

SCHEDULE OF CONFIRMATIONS - 2018

1. Thursday, April 5, 2018 - SAINT JOHN GUALBERT CATHEDRAL,
7:00 p.m., Reception follows the Liturgy.

56 Candidates

Saint Clare of Assisi, Johnstown - 1
Saints Gregory and Barnabas, Johnstown - 8
Saint John Gualbert Cathedral, Johnstown - 10
Immaculate Conception, New Germany - 11
Saint Michael, Saint Michael - 11
Most Holy Trinity, South Fork - 5
Saint John the Baptist, Summerhill - 7
Saint Bartholomew, Wilmore - 3

2. Sunday, April 8, 2018 - ST. PETER, SOMERSET
4:00 p.m. - Reception follows the Liturgy.

37 Candidates

Saint Gregory, MacDonalton - 0
Saints Philip and James, Meyersdale - 3
Saint John the Baptist, New Baltimore - 9
Saint Mary, Pocahontas -
Saint Peter, Somerset - 25
Saint Michael, West Salisbury -

3. Tuesday, April 10, 2018 - CATHEDRAL OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT - 7:00 P.M. Reception follows the Liturgy.

76 Candidates

Seven Dolors of the BVM, Clearville - 0
Immaculate Conception, Dudley - 3
Saint Catherine of Siena, Duncansville - 3
Saint John the Evangelist, Everett - 0
Saint Mary, Hollidaysburg - 18
Saint Michael, Hollidaysburg - 26
Most Holy Trinity, Huntingdon - 10
Saint Catherine of Siena, Mount Union - 2
Saint Patrick, Newry - 8
Saint Mary, Orbisonia - 0
Saint Thomas More, Roaring Spring - 6
Saint Joseph, Williamsburg - 0

4. Wednesday, April 11, 2018 - SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST, BELLEFONTE - 7:00 P.M. Reception follows the Liturgy.

36 Candidates

Saint John the Evangelist, Bellefonte - 25
Saint Kateri, Penns Valley - 3
Queen of Archangels, Clarence - 8

5. Thursday, April 12, 2018 - CATHEDRAL OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT - 7:00 P.M. Reception follows the Liturgy.

81 Candidates

Saint Benedict - Carrolltown - 25
Saint Aloysius, Cresson - 19
Saint Bernard, Hastings - 13
Saint Nicholas, Nicktown - 18
Queen of Peace, Patton - 2
Prince of Peace, Northern Cambria - 12

6. Sunday, April 15, 2018- OUR LADY OF VICTORY, STATE COLLEGE
- 3:00 P.M. - Reception follows the Liturgy.
76 Candidates

Good Shepherd, State College - 27
Our Lady of Victory, State College - 49

7. Tuesday, April 17, 2018 - CATHEDRAL OF THE BLESSED
SACRAMENT - 7:00 P.M. - Reception follows the Liturgy.
86 Candidates

Our Lady of Lourdes, Altoona - 2
Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Altoona - 16
Sacred Heart, Altoona - 13
Saint Mary, Altoona - 7
Saint Rose of Lima, Altoona - 29
Saint John the Evangelist, Altoona - 9
Saint Joseph, Bellwood - 10

8. Thursday, April 19, 2018- SAINT JOHN GUALBERT CATHEDRAL,
07:00p.m.Reception follows the Liturgy.
39 Candidates

Saint Clement, Johnstown - 14
Our Mother of Sorrows, Johnstown - 25

9. Sunday, April 22, 2018 - SAINT JOSEPH, RENOVO, 2:00 P.M.
Reception follows the Liturgy.
11 Candidates

Holy Spirit, Lock Haven - 8
Saint Joseph, Renovo - 3

10. Tuesday, April 24, 2018 - SAINT JOHN GUALBERT CATHEDRAL
- 7:00 P.M. Reception follows the Liturgy.

59 Candidates

All Saints, Boswell - 4
Transfiguration, Conemaugh - 6
Saint Anne, Davidsville - 5
Holy Family, Hooversville - 4
Saint Andrew, Johnstown - 15
Saint Anne, Johnstown - 1
Saint Francis of Assisi, Johnstown - 5
Saint Therese, Johnstown - 7
Resurrection, Johnstown - 9
Visitation, Johnstown - 3

