

ST. THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS

THE CHURCH OF THE FRANCISCANS
FR. BERNARD KARMANOCKY, OFM, PASTOR
FR. FRANCIS BALESTINO, IN RESIDENCE



CHURCH/RECTORY
536 Decker Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15906

OFFICE HOURS WEEKLY
Monday – Friday
9:00AM---2:00PM
Website:StThereseJohnstown.com

CONVENT
702 Saybrook Place
Johnstown, PA 15906

SOCIAL HALL: 535-8805
CHURCH HALL: 536-2287
RECTORY: 539-7633

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Aug 16, 2026

FIRST READING: Thus says the LORD: “Stand firm in justice; do what is right” (Isaiah 56:1, 6-7).

PSALM: O God, let all the nations praise you! (Psalm 67).

SECOND READING: The gifts and the calling of God are unable to be revoked (Romans 11:13-15, 29-32).

GOSPEL: Recognizing the Canaanite woman’s great faith, Jesus told her, “It shall be done as you wish” (Matthew 15:21-28).

LITURGICAL REFLECTION: WHY PRAY?
The “foreigners” as Isaiah calls them, the “Gentiles” as Paul calls them, or the “Canaanites” as Matthew calls them are called to worship the one true God in prayer. As we listen to today’s readings, perhaps we are tempted to ask: Why pray? The question is rhetorical; it is tantamount to asking why should friends talk to one another or people in love kiss one another. Prayer is a way of relating to God, a way of talking to God. The apostles had the opportunity to talk to Jesus in the flesh. We have the opportunity to talk to Jesus Christ in prayer. Our relationship with him must be enthusiastic; it cannot be faint-hearted. John Donne, a fifteenth-century poet, knew what the qualities of good prayer were. Donne asks God to treat him differently from most Christians. The poet does not want God to merely “knock, breathe, shine, and seek to mend,” but also to “break, blow, burn, and make me new” (Holy Sonnets, XIV). It takes a dynamic faith on our part to come to God in prayer. As Jesus once said, “Knock and the door will be opened to you” (Matthew 7:7). It may take pounding the door down, but if we are as persistent as the woman in today’s Gospel, the results will follow. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

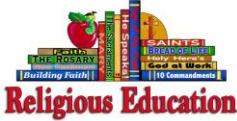
WEEKLY PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

MON	08/17		
TUES	08/18		
WED	08/19		
THURS	08/20		
FRI	08/21		
SAT	08/22	3:00PM	Confession
SUN	08/23		Faculity Meeting after 10:30 Mass

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK: (Aug 17th – Aug 23rd)

MON	8/17. 7:50AM.	+ Jim Udouch – (Wife, Anna & Family)
TUES	8/18. 7:50AM.	+ Living & Deceased Benefactors & the Francisan Communitiy
WED	8/19. 7:50AM.	+ Matilda Simcic – (Family)
THUR	8/20. 7:50AM.	+ Martin Simcic – (Family)
FRI	8/21. 7:50AM.	+ Joseph Yeager (one month mind) – (Gorczycki Family)
SAT	8/22. 4:00PM.	+ Jason Mulvehill – (Sister, Claire)
SUN	8/23. 7:30AM.	+ (A) Regis Bender – (Wife & Daughter’s)
	. . . 10:30AM.	+ (B) Mike & Don Delich – (Marilyn, Jeanne & Families)

Sunday, Aug 16, 2026



Stewardship Reflections: Our readings today remind us that God is ever-faithful, even when we are not. They challenge us as Christian stewards to show our love for this faithful God through actions, and to lean in to our trust in Him even when it seems He is not answering our prayers.

Jesus certainly challenged the Canaanite woman in today's Gospel passage from Matthew. She called out to Him on behalf of her daughter, who was being tormented by a demon. What did Jesus do in reply to this mother's desperate plea? Nothing. He "did not say a word in answer to her." But she was undeterred and continued to call out to Him. Jesus did not give her what she asked for right away. Instead, He continued to challenge the woman's faith. And she rises to the challenge to such an impressive degree that Jesus exclaims, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish."

