

**Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time  
February 8, 2026  
Mass Intentions**

**February 8, Sunday, Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:00AM+Jean Sheehan (Ann Bettwy Plutko Family)  
10:00AM+Mary Ann Hofer (Sons Bob & Rick Hofer)  
5:00PM Pro Popolo/For the People

**February 9, Monday, Weekday**

12:00PM+Nancy Moffa Jenaway (Estate)

**February 10, Tuesday, Saint Scholastica, Virgin**

12:00PM+James Gates (John & Barbara Anderson)

**February 11, Wednesday, Our Lady of Lourdes**

12:00PM+Rosemarie Dibert (Anonymous)

**February 12, Thursday, Weekday**

12:00PM+Dave Behe (Mary Ellen Burke)

**February 13, Friday, Weekday**

12:00PM+Poor Souls (Anonymous)

**February 14, Saturday, Saints Cyril, Monk, and Methodius, Bishop**

12:00PM+Mark Burns (Dave & Maureen Hanekamp)

**Vigil : Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

5:00PM+Carol M. Lockard (Sharlene & Maureen Kirsch)

**February 15, Sunday, Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:00AM+Lavelle Family (Phyllis Lavelle Sheetz)  
10:00AM+Marilyn Mitchell Tercero (Anonymous)  
5:00PM Pro Popolo/For the People



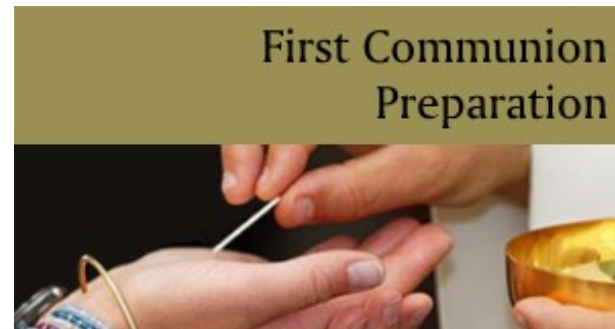
**Cathedral Choir**

Singers are invited to audition for the Cathedral Choir and Festival Choir. Consider singing with the regular Sunday Choir or join short-term for Holy Week and Easter Sunday. All singers of high school age and older are welcome! Please contact Bob Long, @rlong@dioceseaj.org. or 814-944-2044.

**OFERTORY COLLECTIONS**

Sunday, February 1, 2026 \$12,011.46

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



**First Communion Preparation**

First Communion Preparation will take place during parent/child sessions on Tuesday, February 24, and Tuesday, March 17. All meetings/sessions will be held in the Cathedral basement from 6:30-8:00 P.M. A parent must accompany your child to the meetings. A copy of your child's baptismal certificate is required. Please contact Chris Laraia (814-312-7317 or claraia@dioceseaj.org.) if you are unable to attend a meeting so that make-up work can be assigned.

First Communion will take place on Sunday, April 26, at the 10:00 A.M. Mass.

**Liturgical Ministers Schedule**

The current schedule for liturgical ministers expires the weekend of February 15th. If you have special requests please submit them to the office by February 8th. The next schedule will extend to Sunday, April 26.

Thank you for your willingness to serve as a reader, extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, and server.

**Sign-up sheets for the liturgies of Holy Week will be available in the**

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

February 8, 2026: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Matthew 5:13-16

I recently learned why zebras have stripes. Scientists used to think it was for camouflage, but new research suggests something more interesting: the stripes help zebras blend in with one another. When a predator looks at a herd, the overlapping stripes make it hard to single out one animal. But if a researcher spray-paints a dot on just one zebra, predators lock on it and eventually attack. The lesson? In the wild, blending in is protection. Standing out can be dangerous.

Human beings are not so different. Most of us would rather blend in than stand out, especially when it comes to our faith. We know that giving bold witness to Jesus — through our words, values, or public choices — can make us targets for criticism, isolation, or judgment. That's why Jesus' words in today's Gospel are so challenging: "You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden" (Matthew 5:14).

A city on a hill draws attention. It also draws fire. But that's part of the cost of discipleship. Jesus doesn't call us to be tribal or boastful. He calls us to stand in the open with humble confidence, so that people might see our good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven. Today, let's ask for the courage not just to believe in Christ, but to be seen believing in him.

— Father John Muir ©LPi



This month, our Pastoral Council will be meeting on Tuesday, February 10, at 6:30 P.M.



**Lenten Prayer Partners**

Our parish will again have the opportunity to pray for other members of our parish family during the Lenten Season. More information and sign up sheets will be at all entrances of the Cathedral starting January 31st. If you are interested, please complete and return the form by February 8th to the boxes available. You will also be given the name of a sacramental prep (First Holy Communion or Confirmation) student to keep in your prayers during their time of preparation and reflection. Join us as we pray for each other.



Our Parish's Lenten Drive-Thru Fish Fry Luncheon is served starting Ash Wednesday, and Fridays, except Good Friday. The cost is \$12.00 for a fish sandwich, mac and cheese and coleslaw. The meal is available from 10:30 A.M. until 1:00 P.M. Orders of 10 or more will be delivered, if you call ahead 814-944-4603. If you are getting more than 10 dinners, for a pick-up please call ahead to order at 814-944-4603.



## RAYSTOWN WIND ORCHESTRA CONCERT

The Raystown Wind Orchestra will present a concert in our Cathedral on Friday, February 13, at 7:00 P.M. Dr. James E. Latten will be the conductor with Dr. Sandra Lee as guest conductor.

The evening's repertoire will include: *Four Scottish Dances*-Sir Malcolm Arnold, *Concerto for Marimba*-James Basta, *Serenade No.1 for ten wind instruments (1929)*-Vincert Persichetti (1915-1987), *Dusk*-Steven Bryant, and the world premier of *GAUDI (2022)*-Joshua Idio. The concert is free, but freewill contributions will be accepted. The ensemble is composed of advanced adult, collegiate, and high school musicians from the Huntingdon/Raystown Lake region of Pennsylvania.



## 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  
**GABRIEL**  
PROJECT

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.

### Everyday Stewardship

I recently watched the film adaptation of "Godspell" with my teenage daughter. I had such fond memories of watching it when I was young, back in the day. I listened to the soundtrack so many times and learned to play many of the songs on my guitar. The exclamation from the show, "You are the light of the world!" has always been firmly planted in my mind.

After about ten minutes, my daughter looked at me with that look only a teenage girl can display. "What is this?" she asked with a certain level of condescension. Yes, the film did not hold up so well in the eyes of the twenty-first-century critic. So we laughed most of the way through it.

What attracted me to the film and the soundtrack in the first place wasn't Jesus in a Superman shirt or the idea of the apostles wondering around the urban jungle. I was attracted to the message. I was attracted to that assertion in the song, "You are the light of the world."

There will always be people who see the Gospel of Jesus Christ as dated, irrelevant, and even hokey. You and I are called to be the light of the world? Good stewards must never shy away from living lives that truly bear witness to the reality of the Gospel. The parables of Jesus have as much meaning for us today as ever. Look around. The world we live in needs a little light for sure.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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# The Church of Altoona-Johnstown **THE CATHEDRAL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

ONE CATHEDRAL SQUARE, Altoona, Pennsylvania 16601-3315

**THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, FEBRUARY 8, 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:**

5:00 PM (Vigil)

8:00 AM

10:00 AM

5:00 PM

**Weekday:**

12:00 Noon

**Saturday:**

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.

WEB

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

Facebook

[www.facebook.com/cathedralofaltoona](https://www.facebook.com/cathedralofaltoona)



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