11. Thursday, April 26, 2018 - CATHEDRAL OF THE MOST BLESSED
SACRAMENT - 7:00 P.M. - Reception follows the Liturgy.

99 Candidates

Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona - 12
Holy Rosary, Altoona - 2
Our Lady of Fatima, Altoona - 3
Saint Mark, Altoona - 4
Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, Altoona - 7
Saint Thomas the Apostle, Bedford - 9
Our Lady of the Alleghenies, Lilly - 11
Saints Peter and Paul, Philipsburg - 9
Saint Matthew, Tyrone - 12
Saint Francis Xavier, Cresson - 11
Saint Demetrius, Gallitzin, 11

12. Tuesday, May 1, 2018 - HOLY NAME, EBENSBURG, 7:00 P.M. -
Reception follows the Liturgy.

63 Candidates

Holy Name, Ebensburg - 41
Holy Family, Colver - 0
Saint John Vianney, Mundys Corner - 9
Saint Mary, Nanty Glo - 13

13. Wednesday, May 2, 2018 - BASILICA OF SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL, LORETTO - 7:00 P.M. - Reception follows the Liturgy.

66 Candidates

Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel, Loretto - 22

Holy Family, Portage - 23

Saint Thomas Aquinas, Ashville - 4

Saint Monica, Chest Springs - 9

Saint Augustine, Dysart - 8

Saint Joan of Arc, Frugality - 0

14. Sunday, May 6, 2018 - SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON, WINDBER, 2:00 P.M. - Reception follows the Liturgy.

27 Candidates

Our Lady Queen of Angels, Central City - 7

Saint Anthony of Padua, Windber - 7

Saints Cyril and Methodius, Windber - 4

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Windber - 9

15. Sunday, May 20, 2018 - SAINT BENEDICT, JOHNSTOWN - 2:00 P.M. - Dinner follows the Liturgy (Pentecost Sunday)

40 Candidates

Saint Benedict, Johnstown - 37

Saint Patrick, Johnstown - 3

TOTAL NUMBER OF CANDIDATES FOR 2018: 852



Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

Adult Enrichment and Lay Ecclesial Ministries

625 Park Avenue

Johnstown, PA 15902

Telephone: (814) 361-2000

E-mail: mheinze@dioceseaj.org

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

TO: PASTORS AND BULLETIN EDITORS
FROM: ADULT ENRICHMENT AND LAY ECCLESIAL MINISTRY
RE: SACRED SCRIPTURE REVISITED AND SYNOPTIC GOSPEL CLASS
DATE: JUNE 20, 2017

-Bulletin Announcement-

Please run this announcement in bulletins as space allows. Thank you!

Daytime Class Offered

Sacred Scripture Revisited and Synoptic Gospels is a theological examination of the biblical record of God's saving interaction with His people through His Word, Jesus. It is a general introduction to the Scriptures through an analysis of their forms and content. Deacon Michael Russo will be teaching this class at St. Patrick Catholic Church, 625 Park Avenue, Johnstown from 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM, July 5, 6, 11, 13, 25 and 27. The cost of this course is \$35 and can be taken for continuing education credit. For registration information please contact Marybeth at 814-361-2000 or email mheinze@dioceseaj.org. All are welcome!



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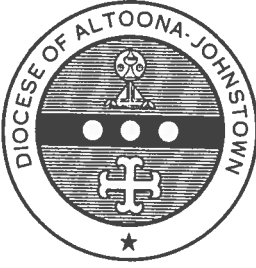
Website: www.ajdiocese.org/lay-ecclesial-ministry

TO: All Pastors and Parish Bulletin Editors
FROM: Deacon Michael, Ministerial Coordinator
RE: Schedule of Classes for 2017-2018
DATE: June 20, 2017

-Bulletin Notice-

As space permits, please include the following information in your parish bulletin.

Do you have a desire to serve the Church and its mission? A zeal to live a Christian life and the willingness to live and teach as the magisterium teaches? As lay men and women we respond to His call as Believer, as the Lay Faithful and through Lay Ecclesial Ministry. *The Office of Adult Enrichment and Lay Ecclesial Ministry* has announced classes for 2017-2018 which begin this fall. For class information and registrations forms please visit www.dioceseaj.org/lay-ecclesial-ministry or contact us directly at (814) 361-2000 or by email at mheinze@dioceseaj.org. *All are welcome!*



Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

Family Life Office

5379 Portage St.
Lilly, PA 15938
Telephone (814) 886-5551
Facsimile (814) 886-7697
familylife@dioceseaj.org

June 20, 2017

TO: Clergy, Parish Administrators, Campus Ministers, Parish bulletin editors
FROM: Family Life Office
RE: **Diocesan NFP Program**

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has announced July 23-29, 2017 as **National Natural Family Planning Awareness Week**. The 2017 Theme: It's Time! Say "Yes" to God's Plan for Married Love.

