

# **FEBRUARY 16, 2020**

## *Scripture Reflection*

The reading from the book of Sirach sets the scene for all of today's readings. Sirach offers practical wisdom on how to live according to God's instructions. The writer reminds us that God has gifted us with the power to choose freely: "Before man are life and death, good and evil, whichever he chooses shall be given him."

Paul's letter to the Corinthians shows what the call to choose life means. Embrace God's love by living according to God's wisdom, a plan hidden until now, a plan of love for salvation of all humanity. Jesus Christ, the crucified "Lord of glory," accomplished the Father's plan through his death and Resurrection.

During the Gospel reading, Jesus continues the Sermon on the Mount as he illustrates how his message "fulfills the law and the prophets." He selects the fifth, sixth, and eighth commandments to indicate the heart of his new way of life: "You have heard how it was said, You shall not kill. But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgement." Jesus demonstrates that murder stems from within the human heart. The out-of-control emotion of anger within us, if left unchecked, leads to murder. To choose life in Christ means to pay attention not only to one's actions but, more important, to their roots within our inner being, to the emotions within us. While this is true of the fifth commandment, it also applies to all other commandments. Life in Christ implies that our whole being needs transformation, starting within our very depths.

• **How does Jesus advise us to avoid murder, adultery, and making false statements?**

## **Ministry to the Elderly, Seriously Ill and Grieving**

Thank you for to every one who has donated stamps for this ministry.

Please continue to call the office with the names and addresses of a family member or friend who you know would appreciate a kind word and a prayer through the mail. We would like to be able to reach out to as many people as we can . If you would like to join this ministry call the office 814-944-4603 or Jeanne Thompson at 814-317-2672.

## **Junior High Youth Day**

Junior High Youth Day is scheduled for Sunday, March 15th, at Bishop Carroll High School, in Ebensburg. Our theme for this year is, "**Building up the Kingdom of God: GOD'S work, OUR hands!**"

The day will conclude with Mass with Bishop Mark at 4:00 PM. All pastors are invited to celebrate.

## **Charismatic Prayer Group**

2020 Winter/Spring Schedule

**Location: Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament**

**Monday, February 17th - 7:00 PM**

**Monday March 16th - 7PM Healing Mass**

**Very Rev. Fr. Alan Thomas- Celebrant**

**Monday, April 13th - 7PM**

**Monday, May 18th - 7PM**

**Prayer Ministry to follow all meetings**

The Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group and The Bishop Guilfoyle Alive in the Spirit Student Group

**Location: Bishop Guilfoyle**

**Sunday, February 9th - 6PM**

**Sunday, March 29th - 6PM**

**Sunday, April 5th - 6PM**

## **Gluten Sensitivity**

There may be parishioners who have found that they have physical disorders related to gluten intolerance. The spectrum of illnesses includes celiac disorder, wheat allergy, bloating, abdominal discomfort, diarrhea, muscular disturbances, and bone or joint pain. The ordinary hosts distributed at Communion contain gluten. If you have found that you are gluten sensitive, special bread is available that possess a very low gluten content. Please tell the priest before Mass, and he will consecrate the low-gluten host for you to receive at that Mass.

# **THE CHURCH OF ALTOONA-JOHNSTOWN**

# **THE CATHEDRAL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

**ONE CATHEDRAL SQUARE, ALTOONA, PENNSYLVANIA 16601-3315**

**CHURCH OFFICE: 814-944-4603**

## **CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS:**

The process of formation for those seeking God through membership in the Catholic Christian community.

## **INFANT BAPTISM:**

Arrange in advance for pre-baptismal instructions.

## **CONFIRMATION:**

Ninth, tenth and eleventh grade students are invited to participate in the Confirmation Preparation Process.

## **RECONCILIATION:**

Wednesday: 7:00 PM, Saturday: 12:30 PM.

Communal Penance Services: Advent and Lent.

## **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:**

Charismatic Prayer - Normally 3rd Monday of the Month

Eucharistic Adoration - First Wednesday - 12:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Eucharistic Day - Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ.

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM:**

September through April: Pre-Kindergarten thru 12.

Sunday morning 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM

Pre-Kindergarten thru 8.

Sunday Evening 6:15 PM - 8:15 PM

Grades 9 thru 12.

