



OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH

820 WESTERLY PARKWAY, STATE COLLEGE, PA 16801

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday Masses

Saturday: 5:00pm
Sunday: 7:30am,
9:30am, 11:30am

Holy Days

(Vigil 6:00pm,
7:00am, 9:00am &
12:05pm)

Weekday Masses

Monday - Friday:
8:00am
Tuesday & Thursday:
6:30pm
Saturday: 9:00am

Confessions -see inside

Adoration of Blessed
Sacrament takes place
Tuesdays and
Thursdays after
8:00am Mass and
ends with Benediction
at 8:00pm.

Per Directives by Bishop
Mark: The Church is open
Monday through Sunday
7:00am to 8:00pm.

OLV Online Giving: go to
www.ourladyofvictory.com
and click on the link
<https://abundant.co/olvsc>
to give online.

- Text Giving: Text OLVSC
to 73256.

- Use the Abundant App,
which you can download
on your smartphone.

You are now
able to give to School,
Maintenance and Twin
Parish Mission online.

July 24 & 25, 2021
17th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Office Phone

814-237-7832

Office Fax

814-237-6709

Church Website:

www.ourladyofvictory.com

Church E-mail:

office@ourladyofvictory.com

School

814-238-1592

Preschool

814-238-6616

School/Preschool Website

www.olvcatholicschool.org

Diocesan Website

www.ajdiocese.org

OLV Prayer Network

prayer@ourladyofvictory.com

Mass Broadcast - The Sunday 9:30am Mass is broadcast on
ESPN Radio, 1450 AM and 103.7 FM. Courtesy of the Knights
of Columbus Father O'Hanlon Council 4678.

Parish Staff - 237-7832

Pastor, Fr. George Jakopac gjakopac@dioceseaj.org
Parochial Vicar, Fr. Michael Pleva mpleva@dioceseaj.org
Deacon David Lapinski dclf@ourladyofvictory.com
Secretary, Betty Gummo
Secretary, Diane Lapinski
Director of Religious Education, Jim Hoy
Director of Development, Chris Kirkpatrick
Directors of RCIA, M. A. Spychalski & Bill Hanelly
Director of Music, Joe Malafarina
Principal, Chad Packer - 238-1592
Pre-School Administrator, Jennifer Rogan - 238-6616

Secretaries' Office Hours: Mon. - Fri., 8:30-Noon, 1-4pm
(Please try to correspond by phone, email or regular mail)

Bulletin Notice

Material to be published in the following week's bulletin should be on Diane's desk no later than Monday, 4:00pm.

Baptism

Sundays, 1:00pm, with arrangements having been made previously by contacting Diane.

Marriage

Diocesan Regulations require nine months prior notice. Contact Betty, the Secretary.

Sacrament of Penance: Tuesdays & Thursdays at 5:30pm - 6:00pm, Saturdays at 9:30am.

Eucharistic Adoration: Tuesdays and Thursdays following 8:00am Mass with Benediction at 8:00pm.

Are You or Someone You Know Interested in Becoming a Catholic?

Are You an Adult Catholic Seeking Confirmation?

If you are interested, please email the Office of Christian Initiation of Adults:
becomingcatholic@ourladyofvictory.com.

Email is the best way to contact us.
We will reply with information about the process and answer any questions you may have.

July 18 Collection: Envelopes \$16,580.75; Loose \$1,385.00; Online Giving \$2,377.00; Maintenance \$90.00; School \$728.50; Interfaith Human Services \$309.00; Twin Parish Mission \$79.00; Debt Reduction \$118.00; Peter's Pence \$20.00; Total \$21,687.25.

Marian Gift Shop - The Gift Shop is open on Sundays from 10:00am to noon. To schedule an appointment for another time, please call Lesa at 237-7832 and leave a message.

Face Mask Display - Face Masks, made by Catholic Daughters, are on sale in the Gathering Space.

