

NOVEMBER 15, 2020

God gives us the gift of His very self and asks us to invest it. Investing God's greatest gift of Himself wisely, allows God's kingdom to grow and flourish. God trusts us with this pearl of great price in hopes that it will produce abundant fruit. While God's gift of self is realized in the gifts of faith, hope, and love, they are not meant to be solely for personal benefit. They are intended to be shared and are at the heart of Jesus' blueprint for happiness, the Beatitudes.

When we properly invest God's greatest gift, His most treasured possession, we invest in the wellbeing of all of our brothers and sisters and the world in which we live. We take up most seriously our call to be stewards and properly manage, not only our own affairs, but the affairs of those around and before us. God has put tremendous confidence in us. Do we have that same confidence in God?

We often go the extra mile and put in the additional effort when it comes to those concerns closest to us: our families, friends, careers, home and securities. But when it comes to things that are not as close to us, we can become lax and less conscientious. Tending to God's treasure requires a great deal of focus and persistent hard work. It demands that I see the bigger picture, God's picture, in which self-sacrifice is a given as we labor for the establishment of God's kingdom, God's vision. Fear and a lack of trust can loom large, however. We are afraid of letting go of what is "mine" and apprehensive of jeopardizing what we have in order to venture into something bigger and more promising.

Fear and a lack of trust serve no purpose in God's kingdom. They benefit neither the person nor God. What is required is a courageous resolve that produces the fortitude necessary to stay the course and do what God is asking. Doing all in our power to cultivate the seeds of faith, hope, and love in our world, working diligently to put all of our relationships in proper order, becoming attentive to systems and ideologies that hurt and oppress people, being mindful of injustice, and laboring on behalf of the poor and the needy are at the core of what each of us is asked to do. It is how we invest God's most precious gift wisely. If persistent, alert and attentive, then life will gradually improve around us, there will be greater peace and we will experience joy.

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Buried in Your Backyard

I remember watching a television show about a high school that dug up a time capsule that students had buried 25 years earlier. They had buried it with the purpose of showing others many years later the trends of the day and how student life was at that time. It was a fun exercise and everyone — the current students as well as those now grown — laughed at the clothing styles, corny photos, and lack of technology from years ago.

I wonder how the former students felt about how they had grown in those 25 years. How many of them realized their high school dreams? Did they find their purpose in this world and feel fulfilled in life? Did they use the talents and gifts God gave them to really make a difference in the world?

We have all been given talents and gifts by God to be cultivated and offered back to Him and those around us for His glory. As time has passed, hopefully we have taken seriously our stewardship of these gifts. But sometimes out of fear, misunderstanding, or even apathy, we have taken one or more of our gifts and buried them, hiding them away from others and stifling all growth. This is no way to honor God and certainly not a path to fulfillment in life. If we have anything buried in our backyard, we might do well to dig it back up, clean it up, and begin building upon it. Like a time capsule, those things will not be buried forever. One day the giver of that gift will ask what you have done with it. When that day comes, I pray you don't need to find a shovel.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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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)
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

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

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

November 15, 2020

Readings: Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; 1 Thes 5:1-6 Mt 25:14-30

MASS INTENTIONS

November 16, Monday: Saints Margaret & Gertrude

Readings: Rv 1:1-4; 2:1-5; Lk 18:35-43,

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

12:00PM + M. Virginia Jones (Fred & Diane Gibbons)

November 17, Tuesday: Saint Elizabeth of Hungary,

Readings: Rv 3:1-6, 14-22; Lk 19: 1-10

6:45 AM + Peggy & Bernie Joyce (Family)

12:00 PM + John Duffy Birthday (Wife and Son)

November 18, Wednesday: Dedication of the Basilicas

Readings: Rv 4:1-11; Lk 19: 11-28

6:45 AM + Deceased Veterans (McNelis All Stars)

12:00PM + Walt Beech Anniversary (Family)

November 19, Thursday: Weekday

Readings: Rv 5:1-10; Lk 19:41-44

6:45 AM + Marianna Mignogna Moffa (Estate)

12:00PM + Michael McCaulley (Family)

November 20, Friday: Weekday

Readings: Rv 10:8-11; Lk 19:45-48

6:45 AM + Hilda Conrad (Pat & Kathy Kibler)

12:00PM + Dave Lysinger (Family)

November 21, Saturday: Presentation of the BVM

Readings: Rv 11:4-12; Lk 20:27-40

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

12:00PM + Rose Ciavarella (Diana Fanale)

Vigil: Thirtieth - Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Ez 34:11-12, 15-17; 1 Cor 15:20-26,28; Mt 25:31-46

5:00PM + Michael Dionis Birthday (Mom & Dad)

November 22, Sunday:

8:00 AM + Jim Davidson (Greg & Sally Stoltz)

10:00 AM + Msgr. Paul Panza (Dana Tomlinson)

12:00PM + Trudy Eicher (Family & Friends)

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.

