

**APRIL 19, 2020**

*Scripture Reflection*

A person was going through a very dark time, questioning the meaning of life, not feeling very purposeful or worthwhile, and feeling disconnected and unappreciated. Suddenly, they gazed up at the night sky, found themselves in awe of all the stars and constellations, and exclaimed, "I am here on purpose and I am loved!" Having been brought by God to this moment of intense connection and awareness, his life changed from that moment on.

If we are always preoccupied with the challenges, obligations, and stuff of daily life, we can easily miss the wonderful opportunities when the resurrected Christ is knocking at our door. If we open ourselves to the fullness of experience, we will find ourselves listening and embracing all that is around us, being caught up in the magnificence of creation's grandeur and knowing in our heart and soul that God is and I am.

While that sounds like a simple, tell-me-something-I don't-know kind of revelation, it is life changing when it takes root in the depth of a person's soul. Stumbling upon this awesome truth and internalizing it doesn't require an assent of the mind. It beckons for a claim on our soul. We find ourselves knowing something profound that cannot be explained or reasoned, but purely is. When we are caught up in an experience and encounter the truth, it doesn't matter how all of the pieces got put together. Truth is simply truth. The "my Lord and my God" responses we utter are not evoked because all of the pieces of faith and life make reasonable sense. The "my Lord and my God" affirmations come when we are lifted up out of our preoccupations and silliness and are in the presence of mystery and mercy.

God is mystery, one who is beyond our grasp but at the same time within our reach, knowable yet unknowable. And when in the presence of mystery, there comes an intense experience of mercy. We know deep within the essence of ourselves — and in the very life of creation — this beating, unconditionally accepting, life-sustaining, profound, mysterious yet familiar presence of love. We have found our peace. "Peace be with you." Breathe in and breathe out. Peace.

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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  
Anthony & Helen Lavelle, Audrey Krause

**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: ALTICATHEDRAL@DIOCESEAJ.ORG**

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

<b>Sunday:</b>	<b>5:00 PM (Vigil)</b>	<b>Holyday:</b>	<b>5:30 PM (Vigil)</b>	<b>Weekday:</b>	<b>6:45 AM</b>
	<b>8:00 AM</b>		<b>8:00 AM</b>		<b>12:00 Noon</b>
	<b>10:00 AM</b>		<b>12:00 Noon</b>		<b>8:00 AM</b>
	<b>12:00 Noon</b>		<b>5:30 PM</b>		<b>12:00 Noon</b>
	<b>5:00 PM</b>				

**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**

## SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY

*April 12, 2020*

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

### MASS INTENTIONS

April 20, Monday: Easter Weekday

Readings: Acts 4:14, 23-31; Jn 3:1-8

+ Clara Mullan (Nancy & Skip)

+ Msgr. Paul Panza (Kathie Kantoski)

April 21, Tuesday: St. Anselm, Bishop & Doctor

Readings: Acts 4:32-37; Jn 3:7-15

+ Jack Bauer (Rosemarie Fideli)

+ Dcd. of Michael & Ella Gibbons (Children Tom Irwin)

April 22, Wednesday: Easter Weekday

Readings: Acts 5:17-26; Jn 3:16-21

+ Rick Cowan & Karen Cowan Dougherty (Mom)

+ Frances Pagliaro (Mr & Mrs Bernie Koehle)

April 23, Thursday: St. George, Martyr; St. Adelbert

Readings: Acts 5:27-33; Jn 3:31-36

+ Barbara Byers (Greg & Sandy Dulla)

+ Fred T Lumadue (Paul & Emma Kowalski)

April 24, Friday: St. Fedelis of Sigmaringen, Priest

Readings: Acts 5:34-42; Jn 6:1-15

+ Lavelle Family (Phyllis Lavelle Sheetz)

+ Janet Tomlinson (Donald & Mary Smithmyer)

April 25, Saturday: Saint Mark, Evangelist

Readings: 1 Pt 5:5-14; Mk 16:15-20

+ Joseph A. Moffa Birthday (Estate)

+ Alice & Andy Sussa (Dan & Wendy Cowan)

Vigil: THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Readings: Acts 2:14, 22-33; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35

+ Diane M. Johnston Birthday (Mother & Family)

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

### 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.

### Religious Ed PK/8

Classes have ended for the year and will return on Sunday, September 13th.

Parents only, may pick up textbooks, your child's personal belongings and next year's registration form on Wednesday, April 29th from 10-12 Noon, and 3-5 PM in the R.E. location.

Please return all Rice Bowls and Service Hour forms when you pick up the texts or drop off at the Parish Office Monday thru Friday 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Any questions please call or text Chris Laraia at 814-312-7317.

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION

#### Office Hours

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

#### Stewardship Reflections

Give Yourself Completely

The early days of the first Christian community were not easy by any measurement. Jesus had been executed, and his disciples had to be discreet so as not to meet a similar fate. Jesus was now risen, but the truth of his resurrection was not accepted by all. However, the depiction of that early community in Acts 2:42-47 would lead someone to believe it was the opposite situation. We are told of community life where people lean on each other and share great joy. They ate and prayed together, and many wonders and signs were occurring to lift the community and bear witness to the power of Jesus Christ. They were disciples living out their faith, and it was their strong sense of stewardship that made all this possible in the face of threatening Roman and Jewish powers.

Today, we find the Church in a new turmoil. Increasing secularism, abuse scandals, and a lack of true fidelity place us once again in a time that is not easy. A friend of mine likes to say that any challenge of sin we encounter in the Church has its origin in a lack or misunderstanding of the stewardship way of life. We create our burdens by not using our gifts wisely and by turning inward selfishly.

Could we use the story in Acts of the early Church to help us today? If we begin with the decision to give of ourselves completely to God and His people, will we become agents of change? There is only one way to find out.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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### A NOTE FROM MSGR. STAN CARSON: THE DOMESTIC CHURCH

Because of Covid-19 and the governor's "stay-at-home" order, our churches have not been open for public worship or private prayer. We've been praying at home. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "From the beginning, the core of the Church was often constituted by those who had become believers together with all their household." Families who became believers were "islands of Christian life in the unbelieving world." The Second Vatican Council referred to the family as the "domestic Church."

This Sunday's reading from the Acts of the Apostles Chapter 2, verses 42-47, mentions that the early Church listened to the teachings of the apostles, shared their resources in fellowship, celebrated the Eucharist, and prayed. "Breaking bread", a reference to the Eucharist, took place in their homes.

Families have been spending much more time at home due to the coronavirus. You've been learning, sharing, working, playing, and praying as the domestic Church. And, I suspect that you've had to be a bit more merciful to each other too. The Catechism mentions that it is within the home that a person learns "generous-even repeated-forgiveness."

As the Church celebrates "Divine Mercy Sunday", may your family become more aware of the merciful love of God. Trust in God's mercy. Be merciful to one another. Someday, hopefully soon, our families will gather together again as a "family of families" for the Eucharist, "the breaking of Bread," around the table of the Lord.

### 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