MASS MEMORIALS and SCHEDULE

Mon., July 26 Ex 32:15-24,30:34/Mt 13:31-35
8:00am - † Bernard Haines by The Family

Tues., July 27 Ex 33:7-11,34-5b-9,28/Mt 13:36-43
8:00am - Ints. Chris & Samantha Weakland & Family by Dad & Mom
Adoration begins after Mass and ends at 8pm.
5:30pm - 6:00pm Confessions
6:30pm - † Hollie Holderman by Barone Family

Wed., July 28 Ex 34:29-35/Mt 13:44-46
8:00am - † Jackie Jakab by Phyllis Holubec

Thurs., July 29 Ex 40:16-21,34:38/Jn 11:19-27
8:00am - † Kitty Reiber by Bill Reiber & Kathy Flannery
Adoration begins after Mass and ends at 8pm.
5:30pm - 6:00pm Confessions
6:30pm - † Shirley Fowler by Susan Ismael & Family

Friday, July 30 Lv 23:1,4-11,15-16,27,34b-37/Mt 14:1-12
8:00am - Ints. Tom & Kathy Wycheck by The Spak Family

Sat., July 31 Lv 25:1,8-17/Mt 14:1-12
9:00am - † Henrietta, Joseph & Anthony Romeo by The Family
9:30am - 10:00am Confessions
5:00pm - † Emma Gunsalles by Josephine Aiello

Sun., Aug. 1 Ex 16:2-4,12-15/Eph 4:17;20-24
7:30am - Ints. Society of SVdP
9:30am - For All the People of the Parish
11:30am - † Nora J. Kavanaugh by Ann E. Kiely

Baptism - It is with great joy we welcome Silas James Mazer, son of Timothy & Laura to the OLV Parish Family.

Catholic Charities is operating remotely. They have re-established its Emergency Financial Assistance program exclusively on a virtual basis and Cathy Ballat, the Case Manager, will take phone calls remotely (814-232-5731) or by email (cballat@dioceseaj.org). All mailed correspondence should be sent to the Altoona Office at P.O. Box 1349, Altoona, PA 16603.

The Rosary is prayed weekdays at 8:30am, after the 8:00am Mass and on Saturday, before the 9:00am Mass.



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - Each hour you spend with Jesus will deepen His Divine Peace in your heart.

"The most powerful thing we can do on this earth with our time is to spend it in Eucharistic Adoration. Nothing can do more to change the world, to bring His divine image." - Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will now take place on **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays** beginning at 8:30am and ending with Benediction at 8:00pm. Please consider spending time with him. If you cannot commit to every week at a specified time, please consider volunteering to be a substitute for Adorers who cannot attend during their scheduled time. Please email Janine at Janine.surovec@gmail.com to be added to our adoration schedule as a committed or substitute adorer.

Formed.org pick of the week: watch watch St. Ignatius of Loyola (True Reformers, Episode 3).

At the end of this week, July 31, we celebrate the feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola, Soldier for Christ. As the beginnings of Protestantism plunged Europe into a maelstrom of controversy, Ignatius of Loyola set out on an extraordinary interior pilgrimage of grace. Taught directly by God, Ignatius offered the Church a new spirituality of devoted service to Christ and founded a religious order dedicated to evangelization, the Jesuits.

To sign up to use Formed, go to [Formed.org/signup](https://www.formed.org/signup); enter our zip code (16801), and select Our Lady of Victory. Formed also has an App and is also available on Apple TV and Roku.

Sponsor of the Week: Without advertisements in our bulletins from sponsors like **Kevin P. Labosky, D.M.D.**, this bulletin could not be possible. Be sure to remember them when you need their services.

If you are interested in advertising in our bulletin, please contact Cindy Schaefer at J.S. Paluch at 1-800-945-6629 or schaeferc@jspaluch.com. You can also go to <https://www.jspadbuilder.com> and design your own ad.

Attention, Young Men (20-50)! A 12-week program, **Into The Breach**, on masculinity and fatherhood for Catholic men will be conducted Wednesdays, 7:30pm-9:00pm, in the Activities Center starting September 23. Sign up at amazara@aol.com.



THE GABRIEL PROJECT

The Gabriel Project is a Pro-Life Movement offering parish-based pastoral care to women in a crisis pregnancy. Its goal is to help pregnant women with all their practical needs, as well as offering them unconditional love in an apostolate of friendship throughout their pregnancy. If you are in need of the Gabriel Project, please call 814-867-5511.

The Gabriel Project is working with families whose babies were born in May, all boys! Newborn, 0-3 months boy clothes, and boys clothes up to 9 months are really needed right now. Also donations of newborn sizes, such as diapers (newborn and size 1), onesies, etc., are especially needed. Items can be placed in the wooden bin in the back of the Church, marked Gabriel Project. They are also still working with the family that lost everything due to a fire. Checks can be made payable to Our Lady of Victory, and put Gabriel Project on the subject line. Due to liability, we cannot accept used toys, strollers, cribs or car seats. Thank you very much for your support for these families, especially with prayer. Also, please continue to pray for these mothers and their unborn babies.

