provided classroom instruction, special guest lectures, and retreats.



## CARING FOR THE POOR AND STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES:** Provided services to the most vulnerable in our communities by offering physical, emotional, and spiritual support. **\$506,334** allocated to fuel, utility, and rent assistance; counseling, pregnancy support, programs for at-risk children, and homeless shelter support. More than 2,641 individuals helped and several thousand assisted with referrals to other human and social service agencies.

**MANDEVILLE DIOCESE, JAMAICA:** Supported the 20-year partnership with the Diocese that evangelizes to thousands living in the third poorest country in the Caribbean. **\$41,157** supported the coordination of parish mission trips, financial disbursements from parish collections, and the delivery of care packages.

**FAMILY LIFE:** Supported a litany of services offered to families of all ages. **\$99,329** supported programs offering emotional and spiritual services focusing on families of all ages and stages of life.

**FULTON COUNTY MISSION:** Supported outreach to children, adults, and families residing in Fulton County, one of the poorest counties in PA and having only one Catholic Church. **\$83,605** assisted with housing, utilities and stipends for two Carmelite Community of the Word sisters who operate five outreach programs offering rent and utility assistance, school supplies and clothing, and care for a young mom and baby program.



### 2019 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE

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Donate electronically from your credit card or checking account online at: [dioceseaj.org](http://dioceseaj.org)

To receive a tax deduction for 2019, gifts must be postmarked by December 31, 2019.



**NATIONAL CHAMPIONS:** The Johnstown Bishop McCort Catholic High School Varsity Cheerleaders made history by winning their second consecutive National Cheerleading Championship in competition held in February in Orlando Florida. Members of the squad are: **Seniors** -- Marissa Darcangelo, Jessica Frear, Abigail Miller, Rebecca Ribblett, NaCienna Taylor, Tori Wissinger, Jada Wolf, Bailey Yon, and Olyvia Casciotti. **Juniors** -- Nikki Altschuh, Madi Buxton, Danielle Cramer, Caitie Crocco, Emily Euen, Erica Hamilton, Morgan Lenzi, Angelina Petro, Gabbie Slagel, and Mikayla Smith. **Sophomores** --Eleanor Ocelus, Hannah Hughes, and Reagan Phillips. **Freshmen** --Stazach Ferguson, Hanna Foster, Kaitlyn Hindman, Hailey Jeanjacquet, and Sophia Kuzmyak. The coaches are--Doctor John Walker, Jeanne Feathers, Lacey Ott, Nathaniel Callaway, and Kristi Clifford. The squad and five coaches attended the three-day event. There were over 18,500 athletes and 953 teams from 29 states competing. The Lady Crushers survived two rounds of competition in the Super Varsity Small School Division to become the first back-to-back champions. The event will be broadcast at 7:00 a.m. on March 24 on ESPNU. This was the fourth national title for Bishop McCort.

## Mount Aloysius Will Offer Accelerated Nursing Degree This Fall

Beginning this fall, the School of Nursing at Mount Aloysius College will begin enrolling students into a new 3.5 year traditional Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

"We are very excited to be adding a unique accelerated pre-licensure BSN program to our cadre of nursing programs (2+2 ASN and RN-BSN). This innovative 3.5 year program

expedites the entrance of new nurses into the profession with a bachelor's degree. The unique component to this program is that nursing course work is completed in 17 months," said Julie Luetschwager, Ph.D., MSN, RN, dean of the School of Nursing.

Part of the underlying premise to the new program is to meet the goal to increase the number of nurses entering the workforce

with a baccalaureate degree. "With the accelerated nature of the nursing course work, this program is a great choice for students straight out of high school to individuals who already hold a bachelor's degree in another field. As a result, this program is intense, and you have to be ready to hit the ground running," according to Dr. Luetschwager. "Overall, we want our nurses to

## Family Life Mass For Those Who Have Lost Spouses

A special invitation to all widows and widowers.

The Family Life Office of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown is once again sponsoring a day of prayer and fellowship for those who have lost a spouse on Wednesday, May 8.

Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Parish, 1640 New Germany Road, Summerhill. All deceased spouses will be mentioned and remembered at the Liturgy. Guests are invited to provide the name of the deceased spouse when they register for the observance.

