



# Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

## *Office of the Chancellor*

927 S. Logan Boulevard  
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648-2604

Telephone: (814) 695-5579

Fax: (814) 695-8894

Website: [www.dioceseaj.org](http://www.dioceseaj.org)

October 4, 2017

Dear Pastor/Administrator,

We have been informed from the P. J. Kenedy & Sons that the blue updated forms which are sent directly to parishes have not been sent out. The reason for this delay is due to the test of an **online** system for updating their forms for the 2018 edition. However, our Diocesan General Statistics Report for 2017 will need to be returned to our office no later than **October 23<sup>rd</sup>**. With the confusion of the P. J. Kenedy & Sons issue, we have extended the return date of our white form.

Once these plans have been finalized, we will be given an official notification. In addition, the individual parishes, schools and other corporate entities will receive a mail notification with instructions on how to access the new system. It is our understanding there will be a revision with deadlines for reports to be completed to provide ample time.

As soon as we have an update on the above information, we will let you know.

If you purchased a new 2017 edition of The Catholic Directory, there has been a delay in production. At this time, we do not know when they will be mailed out.

If you have any questions, please let my office know.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T. Stayer", is written over the typed name.

(Mrs.) Teresa M. Stayer, Chancellor



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TO: Diocesan Clergy and Directors  
FROM: (Mrs.) Teresa M. Stayer, Chancellor  
RE: Holiday Schedule 2018

### ADMINISTRATION CENTER HOLIDAYS - 2018

#### Diocesan Offices will be closed on these dates:

January 1	Monday	New Year's Day
January 15	Monday	Martin Luther King's Birthday
February 19	Monday	Presidents' Day
March 29-April 2	Thursday-Monday	Holy Triduum/Easter
May 10	Thursday	Ascension
May 28	Monday	Memorial Day
July 4	Wednesday	Independence Day
August 15	Wednesday	Assumption of the B.V.M.
September 3	Monday	Labor Day
October 8	Monday	Columbus Day
November 1	Thursday	All Saints Day
November 12	Monday	Veteran's Day
November 22-23	Thursday-Friday	Thanksgiving
December 24-26	Monday-Wednesday	Christmas
December 31	Monday	New Year's Eve
January 1, 2019	Tuesday	New Year's Day



