

AUGUST 23, 2020

Scripture Reflection

The only way to know God is to love God. Our minds will never fully grasp the mystery of God, but our hearts and souls can learn to love the mystery. Years ago, when life had a more innocent quality to it, we believed what we were told or witnessed, unless there was direct evidence otherwise. This was especially true if the information came from someone in authority. In a sense, we were a bit more gullible on one hand but also more trusting on the other. The latter is an admirable quality that sadly can be eroded when we realize we have been duped. With education and technological advances, we find ourselves more skeptical and less likely to too quickly accept and believe what we see and hear.

For all of the good that social media can do, it can also easily distort reality and truth. Photoshop and a myriad other technological truths can add to, fabricate, and make even the non-existent seem real. It is amazing. How far do we allow this obviously justifiable skepticism to take us? Questioning and doubting are healthy elements of any good relationship as long as we don't allow them to turn us away from a deeper experience of love and encounter. If we cannot get our minds around something or empirically justify or prove it, we tend to declare it a hoax, untrue, or unauthentic and walk away. The very same trust that can quickly be eroded is exactly what is essential for all of our relationships, especially our relationship with God. With all things and people that make a profound claim on us, we have to trust in the absence of knowledge. Full self-investment involves plunging completely into the unknown!

Simon Peter said to Jesus, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Peter came to this knowledge, which is not "head knowledge" because of the relationship he shared with Jesus and what God was able to reveal in and through that relationship. Peter simply "knew" because of love that this is who Jesus really is. The silent exchange of love between friends, and not an intellectual exercise of the mind, brought Peter to this place. When we stop and think about it, there are many things in life that we simply know but do not completely understand. When someone sacrifices their own well-being for another, it may not make intellectual sense when examined. But it makes a world of sense when it is carried out. The vastness of reality and an encounter with incomprehensible mystery all lead us to profound silence where we simply know something to be true. Have you trusted enough to allow your relationship with God to bring you to this place or are you still too skeptical?

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.

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.

Birth of Mary Celebration

The 39th Anniversary of the Birth of Mary Celebration on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at Saint Catherine of Siena Church, Old Rt. 22, Duncansville Pa. Limited seating & masks worn.

7:15 a.m. Joyful Mystery of the Rosary in the Church

7:45 a.m. Mass in the Church

11:30 a.m. Joyful Mystery of the Rosary in the Church

12:00 noon Mass in the Church

5:00 p.m. Joyful Mystery of the Rosary at the Shrine without the Procession

5:30 p.m. Mass at the Shrine some chairs; participates bring own chairs, **Masks must be worn. There is to be proper physical distancing including the line for the reception of the Holy Eucharist.** Celebrant/Homilist: Msgr. Bob Saly. **NO PROCESSION after the evening Mass around the mysteries of the rosary. NO CONTINUOUS ROSARY, NO FOOD NOR EXHIBITS.**

Address petitions to: Birth of Mary Celebration, P.O. Box 88, Duncansville, Pa. 16635



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				

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF GOD IN THE CITY OF ALTOONA SINCE 1851

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

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 23, 2020

Readings: *Is 22: 19-23; Rom 11:33-36; Mt 16:13-20*

MASS INTENTIONS

August 24, Monday: Saint Bartholomew Apostle

Readings: *Rv 21:9-14; Jn 1:45-51*

6:45 AM +Kevin Sheets (Dick & Bernice Cellini)

12:00 PM +Bp. Joseph Adamec (Anonymous)

August 25, Tuesday: St. Louis, St. Joseph Calasanz

Readings: *2 Thes 2:1-3, 14-17; Mt 23:23-26*

6:45 AM + Joe Tomlinson (Mary Smithmyer)

12:00PM + Travis Elden, Sr. (Anonymous)

August 26, Wednesday: Weekday

Readings: *2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18; Mt 23:27-32*

6:45 AM + Roberta Lamont(M/M Dave Hanekamp)

