

JUNE 14, 2020

Scripture Reflection

It is no wonder that followers of Christ are called the Body of Christ. After all, sharing in the same spiritual food and sacred meal, they become what they eat and reveal the Divine Image. There is so much power for healing in the community of believers. Through the Eucharist, Christ becomes as present in those who have partaken of his Body and Blood as he has the elements themselves. The very presence of God touches the depths of the human soul and visits a part of us that no human being can ever hope to explore. We are God's. The sacred Eucharistic meal is a celebration of intimacy, the reunion of two loves in constant search of and longing for the other.

The community of believers receives the power and the presence to touch and heal in the name of the One they have welcomed within. It is now within their grasp to change the way life is lived and to more intentionally put into practice the Beatitudes that the Divine Guest has revealed. We are asked to be like Christ and work to create a world of sufficiency, where the greed of some no longer creates the want of others but where all of God's children can find a home and a place at the table of life. The One who makes a home within calls us to live a life that transforms. We are changed ourselves and now become agents of change for others. We are the Body of Christ. God is with us. We have been nourished.

Sadly, many are afraid to try. We know what we are called to do, but we struggle with feelings of doubt as to whether God really is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Do our systems have to change? Is it possible that we somehow missed the mark when we put all of our social networks in place and established the business of our lives? Perhaps we have to radically rethink our approach and that can scare us. We might have to give something up or change, and we don't want to. As long as want, injustice, division, prejudice, and scarcity still exist, there is tremendous work for the Body of Christ.

Contributions

Even during a pandemic, the financial support of parishioners has been very important to our 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. Gratitude is extended to those who have been able to drop off, mail, or electronically submit your offering. God bless you.

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.

Why do Catholics pray to Mary and the Saints

One of the statements of faith we make when we pray the Nicene Creed and the Apostles Creed is that we believe in "the communion of saints." The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that this communion (another word for community) includes all the faithful on earth, the souls in Purgatory, and the blessed women, men, and children who are in heaven. This teaching is grounded in our belief that, through Baptism, we are united with Christ and to one another with bonds that are stronger even than death.

And so from the time of the early Church, Christians have turned to other believers for prayers and assistance, including those who have gone before us, confident that God hears the prayers of all of His children. While we ask the saints (and one another) for prayers and support, we remember that the saints join us in prayer. But it is God who blesses and sanctifies us.

When we think of Mary and the saints in heaven, we have to remember that we can turn to them for intercession and assistance because they were faulted, limited human beings, just like us. This means that they are able to understand our struggles, doubts, fears, joys, and hopes. But as we learn their stories, we can also begin to recognize that they stand out in the history of the Church because they persevered in their commitment to follow Christ. Whether they were ordained, vowed religious, martyrs, husbands, wives, or even children, they show us that holiness is possible. We can not only follow their example but also benefit from their prayerful support.

Our devotion to the saints and gratitude for their witness, prayers, and protection should also be an inspiration for us, especially when we become aware of the needs of others or when others ask us to pray for them. We are called to share the blessings we receive. This is also part of our own journey of growing in holiness.

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Office Hours

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

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

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

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



THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

June 14, 2020

Readings: Dt 8:2-3, 14-16; 1 Cor 10: 16-17; Jn 6:51-58

MASS INTENTIONS

June 15, Monday: Weekday Ordinary Time

Readings: 1 Kgs 21:1-16; Mt. 5:28-42

+ Rose Hart (Rosemarie Fedeli)

+ Beverly Woodring (Tom Byrne)

June 16, Tuesday: Weekday

Readings: 1 Kgs 21:17-29; Mt 5:43-48

+ Richard Anthony (Tom & Patricia Forr)

+ John Adams (Connie Angeski)

June 17, Wednesday: Weekday

Readings: 2 Kgs 2:1, 6-14; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

+ Our Fathers (McNelis All Stars)

+ Jane Davidson (Dave & Karen Rhoa)

June 18, Thursday: Weekday

Readings: Sir 48; 1-14; Mt 6:7-15

Nathaniel Hockenberry (Mom & Family)

+ Robert Wojcik (Barbara Fraundorfer)

June 19, Friday: The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Readings: Dt 7:6-11; 1 Jn 4: 7-16; Mt 11:25-30

+ Mary Moffa Jenaway (Estate)

+ Patricia Koeck (Mary Lou & Jon Skupein)

June 20, Saturday: Immaculate Heart of Mary

Readings: 2 Chr 24:17-25; Lk 2:41-51

+ Carrie Detwiler (Mom & Dad)

+ Ray Plummer (Dr Joseph & Rebecca Clark)

Vigil: Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Jer 20:10-13; Rom 5: 12-15; Mt 10:26-33

+ Michael Dionis (Mom & Dad)

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.

WELCOME HOME: THE SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

It is wonderful for us to return for the public celebration of Mass this weekend, which is also our parish's feastday, The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. As you know, the Eucharist is to be "the source and summit" of our lives as Catholic Christians. This weekend's opportunity to gather together again as a community of faith is such a blessing.

