

FEBRUARY 7, 2021

If I only knew then what I know now, how different life would be. This sentiment, expressed in myriad ways, is found on every human being's lips at one point or another. Life may have brought us to a vulnerable place where we see some of the poor choices we made and the effects they are having. Perhaps we fell into some destructive and dysfunctional relationships or behaviors and are finding how they held us captive. Our zeal and passion for life may have drifted away and we are waking up to the reasons apathy has taken hold. Life can be hard. In fact, some would describe their lives as a drudgery. They walk through each day with an anxious unsettledness, wondering when their restlessness will cease. There is a temptation to believe that what I see is all I will get. Mortality and hopelessness await the dawn. If I could only have known what would come in the future, I could have made better choices and avoided all of this misery!

Really? While we can certainly give into weakness, sin, impulsiveness, and idiosyncrasies that cause us to stumble over ourselves, life is really a journey. If we don't make the mistake of wallowing in the mire of self-pity and realize the new life God is calling us to, then there are thrills, adventures, surprises, and soul-searching graces we can surely miss. We are not tethered to our past nor are we bound to the ills life can bring upon us. We are never hopeless or helpless. The problem is that our myopic vision only allows us to see the misery and misfortune that is before us, not the potential that can come from choosing healthier and more life-giving options. Jesus came that we might have fullness of life. We need to learn how to reach for Jesus' hand and let him help us to our feet.

We need to allow God into our pain and heal our past. We have to wrestle with our histories, agonize and search and cry out for the Divine healing we need to restore our faith, hope, and love. Job could not see how his story would end or trust the guidance of the God who called him. We live in that same blindness and suffer from the same lack of confidence. Once we allow ourselves to be touched by God's healing power, we begin to see that all of the pieces of our lives are necessary parts of a greater whole. Along the way of our lives, God uses our omissions and failures to create new things and possibilities. When doors close, others open and we can be amazed by the joyful and unexpected surprises we receive. Once we know the power of God's creative, healing, life-giving, forgiving, and dynamic presence, it is no wonder we want to put ourselves at the service of others and show them what life can be. ©LPi

End of Mass

Is it ever Ok to leave Mass before it ends?

This is an interesting question because beneath the surface there seems to be an assumption that if it's okay, then why do we have to stay after we receive communion? The short answer is "no," but we definitely want to go a bit deeper as we consider why.

First, when we think about questions like this, we must consider this in adult terms. If there is something gravely important that we need to do, then we must attend to that. However, if it is a matter of convenience or preference, then we really have to stop and think again. First, while we always want to recognize the importance of sacramental communion in the Mass, we also need to understand how important the time of thanksgiving and prayer after communion is. This is summarized in the Prayer After Communion offered by the celebrant and then we are also commissioned to "Go forth" during the Dismissal of the Mass, reminding us that we have been entrusted with a gift — the Word of God and the Presence of Christ in the sacrament — and that we are to share that gift with others.

If we simply leave after we receive communion, we risk two things. First, there is the possibility that we will turn our reception of communion into a purely personal, individual experience that is separated from our common experience of worship — and communion in the fullest sense — and, second, we lose an opportunity for gratitude and serious reflection if we simply leave after communion. This time of thanksgiving, reflection, and, ultimately, missioning, are important and, in the end, an essential part of the celebration of the Mass

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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.



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)	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				

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

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 7, 2021

MASS INTENTIONS

February 8, Monday: Saint Jerome Emiliani; Saint Josephine Bakhita

6:45AM Rosemarie Fedeli (Family)
12:00PM+ Betsy Cote(Tina Reighard Foltyniewicz)

February 9, Tuesday: Weekday

6:45AM + Jim Davidson(Alice & John Joyce)
12:00PM + John Adams (Mr & Mrs Albert Yurinko)

February 10, Wednesday: Saint Scholastica

6:45AM + Madeline Seidel, Ann.(Jim & Elaine Weaver)
12:00PM + David Baronner (Maxine Cover)

February 11, Thursday: Our Lady of Lourdes

6:45 AM + Julianne Seidel (Don Sgro)
12:00PM + Lori Keirn (Kevin & Cindy Boslet)

February 12, Friday: Weekday

6:45AM + John & Marian McNelis(M/M Jim Kilcoyne)
12:00PM + Don & Anita Hanekamp(Dave & Maureen Hanekamp)

February 13, Weekday

8:00AM + Carrie Kibler Detwiler (Mom & Dad)
12:00PM + Margaret Michelle Chislow(Helen Tomassetti)

Vigil: SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM + Alice Winkler(Michelle & Walt Kennedy)

February 14, Sunday:

8:00AM + Linda Ruggery George(Sam & Janet lanuzzi)
10:00AM + Joyce Rourke McNeal(Kirk Dodson)
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 February 7, 2021