**WEB: [WWW.ALTOONACATHEDRAL.ORG](http://WWW.ALTOONACATHEDRAL.ORG)**

**FAX: 814-942-4337**

**E-MAIL: [ALTCATHEDRAL@DIOCESEAJ.ORG](mailto:ALTCATHEDRAL@DIOCESEAJ.ORG)**

## **EUCCHARIST:**

**Sunday:** 5:00 PM (Vigil)  
8:00 AM  
10:00 AM  
12:00 Noon  
5:00 PM

**Holyday:** 5:30 PM (Vigil)  
8:00 AM  
12:00 Noon  
5:30 PM

**Weekday:** 6:45 AM  
12:00 Noon  
**Saturday:** 8:00 AM  
12:00 Noon

**Most Reverend Mark L. Bartchak, J.C.D., Bishop**

**Reverend Monsignor Stanley Carson, Administrator**

**Reverend Father Dennis M. Kurdziel, Parochial Vicar**

**CHRISTIAN INITIATION TEAM - 944-4603**

**CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME - 944-4603**

**MAIL MINISTRY TO ELDERLY, HOMEBOUND, SERIOUSLY SICK, AND GRIEVING - 944-4603**

**HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

Web: [www.holytrinitycatholic.school](http://www.holytrinitycatholic.school)

Altoona Campus (Pre-K thru Grade 4) - 381-7011

Hollidaysburg Campus (Pre-K thru Grade 4) - 695-6112

Middle School Campus (Grades 5 thru 8) - 942-7835

**BISHOP GUILFOYLE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

Web: [www.bishopguilfoyle.org](http://www.bishopguilfoyle.org) - 944-4014

**DIRECTORS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Chris Laraia - Pre-K thru 8 - 312-7317

Jean Koury - 9 thru 12 - 949-2777

Religious Education Office: Sundays - 943-7424

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY**

Leslie C. Thayer, MM, CAGO

Music Ministry Office - 944-2044

E-mail: [lthayer@dioceseaj.org](mailto:lthayer@dioceseaj.org)

***SERVING THE PEOPLE OF GOD IN THE CITY OF ALTOONA SINCE 1851***

## SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 16, 2020

Readings: Sir 15:15-20; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37

### MASS INTENTIONS

February 17, Monday: The Seven Holy Founders

Readings: Jas 1:1-11; Mk 8:11-13

6:45 AM + Kevin Sheets (Ron & Jean Sheehan)  
12:00 PM + Louis Wertz (Scott Galant)

February 18, Tuesday: Weekday

Readings: Jas 1:12-18; Mk 8:14-21

6:45 AM + Peggy Joyce (Family)  
12:00 PM + Erla Staumbaugh (Rose Family)

February 19 Wednesday: Weekday

Readings: Jas 1:19-27; Mk 8:22-26

6:45 AM + Father Leo Lynch (McNelis All Stars)  
12:00 PM + Alice Winkler (Michael & Susan Kuny)

February 20, Thursday: Weekday

Readings: Jas 2:1-9; Mk 8:27-33

6:45 AM + M/M Joseph Merle, John McNelis (Family)  
12:00 PM + James Luther (Scott, Angela, Ethan Sipes)

February 21, Friday: St. Damian, Bp. and Dr. of Church

Readings: Jas 2:14-24, 26; Mk 8:34-9:1

6:45 AM + Benita Jorkasky (Parish)  
12:00 PM + Hilda Conrad (Chris Vogel Wolf)

February 22, Saturday: Weekday

Readings: 1 Pt:1-4; Mt 16:13-19

8:00 AM + William V. Bettwy (Tim & Joann)  
12:00 PM + Ray Plummer (Dr. Joseph & Rebecca Clark)

Vigil: SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Readings: Lv 19:1-2, 17-18; 1 Cor 3:16-23; Mt 5:38-48  
5:00 PM + Mary Lou Marasco (Bear & Patty McCloskey)

**Please remember our sick in your prayers.**

### Stewardship Reflections

Stewardship is not an effort through our time talent and money to create a relationship with God. It is our response to God with our time, talent and money. It is our relationship with him that already exists through his Son, Jesus Christ.

Christian stewards strive to be people of integrity. They practice their God-given gift of free will to choose right over wrong, good over evil.

### Stations of the Cross

There will be Stations of the Cross starting Friday March 6th, at 5:30PM.

### Baptismal Prep

The next Marriage Prep class will be held here at the Cathedral on March 3rd, at 6:30 PM. You need not wait until the baby is here, to take this class.

### Helpers Needed

Volunteers meet every Wednesday at 9:00 AM, to tidy up the Cathedral. Please bring buckets and rags and join us.

### Think Spring, Think Basket Bingo!

Our next Basket Bingo meeting will be held Thursday March 5th at 6:00 PM in the Cathedral Basement. We are now accepting any donations that you may have. If you have any questions, or to drop off donations please call Lorraine Beck at 942-7774, or call the Parish Office 944-4603 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM from Monday-Friday.

