



# Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

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DATE: January 9, 2017  
TO: Clergy  
FROM: (Rev. Msgr.) Michael A. Becker, Diocesan Ecumenical Minister  
SUBJECT: Ecumenical events

In 2017 Catholics and Lutherans jointly observe the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation. Catholics and Lutherans (as well as all Protestants) today enjoy a growth in mutual understanding, cooperation and respect. In response to the call for what Saint Pope John Paul II termed "Spiritual Ecumenism," Christians of all denominations are urged to come together in prayer for Christian unity.

On **Sunday, January 22, 2017 at 3:00 PM** at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona, Bishop Mark Bartchak will preside at a Lutheran-Catholic Common Commemoration of the Reformation. Presiding with our bishop will be Bishop Michael Rhyne, Lutheran bishop of the Allegheny Lutheran Synod, who will preach.

On **Sunday, January 29, 2017 at 3:00 PM**, at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Richland (Johnstown), Bishop Michael Rhyne, Lutheran bishop of the Allegheny Lutheran Synod, will preside at a Lutheran-Catholic Common Commemoration of the Reformation. Presiding with Bishop Rhyne will be Bishop Mark Bartchak, who will preach.

Pastors are asked to encourage and promote this important ecumenical event. Vesture for priests and deacons will be an alb and white stole.

**You are asked to place this information in your parish bulletin on the weekends of January 15 and 22, and January 29th (Johnstown area churches only).**