

MAY 3, 2020

Scripture Reflection

With whom do we converse and listen to the most? Believe it or not, the answer is ourselves. We are constantly having conversations with ourselves, and sometimes we even get caught! Our inner conversations reveal the truth about ourselves. We really cannot hide from ourselves, although we often pretend we can. By conversing with ourselves, we find solutions to our challenges, problem solve, work through our relationships, formulate opinions, run through dress rehearsals of possible conversations, and wrestle with and determine our system of priorities and values. What other voices affect the conversations we have with ourselves?

Often, voices from our past continue to haunt us. These voices cause us to mistrust our judgment, harbor anger, and cling to our fears of rejection, failure, being wrong, and the like. It is in these inner conversations that we face what holds us captive — our limitations, weaknesses, sinfulness, and stubborn ego preoccupations. We often go about our lives putting out one fire or another, keeping ourselves preoccupied and busy, and trying to stay on top of things. Intentionally or unintentionally, we find ourselves wandering off. We turn around and can no longer see our home. We look down at our feet and realize we have lost our anchor. Feeling scared, out of place, desolate, unsettled, and lonely, we realize that we are lost.

We listened to the wrong voices! In the midst of everything competing for our attention, the voice of the One who could truly call us home got muffled. We didn't hear it. As our inner dialogues continue to play out, the one voice we need to consult — even before our own — is God's. He is the Good Shepherd who can keep us safely where we need to be. As we graze through the stuff of our lives, we must constantly remember to look up, be attentive, and stay focused. Our habits of prayer are the only thing that can properly root us and keep us grounded. Contemplating God's presence and developing an inner awareness of love incarnate, we will then find ourselves praying unceasingly as the days and nights and the ebbs and flows of our lives unfold. Suddenly, the inner conversations we are constantly having are no longer just with ourselves or with voices that can lead us astray but with the Trinity, who desperately wants us to stay home. a "family of families" for the Eucharist, "the breaking of Bread," around the table of the Lord.

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A PRAYER OF CONSECRATION TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Most Holy Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, you are the fairest fruit of God's redeeming love; you sing of the Father's mercy and accompany us with a mother's love. In this time of pandemic we come to you, our sign of sure hope and comfort. Today we renew the act of consecration and entrustment carried out by those who have gone before us.

With the love of a Mother and Handmaid, embrace our nation, our diocese, our parish, our families and ourselves which we entrust and consecrate to you, together with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

In a special way we commend to you those particularly in need of your maternal care.

Mary, Health of the Sick, sign of health, of healing, and of divine hope for the sick, we entrust to you all who are infected with the coronavirus.

Mary, Mother of Consolation, who consoles with a mother's love all who turn to you, we entrust to you all those who have lost loved ones in the pandemic.

Mary, Help of Christians, who comes to our rescue in every trial, we entrust to your loving protection all caregivers.

Mary, Queen and Mother of Mercy, who embraces all those who call upon your help in their distress, we entrust to you all who are suffering in any way from the pandemic.

Mary, Seat of Wisdom, who were so wonderfully filled with the light of truth, we entrust to you all who are working to find a cure to this pandemic.

Mary, Mother of Good Counsel, who gave yourself wholeheartedly to God's plan for the renewing of all things in Christ, we entrust to you all leaders and policymakers. Accept with the benevolence of a Mother the act of consecration that we make today with confidence, and help us to be your Son's instruments for the healing and salvation of our country and the world. Jesus is our Lord and Christ, for ever and ever. Amen.

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) 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
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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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 3, 2020

Readings: Acts 2:14, 36-41; 1 Pt 2:20-25; Jn 10:1-10

MASS INTENTIONS

May 4, Monday: Easter Weekday

Readings: Acts 11:1-18; Jn 10:11-18

+ Mary Grace McNelis Merle, Birthday (Family)

+ Catherine Hardin (Jim & Elaine Weaver)

May 5, Tuesday: Easter Weekday

Readings: Acts 11:19-26; Jn 10:22-30

+ Michael & Ella Gibbons (Tom & Mary Irwin Children)

+ M/M Fred Petrunak Sr. Anniversary (Family)

May 6, Wednesday: Easter Weekday

Readings: Acts 12:24-13:5; Jn 12:44-50

+ Rosemary Kwolek (Pat Rhoa)

+ Karl Burgmeier Birthday (Daughter Carol)

May 7, Thursday: Easter Weekday

Readings: Acts 13:13-25; Jn 13:16-20

+ All Priests (Anonymous)

+ Krider & Elizabeth Miller (Tom & Mary Irwin Children)

May 8, Friday: Easter Weekday

Readings: Acts 13:26-33; Jn 14:1-6

+ Nancy Kennedy (Janel Long)

+ Pat Vierkorn (Pinky Newberry)

May 9, Saturday: Easter Weekday

Readings: Acts 13:44-52; Jn 14:7-14

+ Carrie Detwiler (Jamie Battisti)

+ Dave Baronner (Mitch & Gina Cooper)

Vigil: FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Readings: Acts 6:4-9; 1 Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12

+ Mary Ann Eger (Patty & Bear McCloskey)

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

Pray For Our Sick - Remember our sisters and brothers who are weakened by illness in your prayers. Prayers are sometimes the best prescribed medicine.