**2017 Catholic Ministries Drive  
Parish Progress Report**

01/01/2017 - 09/30/2017

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Gifts/Pledges</u>	<u>Over/(Under)</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Donors</u>	<u>Households</u>	<u>Participation</u>	<u>Donor Average</u>	<u>Total Over-Target Receipts</u>
001-Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament	\$ 55,121	\$ 66,278	\$ 11,157	\$ 62,689	223	875	25.49%	\$ 297	\$ 7,568
002-Saint Mary, Altoona	\$ 31,375	\$ 29,311	\$ (2,064)	\$ 25,761	126	452	27.88%	\$ 233	\$ -
003-Saint Mark, Altoona	\$ 21,289	\$ 18,205	\$ (3,084)	\$ 15,948	86	299	28.76%	\$ 212	\$ -
004-Sacred Heart, Altoona	\$ 34,848	\$ 44,560	\$ 9,712	\$ 41,184	157	481	32.64%	\$ 284	\$ 6,336
005-Holy Rosary, Altoona	\$ 19,147	\$ 16,295	\$ (2,852)	\$ 14,385	60	269	22.30%	\$ 272	\$ -
006-Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Altoona	\$ 39,356	\$ 43,632	\$ 4,276	\$ 41,702	247	763	32.37%	\$ 177	\$ 2,346
009-St. John the Evangelist, Lakemont	\$ 45,713	\$ 41,155	\$ (4,558)	\$ 37,810	78	519	15.03%	\$ 528	\$ -
010-Our Lady of Lourdes, Altoona	\$ 22,820	\$ 16,452	\$ (6,368)	\$ 15,169	71	319	22.26%	\$ 232	\$ -
011-Saint Rose of Lima, Altoona	\$ 42,763	\$ 29,722	\$ (13,041)	\$ 28,947	121	584	20.72%	\$ 246	\$ -
012-Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, Altoona	\$ 24,552	\$ 26,741	\$ 2,189	\$ 24,990	140	373	37.53%	\$ 191	\$ 438
014-Saint Thomas Aquinas, Ashville	\$ 10,082	\$ 3,375	\$ (6,707)	\$ 3,325	41	161	25.47%	\$ 82	\$ -
020-Seven Dolors of the BVM, Beans Cove	\$ 2,559	\$ 2,965	\$ 406	\$ 2,740	17	41	41.46%	\$ 174	\$ 181
021-Saint Thomas the Apostle, Bedford	\$ 36,913	\$ 30,713	\$ (6,200)	\$ 27,027	108	396	27.27%	\$ 284	\$ -
022-Saint John the Evangelist, Everett	\$ 8,877	\$ 12,110	\$ 3,233	\$ 10,710	31	119	26.05%	\$ 391	\$ 1,833
023-Saint John the Evangelist, Bellefonte	\$ 53,408	\$ 54,362	\$ 954	\$ 49,545	211	892	23.65%	\$ 258	\$ -
024-Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, Spring Mills	\$ 7,489	\$ 21,495	\$ 14,006	\$ 20,160	52	113	46.02%	\$ 413	\$ 12,671
025-Saint Joseph, Bellwood	\$ 17,682	\$ 24,370	\$ 6,688	\$ 22,475	106	249	42.57%	\$ 230	\$ 4,793
028-Saint Benedict, Carrolltown	\$ 40,925	\$ 43,835	\$ 2,910	\$ 43,237	166	772	21.50%	\$ 264	\$ 2,312
032-Saint Monica, Chest Springs	\$ 10,204	\$ 5,240	\$ (4,964)	\$ 5,140	38	160	23.75%	\$ 138	\$ -
034-Holy Family, Colver	\$ 8,996	\$ 2,875	\$ (6,121)	\$ 2,875	21	148	14.19%	\$ 137	\$ -
038-Saint Francis Xavier, Cresson	\$ 22,497	\$ 32,085	\$ 9,588	\$ 30,350	169	392	43.11%	\$ 190	\$ 7,853
040-Immaculate Conception, Dudley	\$ 8,327	\$ 3,685	\$ (4,642)	\$ 3,410	23	110	20.91%	\$ 160	\$ -
041-Saint Catherine of Siena, Duncansville	\$ 20,796	\$ 20,440	\$ (356)	\$ 12,305	56	289	19.38%	\$ 365	\$ -
043-Holy Name, Ebensburg	\$ 82,491	\$ 42,046	\$ (40,445)	\$ 38,946	209	1,292	16.18%	\$ 201	\$ -
051-Saint Benedict, Johnstown	\$ 126,624	\$ 67,446	\$ (59,178)	\$ 62,036	290	1,699	17.07%	\$ 233	\$ -
052-Saint Bernard, Hastings	\$ 26,836	\$ 20,765	\$ (6,071)	\$ 20,370	98	454	21.59%	\$ 212	\$ -
053-Saint Mary, Hollidaysburg	\$ 51,678	\$ 35,050	\$ (16,628)	\$ 31,690	124	668	18.56%	\$ 283	\$ -
054-Saint Michael, Hollidaysburg	\$ 46,613	\$ 38,517	\$ (8,097)	\$ 36,937	138	720	19.17%	\$ 279	\$ -
055-Saint Anne, Davidsville	\$ 14,781	\$ 3,355	\$ (11,426)	\$ 3,145	36	212	16.98%	\$ 93	\$ -
057-Holy Family, Hooversville	\$ 11,624	\$ 3,225	\$ (8,399)	\$ 3,225	18	116	15.52%	\$ 179	\$ -
058-Most Holy Trinity, Huntingdon	\$ 31,100	\$ 26,540	\$ (4,560)	\$ 24,760	95	474	20.04%	\$ 279	\$ -



