



Our Lady of the Alleghenies Lilly, PA NEWSLETTER

September 2026

Volume 30

Number 9



September 13, 14, & 15, 2026

History of 40 Hours Devotion

The practice of 40 Hours Devotion dates to as early as 1527, introduced by St. Anthony Mary Zaccaria in Milan and Vicenza, and spread by St. Ignatius and the Jesuits.

40 Hours in the United States

St. John Neumann was the first church leader in America to practice the devotion. At the time, Catholics faced great opposition in his home city of Philadelphia during the Know-Nothing Riots of 1844. Anti-Catholic protesters burned two churches and continued to foster animosity towards the Catholics in the city.

Bishop Neumann wanted to institute 40 Hours Devotion, but some of the priests in the diocese were hesitant, believing that it might fan the flames of anti-Catholic sentiment and even result in the desecration of the Eucharist. Neumann was working late into the night when he fell asleep at his desk with his candle still lit. As he slept, the candle burnt down and caught the papers on his desk.

Miraculously, he awoke before a large fire broke out — and the papers, though charred, were still readable.

Neumann thanked God for His protection, and the Lord spoke to him, telling him to not fear about having the devotion. The first was held in St. Philip Neri Parish, and then expanded throughout the diocese and beyond, being approved for all American dioceses in 1866.

National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception
<https://www.nationalshrine.org/blog/what-is-40-hours-devotion/>

Our Parish Devotions

Our Parish will celebrate 40 Hours Devotion, a devotion centered around Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, on September 13, 14 & 15, 2026 (Sunday through Tuesday). We will attempt to have continuous overnight adoration like last year, so please try to make a sacrifice and commit to one hour of Adoration prayer over these three days. This year we will welcome **Fr. Canice McMullen** as the homilist for each evening's devotional service. A solemn outdoor procession (weather permitting) will conclude the devotions on Tuesday evening. NOTE: An armed security guard will be on duty overnight each night.

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Forty Hours Devotion September 13, 14, & 15 Begins Sunday at 10:00am Mass on September 13 th Mass at 8:00am Daily Devotions Nightly 7:00pm		1	2	3	4 First Friday Adoration 8:30 – 9:30 am Confession 8:30 – 9:00 am	5 Mass 8:00  Confessions 3:15 – 3:45
6	7 Mass 8:00am 	8 St. Vincent de Paul Society 2:00 PM Hall	9 St. Vincent de Paul - Lemke Meeting 12:30 PM Hall	10	11	12 Mass 8:00  Confessions 3:15 – 3:45
13 Forty Hours Begins At the 10:00 am Mass Devotions 7:00 pm 	14 Mass 8:00 am  Forty Hours Devotion 7:00 pm	15 Mass 8:00 am  Forty Hours Devotion 7:00 pm	16	17	18	19 Mass 8:00  Confessions 3:15 – 3:45

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
20	21	22 <i>First Day of Autumn at 8:05 p.m. EDT</i>	23  Knights of Columbus (4th Wednesday of month) 6:00 pm Hall	24	25	26 Mass 8:00  Confessions 3:15 – 3:45
27	28	29	30	My teachers told me I'd never amount to much because I procrastinate so much. I told them, "Just you wait!"		



Prayer for Labor Day

A heartfelt Labor Day prayer to reflect on the value of work and the dignity of all who labor:

Gracious God,

We thank You for the gift of work, for the talents and skills You have given us, and for the opportunities to use them to serve others.

Bless all workers, especially those who labor tirelessly to provide for their families, those who face challenges in their workplaces, and those who are seeking employment. Grant them strength, dignity, and hope.

May we always honor the dignity of work and strive for fairness, justice, and compassion in all that we do. Guide us to use our efforts to build a world of kindness, equity, and peace.

In Your name, we pray. Amen.

