

# SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

## Scripture Reflection

It's all about reconciliation and conversion, not punishment. Relationships are not static adventures but wonderful gifts that continue to develop, grow, change, and mature. We are meant to be social beings, so isolating ourselves from others is rarely helpful. But, because human beings are on the one hand tremendously gifted, talented, and blessed creations, they are on the other also flawed, broken, and sinful. We all need to humbly admit that we are works in progress and not only capable of enriching each other's lives but causing deep hurts and wounds as well. Hence, we always need to be reconciled. We are always growing, changing, and expanding our knowledge of who we are and how we are meant to share life together.

Because reconciliation and conversion are always part of the mix of life, honesty is crucial. Without honesty, we can easily find ourselves living a lie and causing more harm than good. Being able to freely share our feelings, especially those involving pain and hurt, is a charism necessary to pursue and an art to learn. When we are wronged or wrong someone else, we do not enjoy the confrontation that can and needs to come. We are taught to keep our feelings to ourselves, especially when they are negative, and we tend to avoid difficult conversations.

Hence, we never really learn how to confront another, successfully resolve conflict, find reconciliation, and welcome conversion. When we hurt or wrong someone, it does not mean that we are a bad or sinful person who deserves only punishment and excommunication. Quite the opposite! We are simply a human person who can make poor choices and sin and can be forgiven. We can restore and deepen the relationship that has been affected and find our way home again.

Jesus clearly wants to avoid shame because it has no purpose in achieving reconciliation and conversion. All broken relationships deserve a chance at reconciliation. Every person has room for growth and a need for conversion. We have to learn to be okay with honesty and not be afraid to hear and process what someone needs to say, even if it is difficult for us to hear. Severing a relationship, both personally or with the church community as a whole, ought to definitely be a last resort and only pursued when all else has failed.

©LPI

## 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.

### 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**

## TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

September 6, 2020

Readings: Ez 33: 7-9; Rom 13:8-10; Mt 18:15-20

### MASS INTENTIONS

September 7, Monday: Dedication of the Cathedral

Readings: 1 Cor 5:1-8; Lk 6:6-11

9:00 AM Living and Deceased Parishioners

September 8, Tuesday: The Nativity of the BVM

Readings: Mi 5:1-4; Mt 1:1-16, 18-23

6:45 AM + Dan & Marian Burns(M/M Dave Hanekamp)

12:00PM + Harry Costlow (Jim & Elaine Weaver)

September 9, Wednesday: St. Peter Claver, Priest

Readings: 1 Cor 7:25-31; Lk 6:20-26

6:45 AM + Audrey Krause (Phyllis Lavelle Sheetz)

12:00 PM + Bishop Joseph Adamec(M/M Steven Krawick)

September 10, Thursday: Weekday

Readings: 1 Cor 8:1-7, 11-13; Lk 6:27-38

6:45 AM + Joseph P. Merle Jr. Birthday (Family)

12:00PM + Dorothy Berger (Mike & Sherry Byrnes)

September 11, Friday: Weekday

Readings: 1 Cor 9:16-19; Lk 6:39-42

6:45 AM + Msgr. Roy Kline (Kathy Ruth Holowa)

12:00PM + James Eget (Wife Doris)

September 12, Saturday: The Mosy Name of Mary

Readings: 1 Cor 10:14-22; Lk 6:43-49

8:00AM + Carrie Detwiler (Mom & Dad)

12:00PM + Beverly Woodring (Dr. Peter & Kathy Starr)

Vigil: Twenty- Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Sir 27:30,28:7; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35

5:00 PM+ Tom Boslet (Mother Marian)

September 13, Sunday:

8:00 AM + John Duffy (Toots, Ryan & Girls)

10:00 AM + Richard Anthony (M/M Tom Swires)

12:00PM + John Adams (Connie Angeski)

5:00 PM Pro Popolo/ For the People

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

### Religious Education News

Religious Ed PK-8 will begin class online September 13th. If you have not already registered please call Chris Laraia at 814-312-7317. You need to be registered and need to pick up the books.

### Are Catholics allowed to donate their organs?

Yes, Catholics are allowed to donate their organs. In fact, the Catechism of the Catholic Church praises this practice when it notes that, "Organ donation after death is a noble and meritorious act and is to be encouraged as an expression of generous solidarity" (no. 2296).

The Church has a series of guidelines for health care providers called The Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Services. This document helps us see organ donation as an act of charity, but it also reminds us that we have to be sure that donations of organs by living donors do not "sacrifice or seriously impair any essential bodily function and the anticipated benefit to the recipient is proportionate to the harm to the donor" (no. 30); trained medical professionals can help to make this assessment. In the case of organ donation at the end of life, we must be sure of the intentions of the donor or of their proxy are always respected, and that the dignity of the human body is always respected.

In the end, we can look to Pope Saint John Paul II and his encyclical Evangelium Vitae, where he noted that organ donation is a beautiful act of expressing the culture of life, when "performed in an ethically acceptable manner, with a view to offering a chance of health or even of life itself to the sick who sometimes have no other hope" (no. 86).

©LPi

### Labor Day Blessing

Good and Gracious God, you created human beings in your image and likeness and gave us dominion over creation to be stewards of the land and co-creators of Your Kingdom. Jesus, You became one of us and labored as a carpenter. You ask all people -- whatever our state of life -- to follow you faithfully.

Holy Spirit, bless all workers this Labor Day. May all our actions be animated by Your love, as we do all things for the glory of God.  
Amen.

### Office Closed

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, September 7, 2020, in observance of Labor Day. I will be back in the office on Tuesday September 8, from 9:00 am till 5:00pm.



## OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, August 30, 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.

### 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.

### 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.

## THE SOLEMNITY OF THE DEDICATION OF THE CATHEDRAL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

On Labor Day, Monday, September 7th, we will commemorate the 89th anniversary of the dedication of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. Bishop Mark Bartchak will celebrate the Eucharist for the Solemnity of the Dedication of the Cathedral at 9:00 A.M.

Dennis Cardinal Dougherty, the Archbishop of Philadelphia, formally dedicated the cathedral on Monday, September 7, 1931.

We who have been dedicated to the Lord by the Sacraments of Initiation are strongly encouraged to participate in the Eucharist on Monday, September 7, at the 9:00 A.M. It is appropriate to praise and thank God for the dedication of our cathedral, a magnificent structure which is the mother church of the whole diocese and also home to us, the members of the Cathedral parish.

### 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.)

### The Blessing of the Community

I have been blessed to be a member of my parish community for 28 years. For much of that time I was serving as a member of the parish staff, but it was still the community that I call home. I have been fortunate to be able to remain in that parish even as my life has encountered new chapters and callings. I am so grateful to God that I have been able to grow, be nourished, and find companionship in a parish for this long of a time.

It is a natural tendency for human beings to desire belonging to something bigger than themselves. Not everyone is fortunate enough to find the community, big or small, that fulfills that need. Unfortunately, that means that many communities suffer from not having the benefit of the gifts, skills, and talents that any member can offer. Communities are in many ways living organisms that move and breathe based upon the individuals who form that body. A community is truly the sum of its parts.

Your parish community reflects you and everyone else in that community. The more each member gives to the community, the stronger that community finds itself. If you hold back, your community suffers, and you gain little. I know firsthand what being a part of a community can mean to a person. I would be no one at all – and you would not be reading this – if it weren't for the life I have had in my parish community.

©LPi