A luncheon will follow the Mass in Marian Hall downstairs at the parish. If reservations exceed the capacity of the hall, the luncheon will be held at The Grove Hall across from thchurch.

Reservations are required by Wednesday, May 1. Contact the Family Life Office by phone at (814) 886-5551 or by e-mail at [familylife@dioceseaj.org](mailto:familylife@dioceseaj.org).

A suggested \$5 donation can be offered on the day of the event.

## Lenten Season

The 40-day Lenten period of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving continues to the Triduum and Easter. Catholics of 18 years and older must abstain from meat on Good Friday and the Fridays of Lent. Those between the ages of 18 and 59 must fast on Good Friday. A schedule of communal services can be found on the diocesan website: [www.dioceseaj.org](http://www.dioceseaj.org) and facebook page.

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## Prayer For Father Gallitzin's Intercession

O God, light of the faithful and shepherd of souls, who sent Servant of God Demetrius Gallitzin to serve God's people in the Allegheny Mountains, feeding your sheep by his words and forming them by his example, pour out your Spirit to sow seeds of truth in people's hearts and to awaken in them obedience to the faith.

May the Gospel continue to be preached and the Sacraments bring power and grace to the faithful. By the example of this man of faith, Demetrius Gallitzin, may your people advance in the path of salvation and love.

Confident of your faithfulness to us, we humbly ask you, our God, to grant us the favor of (name your intention).

May Christ's saving work continue to the end of the ages, and may we feel a more urgent call to work for the salvation of every creature. We pray this, as did your priest Demetrius Gallitzin, through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

+ + +

Kindly send information about favors granted to:

**The Cause for the Servant of God  
Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin  
Diocese Of Altoona - Johnstown  
927 South Logan Boulevard  
Hollidaysburg PA 16648**

## Our Lady Of Lourdes Will Host Treasures Of The Church



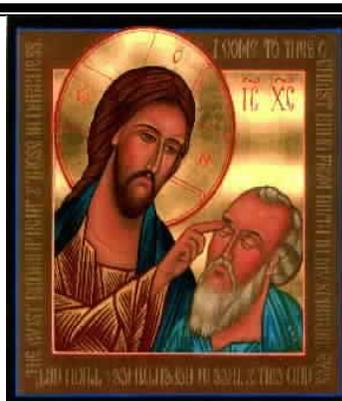
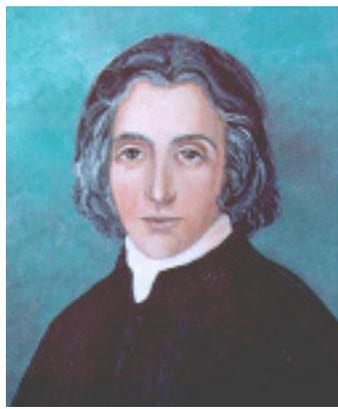
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Altoona will present a teaching and exposition of Sacred Relics at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 16. Father Carlos Martins of the Companions of the Cross will be present a very special Vatican collection of over 150 relics, some as old as 2,000 years. Among the treasures will be relics of Saint Maria Goretti, Saint Therese of Lisieux (the "Little Flower"), Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Anthony of Padua, Saint Thomas Aquinas, and Saint Faustina Kowalska. In addition, there will also be present a portion of the veil of Our Lady, as well as one of the largest remaining pieces of the True Cross in the world. Those in attendance will be able to examine and venerate each relic. In the Church's history many miracles and healings have been worked in the presence of relics, and many have been healed through this ministry. Please do not miss this opportunity. You are encouraged to bring your articles of devotion (such as rosaries, holy cards, etc.) and pictures of ill friends/family members which you will be able to touch to the reliquaries as a means of intercession.

## 4th Lenten Mission In Loretto

The Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel in Loretto will conduct the Fourth Annual Lenten Mission in honor of Our Lady of Loretto on Sunday, March 31 and end on Friday, April 5. The mission director is Father Michael Caridi, STL, pastor of Saint Anne Parish in the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Father John D. Byrnes, Rector of the Basilica, said those attending the mission are invited to place their petitions before the Blessed Mother. Those unable to attend are invited to send out their petitions to the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel. P. O. Box 10, Loretto, PA 15940

## A Prince In The Service Of The Great King



## HEALING MASS

**Monday  
April 8, 2019  
7:00 pm  
Fr. Jonathan  
St. André, TOR  
CELEBRANT**

**CATHEDRAL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**  
*For all in need of physical, emotional or spiritual  
healing and those who support them.*

