

JULY 26, 2020

Scripture Reflection

A single mother who has a child with special needs works two jobs and sacrifices much of her own pleasures in order to be available for her son. Being the best mother possible is important to her and brings her joy. We are willing to make great and often heroic sacrifices for those people and things that matter most to us. Unless there is something of obvious importance to us in our immediate path, we can easily approach life in a more haphazard and chaotic way. We jump from one thing to another, responding to whatever it is that is competing for our attention at that moment. When everything is important, nothing is important.

If we do not wear the right pair of glasses, we can get all too easily caught up in the superficial stuff and neglect paying attention to the things that really matter. The kingdom of God is like the pearl of great price that is worth selling everything for so that it can be obtained. Based on where I invest my time and energy each day, I really wonder whether I am serving God's kingdom or my own. Have you ever considered tracking how you spend your time? You may be surprised! We allow our agendas to set the clock of our lives. We forget that joy and a true sense of purpose are not going to be found in following that timepiece. Joy is the expression of the happiness that is discovered when living in the kingdom of God. When our agenda matches God, not only do we leap for joy but God leaps with delight as well. Our well-being is what matters most to God.

Can you imagine God delighting in you? It is easy to deaden our senses to the whole reality of God and the joy that living the Gospel can bring. The demands of secular life and the agendas competing for our attention can quickly do that. We can get tired and spiritually apathetic. But if we can see our way through all of the conflicting voices and hear the voice of God, we can rediscover our zeal and passion and redirect our efforts. When we begin to see as God sees, we can rise each day and notice what really needs our attention and embrace it with exuberance. Be careful, though. It may not be what we originally had on our list. Responding to it, however, will be worth putting everything else aside.

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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.

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.

Religious Education

Registration for all students, grades PK4-11 will be held in the Education Center at 14th Street entrance before and after all Masses August 15/16 and August 22/23. **Parents only**, are asked to register all students at this time and receive your child's textbook. Facial covering is required.

PK/8 will be resuming classes on September 13th through the use of an online program. More information will be available at registration times. If you are new to our Religious Ed program please bring a copy of your child's baptismal certificate.

Please contact Chris Laraia (814-312-7317) or Jean Koury (814-949-2777) if you have any questions or concerns.



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

<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

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

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 26, 2020

Readings: 1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12; Rom 8:28-30; Mt 13:44-52

MASS INTENTIONS

July 27, Monday: Weekday

Readings: Jer 13:1-11; Mt 13: 31-35

6:45 AM + Richard Anthony (M/M Dave Reimer)

12:00 PM + Patricia Koeck (John Koeck Family)

July 28, Tuesday: Weekday

Readings: Jer 14: 17-22; Mt 13:36-43

6:45 AM + John Adams (Mr & Mrs Joe Ianniello)

12:00 PM + Jane Davidson (Mary Alice Plummer)

July 29, Wednesday: Saint Martha

Readings: Jer 15 :10, 16-21; Jn 11:1-2, 19-27

6:45 AM + Robert Wojcik M/M Paul Fraundorfer

12:00 PM + Marti Stefanon (George & Darlene Sinisi)

July 30, Thursday: St. Peter Chrysologus, Bishop

Readings: Jer 18:1-6; Mt 13:47-53

6:45 AM + Sr. Beverly Hmel (JoAnn & Clara Poplin)

12:00PM + Mary Ann "Behe" Eger (Caroseilli Family)

July 31, Friday: St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest

Readings: Jer 26:1-9; Mt 13:54-58

6:45 AM + Denis Burns (M/M Dave Hanekamp)

12:00 PM + Tom Lily (Paula Miller)

August 1, Saturday: St. Alphonsus Liguori, Bp. & Dr.

Readings: Jer 26:11-16, 24; Mt 14:1-12

8:00 AM + Kenneth Lytle & Donna Curls (Family)

12:00PM + Ray Plummer (Richard & Cecilia Haines)

Vigil: Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Is 55:1-3; Rom 8:35, 37-39; Mt 14:13-21

5:00 PM + Betsy Cote (Prayer Shawl Ministry)

August 2, Sunday

8:00 AM + Harry Irwin (Fran & Chrissy Dambeck)

10:00 AM + James Gardner (M/M Bruce Costello)

12:00 PM + John Duffy (Margaret Misitano Family)

5:00 PM Pro Popolo/ For the People

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

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.

Question: Why do Catholics light candles in church?

Candles have been part of the Church's worship from the earliest times. In the days before electricity, candles and oil lamps were the ways that people lighted buildings. Even today, we often still depend on candles during power outages, relying on their flickering flames to bring light into the dark.

Like our ancestors, we also light candles on special occasions. Think about a festive family meal or a romantic dinner for two — there will often be candles on the table, special objects for a special event. We light candles on birthday cakes and carry them in processions. We also place candles at makeshift memorials that appear when there has been an accident or act of violence. In these moments, their light casts aside a different kind of darkness — the darkness of grief, fear, and death.

The custom of the early Christians lighting candles and lamps at the tombs of the martyrs gave way to the practice of having candles at Mass, honoring the sacredness of the celebration.

As Christians decorated their worship spaces with statues and icons, they would burn candles in front of sacred images and the relics of the saints, basically "shining a light" on what they held to be sacred. When pilgrims would visit these shrines, they would often bring candles to light before the image or relic. These candles came to be a symbol of the person, and their prayer and the burning these candles came to be understood as an extension and continuation of the prayer that was offered. What began as a practical way to provide light has come to be a symbol of the hopes, desires, loves, losses, fears, and faith of everyday Christians offering their prayers to God and his saints.

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Annual Wedding Anniversary Liturgy

Bishop Mark Bartchak and the Family Life Office cordially invites all couples celebrating 1, 5, 10, 25, 40, 50, 55, and 60 + Wedding Anniversary in 2020 (and their families) to attend the **Annual Wedding Anniversary Liturgy**. Couples may attend Sunday, September 13 in ALTOONA at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament or Sunday, September 20 in JOHNSTOWN at St. John Gualbert Cathedral. Both locations are handicap accessible. Liturgies in each location begin at 2:00 p.m. Bishop Mark will be the celebrant and the homilist at each celebration. .

Reservations must be made through your parish for either celebration by August 19.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION Sunday, July 19, 2020 \$4,082.00

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.

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.



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 19, 2020.

Liam Roland
Sean Roland

Additional Communion have been scheduled.

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.

Annual Flea Market

St. Vincent dePaul Society/ St. Therese of the Child Jesus Conference Annual Flea Market. Friday August 7th & August 8th, from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM both days. Located at Father Kelly Hall, Corner 25th Avenue and 5th Street, Altoona Pa.

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 Beer Battered Fried 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.