Blueberry Festival Returns to Bethany Retreat Center!

Join us at 1031 Germania Rd in Frenchville, PA, on Saturday, July 31, from 10:00am to 7:00pm for a day of family fun! There will be games for all ages, arts & crafts for kids, basket raffles, 50/50, delicious food & refreshments and much more. Live musical entertainment by *Heavenbound* beginning at 2:00pm and *A Day Awaits* at 4:00pm. For more information, please visit our website at www.bethanyretreatcenter.org or call 814-263-4855. Hope to see you there!"

Fr. Mike Pleva to lead OLV Alpine Europe/Passion Play Pilgrimage...deadline to register 7/26/21!

Our Lady of Victory ALPINE EUROPE PILGRIMAGE FEATURING THE PASSION PLAY OF OBERAMMERGAU: 11 Days: September 7 – 17, 2022. Visiting Heidelberg, Rhine Valley, Lucerne, Innsbruck, Salzburg, Altotting, Marktl Am Inn, Munich and Rothenburg. \$4199 air/land tour price from New York.

Join Fr. Mike Pleva, our tour spiritual director. **Deadline to sign up/deposit is JULY 26, 2021.** After the 2022 Passion Play performances the Passion will not be performed again till 2030. Don't miss out!!!

For brochures with full details, contact Chris Kirkpatrick, Director of Development, Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church, 814-237-7832 ext. 404 or email chrisk@ourladyofvictory.com. **SPACE IS LIMITED-SIGN UP TODAY!!**



Give Your Child A Complete Education

OLV Catholic School

(Pre-K through Middle School) offers:

- Academic Excellence • Self-Discipline • Passion for Charity
- Catholic Values • Leadership

New Student Enrollment is Now Open. Call 814-238-1592 to schedule a tour.
Apply online at www.olvcatholicsschool.org.



A Special Thanks to
 Joe and Sue Rogacs

OLV Preschool Open Enrollment: This is a great time to think about the gift of Catholic Education for your child. Open registration for OLV Preschool for the 2021/2022 school year is occurring now. We are excited to continue to offer the following programs, as well as afternoon enrichment programming!

2 1/2 Year Monkeys (2 Years, 7 Months by 8/31/21): T/Th or MWF
 3 Year Polar Bears: T/Th or MWF
 3 Year Penguins: M-F
 4 Year Koalas: M-F
 4 Year Kangaroos: MT/ThF
 PreK (5 Years before 12/31/21): M-F

Please, reach out to Ms. Gigi at petersp@olvcs.org if you have questions regarding registration. Watch our Facebook Page for virtual tours of our preschool and more information!

OLVCS News:

Enroll Now for Fall 2021: OLVCS is a Middle States accredited school, providing quality education for children in Kindergarten through 8th grade. We provide opportunities for students to excel in academic work, athletics, fine arts, and other extracurricular activities. The environment and teachers at OLVCS enable students to reach their potential and learn the skills they need to succeed at OLVCS and beyond. Our certified teachers are continually improving their skills through in-service and post-certification opportunities. We are proud and blessed that we can continue to provide in person learning this school year. To learn more and to enroll your child, go to olvcatholicsschool.org. Contact Cindy Kolarik at kolarikc@olvcs.org for a tour.

WE NEED YOUR HELP: In the aftermath of COVID 19, **many families and their children need tuition assistance** to attend Our Lady of Victory Catholic Preschool thru Middle School.

All individuals/households with an annual income of \$115,000 or PA personal income tax liability of \$3,500+ annually qualify to participate in the EITC Tax Credit Program.

If you are in the position to help by directing your Pa Income tax through the **Educational Improvement Tax Credit EITC program** to OLV through the Central Pennsylvania Scholarship Fund, please contact Chris Kirkpatrick at chrisk@ourladyofvictory.com or 814-237-7832 ext. 404. The Central Pennsylvania Scholarship Fund has over one million dollars to disburse for next year. Tax credits are available on a first-come, first served basis.