The masks we wear will not diminish the delight shown on our faces. The distances we keep will not eliminate the intimate bond of communion we have with one another as members of the Body of Christ, the Church.

In addition to participating in the Eucharist, we also have the privilege of being able to spend some time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament from after the noon Mass until a simple benediction at 4:45 P.M. During that time, you are also invited to join us in praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:00 P.M.

As we gather for public Masses, you'll notice a few things being done differently. In the sanctuary there will normally be only the celebrant, a cantor, a reader, and one server. The celebrant will normally not wear a mask during the whole Mass since he will be at a distance from others. Those who attend will still need to wear fascial masks and do social distancing, though people living in the same household may sit together. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will be wearing masks or facial shields. A disposable worship aid will be distributed as you enter the cathedral and is to be disposed of as you exit or may be taken home. Missalettes will be available for individual use but are not to be left in the cathedral, keep it for future use. You will place your offerings into containers as you exit following liturgy. There will be no procession of gifts. For the sign of peace, simply say "Peace be with you." Sanitizing stations will be available in the Communion lines for your use before reception. Communicants should receive in the hand if possible. Given the size of the cathedral, there should be enough room to accommodate everybody; however, if there are people waiting outside, a minister will take Holy Communion to them immediately following Mass.

While it will be important to follow these protocols, we also need to be patient, prayerful, polite, and relaxed. In due time, we will feel very much at home once again...here where God dwells among us and within us.

Parishioners who are not able to come to Mass, but would like to receive Holy Communion at home, may call the rectory (944-4603) to make arrangements.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION Sunday June 7, 2020 \$5,393.95

The Heart of Stewardship

What else is there to give when one has already given away one's body and one's life? What more can one say or do to demonstrate love for another when all one has been given to another? This total giving of self to loved ones cannot be trumped by flowery words or material gifts that are fleeting. This is the ultimate in love. This is the love Jesus had for us on the way to his Passion, at the institution of the Holy Eucharist. This is the love he has for us daily in the celebration of the Mass on altars in every church, in every city, in every nation on earth. No one can give more. No one can ask for more. This is the true heart of Christian stewardship.

If you take the time to gaze upon your God in the simplest of forms and begin to reflect on what has actually taken place with bread and wine becoming the presence of the Divine, then you can begin to understand true humility, sacrifice, and love. And when you have the privilege to take that Real Presence into your body at the meal where you are an honored guest, you become one with the One who is the embodiment of stewardship.

Then, you must ask yourself, "How can I even begin to reflect the love that I have encountered at this feast?" The answer is you can begin with the simple actions of the day: where will you go, whom will you meet, and in what work will you partake? Jesus Christ has shown that the greatest gift ever given can be disguised in this world in a piece of bread. By joining your body to his, he can now transform human hearts, not by grand acts, but by everyday acts, by everyday people, practicing —Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
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CCD Teacher Needed

We are in need of a 2nd Grade CCD teacher. If interested or have any questions please contact Chris Laraia at 814-312-7317.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

You are encouraged to spend some time in prayer, praise, and adoration in the sacramental presence of Jesus on Sunday, June 14, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, from 1:00 P.M. until a simple benediction at 4:45 P.M. It is essential that at least a few people are present in the cathedral while the Blessed Sacrament remains on the altar. Please initial or sign the sheet that is available on the table in the center of the Cathedral. Thank you.

A NOTE FROM MSGR. STAN CARSON: SOME STAYED, SOME ARGUED, SOME LEFT.

In the Gospel of St. John, there is no mention of our Lord's Body and Blood at the Last Supper. Instead, it is in the 6th chapter of that Gospel where Jesus speaks about His flesh and blood being real food and drink. Consuming our Lord's Body and Blood is a sharing in divine life now and pledge to enter into eternal life. Jesus speaks about the necessity of Holy Communion..."unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you."

What was the response to what our Lord said? Some stayed. Some argued. Some left.

Since our beginning as a Church, the Eucharist was an essential part of what Jesus' disciples did. Sadly, for different reasons, some Catholics argue that Jesus really isn't present in the Sacrament of His Body and Blood. He's not real food and real drink. And, there are those who have simply left. But happily, there are those who know that there is no better place to go since Jesus not only has the Words of eternal life, but He is also the Word Made Flesh and Blood who is sacramentally present so that we can gather at an altar table and be fed with real food and drink, the Body and Blood of Christ.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Since we will not be celebrating the reception of Holy Communion as a whole large group, our children will be receiving either individually or in small groups of two to four. As you might expect, the children and their families are excited about having the opportunity to receive our Lord in the sacrament of His Body and Blood.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Bishop Mark will be celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation for our parish's candidates on Tuesday, July 14, at 7:00 P.M. By receiving the special gift of the Holy Spirit and completing the process of being initiated into the Christian life, our teenagers will be strengthened with the power of the Holy Spirit so that they will live as witnesses and disciples of Jesus in word and deed. It is also hoped that they will be more involved in the life of the Church which will be enriched by their personal talents and gifts.

