

Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

Office of Vocations

925 S. Logan Boulevard
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

Telephone: (814) 695-5579

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Email: vocations@dioceseaj.org

M E M O

TO: Pastor/Administrator
FROM: Father Matthew Reese
RE: Vocation Summer Program!
DATE: February 21, 2017

I'm passing along some information about an innovative new Catholic Vacation Bible School all about vocations. Your DRE should have received this information as well.

The program is called "Discovery Mission" and has potential! Here is the web site:
www.vocationbibleschool.com

What I like about it is that it promotes ALL vocations—marriage, priesthood, and religious life—but does so in a totally age-appropriate way.

Will you take a look at this and consider using it this summer for your parish? The company is giving our diocese 30% off the regular price with coupon code **ALT648**.

As Diocesan Vocation Director, I really appreciate all that *YOU* do to help promote vocations in our Diocese!



Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

Adult Enrichment and Lay Ecclesial Ministries

St. Patrick School Building

625 Park Avenue

Johnstown, PA 15902

Telephone: (814) 361-2000

E-mail: mheinze@dioceseaj.org

To: Pastors and Bulletin Editors
From: The Office of Adult Enrichment and Lay Ecclesial Ministry

-Corrected Bulletin Announcement-

Please run this announcement in bulletins as space allows. The dates were inadvertently incorrect for the start of class.

Thank you!

Christian Prayer and Spirituality Course will be offered at two locations this March. Sr. Marilyn Welch, CCW will be teaching Wednesdays from 6:30-8:30 PM at **St. Catherine of Siena, Duncansville**, beginning March 8th and Deacon Michael Russo will be teaching Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30 PM at **St. Patrick School, Johnstown** beginning March 7th. During this 8 week course, participants will explore both traditional and contemporary expressions of Christian prayer and spirituality that will help deepen their relationship with God. The cost of this course which includes registration and materials is \$55. For further information and registration please contact the Office of Adult Enrichment and Lay Ecclesial Ministry at (814) 361-2000 or email mheinze@dioceseaj.org. **All our welcome!**



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Telephone: (814) 361-2000

E-mail: mheinze@dioceseaj.org

Website: www.ajdiocese.org/lay-ecclesial-ministry

February 21, 2017

TO: All Pastors and Parish Bulletin Editors
FROM: Deacon Michael Russo, Ministerial Coordinator
RE: The Shroud of Turin Talk

-Bulletin Announcement-

Please run this announcement in your bulletins as space allows.

Thank you!

SAVE THE DATE!

The Shroud of Turin Talk will be held at St. Benedict Parish, 2310 Bedford Street, Johnstown, **Sunday March 26, 2017 at 3:00 PM.** In 2013 Bill Wingard established “**Shroud Talks**” to present the history and science of the **Shroud of Turin** and tackle the biggest mystery...**Is the Shroud the actual burial cloth?** Personal research coupled with the knowledge and help of the original photographer, Barrie Schwartz, for scientific evaluation in 1978 make for a powerful and comprehensive presentation that will not disappoint. **You are invited to hear the talk and see the full size replica of the Shroud of Turin.** Attendees are encouraged to bring their cameras. No tickets are required; a love offering will be collected. For more information, contact Deacon Michael Russo at (814) 288-3036 or email: michael.russo@atlanticbb.net. **All are welcome!**

*Stewardship Reflections
for the Sunday Bulletin*

March 2017 (Cycle A)

1st Sunday of Lent (March 5)

In a society that frequently tempts us to focus on ourselves and our pleasures, many find it hard to accept the challenge to live as Christian disciples and stewards. May I make a genuine effort to discover the true meaning of Christian stewardship and live accordingly

2nd Sunday of lent (March 12)

As Saint Paul reminds us, each of us has been called to a holy life according to God's own design. How can you use your giftedness to make Jesus Christ present to others?

3rd Sunday of Lent (March 19)

May I experience a conversion much like that of the Samaritan woman after her personal encounter with Jesus Christ, proclaiming daily – in all of my actions – that He is the Messiah.

4rd Sunday of Lent (March 26)

May you be a light in the darkness of your world by generously sharing your time, talents, and material resources in a manner that is pleasing to the Lord.

April 2017 (Cycle A)

5th Sunday of Lent (April 2)

Jesus answered Martha's prayers on his own terms, not hers. Yet the outcome is much more than she could have imagined. May I have the courage to fulfill my role in the Divine Plan according to God's will, knowing that the results will be awesome.

