

**The Baptism of the Lord**  
**January 11, 2026**  
**Mass Intentions**

**January 11, Sunday, The Baptism of the Lord**  
8:00AM+Geraldine Petrunak (Richard & Dottie Gosman)  
10:00AM+Bob Cowan & Mary Janette Marlett (Cowan Family)  
5:00PM Pro Popolo/For the People

**January 12, Monday, First Week in Ordinary Time**  
12:00PM+John Kasun Jr. (Sue Caldwell)

**January 13, Tuesday, Saint Hillary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church**  
12:00PM+Ruth Novack (Bill & Grace Smith)

**January 14, Wednesday, Weekday**  
12:00PM+Alice Winkler, Anniversary (Family)

**January 15, Thursday, Weekday**  
12:00PM+Jusy Roccasano (Dave & Maureen Hanekamp)

**January 16, Friday, Weekday**  
12:00PM+Special Intention Dr. Fred Petrunak, Birthday (Family)

**January 17, Saturday, Saint Anthony Abbot**  
12:00PM+Bill Crouse/Mike Kling, Ann (Families)  
Vigil : **Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
5:00PM+Barbara Dively, Anniversary (Families)

**January 18, Sunday, Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
8:00AM+Sister Beverly Hmel (Elizabeth Axinn)  
10:00AM+Kirk Kling (Mom & Families)  
5:00PM Pro Popolo/For the People

**Additional Christmas Flower Memorials**

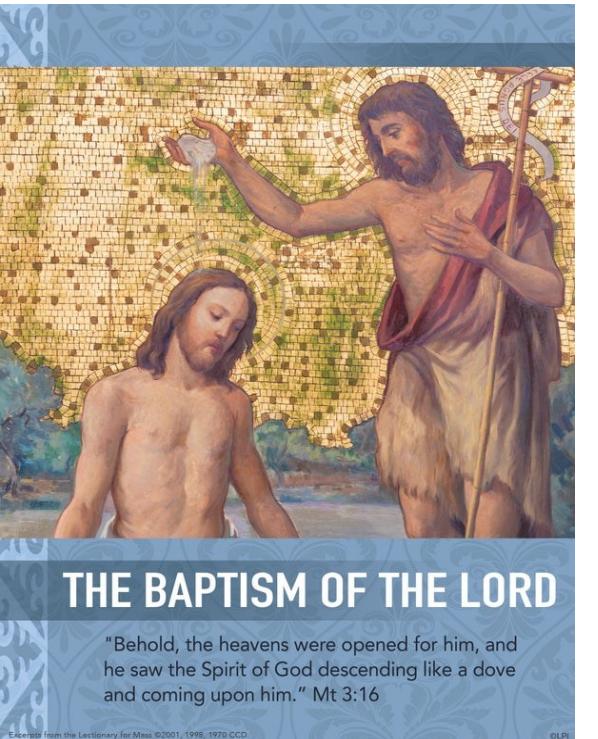
Bearer & Kirkpatrick Families  
Paul Luke  
Deceased members of The Henry Mangiacarne Family

**End of Christmas Season/Taking Down Decorations**  
**Since the Christmas season ends with this Sunday's Feast of our Lord's baptism, help will be needed to take down our decorations on Monday, January 12, at 8:00 A.M. The poinsettias will be bagged and you're welcome to take as many as you want home.**

**OFERTORY COLLECTIONS**

Sunday, January 4, 2026 \$ 7,569.31

Thank you for your monetary and personal contributions to the life of our parish.



**Parish Council Meeting**

There will be a Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday, January, 13th at 6:00 P.M. in the office building.



**PARISH FINANCE MEETING**

Our Finance Council will meet on Tuesday, January 20th, at 4:30 P.M. in the office building.

