

## JANUARY 31, 2021

Most of us are quiet people who desire to live a good and holy life, promote the values and mission of the Gospel as best we can and desire to one day inherit the surprise of life eternal God promises to us. We are not trail blazers. We are simple people who want to do the simple things of life well. But there are others who left a more profound impact along the way of the paths they walked. Folks like Dorothy Day, Martin Luther King, Thomas Merton, Gandhi, St. Teresa of Calcutta, and many others left lasting impacts and legacies. Like Moses, they show us by word and deed who God is and what integrity and a purpose driven life look like. They show us how to be holy. We need Moses people like these to give us inspiration, hope and an example of holy living.

We do not need to do what they did or even mirror their relationship with God. Each one of us is God's special creation, with a purpose and soul known only to us. We need to learn how to open up and bring, without compromise, our soul-ness to life. We know when someone is authentic and centered because they always point to truth, even though they struggle and sin themselves, and they embody an unspoken timeless wisdom that just sounds and feels right. Jesus taught with this same type of authority and it astonished many who listened. We do not need to move mountains, advance a cause, write books or become notable. All we have to do is become credible witnesses of the faith we profess. Moses people can teach us how to do this.

St. Oscar Romero was an amazing man and a Moses figure for sure. He saw God in the burning bush and brought the flame of Gospel faith to the poorest of the poor, challenging the evils of the society in which he lived. He was tireless and persistent. He must have gotten very close to the problem because it cost him his life. He suspected it would. St. Romero said, "When we leave Mass, we ought to go out the way Moses descended Mt Sinai: with his face shining, with his heart brave and strong to face the world's difficulties." We can learn from this wisdom. If we allow the power of the Mass to truly transform us, we will leave that holy encounter changed. Our face will shine, and we will have courage. We can then bring what we have received to life's challenges. That sounds doable, doesn't it? Because of the example of our simple holiness, people will be amazed.

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**THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD**

### Presentation of the Lord

On Tuesday, February 2nd, the Church celebrates the feast of the Presentation of the Lord which occurs forty days after the birth of Jesus and is also known as Candlemas day, since the blessing and procession of candles is normally included in that day's liturgy. Before the revision of the General Roman Calendar this marked the end of the Christmas season.

The feast was first observed in the Eastern Church as "The Encounter." In the sixth century, it began to be observed in the West: in Rome with a more penitential character and in Gaul (France) with solemn blessings and processions of candles, popularly known as "Candlemas." The Presentation of the Lord concludes the celebration of the Nativity and with the offerings of the Virgin Mother and the prophecy of Simeon, the events now point toward Easter.

In obedience to the Old Law, the Lord Jesus, the first-born, was presented in the Temple by his Blessed Mother and his foster father. This is another 'epiphany' celebration insofar as the Christ Child is revealed as the Messiah through the canticle and words of Simeon and the testimony of Anna the prophetess. Christ is the light of the nations. In the Middle Ages this feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, or 'Candlemas,' was of great importance.



### VOTIVE CANDLES

The light signifies our prayer offered in faith coming into the light of God. With the light of faith, we petition our Lord in prayer, or petition a saint to pray with us and for us to the Lord. The light also shows a special reverence and our desire to remain present to the Lord in prayer even though we may depart and go about our daily business. The donation is \$4.00 per candle and the envelope can be placed in the weekend collection basket or put in the rectory door slot.



# 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](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) 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](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)



## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

January 31, 2021

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### February 1, Monday: Weekday

6:45AM +John Bauer (Wife)  
12:00PM +Debbie Fornwalt/Beiswenger (M/M Bob Chardon)

#### February 2, Tuesday: The Presentation of the Lord

6:45AM + Rose Ciavarella (M/M Pete Rodgers)  
12:00PM + Msgr. Roy Kline (Eileen Edwards)

#### February 3, Wednesday: Saint Blaise, Bishop and Martyr; Saint Ansgar

6:45AM + Bishop Joseph Adamec(Anonymous)  
12:00PM + Jane Davidson(Tony Hallinan)

#### February 4, Thursday: Weekday

6:45 AM + Richard Anthony(Peggy Arnold)  
12:00PM + Bernard Weaver, Ann. (M/M Jim Weaver)

#### February 5, Friday: Saint Agatha, Virgin/Martyr

6:45AM + Dorothy Berger(Mike & Mary Malligan)  
12:00PM + Deb & Bill Capotosti(Patrick Irwin)