Businesses that qualify to get their taxes back are C-Corporations and owners of Subchapter S-Corporations, LLCs, LPs, LLPs and Partnerships. Please contact Chris today.



Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy Celebrates 10 Years! As we look forward to our next 10, 25 and even 50 years, we will remain grounded in our pillars of faith, scholarship, leadership and service – the timeless values that students of today require for future success! If you would like to learn more about what Saint Joseph's has to offer, please contact Head of School, Ms. Jennifer Mallett at jmallett@stjoeacad.org.

Fr. Brian Saylor to lead OLV in the Footsteps of St. Paul Pilgrimage:

Our Lady of Victory IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. PAUL GREECE AND THE GREEK ISLES PILGRIMAGE: Eleven Days: May 24 – June 3, 2022, including 3-day cruise to the Greek Isles and Turkey. Visiting Athens, Corinth, Mykonos, Ephesus, Patmos, Crete, Santorini, Delphi, Kalambaka, Thessaloniki. \$4099 air/land tour price from New York.

For brochures with full details, contact Chris Kirkpatrick, Director of Development, Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church, 814-237-7832 ext. 404 or email chrisk@ourladyofvictory.com.

Religious Education News (CCD)

Religious Ed Catechists Wanted: Do you have a desire to serve Our Lady of Victory Parish? Do you want to learn more about your faith while sharing your knowledge with others? Join our team of catechists. Please contact Jim Hoy at jhoy@ourladyofvictory.com to find out how you can positively influence the spiritual life of a younger generation.

Religious Education Registration for 2021-2022 is now available at the following link:
<https://olv2021registration.paperform.co>. We look forward to seeing everyone in person this coming Fall.

Religious Education Year End: Please return or submit textbooks, completed activities, and/or online chapter quizzes that demonstrate completion of grade level catechesis. Activity books and textbooks can be returned to the table in the Gathering Space in the church. Names can be written on the consumable activity books from Ignatius and Loyola Presses, but it is preferable that the Ignatius textbooks not be written in. Thank you and have a blessed summer!

Youth Ministry

"To the youth of OLV & their families: It's been such a joy to get to know each of you and walk this brief stretch of life with you. Know that you will truly continue to be in my prayers! Stay in touch and know that we'll always be united in the Eucharist. Praise God!" - Rose Ousey

Also, Fr. Mike will be continuing the youth ministry endeavors so watch your emails and the bulletin for more information to come.

Fr. Ralph is back to the area this summer! He is staying at St. John's in Bellefonte. The "Holy Name of Mary Foundation" which supports his school will now be head-quartered at St. John's in Bellefonte. Also, you can call Fr. Ralph there at 814-355-3134. If you would like to make a donation, envelopes are available on the display area in the Baptistry. Please make checks payable to "**St. John's Church**". You can mail them to:

Fr. Ralph Mensah
c/o St. John's Church
134 East Bishop St.
Bellefonte, PA 16823

Is God Calling You to Become a Deacon?

Do you believe that God might be calling you to discern the Ordained Ministry of Christ the Servant, as a Permanent Deacon in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown? If so, you and your wife (if married) are invited to join Bishop Mark and Deacon Michael Russo at the "Bishop's Night of Vocations" on Tuesday, September 21 at 7:00pm at the US Hotel Tavern, Hollidaysburg. Reservations for this event are required and can be made by contacting Marybeth at (814) 361-2000. The deadline for reservations is August 20.

For more information on the Permanent Diaconate please visit us online at www.dioceseaj.org/ Diaconate/ or by contacting: Deacon David Lapinski (dcfl@ourladyofvictory.com) or Deacon Michael Russo, Director at (814) 288-3036. All are welcome!

Help Needed for Funeral Luncheons: This ministry needs your help and it is a rewarding way to comfort those who just lost a loved one. Help is needed in all areas (food-making, setup, serving, cleaning, etc...). You would not need to help out at every funeral. If you are interested or for more information, please contact Mary Ann Weakland at 814-237-7168 or Pat Gawryla at 814-238-9517.

Ushers at our parish serve a variety of functions from helping with the collection and greeting those who join us for Mass to assisting parishioners with finding a seat and answering questions. At times, they assist with other projects as well. If you are looking for a way to help serve and be involved at Mass, please consider becoming an Usher. If you are willing and interested, you can contact Kerry Schwindenhammer (814-574-9149) for more information. All are welcome!