Find **USCCB Homily Suggestions & Intercessions for NFP Week** at www.usccb.org.

Colored brochures containing information on our Diocesan program are available.

If you would like some for your marriage packets or for the use of your sponsor couples, contact our office or print from file included in this diocesan mailing.

Please publish **anytime**

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

Does your method of family planning ...strengthen your emotional intimacy with your spouse? ...work with (not against) the gift of your fertility?...nurture a loving relationship with God and the Church? ...increase your self-respect and growth as a person/couple? If you haven't checked out NFP, you haven't made an informed choice. Certified diocesan instructors are located throughout our diocese. Introductory presentations to groups also available. Contact our diocesan Family Life Office, 814-886-5551; familylife@dioceseaj.org.

Why couples chose the Ovulation Method:

"We decided on Natural Family Planning during our Engaged Encounter Weekend. One of the team couples talked openly about their decision to have another child. We assumed they were on the pill or some other type of contraceptive to be that confident about choosing to get pregnant. They later shared that they were practicing the Ovulation Method. It sold us right there. If they could be that confident, we knew it could work for us, and it has."
-Karen & Mike

"I highly recommend NFP after using it for the first year of marriage. It gives us full control with complete freedom from contraceptives. Even greater is the understanding and respect I gained from tracking my wife's cycle. With NFP I don't take my wife for granted; it helps me realize what is really important in our marriage. Try to get all that from a condom!" -Curtis

"Women should understand and be able to monitor how their bodies work. NFP is great for our relationship...isn't marriage all about understanding and appreciating each other?" -Clare

Natural Family Planning Ovulation Method is most effective when learned from qualified instructors.

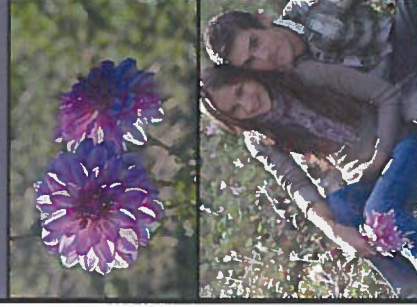


*Lord, we are in awe
of the gift of
sexual love making
you have given us!*

*How marvelous that our love
and our unity
are so powerful
that at some point,
as co-creators with you,
there is a new being
to name!*

Help us to use our gifts well.

Natural Family Planning



The Natural Way to Postpone or Achieve Pregnancy

Sponsored by the Family Life Office
Altoona-Johnstown Diocese serving
Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Centre, Clinton,
Fulton, Huntingdon, Somerset counties

For more information, contact:

Family Life Office
Altoona-Johnstown Diocese
5379 Portage St.
Lilly, PA 15938
814-886-5551
Fax: 814-886-7697

familylife@dioceseaj.org
www.dioceseaj.org

Click on Offices, Family Life



What is the Ovulation Method of Natural Family Planning?

The Ovulation Method is a scientifically proven method of natural family planning researched by Drs. John and Evelyn Billings. It is a natural and moral method of family planning approved by the Catholic Church to support God's design for married love!

According to the US Department of Health and Human Services and a World Health Organization study, the Ovulation Method is 98.6-99% effective in postponing pregnancy when couples are properly taught and the method is used correctly. Ideal for couples wanting to achieve pregnancy when desired.

How does it work?

The Ovulation Method is not the rhythm method, nor does it involve temperature taking. It is an easy addition to your lifestyle without complicated procedures. The woman learns awareness of her bodily signs of fertility or infertility as she goes about her day.

Will Natural Family Planning work for our relationship?

Your marriage is the most important relationship you will have. It needs nurturing, commitment, love, and a desire to work together to make it succeed for both of you. Those are the very qualities exercised when a couple uses natural family planning. NFP will enhance your relationship through open, intimate communication, commitment to a common ideal, a deeper respect for each other, creative expression of your love, and a thorough understanding of your sexuality.

Couples wishing to learn Natural Family Planning

Send in the registration form below. An instructor (*NFP users themselves*) will contact you to set up instructional meetings.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail _____

Fiance/Spouse Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail _____

If married, how long _____

If engaged, wedding date _____

\$75.00 fee for the course.

