



Our Lady of the Alleghenies

Lilly, PA

NEWSLETTER

April 2026

Volume 30

Number 4

Deacon Samuel F. Albarano Jr.

On April 13th Deacon Sam Albarano reaches the age of 75, which is the canonical age of retirement for all clergy. Just like our first Pastor, Msgr. Sasway, when he reached age 75, Bishop Barchak has granted to Deacon Sam permission to remain in active ministry as a Deacon for the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown until sometime in the future. Deacon Sam is set to continue in ministry at Our Lady of the Alleghenies Parish in Lilly until he officially embraces retirement.

Deacon Sam writes the following to the parish:

When it was made known that I would soon be eligible to retire from the diaconate, I was finally able to put that to rest by assuring our people that I was not going anywhere. It then seemed that my retirement brought up an interest in why did I become a deacon in the first place. By the way I have been deeply moved by the concern of the faithful of Our Lady of the Alleghenies, and their desire for me to stay on, THANK YOU.

Back to the reason for all this.

I can compare my vocation journey to the Bible story of Jonah. We all know the story of Jonah and how when God tapped him to go to the city of Nineveh to tell the people to repent or be destroyed. He said I don't want to go there and he tried to run away from God. Well, "except for the names and a few of the faces my story is the same one." Thank you, Neil Diamond.

It was at a pizza party before a family reunion at my Aunt Rose's in the early 2000's. Carol and I were sitting with my cousin Fr. Richard Albarano. Carol mentioned to Father



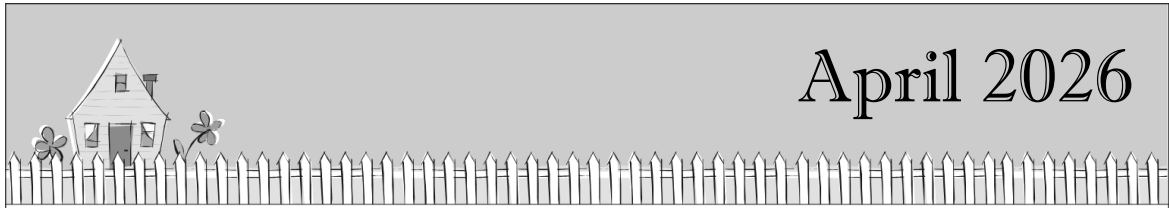
*Deacon Samuel F. Albarano Jr.
on the day of his Ordination as a Deacon
for the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown
at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament
in Altoona on Saturday, May 18, 2013*

- continued page 7

April 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Altar Server Practice April 3, 2026 10:00 am for Good Friday Service Scheduled Readers and Altar Servers Practice April 4, 2026 2:00 pm for Easter Vigil Mass			1 Parish Confessions 6:00pm <i>{several priests available}</i>	2  Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper 6:00 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until Midnight	3  Good Friday Office of Readings with Solemn Lauds 9:00 am Passion Service 3:00 pm Stations with Novena 6:00 pm	4 Holy Saturday Office of Readings with Solemn Lauds 9:00 am Decorate Church 9:35 am Novena with Blessing of Food Baskets 3:00 pm
5 Easter <i>Easter Vigil Mass</i> 5:00 am <i>Solemn Masses of Easter</i> 8:00 am Mass and 10:00 am Mass 6:00 pm Solemn Vespers with Novena	6 Easter Octave Mass with Novena Prayers 8:00 am	7 Easter Octave Mass with Novena Prayers 8:00 am	8 Easter Octave Mass with Novena Prayers 8:00 am	9 Easter Octave Mass with Novena Prayers 8:00 am	10 Easter Octave Mass with Novena Prayers 8:00 am	11 Easter Octave Mass with Novena Prayers 8:00 am PARISH CRAFT SHOW 10:00am – 3:00pm Hall Confessions 3:15 – 3:45