12:00 PM + Thomas & Mary Irwin (Children)

August 27, Thursday: Saint Monica

Readings: *1 Cor 1:1-9; Mt 24:42-51*

6:45 AM + Nancy Sassano Mignogna (Estate)

12:00PM + Vocations (Anonymous)

August 28, Friday: St. Augustine, Bp. & Dr. of Church

Readings: *1 Cor 1:17-25; Mt 25:1-13*

6:45 AM Good Health of Sue Bauer (Children)

12:00 PM + Madeline Vogel (Rita & Jerry Kibler)

August 29, Saturday: Passion of St. John the Baptist

Readings: *1 Cor 1:26-31; Mk 6:17-29*

8:00 AM + Irene Schlect (M/M Bernard Behe)

12:00PM + Ray Plummer (Linda Himes)

Vigil: Twenty- Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: *Jer 20: 7-9; Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16:21-27*

5:00 PM + Josep Pagliaro Birthday (Family)

August 30, Sunday

8:00 AM + Alice Winkler (Friends at Forever Media)

10:00 AM + Patricia Koeck (Mary Lou & John Skupian)

12:00 PM + James Joseph Luther (M/M Ken Civils)

5:00 PM Pro Popolo/ For the People

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

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.

Why are only men allowed to be priests or deacons in the Church?

One of the most debated and — in some circles — contentious teachings of the Church is that only men can be ordained as priests and deacons. Critics see it as a way of strengthening a patriarchal system in which women have little or no voice. Those who support this teaching look to New Testament teaching (where we read of Jesus choosing only men to be apostles) and the long-standing practice of the Church. This was certainly the perspective of St. John Paul II who, in his 1994 apostolic letter, *Ordinatio Sacerdotalis*, closed the discussion on the possibility of ordaining women as priests.

In the letter, he reflected on the dignity of women and their call to share in the life and mission of the Church, but he concluded by solemnly declaring that “the Church has no authority whatsoever to confer priestly ordination on women and that this judgement is to be definitely held by all the Church’s faithful” (no. 4).

This position has been upheld by Pope Francis in interviews, most notably as he returned from his 2016 visit to Sweden.

The ordination of women to the diaconate is another question and one which is being studied. In 2016, Pope Francis created a 12-member commission to study the question from several perspectives (theological, liturgical, historical, etc.). The commission issued an initial report for Pope Francis who later said that the commission had not yet produced a “definite response” to the question because of a lack of agreement on the role of female deacons in the Early Church.

For now, however, regardless of what changes might come from ongoing study and debate, the Church continues to reserve ordination to the diaconate to men only, recognizing a vital link between the diaconate and the priesthood and the lack of certainty about the presence and function of female deacons throughout history

©LPI

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, September 2, 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 the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament Church on Friday, September 4, 2020, from 8:00 PM to 11:00 PM.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, August 16, 2020 \$

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.

Baptismal Prep Class

There will be a Baptismal Prep Class, Tuesday September 1, 2020 at 6:30pm, in the Education Room on 14th Street. You can call Paula at the Parish office 814-944-4603 and sign up.

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.

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 this weekend 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.

High School Graduates

I am so sorry for this being in here so late in the year, but I just received this information. Our High School Students that graduated in the year of 2020 are as follows:

Altoona Area High School

Blaine Carlheim, Nicole Duffy,

Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School

Glenn Bartkowiak, Olivia Butler, Amanda Jones, Joshua Krish, Fionna McConnell, and Joshua Welteroth.

Hollidaysburg Senior High School

Elle MacGregor, and Dylan Eckard.

Home Schooled

Samuel Gormont, Nicole Conrad

Our Lady of Fatima

Gretta Levine

Best of luck to all the Seniors, as you achieve your goals, hopes, and dreams. May God Bless you on your journey.

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. Our official page will gradually become a convenient way to keep people informed and post notices. (Please do not use the link at the bottom on the page.)