

## **NOVEMBER 22, 2020**

Many Americans are fascinated with England's monarchy. For many different reasons, we are drawn to the regal pageantry and all of the protocols associated with royal lifestyles. What's most amazing is that for all of the media attention focused on the comings and goings of English royalty, they really have very little effect on the day to day dealings of their country. Thoughts and images of kings and queens are often centered on this story book understanding of who and what they are. We associate protocols, etiquette, and proper words and actions to how we approach members of a royal family. These tools serve the necessary purpose of keeping them isolated, enthroned, and at a distance. There is something attractive about being an observer of ritual, pomp, and circumstance. It's almost theatrical.

Is this how we see Jesus Christ, too? We often behave as if Christ is an isolated, enthroned, royal, and even ineffective king. Jesus wants nothing to do with having the status of an earthly king. Jesus also does not want to be watched, observed, or set apart. He wants to get down and dirty with the very stuff of life especially the poor, marginalized, confused, hurting, lost, broken, imprisoned, and forgotten ones. Jesus is the king who turns the tables on us and wants not only our attention but our engagement and conversion. He wants us to get dirty too.

How we treat other people is at the heart of Christ's kingdom. "Whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me." At different times in our lives we are all counted among the "least" ones. We may not be physically poor, but we can easily become emotionally and spiritually poor. We may not be marginalized as many physically are, cast aside because they have too many needs or don't quite fit in. But who hasn't experienced isolation, loneliness, inner turmoil, angst, heartache, or loss? Almost every human being has experienced brokenness at one point or another, or will most definitely at some future point, facing discouragement, fear, insecurity. People are thirsty for more than water. We are imprisoned by our prejudices, misconceived notions and ideas, self-focused obsessions and ideologies. There is a lot of pain and many least ones around us. Stop, look and listen. This is what Christ the King is asking us to do. Look deeply into the eyes and soul of your sisters and brothers, all of them, and see Christ himself.

Being a spectator and observing all of the pageantry isn't enough. Jesus wants us to inherit the kingdom and live the kingdom. It is built on the blocks of love, mercy, compassion, hope, faith, and blessing. It engages those who want it, changes and informs minds, inspires and transforms hearts, converts and renews souls, and sets things right. There is such a great need around us. Are you ready and willing to do whatever you can to serve in God's kingdom?

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### **There Is Much to Be Done**

Growing up Catholic means I must have heard a million times the passage in Matthew's Gospel about how doing things for the "least of these" means you have done them for Jesus. Okay, that is an exaggeration to make a point. But it has been a slogan for so many social justice activities, from clothing and canned food drives, to letter writing campaigns and peaceful protests.

Growing up I only knew how to help the least of these through the school and church activities of the time. Today, YouTube and GodTube are filled with videos of creative ways people reach out to one another. Have you seen the one about the pizza party for the homeless? How about the fake lottery ticket or the house bought from online donations for a poor man? There are even videos of people paying for the car behind them at the drive-through! The awesome thing about this is that it serves as a witness to others. It is not boasting but instead sharing the Good News. Giving and good stewardship can be contagious!

Our pastor has several times over the years handed out \$10 bills to confirmation candidates and asked them to "pay it forward." They can keep the money or use it to make a difference in someone else's life. One teen planted a garden for an elderly woman. One bought ingredients for brownies and sold them to give even more than \$10 to charity. The teens not only learned something about good stewardship in the process, but also served as great examples to the parish community.

As always, there is much to be done. The King is coming soon! Let's spread the news and some love at the same time!

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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### **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.

### **The Peace and Love of God**

After a very long and boring homily the parishioners filed out of the church saying nothing to the pastor. Towards the end of the line was a thoughtful person who always commented on the homilies. "Father, today your homily reminded me of the peace and love of God!"

The pastor was thrilled. "No one has ever said anything like that about my preaching before. Why did it remind you?"

"Well, it reminded me of the peace of God because it surpassed all understanding, and the love of God because it endured forever!"

# **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>

<b>Sunday:</b>	<b>5:00 PM (Vigil)</b>	<b>Holyday:</b>	<b>5:30 PM (Vigil)</b>	<b>Weekday:</b>	<b>6:45 AM</b>
	<b>8:00 AM</b>		<b>8:00 AM</b>		<b>12:00 Noon</b>
	<b>10:00 AM</b>		<b>12:00 Noon</b>	<b>Saturday:</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>
	<b>12:00 Noon</b>		<b>5:30 PM</b>		<b>12:00 Noon</b>
	<b>5:00 PM</b>				