April 2026

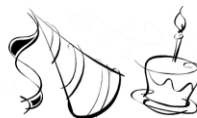
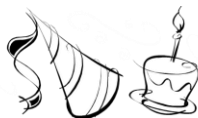
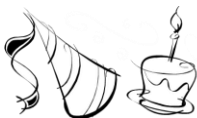
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12  Divine Mercy Sunday 10:00am First Holy Communion Mass 1:15pm Confessions 2:00pm Solemn Mass & Devotions followed by Confessions	13 Parish Council Meeting 6:00pm Hall <i>Today, Deacon Sam reaches canonical retirement age of 75 but will continue in active ministry beyond this age with Bishop's permission.</i>	14 St. Vincent de Paul Society (2 nd Tuesday) 2:00 pm Hall	15	16	17	18 Confessions  3:15pm – 3:45pm
19	20	21	22  Knights of Columbus (4th Wednesday of month) 6:00 pm Church Hall	23	24	25 Mass 8:00am Confessions  3:15pm – 3:45pm
26	27	28	29	30 Confirmation Practice at Holy Family in Portage 7:00pm	Why did Adam and Eve do math every day? <i>They were told to be fruitful and multiply</i>	



April



1	Allen Keagy John Skura	10	Mary Paul Philip Shedlock	20	Mary Furfari Thomas Muldoon, Jr
2	Isaac Eckenrode Shirley Przybys Jamie Pyo John Pyo Patrick Shedlock	11	William Gallagher Warren Krumenaker Richard Leahey, Sr. Carmella Martynuska	21	Brynn Lego
3	Bradun Gides Rita Klayko Scott Schilling	12	Antionette Doyle Patricia Grove Christopher Phillips Patricia Tremel	22	Dallas Hite Marisa Rabatin
4	John Bost Howard McIntosh Patricia Muldoon Francis Risko	13	Dcn. Samuel Albarano Jr. Bennett Haney William Walters, Jr.	23	Rita Butterbaugh Kobyn Erzal Gia Ricupero
6	Amy Davies	14	Isabella Borlie Juliana Ricupero	24	Claudine Falger
7	Linda Behe Mary Lukacs Deborah Wilson	15	Adrienne Ditosti Shauna Haney Mary Kozak John Sanders Kimberly Wilkinson	25	Brigid Crane Nathan Keagy Stanley Kukla
8	Karen Claar Riley Petrunak	16	Ray Himes	26	Michael Lingafelt Bryan Nagy Elizabeth Phillips
9	Amy Cropsey Max Haney	17	Charles Wheeler	27	Andrew Regan Susan Roles
10	Joseph Kratzer	19	Kathleen Hammond	28	Ryan Haney Helen Phillips
		20	Margaret Cochran	29	Riley Hazlett Theresa Stevens
				30	Chelsea Hallinan Timothy Klayko Ruth Mulhearn



Please call Fr. Matthew, the Pastor, if there are any necessary corrections.

Special Birthday Celebrations



The following members of the parish family will be celebrating special birthdays this month.

Carmella Martynuska	97	Thomas Muldoon, Jr.	86	Francis Risko	82
Shirley Przybys	95	Helen Phillips	84	Karen Claar	80
John Skura	86	Mary Paul	83	Charles Wheeler	80
Margaret Cochran	86	Mary Furfari	83	Dcn. Samuel Albarano Jr.	75

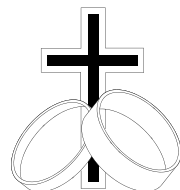


Happy Anniversary

20	Doug and Mary Lou Custer	25	Robert and Mary Paul
22	Raymond and Kathryn Martynuska	30	Richard and Karen James
23	Barry and Cathy Yagoda	30	Andrew Sr. and Mandy Lee

Anniversary Milestones

Congratulations to the following couples celebrating special anniversaries this month.



Robert and Mary Paul	62	Raymond and Kathryn Martynuska	59
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Please call Fr. Matthew, the Pastor, if there are any necessary corrections.

Our St. Vincent de Paul Conference



Our Lady of the Alleghenies Parish established a St. Vincent de Paul Conference in August 2006. Inspired by Gospel values, the Society, a Catholic lay organization, leads women and men to join together to grow spiritually by offering person to person services (help with utility bills, rent, food, clothing, etc.) to the needy and suffering in the tradition of the founder, Blessed Frederick Ozanam and patron saint, St. Vincent de Paul.

We want to thank you for your generous donations in the past. With these donations, we were able to help 25 people in the Lilly area through phone calls/home visits. We paid over \$7,000 toward utility bills, rent, food, clothing, and disaster relief (in US & worldwide) to help needy people during the fiscal year October 1, 2024- September 30, 2025.

Officers are as follows:

Shelley McIntosh, President

Leona George, Secretary

Deacon Sam Albarano, Spiritual Advisor

Madeline Conrad, Vice President

Pattie Grove, Treasurer

Spotlight on the Knights of Columbus



Council 11084 - Lilly, PA

Our Blood drive on March 13th was a success. We made our quota of 17 donations. Thanks to all our faithful donors and the Knights who were able to help.