Total Over-Target

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Gifts/Pledges</u>	<u>Over/(Under)</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Donors</u>	<u>Households</u>	<u>Participation</u>	<u>Donor Average</u>	<u>Receipts</u>
059-Saint John Gualbert Cathedral, Johnstown	\$ 36,109	\$ 47,260	\$ 11,151	\$ 45,683	189	555	34.05%	\$ 250	\$ 9,574
066-Saint Patrick, Johnstown	\$ 27,024	\$ 24,235	\$ (2,789)	\$ 23,625	81	409	19.80%	\$ 299	\$ -
069-Saint Michael, Johnstown	\$ 6,813	\$ 1,825	\$ (4,988)	\$ 1,825	21	113	18.58%	\$ 87	\$ -
071-Our Mother of Sorrows, Johnstown	\$ 73,886	\$ 39,445	\$ (34,441)	\$ 36,300	198	741	26.72%	\$ 199	\$ -
073-Saint Francis of Assisi, Johnstown	\$ 18,608	\$ 9,867	\$ (8,741)	\$ 9,045	75	286	26.22%	\$ 132	\$ -
074-Visitation of the BVM, Johnstown	\$ 27,976	\$ 9,112	\$ (18,864)	\$ 8,294	64	315	20.32%	\$ 142	\$ -
075-Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, Johnstown	\$ 21,084	\$ 17,330	\$ (3,754)	\$ 15,610	105	383	27.42%	\$ 165	\$ -
077-Saint Anne, Johnstown	\$ 7,602	\$ 3,973	\$ (3,630)	\$ 3,949	23	105	21.90%	\$ 173	\$ -
078-Saint Clement, Johnstown	\$ 43,928	\$ 23,998	\$ (19,930)	\$ 20,863	145	511	28.38%	\$ 166	\$ -
079-Saint Andrew, Johnstown	\$ 32,332	\$ 17,895	\$ (14,437)	\$ 17,595	68	517	13.15%	\$ 263	\$ -
086-Saint Michael the Archangel, Loretto	\$ 36,294	\$ 17,916	\$ (18,378)	\$ 16,876	84	426	19.72%	\$ 213	\$ -
087-Saint Stephen, McConnellsburg	\$ 6,536	\$ 7,975	\$ 1,439	\$ 7,275	28	56	50.00%	\$ 285	\$ 739
088-Saints Philip & James, Meyersdale	\$ 6,607	\$ 3,050	\$ (3,557)	\$ 2,850	20	83	24.10%	\$ 153	\$ -
089-Saint Catherine of Siena, Mt. Union	\$ 8,558	\$ 6,990	\$ (1,568)	\$ 6,915	46	127	36.22%	\$ 152	\$ -
090-Saint John Vianney, Mundy's Corner	\$ 17,969	\$ 5,660	\$ (12,309)	\$ 5,035	44	263	16.73%	\$ 129	\$ -
091-Saint Mary, Nanty Glo	\$ 34,079	\$ 17,205	\$ (16,874)	\$ 15,895	90	442	20.36%	\$ 191	\$ -
092-Saint John the Baptist, New Baltimore	\$ 14,365	\$ 6,270	\$ (8,095)	\$ 6,170	28	170	16.47%	\$ 224	\$ -
093-Saint Gregory, MacDonalton	\$ 4,284	\$ 1,995	\$ (2,289)	\$ 1,995	10	66	15.15%	\$ 200	\$ -
094-Saint Patrick, Newry	\$ 32,179	\$ 11,937	\$ (20,242)	\$ 11,342	69	392	17.60%	\$ 173	\$ -
096-Saint Thomas More, Roaring Spring	\$ 12,537	\$ 8,915	\$ (3,622)	\$ 8,635	36	201	17.91%	\$ 248	\$ -
097-Saint Nicholas, Nicktown	\$ 29,524	\$ 17,195	\$ (12,329)	\$ 16,275	90	411	21.90%	\$ 191	\$ -
100-Saints Peter & Paul, Philipsburg	\$ 19,953	\$ 11,048	\$ (8,905)	\$ 9,523	78	249	31.33%	\$ 142	\$ -
105-Saint Joseph, Renovo	\$ 12,588	\$ 4,695	\$ (7,893)	\$ 4,120	27	224	12.05%	\$ 174	\$ -
107-Saint Mary, Orbisonia	\$ 4,949	\$ 2,610	\$ (2,339)	\$ 2,460	15	64	23.44%	\$ 174	\$ -
109-Saint Peter, Somerset	\$ 57,543	\$ 57,605	\$ 62	\$ 53,150	116	604	19.21%	\$ 497	\$ -
116-Saint Augustine, St. Augustine	\$ 14,272	\$ 13,825	\$ (447)	\$ 13,600	56	202	27.72%	\$ 247	\$ -
119-Saint Michael, St. Michael	\$ 23,811	\$ 15,575	\$ (8,236)	\$ 14,975	92	408	22.55%	\$ 169	\$ -
120-Our Lady of Victory, State College	\$ 143,995	\$ 237,829	\$ 93,834	\$ 219,489	579	2,029	28.54%	\$ 411	\$ 75,494
121-Saint John, Summerhill	\$ 12,602	\$ 14,280	\$ 1,678	\$ 13,110	82	205	40.00%	\$ 174	\$ 508
122-Immaculate Conception, New Germany	\$ 14,646	\$ 15,290	\$ 644	\$ 15,190	88	228	38.60%	\$ 174	\$ 544
123-Saint Aloysius, Cresson	\$ 25,024	\$ 26,456	\$ 1,432	\$ 24,406	166	401	41.40%	\$ 159	\$ -
126-Saint Matthew, Tyrone	\$ 32,145	\$ 44,417	\$ 12,272	\$ 42,717	121	364	33.24%	\$ 367	\$ 10,572
127-Saint Michael, West Salisbury	\$ 3,628	\$ 2,375	\$ (1,253)	\$ 2,181	9	37	24.32%	\$ 264	\$ -
128-Saint Mary, Pocahontas	\$ 2,403	\$ 1,010	\$ (1,393)	\$ 810	9	29	31.03%	\$ 112	\$ -

