

# The COLLECTION Basket



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## IDEAS FOR LIVING BETTER FROM THE FAMILY LIFE OFFICE

### Family Ritual

There are so many activities we can do during the final days of Lent and **the 50 days of Easter** with our families. Here are a few:

- Attend the Chrism Mass in your Diocese
- Wash each other's feet/hands on Holy Thursday
- Color eggs and talk about forgiveness & new life
- Make an Easter Candle. Talk about how our baptismal candles were lit from the Easter candle to symbolize the light of Christ coming into each of us. Light your candle for the 50 days of Easter (till Pentecost).

### What is the Pontifical Good Friday Collection?

It supports the people of the Holy Land and the pilgrims that visit.

At the request of the Holy Father, the Franciscans of the Holy Land promote the Pontifical Good Friday Collection in the United States and other parts of the world. Funds are distributed at the direction of the Vatican's Congregation for the Oriental Churches. A portion of the funds are directly allocated to the educational and ecclesial projects in the Middle East. The rest of the funds collected in the United States and a number of other countries support the ministries and programs entrusted by the Holy See to the Holy Land Franciscans.

The Franciscans have served in the Holy Land for 800 years.

To learn more: [www.myfranciscan.org](http://www.myfranciscan.org)

### A prayer for Life

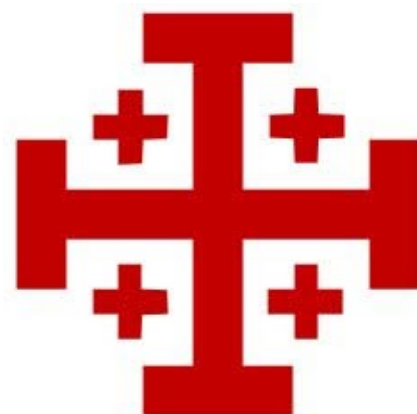
**Father and maker of all,  
you adorn all creation  
with splendor and beauty,  
and fashion human lives  
in your image and likeness.**

**Awaken in every heart  
reverence for the work of your hands,  
and renew among your people  
a readiness to nurture and sustain  
your precious gift of life.**

**Grant this through our Lord  
Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in  
the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God forever and ever.**

**Amen**

The above Prayer and other Pro-Life Prayers can be found on the USCCB Website. The Respect Life Committee of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown is actively promoting a culture of Life through Respect Life Presentations, Prayer, and supporting The Gabriel Project and other Pregnancy Care Centers. For more information on The Respect Life Committee or to schedule a presentation at your parish, please send an email to: [respectlifegm@gmail.com](mailto:respectlifegm@gmail.com) or [respectlifeajt@gmail.com](mailto:respectlifeajt@gmail.com) or call: 814-207-9110.



# A Family Perspective



## **April 6, 2025: Fifth Sunday of Lent** (JN 8:1-11)

Stoning is not just an ancient act of violence. Each day in our homes we throw stones of ridicule, criticism, name-calling and put-downs. All of it is deadly. Hear Jesus in today's gospel: "Whoever is without sin can throw the first stone." Rid your home of violence. Stop verbal stoning!

## **April 13, 2025: Passion (Palm) Sunday**

(LK 22:14-23:56) Today Jesus tells us "I am among you as one who serves." In accepting the palm branch today you publicly confirm your baptismal promise to follow Jesus as "one who serves." Selfless service defines a family as Christian.

## EASTER TIME

### **April 20, 2025: Easter Sunday** (JN 20:1-9)

Millions of Christians around the world celebrate the Resurrection today. It all began simply on the first Easter with one person telling another: "Mary told Peter" and "they believed." Faith is passed one person to another; it is caught, not taught and parents are the most effective persons to pass faith to their children.

### **April 27, 2025: Divine Mercy Sunday** (JN 20:19-31)

Jesus connects PEACE and FORGIVENESS in today's gospel. In our families we will only experience peace to the extent we forgive one another. Peace is purchased with the currency of forgiveness. When we allow our anger and pride to lock out others, we also lock out peace and harmony.

Reprinted with permission from: "A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar." [www.friendsofkenyanorphans.org](http://www.friendsofkenyanorphans.org)



# SAVE THE DATE!

The Diocese of  
Altoona-Johnstown  
invites you to join us for a  
Jubilee celebration Pilgrimage  
to the National Shrine of the  
Immaculate Conception in  
Washington, DC  
**Official Holy Door Site**

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- A special Liturgy with Bishop Mark Barchak as Celebrant along with priests of the diocese.
- Tour the amazing shrine with all of its chapels and oratories
- Opportunity for Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions



### TRAVEL:

Passenger buses will depart from various areas around the diocese:

Altoona Area  
Ebensburg Area  
Johnstown Area  
Bellefonte Area

Carpooling and personal vehicle travel are also permitted.

More information on travel arrangements to come at a later time!

# FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2025

More information will be available soon on the Diocesan Website: [www.dioceseaj.org/jubilee-2025](http://www.dioceseaj.org/jubilee-2025) and updated accordingly.



Registrations will be taken in each area at designated parishes. Official registration will open in Summer of 2025.

Sponsored by the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown