

OCTOBER 4, 2020

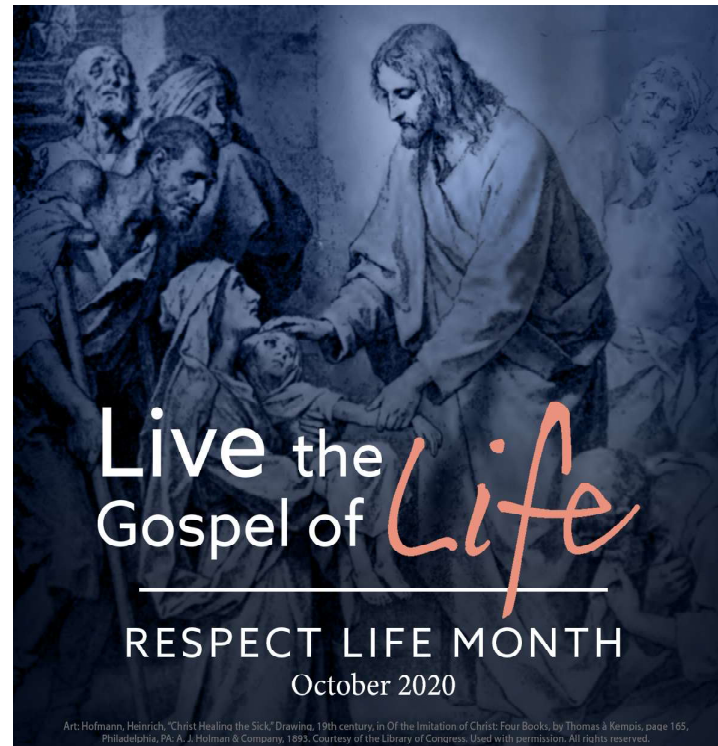
Do you ever wonder why things never seem to come together? We see glimpses of consistency, equity, justice, peace, harmony, and wellbeing, but it always falls short. Human life is still expendable and manipulated, people are used for personal advancement, countries are at war, the economy continues to face turbulence, anger and frustration are widespread, and happiness is the possession of just a few and not the many. Could it be that we are serving the wrong kingdom? We keep trying to make our kingdom work and find ourselves still scratching our heads after repeatedly failed attempts to do so. It is almost as if people are saying, "we'll get it right this time if we do ...," as if some new and secret innovation has yet to be tried.

We serve God's kingdom. We may not like hearing that, but it is true. God did not make only a few of us. God made all of humanity and all of humanity is called into service. How often do we defer any of our decision making to God? Secular leaders enjoy winking at the Sacred Scriptures and using them when they advance a cause, but are they really listened to? Even those who consider themselves believers tend to sift through God's Word, taking what seems to fit and apply and discarding the rest. After all, if we were really serving God's kingdom, we would see an abundance of fruit testifying to this fact. But what's growing on the vine is anything other than good Gospel-centered fruit.

Nothing in this world or the next belongs to us. We have such a hard time believing this and live our lives as if everything belongs to us. And, the fruit does not lie. Trees that are neglected and not properly fertilized reveal that fact. They cannot keep these deep secrets from being discovered. If God's kingdom was really being served, then life would have looked much differently after the crucifixion. By now, there would be plenty of fantastic fruit to harvest in abundance: faith, hope, love, prudence, temperance, justice, and fortitude. Do we see these in abundance around us? Why not?

Still we grapple with ownership, privilege, status, and the protection of our rights. It's all about us and what we want, think we need, and expect to acquire. When did this change of focus occur? We may be struggling with this since humanity's day in the garden and have never understood that the focus cannot be on us and the apple but on God and God's justice. Maybe the only answer is that the Kingdom be taken from us and given to someone who is willing to do a better job. Is that the fate we really want?

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Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

Pope Francis has said that respect for life is not just about the unborn child in the womb, but also about the least of our brothers and sisters. Yes, it is even upon the undocumented resident alien who has no voice but ours. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are all called to protect the voiceless.

