

**JULY 12, 2020**

*Scripture Reflection*

Using the best seeds doesn't always guarantee the best plants. An older Italian gentleman straight from Italy gave me these amazing tomato seeds that he claimed produced the best tomatoes ever grown. Without doubt, the fruit he shared with me was a testament to that fact. These tomatoes were amazing! I couldn't wait until the next growing season to plant these seeds and harvest my own tomatoes. The whole experiment ended up a failure. I did everything the gentleman said, but my fruit didn't even come close. What happened? At first I was perplexed, then some years later the light dawned. The problem wasn't the seeds, it was the soil!

You cannot sow seeds in any old place and in a haphazard way and expect them to be at their best. It doesn't work that way. Planting the seeds is the easiest part. Preparing the soil is the challenge. Tilling, mulching, enriching, and building up the nutrients are all required for good fruit. Then after the seeds are planted, more care is required in order to maintain that healthy, nutrient rich environment for those seeds to sprout, grow, and flourish. God happily sows the seeds of his Word. What do we do with them?

If we expect to be a passive bystander and have good fruit magically grow, we are mistaken. Bearing the good fruit of God's Word requires preparation and work. We have to cultivate the soil of our lives so that those seeds can find a proper home. This one thing alone takes a great deal of patience, time, and effort. What kind of preparation have we put into our lives so that we can be a recipient of God's seed? It takes a great deal of soul-searching and ego-checking to properly prepare. God is the ever faithful and persistent sower. If the seeds do not bear fruit the first time, God will come back time and time again, giving it another try.

If we have created a suitable bed for sowing, then once the seed is sown, we must properly maintain them. What is our maintenance plan for the seeds of God's Word? We need not only a source for water but a watering schedule. We need to weed, aerate the soil, nurture the young plants, protect them, and provide proper nutrients. What does our spiritual maintenance plan look like? If we have done all things well, imagine what the seeds of God's Word could produce in!

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**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.

**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.

**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.

Additional Communion have been scheduled.

**Reflection**

I read a story recently about a teacher who donated to one of her former students a kidney. This tremendous act of selflessness came about because the young person had lost most of the function his kidneys due to an illness. Literally, that teacher gave the gift of life to someone who wasn't her own child or another family member. This is certainly radical stewardship.

How far would you go to give of yourself so that another might live? Would you have to love him or her like your own child or parent? No one can deny it would be a difficult decision, especially if your giving put your own health at risk.

Reflecting on these things helps to provide some perspective on the crucifixion of Jesus. Not only did he suffer tremendously at the hands of the Romans, he gave his life for us so we might live forever. What does true stewardship look like? The cross is a symbol to us of total surrender. When we are called to give of ourselves in ordinary ways in daily life we sometimes hesitate and think twice. Perhaps when we are unsure we should look to the cross and there we can find our strength. And then when the call comes to truly sacrifice and place our trust in God, we may have already developed a lifestyle that makes responding, "yes," that much easier.

--Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

# 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.

**ANOIDING 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)**

<https://www.facebook.com/cathedralofaltoona>

Sunday:	5:00 PM (Vigil)	Holyday:	5:30 PM (Vigil)	Weekday:	6:45 AM
	8:00 AM		8:00 AM		12:00 Noon
	10:00 AM		12:00 Noon	Saturday:	8:00 AM
	12:00 Noon		5:30 PM		12:00 Noon
	5:00 PM				

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***

## FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 12, 2020

Readings: *Is 55:10-11; Rom 8:18-23; Mt 13:1-23*

### MASS INTENTIONS

July 13, Monday: Saint Henry

Readings: *Is 1:10-17; Mt 10: 34-11:1*

6:45 AM + David Baronner (Jay Fiocchetta)  
12:00 PM + Trudy Eicher (Family & Friends)

July 14, Tuesday: Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin

Readings: *Is 7: 1-9; Mt 11:20-24*

6:45 AM + John Bauer (Wife)  
12:00 PM + Fred Lumadue (Lumadue Family)

July 15, Wednesday: St. Bonaventure Bp. & Dr.