Palm Sunday (April 9)

The two disciples in today's Gospel added to Jesus' request for two animals by contributing their own cloaks. Imagine how you can help fulfill His mission with the gifts you possess.

Easter Sunday (April 16)

May your heart burn with desire to celebrate Jesus Christ present today in Scripture and in the breaking of the bread. Come back to the Eucharistic feast. Stay with us!

2nd Sunday of Easter (April 23)

Christian stewards temper their wants to help others meet their needs. Added to the number of those being saved are both the one who gives and the one who receives.

3rd Sunday of Easter (April 30)

Recall one or more moments in your life in which you felt the presence of the Risen Christ. May you always recognize Him in those whom you encounter every day.



Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

Family Life Office

5379 Portage St.
Lilly, PA 15938
Telephone (814) 886-5551
familylife@dioceseaj.org
www.dioceseaj.org

February 21, 2017

To: All clergy and Bulletin publishers

From: Family Life Office

Please publish in your bulletin the weekends of Feb. 26, March 5, 12:

Prayer and Luncheon for Widows and Widowers throughout our Diocese

Remember your loved ones on **Monday, March 20 (first day of Spring) with Mass at 11:00 am.** Theme of the day: "No Winter Lasts Forever...Spring Offers a New Beginning." All spouses will be mentioned and remembered at Mass. Luncheon to follow. Widows and widowers throughout the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese are invited to attend. Sponsored by the Diocesan Family Life Office and hosted by the Immaculate Conception Church, 1640 New Germany Road, Summerhill. Reservations required by March 14. A \$5 donation is suggested. Contact the Family Life Office at 814-886-5551 or familylife@dioceseaj.org.

Remembering your spouse...



Prayer Day and Luncheon

for

Widows and Widowers

of the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese

~Held on. . .

Monday, March 20, 2017

~Starts with. . .

11:00 a.m. MASS

Hosted by Immaculate Conception Church,
1640 New Germany Road, Summerhill

*All spouses will be mentioned and remembered at the mass.
Please provide the name of your spouse when you register.*

~Mass followed by. . .

Luncheon in Marian Hall downstairs

~Reservations required by Tuesday, March 14.

Contact program sponsor:

Family Life Office, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

5379 Portage St., Lilly, PA 15938

814.886.5551—familylife@dioceseaj.org

www.dioceseaj.org, click on Offices, Family Life

\$5.00 suggested donation can be given on the day of the event.

The COLLECTION Basket



Family Life Office

5379 Portage Street

Lilly, PA 15938

(814) 886-5551

familylife@dioceseaj.org

MARCH 2017

Volume XXXII, Number 4

IDEAS FOR LIVING BETTER FROM THE FAMILY LIFE OFFICE

Family Ritual

Exercise your memory during Lent

Throughout the Sundays in Lent, on the way home from Mass, ask each other questions about the gospel reading to make sure adults and children are paying attention! Then try to remember something that the priest said in his homily that pertained to the scripture reading or could be adapted into your family life.



St. Patrick's Day Scavenger Hunt

Try having a scavenger hunt with your family on St. Patrick's Day. Give your family 45 minutes or so to collect these items:

Green pepper, green pear and apple, green note paper, shamrock, green tape, one dollar bill, green pencil, green button, green shoe, green hair ribbon, green crayon, green hat, a plant, pack of green gum, jelly beans, etc.

Afterward, celebrate with a green snack—green finger Jell-O, celery, pepper, apple and pear slices or limeade.

Adapted from FAMILY TIME:
The Pennsylvania State University
112 Agricultural Administration Building
University Park, PA 16802



The Journeying

By Dorothy Colgan, a member of St. Meinrad Parish, Indiana

"There was a time I seemed to sail upon a vast, blue sea,
Scanning the horizon for some distant, golden shore,
Imagining that happiness lay just ahead of me,
In some wondrous perfect place I'd never seen before...
But as the days and years passed by,
I came to comprehend that the joy is in the journeying,
Not at the journey's end."

Reprinted with permission from:
"Apple Seeds"
Fr. Brian Cavanaugh, T.O.R.