Council 11084 - Lilly, PA

For more information, contact these leaders of our local council:

Officers for 2025-2026

Grand Knight.....Gary Nagy
Deputy Grand Knight Deacon Sam Albarano
Chaplain.....VACANT
Financial SecretaryJames R. Secriskey
ChancellorRobert Kunrod
Treasurer.....Patrick J. Rainey
RecorderGeorge W. Nesbella

***Please consider becoming
a member of our Knights
of Columbus.***

Contact
Gary Nagy
Grand Knight
Lilly Council #11084

We need new members with new ideas of how we can better serve the church and community.

Since 2024 we lost 6 faithful members of our Council and our numbers are dwindling.

Deacon Sam's comments to the parish continued from page 1 ...

that several of my aunts had told her that before I meet her, they thought that I was going to become a priest. This led Carol to ask Father the question if he thought that she kept me away from the priesthood. Father's answer, "NO, if he was to be a priest that is the direction God would have led him." He then turned to me and said: "Have you ever thought of the Permanent Diaconate." The seed was planted.

When Fr. Albarano said this to me, I did not have any idea of what a deacon was, let alone what he did, and I had no idea how quickly and how firmly that seed would take root within me. Naturally I dismissed the idea totally. But as time went on, I just could not get the idea out of my head.

So, I decided to check it out and to take some prerequisite classes. But winter came and I did not want to travel at night in bad weather, so I figured that was that. Well, time passed and I started again. But I had to have surgery on both knees. This time I thought I was really done. I finally got this idea out of my head.

More time passed and I needed bi-lateral hip replacements, and my left hip became infected, and I was laid up for 2.5 years and had to have multiple surgeries. But during all the rehab, all the down time, I was drawn to reading Sacred Scripture. And once again the words of my cousin come back and began to haunt me.

This time, with a great deal of encouragement and support from my wife Carol, I completed the prerequisite classes, went through the application process and got through formation, and on May 18, 2013, I was ordained a permanent deacon for

the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown by Bishop Mark Bartchak.



*Deacon Sam
and his wife,
Carol, at
Sam's
Deacon
Ordination
on Saturday,
May 18,
2013*

I do have some last thoughts. First: Believe it or not this is the short version of the story. There were and still are many more people and events that were involved and played a role in this story, way too many to be mentioned here. The biggest part of the heavy lifting goes to my wife Carol whose sacrifices and encouragement are largely unknown, but without them none of this happens.

Second is a regret. I am so sorry for trying to argue with God. He knew what was best for me all along, I was just too stubborn and blind to know it myself.

And finally, I want to thank the people of Our Lady of the Alleghenies for their support and helping me to become the deacon that I am.

~ written by Deacon Samuel Albarano Jr.



Our parish's youth participated at our March 20th Stations of the Cross. Their generous volunteerism and courage are much appreciated. "THANK YOU to all of our youth who participated and/or attended our YOUTH Stations held on March 20th. I am particularly happy to hear several comments from parishioners who appreciate having our youth involved at Devotions in this manner. Thank you to our Youth Minister, Joy Eckenrode, for organizing the youth participation for this prayer and to Fr. Matthew for choosing the altar servers for this parish youth event. This is for God's glory!" ~ Fr. Matthew



Front Left to Right: Alauna Gides, Bristol Buck, Ava Hoover, Bradun Gides

Second Row Right to Left: Renee Behe (assisting), Gabby Custer (Altar Server for Stations), Lilah Hoover, Ava Braatz, Amalia Behe, Madison Behe, Lauren Giraud

Back row Left to Right: Fr. Matthew (Pastor), Patrick Phillips, Joe Phillips, Isaac Eckenrode, Luke Michina, Ryan Giraud, Riley Hazlett, Drake Swinger, Joy Eckenrode (Parish Youth Minister)

Readers: Station 1. Ryan Giraud, 2. Amelia Behe, 3. Madison Behe, 4. Lauren Giraud, 5. Ava Braatz, 6. Lilah Hoover, 7. Isaac Eckenrode, 8. Ava Hoover, 9. Drake Swinger, 10. Alauna Gides, 11. Luke Michina, 12. Lauren Giraud, 13. Ava Braatz, 14. Riley Hazlett