



# Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

## *Office of Vicar General*

2713 W Chestnut Avenue

Altoona, PA 16601

Phone: 814-695-5579

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

May 19, 2026

Dear Brothers in Christ,

As you are no doubt aware, in January of this year, His Holiness, Pope Leo XIV, established a special Jubilee Year in commemoration of the Eighth Centenary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi. Pope Leo desires that this special Jubilee will be a continuation of the Ordinary Jubilee of 2025. Thus, from January 10, 2026, to January 10, 2027, the Year of St. Francis will be celebrated during which all Christian faithful are invited to follow the example of the Saint of Assisi, becoming models of holiness of life and constant witnesses of peace. Through [Decree](#) of the Apostolic Penitentiary, a plenary indulgence has been granted under the usual conditions to those who participate devoutly in this extraordinary Jubilee.

### **Conditions for Plenary Indulgence**

Conditions for receiving the Indulgence (for oneself or for the deceased) are as follows:

- Visitation in the form of a pilgrimage of any Franciscan conventual church or place of worship dedicated to St. Francis anywhere in the world, where one renews one's profession of faith, through the recitation of the Creed, to reaffirm one's Christian identity. (A list of these churches and locations in our Diocese follows below.)
- Sacramental confession (in the eight days before or after the pilgrimage).
- Participation in Mass and Eucharistic Communion.
- Recitation of the Lord's Prayer, to reaffirm the dignity of children of God, received in Baptism.
- Prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father, the visible sign of the Church's unity.

### **Prayer**

On the occasion of the opening of the Eighth Centenary of the Transitus of Saint Francis, Pope Leo delivered the following prayer to the Ministers General of the Conference of the Franciscan Family:

Saint Francis, our brother, you who eight hundred years ago went to meet Sister Death as a man at peace, intercede for us before the Lord.

You recognized true peace in the Crucifix of San Damiano, teach us to seek in Him the source of all reconciliation that breaks down every wall.

You who, unarmed, crossed the lines of war and misunderstanding,  
give us the courage to build bridges  
where the world raises up boundaries.

In this time afflicted by conflict and division,  
intercede for us so that we may become peacemakers:  
unarmed and disarming witnesses of the peace that comes from Christ.

Amen.

### **Pilgrimage Sites in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown**

Bishop Mark has designated the following sites staffed by Franciscan Friars as pilgrimage sites to receive the indulgence.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church  
1100 8th Avenue  
Altoona, PA 16602

Assumption Chapel  
1527 Adams Avenue  
Altoona, PA 16602

Saint Mark Church  
416 6th Avenue  
Altoona, PA 16602

Holy Rosary Church  
900 N. 4th Street  
Altoona, PA 16601

St. Anthony of Padua Church  
2201 Graham Avenue  
Windber, PA 15963

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church  
605 Graham Avenue  
Windber, PA 15963

Ss. Cyril & Methodius Church  
604 Graham Avenue  
Windber, PA 15963

Holy Family Church  
562 5th Street  
Colver, PA 15927

St. John Vianney Church  
3513 William Penn Avenue  
Johnstown, PA 15909

Transfiguration Church  
340 2nd Street  
Conemaugh, PA 15909

St. Mary Church  
1020 Caroline Street  
Nanty Glo, PA 15943

Holy Family Church  
509 Caldwell Avenue  
Portage, PA 15946

St. Anne Church  
505 Woodstown Highway  
Davidsville, PA 15928

St. Anne Church  
533 Woodlawn Avenue  
Johnstown, PA 15902

St. Francis of Assisi Church  
120 Barron Avenue  
Johnstown, PA 15906

St. John the Baptist Church  
101 Findley Street  
New Baltimore, PA 15553

St. Michael Church  
751 Locust Street  
St. Michael, PA 15951

St. Therese Church  
536 Decker Avenue  
Johnstown, PA 15906

Ss. Peter & Paul Church  
400 S. 4th Street  
Philipsburg, PA 16866

Saint Bernardine Monastery  
768 Monastery Road  
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

St. Francis University  
Immaculate Conception Chapel  
132 Franciscan Way  
Loretto, PA 15940

Shrines of Our Lady of Fatima and Our  
Lady of Loreto  
Sunken Gardens at St. Francis Friary  
105 St. Francis Drive  
Loretto, PA 15940

### **Mass of St. Francis on October 4, 2026**

Bishop Mark grants permission to any priest celebrating Mass at one of pilgrimage sites within our Diocese to replace the Mass for the Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, on Sunday, October 4, 2026, with a Mass in favor of St. Francis of Assisi. This Mass should be celebrated as a solemnity and include both the Gloria and the Credo. He extends this same permission to the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona and St. John Gualbert Cathedral in Johnstown.

We are grateful to all the Sons of St. Francis who serve in our Diocese for their faithful commitment to pastoral ministry and to the various needs of the people of Altoona-Johnstown. We are indebted to them for their generous pastoral zeal.

Sincerely in Christ,



(Very Rev.) Alan E. Thomas  
Vicar General