**"I came so that they might have life and have  
it more abundantly." John 10:10**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**MUSIC LED BY CATHEDRAL PRAYER GROUP MUSIC MINISTRY**

## St. Mark Church

416 Sixth Avenue, Altoona

**"Our Famous Fish Fries"**

**PRICE: \$11 Adults**

**\$5 Children (12 and under)**

### Menu

Baked **or** Fried Fish  
French Fries **or** Mac & Cheese  
Stewed Tomatoes **or** Cole Slaw  
Roll, Butter, Drink,  
"Free" Dessert



*Mark your calendar!*

**Dates and Time for 2019**

**March 8, March 22, April 5**

**4:00-6:30 p.m.**

*While supplies last*

# All Saints Catholic Is Proud Member Of Cresson Community

All Saints Catholic School was established in 1989 after Saint Aloysius and Saint Francis Xavier Schools in Cresson were combined. The school is in the former Saint Francis Xavier School building located at 220 Powell Avenue in Cresson. We are proud to be a part of the Cresson Catholic Community, which consists of All Saints Catholic School and the parishes of Saint Aloysius and Saint Francis Xavier. We serve students from preschool through eighth grade.

All Saints Catholic School provides a traditional, comprehensive education for our students. In addition to the core subjects of language arts, math, science, and social studies, we also teach the fundamentals of the Roman Catholic faith. Spanish, music, art, physical education, and computer classes take place weekly. We have added STREAM lessons into our curriculum, emphasizing Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics. This will provide our students with the skills and knowledge needed for future endeavors.

Numerous opportunities to enrich and expand on classroom learning abound at ASCS. Through the involvement of giving adults volunteering their time and talents, we offer students various extracurricular activities.

Our athletic program provides students the chance to play



**READING COMPETITION:** The Seventh and eighth grade Junior High team competes at the IU8 Reading Competition.

basketball and cheer. For the first time, this year, students can play soccer in a newly formed diocesan soccer league. We are also joining a coed volleyball league for students in grades 4-6. Our seventh and eighth grade students are also given the opportunity to play sports at the junior high level at Bishop Carroll Catholic High School.

Academics are enhanced by participation in the IU8 Interscholastic Reading Competition, the IU8 Math 24 Competition, a diocesan Forensics competition, a diocesan Spelling Bee, the Explorer Club, and a school drama production.

We are proud to have Project Smile, a service project for deployed servicemen and women, here at All Saints Catholic School. This program was started by one of our teachers, Mrs. Robin Zavada. As the wife of a veteran, her family knew all too well the struggles of the deployed. In order to send a taste of home to those overseas, she began the program by sending care packages filled with cards made by our students and donations from our school families. This program, now in its 16th year, continues with packages sent to local soldiers.

All Saints Catholic School

and Skills of Central PA collaborate to run an inter-generational program that benefits both organizations. Groups of our students and the adults in the Skills program meet monthly to work together on a project. Cooperation, compassion, and communication skills are enhanced through this program.

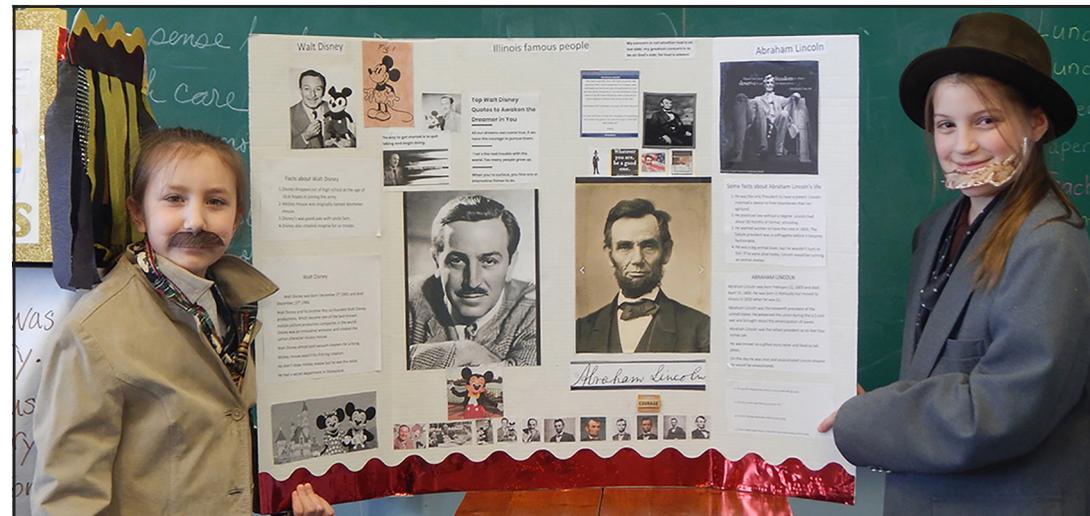
ASCS has a school council consisting of members from kindergarten through eighth grade. This council meets monthly to decide on a service project and a school spirit project for the month. Many exciting activities such as pep rallies and beach days are planned. Service projects to benefit such things as Christmas gifts for the needy, a family with medical needs, and the local Humane Society are just a few.