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Gifts/Pledges</u>	<u>Over/(Under)</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Donors</u>	<u>Households</u>	<u>Participation</u>	<u>Donor Average</u>	<u>Total Over-Target Receipts</u>
129-Saint Joseph, Williamsburg	\$ 6,462	\$ 2,135	\$ (4,327)	\$ 1,835	13	119	10.92%	\$ 164	\$ -
130-Saint Bartholomew, Wilmore	\$ 10,410	\$ 5,415	\$ (4,995)	\$ 5,355	41	158	25.95%	\$ 132	\$ -
132-Saints Cyril & Methodius, Windber	\$ 14,767	\$ 19,995	\$ 5,228	\$ 19,595	46	208	22.12%	\$ 435	\$ 4,828
133-Saint Anthony of Padua, Windber	\$ 24,297	\$ 9,585	\$ (14,712)	\$ 9,389	75	400	18.75%	\$ 128	\$ -
136-Good Shepherd, State College	\$ 54,629	\$ 39,249	\$ (15,380)	\$ 36,442	113	596	18.96%	\$ 347	\$ -
139-Our Lady of the Alleghenies, Lilly	\$ 22,860	\$ 22,669	\$ (191)	\$ 22,280	142	386	36.79%	\$ 160	\$ -
141-Most Holy Trinity, South Fork	\$ 11,737	\$ 3,395	\$ (8,342)	\$ 3,320	34	182	18.68%	\$ 100	\$ -
142-Our Lady of Fatima, Altoona	\$ 10,973	\$ 9,625	\$ (1,348)	\$ 8,935	45	150	30.00%	\$ 214	\$ -
144-Saint Joan of Arc, Fallentimber	\$ 5,904	\$ 4,506	\$ (1,398)	\$ 4,116	17	73	23.29%	\$ 265	\$ -
145-Queen of Peace, Patton	\$ 20,900	\$ 15,340	\$ (5,560)	\$ 14,440	68	284	23.94%	\$ 226	\$ -
146-All Saints, Boswell	\$ 17,217	\$ 9,785	\$ (7,432)	\$ 9,540	51	271	18.82%	\$ 192	\$ -
151-Our Lady, Queen of Angels, Central City	\$ 17,517	\$ 3,900	\$ (13,617)	\$ 3,605	21	272	7.72%	\$ 186	\$ -
152-Prince of Peace, Northern Cambria	\$ 37,919	\$ 15,995	\$ (21,924)	\$ 14,820	115	574	20.03%	\$ 139	\$ -
153-Saint Clare of Assisi, Johnstown	\$ 13,840	\$ 11,195	\$ (2,645)	\$ 10,940	78	278	28.06%	\$ 144	\$ -
154-Saint Demetrius, Gallitzin	\$ 30,376	\$ 11,767	\$ (18,609)	\$ 11,617	77	333	23.12%	\$ 153	\$ -
155-Saints Gregory & Barnabas, Johnstown	\$ 23,272	\$ 9,365	\$ (13,907)	\$ 9,265	86	394	21.83%	\$ 109	\$ -
156-Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Windber	\$ 22,007	\$ 7,420	\$ (14,587)	\$ 6,860	73	405	18.02%	\$ 102	\$ -
157-Queen of the Archangels, Clarence	\$ 13,475	\$ 7,430	\$ (6,045)	\$ 7,380	41	238	17.23%	\$ 181	\$ -
158-Transfiguration, Conemaugh	\$ 16,191	\$ 11,285	\$ (4,906)	\$ 10,770	55	220	25.00%	\$ 205	\$ -
159-Resurrection, Johnstown	\$ 40,114	\$ 16,038	\$ (24,076)	\$ 14,548	97	582	16.67%	\$ 165	\$ -
160-Holy Spirit, Lock Haven	\$ 37,374	\$ 15,430	\$ (21,944)	\$ 14,730	68	613	11.09%	\$ 227	\$ -
161-Holy Family, Portage	\$ 46,164	\$ 10,725	\$ (35,439)	\$ 10,215	83	785	10.57%	\$ 129	\$ -
150-Diocese Unrestricted	\$ -	\$ 4,339	\$ 4,339	\$ 4,339	6	59	10.17%	\$ 723	\$ 4,339
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,341,744</b>	<b>\$ 1,840,494</b>	<b>\$ (501,250)</b>	<b>\$ 1,715,110</b>	<b>7,753</b>	<b>33,607</b>	<b>23.07%</b>	<b>\$ 237</b>	<b>\$ 152,929</b>