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 1:29-39

Monday: Gn 1:1-19/Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10 and 12,
24 and 35c [31b]/Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday: Gn 1:20—2:4a/Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [2ab]/
Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday: Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17/Ps 104:1-2a, 27-28,
29bc-30 [1a]/Mk 7:14-23

Thursday: Gn 2:18-25/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1a]/
Mk 7:24-30

Friday: Gn 3:1-8/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7 [1a]/Mk 7:31-37

Saturday: Gn 3:9-24/Ps 90:2, 3-4abc, 5-6, 12-13
[1]/Mk 8:1-10

Next Sunday: Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11
[7]/1 Cor 10:31—11:1/Mk 1:40-4

Utter Uns Fish Dinner

Altoona Almrausch Schuhplatter's German Dance Group's annual fish dinner, 5:00PM to 7:00 PM or until sold out, every Friday during Lent beginning February 19th until April 2nd, 2021 at the Utter Uns Club on Van Buren Avenue and 14th Street; \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children under 10. Dinners include your choice of baked or fried haddock fish, baked macaroni and cheese or scalloped potatoes, stewed tomatoes, cole slaw, roll and butter. You do not have to be a member of the Utter Uns to attend. Dinners will be available for take out; limited seating is available due to Covid-19 limitations at first come basis.

Missionary Outreach

As the pandemic forced churches to close and spirituality meetings to cease this past spring, St. Benedict Church in Johnstown expanded their website to include, Mass, Spiritual devotions and website links to help the faithful during the difficult time. The success of the website has opened spiritual programs to the world. Christians from Africa, Pakistan, Uganda, Malawi, and India have contacted Deacon Michael Russo, who is ministry at St. Benedict, wanting to share both prayer and life experiences. Through this outreach, Deacon Michael befriended Linus a young seminarian in Africa who is affiliated with the Missionaries of Jesus the Savior and Imran Mustaq, a Christian in Pakistan who had started a school a school for Christian children in his area, teaching from his home so that they can receive a religious education. This missionary effort, supported by several members of the Diaconate Community of St. Benedict Church. If you want more information please contact Deacon Michael (814) 288-3036 or email Michael.russo@atlanticbb.net.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION Sunday, January 31, 2021 \$8,916.15

Calendar of Prizes 2021 Are Here!

We are not selling The Calendar of Prizes after the Masses on the weekends, but they are still available at the Parish Office, Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

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. Thank you for all your support.

Religious Education

This year we have decided to make our annual Lenten Rice Bowl Project a parish project. The Rice Bowl project is sponsored by the Catholic Relief Services serving the nation and world including our own area where needed. Almsgiving is a very important part of Lent and we are asking anyone who would like to participate to please take a "Rice Bowl" from the baskets at the doors. Collect loose change in these bowls throughout the 40 days of Lent and return your box by Easter. You may drop the box into the collection baskets at the doors after Masses or return it to the Parish Office during hours Monday thru Friday 9:00AM-5:00PM.

We wish to thank all those in advance who choose to participate in our project. If you have any questions, please call Chris Laraia at 814-312-7317.

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.**

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.



Drive Thru Lenten Fish Lunches

Cathedral Parish Social Committee will offer drive thru delicious Fish Lunches on Ash Wednesday from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. and the Fridays during Lent, except Good Friday, from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM or till sold out. Take out orders only. The menu includes fish, macaroni and cheese, cole slaw, and a sandwich roll. Please call in take-out orders of ten or more so we can have them ready for you the number is 814-944-4603. Spread the great news with others about our fine Fish Lunches!

The Audacity of Holiness

Do you know a holy person? I'm not talking about piety — that's important, too, in its own way. But right now, I'm speaking of holiness.

St. Therese of Lisieux called holiness "a disposition of the heart that makes us humble and little in the arms of God, aware of our weakness, and confident — in the most audacious way — in His Fatherly goodness."

The holy person sees a storm on the horizon of life, and rather than give themselves over to fear and despair (natural and understandable reactions), regards the gathering winds as an opportunity to rely more fully on God. The holy person takes a bad situation and sanctifies it with charity and understanding that defies our fallen human nature.

Peter's mother-in-law was still in the throes of a fever when Jesus grasped her hand. It wasn't until she took his hand and allowed him to help her up that "the fever left her and she waited on them." Before the fever could leave her, she had to commit to holiness — to put her trust in him in a most audacious way. She had to find it within herself to lift her weakened hand to grasp his — and as soon as she did, she was rewarded. Her bodily health restored, she gave thanks, and attended to his needs.

God's hand is always outstretched to us. Will we take it, even if the fever of sin and pride and worldly concerns rages in our souls? Will we muster the strength? Will we be audacious enough to have confidence in His Fatherly goodness?
— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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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!**