

# MARCH 22, 2020

## Scripture Reflection

“Do you believe in the Son of Man?” Jesus wants to motivate each one of us to see the truth. After developing a relationship with Jesus, the blind man “sees” as someone very special. The Pharisees, due to the blindness caused by their ignorance, prejudice, and need for self-preservation, still remain blind. Presuppositions, prejudices, assumptions, and our needs can easily blind us to truth. We see what we want or need to see and not what is really there. In addition, our stubbornness continues to convince us that we are right and that our vision is perfect. Only God can complete the picture.

Look around at our world. So much of what is happening today is due to the reluctance of folks to allow themselves to be stretched and brought to see what is really there. Many react to what life presents to them more with the lenses of ignorance than lenses of clarity. The Gospel carries great transformative value. With it, God corrects our vision and replaces our limited sight with the fullness of his sight. God opens our eyes so that we can see that it is not about preserving what we have created but of living in the immensity and wonder of God’s kingdom.

Through a simple, loving relationship with God, we can break through the tethers of prejudice, eradicate fear, dispel the darkness of hatred and sin, discover freedom, live in peace, work for justice, be effective stewards of creation, assist the migrant and the immigrant, and safeguard our economic systems and policies so that they truly serve all of God’s children. What we see is often an artificial lie. Our truth is much bigger than what our limited sight believes it to be. Allow God to work in and through you. Do not be afraid. Be open and be humble enough to know that you need help. Many human beings are living with severe cataracts that produce sight that is at best blurred. Are you one of them?

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## 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.

## Charismatic Prayer Group

2020 Winter/Spring Schedule

Location: Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament

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, April 5th - 6PM

## Next Week’s Collection

The Catholic Relief Services Collection (CRSC) is next weekend. This collection provides food to feed the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ’s love and mercy to all people here and abroad. Please give generously to the CRSC and help **Jesus in disguise**. Learn more about the collection at [www.usccb.org/catholic-relief](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-relief).

## Stewardship Reflections

The curing of the Blind Man gave hope to the community that they were deserving of God’s love no matter what their circumstance. Reflect on the words of Pope Francis this week, “To protect creation, to protect every man and every woman, to look upon them with tenderness and love, is to open up a horizon of hope; it is to let a shaft of light break through the heavy clouds; it is to bring warmth of hope!” (Pope Francis, March 19, 2013).

May I be the light in the darkness of this world by generously sharing my time, my talents, and all my resources, in the name of Jesus.

# 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)

EUCHARIST: DUE TO COVID-19, THERE ARE NO PUBLIC MASSES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

Sunday:	5:00 PM (Vigil)	Holyday:	5:30 PM (Vigil)	Weekday:	6:45 AM
	8:00 AM		8:00 AM		12:00 Noon
	10:00 AM		12:00 Noon	Saturday:	8:00 AM
	12:00 Noon		5:30 PM		12:00 Noon
	5:00 PM				

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**

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 22, 2020

Readings: 1 Sm 16:1,6-7,10-13; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41

### MASS INTENTIONS

March 23, Monday: St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bp.

Readings: *Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54*

+ Richard Anthony (Tom and Pat Forr)  
+ Carrie Detwiler (Mom and Dad)

March 24, Tuesday: St. Oscar Romero, Bp. & Martyr

Readings: *Ez 47:1-9,12; Jn 5:1-16*

+ John Adams (Joe & Marcella Ianniello)  
+ Jim Doud (Debbie Ball)

March 25, Wednesday: The Annunciation of the Lord

Readings: *Is 7:10-14,8-10; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38*

+ Robert Wojcik (M/M Augusto Villanueva)  
+ John Duffy (Denis & Connie Navarro)

March 26, Thursday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: *Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47*

+ Marti Stefanon (Lorraine Beck)  
+ Jane Davidson (Cathy & Kerry Hallinan)

March 27, Friday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: *Wis 2:1, 12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30*

+ Agnes Shaffer (Family)  
+ Patricia Koeck (Dan, Sue, Michael Speck)

March 28, Saturday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: *JEr 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53*

+ Frances Speckhart (The Krish Family)  
+ John Moloney, Anniversary (Family)

Vigil: FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Readings: *Ez 37:12-14; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45*

+ Edgar L. Johnston, Anniversary (Wife)

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



### F.I.R.E. and CCD Classes

All F.I.R.E., Confirmation Prep and CCD Classes have been canceled until at least the end of March.