Try for a Lenten Moment

If you're feeling discouraged because your effort to give up chocolate was thwarted by the co-worker who brought the birthday cake to work, don't lose heart. Lent is not a pass/fail class. Rather, it is a journey of becoming closer to God through prayer, sacrifice, and generosity. Seeing Lent only as a 40-day block can prevent us from taking advantage of Lenten moments—opportunities that arise each day for us to deepen our relationship with God.

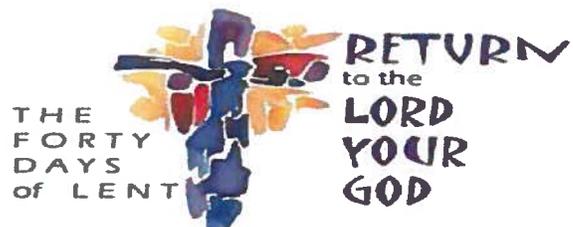
Here are a few:

***Prayer.** Between now and Easter, look for five minutes alone with your spouse. Face each other, hold hands, and ask your spouse what he or she is most worried about. Then together pray an Our Father, slowly, for that worry. Then do the same for your worry, followed by a prayer of gratitude from each of you.

***Generosity.** Almsgiving is the traditional way to be generous during Lent, but generosity can be practiced in small moments throughout the day—flowers for a teacher, a plate of cookies for an elderly.

***Sacrifice.** The strong among us are able to sustain a 40-day fast from sweets, chips, or alcohol during Lent, but the rest of us need to start small with our sacrifice. Try a focused, one-to-three day fast from something you truly enjoy, but for a purpose. Give up your afternoon Diet Coke for three days straight and pray for your children. Skip sweets for a day and make a point to learn more about those areas of the world affected by hunger.

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At Home With Our Faith,
Claretian Publications, P.O. Box 408, Congers, NY 10920-0408



Recovery Through God and Service

Addiction to alcohol, drugs, gambling, etc. affects millions of people directly, and does collateral damage to millions more in their families and communities. But recovery from addiction is real, possible—and even graced. While addicts cut themselves off from others out of pride or shame or denial, recovery starts with the simple, if painful, recognition that one cannot survive alone. Recovery is a journey toward God and others, and a willingness to be vulnerable and let God and others get close as well.



The Amazing Power of Helping

“It is one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself.” - Ralph Waldo Emerson

Connecting or reconnecting with God is only one lane of the recovery road. There’s also the thirst for reconnection with others, especially family members and friends who have been injured by their loved one’s addictions. Rebuilding personal relationships takes practice and patience. Depending on the severity of the estrangement, reconciliation may take years—and may not ever be possible. The pain of broken relationships puts extra stress on early recovery. But one simple thing can make an amazing difference in staying sober, regaining empathy, and finding joy in community.

That one thing? Helping someone else. Service—whether it is mowing a neighbor’s lawn, driving someone to a doctor’s appointment, volunteering in a soup kitchen, or, as many people in recovery do, supporting other addicts on the recovery journey—has a remarkable power to fight relapses.

Case Western University researcher Maria Pagano has the statistics to prove it. Her studies with recovering addicts found that reaching out to help others bolsters positive self-identity and reinforces a sense of purpose.

“If you help someone up the hill,” a familiar recovery aphorism goes, “you get closer yourself.” Service to others has a ripple effect that reinforces our personal journey and gives us hope. “I get to watch guys get better—there’s nothing better than that,” Victor says. “Watching a family get back together again—it’s the greatest gift.”

The Way of the Cross

Have you ever thought about saying or meditating on the Stations of the Cross at home as a family? Many families cannot make it to church for those scheduled times for “The Stations.” The most important element of this devotion is what effect it has in our lives, or how it changes our heart. Sometimes, the Stations can have their greatest impact on us when they are said together at home as a family.



A family version of the “Stations” is available in the book titled “A Change of Heart” Lent and Easter at Home, published by the Family Life Office for \$3.00. Or you can look on websites for a version that may be age suitable for your family to be used during Lent.

Hopefully, this journey will help you to see the times of courage and heroism in your own “Way of the Cross.”

From the booklet published by the Family Life Office entitled “A CHANGE OF HEART - Lent and Easter at Home.” 814-886-5551.

Families and the Gospel

March 5

Mt 4:1-11

In today’s gospel Jesus cautions it is not enough to provide food for our children; “one does not live on bread alone...” Let Lent be a time when you are “led by the Spirit” to explore new ways to be a moral guide to your children.