Target Exceeded by amount "Pledged"

Target Exceeded by amount "Received"

Parish Refund - Offertory "Received" above Target

# Special Collection Memo

**To:** Pastors and Parochial Administrators  
**From:** Pam Seasoltz, Director of Stewardship & Development  
**Re:** Second Collection for *Catholic Charities*

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This year, the second collection for Catholic Charities of Altoona-Johnstown will occur *after* Thanksgiving on **November 26 (Christ the King Sunday)**. Bulletin flyers and/or envelopes are enclosed.

**For the weekend of November 18 & 19, all parishes should:**

- 1) Print an announcement in your bulletin (sample below),
- 2) Include the collection in verbal announcement at all masses (hold up the insert), and,
- 3) Distribute bulletin inserts and/or special envelopes.

Even if you did not request bulletin flyers, we have sent you a small amount for use as mini-posters or for placement in a gathering space. For the sake of everyone who walks through Catholic Charities doors, please do not throw them away. If you are inspired to distribute more than we provided, please call us at (814) 695-5577 for extras.

Please modify this bulletin announcement to suit your style.

**Please forward individual checks and parish checks to:**

**Catholic Charities**

**Second Collection for Catholic Charities**

For 77 years, Catholic Charities has helped our neighbors throughout Central Pennsylvania regardless of faith or background. 100% of contributions received through next weekend's second collection will directly help your neighbors in need. Please return your Catholic Charities envelope or make your gift online at [www.catholiccharitiesaj.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesaj.org). Thank you for helping Catholic Charities of Altoona-Johnstown reduce poverty in communities throughout our diocese.

**1300 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Altoona, PA 16601**

Thank you. May God bless you for raising awareness about Catholic Charities!



# YOUR GIFT, A NEIGHBOR'S HOPE

LIVE UNITED



Community Partner

Annual Second Collection  
NOVEMBER 26

## Five Reasons to Give



- † **Neighbors helping neighbors:** Your gift stays in your county, impacting an individual or family, and your local community.
- † **A hand-up:** We help clients stabilize their finances so they are less likely to need emergency financial help in the future.
- † **Transitional support:** 86% of our clients need a one-time-only gift to manage temporary financial instability caused by a major life event.
- † **Serving all people:** Catholic Charities helps all people regardless of their faith.
- † **Growing need:** Widening gaps in existing social service programs leave many of our area's seniors and families facing hunger and homelessness, forcing them to choose between paying for medicine or utility bills, childcare or food.