Imagine hearing those words proclaimed over us by God. Truly, there could be no higher honor than hearing our Lord say that to us. So we must accept the difficulties that come with the stewardship way of life. Some days will be a true challenge, but those are the days when God is making saints of us. Let's embrace the hard days. The deep joy that eventually comes will be so worth it.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS
(August 8th – August 9th, 2026)

Weekly		\$ 3,668.00
Building Fund		\$ 170.00

Fishers of Men Vocation Appeal. As our numbers of seminarians increases, the coat of their formation also rises. This is a good problem to have! But we need your support to fund their formation, which costs approximately \$65,000 per year for tuition, room and board, and health insurance. We've also added excellent new programs to reach young men, so we expect our number of seminarians to increase even further! To support our seminarians and these increased efforts, please give using the envelopes in your pews or at ajvocations.org/give



Cash Give-a-Way. Winning number taken from first PA Pick 3 Drawing at 7PM the month of October 2026.
Tickets are \$10.
We still have a few tickets left to sell
You can purchase tickets before all Masses or call the office if you would like a couple to sell.
This is a church Fundraiser

There will be faculty meeting in the Church Hall on **next Sunday, August 23rd after the 10:30Mass** for all grades. Please be present so we can discuss the up-coming year

Religious Ed Registration News



All students entering our program will need to complete a registration form and provide a copy of their baptismal certificate.
In the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown the sacrament of Confirmation is a three-year program in preparation for receiving the sacrament. This will include all students in the ninth grade – those in our Religious Education Program, students enrolled in Bishop McCort High School, and home-schooled children. Bishop McCort students and home-schooled children will need to complete a registration form.
If your child is entering second grade at Divine Mercy or is home schooled, they are required to participate in the 2nd Grade religious education program to make their First Confession & Holy Eucharist.

Registration forms are in the back of the church. They can be put into the collection basket or returned to the rectory by the end of August.
Any student leaving our Religious Education Program is asked to notify the Rectory.



Weather permitting, Fr Karmanocky will have Sunday Mass at 10:30 outside in the breezeway. Please bring your lawn chair.



Catholic Ministries
DRIVE

Thank you to the **74** families who have pledged as of July 31st a total of **\$11,945.00** towards our target amount of **\$23,100**. Saint Peter teaches us, "As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Peter 4:10). Fr Bernards hope is for parishioner participation; we are now at **31.49% parishioner participation**. Please prayerfully consider making a pledge according to your means. You have until Dec 31st 2026 to pay your pledge in full.



CAUTION

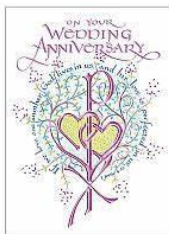
Please use caution if you plan on making a trip up to the rectory this week, we will be digging up the old blocked storm drains and installing new down spouts & drains around the rectory and also the oak trees in the front of the rectory are a hazard, they will be removed.
~St Therese Building Committee

Community News & Events



HITMIX MUSIC BINGO -Will be held on **Saturday, August 29th** at St Therese Social hall, hosted by the Greater Johnstown Cheerleading. Doors open at 5PM, Bingo starts at 6PM. \$25 entry fee includes 5 rounds of bingo, 50/50 and qualifiers will be sold. Food will be provided. **BYOB**

Get your tickets by calling Jackie at 814-418-8295 or tickets will be sold at the door.



Bishop Mark Bartchak and the Family Life Office cordially invite all couples celebrating **1, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60+ years of marriage in 2026** (and their families) to attend the **Annual Wedding Anniversary Liturgy**. Couples may attend Sunday, **September 13th** in **ALTOONA** at Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament or Sunday, **September 20th** in **JOHNSTOWN** at St. John Gualbert Cathedral. Both locations are handicap accessible. Liturgies in each location begin at **2:00 p.m.** Most Rev. Bishop Mark will be the celebrant and homilist at each celebration. Refreshments/snacks will be available after the mass for anniversary couples and their families. **Reservations must be made through your parish for either celebration by Friday, September 11th.**

DIOCESAN FAMILY CONFERENCE CELEBRATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DIOCESE. The diocesan family conference will be held on **Saturday, September 19th** at **Bishop Carroll Catholic High School, Ebensburg.** This conference has been designed for every generation, from young children and teens to parents, grandparents, clergy and parish leaders. This day includes the annual Men's and Women's Conferences, Shycon (also a discipleship event for Senior High Confirmation candidates) and Junior High Youth Day.