One of the biggest advantages of a small school community is the family atmosphere which is apparent in so many things. Here at All Saints Catholic School, we embrace that sense of family. One way is with our church buddies. Older students are paired with younger students for Mass and school projects. The young students look forward to the guidance and help from their older church buddies. The older students enjoy helping and being a friend to their younger counterparts.

As in all the grade schools in the diocese, we, too, formed Faith Families. These families are comprised of students at all grade levels with a faculty member as the leader. Working together in our families allows us to know each other better and to cooperate with each other. This year we have gathered several times to work on our RICH lessons of Respect, Integrity, and Courage, with Humility yet to come.

Throughout the year, our families are invited to events such as Cookies with Santa, Movie Nights, a Grandparent luncheon, Pastries with Parents, etc. These foster the sense of community and help build relationships.

The most important quality of All Saints Catholic School is the reason we exist which is to practice the Roman Catholic faith as best we can. Our goal is to prepare our students, not only for success in this earthly life but for heaven. As our name so aptly describes, we are called to be saints and our goal is to do just that.



**PROJECT:** McKenna Kuhns (left) and Olivia Gregg present their Social Studies project.



**CELEBRATE WEEK:** Pre-School and kindergarten students work with their teacher, Apryle Ernest, during Catholic Schools Week.

# Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle

## Protestant Needs RCIA



**Q.** My husband of 60 years will soon celebrate his 86th birthday. He is a baptized Protestant. He attends Mass with me every Sunday, does the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, comes with me for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and attends Holy Week services. The only thing he does not do is receive Communion.

What would be required of him to be able to receive Our Lord in the host? (He would never be able to participate in the RCIA program.) In my opinion, my husband is a better Catholic than many priests I have heard of lately. It would be a sin not to accept him into the church. (Cleveland)

A. I have no doubt that your husband will make a fine Catholic and is already well on his way there. The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) is traditionally the path by which the Catholic Church instructs and receives new members. That process includes meetings and classes, spiritual reflection and a series of rituals; most often, it requires up to a year to complete, culminating in reception into the church during the celebration of the Easter Vigil.

However, there are conditions that can shorten this process -- and your husband's situation seems ideally suited for that. Section 331 of the RCIA's foundational document provides that "exceptional circumstances may arise in which the local bishop, in individual cases, can allow the use of a form of Christian initiation that is simpler than the usual complete rite." Examples listed include "sickness" and "old age" (No. 332).

My confident guess is that the priest or a religious educator provided by the parish would be willing to sit down with your husband for a series of conversations to present a basic overview of the Catholic Church's teaching and to address any questions your hus-

band might have -- leading to his not-very-distant reception of the sacraments.

**Q.** Can a Roman Catholic worship in a Ukrainian Catholic church -- such as the churches of the Archeparchy of Philadelphia, whose archeparch is appointed by the pope and is in communion with the Roman Catholic Church? Do you know whether such a practice is also welcomed by the Ukrainian Catholic Church? (Savannah, Tennessee)

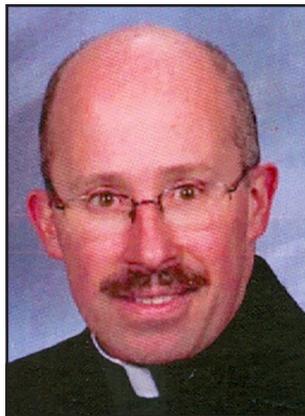
A. The Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church is a Byzantine-rite Catholic Church in full communion with the Holy See. As you mention, its leaders are appointed by the pope. And yes, Latin-rite Catholics are free to worship in Ukrainian Catholic churches, and they fulfill their Sunday obligation by doing so.