Let us pray... Good and gracious God, you blew into our nostrils the breath of life. You are the One to whom we owe our very existence. Give us the courage to take that unpopular position, of protecting those who have no voice, the unborn child in the womb to the person taking his or her last breath. The life you have given us is a gift beyond measure. Embolden us to speak the truth about protecting the child, the elderly, and the one without a voice in the public square. With thankful hearts, we ask all this of the One God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.



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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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-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
October 4, 2020**

Readings: Is 5:1-7; Phil 4:6-9; Mt 21:33-43

MASS INTENTIONS

October 5, Monday: Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos
Readings: Gal 1:6-12; Lk 10:25-37
6:45 AM + Pete Rhoa (Wife Pat)
12:00PM + Delphina Rutolo Ann. (Family)

October 6, Tuesday: St. Bruno Priest, & Marie Rose Durocher
Readings: Gal :13-24; Lk 10:38-42
6:45 AM + Nicholas John Moffa (Estate)
12:00PM + Rosa Fernandez & Claudio Morales (Family)

October 7, Wednesday: Our Lady of the Rosary
Readings: Gal 2:1-2, 7-14; Lk 11:1-4
6:45 AM + Julianne Seidel (Aunt Kay Wesner)
12:00PM + Barry Saletnik (Kim & Lavone Conrad)

October 8, Thursday: Weekday
Readings: Gal 3:1-5; Lk 11:5-13
6:45 AM + Joseph P. Merles Birthday (Family)
12:00PM + Fran Moses (Kay Audia Family)

October 9, Friday: Saint Denis, Bp, St. John Leonard
Readings: Gal 3:7-14; Lk 11:15-26
6:45 AM + Vocations (Anonymous)
12:00 PM + Valentine Lilly Birth. (Daughter Paula)

October 10, Saturday: Weekday
Readings: Gal 3:22-29; Lk 11:27-28
8:00AM + Barbara Byers (Mike and Beverly Thur)
12:00PM Tom & Pat Byrnes, Ann. (Family)
Vigil: Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Readings: Is 25:6-10; Phil 4:12-14, 19-20; Mt 22:1-14
5:00PM + Frances Pagliaro (M/M Bill Baumgardner)

October 11, Sunday:
8:00 AM + Jack Bauer (Bob & Joan Lozinak)
10:00 AM + Jim Davidson (Bev & Mark Boslet)
12:00PM + Mary Kantoski, Ann. (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.

What Are "Special" Masses?

Question: Why do Parishes Offer Special Masses like Thanksgiving and Memorial Day, even though they're not Holy Days of Obligation? Am I obligated to attend?

Answer:

Out of respect for the various civil celebrations that take place during the year, many dioceses and parishes will host special Masses. However, while it always worthwhile to come together to worship as a community, Catholics are not obligated to attend these celebrations. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church notes, the only times that we are obligated to participate in celebrations of the Eucharist are on Sundays and holy days of obligation:

The first precept ("You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor") requires the faithful to sanctify the day commemorating the Resurrection of the Lord as well as the principal liturgical feasts honoring the mysteries of the Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the saints; in the first place, by participating in the Eucharistic celebration, in which the Christian community is gathered, and by resting from those works and activities which could impede such a sanctification of these days. ©LPi

Free Food Giveaway

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Helping Hands Committee is having a Free Food Giveaway every Saturday, starting October 3, from 9:00 - 11:00 am or until supplies run out, during October in the church parking lot. Anyone can drive thru and get a box of food that contains milk, cheese, protein, fruit, and vegetables. The farmers sell the food previously destined for restaurants/ schools and bulk purchasers to distributors, preventing waste. These distributors partner with USDA to package then transport to non-profits to give out. Please spread the news so no food is wasted!

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, October 7th, until after the 7:00 P.M. confessions. There is a sign-up sheet on the table at the center of the Cathedral.

ARISE !