This day-long event will offer inspiring keynote presentations, engaging break-out sessions, opportunities for prayer and fellowship, food and the Vigil Mass for Sunday. You may register online at: dioceseaj.org or copies of the **registration booklet are available in the vestibule**, or by contacting the parish office. Please also prayerfully consider being a Sponsor for this day. Information on the day and to be a sponsor are in the registration booklet. For additional information contact Francine Swope at fswope@dioceseaj.org OR (814)317-2646.

St Matthew's Anglican Church Spaghetti Dinner/ Basket Party Saturday, Sept 5th 12:30-2:30 PM



St Therese Social Hall
Includes Spaghetti Dinner
and 25 Basket Tickets cost \$15.00.
Soft walk-through **Friday 4-7 Sept 4th**.
hot dogs and snacks will be available for purchase.
For tickets/information call
Arlene 814-244-3863 or Denny 814-322-6631.



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Basket Party is hosting a walk-through basket party on the weekends of Sept. 26 & 27 and Oct. 3 & 4 from 12:00pm-5:00pm. There will be no sit-down drawing in the Church Hall. The drawing will take place on SEAS' Facebook Live Sun. Oct 4th at 5pm. Please consider donating a wrapped basket(s), baskets should have a minimum value of \$25. Baskets may be dropped off at SEAS' church office from 7am-12pm Mon-Thur. or Sun. before Mass. Deadline for basket donations is September 23rd. In addition to the walk-through basket party, there will be a Takeout Menu of baked goods while supplies last. All are welcome!



Pilgrimage to Padre Pio Shrine

Saint Andrew Catholic Church in Johnstown is organizing a pilgrimage on the feast day of Saint Padre Pio to the National Centre for Padre Pio in Barto, PA on Wednesday September 23. We will plan to leave Saint Andrew Church parking lot by 6am and depart Barto at 3pm. Seats on the bus are \$55 and children are free.

We will participate in Mass celebrated with an auxiliary bishop of Philadelphia, Fr Crowe, and other priests present, outdoor procession with a statue of Padre Pio accompanied by the Italian Festival band, Confessions will also be available.

We will be able to view many of Padre Pio's relics and learn more about his life. The Padre Pio Museum and Cultural center will be open for visits. A food truck will be available for lunch. We will stop for dinner on the way back home. The ticket price does not include food. Please sign up with the sign up sheet located at the St Andrew adoration chapel foyer. Signups are first come, first served, so sign up today!

Payment is due by September 7. This allows us to properly plan and pay for everything. If you would like to go but the cost of the ticket might be prohibitive, please do not let this stop you. Financial assistance may be available to help cover the cost of the ticket. Please contact Eileen Bohensky for more details or if you would like to sign up. Phone number: 814-893-5702. Email: ebohensky@comcast.net.

"Some of the littlest things take up the most room in your heart"

ABORTION; "Among the vulnerable for whom the Church wishes to care with particular love and concern are unborn children, the most defenseless and innocent among us. Nowadays efforts are made to deny them their human dignity and to do with them whatever one pleases, taking their lives and passing laws preventing anyone from standing in the way of this...Precisely because this involves the internal consistency of our message about the value of the human person, the Church cannot be expected to change her position on this question...It is not 'progressive' to try to resolve problems by eliminating a human life" Pope Francis

Electronic Devices- Just a friendly reminder, to please refrain from using all electronic devices during liturgical celebrations. Thank-you



Grief Support Group You are not alone

Join our monthly support group and meet others who are going through similar things you are. Everyone in the community is welcome!

First Friday of Every Month
Starting Friday, Sept 4th
at 2:00PM

322 Warren st Suite 220
for more information call
814-262-8305

Intertrim Healthcare- Johnstown Hospice



Sept 13th

Sept 23rd-Oct 1st

Sept 24th

Oct 17th & 18th

Oct 18th

First Day CCD 9AM

St Therese Novena

Piroghi Project - Social hall

Oktoberfest

Knights of Columbus Gun Bash St Andrews