

JULY 19, 2020

Scripture Reflection

Grace and sin, belief and unbelief, good and evil all exist together. While we wrestle with these two dimensions of reality inwardly, they are also witnessed in the actions and words of others. Many, all too often, beat themselves up because of their sin. We are also all too quick to pass judgment on others whom we perceive to be in error and walking down a wrong path. God does not make rash judgments, nor should we. Patience is the order of the day as is an understanding that God is ultimately the caller of the shots.

Our faith tells us that while God allows the wheat and the weeds to coexist, the wheat will always triumph. As long as we can cultivate even a little faith and a small measure of desire for God, He can produce abundant blessings and good things. Even when the weeds seem to have triumphed, there still may be a small measure of faith remaining that can be cultivated and grown. It doesn't take much! Unless a person totally allows the weeds to reign, there is always to be found at least a small measure of faith, good, light, and love. With even this small portion, God can produce abundant growth.

Admittedly, it is easy to give into the weeds, and they grow very quickly. Any gardener knows this to be true. Sometimes, the weeds even seem more attractive and vibrant. Dealing with weeds can quickly become a losing battle, and they can look healthier and grow faster than the very plants we are trying to protect. It's easy to give into them and let them win. While God will deal with all things in due time, we are responsible for keeping things in check in the short term. It is our task to keep our eyes fixed on God's presence and mercy. We are asked to avoid judgment. And, it is not our responsibility to deal with the weeds in someone else's garden, only our own. One garden is enough responsibility for anyone.

Weeds have power. We have to realize this. While they can appear attractive and healthy, they can quickly choke us off from God's presence. Our task is one of maintenance and cultivating a desire for God. Even the smallest kernel of faith can grow into something wonderful. In God's time, the eternal harvest will come, and we will no longer have to worry about the weeds.

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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.

The following children made their First Holy Communion the weekend of July 12, 2020.

Dominic Pyo
Kelan Chirdon

Additional Communion have been scheduled.



BENEVOLENT FUND

Thanks to the generosity of several benefactors, and with the approval of our Finance Council, our parish has created what will be called a Benevolent Fund to provide financial assistance to parishioners who find themselves in less-than-fortunate circumstances. Persons requesting help will normally be asked to meet with Jean Johnstone, parishioner and Director of Catholic Charities, who will then provide direction to Msgr. Carson. Individuals who would like to contribute to the fund may do so by writing Benevolent Fund on their check's memo line.

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

FAX: 814-942-4337

E-MAIL: ALTCATHEDRAL@DIOCESEAJ.ORG

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

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

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 19, 2020

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

MASS INTENTIONS

July 20, Monday: Saint Apollinaris, Bishop
Readings: Mi 6:1-4, 6-8; Mt 12: 38-42
6:45 AM + Michael & Ella Gibbons (Children of M/M Tom Irwin)
12:00 PM + Tillie Winkler Harris Bir., (Jean Koury)

July 21, Tuesday: St Lawrence of Brindisi Priest
Readings: Mi 7: 14-15, 18-20; Mt 12:46-50
6:45 AM + Clara Mullen (Nancy & Skip)
12:00 PM + Carrie Detwiler (Eugene & Lorraine Adams)

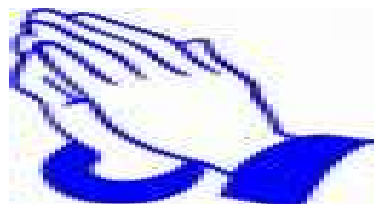
July 22, Wednesday: Saint Mary Magdalene
Readings: Sg 3 :1-4; Jn 20:1-2, 11-18
6:45 AM + Fred Fedeli (Rosemarie Fideli)
12:00 PM + Lori Keirn (John & Chris Bennetti)

July 23, Thursday: Saint Bridget, Religious
Readings: Jer 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13; Mt 13:10-17
6:45 AM + Dorothy Stephens (Family)
12:00 PM + Rose Stefanon (Butch Winkler)

July 24, Friday: Saint Sharbel Makhluf Priest
Readings: Jer 3:14-17; Mt 13:18-23
6:45 AM + Joseph Knott (Cathedral Parish)
12:00 PM + Msgr. Roy Kline (Kathy Ruth Holowa)

July 25, Saturday: Saint James, Apostle
Readings: 2 Cor 4:7-15; Mt 20:20-28
8:00 AM + Genevieve Hallinan (Family)
10:00 AM + Betsy Cote Memorial Mass
12:00 PM + Frank Goss Sr. Birthday (Wife & Family)
Vigil: Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Readings: 1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12; Rom 8:28-30; Mt 13:44-52
5:00 PM + Tom Boslet (Sheila Evans)

July 26, Sunday: Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time
8:00 AM + Beverly Woodring (Michael Fleck)
10:00 AM + Dorothy Berger ((Patty & Denny Hite)
12:00 PM + Bishop Joseph Adamec (M/M Mark Waring)
5:00 PM Pro Popolo/ For the People



Question: Why do Catholics eat fish on Friday?

Answer: For centuries, meatless Fridays were the norm for Catholics throughout the world. Friday was chosen because that was the day on which Jesus died, and Christians wanted to find a way to honor that day with special prayers and acts of penance and self-denial. The practice of abstaining from meat on Fridays — under pain of sin — grew out of that desire, and it became an official part of Church teaching until the time of the Second Vatican Council.

In the 1960s, there was a shift in the Church's thinking, in large part because there was a recognition that differences in cultures and economic realities meant that eating or not eating meat had different meanings for different peoples. For example, in cultures that were largely dependent on seafood or a vegetarian diet, abstaining from meat was no sacrifice at all. While in other places, eating fish and other kinds of seafood was actually something rare and special and not a sacrifice. This was all part of a basic reflection on "why we do what we do" among the Church's pastors.

Today, Catholics throughout the world are still instructed to abstain from meat on the Fridays of Lent. The bishops of some countries, such as in England and Wales, ask Catholics to abstain from meat every Friday, continuing the older tradition. The Bishops of the United States have taken a slightly different approach, encouraging Catholics to honor Friday as a special day by abstaining from meat every Friday or by taking on some other work of penance or charity for the sake of others.

Regardless of what we choose to do, the real value in all of this is to see a reflection of Good Friday in each Friday, to remember the self-giving love of Jesus, and to honor that love through some sort of sacrifice or act of mercy.

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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, July 12, 2020 \$11,006.10

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.

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.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Bishop Mark celebrated 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 have been 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.

Confirmation Recipients

Jean Koury, D.R.E.
Phyllis Baker, Catechist

Corey Aikens	Taylor DeGennaro
Carolyn Dumm	Kyle Goss
Alivia Grove	Logan Haugh
Emma John	John McGregor
Giovanna Roefaro	Rachael Simanski
Sophia Warner	Elizah Wilson



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.

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

FISH DINNER

We are having a fish dinner on Friday August 7th, from 4:00PM to 6:00PM. "**Take out only**" the menu will be Fish, Macaroni & Cheese, Cole Slaw, and a Dinner Roll, the cost is \$7.00. Tickets will be sold after all Masses and also will be available in the Parish Office from 9:00AM to 5:00PM.