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September Celebrations

1	Celsey Hite John Hurley Robert Rabatin, Sr Lisa Scott	12	Ava Campagna Rachel Erzal	19	Dawn Summerville Joseph Walter
2	Jayce Summerville	13	Genevieve Gibson	20	Charles McMullen
3	Catherine Hess Deonna Keagy	14	Ava Hoover Brent Krug Gertrude Leap Trentyn Myers-Lego	21	Kevin Eckenrode Matthew Hoover Dawn Kick
4	Ian Barlick Albert Hartline		Robert Sorichetti	22	Bristol Buck Thomas Craine John Giblock
5	Kathleen Leahey	15	Avery Jones	25	Theresa Clinemyer Michael Felus Katie Leahey Michael Leahey
7	Richard China Kerry Hammond	16	Benjamin Rainey Connie Stauski	27	Max Hess Sr. Darla Summerville
10	Angela Braatz Andrew Lee Jr.	17	Lucas Jones Jacqueline Lingafelt	28	Joanne Dunmyer Linda Sweeney
11	Tammy China Anna Mardula	18	Robert Paul	30	Theresa Dunmyer Frances Kodosky
11	Brittany Marra Regina Swinger	19	Mary Behe Cheryl Bender Emilio Campagna Anthony Sabol		



Special Birthday Celebrations

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

Anna Mardula.....93
 Frances Kodosky92
 Max Hess Sr.90
 Gertrude Leap.....89
 Genevieve Gibson87
 Robert Paul.....85

Emilio Campagna..... 83
 Charles McMullen..... 83
 Robert Sorichetti 81
 Michael Felus 81
 Cheryl Bender 80
 Thomas Craine 80



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



September Wedding Anniversaries

4 Joseph and Dianne Batdorf
Rick and Tammy China
Thomas and Denise Zock
8 Donald Jr. and Janet Franey
John Sr. and Sara Latoche
9 Les and Margo Kiel
Steven and Allison Kirsch
10 Edward and Darlene Krisko
12 Christopher and Jessica Matcho
William and Stephanie McGowan
14 Joe and Donna Panek

15 Darren and Kiersten Petrunak
16 Larry and Darla Summerville
18 Nathan and Deonna Keagy
20 Bart and Valerie Borlie
21 Allen and Colleen Keagy
23 Robert and Robin Lee
Gary and Patty Nagy
John and Margaret Robine
26 Kip and Tricia Maurer
Willard IV and Kimberly Wilkinson



Anniversary Milestones

Congratulations to the following
couples celebrating golden
anniversaries and beyond this month.

John Sr. and Sara Latoche 64
Larry and Darla Summerville 59
Joe and Donna Panek..... 58

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

Little Johnny

Little Johnny went to Sunday school one Sunday. The lesson for the day was from Genesis. "God opened up Adam's side, took a rib from him, and created Eve from it," was what really struck Johnny.

Later, that afternoon, Johnny started feeling sick, and his side began to hurt. He laid down on the couch, and after about half an hour, his mother came over and asked him if he was feeling okay. He said, "Not really – I think I'm gonna have a wife."



1. **Call to order** at 6:00pm
 - a. **Attended:** John Hurley, Barbara Bart, Amber Hoover, Matthew Hoover, George Nesbella, Michael Summerville, Colleen Keagy **Excused:** Jacob Bossler
 - b. **Absent:** Deacon Sam
2. Opening Prayer - Fr. Matthew
3. Reading of minutes from the last Parish Council meeting (June 1, 2026). Motion was made to approve, was seconded, and passed unanimously.
4. Guest - Jim Nelen
 - a. Asking the parish to consider having a Cinch Card Game Tournament here. The event would include a meal, tournament, 50/50, gift cards, etc. Parishioners would be responsible for providing the workers.
5. Finance Council Report
 - a. Current balances for 2026/2027 Fiscal Year
 - i. Cash in bank, general. 294,940.25
 - ii. Cash in bank, maintenance #6222 3,809.78
 - iii. Cash in bank, small games 970.36
 - iv. Cash in bank, mass stipend 2,990.00
 - v. Current Net Income 2026/2027 +\$18,738.50
 - vi. Total Net Income 2025/2026 +\$87,176.42
 - b. Next Finance Council meeting on Wednesday, August 12, 2026 at 6pm
6. Old Business
 - a. The drainage work on the outside wall of the church will begin in August
 - b. Cost of this project is \$21,273.00 & was approved by the Finance Council
7. New Business
 - a. Possibility of building a pavilion here
 - i. Not a lot of interest due to lack of return and multiplicity of local pavilions already established
 - b. Possibility of a breakfast or dinner fundraiser
 - i. Not much interest expressed in doing this
 - c. Possibility of doing a gas/cash giveaway fundraiser
 - i. Interest was expressed in connecting this with a holiday
 - d. Possibility of an additional center railing for the main center doorway entrance on the steps
 - i. Cannot practically do this due to the need to allow space for funeral caskets to get up these stairs and into the church.