Send form and fee to: Family Life Office
Altoona-Johnstown Diocese
5379 Portage St., Lilly, PA 15938
814-886-5551-familylife@dioceseaj.org

Making an informed choice

The choices about family planning are numerous and include chemical, surgical, prophylactic and natural methods. How do you make an informed choice? You need to learn the facts about each. What affect do they have on your body and your spirit? What health risks do they pose? Do they protect life in its earliest moments or dispose of it? Do they bring you to a greater reverence for the wondrous way God created the male and female bodies and how they work?

To learn more...

www.familyplanning.net

Contains information on natural versus artificial, scientific support of the effectiveness of the Ovulation Method, downloadable articles and videos, sections for those wishing to postpone or conceive, discontinuing artificial methods, etc.



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June 20, 2017

To: ALL Clergy & Parish Bulletin Editors

From: Family Life Office

RE: **Outdoor Mass for Married Couples with Bishop Mark**

INVITATION

Please post the attached **invitation** on your church bulletin board.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

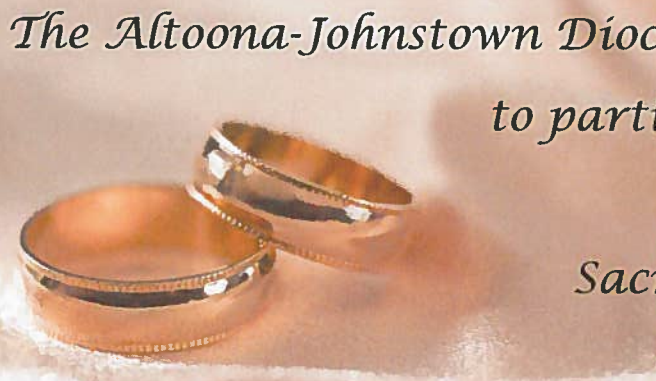
Also we ask if you would publish the announcement below in your parish bulletin on **Sundays, July 9 and 16.**

Outdoor Mass honoring Married Couples with Bishop Mark

The Altoona-Johnstown Diocesan Family is invited to participate and to pray for those living the Sacrament of Marriage at an Outdoor Mass honoring Married Couples on Sunday evening, July 23 at 7:00 pm at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Alleghenies in Loretto. Bring a lawn chair. Indoors if rain. Bishop Mark is the celebrant and homilist. This is a wonderful way to celebrate, encourage and support married couples!

TO ALL DIOCESAN PRIESTS:

You are invited to con-celebrate this Mass with Bishop Mark. Please bring your Diocesan Chasuble. Please call the Family Life Office to let us know if you are coming so that we may set up enough seats. (814-886-5551). Thank you!



*The Altoona-Johnstown Diocesan Family is invited
to participate and to pray for
those living the
Sacrament of Marriage
at an...*

*Outdoor Mass
Honoring
Married Couples
with
Bishop Mark*

Sunday, July 23, 2017 7:00 pm

*Shrine of Our Lady of the Alleghenies
Loretto*

*(next to the Basilica of St. Michael)
Bring lawn chairs! Indoors if rain*

The *COLLECTION* Basket



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Lilly, PA 15938

(814) 886-5551

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JULY 2017

Volume XXXII, Number 8

IDEAS FOR LIVING BETTER FROM THE FAMILY LIFE OFFICE

Family Ritual

Have a family picnic. While gathered on the blanket recite the following prayer:

Father, we sit at the table and from your bounty we are fed.

Father, we sit in the grass and from your bounty we are fed.

Father, we stand at your altar and from your bounty we are fed.

You nourish us in so many ways.
Thank you for all you do for us.



What If...

By Jerry "DRhino" Clark

What if we are not joyful today because we were not thankful yesterday? And what if we are blessed tomorrow because we are grateful today?

What if we were never able to see a rainbow because we were too busy complaining about the rain? And what if today we couldn't experience the warmth of the sun because we focused on the coldness of the shadow?

What if there were no more books tomorrow because we didn't take the time to read today? And what if there were no life changing tapes today because we didn't take the time to record our experiences yesterday?

What if our prayers were not answered tomorrow because we didn't listen to our heart today? And what if we did not follow our true "calling" today because we did not "hear" the phone ring yesterday?

What if your life today is a reflection of your thoughts yesterday? And what if your thoughts today are a reflection of your life tomorrow?

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

Families and the Gospel

July 2

Mt. 10:37-42

Today's gospel challenges us to resist the individualism of our culture. Everything we are and have is a pure gift which we are expected to share especially to the "lowly ones." What has been freely given needs to be shared freely. No strings attached.