## MAKE YOUR DONATION ON NOVEMBER 26 WITH THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED BY YOUR PARISH.

*Thank you for putting your faith into action by helping your neighbors who are unable to afford basic necessities, like heat, water, and electricity, in their greatest time of need.*



*Your support is appreciated and makes a difference year-round:*

- ☞ Give online at [www.catholiccharitiesaj.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesaj.org).
- ☞ Mail to Catholic Charities, 1300 Twelfth Ave., Altoona, PA 16601
- ☞ Make a gift of stock or remember Catholic Charities through a bequest by contacting Diocesan Development at 814-695-5577



*Learn more, or seek our help:*

Altoona: 814-944-9388

Johnstown: 814-535-6538

Bellefonte: 814-353-0502

Martha & Mary House:  
814-254-4413

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



# Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

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

October 17, 2017

TO: Clergy, Campus ministers, parish bulletin editors

## **2018 Marriage Preparation Schedule**

- A list of Marriage Preparation dates for 2018 is available online at [dioceseaj.org](http://dioceseaj.org). Click on **Ministries/Marriage Preparation**. The information can also be accessed under **Offices/Family Life**. Click on the green Marriage Preparation box. Please refer your engaged couples to either of these sites.
- Printed brochures will be distributed at the Clergy Conference for couples who do not have access to the internet. A copy of the schedule is included in this clergy mailing.



## YOUR PREPARATION OPTIONS

*All fulfill the diocesan requirement*

- ~ **Engaged Couples Weekend**  
Time and space away from the hectic pace. A very popular weekend.
- ~ **Marriage Preparation Series**  
Led by married couples, priest or deacon.
- ~ **Sponsor Couple**  
Several sessions with a married couple from your parish. Flexible scheduling. Arranged through your parish, if offered.
- ~ **For those separated by distance**  
Try Sponsor Couple, marriage prep in your fiancé's diocese or an Engaged Encounter elsewhere. Dates and locations at [engagedencounter.org](http://engagedencounter.org).
- ~ **Online Marriage Preparation**  
Accepted by the diocese if you are unable to attend any of the above programs. Contact the Family Life Office for more information.
- ~ **Remarriage Sponsor Couple**  
Tailored to your unique situation when one or both persons have been married before. Contact the Family Life Office.
- ~ **WHEN TO ATTEND MARRIAGE PREP**  
The sooner the better but 6 to 9 months before your wedding is preferred! Couples who attend shortly after they become engaged have the most to gain. Because we give you time to dialogue with each other after our married team couples share some of their experiences, you will find your own relationship deepening. Plus, you will receive information on planning the wedding ceremony.

## 2018 MARRIAGE PREPARATION SERIES

- **Pre-registration required.** Early registration advised—some series fill up months in advance.
- **Cancellation due to weather:** For classes in all locations, call the Family Life Office at 814-886-5551. A taped message will list cancellations. If you cannot attend a session due to an unexpected situation, contact the Family Life Office for make-up instructions.
- **COST: \$70 per couple** (includes all sessions in a series). **Register by e-mail** Fee payable at the first session. Make check payable to "Family Life Office". Please come 15 minutes early to the first session for registration purposes.

### January 6 and 20

\*Snow date: Feb. 3

Sat. 9:00 am-12:45 pm  
Cathedral of the Blessed  
Sacrament Church Hall  
One Cathedral Square  
Altoona

### April 17-24-May 1

\*Snow date: May 8

Tues. 7:00-9:30 pm  
St. John the Evangelist  
Church Hall  
309 Lotz Ave., Lakemont  
Altoona

### Sept. 12-19-26

Wed. 7:00-9:30 pm

St. Francis of Assisi  
Activity Center  
134 Barron Ave.  
Johnstown

### January 13 and 27

\*Snow date: Feb. 3

Sat. 9:00 am-12:45 pm  
Resurrection Church Hall  
324 Chestnut St.  
Johnstown

### May 2-9-16

Wed. 7:00-9:30 pm

Our Lady of the  
Alleghenies Church Hall  
608 Main St.  
Lilly

### Oct. 16-23-30

Tues. 7:00-9:30 pm

St. John the Evangelist  
School Auditorium  
116 E. Bishop St.  
Bellevonte

### March 7-14-21

\*Snow date: April 4

Wed. 7:00-9:30 pm  
St. Rose of Lima School  
5514 Roselawn Ave.  
Altoona

### June 7-14-21

Thurs. 7:00-9:30 pm

Our Lady of Victory  
Activity Center  
820 Westerly Pkwy.  
State College



**Advance reservations required and can be made online at**  
[www.dioceseaj.org](http://www.dioceseaj.org) (Ministries, Marriage Preparation)

Or email information below to: [familylife@dioceseaj.org](mailto:familylife@dioceseaj.org)

- Type "Marriage Prep" in subject line.
- Include: Parish and town where series is held, names, phone, e-mail addresses, Catholic or interfaith marriage, and wedding date.

