

**MAY 10, 2020**

*Scripture Reflection*

When earthly lives end, especially when the person is younger, we tend to focus upon and consider what was lost. We think of lost opportunities — things they won't be able to see, babies they won't be able to cradle, and adventures that now must go undiscovered. Our minds create this chasm between earth and heaven that sees the losses of this life as permanent ones, never possible to achieve again. This perception causes many folks to remain stuck in their grief as they ponder all of the missed opportunities and regrets.

This is not resurrection thinking. All of the love that we can give and receive, the joy and elation that can be experienced, the adventures that can be undertaken, and the possibilities to be discovered are all part of a continuous journey. They are not ends in and of themselves but are all part of the unfolding of a relationship we have with God, who not only makes all of these wonderful things possible now but sustains them and fulfills them into eternity. The perception and experience of loss is really an illusion, because in God's eternal kingdom and in God's time, nothing is ever lost. Even the most intimate and tender of moments we can conceive of sharing with another human being are only part of a journey toward perfect intimate and tender moments to be shared with God in our resurrected life. We become like God and see God as He is in eternity. What greater joy, love, and hope can ever be discovered as we walk down our often dimly lit paths in this world.

This is an awesome wonder and magnificent news to behold. Call to mind someone you have lost in death. How do you see them now? How do you see yourself in heaven? Remind yourself, again, that God is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Our happiness is not going to be fully realized in this world, and there is nothing we can find here that cannot be found one hundred fold in eternity. It's all about relationship, and not solely about the relationships we have with each other, ourselves, and the world in which we live. It's about our relationship with God. If we realize how special that one relationship really is, then there is only one particular of heaven and life eternal that really matters: namely, that we fall into love eternal and discover truth. For when we finally close our eyes in death, then all will be well as long as we are with God. There are no losses, only gains.

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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](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) 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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***SERVING THE PEOPLE OF GOD IN THE CITY OF ALTOONA SINCE 1851***

**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: [lhayer@dioceseaj.org](mailto:lhayer@dioceseaj.org)**

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

*May 10, 2020*

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

### MASS INTENTIONS

May 11, Monday: Easter Weekday

*Readings: Acts 14:5-18; Jn 14:21-26*

+ Louis Wertz (Scott Galant)

+ Joseph M & Neil Bauer (Dan Bauer)

May 12, Tuesday: Sts. Nereus, Achilleus & Pancras

*Readings: Acts 14:19-28; Jn 14:27-31*

+ Sadie Mullan (Nancy & Skip)

+ Edgar Johnston (Wife)

May 13, Wednesday: Our Lady of Fatima

*Readings: Acts 15:1-6; Jn 15:1-8*

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

+ All People in Altoona (Catholic Daughters of America)

May 14, Thursday: Saint Matthias, Apostle

*Readings: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Jn 15:9-17*

+ Fred T. Lumadue (Rich Lumadue)

+ Betsy Cote (Tina Reighard Foltyniewicz)

May 15, Friday: Easter Saint Isadore

*Readings: Acts 15:22-31; Jn 15:12-17*

+ Sandy Cuzzolina (Family)

+ Marianna Mignogna Moffa (Estate)

May 16, Saturday: Easter Weekday

*Readings: Acts 16:1-10; Jn 15:18-21*

+ Florence Moffa Brook (Estate)

+ Eleanor Toth, Anniversary (Husband George)

Vigil: SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

*Readings: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; 1 Pt 3:15-18; Jn 14:15-21*

+ Leo Winkler Birthday (Family)

***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.

### OUR LADY OF FATIMA MASS

Since Wednesday, May 13, is the Feast of our Lady of Fatima, Msgr. Carson will be celebrating his private daily Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church on that day.