### Soda And Water Please!

With the upcoming **Mardi Gras Party** (February 22) and the Fish Luncheons throughout Lent, parishioners are asked to donate soda-cans or bottles and also water. This will deter the cost. You can bring the soda and place it in the bins at all the Cathedral doors, or you can drop it off at the Cathedral Parish Center between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM. Thank you.

### Mardi Gras Celebration

The Parish will gather for our annual Mardi Gras Party on **February 22 at 6:00 PM** in the Cathedral Hall. All parishioners are invited to join in the celebration prior to our forty day Lenten journey. The event promises great food for all and there will be games for the children. Clear your calendars and plan to join the parish family for a great evening of socializing, eating, and games and fun.

### Calendar of Prizes 2020 Are Here!

Calendar of prizes 2020 are still being sold at the Parish Office, weekdays between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM. Each calendar costs \$20.00. There is a \$20.00 daily prize; an additional \$1,000.00 in special monthly prizes awarded throughout the year; and a grand prize of \$1,500.00. We still have 131 left. Still a chance to win the BIG MONEY!

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, February 9, 2020 - \$8,131.55

### Contribution Reports

Reports for Income Tax purposes may be obtained by calling the Parish Office at 944-4603.

### February 23rd

F.I.R.E. class 6:15-8:15 PM in the Cathedral Church Basement.

### Confirmation Prep

**Saturday February 22nd 9:00 AM-4:30PM**, All Day Retreat for 11th Grade at Saint Francis University, Candidates only. Cost is \$25.00.

### First Communion Sessions - 2020

First Communion Sessions are scheduled for Tuesdays, February 11, March 10, and March 31, 2020. All sessions are held in the Cathedral hall from 6:30 PM until 8:00 PM. All students MUST be accompanied by an adult. If unable to attend a session, please call Chris Laraia at 814-312-7317. First Communion at the Cathedral will be on Sunday, April 19 at the 10:00 AM Mass. First Communion at Our Lady of Fatima Parish will be Sunday May 3rd at the 10:30 Mass. Group and individual pictures will be taken after the 10:00 AM First Communion Mass.

### ARISE

*Arise, Together in Christ* is a six week, Catholic based, small group, faith-sharing program that guides Christians to know God better, grow spiritually, meet new people, improve our relationship with Christ, and put our faith into action.

Season 4, "New Heart, New Spirit" will focus on key themes of our faith and social teaching.

Please consider participating in this program for Lent, beginning on Sunday, February 23rd. Sign up weekends will be held at the Cathedral Square, 13th Avenue door beginning this weekend.

### The Little Black Book

*The Little Black Book* provides six-minute meditations on the Sunday Gospels of Lent. Published by the Diocese of Saginaw, the right-hand pages contain reflections and explanations about the Sunday Gospel; and, the left hand pages have a variety of quotes, information and timely thoughts. Copies of *The Little Black Book* are available at our entrances.

### Lenten Fish Lunches

Cathedral Parish Social Committee will again offer the delicious Fish Lunches on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent. (There is no Fish Lunch offered on Good Friday.) The menu includes a Fish sandwich, and your choice of macaroni and cheese, pierogie, french fries, or haluski for \$8.00 (includes drink). They will be serving this from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM or till sold out. Please call in take-out orders, of ten or more so we can have them ready for you the number is 814-944-4603. Plan to participate in this annual Lenten project. Do you know someone who is homebound and would appreciate a delicious fish sandwich this Lent? Plan to reach out to others this Lent. Spread the great news with others about our unbelievably delicious Fish Lunches!

### Catholic Ministry Drive

Our Catholic Ministries, Drive, Ignite Your Faith for Christ's Mission, launches today throughout the Diocese.

During Lent and throughout the year, we are challenged to renew our spiritual devotions and duties, and one of those duties is to support the Church.

This drive focuses on a select group of ministries with emphasis on the poor, families, youth, seminarians and leadership development of clergy and laity. Please accept Bishop Mark's invitation to contribute when it arrives this week and return your pledge card in the next weekend's offertory collection. There will also be a pledge card in the Diocese's new magazine, *PROCLAIM Christ in Your Life*.

Our Parish's assigned target for this year is \$51,796. Thank you for supporting several ministries that are so vitally important with your sacrificial gifts of prayers and treasure. 100% of your gift goes exclusively to these ministries.

### Pastoral Council Meeting

The Pastoral Council of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament Parish will meet on Tuesday, February 18, at 6:30 P.M. in the Cathedral Parish Center conference room.

### Prayer Shawls

If anyone feels that they need some comfort in their troubled times, please feel free to contact Lorraine Beck at 814-942-7774 for one of our Prayer Shawls. These shawls have been Blessed and may bring you the comfort that you need.