The reverse is true as well: Ukrainian Catholics are invited to worship in a Latin-rite church. (St. Michael's Ukrainian Byzantine Catholic Church in Mishawaka, Indiana -- near the campus of the University of Notre Dame -- says on its website, "All Catholic Christians in good standing with the Roman Catholic Church are welcome to receive the sacraments at St. Michael's.")

The liturgy might be conducted in English or in Ukrainian; a screen decorated with icons separates the congregation from a full view of the altar of worship; the liturgy is an ancient ritual, originating with St. John Chrysostom; Ukrainian Catholics bless themselves from right to left in the sign of the cross (the opposite of Latin-rite Catholics); upon entering a church, Ukrainians bow rather than genuflect; and holy Communion is distributed with a spoon, the host scooped by the priest from a cup of consecrated wine and placed directly into the mouth of the recipient.

Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at [askfatherdoyle@gmail.com](mailto:askfatherdoyle@gmail.com) and 30 Columbia Circle Dr., Albany, New York 12203.

# Meaningful Mass Not Measured In Minutes



FATHER LEO ARNONE

In college seminary, we had a priest who was our Church History professor. I used to dread his turn to celebrate daily Mass because his homilies were not only long-winded, but delivered in a dry monotonous tone that could put me to sleep if I weren't careful. It dawned on me that I should not be careless in my own attentiveness at Mass. So I made a concerted effort to listen to "what he had to say" rather than allow myself to be distracted by "how he had to say it" or "how long it took him to say it." Turns out, he had a lot of good things to say and my personal spirituality grew because of his homilies.

In the last issue of *The Catholic Register*, Question Corner by Father Doyle, someone from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, asked why more priests do not observe Pope Francis' call to keep homilies at 10 minutes. Father Doyle spoke in favor of the suggestion and even further suggested that his column be anonymously targeted to the rectories of offending priests. When my father pointed out this article to me, I told him I just know someone from my parish is going to do that to me ... and I was right! One of my parishioners clipped the article, placed it in an envelope marked "Fr. Leo" and put it in with the collection.

Personally, I find the suggestion of telling your pastor to limit his homilies to 10 minutes, as well as the suggestion to send anonymous notes, offensive and lacking the courage of one's convictions. I just cannot image Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew, chapters 5, 6, & 7) taking ten minutes to deliver. I highly doubt that Saint John the Baptist, Saints Peter, Paul, James, and John limited their preaching to 10 minutes only. In seminary, these biblical figures were pre-

sented to future priest as "role models for preaching."

I believe the underlying issue is not so much the length of time of the priest's homily as it is the poor attitude of the Mass-goer. Why are you going to Mass? Simply to punch the clock? Or should there be more to our worship? Psalm 122:1 proclaims: *I rejoiced when I heard them say: "Let us go to the house of the Lord."* Long before we even darken the church doorway, we should be in a proper frame of heart, mind, and attitude. Mass-goers with a positive attitude about the Mass itself should actually be looking forward to the awesome privilege of receiving Christ, not only in the Eucharist, but also in the Word proclaimed and expounded upon by the homilist. Intentional disciples really should be praying for their pastor that God may inspire him with a good message that will be meaningful to them.

Rather than putting the priest up against a stop-watch when it comes to leading "the people's work," that is, "the Liturgy," all Mass-goers ought to focus on the quality of their own discipleship and the real reason for attending Mass. If one only knew and appreciated what actually takes

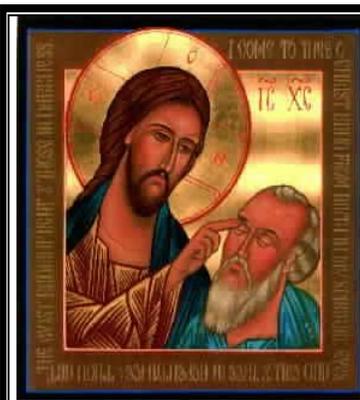
place throughout the Mass and what sincere participation does for the intentional disciple, he or she would not be so critical of the priest homilist.