## ENGAGED COUPLES MARRIAGE PREPARATION WEEKENDS



- Informal presentations by a team which includes married couples.
- Time to plan and talk with your fiancé about your future marriage.
- Fulfills the diocesan marriage preparation requirement.
- Register early; some weekends fill up quickly!

### 2018 DATES

**NO WEEKENDS SCHEDULED IN OUR DIOCESE AT THIS TIME.**

Check the Marriage Preparation webpage for updates at [www.dioceseaj.org](http://www.dioceseaj.org)  
Click on Ministries/Marriage Preparation.

Weekends offered through Catholic Engaged Encounter are acceptable marriage preparation for our diocese. Dates and locations available at [www.engagedencounter.org](http://www.engagedencounter.org).

*Welcome to the  
Marriage Preparation  
Process for the  
Altoona-Johnstown Diocese*

**Congratulations** on your decision to marry in the Catholic Church. This sacramental preparation is an invitation to you as a couple to invest time and energy into the important work of preparing for your married life together and to continue your faith journey with God.

Because Christian marriage is a sacrament, we are excited about helping you develop a better understanding of the sacrament while fully respecting persons and beliefs of other religious traditions.

The program will provide resources and practical tools needed to grow a strong and healthy marriage as you gain insight into yourselves as individuals and as a couple.

*"Your wedding lasts a day,  
but your marriage lasts a lifetime."*

This website has excellent information to help you grow in your marriage, not only as newlyweds, but for a lifetime.

***www.ForYourMarriage.org***

**THINKING ABOUT  
NATURAL FAMILY  
PLANNING**

**Heard about this family planning method?**

- husband and wife share the responsibility
- no health risks
- costs nothing
- works with your fertility, not against it
- scientifically researched
- can improve your marital communication
- 98-99% success rate

This is **Natural Family Planning (NFP)**, an updated, scientific, medically safe, Church approved method. Scientific info: [www.woomb.org](http://www.woomb.org). Highest success rates when learned through a qualified instructor.

**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.

For information or instruction, contact Diocesan Family Life Office; 814-886-5551; [familylife@dioceseaj.org](mailto:familylife@dioceseaj.org). Certified instructors are available in the Altoona-Johnstown diocese.

# Marriage Preparation Schedule 2018



Sacramental preparation  
to help engaged couples *grow*  
a strong, faith-filled marriage.

Sponsored by **Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown**  
Family Life Office

# The *COLLECTION* Basket

NOVEMBER 2017

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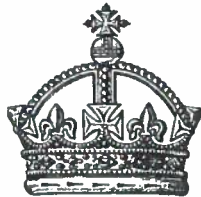
## IDEAS FOR LIVING BETTER FROM THE FAMILY LIFE OFFICE

### Family Ritual

#### Feast of Christ the King-November 26

This feast is celebrated on the last Sunday of the Church calendar. Whatever may happen, Jesus Christ will reign in the end. He is the King of all creation.

During your seasonal preparation, invite Christ the King to rule your heart by loving and serving others, especially the poor and by forgiving your enemies.



Christ the King

### Celebrating Thanksgiving

- ♥ What are some of the most difficult times you've experienced as a family this year? Looking back, can you find a reason for being thankful even for the negative?
- ♥ What is distinctive about your Thanksgiving Dinner? Is it one of the food items served? Is it one of the customs, prayers, or activities that makes it special? Whatever it is, be sure you keep it alive as your "Family Tradition."
- ♥ Have family members write a letter of Thanksgiving to someone who touched their life in some special way within the past year.
- ♥ Thanksgiving would be an ideal time for your family to celebrate the Eucharist. The word Eucharist means Thanksgiving. There is no obligation to attend Mass but the extra effort to do so makes it a little extra special.
- ♥ Let as many members of the family as possible assist in the preparation of the Thanksgiving meal. Each can do something and it should be recognized how each one contributed to the meal.



Reprinted from Holiday Spirituality in the Home- Thanksgiving to Epiphany. Published by the Family Life Office-Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown.

### Families and the Gospel

**November 5**

**Mt. 23:1-12**

In today's gospel Jesus describes the vocation of parents: "The greatest among you must be your servant." Children take our blood, genes, strength, name, patience and resources. A parent's servitude begins at the moment of conception. The Lord is present in each of our acts of selfless service.