Season 5 will **not** be held until Easter 2021. Those who wish to continue to read and discuss weekly topics, through Zoom featured on Proclaim!, may contact Chris Laraia at 814-312-7317 for more information.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, September 20, 2020 \$5,872.25

Sunday, September 27, 2020 \$7,909.70

Gifts Given to Share

My oldest two children took piano lessons when they were younger. In fact, it was because my oldest wanted to learn to play so badly that we purchased a piano. He would use it for practice during his few years of lessons, and then my daughter took up the instrument. After a few years of lessons for each, restlessness set in and a type of indifference took over. The lessons and the practicing came to an end.

My youngest had not expressed much interest in piano when he was younger. Then when he was a teenager, he asked for lessons. He began to play and now he plays even for fun and to relax. When his siblings try to play, they are stuck with the truth that those days are gone and since they gave it up years ago, they can no longer really play. In many ways, they were given a gift, but since they did not use and cultivate it, they lost it.

God gives us gifts every day and we too often act like those gifts will simply always be there. The truth is, unlike God Himself, many of those gifts are not eternal. If we fail to acknowledge them and put them to use, we risk losing them in the end. What a shame. What gifts might be slowly slipping away from each of us due to our lack of interest and indifference? They might not be there if and when we change our minds.

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Basket Bingo

Due to the COVID-19 we are sorry to say that the basket bingo that was scheduled for September 20, 2020 had to be canceled. We are going to reschedule for Sunday April 25th, 2021. DAUBBERS UP!!!!!! We are still taking donations. Please call the Parish Office at 814-944-4603 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday thru Friday, or Lorraine Beck at 814-942-7774.

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.

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.)

Prayer Shawls

If you or anyone that you know would like to have a prayer shawl for comfort during a rough time please call the Parish Office at 814-944-4603 the hours are from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Also you may call Lorraine Beck at 814-942-7774.

The Friar's Nook Hours/Job Opening

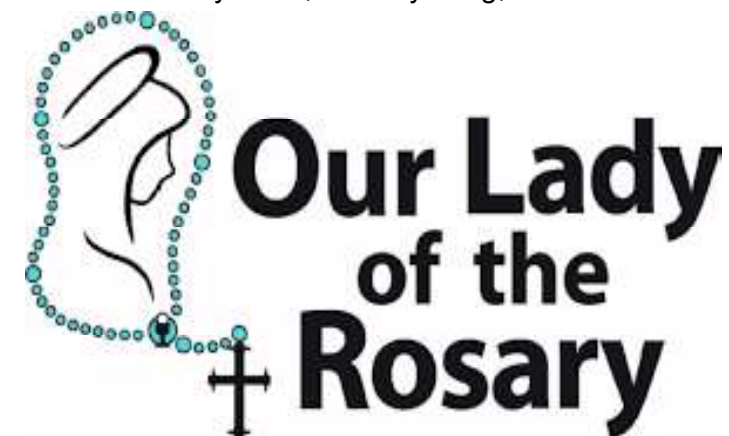
The Friars' Nook and Gift Shop will continue to have modified hours on Friday and Saturday 10:00 AM-4:00PM for the month of September. This gives time for the search for a Gift Shop Manager, and the info about the position is below:

Gift Shop Manager:

The Friar's Nook Gift Shop located in Hollidaysburg, PA, is seeking a Gift Shop Manager to oversee the day-to-day functions of a Roman Catholic gift shop with a heavy emphasis in standard retail practices. The Gift Shop Manager should be dependable, self-motivated, and can work well with other employees and customers. For a full job description, please visit: www.thefranciscanfriars.org/jobs.

Seasonal Helpers Needed

The Friars Nook Gift Shop is hiring part-time seasonal help! Are you looking to make a few extra bucks for Christmas? Are you looking to work with a good crew and still have nights and Sundays free? The Friar's Nook is the place for you! Even if you just would like to volunteer a few hours, that would be wonderful. If interested, please send your information to kellie@thefranciscanfriars.org or to The Friar's Nook Gift Shop, 793- Monastery Road, Hollidaysburg, Pa 16648.



Confirmation Prep

All eleventh grade candidates preparing for Confirmation! On Sunday, October 4, at 6:15 PM there will be an important meeting, in the Cathedral Hall. Please wear a **Mask** and a parent or sponsor should attend with the candidate.