*"Rather than putting the priest up against a stop-watch when it comes to leading "the people's work," that is, "the Liturgy," all Mass-goers ought to focus on the quality of their own discipleship and the real reason for attending Mass."*

---Father Leo Arnone

To help one grow in that appreciation, I highly recommend *The Lamb's Supper* by Scott Hahn and *Forming Intentional Disciples* by Sherry Waddell. Both would make for awesome Lenten reading, but I warn you: it will take longer than 10 minutes to read either book.

*Father Leo Arnone is Pastor of Saint Aloysius and Saint Francis Xavier Parishes in Cresson.*



## HEALING MASS

**Monday**  
**April 8, 2019**  
**7:00 pm**  
**Fr. Jonathan**  
**St. André, TOR**  
**CELEBRANT**

**CATHEDRAL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**  
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**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

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# Mission To Highlight The Bible, Former Protestant Pastor's Conversion to Catholicism

By Tony DeGol



**DOCTOR JOHN BERGSMA**

Theodore Roosevelt once said a thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education.

The Bible gave one professor the education of a lifetime, and he is sharing that remarkable journey with the faithful of Altoona-Johnstown.

Saint Benedict Parish in Johnstown is sponsoring its annual mission March 31-April 2 at 7:00 p.m. each night.

The featured presenter, Doctor John Bergsma, was a Protestant pastor for four years before joining the Catholic Church in 2001.

"He told me that he joined the Church because his studies and his investigation of in-depth Sacred Scripture led him directly to the Church because he saw the common roots and the common threads of the Catholic faith in Sacred Scripture," noted Deacon Michael Russo, who is in diaconal service at Saint Benedict and the organizer of the mission.

The more daunting one

finds the Bible, the more beneficial this mission could be.

"What Doctor Bergsma is going to do is walk us through some of the major books of the Bible and show us that it is something that is really open to us and easy for us to dig into and hear the Word of God speaking to us," explained Deacon Russo, who also serves as Director of the Permanent Diaconate and Director of Lay Ecclesial Ministry and

Adult Enrichment for the diocese.

Bergsma, a Full Professor of Theology at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, earned a doctorate in Theology from the University of Notre Dame. He specializes in the Old Testament and the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Through his studies, Bergsma became drawn to the Catholic faith.

"God opened up the window of Sacred Scripture to him and let him see the roots and tenants of the Church are here, and that led him closer and closer to the Church," the deacon added.

On the first night of the mission, Sunday, March 31, Bergsma will recall how he discovered one Scripture passage after another supporting Catholic teaching, which ultimately led to his conversion.

An overview of Scripture and how it all climaxes with Jesus' self-gift in the Eucharist and at the Cross is the focus of the second night, Monday, April 1.

The mission will conclude on Tuesday, April 2 with Bergsma presenting an overview of the major books of the New Testament and showing how it teaches the truth of the Catholic faith.

The annual Saint Benedict mission, open to everyone in the diocese, typically attracts large

crowds each night.

Deacon Russo believes our busy and confusing world is leading more people to seek comfort by "unpacking" Sacred Scripture.

"This is the Word of God written in the words of man," he said. "He's speaking to us. He's revealing himself to us. A whole new world opens to us when we put ourselves into the Scripture, and we realize Jesus is telling these parables to us and asking us to apply them to our lives. I find that that is causing a tremendous amount of interest."



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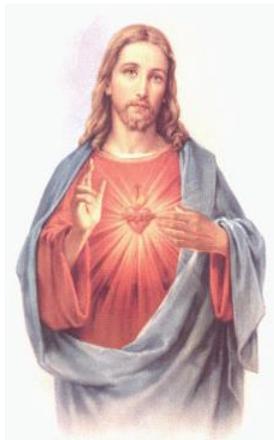
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## THE ANNUAL NOVENA IN HONOR OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

**Monday, April 1  
to Tuesday, April 9**

**Sacred Heart Church  
6th Avenue and 20th Street  
Altoona, PA 943-8553**



**Solemn Opening Mass on Monday, April 1,  
at 7:00 p.m.**

**Bishop Mark L. Bartchak, Celebrant and Homilist**  
A complete schedule will be available on the first night of the Novena, in the parish bulletin and at

