

**MAY 31, 2020**

*Scripture Reflection*

You can feel so small standing by the seashore. The vastness of all that is before you expands much farther than your eye can see. What is happening on the other side? As tides continue to ebb and flow, what occurs as they come and go remains largely a mystery and the effects of their presence unknown in your sight. Yet, things are moving and changing as you gaze upon the water, as the thumbprint of their presence is left behind. The greater the wind and wave, the greater the effect. But even a gentle breeze leaves its humble mark upon the seashore on which you stand. The smallest pebble still makes a ripple in the great blue expanse of ocean waters. It doesn't need to be big.

You never know the full impact of your smallest gesture or simplest of words. A yes or no, agree or disagree, here or there, this or that can influence time and history in ways you may never know. The Holy Spirit is like that: fierce and torrential, and then almost still and silent, creating and recreating nonetheless. Coming as a gentle breeze or a gusty wind, God's Holy Spirit continues to move over, around, and into the waters of our lives. The Spirit brings fruit and unknown possibilities to what we humbly bring with us and that same Spirit eventually brings all to fulfillment in Christ.

The first disciples didn't have much. They possessed simple faith and a willingness to go into unchartered territory with a love of their friend-God, humble offerings, and a knowledge that they were not alone. This allowed them to do amazing things with very little. Do you believe that you are being led and that you have a purposeful life? We often do not realize our value because we do not think that the little we have is good enough. How wrong we are! A little flour mixed with water and embraced by a prayer of blessing transforms simple offerings into the magnificent Eucharistic presence of God. If the Holy Spirit can do such amazing things with these humble gifts of the earth, even more can happen with you. Don't underestimate the value of the smile you gave a stranger, the door held open for an elderly widow, the listening ear offered to one who was lonely, the tolerance given to the wounded soul who is angry, and the loving shoulder you offered as a cradle under the head of someone in pain. Modest gifts offered with love can be transformed by the Spirit into wondrous blessings you may never know. It's Pentecost. Trust. You are not alone

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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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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: [lthayer@dioceseaj.org](mailto:lthayer@dioceseaj.org)

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

## PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 31, 2020

Readings: Acts 2:1-11; 1 Cor 12:3-7,12-13; Jn 20:19-23

### MASS INTENTIONS

June 1, Monday: The Blessed Virgin Mary

Readings: Acts 1:12-14; Jn:19:25-34

Spiritual/Temp. Welfare of Fr. Kurdziel (Dana Miller)  
+ James Luther (Mr. and Mrs. John Brennan)

June 2, Tuesday: Sts. Marcellinus, & Peter Martyrs

Readings: 2 Pt 3:12-15, 17-18; Mk 12:13-17

+ Hilda Conrad (John & Martha Coffman)  
+ Sara DeArmitt (Cacciotti Family)

June 3, Wednesday: St Charles Lwanga & Companions

Readings: 2 Tim 1:1-3, 6-12; Mk 12:18-27

Rosemarie Fedeli (Family)  
+ Debbie Capotosti (M& M Joseph Clark Family)

June 4, Thursday: Weekday

Readings: 2 Tim 2; 8-15; Mk 12:28-34

+ Lisa Belsey Pufka Birth./Ann.(Mom & Michele)  
+ Regis Noel (Daughter Sandra)

June 5, Friday: Saint Boniface, Bishop & Martyr

Readings: 2 Tim 3:10-17; Mk 12:35-37

+ Lori Kovelski ( John & Chris Bennetti)  
+Dorothy Stephens (Joy & Joe Rubeis)

June 6, Saturday: Saint Norbert, Bishop

Readings: 2 Tim 4:1-8; Mk 12:38-44

+ Helen Lindy Adams (Family)  
+ Madeline Vogel (Elaine Dombroski)

Vigil: THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

Readings: Ex34 :4-6,8-9; 2 Cor 13: 11-13; Jn 3:16-18

+ Charles V. Brady Ann.(Joe & Dee Shellenberger)

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

#### 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.

#### Office Hours

The office hours are Monday through Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

### CATHEDRAL WILL BE OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

The cathedral will be open for private prayer, for 25 people or less, from 7:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. Visitors may enter only through the doors at 13th avenue and the alley. Designated seating will be available at the Blessed Sacrament Chapel and at the Chapel of our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament. Facial masks are to be worn, social distancing is to be observed, and persons are asked to self-sanitize their seating area before and after their visit.

#### Radio Mass

Our parish's live radio Mass will be on Sunday, at 10:00 A.M. on WFBG 1290AM. We are pleased to be able to provide this service and we are grateful to our sponsors.

#### 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.

#### Tithing vs. Stewardship

##### Question:

What is the difference between tithing and stewardship?

##### Answer:

Both tithing and stewardship are part of a spiritual way of life that calls us to use all of our resources for the service of the Gospel. Everything we are and everything we have comes from God. Offering back to God what He has given us is part of how we worship and give thanks to God.