C.D.A. Indoor Yard Sale - Catholic Daughters of the Americas are sponsoring an Indoor Yard Sale on Friday & Saturday, August 6 & 7, in the OLV Activities Center from 9:00am to 2:00pm. If you are interested in renting a table, please call Pat at 814-466-8712. The fee is \$20 for an 8 foot table.



Church
Family Picnic

OLV Parish Picnic - Sunday, August 15, 2021

OLV School Gym and School/Church Grounds
4:00pm to 7:00pm



Our Annual Parish Picnic returns this year!! Mark your calendars for Sunday, August 15, 2021 from 4 – 7 pm. This year we will welcome Father George and Father Mike to OLV. The picnic will be held at OLV School Gym and School/Church grounds.

You bring: yourselves, lawn chairs, picnic blanket and a dish according to your last name (*A-F: Appetizer*), (*G-N: Salad or Vegetable*), (*O-Z: Dessert*). However, If you have a specialty that you enjoy making for picnics, please feel free to bring it and share what you love to make with your fellow parishioners! Please use a disposable serving dish.

Hot dogs, sloppy joes, pulled pork BBQ, water, soft drinks and tableware will be provided by the parish.

If you would like to volunteer in any way to help with the picnic (setting up, cooking, shopping, games, music or other entertainment, cleaning up) please call Chris Kirkpatrick at the OLV office, (814-237-7832). Look for more details in upcoming bulletins.

A Letter to the Faithful in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

July 15, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I recently spoke with a family who returned from a delightful vacation. Three generations of that family live in different states and this was their first time to be together since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Among the memories of that family vacation are the stories and photos they shared of cherished human experiences, including the birth of new children, Baptisms, First Holy Communions, Confirmations, weddings and graduations which not everyone experienced in person during the pandemic.

I have also listened to people from all over our diocese who have not been coming to Sunday Mass or receiving the Holy Eucharist since the time our churches first closed as a precaution. We have gone through a long dry spell of not encountering our Lord and each other in our churches. Thanks be to God, things are improving. With the help of vaccinations and social distancing, the dangers brought by the COVID-19 virus have diminished and our churches are open.

All of this points to the conclusion that the dispensation from the obligation to participate at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is no longer necessary. After consulting with all the Bishops of Pennsylvania who are each announcing the same directive, I hereby decree that beginning August 15, 2021, the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass is ended.

There is no obligation for those who are unable to attend Mass due to a serious or chronic health condition. If you are ill or you provide care for someone who is ill and unable to attend Mass on Sunday and Holy Days, there is no need for any dispensation of permission. For those who are unable to attend Mass, you are strongly encouraged to view the broadcast of the Mass on television or via the internet. Priests, deacons, and extraordinary ministers may continue to bring Holy Communion to shut-ins.

During the extended time of the COVID-19 pandemic, I have spoken with persons who have experienced being alienated from God, their family, friends and neighbors, and even from themselves. As a result of not being in church on Sunday, many persons described an experience in which "God's voice is not heard, the quiet joy of love is not felt, and the desire to do good fades." That description is given by Pope Francis in the introduction to his Apostolic Exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*. Even though he wrote it nearly 10 years ago, the message certainly fits the circumstances of so many people today.

Pope Francis reminds us that we do not have to remain in such emptiness. He says, "I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them." He goes on to say, "No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord." And Pope Francis explains that "the Lord will not disappoint those who take the risk and take a step toward Jesus; to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms."

The Lord Jesus waits for us, you and me, at his table; at the altar in your parish church which is your spiritual home. As you respond to the Lord's invitation, you may be wondering what to expect. One person recently told me that during this time away from Church, she has had difficulty praying. She asked, "I wonder if the Lord will recognize me when we get back to church?" In thinking about that person's concern, I thought of what Pope Francis says in *The Joy of the Gospel*: "Time and time again the Lord Jesus bears us on his shoulders. No one can strip us of the dignity bestowed upon us by this boundless and unfailing love. With a tenderness which never disappoints, but is always capable of restoring our joy, he makes it possible for us to lift up our heads and start anew." (cont.)

"Knights Notes" :

Please check www.kc4678.com for Calendar of Events.

Council Meetings - 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 7:30pm.