[www.sacredheartaltoona.org](http://www.sacredheartaltoona.org)

## Sunday Mass

**Broadcast Live From  
The Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament  
Altoona**

**10:00 a.m. WFBG radio, 1290 AM**

## Sunday Mass Telecast

**Live from Saint John Gualbert Cathedral  
Downtown Johnstown  
11 a. m. - noon WATM - TV ABC Channel 23**

**Proclaim  
10:30 a. m.  
A half - hour of local Church news and features**

## Parishes Announce Spiritual Opportunities

In addition to the annual Saint Benedict Parish Mission March 31-April 2 (please see accompanying story), special spiritual opportunities are planned at various other parishes in the coming weeks during this Lenten season. They include:

### Triduum in Honor of Saint Joseph

March 17 and March 18 at 5:00 p.m., March 19 at 7:00 p.m. Saint John Gualbert Cathedral, Johnstown  
*Confession after Mass on March 17 and 18; Saint Joseph Table Reception following Mass on March 19*

### Infant of Prague Novena

March 24-April 1  
Saint Andrew Parish, Johnstown  
*Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at 6:00 p.m. followed by Mass at 7:00 p.m. each evening; Confessions follow Mass each night*

### Lenten Mission in Honor of Our Lady of Loretto

March 31-April 5  
Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel, Loretto  
*Reverend Michael Caridi, STL, Diocese of Pittsburgh - Homilist March 31 at 7:00 p.m. - Mission Prayers/Homily/Benediction with Bishop Mark L. Bartchak presiding; Confessions at 8:00 p.m. April 1-5 - Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions at 6:00 p.m.; Mass at 7:00 p.m.*

### Novena in Honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

April 1-9 Sacred Heart Parish, Altoona  
*Opening Mass on April 1 at 7:00 p.m. with Bishop Mark L. Bartchak as celebrant and homilist*

# Catholic Charities To Uncork Second Wine Sampling

On the heels of a wildly successful inaugural wine sampling, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown is raising a glass to another one.

The agency is hosting a second wine sampling on **Thursday, April 25** at 5:30 p.m. at the Ramada Inn in State College.

Wines of the Pacific Northwest will be featured, including Band of Roses Dry Rose, Hogue Chardonnay, Kung Fu Girl Riesling, Velvet Devil Merlot, Spoken Barrel Meritage, and Spoken Barrel Cabernet. Delicious food pairings will accompany each wine.

The first sampling, featuring Italian wines, was held in early February and sold out.

Tickets for the State College event are \$50 per person. Contact the Altoona office of Catholic Charities at (814) 944-9388 for reservations.

All proceeds will once again benefit Catholic Charities' Emergency Financial As-



sistance program, which supports individuals and families strugg-

ling to meet basic expenses such as heating and utilities.



**CHILLIN'**: Italian white wines featured at the inaugural Catholic Charities wine sampling in February were placed on ice prior to serving while guests including Jana Sidler (center) and Bill and Judy Hiergeist enjoyed fellowship. Catholic Charities is planning a second wine sampling on Thursday, April 25 in State College featuring wines of the Pacific Northwest.



Don't cook on Friday. Take the family to one of the many Lenten Fish Fries scheduled for all over our eight-county diocese. You can enjoy a fish dinner at churches from our southern most county of Somerset to Clinton County

in the north and east and west of those. You can find one of the delicious meals near you by checking the schedule on our diocesan website: [www.dioceseaj.org](http://www.dioceseaj.org) or on our Facebook page.

## Healing Mass

Franciscan Father Jonathan Saint Andre will celebrate a Mass of blessings and prayers for healing at 7 p.m on Monday, April 8 at the at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona.

All in need of physical, emotional, or spiritual healing- as well as those who supply them- are welcome. The music will be led by the Cathedral Prayer Group Music Ministry.

## Vox Nova Presents Stations Of Cross

Vox Nova of Mount Aloysius College will present the Scriptural Stations of the Cross.

The concert begins at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, March 20 in the Chapel on the campus of Mount Aloysius College. Donations are requested.