### 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.

### Basket Bingo Postponed

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

### Blessing of Mothers

During the season of Easter, what a great time to remember our mothers and ask for God's blessing on them. It is God who ultimately gave us life. It is through God's unselfish love--mirrored in our mothers' willingness to associate their love with God's and take the risk to love us into life--that we have the opportunity for life. We remember our mothers this Mother's Day with much love. Let us pray for each of them: God our heavenly Father, you give to each the ability to share your generative love. Bless those women in our lives who mirror your love and bring forth life through their willingness to risk bringing new life into this world. Help us to show them our gratitude for the gift of life and the gift of a mother's love. May our life-giving God continue to bless them and show them his unfailing love. We ask this through Jesus, God's Son and our brother.

Amen.

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### Office Hours

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

### Radio Mass

Our parish's live radio Mass will be on Sunday, 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. (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.

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION

**April 26 and May 3, 2020 Sundays \$11,032.25  
Special Collections, and Easter, \$856.00**

Recognize God in you ordinary moments.

Witnesses for Jesus

This journey of faith is not always easy. Sometimes the greatest wounds are those we suffer when family members and friends wander away from God and leave us behind. The faith they had when they were younger is now strained, or they see the daily walking with Jesus to be too difficult. For them, Jesus becomes what Peter wrote about when he described Jesus as the stone that causes people to stumble and the rock that makes them fall. Our journey is hard enough, but watching a loved one stumble and fall is heart-breaking.

What are we to do in such a situation? Most importantly, we pray. We must realize that God is more powerful than us, and even if we can't make them see the truth, He can. Then we witness to the transformative power of Jesus by our own lives. We need to serve him in word and deed. We should let a joy of being a disciple enlighten our faces. Allow Jesus to work through us so that others may be drawn to him. Lastly, we must never lose hope. Many have walked long journeys alone only to find God far down the road. What will it take to bring someone to Christ? It might be an action, a word, or an emotion. We never know how certain people will be touched. That loved one is a gift from God in your life. Place them back in God's hands, and let Him pick them up if they have stumbled and fallen.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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### Mass for Widows and Widowers

Remember your loved ones on **Sunday, May 31, 2020 with a televised Mass celebrated by Bishop Mark Bartchak at 11:00 am on WATM ABC 23 and will be rebroadcast that night at 9:00 p.m. on Atlantic Broadband channel 9.** All persons who have lost a spouse through death throughout the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese are invited to register by contacting Family Life Office by calling 814-317-2647 or 814-317-2643 or email [familylife@dioceseaj.org](mailto:familylife@dioceseaj.org) to have your spouse acknowledged and remembered at Mass. When registering, please give your name, address, phone number and name of your spouse who had passed away. Deadline to register is May 20, 2020. Sponsored by the Diocese Family Life Office.

### A NOTE FROM MONSIGNOR STAN CARSON: DO NOT LET YOUR HEARTS BE TROUBLED.

This weekend's Gospel reading is from the 14th Chapter of St. John's Gospel and it is part of our Lord's final conversation with the apostles before His passion, death and resurrection. The discourse is presented as taking place while Jesus is celebrating the Passover supper which, on that night of betrayal, was filled with intimacy and intensity. Jesus is preparing His apostles for His own passing from this world to the Father. The apostles are understandably perplexed, fearful, and have questions.

Jesus seems to indicate that the apostles can decide to have troubled hearts or faith-filled hearts. He tells them..." Do not let your hearts be troubled...have faith 14:1". In other words, don't allow your hearts to be anxious. Don't give permission to your mind to be distressed, upset, or worried. Our thinking with faith influences our emotions, the way we feel.

Recent events within the Church and within the world, including Covid-19, have been troubling for all of us. It is important for us to have faith in our heavenly Father and faith in Jesus. The Holy Spirit can influence our way of thinking so that our own hearts are not troubled and distressed. If the Spirit of God influences our thoughts, our hearts will be peaceful, hopeful, and strong. Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

### Facebook

Our parish has created an official Facebook page and the address is <https://www.facebook.com/cathedralofaltoona> The link is found at the top of our parish's webpage. The link at the bottom of the page was evidently created by Wikipedia and is an unofficial page. Our official page will gradually become a convenient way to keep people informed and post notices.

### 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.