Readings: *Is 10 :5-7, 13-16; Mt 11:25-27*

6:45 AM + Vocations (McNelis All Stars)  
12:00 PM + Tom & Mary Irwin (Children)

July 16, Thursday: Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Readings: *Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19; Mt 11:28-30*

6:45 AM + Kevin Sheets (Mom & Dad)  
12:00 PM + Madeline Vogel (John & Alice Joyce)

July 17, Friday: Weekday

Readings: *Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8; Mt 12:1-8*

6:45 AM + Msgr. Paul Panza (M/M Harold Hayford)  
12:00 PM + Charles Brady Birth. (M/M Joe Shellenberger)

July 18, Saturday: St. Camillus de Lellis, Priest

Readings: *Mi 2:1-5; Mt 12:14-21*

8:00 AM + Carrie Detwiler (Mom & Dad)  
10:00 AM Tom Boslet Memorial Mass  
12:00 PM + Sandy Cuzzolina (Family)

Vigil: Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: *Wis 12:13, 16-19; Rom 8:26-27; Mt 13:24-43*

5:00 PM + Alice Winkler (Friends at Forever Media)

July 19, Sunday: Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

8:00 AM + Hilda Conrad (John & Martha Coffman)  
10:00 AM Health of Rosemarie Fidele (Family)  
12:00 PM + James Luther (Randy & Jean Koury)  
5:00 PM Pro Popolo/ For the People

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

### 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.

### Why do Catholics baptize babies?

**Answer:** For adults who want to be baptized, the celebration only takes place after a long, guided, and thoughtful process through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. This is also true for many Protestant Christians, who are baptized later in life, often after a personal, transforming religious experience. So, it seems fair to ask why our Catholic tradition includes infant baptism. After all, if we make adults who want to become Catholic wait months and even years as they grow in their understanding of Christ and his teachings, why should babies — who “do nothing” — be baptized?

Our custom of infant baptism dates back to the earliest days of the Church, when St. Paul baptized entire households, including, we presume, children (see Acts 16:15, 33; 18:8). That had become common practice by the second century. When Christianity was legalized 200 years later, infant baptism became the normal practice throughout the Church.

We recognize that in Baptism, we are given the grace to overcome original sin — the human tendency to choose ourselves and our own wills over God — and to become members of the Church. This is the gift we give to infants in Baptism.

In its essence, the baptism of infants also reminds us adult Christians that the gift of salvation and membership in the Church (i.e., the Body of Christ) is God’s initiative. It is freely offered to us, regardless of where we might be in life’s journey. Salvation isn’t something we earn. Instead, we see that Baptism is the beginning of a lifelong process of growing into the kind of disciples that Jesus wants us to be.

To learn more, see the “Catechism of the Catholic Church” (no. 1250-1252 and 1262-1270).

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### Friar’s Nook Gift Shop

Christmas in July is upon us! At the Friar’s Nook Gift Shop, all clearance items are 75% off through August 1st! Also, the shop is stocked up for all your sacrament needs! The shop will continue to have modified hours through Labor Day which are Fridays and Saturdays, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM, and is located on the campus of St. Bernadine Monastery at 793-Monastery Road, Hollidaysburg. For any questions, please call 814-695-3802. Please note, face coverings **must** be worn for the gift shop area.

### Parish Mailing Address

Since we have discontinued the use of our post office box, please send mail to either: One Cathedral Square, Altoona Pa 16601 or 1405- 13th Avenue, Altoona Pa 16601. Thank you.

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, June 28, 2020 \$7,145.00

Sunday, July 5, 2020 \$6,182.00

### WELCOME BACK

It is so good to return to the public celebration of the Eucharist. Please remember to wear a facial mask or shield and to keep a safe social distance. Cooperating with these protocols is in many ways an act of charity and a help in the prevention of spreading the coronavirus.

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 facial 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.

### Outdoor Mass Honoring Married Couples

The Altoona-Johnstown Diocesan Family is invited to participate and pray for those living the Sacrament of Marriage at an Outdoor Mass on Sunday evening, July 19 at 7:00 pm at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Alleghenies in Loretto. Bring a lawn chair. Indoors if rain. Bishop Mark is the celebrant and homilist. This is a wonderful way to celebrate, encourage and support married couples!

### 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.

### EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

#### Focus on the Good

When I was a child, my mother had a set of sculptures resembling three human heads. One head had hands over the ears, one had hands over the eyes, and one had hands over the mouth. Of course, they depicted the phrase, “Hear no evil; see no evil; speak no evil.” I have seen these images repeated many times since then, usually as the monkey heads from a Japanese proverb, which would have probably seemed a little less creepy to me when I was a small child. Apparently, there is no consensus about the full meaning or certain origin of these three images nor the phrase. At the very least, it causes us to reflect on the need to avoid evil and look for the good in things.

As I have lived my life, I have come to believe there are more people who live their lives in a contrary manner to these images. It is not that they seek evil, but it is as if they “see no good, hear no good, and speak no good.” Gossiping is the way they pass the time, and they always seem to find the negative in people and situations. Being a good steward certainly means that we do not seek evil, but more than that, it means that we see the abundance of good things all around us. These gifts of God are big and little, profound and ordinary. By seeing the world in this way, we begin to change our personalities and our overall disposition. We always need to follow a new proverb: see all the good, hear all the good, and speak about the good. Amen.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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### 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.