**Give Later. Give Forever.**

**A gift in your Last Will to your Parish Endowment causes your legacy to live on for future generations of Catholics.**

**Contact us today to learn how.**



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## 4th Annual Lenten Mission In Honor Of Our Lady Of Loretto

**MARCH 31 - April 5, 2019**

Rev. Michael Caridi, STL Diocese of Pittsburgh - Homilist

7:00 PM (Sunday) Mission Prayers with Homily/Benediction

Most Reverend Mark L. Bartchak, JCD Bishop of Altoona-Johnstown presiding

Confessions at 8:00 PM

7:00 PM Mass with

Mission Prayers each night (Mon - Fri)

Eucharistic Adoration at 6:00 PM each night (Mon-Fri)

Reconciliation/Confessions at 6:00 PM each night (Mon-Fri)

Prayer Intentions May Be sent to:

*Very Reverend John D. Byrnes, JCL, JV, Rector*

**BASILICA OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL**

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# Bishop Welcomes Future Catholics At Rite Of Election

Photos And Text  
By Tony DeGol

Nikolas Christine was a social studies teacher for a brief time at Our Lady of Victory Catholic School in State College, but he was the one who got an education in what really matters.

For years, Christine felt a pull to the Catholic faith. Then he started teaching at OLV.

“To me, it was a job,” he recalled. “I wasn’t expecting anything to come of it, but here we are now.”

Christine is one of about 50 individuals pursuing full initiation – Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist – in the Catholic Church at Easter. Another 45 candidates, who are already baptized, are seeking the Holy Spirit and a place at the Lord’s Eucharistic table.

They all came together on Sunday, March 10 for the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates.

The moving ritual was held at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona and Saint John Gualbert Cathedral in Johnstown, with Bishop Mark L. Bartchak presiding at both.

During the Rite of Election, catechumens like Christine come forward with their sponsor to sign the Book of the Elect and to be greeted by the Bishop.

After the catechumens add their signature, the deacon carries the Book of the Elect throughout the Cathedral accompanied by representatives holding bowls of incense – symbolizing our prayers rising to God.



**BOOK OF ELECT:** Nikolas Christine signs the Book of the Elect during the Rite of Election at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona while Bishop Mark L. Bartchak and Deacon Donald Gibboney look on. Christine is seeking Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. (Below) Deacon Gibboney carries the Book of the Elect throughout the Cathedral. He is accompanied by Dane Van Horn (front) and his father, Stewart Van Horn, holding bowls of incense. The Van Horns were initiated into the Catholic Church last year and are members of the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel in Loretto.



For Christine, this latest step toward full communion in the Catholic Church is part of a journey that truly came into focus while he was at OLV.

“That was the push off the edge of the boat into the water instead of just nudging me to jump on my own,” said Christine, who is now a teacher in the Bellwood Antis School District and will be a member of Saint Matthew Parish in Tyrone.

During the celebration of the Call to Continuing Conversion, candidates come forward with their sponsors to be greeted by Bishop Mark.

Prior to the ritual, catechumens and candidates wrote letters to Bishop Mark sharing their story.

“I wish more people would have the blessing that I receive when I read these letters in which so many of you speak of a former life and things done in that former life in which forgiveness was needed,” the Bishop noted in his homily.

Many also expressed their yearning for eternal life, he added.

“For so many of us who were born and raised in the Catholic faith, we think of eternal life as something that happens beyond time,” explained Bishop Mark. “We experience it only when we leave this earth and meet the Lord face to face. But so many of you in sharing the story of your faith, you describe how awesome flashes of grace and God’s glory are revealed to you in your husband, or wife, or your children. They inspired you to begin this faith

journey. They are your motivation, inspiration, and passion.”

With the Rite of Election over and Easter just weeks away, newly-elect Mandy Aungst is excited for this next chapter in her faith life.

She, too, felt a draw to the Catholic Church for some time.

“I finally listened to my heart and the voices within myself, which led to where I stand today,” she said. “I did it myself as an adult. I chose.”

Aungst will be a member of Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Altoona.

“I’m looking forward to the journey, every step of the way,” she added.

Celebrating along with Aungst, Christine, and the other soon-to-be initiated individuals will be our entire Diocesan Church, stated Christian Initiation Coordinator Jeanne Thompson.

“All of the men, women, children, college students, and inmates at state correctional institutions who want to join the Church are truly a gift of hope, faith, and grace, but it’s God’s gift to us and we are here to welcome them,” she emphasized. “That is an indicator that we are here to stay and our Church is going to continue to grow one person at a time.”

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