### This Week's Schedule

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there are no devotional, liturgical, or pastoral events this week except for the availability of the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Wednesday, March 25, at 7:00 P.M. and on Saturday, March 28, at 12:30 P.M.

### The Cathedral will remain open from 7:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. for private prayer.

Please use social distancing. Maintain at least 3 feet distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing. Stations of the Cross booklets will be available at the offertory gift table. Please return the booklets so that others may use them.

### Cancelations

Stations of the Cross, Evening Prayer with Benediction, our Communal Penance Service Scheduled for Wednesday, April 1, and fundraising events are cancelled.

### Postponements

The Rite of Reception into Full communion with the Catholic Church, the reception of First Holy Communion, and the Celebration of Confirmation are being postponed until the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

### Pastoral Visits/Communion Calls

Clergy are to obey the protocols of health care facilities. Pastoral Visits and Communion Calls should be made only when there is a danger of death.

### Financial Considerations

In order to deal with the projected shortfall in contributions, pastors, and administrators, with the assistance of their finance council may need to consider the most essential tasks required in their parishes at present and which employees are necessary for these tasks. There may be a need for temporary or permanent layoffs. The diocesan director of human resources would be involved in those types of decisions.

### Contributions

Even during a pandemic, the financial support of parishioners is very important to a parish. However, due to their own financial challenges during a time like this, families might not be able to sustain their current level of giving. As a parish we will need to curtail spending and make adjustments.

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, March 15, 2020 - \$6,542.00

### Contributing

Contributions may be dropped off at the mail slot at the rectory or mailed to the parish. Parishioners may give to the Cathedral parish by using a new diocesan portal at [www.dioceseaj.org/giving](http://www.dioceseaj.org/giving)

### Holy Week and the Triduum

It seems unlikely that public liturgies will be permitted until after Easter. The cathedral will be open daily for a longer period of time during Holy Week. Blessed palm will be made available to take home. Individual bottles of Holy Water will be available. The cathedral will be less florally decorated.

### Prayer for the Intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe:

Holy Virgin of Guadalupe,  
Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas.  
We fly with you today as your beloved children.  
We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding of Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother,  
and gain for our nation and world,  
and for all our families and loved ones,  
the protection of your holy angels,  
that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

For those already afflicted,  
we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance.  
Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful, wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

In this time of trial and testing,  
teach all of us in the church to love one another and to be patient and kind.  
Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.

We come with confidence,  
knowing that you are our compassionate mother,  
health of the sick and cause of the joy.

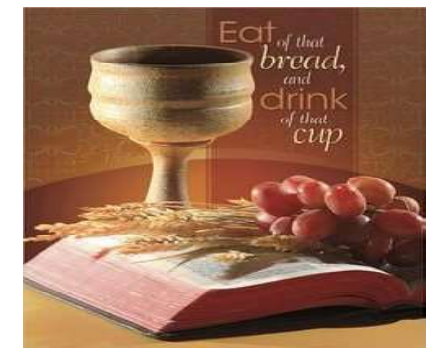
Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,  
keep us in the embrace of your arms,  
help us to always know the love of your Son, Jesus.  
Amen

### Abstinence and Fasting

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are the days of abstinence and fasting. All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence. Abstinence means that people 14 years of age and older are not to eat meat at all on the designated days. Fasting means eating only one full meal, with two small meals and no eating between meals. People who have reached their 18th birthday and up to their 59th birthday are obligated to fast. Additional forms of abstinence and fasting may also be undertaken voluntarily on a personal basis.

### Basket Bingo Postponed

The Longaberger Basket and Vera Bradley Bingo scheduled for Sunday, April 26, is being postponed to a later date.



### Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things and I desire You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

As though You were already there, I embrace You and unite myself to You; permit not that I should ever be separated from You.

### Seasoned Catholic Singles Group

Looking for Seasoned Catholic Singles- We are looking to see if there is an interest in starting a social group for those Catholic singles in our area(single, divorced, separated, widowed) who are more advanced in their life journey, but would like to spend time with other mature single adults who share their faith. Activities could include: watching movies together, dining out, dining in, sporting events like bowling, service projects or worship events. If you have an interest, please contact the Family Life Office at 814-695-5579 to help organize a group in your area.