Appreciation

Thank you to Steph Kilcoyne for the beautiful needlepoint art on this year's Easter Candle.

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**.

Office Hours

The office hours starting May 1, will be Monday through Friday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Radio Mass Resumes

Our parish's live radio Mass will resume this Sunday, May 3, at 10:00 A.M. on WFBG 1290 AM. Until we are able to resume public worship, the participants of the Mass will include the priest, organist, cantor and reader/s. If time permits, the rosary will be prayed following Mass. (Due to technical difficulties at the station, COVID-19 issues, and the availability of prerecorded Masses by the bishop and by St. Benedict Parish in Johnstown, our parish's Mass has not been on the air since the beginning of March.) We are pleased to be able to provide this service once again and we are grateful to our sponsors.

Stewardship Reflections

Recognizing the Voice of Jesus

When my wireless provider introduced HD Voice, the voice I heard on my phone was unbelievably clear, and it felt at times like both the caller and I were in the same room. The best aspect of this feature is that it didn't cost the customer any additional fees, and it didn't require any changes to the phone. I could say it was free, but I suspect I was already paying for it in my monthly bill anyway. At least it felt free.

The clearer the voice calling you, the easier it is to recognize who it is on the other end of the line. In John's Gospel, Jesus speaks of the gatekeeper who opens the gate and calls for his sheep. They respond because they know his voice. Others try to lure the sheep when the gatekeeper is not there, but the sheep find their voices unclear or unfamiliar.

Jesus is our gatekeeper. But unlike receiving something for free from a wireless company, to be able to hear his voice we need to pay attention and practice listening. By developing a stewardship way of life that is mindful and prayerful, we become attuned to his voice and are able to discern when the call is from our Lord and when it is from an imposter. It is great to talk about all the things we can do and all the gifts we can share, but if we are not listening for his call to hear where our offerings are needed, we can end up like a lost sheep searching for the gatekeeper.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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Additional Easter Flowers 2020

Joseph & Sophie Adamczyk, Barbara & Clair Duffy,
John Duffy, Paula & John Tetanich,
Edward & Mary Yetsko

Carl Fischer Sr.

Mr. & Mrs. E.V. Sheehan, Mr. & Mrs. John Murphy
Edward Kosut

Catholic Ministries Drive

As of March 31st, 87 donors have generously pledged \$25,755 towards our parish's \$51,796 Catholic Ministries Drive target. Nearly 11% percent of our congregation has pledged almost 50% of our target. Thank you. Please contribute to the best of your ability.

A NOTE FROM MSGR. STAN CARSON: RAISE OUR VOICES!

When a person speaks with a raised voice it often conveys anger or a desire to get attention. If we tell someone "don't raise your voice at me" it is because we usually feel insulted or annoyed. But, we can also raise our voice for a good cause too.

In this weekend's reading from the Acts of the Apostle (2:14, 36-41) we are told that St. Peter, on the Jewish Feast of Pentecost, "raised his voice" to proclaim that Jesus who was crucified is "both Lord and Christ." His audience is told to repent and be baptized so as to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The Easter season and the month of May are usually filled with the raised voices people at worship while celebrating our Lord's resurrection and during exciting grace-filled experiences like First Communion and Confirmations. Voices are raised during the recitation of the rosary during this month when we honor Mary in a special way. Cheerful voices are also raised during the traditional graduation ceremonies that normally take place during May too. This year, things are different; but, Jesus is still "both Lord and Christ."

On this, the Fourth Sunday of Easter, customarily called Good Shepherd Sunday, we are invited to raise our voices in prayer for an increase of vocations to the priesthood. The Church needs ordained men called to love with the Heart of Jesus, to serve with the strength only He can provide, and to wisely lead God's People to places of spiritual refreshment and peaceful rest. Raise your voice this Easter season and during the month of May...to Jesus who is "both Lord and Christ" and to Mary our mother, sister, and fellow disciple in Christ.

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