July 9

Mt. 11:25-30

Today's gospel is about missionaries. As Jesus received a mission today, parents accept the mission of raising a family. Parents are not alone in this exhausting and difficult mission. Today Jesus tells us "Come to me and I will give you rest."

July 16

Mt. 13:1-23

The stress and anxieties of family life are like "thorns which choke off" any opportunity to reflect on God's presence in our lives. Notice in the first line that Jesus "left the house" so He could connect with His Father. Grasp five minutes each day to appreciate God walking with you.

July 23

Mt. 13:24-43

Parents plant values in their children anticipating the tiny seeds of honesty, respect, commitment and fidelity will grow with their child and that one day they will become "a safe haven" to many.

July 30

Mt. 13:44-52

The man in today's gospel "sold all he had" for the treasure he found. Family relationships are treasures and demand our total personal investment. Invest yourself in the "treasure" of your family.



Reprinted with permission from:
A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar



Family Conversation:

What opportunities do you have to give back to others what has been so graciously given to you?

Saints for Children-St. Martha (July 29)

Gayle Schreiber

Once there was a girl named Martha. She lived with her sister, Mary, and her brother, Lazarus in a town named Bethany, which was near the city of Jerusalem.

When they grew up, they were all very good friends of Jesus, who would often visit their home. Martha loved to cook for Jesus and serve him, but sometimes she worked too hard. Jesus taught Martha that it is also important to spend quiet time listening to God.



When Lazarus died, Martha sent for Jesus. She knew that he would help them, and guess what? Jesus brought Lazarus back to life. After Jesus' death and resurrection, it is said that Martha traveled all over telling people about Jesus. Martha is the patron saint of cooks.

Prayer Action: Try to imitate St. Martha, and help cheerfully with your chores at home. If you have a brother or sister, show them your love by doing something special for them.

Reprinted with permission from:
Growing Faith, Growing Family
Twenty-Third Publications, Mystic, CT

Playing Together

For Families of All Ages and Stages

When was the last time your family had fun together? Was it months ago or just last week? If your recreation is rarely with family members, you're missing out on something!

Decide on a time and schedule it in. It is that important!! Sundays are the ideal time, but perhaps another time works for your family.

Every family's fun is unique. Be open to trying new activities:

- Summer water gun fights
- Board games or lawn games
- Picnic breakfast on the porch
- Charades
- Swimming, hiking, camping, kayaking, etc.



When you find the best time and activities, it easily becomes your family's normal routine. What a great gift for all of you!

Reprinted from the Family Life Newsletter
published by the Family Life Office,
Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

Finding Something Beautiful

I had a very special teacher in high school many years ago whose husband unexpectedly died suddenly of a heart attack. About a week after his death, she shared some of her insights with a classroom of students. The class was nearly over, and as the late afternoon sunlight came streaming in through the classroom windows, she moved a few things aside on the edge of her desk and sat down there. With a gentle look of reflection on her face, she paused and said, "Before class is over, I would like to share with all of you a thought that is unrelated to class, but which I feel is very important.

Each of us is put here on earth to learn, share, love, appreciate and give of ourselves. None of us knows when this fantastic experience will end. It can be taken away at any moment. Perhaps this is God's way of telling us that we must make the most out of every single day." Her eyes beginning to water, she went on, "So I would like you all to make me a promise. From now on, on your way to school, or on your way home, find something beautiful to notice. It doesn't have to be something you see—it could be a scent—perhaps of freshly baked bread wafting out of someone's house, or it could be the sound of the breeze slightly rustling the leaves in the trees, or the way the morning light catches one autumn leaf as it falls gently to the ground.

Please look for these things, and cherish them. For, although it may sound trite to some, these things are the 'stuff' of life—the little things we are put here on earth to enjoy—the things we often take for granted. We must make it important to notice them, for at any time...it can all be taken away."



The class was completely quiet. We all picked up our books and filed out of the room silently. That afternoon, I noticed more things on my way home than I had that whole semester. Every once in a while, I think of that teacher and remember what an impression she made on all of us, and I try to appreciate those things that sometimes we all overlook.

Take notice of something special you see on your lunch hour today. Go barefoot, walk at sunset, stop off on the way home tonight to get a double-dip ice cream cone. For as we get older, it is not the things we did that we often regret, but the things we didn't do.

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Notes & Quotes to Love By, Quality Relationships
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Website: www.qualityrelationships.com