OLV Activities Center Gardiner Social Hall,
820 Westerly Parkway

Knights Concession Stands at PSU Home Football Games:

Anyone can assist - you don't have to be a Knight -
Parishioners, friends, family welcome. Please contact
Joe Reese: jcr8@psu.edu or
Rodney Hopkins: RLHopkins001@yahoo.com.

Blood Donations: OLV Activities Center:

August 10 & October 12. Please register in
advance on Red Cross site: (<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=16801>)

Knights Facts:

You have probably thought about becoming a Knight.
You think there is too much of a time commitment -
it is not.

All we ask is to Volunteer for one activity a year—that is
not too much time.

Ask a Knight of Columbus or send an email of inquiry to
info@kc4678.com.

**We simply want Catholic Men who want to be a part
of brotherhood!**

On the Web:

K of C webpage: www.kc4678.com

K of C Facebook: www.facebook.com/KCCouncil4678

State College Food Bank You can support the
Food Bank by giving online at scfoodbank.org as a
one-time or recurring gift, or you may mail a check
made payable to State College Food Bank to 1321
South Atherton St., State College PA 16801. More
details along with their needs list are available at
their website scfoodbank.org. Needs List:
canned fruit (peaches, pears, pineapple), macaroni
& cheese (box mix), salty or savory snacks (chips,
pretzels, crackers, nuts, etc.), condensed chicken
noodle or chicken rice soup, jelly or jam, oil
(vegetable, canola, olive oil), sugar (1-4 lb. packag-
es), laundry detergent, liquid dish soap, liquid hand
soap. We cannot accept expired or opened food
items. Please check expiration date before donating
them.

Staff Accountant Position - Good Shepherd
Parish, in Port Matilda, PA, is seeking qualified
candidates for the Staff Accountant position. The
successful candidate will be responsible for
performing a full range of bookkeeping and
accounting duties. This has been a part time
position (approx. 28 hours/week); however, it has
the potential to become a full-time position based
on the candidate's qualifications and
needs. Interested candidates possessing an
Associate or Bachelor's degree in Accounting,
Finance, Business, or equivalent combination of
education and experience are encouraged to
submit a resume and letter of interest addressed to
Rev. Charles Amershek, 867 Grays Woods Blvd.,
Port Matilda, PA 16870.

(Bishop Mark's Letter cont.)

It is time for us, all of us, to start anew. I invite all of you to
come to your place at the Lord's table. Come back to that
same pew at the same Mass time that was part of your
regular Sunday routine. For so long, we went without the joy
that comes from the little things of life. But the Lord tells us:
"My child, treat yourself well, according to your means... Do
not deprive yourself of the day's enjoyment (Sirach 14:11,
14).

So much good and so much joy comes to us when we sit at
the dinner table with family and friends. How much more
awaits us when we come to the table of the Lord each
Sunday where we offer praise and thanks to God, for his
merciful love is without end!

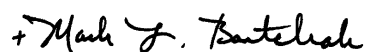
The Church reminds us that we have an obligation to come
every Sunday and on other important days during the year.
But besides that obligation, we should not forget the
vocation that we all share with each other; with our families,
friends, and neighbors. It is our calling to proclaim the
Gospel; with its truth about our Lord Jesus Christ and the
saving power of his death and resurrection; and with all the
joy and satisfaction that comes with sharing that truth with
those who hunger and thirst for an encounter, or renewed
encounter with God's love.

As Pope Francis reminds us in *The Joy of the Gospel* that
this encounter "blossoms into an enriching friendship and it
liberates us from our narrowness and self-absorption," as so
many have experienced from the limits placed on us during
the pandemic. And one last thought from *The Joy of the
Gospel*. Pope Francis reminds us that through our
encounter with Christ, who is the incarnation of God's love,
we become fully human.

Brothers and Sisters, the ultimate encounter with Christ for
us here on earth is in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist,
the Sacrifice of the Mass through which we meet the
crucified and risen Lord Jesus. It is time for all of us to come
back to that experience. I invite everyone to assist each
other in making their way back to their proper place on the
Lord's Day. And if anyone is in need of sacramental
Reconciliation to assist you in coming back, the sacrament
is available.

Come to the table of the Lord; the table of mercy and love.
The Lord invites all of us to meet him there.

With prayers and best wishes,



Most Rev. Mark L. Bartchak
Bishop of Altoona-Johnstown

New Catholic CDs: CD have been restocked
and are available at the display in the Gathering
Space.

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