

APRIL 12, 2020

Scripture Reflection

When we awoke this morning, we found ourselves blessed with another day. It is Easter Sunday. As that thought crossed our minds, did we find ourselves saying “so what” or “alleluia”? For many, today is truly a day of alleluia. For others, it is just another day of “so what.” Faith makes a huge difference. It not only makes a difference in how we understand today and the significance of what we celebrate, it also makes a huge difference in terms of how we understand ourselves.

Succeed, live well, be productive, find your niche, follow your dreams, make money, protect your social status, be politically correct, and keep your preferences to yourself are pretty good examples of the messages our secular life wants us to hear. In and of themselves, they don’t sound all that harmful. But when really examined, they are. The life of resurrection embodied in the Gospel tells us a much different story.

Life keeps us busy. We are always connected, distracted, occupied, and working. For many of us, an agenda awaits us before we even start our day, and unfinished stuff is brought with us when we retire at night. Make the best of life and “find your own road to happiness are messages we all too easily believe. The “so what” response to the new life of resurrection is often the result of believing that life is only what I make it. What God has to say isn’t important to me securing my next raise.

Sadly, we live as if the grave is the end. While we may give the wonder of heaven a blink now and then, its glory really doesn’t impress us or matter all that much. It’s all about the here and now and what I need to do today to get where I want to be tomorrow. We tend to put off considering the one significant “tomorrow” that will come the millisecond after we take our last breath. When that happens, will we want to be thinking “so what?” or “alleluia”?

There is only one Jesus, one mission, and one resurrection. There is also only one of us. Have you ever pondered what one solitary, humble human life can do? Faith, not our world, tells us how special we are. We are not robots. We are not replaceable. We have one shot. There are no do-overs. Love is at our core and unites us together as one with the God of love who so desperately wants us to be with Him forever. This may not match our secular agenda, but it ought to make our true inner agenda leap for joy. There doesn’t need to be an end. I can live forever.

Alleluia!

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EASTER FLOWERS 2020

Pelligrino, Wolfe & Civiello Families
Mr & Mrs Richard Hollingshead
Goss Family Deceased
Lisa A. Belsey
Jim Luther
E. T. Smith Family
June & Terry Lee Talasky
Marian & Tom Swires, Louise & John Ford
Stella, Mandy Gallagher, Jim Moschella Sr.
Theresa Kuny, Jane Weidley
Dave Lysinger and Parents
Andrew Lesko Family, George Moyer Family,
Deceased Memebers of the Clay, Lasko,
Lidwell, Moyer, and the Pilarz Families
Connie Tippery
Mary Kathryn Kantoski
Paul & Dora Luke, Pat & Ellen Marlett, Clyde &
Mary Myers, Stella Faust,
Bill & Marian Clemens, Lee & Katy Young
Martino Family
Peggy & Bernie Joyce, Deceased Hallinan
Family, Deceased Joyce Family, and
Deceased Bistline Family
Rose Stefanon, Atillio Stefanon, Marti Stefanon
Carol Makdad
Mr & Mrs Charles J. Kimmel
Earl & Virginia Strohm
Deceased of Trxler, Strate, and Yeager Families
Jack & Kitty Bell, Msgr. Paul Panza, Steve Himes
Thibault, Thompson, and Kutruff Families
Matthew & Madeline Kirsch,
Clair & Mary Lumadue
Robert & Ethel Brandt, George Jodon Jr,
Robert Vaughn Sr, Robert A Brandt
John & Rose Moryken, Regis & Elizabeth Dixon,
Julia Jarkiewicz, Patricia Buchanan,
Mercy Miller, and Gabby Bruno
Kathleen Duffy, John Duffy
Kathryn Mirante, Angela Trent, Marian DeCarlo,
and Bill Donnelly
Deceased Family Members
Jim & Steph Kilcoyne
Winkler-Kaspick, Pendergast- O’Malley
Paul, Jodie, and Evan Koegler
Danyell & Grace Rougeux,
Frank & Helen Radwanski
Carrie Kibler Detwiler, Mary Jane Yahner,
Maurice & Jane McNulty, Cyril & Mary Kibler
Mr & Mrs Clair Boslet, Mr & Mrs Roy Krieger
William, Elenor & John Bettwy, Danial & Anna Gioiosa
Carles, Robuck Families
Grace & George Porta, Helen & William McCloskey
Samuel & Carole Mento, Francesco & Vinceenza
Mento, Hy & Jennie Adelman, Joseph & Virginia
White, Helen & Gina Faretta, James & Josephine
Filoromo, Whitney Gutshall, Laura Shultz,
Tom Caporuscio, Barb Peters

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: ALTACATHEDRAL@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

EASTER SUNDAY

April 12, 2020

Readings: Acts 10:34,37-43; Col 3:1-4; Jn 20:1-9

MASS INTENTIONS

April 13, Monday within the Octave of Easter

Readings: Acts 2:14, 22-33; Mt 28:8-15

+ Poor Souls (Anonymous)

+ Jim Davidson (Bev & Mark Boslet)