**Thirty-Nineth Annual Respect Life March:**

**Sunday, January 18th, 2026**

We will begin at 12:00 noon with a Prayer Service at St. Matthew Church in Tyrone. We then walk 1.25 miles to Oak Grove Cemetery to the grave of Baby Agnes Doe, for another short prayer service. A hot luncheon will be served in the parish hall after the march. You are cordially invited to spend a couple hours as we publicly show our love to God's most defenseless children, both born and unborn. You will enjoy the fellowship as we draw upon the strengths of each other as we continue to battle the lack of respect of life at all stages, from the unborn child to the terminally ill. Please join us as we walk prayerfully and meditate upon the atrocities. You are encouraged to bring a sign, if you are unable to walk this distance, please feel free to join in by driving at the end of the procession.

**March for Life**

Citizens Concerned for Human Life is planning a bus trip to the March for Life on Friday, January 23, 2026, in Washington. A [fundraiser seeking donations to assist with the expense of this trip and other expenses throughout the year will take place the weekend of January 18th, 2026](#). Our bus or buses will be leaving for the March from St. Therese's Church in Altoona at 7:00 A.M. and will be leaving Washington by 4:00P.M. we hope to be back in Altoona around 8:30 P.M.

We will also have pickups at St. Mary's in Hollidaysburg at 7:20 A.M. and Walmart in East Freedom at 7:45 A.M.

We ask the participants to pack a lunch and, on the way back, from the March we will stop at the Golden Corral in either Frederick or Hagerstown for dinner.

The March is always prayerful and peaceful, and our cost is \$10.00 for students and \$15.00 for adults. For reservations, please contact Patricia Forr or Marita Forr at (814) 946-0681 or Roxanne Blazovitch at (814) 696-8008.



**SPAGHETTI DINNER FOR SEMINARIANS**

The Men's Club of St. Mary and St. Michael Parish in Hollidaysburg will be hosting a spaghetti dinner on Wednesday, January 21, at St. Mary Social Hall at 312 Clark Street from 4-7 P.M. The dinner features both dine in or take out meals. In addition, a basket bingo will be held with winners being drawn at 7 P.M. Proceeds will be support diocesan seminarians. Dinner tickets can be purchased in advance since only a limited number of dinner tickets will be available for walk up purchase. Tickets may be purchased by calling St. Michael Parish office at 818-695-0912 or by contacting John Elder at 814-270-1051. Donation of \$10 for adult dinner and \$5 for children 10 and under.



The next Cathedral's Men's Group get-together is Thursday, January 15, at 7:00 P.M. in our hall. For more information, contact Randy Isenberg at 814-931-5021.

**Stewardship Reflections**

Jesus's baptism is a story we've heard before, so it is easy to lose sight of just how incredible it is, that Jesus wished to be baptized in the Jordan River by His cousin, John. We spent the last two weeks marvelling at the fact that this Savior of ours was born as a baby in a crude stable for our sake, and now this! Stop and contemplate our Lord, in all His perfection, waiting quietly and patiently in line with a bunch of sinners (like us) in order to "lead by example." His love and humility in serving and self-giving are beyond all telling.

And just in case there was any doubt about the extraordinary actions of Jesus that the day at the Jordan River, we learn the powerful affirmation of the Father. Who, immediately after the baptism, opens the heavens and sends the Holy Spirit upon Jesus in bodily form and says audibly, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well pleased!" Wow!



January 11, 2026

The Baptism of the Lord

Matthew 3:13-17

Apple ran a commercial not long ago called "Behind the Mac – Greatness." It shows artists and creators, such as Kendrick Lamar, Billie Eilish, and Lady Gaga, working behind their MacBooks. The narration says, "There's a certain kind of person who doesn't wait for greatness. They make it." It's a compelling message. There's beauty in using our gifts with passion and purpose. But there lies a hidden weight in that idea: If you are what you make, what happens when you can't anymore? When the project fails, the passion fades, or the spotlight moves on, where is greatness then?

Today's Gospel offers a differing vision of greatness. Jesus steps into the Jordan River. He hasn't preached, healed, or performed a single miracle. Then the heavens open, and the Father speaks: "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." It's not a reward for success. It's not earned. Before he does anything "great," Jesus receives the greatness of his identity from the Father.

