

MARCH 29, 2020

Scripture Reflection

Even though we say that we believe, there is a part of us that doesn't. There are many times in our lives when we experience death, whether it be the physical death of someone we love, a failed relationship, the loss of a job, or a broken dream. As we are going through these death experiences, we can easily find ourselves reaching out to God to make it better and fix it! We think that the proper order of life is to maintain the things of this world, especially those things that are essential to our sense of well-being and security. We do not like change. The grieving that comes from our death experiences can keep us stuck and in despair. If we have lost something or someone of great value, the very meaning and essence of life is lost with them. We need gentle companions to lift us from despair and that is precisely who God desires to be in our life as well.

God calls us out of our tombs, where we have been closed up in fear and despair, and shouts, "Come out!" He desperately wants to show us the path to hope and the new life that is possible after loss and death. But our faith can be weak, and we still prefer to cling to the memory of what we had rather than the joyful possibilities of tomorrow. We sometimes live as if God is not real and that the transformative power of His resurrected presence is a story found in the Bible rather than a narrative unfolding in our lives.

God is the God of surprises, not our demise. God opens new possibilities, begins new chapters, creates new verses, and brings us to new heights! We spend so much time and energy ruminating over what we left behind yesterday that we are far too tired to see what can unfold tomorrow. Loving someone new doesn't negate our past loves. Embracing the love of a person, God, or life itself tomorrow doesn't diminish the love of yesterday. Each of our loves is different, and one cannot be replaced by another. They don't cancel each other out. God truly has tended to every detail of our lives, and if we listen to each detail, we find that they all lead us back to Him. Jesus wants us to come out of our closed-up tombs. Are we going to listen this time?

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Ministry to the Elderly, Seriously Ill and Grieving

Thank you for to everyone 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



This Week's Collection

The Catholic Relief Services Collection (CRSC) is this 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.

Stewardship Reflections

Jesus answered Martha's prayers on His own terms, not hers. Yet the outcome is much more than she could have imagined. If we are to be good stewards and protectors of the gifts God has given, we must begin by spending more time with God so that we are able to discern his will for our lives.

Through prayerful listening, we begin to hear God calling us; each in our own way, to use our time, talent and treasure to help build his kingdom on earth. May we have the courage to fulfill our role in the Divine Plan according to God's will.

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

FAX: 814-942-4337

E-MAIL: 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

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 - 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

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

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 29, 2020

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

MASS INTENTIONS

March 30, Monday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Dn 13:41-62; Jn 8:1-11

- + Louise Hallinan (Family)
- + Dave Petrak (Rita & Jerry Kibler)

March 31, Tuesday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Nm 21:4-9; Jn 8:21-30

- + Sr. Beverly Hmel I.H.M. (Eileen Edwards)
- + Beverly Woodring (Rick & Cammy Pulcino)

April 1, Wednesday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Jm 8:31-42

- + Albert Rhoa (Pat Rhoa)
- + Regis Noel (Daughter Sandra)

April 2, Thursday: St. Francis of Paola, Hermit

Readings: Gn 17:3-9; Jn 8:51-59

- + Joseph Moran (Kathy & Terry Tomasetti)
- + Debbie Capotosti (Mickie & Jim Lamont)

April 3, Friday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Jer 20:10-13; Jn 10:31-42

- + M/M Ludwig Schroch (M/M Fran Dambeck)
- + Skip Cole (Dan & Flora Gibbons)

April 4, Saturday: St. Isidore, Bp and Dr. of Church

Readings: Ez 37:21-28; Jn 11: 45-46

- Chase Keagy Birthday (Carol Smith)
- + Jim Doud Birthday (Debbie Ball)

Vigil: PALMSUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Readings: Mt 21:1-11; Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14-27:66

- + Edgar L. Johnston, Anniversary (Wife & Family)

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

Office Hours

Due to the Coronavirus and the impact it has had, our office hours have been reduced to 9:00 A.M to Noon from Monday to Friday. Thank you for your understanding during this time.

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, April 1st, at 7:00 P.M. and on Saturday, April 4th, 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.

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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

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

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.

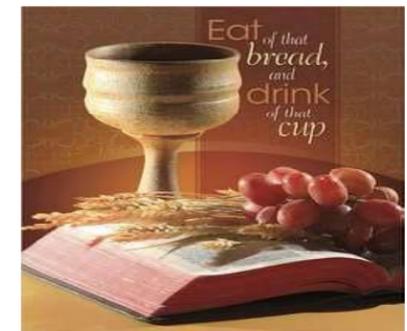
Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,
keep us in the embrace of your arms,
help us to always know the love of your Son, Jesus.
Amen

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.