

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



CONVENT
702 Saybrook Place
Johnstown, PA 15906

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

Website:StThereseJohnstown.com

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sept 13, 2026

FIRST READING: Remember the commandments and hate not your neighbor (Sirach 27:30 — 28:7).

PSALM: The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion (Psalm 103).

SECOND READING: Whether we live, or whether we die, we do so for the Lord (Romans 14:7-9).

GOSPEL: Forgive one another from your heart (Matthew 18:21-35).

LITURGICAL REFLECTION: FORGIVENESS
Nearly ten years before, a son and father had parted ways when the business they shared went bankrupt. The son blamed the father. They did not speak to each other again. Then the father became seriously ill. The mother called the son and told him he had better come soon. The son walked sheepishly into the hospital room. The father motioned his son to him and whispered: “Did you ever think you could do anything that would keep me from loving you?” Resentment and anger are foul things, the first reading from Sirach tells us. Remember the last things. Stop hating. Live by the commandments. As St. Paul writes to the Romans, we are to live for the Lord and die for the Lord. Jesus’ parable in today’s Gospel reminds us of God’s compassion. The immense sin of humanity has been forgiven and stricken from the record. We are to forgive others in the same way.
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WEEKLY PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

MON	09/14		
TUES	09/15		
WED	09/16		
THURS	09/17		
FRI	09/18		
SAT	09/19	3:00PM	Confession
SUN	09/20		

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK: (Sept 14th – Sept 20th)

MON	9/14. 7:50AM. + (B) Vera Sturm – (Pat Rayha)
TUES	9/15. 7:50AM. + Kevin Gritzer – (Family)
WED	9/16. 7:50AM. + Martin & Matilda Simcic – (Family)
THUR	9/17. 7:50AM+ Intention Dantis
FRI	9/18. 7:50AM+ Theresa Byrnes – (Friends)
SAT	9/19 4:00PM+ Francis Ozog – (Family)
SUN	9/20. 7:30AM. + Pro Populo
	. . . 10:30AM. + (WA) Henry & Katherine Gorczycki – (Family)

Sunday, Sept 13, 2026

Stewardship Reflections: As Christian stewards, we recognize that all we have and all that we are is a gift from God, and we live our lives in a grateful response to such extravagant love. This calls for continuous conversion of heart. The practices of giving a portion of our time, our talents and our treasure are essential steps on the path to conversion. But they serve an even deeper purpose than helping us remember our good intentions. They open our minds and hearts to ever-deepening surrender to the Lord, Who has given us every good thing.

In our Gospel passage from Matthew, Jesus gives us a provocative reminder of the true position we have before Him in light of all that He has done for us. He compares the kingdom of heaven to a "king who decided to settle accounts with his servants." In the parable, a debtor is brought before the king, owing such an overwhelming debt that it could not possibly be repaid. Yet, the king is filled with compassion for the servant, forgives the debt and lets him go free.

Just like the servant in the parable, we could never possibly repay our debt to the Lord. All we can do is thank God by giving Him our whole selves - our outward actions and our inner selves - and by treating our fellow debtors with the same compassion and forgiveness He has shown to us. In fact, Jesus rightfully and justly commands us to "forgive your brother from your heart." What joy and freedom of heart we find in the stewardship way of life!

LAST WEEK’S COLLECTIONS
(Sept 5th – Sept 6th, 2026)

Weekly		\$ 4,461.00
Building Fund		\$ 570.00
Fuel		\$ 1,180.00



Thank you to the **77** families who have pledged as of July 31st a total of **\$12,720.00** 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 100% parishioner participation; we are now at **32.77% parishioner participation**. Please prayerfully consider making a pledge according to your means. You have until Dec 31st 2026 to pay your pledge in full.

First day of CCD classes will be on **TODAY Sunday, Sept 13th** starting at **9AM** with a prayer service in the Church.



Mark Your Calendars: We will be making piroghis for the Novena on **Thursday, Sept 24th**.

- 1) Tuesdays- peel potatoes starting at 8:00AM
- 2) Thursdays-7:30AM make potato balls and dough, and assemble & cook piroghi.

To Order: Sign-up sheets: will be in the vestibule after all Masses **next weekend, Sept 19th & 20th**

Piroghi Pick up will be on **Thursday Sept 24th 11-2PM or Friday Sept 25th, from 10:00-12:00PM or call on Monday, Sept 21st 9-11AM 814-539-7633**

OKTOBERFEST 2026

Oktoberfest is will be here before you know it. We are asking for and really do appreciate the following:

Theme Basket (at least \$30.00 in value) for the basket raffle. If Basket making is not your specialty you can make a monetary donation, we will make it for you!



\$5, \$10, & \$25 gift cards for the Wheel raffle (Saturday Night)



Novena to Honor Saint Therese of the Child Jesus
Opens next **Wednesday, Sept 23rd** and will end on **Thursday, Oct 1st**, the Feast of St. Therese.
Mass Schedule -
Weekday Masses at 9AM and 7PM;
Saturday Masses at 9AM, 4PM, and 7PM;
Sunday Masses at 7:30AM, 10:30AM, and 7:00PM.
Sunday, Sept 27th at 2PM Anointing of the sick

In light of the Slavic Festival, parking for the 4:00 PM Mass, Sat Sept 19th will be congested. Please follow the direction of the parking attendants. There will be shuttles running throughout our parking area to bring you to and from the Church if needed. (FYI there no parking fees for the Slavic Festival)



This weekend, the Arch Diocese will take up the National Collection for the **Catholic University of America**. Catholic

University is a national research university in the heart of Washington DC, with over 5,700 undergraduate and graduate students in more than 250 academic programs. By giving to the collection, you are supporting future Catholic leaders, from both religious and lay, who are being formed by an exceptional, faith-rooted education. The university's various research and training initiatives support dioceses and parishes in responding to the most pressing needs of their faithful. Please be as generous as your circumstances allow.