March 12

Mt 17:1-9

Transfiguration is a common occurrence in families. When we commit to another, such as a spouse in marriage or a child in parenting, we are not committing to them only as they are today, but to the person they are becoming.

March 19

Jn 4: 5-42

Our children are like the Samaritan woman. They need more than material things. They need the “living water” only the adults can give. It will teach them how to make decisions, take responsibility, respect others and themselves and live their commitments. With this “living water” they will “never thirst.”

March 26

Jn 9: 1-41

Failure to forgive blinds us to another’s goodness. Lent provides an opportunity to wash away our blind spots in the pool of forgiveness. Listen to Jesus in today’s gospel: “Go wash and see.”





Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown
927 S. Logan Boulevard
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648
Phone: (814) 695-5579

M E M O

TO: Diocesan Clergy
FROM: Jeanne L. Duffy
DATE: February 21, 2017
RE: Diocesan Calendar

Attached is a copy of the year 2017 calendar of diocesan sponsored meetings, programs and workshops. This information might be helpful to your ministry. An update will be sent out in August, 2017.

February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5	6	7 Personnel Board Meeting, 10 am, Chancery Conf. Room	8 Presbyteral Council, 1:30 pm, Chancery Conf. Room	9	10 Diaconate Academic Wknd, Antiochian Village (Feb. 10-12)	11
12	13	14 Building Commission 1:30-4:30 pm, Chancery Conf. Room	15 Finance Council Meeting 9:30 am, Chancery Conf. Room	16	17	18
19	20 Presidents' Day Diocesan Offices Closed	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> Mandeville Collection	2	3	4
5 Rite of Election: 2:00 p.m. Cathedral, Altoona 7:00 p.m. Cathedral, Jtown	6	7 Personnel Board Meeting, 10 am, Chancery Conf. Room	8 Presbyteral Council, 1:30 pm, Chancery Conf. Room	9	10	11
12 Diocesan Appeal	13	14 Building Commission 1:30-4:30 pm, Chancery Conf. Room	15 Mutual Aid Plan Council 9:30-12:00, Conf. Room, Chancery	16	17 Dioconate Academic Wknd, Antiochian Village (Mar. 17-19)	18
19 Junior High Youth Day, BCCHS, Ebensburg -Diocesan Appeal	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 Quad High Day, BCCHS, Ebensburg	

April 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

						1 Eucharist Adoration for Teens, St. Michael, St. Michael
		4 Personnel Board Meeting, 10 am, Chancery Conf. Room -Communal Penance Ser- vice, 7 pm, Good Shepherd, State College	5 Finance Council Meeting 9:30 am, Chancery Conf. Room -Communal Penance Ser- vice, 6:30 pm, Cathedral, Altoona	6 Communal Penance Ser- vice, 6:30 pm, Cathedral, Jtown		8 Christian Initiation Retreat/ Anointing, OLOV, State College 9 am — 2 pm, Anointing Service 10:45 am
9 Christian Initiation Retreat/ Anointing, Cathedral, Jtown, 1 pm — 5:30 pm, Anointing Service 1:30 pm -St. Catherine, Duncansville 2 pm — 6:30 pm, Anointing Service 4:45 pm	10 ChrisM Mass, 11 am, Cathedral, Altoona	11 Building Commission 1:30-4:30 pm, Chancery Conf. Room	12	13 Holy Thursday Diocesan Offices Closed	14 Good Friday Diocesan Offices Closed	15 Easter Vigil Mass, 8:30 pm
16 Easter	17 Easter Holiday Diocesan Offices Closed	18	19	20 Christian Initiation/Lay Min. Year 3, Part IV, 6:30- 9 pm, DAJ Adm, Bldg. B, Hollidaysburg (4 wks)	21 Bishop's Night for Voca- tions, 5:30 pm, BCCHS, Ebensburg	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 Christian Initiation Neophyte Mass, 5:00 pm, Cathedral, Altoona
30						