Tithing is the practice of giving back 10 percent of what we earn. It comes from the Old English word for "ten." The first Scriptural example of tithing came from Abraham who gave a tenth of his possessions to the priest Melchizedek. He did so as an act of thanksgiving to God.

Stewardship as a way of life calls us to use well all that we have and all that we are, placing all things in service of others and God. Stewardship helps us see the good we can accomplish by making God and our spiritual life the most important values in our life. Whatever we accumulate in this life stays here. We can't take it with us! Both tithing and stewardship help us remember that nothing is mine or even ours ... all belongs to God.

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### OFFERTORY COLLECTION Sunday May 24, 2020 \$9,688.65

#### We Are Never Alone

My children want my help sometimes, and other times, not so much. I remember being a teenager and young adult myself. At times, I thought I knew everything. I didn't need help because I was just so darn smart. Truth is, I needed to find my own way. I needed to stretch my wings and prove to myself and my family I could fly. I assume that is what is happening with my own children as well. It just seems so different now that I'm the parent.

Human beings need help. We need community, and we need to rely on one another. At Pentecost, we reflect on Jesus sending to the Church a helper, the Holy Spirit. God interacting with us in this manner means we are never truly alone. We focus most of the time on the Spirit of God as the assistance we need, and we do need Him for sure. However, since it is that very same Spirit that turned us into "Church" from a band of people looking to carry on after Jesus' ascension, at Pentecost we gained more than divine help: we gained each other.

Today, the Church needs help in a profound way. We need to lean on the Holy Spirit to blow through the Church with a profound renewal. But we cannot forget that we have been given each other to lean on as well. We are a gift to each other, and together with the Spirit's help, we are the Body of Christ here on earth. We must be strong and stand for one another. If we do that, this Pentecost will bear fruit that will be with us for many Pentecosts to come.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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#### CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE

Gratitude is extended to the 104 donors who have pledged \$28,781 towards our parish \$51,796 Catholic Ministries Drive target. If you have not contributed and are able to do so, please help us support the valuable ministries that enable us to be the Church Jesus calls us to be. Thank you.

#### Foundation Seeks College Junior & Seniors Scholarship Applicants

2020 Welge (WELL-ghee) Scholarship Applications are now available for registered parishioners who are entering their junior or senior year at an accredited college or university. Blair County Please visit the "Grants" page of the Independent Catholic Foundation website, [www.icfdaj.org](http://www.icfdaj.org) to download, complete and sign the application, which should be emailed to [grants@icfdaj.org](mailto:grants@icfdaj.org) no later than 4:00 p.m., Friday June 12. The Welge Scholarship Endowment has grown sufficiently for the Foundation to issue three \$500 awards this July.

### A NOTE FROM MSGR. STAN CARSON: COME, HOLY SPIRIT, COME!

The Acts of the Apostles describes the arrival of the Holy Spirit as a "noise like a strong driving wind." The word "noise" is usually not used to describe a pleasant experience of sound. A noise tends to create disruption, commotion, and annoyance.

While the Holy Spirit can be a source of peace, guidance, and unity, the Spirit of God can also disrupt the status quo and lead us into unexpected territory. The Holy Spirit can provide the graceful resources we need to adjust to new experiences of reality.

The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly disrupted our lives; and, there has been a commotion of reactions and interpretations. Within the Church and society, we have been learning how to cope, clarify, and plan. There has been a lot of noise.

And so, we invite the Holy Spirit to come and direct our lives. The Holy Spirit can disrupt the disruption of the coronavirus and lead to a vaccine, peace, and some new type of normalcy. Come, Holy Spirit, come!

#### Ministry to the Elderly, Seriously Ill and Grieving

We will be approaching the fifth year which began as a simple Thanksgiving Card to our parishioners who were on the First Friday visitation list and those residing in elder care homes. Our twenty person committee has been sending cards, making phone calls and visiting with some men and women who invited us into their homes. We are thankful for your support but want to tell you that committee members feel as they are receiving more than what they are giving. Our homebound so appreciate that we, as a member of their parish family, remember them either with a card or a visit. Their smiles are priceless!"

If you can please call the office 814-944-4603, with the name and address of a family member or friend who you know would welcome a kind word and a prayer through the mail we would be able to reach out to many more. If you would like to join this ministry please call the office at 814-944-4603, or Jeanne Thompson at 814-317-2672. And we can always use stamps!

#### THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

The distribution of Holy Communion without Mass will take place beginning on Monday, June 1, at 7:30 A.M. and Noon from Monday to Friday, June 1-5, on Saturday, June 6, at 8:00 A.M., Noon and 5:00 P.M. and on Sunday, June 7, at 8:00 A.M., 10:00 A.M., Noon and 5:00 P.M. Individuals are to wear masks, observe social distancing, be prepared spiritually, and should receive in the hand. Only 25 people are normally permitted in the cathedral at any given time, Holy Communion will also be distributed on the portico.