Dear Parishioners,
May the Lord give you His peace.
In a few weeks we will begin a series of catechesis at St. Therese Church. Soon a local team will be inviting you at the weekend Masses. I will join with them, asking you to consider coming and listening to these talks. More materials will be forthcoming in the near future
Fr. Bernard

Community News & Events

The 11th Annual Johnstown Slavic Festival will be held here at St Therese. The festival will be on **Sept 18th & 19th**, with Friday hours being from 4-10PM and Saturday from noon - 9:30PM concluding with a firework display. The festival is free to attend and will feature Slavic music and dance groups from across the US.

The festival also hosts several educational lectures as well as cooking demonstrations all which are free to attend.

There will be numerous Slavic food vendors along with Slavic arts and crafts vendors.

For the first time ever, in conjunction with the community Arts Center, we will have a Slavic kids zone, which will teach and entertain children about the Slavic culture along with arts and crafts.

We will also have one ticketed event is a Pysanky Egg Painting class, attendees will have a hands on opportunity to learn how to make their own Pysanky eggs, by national expert, Carol Movosel. All materials are provided and you can purchase tickets on the Johnstown Slavic Festival

Facebook or at our website at

<https://johnstownslavicfestival.org>



St Clare of Assisi Spaghetti Dinner:

Sunday, TODAY September 13, 2026

from 11:00 to 2:00pm. Homemade Sauce and Meatballs! Stop in and buy some Italian Cookies!

The cost of the dinner is \$15 and includes:

Spaghetti with Sauce, 2 Meatballs, Salad, and Dessert. Cookies are sold separately. Hope you can join us!



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!

A Prayer to Saint Joseph, Defender of Life
Dearest Saint Joseph, at the word of an angel, you lovingly took Mary into your home. As God's humble servant, you guided the Holy family on the road to Bethlehem, welcomed Jesus as your own son in the shelter of a manger, and fled far from your homeland for the safety of both Mother and Child. We praise God that as their faithful protector, you never hesitated to sacrifice for those entrusted to you. May your example inspire us also to welcome, cherish, and safeguard God's most precious gift of life. Help us to faithfully commit ourselves to the service and defense of human life- especially where it is vulnerable or threatened. Obtain for us the grace to do the will of God in all things. Amen



"Sometimes the Smallest things take up the most

*Lord God almighty,
bless our grandparents with long life, happiness, and health.
May they remain constant in your love
and be living signs of your presence
to their children and grandchildren.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R/. Amen*



Whether they go by Grammy & Pappy, Grandma & Grandpa, Nana & Pop Pop, Meemaw & Peepaw- there is no question that Grandparents are the Greatest. Make sure you take a moment out of your day today to let them know how special they are.

CONGRATULATIONS
to our **WINNERS!**

Winners of the St. Anne Christian Mothers Labor Day Ticket

#598 Winner - Loretta Ozog \$1,000

#599 number above Barb Shovestull \$100

#597 number below Diana Hanile \$100

The Feast of the Stigmata of St. Francis of Assisi is September 17th

Two years before the death of St Francis in 1226, while deep in prayer and fasting, a seraph angel carrying the figure of a crucified man appeared before him and imprinted in his flesh, the Nail Marks of Christ Jesus' Crucifixion, forming on his hands and feet, and an open wound appeared in his side.

In January, Pope Leo XIV established 2026 a special **Jubilee Year** commemorating 800 yrs since the death of St. Francis. A **Plenary Indulgence** has been granted (*usual conditions*) to those who participate devoutly in this extraordinary Jubilee.



Conditions for receiving the Indulgence (*for oneself or for the deceased*):

- **Visitation:** Pilgrimage to a Franciscan church / place of worship anywhere in the world, where one renews one's profession of faith
- **Sacramental Confession** (in the eight days before or after the pilgrimage)
- **Participation in Mass and Eucharistic Communion.**
- **Recitation of the Lord's Prayer**
- **Prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father**

**Bishop Mark has designated as one of the pilgrimage sites
where a person can receive this indulgence:**

St. John Vianney Church, 3513 William Penn Avenue, Johnstown

On Thursday, September 17, 2026, S.J.V. Church will have a special event open to all who wish to gain this **Plenary Indulgence**. Beginning at 6:00 PM, Fr Timothy will present a talk on **St Francis and the gift of the Stigmata** in the parish hall. We will include the required prayers for the indulgence.

At about 6:30 PM, we will then celebrate the Mass for the Feast, offering the opportunity to receive the Eucharist. Following Mass, several Franciscan Friars will be available to hear **Confessions** completing the steps to receive the indulgence. If you are interested in attending, please email or call Fr Timothy so we have enough chairs set up. (814) 322-4789 or THarris@dioceseaj.org We hope to see you there!