

# AUGUST 2, 2020

## *Scripture Reflection*

Many people in our world are hungry and thirsty. This hunger and thirst go well beyond physical needs for food, security, and shelter. Many are emotionally and spiritually parched, too. Behind every act of violence is a soul who hungers. People live with relationships that actually starve them. They are abused, exploited, disrespected, laughed at, and marginalized. There is a lot of confusion and inner pain that needs to be acknowledged and expressed. We all long to be understood and loved, even when our inner demons or who I am make it difficult to be. Do you live with inner confusion and pain? Folks often wander through life without any real direction or purpose and take their cues from what seems satisfying or popular at the moment. The deeper dots of our lives can easily remain unconnected, and we can find ourselves without grounding, purpose, or real happiness. Life becomes shallow and without real purpose as we hunger and thirst for an ultimate love.

It's easier to see the physical hungers and thirsts. We try to respond to these as best we can. Much more needs to be done. With all that God's earth can provide, nobody ought to face sleep at night with a belly that's empty. It's sinful. It's unjust. But isn't all hunger unjust? It doesn't need to be, and it should not be. Just as no one ought to be physically hungry and thirsty, there is really no need to be emotionally or spiritually deficient either. If we have more privileges at our fingertips, it is easier to try to satisfy our emotional and spiritual hungers and thirst by acting on impulse or self-indulgence, carelessly following passions, or by seeking self-destructive ways to dull the ache of emptiness.

Folks need to know where to look for nourishment and need the right friends to help them find it. We may not think that we have enough to respond to and to satisfy all of the needs, but we do. It doesn't take much. Five loaves and two fish provided for a huge crowd. With God, all things are possible. Our faith provides the direction for where God's children must go to find the nourishment they seek. It also tells us how to structure life so that justice and equity can be a reality for all. It also tells us how to respond to pain, sinfulness, and confusion. Come to the water and then help another get there.

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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.

## 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.

# 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)

<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**

## EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 2, 2020

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

### MASS INTENTIONS

August 3, Monday: Weekday

Readings: *Jer 28:1-17; Mt 14: 22-36*

6:45 AM + Lavelle Family (Phyllis Lavelle Sheetz)

12:00 PM + David Petrak (Wife Mary)

August 4, Tuesday: St. John Vianney, Priest

Readings: *Jer 30: 1-2, 12-15, 18-22; Mt 14:22-36*

6:45 AM + Nancy Moffa Jenaway (Estate)

12:00 PM + Chester Mosey Jr. (Mary Lysinger)

August 5, Wednesday: Saint Mary Major

Readings: *Jer 31:1-7; Mt 15:21-28*

6:45 AM + For our Clergy (A Parishioner)

12:00 PM + Danyll Rougeux (Mom & Dad)

August 6, Thursday: The Transfiguration of the Lord

Readings: *Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; 2 Pt 1:16-19; Mt 17:1-9*

6:45 AM + John McCarthy (Kathy & Terry Tomassetti)

12:00 PM + Mass of Thanksgiving (Anon)

August 7, Friday: St Sixtus II, Pope, and Companions

Readings: *Na 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7; Mt 16:24-28*

6:45 AM + John Richard Robinson (Patricia Rhoa)

12:00 PM + Robert Beck (John & Alice Joyce)

August 8, Saturday: Saint Dominic, Priest

Readings: *Hb 12:2-4; Mt 17:14-20*

8:00 AM + Gordon & Janie White (J Donald Douglas)

12:00 PM + Peggy & Jim Mullen (Daughters Skip & Nancy)

Vigil: Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: *1 Kgs 19:9, 11-13; Rom 9:1-5; Mt 14:22-33*

5:00 PM + Edgar Johnston Birthday (Wife)

August 9, Sunday

8:00 AM + M Virginia Jones (Ken & Kathie Civils)

10:00 AM + Larry McConnell (Ed & Lois Simanski)

12:00 PM + Jeanie Farabaugh (M/M Greg Clemens)

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.

### Why do Catholics need to go to Mass every Sunday?

The heart of the Church's instruction that we are to attend Mass on Sundays goes back to the Third Commandment: "Take care to keep holy the sabbath day as the LORD, your God, has commanded you" (Deuteronomy 5:12). Although the Jewish People celebrate the Sabbath on Saturday, the first generations of Christians began to observe the sabbath on Sunday, recognizing how important it is for Christians to celebrate the day that Jesus rose from the dead. As the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults observes, "Sunday extends the celebration of Easter throughout the year ... It makes present the new creation brought about by Christ" (364).

The focus of our Sunday should be the celebration of the Eucharist in the Mass. This is our time to be formed by God's Word and nourished at the table of the Lord, becoming prepared to live out and share our faith in the week that follows. In his encyclical, *Dies Domini*, Pope Saint John Paul II reminded us that Christians "cannot live their faith or share fully in the life of the Christian community unless they take part regularly in the Sunday Eucharistic assembly" (no. 81). This is why the Church teaches us that Sunday Mass is a non-negotiable part of being a Christian (see Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2192).

Beyond being a time of worship, we should also remember that Sunday is intended to be a day of rest, when we make time for recreation, for sharing meals, and enjoying the company of friends and family. Sunday is given to us as a day to take stock of and enjoy the blessings that God has given us (see Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2187). Pope Francis reminds us, "The day of rest, centered on the Eucharist, sheds its light on the whole week, and motivates us to greater concern for nature and the poor" (*Laudato Si'*, no. 237).

### 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 26, 2020 \$6,966.05

### 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.

### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

You are invited to spend some time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament from after the noon Mass on Wednesday, August 5, until after the 7:00 P.M. confessions. There is a sign-up sheet on the table at the center of the Cathedral.

### Nocturnal Adoration

Will take place at St. Therese of the Child Jesus on Friday August 7th, 2020, from 8:00 PM to 11:00 PM.



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 26, 2020.

Alayna Bott  
Lauren Elvey

Emily Nachtman  
Olivia Sapp

### 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.

### Cross Catholic

Father Bernard Olszewski of Cross Catholic Outreach will be visiting our parish next weekend to speak at all Masses on behalf of the poor in developing countries. Cross Catholic Outreach was founded to create meaningful link between parishes in America and the priests and nuns working in the Church overseas in the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Central and South America.

### 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.