May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Presbyteral Gathering, Seven Springs (May1-3)	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Personnel Board Meeting, 10 am, Chancery Conf. Room -Building Commission 1:30-4:30 pm, Bldg. B. Conf. Room	10 Presbyteral Council, 1:30 pm, Chancery Conf. Room	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 All Dioceses Educa- tion Mtg., Bldg. A	18 Baccalaureate-BGCHS, 7 pm, Cathedral, Altoona	19 Commencement-BGCHS, 7pm, Cathedral, Altoona	20 Baccalaureate 9:30 am and 11 am Commencement-St. Joseph Catholic Academy, Pasquerilla Center, PSU
21	22 Baccalaureate-BCCHS, 5 pm, Holy Name, Ebens- burg	23 Commencement-BCCHS, 7 pm, St. Francis Univ. Kennedy Center, Loretto	24 Mutual Aid Plan Council 9:30-12:00, Conf. Room, Chancery	25 Ascension Thursday Diocesan Offices Closed	26	27 Priesthood Ordination Mass, 10 am, Cathedral, Altoona
28	29 Memorial Day Diocesan Offices Closed	30	31			

June 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4	5	6 Personnel Board Meeting, 10 am, Chancery Conf. Room	7	8	9	10
11 1 st Priests' Retreat, St. Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, June 11-15 -Diaconate Retreat, Antio- chian Village, June 11-15	12	13 Building Commission 1:30-4:30 pm, Chancery Conf. Room	14	15	16	17
18 2nd Priests' Retreat, St. Francis University, Loretto June 18-22 -Camp Timothy, Sequanota, Jennerstown, June 18-22	19	20	21 Finance Council Meeting 9:30 am, Chancery Conf. Room	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

July 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Faith Day at DelGrosso Park	3	4 Independence Day Diocesan Offices Closed	5 Presbyteral Council, 1:30 pm, Chancery Conf. Room	6	7	8
9	10	11 Building Commission 1:30-4:30 pm, Chancery Conf. Room	12	13	14	15
16 Camp Zacchaeus, Sequanota, Jennerstown <i>Week 1—July 16-21</i>	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Camp Zacchaeus, Sequanota, Jennerstown <i>Week 2—July 23-28</i> -Bishop's Mass for Married Couples, Loretto, 7 pm	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

August 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Building Commission 1:30-4:30 pm, Chancery Conf. Room	9 Mutual Aid Plan Council 9:30-12:00, Conf. Room, Chancery	10	11	12
13	14	15 Assumption of the B.V. M. Diocesan Offices Closed	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

September 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3					1	2
4	Labor Day Diocesan Offices Closed	5	6 Finance Council Meeting 9:30 am, Chancery Conf. Room	7	8 Dioconate Academic W/knd, Antiochian Village (Sept. 8-10)	9
10	11	12 Building Commission 1:30-4:30 pm, Chancery Conf. Room	13 Presbyteral Council, 1:30 pm, Chancery Conf. Room	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 Diocesan Teacher In- Service Mass, 8:30 am, BGCHS, Altoona	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 Catholic Life Conference

October 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 Lay Ecclesial Certification Ceremony - 7:00 PM, Cathedral, Altoona	6	7
8	9 Columbus Day Diocesan Offices Closed	10 Building Commission 1:30-4:30 pm, Chancery Conf. Room	11	12	13 Diaconate Academic Wknd, Antiochian Village (Oct. 13-15)	14
15	16 Fall Clergy Gathering, Seven Springs, (Oct. 16-18)	17	18	19	20	21
22 SHYCON, St. Francis, Loretto	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

November 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5			1 All Saints Day Diocesan Offices Closed	2	3	4
6	7 Personnel Board Meeting, 10 am, Chancery Conf. Room	8 Presbyteral Council, 1:30 pm, Chancery Conf. Room	9	10 Veteran's Day Holiday Diocesan Offices Closed -Diaconate Academic Wknd, Antiochian Village (Nov. 10-12)	11	
12	13 Building Commission 1:30-4:30 pm, Chancery Conf. Room	14 Mutual Aid Plan Council 9:30-12:00, Conf. Room, Chancery	15 16 NCYC, Indianapolis (Nov. 16-18)	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23 Thanksgiving Day Diocesan Offices Closed	24 Thanksgiving Holiday Diocesan Offices Closed	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 Personnel Board Meeting, 10 am, Chancery Conf. Room	6 Finance Council Meeting 9:30 am, Chancery Conf. Room	7	8 Immaculate Conception Diocesan Offices Closed	9
10	11	12 Building Commission 1:30-4:30 pm, Chancery Conf. Room	13 Presbyteral Council, 1:30 pm, Chancery Conf. Room	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 Christmas Holiday Diocesan Offices Closed	23
24	25 Christmas	26 Christmas Holiday Diocesan Offices Closed	27	28	29	30
31						