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.

Workbooks for Readers and Lectors

The new 2021 workbooks are now available after all the masses and also at the Parish Office during regular hours. Monday-Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Gluten Sensitivity

There may be parishioners who have found that they have physical disorders related to gluten intolerance. The spectrum of illnesses includes celiac disorder, wheat allergy, bloating, abdominal discomfort, diarrhea, muscular disturbances, and bone or joint pain. The ordinary hosts distributed at Communion contain gluten. If you have found that you are gluten sensitive, special bread is available that possess a very low gluten content. Please tell the priest before Mass, and he will consecrate the low-gluten host for you to receive at that Mass.

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.)

Gospel Activity Sheets For Children

We now have Growing with the Gospel Activity pamphlets for the children in grades Kindergarten to first grade, and also second to third grade. They are located on the table in the cross aisle. They are available for the children to take, it reflects on the Gospel of each Sunday.



OFFERTORY COLLECTION Sunday, November 8, 2020 \$6,112.00



Calendar of Prizes 2021 Are Here!

Calendar of prizes 2021 are being sold at the Cathedral Square Door after all masses starting this weekend. Each calendar costs \$20.00. There is a \$20.00 daily prize; an additional \$1,500.00 in special monthly prizes awarded throughout the year; and a grand prize of \$1,000.00. If you have a favorite three digit number, call the Parish Office at 814-944-4603 weekdays between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM to check for availability or stop by the Cathedral door after Mass on the weekends. These make great Christmas gifts and stocking stuffers.

Stewardship Reflections

Good stewards dislike **generic** appeals and will give generously of themselves and their means to their parish. Good stewards are eager to hear the stories, the modern-day parables of lives changed, enriched, made better and more human because of their intentional generosity.

There is a real satisfaction knowing that because of their efforts a life has been changed and an increase in faith has been expressed. How can you help spread the "Good News" of transformation through the sharing of the gifts of time, talent and treasure in the community? (*Catholic Update, Seven Secrets of Successful Stewards, Give to specifics. St. Anthony Messenger Press, August 2002*)

Thank You

We would like to take thank the Cathedral Hospitality crew, for the delicious stuffed shells, meatballs, salad, bread and butter and dessert on Friday November 6th. And also the following people: Debbie Ball, Mary Ann Bell, Bobbie Dixon, Jim Dixon, Tony Eckenrode, Janet Hammond, Ronnie Helfrich, Jim Kilcoyne, Matt Koeck, Jean Koury, Paul Luke, Christine & Dave McCulloch, Beth Moore, John Murphy, Lee Truby, Butch Winkler. And to all that have supported us with purchasing the dinners. May God Bless!

Book of Remembrance

There will be a Book of Remembrance in the Our Mother of Sorrows/Pieta Chapel (the chapel with the image of Mary holding the crucified body of Jesus). During the month of November, you may list the names of your relatives and friends in that book.

The Names of Our Dead

Throughout November the names of all those who have died and were buried from the Cathedral Parish since last November, will appear in the Our Mother of Sorrow Chapel. The month of November is the traditional time we Catholics remember our dead with special prayer. Throughout this month take time to pray for our deceased brothers and sisters. Visit the cemetery and pray for those who have gone before us. May all the faithful departed know a place of light, peace and happiness. Thank you to Jean Koury who created this year's board.

Prayer for the Faithful Departed

Good and faithful God, you have given us so many people in our lives that have given us joy and solace. On this day we ask you to remember our dearly departed. Keep them close to you as we all wait for that day when we all will come and worship in your presence.

We ask this through your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

College and young adult men

An opportunity to discern your vocation is being made available via the convenience of Zoom. Every Friday evening at 8:30 PM join others in an organized discussion about different aspects of prayer and vocational discernments. We will use the book "To Save a Thousand Souls" which can be ordered FREE by going to GoPriest.com and selecting "free resources." If you are interested contact Fr. Peter Crowe at vocations@dioceseaj.org to receive the zoom link. There is no commitment or pressure, just an opportunity to be with others, at least digitally, to gather in prayer, and have a good discussion that could be very helpful. If we don't know about a vocation, it is not possible to discern it. We need good men to say yes to our Lord. Could that man be you? Come and see!

Parish Council Meeting

There will be a Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday, November 17, at 6:30 PM, at the Cathedral Parish Center.