April 14, Tuesday within the Octave of Easter

Readings: Acts 2:36-41; Jn 20:11-18

+ Msgr. Paul Panza (Kathy Grove)

+ Skip Cole (Robert & Mary Klisiewicz)

April 15, Wednesday within the Octave of Easter

Readings: Acts 3:1-10; Lk 24:13-35

+ Sandy Cuzzolina (McNelis All Stars)

+ Leo & Alice Winkler, Ann. (Family)

April 16, Thursday within the Octave of Easter

Readings: Acts 3:11-26; Lk 24:35-48

+ Irene & Richard Gomez (Lia Gillan)

+ Alfred Rutolo (Family)

April 17, Friday within the Octave of Easter

Readings: Acts 4:1-12; Jn 21:1-14

+ M. Virginia Jones (Janet & Michele Belsy)

+ Herbert Kutruff (Barry & Darlene Weston)

April 18, Saturday within the Octave of Easter

Readings: Acts 4: 13-21; Mk 16:9-15

Vigil: DIVINE MERCY

Readings: Acts 2:42-47; 1 Pt 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31

+ Anna Marie Mullins (Aunt Louise)

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

Office Hours

The office hours will be Tuesday-Friday 9:00 AM to Noon.

A Note of Thanks

Gratitude is extended to Bear and Patty McCloskey who planted flowers in the planters in the front of the Cathedral. The flowers will be especially appreciated once we're able to return for public worship and folks walk up the steps to the main doors of the Cathedral.

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.

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.

Church Closures and Suspension of Services

Until further notice, due to Covid-19 and the Governor's order to stay-at-home, our churches will be closed and there is a suspension of all liturgical, sacramental, and devotional activities on church property.

Basket Bingo Postponed

The Longaberger Basket and Vera Bradley Bingo scheduled for Sunday, April 26, is being postponed until **Sunday September 20th**.

Prayer Shawl Makers Needed

Anyone wanting to and able to knit, we are in need of people to knit Prayer Shawls. Please get in touch with Lorraine Beck at 814-946-7774.

Spiritual Communion Prayer

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I Love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there, and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen



OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday's March 15, 22, 29, April 5, Easter April 12, and Special Envelopes 2020 Thank you for your faithful support. \$12,699.80

Prayers to Mary by Pope Francis

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Stewardship Reflections

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Come to Christ

Life is perhaps God's greatest gift to each of us. Without life, we would be unable to experience all the wonder of this world, the love of family and friends, and the joy that comes from using our talents and skills. Life itself is more profound a gift than we can even truly contemplate. On Easter, we celebrate life. For on this day, Jesus Christ conquered death and gave to us the chance for a life eternal. The wonder, love, and joy of this world does not have to end. Through a life in Jesus Christ, these emotions are heightened, and we find even greater fulfillment in this world.

Maybe this Easter you are finding yourself open to taking a next step in your relationship with Jesus. This could be the moment you decide to follow Him more closely and take seriously all that he has given you. If so, welcome to the journey, where there are many other disciples on that same path who can help show you the way and share their stories. If not, hopefully it doesn't take a whole year for this possibility to be considered again. Jesus is alive and waiting to get closer to you. May this Easter season find you and Our Lord getting to know one another in a whole new way. Happy Easter!

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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“Be glad, let earth be glad!”

The Easter proclamation, the Exsultet, which is proclaimed following the blessing of the Paschal Candle invites the earth and the Church to be glad “knowing an end to gloom and darkness.” The trauma of our Lord's passion and death is overwhelmed by His victory over sin and death through the glory of His resurrection. Gloom has been replaced by glory. Disciples of Jesus are able to be glad and peaceful even during gloomy experiences because we are a people of hope... a hope based upon the mighty power of God.

The coronavirus has spread its share of gloom. But in spite of it, so many good people have brought gladness into the lives of others. The loving attention given by grandparents and parents, the courageous care provided by health-professionals and first-responders, the diligent research of scientists, and the genuine acts of kindness provided by neighbors and friends have been brilliant, and sometimes subtle, lights during moments of darkness.

Yes, the earth and the Church have reason for joyful gladness. God who is victorious over sin and death has the power to be victorious even over viruses.

The Risen Jesus continues to speak to us through God's Word and is so powerfully and intimately present among us in the gift of His sacraments. Our sins and the sins of the Church have, in the words of the Exsultet, earned for us “so great, so glorious a Redeemer!”

On behalf of Bishop Mark Bartchak, Father Dennis Kurdziel, and myself it is our sincerest hope that the Spirit of the Risen Christ enters your heart with His peace and the joy of knowing that He will bring “an end to gloom and darkness.” Christ is Risen! He is risen, indeed!

Easter Blessings,

(Rev. Msgr.) Stanley B. Carson, Administrator

Easter Sunday Mass

Msgr. Carson will celebrate Mass privately on Easter Sunday morning at both the Cathedral and Our Lady of Fatima Church for the intention of the people of each parish. As you know, because of Covid 19 and the Governor's “Stay-At- Home” order, our churches continue to be closed until further notice.