***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](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)**



**OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,  
KING OF THE UNIVERSE  
November 22, 2020**

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

**MASS INTENTIONS**

November 23, Monday: St. Clement, Pope and Martyr  
*Readings: Rv 14:1-3, 4-5; Lk 21:1-4*  
6:45AM + Dave Baronner (Jerry Fleck)  
12:00PM + Julianne Seidel (Don Sgro)

November 24, Tuesday: St. Andrew Dung-Lac Priest  
*Readings: Rv 14:14-19; Lk 21: 5-11*  
6:45 AM + Dave Berger (Jim & Steph Kilcoyne)  
12:00 PM + John Bauer (Clarence & Carrie Robertson)

November 25, Wednesday: St. Catherine of Alexandria  
*Readings: Rv 15:1-4; Lk 21; 12-19*  
6:45 AM + Michael Gibbons Fam.(Children of Tom & Mary Irwin)  
12:00PM + Tony Alianiello Birthday (Family)

November 26, Thursday: Thanksgiving Day  
*Readings: Rv 18:1-2,21-23,19:1-3,9; Lk 12: 20-28*  
9:00 AM Current & Deceased Members of  
William Penn Assoc. Branch 800

November 27, Friday: Weekday  
*Readings: Rv 20:1-4, 11-21; Lk 21:29-33*  
6:45 AM + Dan & Marian Burns(M/M Dave Hanekamp)  
12:00PM + Mildred Brady Birthday (Family)

November 28, Saturday:Weekday  
*Readings: Rv 22:1-7; Lk 21:34-36*  
8:00AM + John Adams, Rem. (The Adams Family)  
12:00PM + Tom & Mary Irwin (Children)  
*Vigil: FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT*

*Readings: Is 63:16-17,19; 64:2-7; 1 Cor 1:3-9; MK 13:33-37*  
5:00PM + Barbara Byers(Ken & Lou Eckenrode)

November 29, Sunday:  
8:00 AM + Janet Tomlinson(M/M Maurice Nazaruk)  
10:00 AM + Rose Ciavarella (Linda Kutz)  
12:00PM + Bernadine Garcia (Betty Yost)  
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.

**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.)

**Mass Schedule**

Please note that there is only one mass on Thanksgiving Day.

**Office Hours**

The Office will be closed on Thursday and Friday November 26th and 27th for the Thanksgiving Holiday. We will be reopened on Monday November 30th from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

**Collection of Food**

We are still having our food collection on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26. Please place your donations in the last pew in the transepts and in the back of the cathedral. There will be no offertory procession this year.



**OFFERTORY COLLECTION  
Sunday, November 15, 2020 \$3,978.00**



**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.

**Shop, Soup & Sip with St. Nick**

On Saturday and Sunday December 5 & 6, at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church Basement & School Cafeteria, 806-11th Street Altoona Pa 16602. Holy Trinity Catholic School is organizing their first annual "Shop, Soup, and Sip with St. Nick" with a one-of-a-kind visit with St. Nicholas himself, accompanied by delicious foods and fun. Guests will have opportunities to enjoy exquisite tastes of the season, balloon animals, and premier vendor shopping perfect for the holiday!

Pre-Purchase-\$2 child, \$3 Adult. Due to occupancy limitations, ticket times are staggered. We kindly ask that you and your guests adhere to your ticket time. Saturday times are 4:30-6:30pm and 6:30-8:30pm. Sunday times are 11:30-1:30pm and 1:30-3:30pm and 6:30-8:30pm. Please contact HTCS at 942-7835 for tickets or visit our website at- holytrinitycatholic.school.

**Prayers For Vocation**

Lord Jesus Christ, shepherd of souls, who called the apostles to be fishers of men, raise up new apostles in your holy Church. Teach them that to serve you is a reign: to possess you is to possess all things. Kindle in the hearts of our young people the fire of zeal for souls. Make them eager to spread your kingdom upon earth. Grant them courage to follow you, who are the Way, the Truth, and the Life; who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

**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.

**THE LITTLE BLUE BOOK**

*The Little Blue Book* for the Advent and Christmas Season will be available at the entrances next weekend. The meditation booklets contain 6 minutes worth of reflections and prayers based upon Scripture and the feasts, customs, and symbols of Advent and Christmas. The handy pocket-sized booklet can be conveniently used in church, at home, or while waiting in an office.

**Solemnity of our Lord Jesus King of the Universe**

When the Son of Man comes in glory, may we be among those who feed the hungry, nourish the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, and visits and cares for the ill and imprisoned. By sharing our gifts through the practice of good stewardship, Jesus tells us that we will receive God's blessing.

You will find a glimpse of the Kingdom whenever you use God-given resources to help the lost, strayed, injured and sick. What are you planning to do this Advent as we look to the beginning of a new Church year? Think about what you and your family can do to serve the needs of "the least of God's children."