**November 12**

**Mt. 25:1-13**

Five bridesmaids in today's gospel were considered foolish because they let their lamps go out. Don't be foolish. Pay attention to the small acts necessary to keep the flame alive in all your relationships.

**November 19**

**Mt. 25:14-30**

As the man in the gospel entrusted his servants with his money, so God has entrusted our family to us. Like the good servants we are expected, not to play it safe, but to selflessly and totally invest ourselves in each other.

**November 26**

**Mt. 25:31-46**

"When you feed or give a drink or clothing to the least, you did it for me." Today Jesus teaches us that parenting is sacramental. The routine actions of family life are religious and priestly for we make Christ present in what we do. Family Life is Beatitude life.



Reprinted with permission from:  
A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar



### Where are you going?

"Always consider yourselves pilgrims on the move toward the Lord." —Saint Augustine



## Finding Joy in Difficult Times

JOY! What a delightful word that is! Joy should be the hallmark of who we are as Christians; joy should define the way we live. We have that on no less an authority than Jesus Himself, who said at the Last Supper: "I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete."

(John 15:11)



It's a beautiful thought, isn't it? The same sentiment was expressed in another way by Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity, a 19th-century Carmelite nun: "The secret of happiness, and the secret of all the saints, is that they loved God as a friend."

It all sounds simple enough, and reasonable enough, until you remember that every one of us is saddled with something called the human condition, and our all-too-human emotions—doubt, suffering, anger, fear—can get into the way of the joy that can be ours.

We all need to know that God is a faithful friend, especially in difficult times. People who don't know about divine love often ask, "Where was God when I needed Him?" Those who know Him as a friend are more inclined to trust Him in all circumstances.

But there are times when even people with strong faith falter in the face of tragedy. And tragedy is the work to describe the powerful tsunami that struck Southeast Asia in December of 2004, taking the lives of nearly a quarter-million people. Close to a million were left homeless. The hopelessness and despair of the tsunami's aftermath shook the faith of nearly everyone, including a local Roman Catholic bishop named Joseph K Swampillia of Sri Lanka. "This disaster has shaken my faith," he told *The Wall Street Journal*, "and yet I know it was faith that saved us."

A shaken faith is not a shattered faith. Pain is pain, and each individual has to deal with suffering in his or her own way. But those who have God as a friend draw strength from Him, and manage to carry on with courage.

When someone asks them, "Where was God in this tragedy?" they are able to say that He was on the scene, encouraging the victims to help one another. They might add that God was also active all over the world, inspiring millions of people to send money for food and medical supplies. This happens over and over again as catastrophes hit us unexpectedly.

God is strong enough to overlook the indignation of those who doubt Him, and gentle enough to accept all kinds of ridicule and rejection, because He remains loving in all circumstances.

## On Generosity

*Franciscan Virtues Through the Year, p. 49*

"Generosity is more than giving. It means giving from your want, from your need, not just giving what you have left over. Can you remember a time when someone showed you generosity? ...Additionally, generosity can be shown with gifts of time or a listening ear. We can be generous in sharing our talents or our knowledge. Generosity is giving an undeserved gift without expecting gratitude or repayment..."

The reflection concludes, "Is it possible to be generous to a fault? St. Francis would not think so. He would consider how generous God is with us. He gives his very best. He gives us himself in His Son... We can never out give God. St. Francis thanked God profusely and constantly for His generosity."

"Have you thanked God lately for his outpouring of undeserved generosity in your life?"

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

## Music to Their Ears!

Music is recognized and used as a therapeutic tool in promoting mental health. Through the centuries the family of man has used music to help celebrate the joys of life as well as to help bear the sorrows.

How does music fit into the educational and developmental aspects of the lives of our children? It has been established that children learn through the senses. Studies have shown that infants are quieter and more relaxed when there is constant soft music in their environment.

As the child grows, you can provide your child with valuable learning tools in the form of music-making toys or objects. Clap out rhythms with your child. Dance with them. Label what you are doing as you and your child sing, hum, jig, dance, or clap to music. Children take great delight in responding to music they learn to recognize. Various musical rhythms and patterns help a child to correlate sensory learning. When a child has mastered a degree of sensory learning, they can move on to symbolic and abstract learning.

Adequate exposure to music will help the child acquire a keener sensitivity to their environment and enhance physical development.