- e. Possibility of building a hall
 - i. Not interested in investing in this at this time
- 8. Reports from Committees
 - a. Cemetery Committee - Ed Myers (Chair)
 - i. Drainage work is currently being done at Mt. Carmel Cemetery
 - b. Vocation Committee - Joan Walters and/or Renee Behe (as representatives). No report
 - c. Safety Committee - (report by members)
 - i. Door locks - No one will have keys anymore and access will be reserved to the Pastor/Administrator and the Diocese. They will determine who needs access and how these individuals will access the church and hall. Currently we are in a process of getting an estimate from Frederick Lock & Key and presenting it to our Finance Council.
 - ii. Cameras
 - 1. Additional estimate will be obtained through the Diocese
 - 2. Strategically placed in the hall/kitchen and church
 - iii. NOTE: Doors and cameras through the Diocese will also be monitored by the Diocese, not just the parish, thus adding a layer of security to unauthorized entries and activities.
 - d. Ed Myers/Jeremy McIntosh are looking into obtaining a Defibrillator for the church (one & possibly a second for the hall)
 - e. Festival 2026 Heads of Booths Committee - Fr. Matthew
 - i. 2026 Profit = \$23,609.99
 - ii. All Heads were sent an email to reply if they do not intend to return as a Head next year. So far not a single eadHead has responded to Fr. saying that they are resigning for 2027
 - iii. Diane Bishop and Debra Kozak are taking over as Co-Heads of the 2027 Festival Basket Raffle
 - iv. An Ice Cream Booth is being added to our 2027 Festival and Shana Hoover will officially Head this booth and work it along with her family
- 9. Non-Committee Reports
 - a. Youth Ministry Joy Eckenrode (Head)
 - i. Swim party was held on July 30th at Cresson pool
 - 1. Total of 20-25 children attended

- ii. Altoona Curve Game
 - 1. Will be held August 14th, Friday, at 6 pm.
 - 2. 42 people have signed up (21 adults/ 21 children)
 - b. Youth Religious Education & Sacramental prep - Fr. Matthew (DRE); and/or Joy Eckenrode (Assistant DRE)
 - i. Clarification: Fr. Matthew is the sole person in charge of Confirmation prep. This prep process has no formal connection to our CCD curriculum as it extends beyond the scope of CCD. If you have any questions about confirmation, please talk to Fr. Matthew.
 - ii. CCD teachers for 2026/2027 will be:
 - 1. 1st - Amanda George; 2nd - Joy Eckenrode; 3rd - Nancy Sivec; 4th - Deb Giraud; 5th - Renee Behe; Junior high - Joan Walters; High school - George Nesbella; Substitutes - Colleen Keagy, Amy Hazlett, John Hurley, Kelley Brown, Fr. Matthew
 - iii. First day of CCD for 2026/2027 will be Sunday, August 30, 2026
 - c. Adult Education - Colleen Keagy (Chair)
 - i. Possible return to Padre Pio Shrine, Barto, PA
 - 1. It was noted that St. Andrew Parish in Johnstown was sponsoring a bus trip there on September 23, 2026 (see bulletin for more information)
 - 2. For this parish a possibility of going on June 16, 2027 was discussed. The occasion is celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Canonization of St. Padre Pio
 - d. Maintenance Issues
10. Comments from Fr. Matthew
- a. 40 Hours will be September 13-15 at 7pm and the Homilist will be Fr. Canice McMullen
11. Closing Prayer
12. Adjournment 7:53 pm (Next Parish Council meeting, Monday, October 5, 2026 at 6:00pm to 7:00pm)