#### February 6, Saturday: St. Paul Miki & Companions

8:00AM + Helen Zurilla, Anniversary (Family)  
12:00PM + Ken Lytle/Donna Lytle Civils(Nancy & Skip)  
**Vigil: FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
5:00PM + Michael Dionis, Anniversary (Mom & Dad)

#### February 7, Sunday:

8:00A M Kirk Kling,Thanksgiving(Jim & Elaine Weaver)  
10:00 AM + Belinda Paruch, Ann.(Family & Friends)  
12:00 PM + Brian McCaulley, Anniversary (Family)  
5:00 PM Pro Popolo/ For the People

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

#### 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.)

#### Readings for the week of January 31, 2021

**Sunday:** Dt 18:15-20/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9 [8]/1 Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28

**Monday:** Heb 11:32-40/Ps 31:20, 21, 22, 23, 24 [25]/Mk 5:1-20

**Tuesday:** Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10 [8]/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

**Wednesday:** Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a [cf. 17]/Mk 6:1-6

**Thursday:** Heb 12:18-19, 21-24/Ps 48:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 9, 10-11 [cf. 10]/Mk 6:7-13

**Friday:** Heb 13:1-8/Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9abc [1a]/Mk 6:14-29

**Saturday:** Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1]/Mk 6:30-34

**Next Sunday:** Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. 3a]/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/Mk 1:29-3

#### 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, February 3rd, 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

The Nocturnal Adoration for this month will take place at Saint Mary's Church, 1405- 5th Avenue, on Friday February 5, 2021 from 8:00 PM to 11:00 PM.

#### Basket Bingo Postponed

The Longaberger Basket and Vera Bradley Bingo scheduled for Sunday, April 25, is being postponed until **Sunday September 26th, 2021.**

#### ARISE Together in Christ

Our diocese is hoping to be able to continue ARISE, Season 5 in Easter 2021 season. More information will be available within the next few weeks. Please call Chris Laraia at 814-312-7317 if you are interested.



#### OFFERTORY COLLECTION Sunday, January 24, 2021 \$5,842.50

#### Calendar of Prizes 2021 Are Here!

Just a note, January 31, 2021 will be the last weekend that the Calendar of Prizes will be sold at the Cathedral Square Door after masses, however they will still be available at the Parish Office from 9:00 - 5:00 Monday thru Friday, or you can call the office at 814-944-4603.

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.

#### Stewardship Reflections

If we willingly give God authority over our lives and trust in His provision, He will take care of us no matter what. Are you not filled with a sense of wonder whenever Jesus speaks to you? As Christian stewards, it is our job to imitate Christ and follow his commands out of gratitude for all that he has given us.

We are more willing to live by God's commands when we are motivated by love and gratitude. May your astonishment cause Jesus' fame to spread wherever you go. May you serve with deep conviction as a disciple of Jesus Christ with your actions. (2020, *January 31, Stewardship Bulletin Reflection, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, Evans, Georgia*)

#### First Communion Prep Meetings

Tuesday, February 23 and Tuesday, March 23 from 6-8 PM in the parish hall. All students must be accompanied by an adult. **Masks are required.**

#### Confirmation Sacramental Prep

Confirmation session is scheduled for Wednesday, February 10, 2021, in the Cathedral Hall at 6:15 PM! All 11th grade candidates and their sponsor/parent should be there! Masks are required!



#### Embracing Change in Christ

It's officially one month since we popped the champagne, toasted 2021 and wrote down a list of resolutions. This is usually the time when we start to take a good, hard look in the mirror to assess what we have done — or have not done — with the first month of this brand-new year.

New years can be scary, can't they? Full of promise, sure, but also full of room for failure. Full of space for our old baggage, old fears and the continuation of old mistakes.

The same can be said of Christ, and the new life he offers us, if we are brave enough to accept it. Opportunities like that can be intimidating. In that moment, we might find ourselves like the man with the unclean spirit crying out: "What have you to do with me, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us?"

Jesus is a comforter of the afflicted; he is a consoling figure, but he is also a challenging one. Sometimes we have grown attached to our afflictions. The idea of correcting bad habits or forming new ones is frankly terrifying to us. We have a voice deep inside who sees Christ and his invitation to repentance, and it cries out in fear: "I know who you are!"

When we live in the present, disavowing the baggage of the past or fear of the future, we submit ourselves to the promise of redemption. Let us be brave everyday stewards and invite Christ's healing power into our lives. We won't regret it — I'm sure the demoniac never did.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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#### BLESSING OF THROATS

Due to the pandemic, this year there will be no individual blessing of throats. A blessing for the entire congregation will conclude the Prayers of the Faithful during the weekend Masses of January 30/31 and February 6/7.

