

ST. ANNE'S CHURCH

FR. BERNARD KARMANOCKY, OFM, PASTOR
FR. FRANCIS BALESTINO, IN RESIDENCE

CHURCH:
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OFFICE HOURS-(Mon-Fri)
9:00AM to 2:00PM

August 16, 2026

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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.

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR LECTORS AND ALTAR SERVERS

5:30PM	Saturday, Aug 22nd	9:00 AM	Sunday, Aug 23rd
Lector:	Ed Olshefski	Lector:	Kevin Houghton

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK -- (August 17th – August 23rd)

MON	8/17	7:00AM. . . + Mary Catherine & Andy Bicko – (Brother, Joe Tavalisky)
TUES	8/18	7:00AM. . . + Intention Dantis
WED	8/19	7:00AM. . . + Dorothea Oldham – (Cousins, Jeanne & Marilyn)
THURS	8/20	7:00AM. . . + Matilda & Martin Simcic
FRI	8/21	7:00AM. . . + Bob Verhovsek – (Ester & Hank Hughes)
SAT	8/22	5:30PM. . . + For Living & Deceased Members of the Ferg/Swaney Family – (Barbara Voci)
SUN	8/23	9:00AM . . . + Carol Olshefski – (Pattie Horner)

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
Aug 8th & 9th, 2026

Weekly	\$ 1,494.00
Monthly	\$ 113.00
Assumption	\$ 30.00
Poor Box	\$ 253.00

Thank you for your continued support of St. Anne’s Parish! Please remember in your prayers the deceased parishioners and benefactors of our parish. God Bless!

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.

REGISTER NOW

Fishers of Men Vocation Appeal
REMINDER

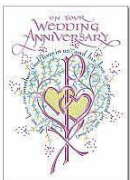
As our number of seminarians increases, the cost of their formation also rises. This is a good problem to have! But we need your support to fund their formation, which costs approximately \$65,000 per year for tuition, room and board, and health insurance. We’ve also added excellent new programs to reach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



Catholic Ministries
DRIVE

Thank you to the 29 families who have pledged as of July 31st. 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 an **increased parishioner participation**; we are currently at **32.95%**. Please prayerfully consider making a pledge according to your means. You have until Dec 31st 2026 to pay your pledge in full. **All monies over our goal will be returned to St. Anne Parish**

Community News & Events



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.

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**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

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



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.



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

Interim Healthcare- Johnstown Hospice