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Bart, Parish Council Secretary

Call to order: 6:00pm

Present: Fr. Matthew, Bill Mulhearn (chair), Matt George, Ted George, Gary Nagy, Pat Rainey, Jenny Schilling, and Liz Wilt

Absent: Rich Giraud, Andy Ronan

Guest: John Hurley, Parish Council Chairperson, reported for the Safety Committee

Security Options Presented:

1. New Electronic Door locking for Church and Hall

- a. DICON Diocese Construction, Nick Iachini
- b. Electronic access and replacement doors and hardware needed for:
 - i. Church center entrance, center vestibule, right entrance, left entrance, front stairs to hall, back stairs to hall, hall entrance door left side, hall entrance door right side, ramp door, kitchen doors.
- c. New sets of doors and hardware for:
 - i. Church center vestibule, church right entrance, church left entrance, hall entrance left side, hall entrance right side.
- d. Run wire and power
- e. Contractor is Frederick from Altoona. Electronics by Brivo
- f. System can create schedules, fobs (first 50 fobs included) and phone access (with Diocese and Pastor/Administrator access included), keypad access for hall. Hall renters have an entry code in effect only for the time of their rental agreement.
- g. 11 doors cost \$167.00/month service and monitoring fee, mobile service cost is \$1.00/month for anyone additional who has been permitted this type of accessibility.
- h. Diocese can & will monitor all activity.
- i. Total estimate = \$90,200.00 *{NOTE: only comparison is with Basilica in Loretto with 5 doors and a different company installing and non-diocesan monitoring. They paid estimated \$90,000}*

2. Cameras: Option A

- a. DICON Diocese Construction, Nick Iachini
- b. Cameras: (4) 8MP bullet cameras with intellisearch and active deterrent with junction boxes, (2) 4MP double dome cameras – total of 4 lens for banquet hall., (4) 5MP dome cameras with intellisearch, 16-channel NVR with 10TB of storage.
- c. Diocese will be a monitor in addition to the parish.

- d. Optional monthly fee of \$65.00 for software update checks & regular check on cameras' working
- e. Run wire and install wire mold/conduit where needed.
- f. Includes outdoor cameras on all four corners of the church.
- g. Total estimate = \$16,763.00

3. Cameras: Option B

- a. Summit Security Systems, 305 Jackson Ave, Cresson, PA 16630: Roy Rosa
- b. Presented by John Hurley – Digital video recording equipment and installation
- c. 16-channel 8K Network Video recorder 4 TB storage, (4) 4MP video camera night vision, (8) 8MP video camera night vision-outdoor mount, (1) battery backup, (1) 32" 4K surveillance monitor with wall mount, (2) 10TB surveillance hard drive upgrade.
- d. Run wire and install
- e. No monthly fee
- f. Current proposal expires August 31, 2026.
- g. Total estimate = \$12,260.00

4. Discussion:

- a. Our parish's Safety Committee was created following the active shooter demonstration by Bubba Fatula and following several incidents of suspicious and illegal activity that occurred within our building last year.
- b. The above ideas were generated through the safety committee and Fr. Matthew's discussion with his brother priests and Diocesan officials.
- c. Sticker Shock! Immediate concerns were expressed over the quoted amounts and the return we would receive in the long run of the parish's future.
- d. Summit Security has equipment and service at several local establishments (Ex. War Memorial)
- e. Future expenses may require replacement cameras and recorders, Ex. The War Memorial had one recorder life span of 7 years and another one for 10 years before they needed to be replaced.
- f. Outdoor camera location suggestions: (3) front entrances, (1) ramp, (2) basement entrances,
- g. Indoor camera suggestions: (2) body of church, (2) sanctuary.
- h. Discussions then focused on some need for security measures and what the bare minimum starting point could be.
- i. Bare minimum was decided to be (2) indoor cameras in the hall and (2) indoor cameras in church.