And so do you. At your baptism, God said the same thing over you: "You are my beloved." That is your true identity, not constructed or earned but received. When we see ourselves and others this way, everything changes for the better. We discover a greatness that can never be taken away.

This week, reflect on your baptism: look up the date, thank God for it, pray for those baptized with you, or visit the church where it happened. Let your identity be rooted there.

Father John Muir

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The Altoona Gabriel Project is a Catholic Pro-Life ministry dedicated to helping moms and babies with supplies, as well as providing spiritual and emotional support. Our parish has a collection crib at the alley entrance for non-perishable baby items (diapers, wipes, clothing, bibs, towels, blankets, etc.).

The Cathedral is a distribution site on Thursdays from 1:30-2:30 P.M..

If you know of moms who need help, call 814 - 440-1021.



#### THE SHRINES OF ITALY PILGRIMAGE

Msgr. Stan Carson will be making a pilgrimage to Rome and some of the shrines of Italy from Monday, October 12, to Thursday, October 22, 2026. Brochures are at the entrances of the cathedral. Details can also be found at

<https://gateway.gocollette.com/link1377752>

You may also call Brenda Ajay at 888-462-9299.

The Church of Altoona-Johnstown

# THE CATHEDRAL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

ONE CATHEDRAL SQUARE, Altoona, Pennsylvania 16601-3315

## THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD, JANUARY 11, 2026

### CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS:

The process of formation for those seeking God through membership in the Catholic Church. Call 814-944-4603

### INFANT BAPTISM:

Arrange in advance for pre-baptismal instructions.

### CONFIRMATION:

Ninth, tenth and eleventh and twelfth grade students are invited to participate in the Confirmation Preparation Process.

### RECONCILIATION:

Wednesday: 7:00 PM, Saturday: 12:30 PM or by appointment, by texting or calling 814-937-8240

### ANOINTING OF THE SICK:

Upon Request and Communal celebration

### MARRIAGE:

Arrange nine months in advance. Couples expected to participate in pre-marriage preparation program.

### DEVOTIONS:

Eucharistic Adoration - Normally, the First Wednesday 12:30 PM - 6:45 PM

Eucharistic Day - Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ.

### PRO-LIFE ROSARY

Sponsored by the Christian Mothers on Thursdays after the noon Mass.

**Church Office:** 814-944-4603

**Msgr. Carson E-mail:**

[scarson@dioceseaj.org](mailto:scarson@dioceseaj.org)

**Secretary E-mail:**

[pclemens@dioceseaj.org](mailto:pclemens@dioceseaj.org)

**Fax:** 814-942-4337

**Mass Times**

Sunday:	Weekday:
5:00 PM (Vigil)	12:00 Noon
8:00 AM	
10:00 AM	
5:00 PM	12:00 Noon

**Most Reverend Mark L. Bartchak, J.C.D., Bishop**  
**Reverend Monsignor Stanley Carson, Rector**  
**Paula Clemens, Parish Secretary**

### DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Chris Laraia - Pre-K thru 12 - 814-312-7317  
Religious Education Office: Sundays - 814-943-7424  
E-mail: [claraia@dioceseaj.org](mailto:claraia@dioceseaj.org)

### DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

Mr. Bob Long 814-944-2044, [rlong@dioceseaj.org](mailto:rlong@dioceseaj.org)

### CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME - 814-944-4603

### GABRIEL PROJECT-814-440-1021

### MAIL MINISTRY TO ELDERLY, HOMEBOUND, SERIOUSLY SICK, AND GRIEVING - 814-944-4603

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM:

September through April: Pre-Kindergarten thru 12. Sunday morning 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM Pre-Kindergarten thru 8. Grades 9-12 Sunday evening at 6:15 P.M.

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*Serving the People of God in the City of Altoona Since 1851*