- j. *{Addendum: Fr. Matthew spoke with Nick briefly after this meeting to decline the door proposal at this time. Nick offered, without being asked, to write a proposal for just changing the hall door accessibility. Presumed this was offered due to the hall being the main location for our CCD program and a desire to add protections for our children. Fr. agreed to receive this quote from Nick and will share it with the Finance Council, with no expected commitment from us to accept this proposal if the price is not sensible.}*
- k. DICON is a diocesan company which began recently to help parishes work with reputable contractors to help prevent scams that have happened in certain parishes already.
- 5. Motion to table a decision on cameras until John Hurley speaks with Nick Iachini to obtain more details on the DICON estimate. The Finance Council will follow up on this by an email vote. Motion seconded and passed unanimously.
- 6. Brief discussion on whether we would do Online Giving through our new envelope company.
 - a. Rejected this idea based on monthly cost and the fact that the Diocese already allows anyone to do online giving through them and having it directed to the parish and that some people already utilize this service from the Diocese.
- 7. Father Matthew presented the following financial documents for fiscal year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026:
 - a. Balance Sheet detailing assets, liabilities and equity.
 - b. Profit and Loss detailing income and expenses.
 - c. Balance Sheet for Mount Carmel Cemetery detailing assets, liabilities and equity.
 - d. Balance Sheet for St. Brigid Cemetery detailing assets, liabilities and equity.
 - e. Profit and Loss Previous Year Comparison detailing income and expenses of fiscal year from July 2025 through June 2026 with July 2024 through June 2025.
- 8. Motion to accept final fiscal report ending June 30, 2026. Motion seconded and passed unanimously.
 - a. Signatures followed by council members on the document to be submitted to the diocese.
- 9. Meeting concluded at approximately 8:15 pm with a blessing.

**Respectfully submitted by Liz Wilt, Finance Council Secretary*



Back to School

Scripture: *Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens.*

Back Pack

Psalms 68:19

School started and you are back into your daily routine. Most of you use a backpack to carry all of your school supplies and books back and forth to school. Some children have backpacks that are almost as big as they are! Sometimes their backpacks are so loaded with all those heavy books that it is just about more than they can carry!

Life is a lot like that too. Sometimes we have some pretty heavy burdens that we try to carry around with us. Some of you may be worried that you won't have any friends in your class, or that the other kids won't like you, or that you just won't fit in. Maybe some of you are worried that you won't have the right clothes. Maybe you are still wearing a "Star Wars" t-shirt and all the other kids are wearing "Pokemon" t-shirts. Maybe some of you are worried that you might not be able to do the work in your new grade and are afraid you might fail. Those can be pretty heavy problems to carry around with us.

Well, I have some good news for you! You don't have to carry all those worries around with you! The Bible tells us that God will carry those burdens for us. So, if you started with a load of worries and problems, this morning you can give them to Jesus. He will carry them for you.

Lord, we are thankful that we do not have to carry the heavy burdens of life around on our backs. This morning we give them to you. Amen.

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Prayer for Students

O Lord Jesus,

I ask for Your help as I begin this new school year.

Allow me to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before me.

Open my eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings. Open my heart and mind to new friends and new teachers.

Give me a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with my studies and courage to accept new opportunities.

Help me to be attentive to my teachers and let me experience Your presence in my new friends.

Jesus, inspire me to do my best this year!

Amen