

## **FEBRUARY 14, 2021**

The Church, as a voice of the Gospel, proclaims the sacredness of all human life. Everyone created by God is fashioned in God's image and has Divine DNA at the center of their soul. God never leaves what God creates but always remains intimately bound to what he has given form. Everyone has a place and because they have received the gift of Divine Blessing, nobody deserves to feel inferior, unworthy, unwanted, unclean or marginalized. Even the most broken of souls has a place. We, the Body of Christ, have the privilege and responsibility to give voice to the voiceless. The cries of the little one in his or her mother's womb are just as sacred as the cries of one who is homeless and hungry. The migrant deserves our attention as much as the forgotten elderly and even the prisoner, with a heart hardened by anger and resentment, deserves respect and dignity.

The Gospel of Life is often hard to swallow, and we would rather keep those we consider unclean, different or unfixable in a place by themselves. It is hard to see them with us, but they deserve to be. There is far too much violence in this world and the result of that violence is the assault on human life. Many are forced to leave the place they call home in search of safer ground, finding few if any along the way who will help them. How different today's Gospel story would be if Jesus gave in to what was politically correct at that time. The leper would have been turned away and a soul, already beaten down by disease and fear, would have experienced an even deeper wound. Jesus wouldn't have captured much attention from anyone, nor would he have mirrored the Father's compassion and love.

Where do we stand with all of this? Do we at least understand that God's vision is often in conflict with the vision put forth in our world and even the one we advance ourselves? There is no doubt that it is incredibly challenging to find a place for everyone at the table. This challenge is compounded when the systems of operation and structure that are so ingrained in us affirm power and privilege rather than inclusivity and justice. Everything really goes askew when the powerful begin to control who is entitled to wholeness and inclusion, and greed becomes a driving force. Prejudice and entitlement raise their ugly heads and we find ourselves with quite a mess. It's time to admit that things have been a mess for a very long time. The mess needs to be healed, not by erasing it but by allowing God to touch it and make it whole. We need to bring God back to the center of life where God belongs. There are no easy solutions to the world's dilemmas. But, knowing that wholeness, healing, and dignity are worthy pursuits, we can more confidently labor to achieve God's vision.

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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 Unfailing Goodness of God**

I have always wondered why Jesus told the cleansed leper not to publicize how he had been healed by the Son of God. It's not that I can't understand why Jesus would want to keep the matter quiet — after all, he knew that as soon as people heard, he would be mobbed with requests for healings, and his movements restricted.

What gets me is the fact that Jesus simply must have realized the leper would not listen to him. Why give someone a command you know they will ignore? It's a complicated question, and when I reflect on it, I can't help but connect it to another equally complicated question: why does God, all-good and all-knowing, allow bad things to happen?

Yes, God is all-good and all-knowing. So when He gives us free will, He knows what we will do with it. However, He is also all-powerful. He can and will bring good from any situation, any tragedy, or even any instance where someone ignores Him.

Was it a sin for this leper to do other than what Jesus had said? That's a heavy question for a Sunday morning! But it's plain to see that, even though this man ignored Jesus' command, God still used his actions. How many were brought to Christ because of the news spread by this leper!

As someone trying to live out a stewardship way of life, what is God requesting of you right now?  
— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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### **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.

# **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>

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](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)**

## SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 14, 2021

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### February 15, Monday: Weekday

6:45 AM + Lavelle Family (Phyllis Lavelle Sheetz)  
12:00 PM + Lori Crilley, Birth.(Sisters Pam & Vickie)

#### February 16, Tuesday: Weekday

6:45 AM Priests (Anonymous)  
12:00 PM + Fr. Andrew Stanko(Mary Lysinger)

#### February 17, Wednesday: Ash Wednesday

6:45 AM + Dave Berger (McNelis All Stars)  
8:00 AM + Joseph Knott Jr(Jeff, Ryan & Beckey Knott)  
12:00 PM + Barbara Jorden (McNelis Teachers)  
5:30 PM + Amelia Seiler (Tom & Beth Moore)

#### February 18, Thursday After Ash Wednesday

6:45 AM + Tracey Anderson and Mom (Friend)  
12:00 PM + Michael McCaulley Birthday (Family)

#### February 19, Friday After Ash Wednesday

6:45 AM + Peggy Joyce (Family)  
12:00 PM + Barb Beech, Birthday(Debbie Ball)

#### February 20, Weekday

8:00 AM + The Weidlich Family(J.Donald Douglas)  
12:00 PM + Richard Yahner (Wife)

#### Vigil: FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

5:00PM + Robert Beck(M/M Nunzio Rehm Jr.)

#### February 21, Sunday

8:00 AM + Barry Saletnik(Barry & Cathie Yogoda)  
10:00 AM + Paul Sheets(Skip Cowan Family)  
12:00 PM + Patricia Koeck(Susan & Stan Galant)  
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 14, 2021

**Sunday:** Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11 [7]/1 Cor 10:31—11:1/Mk 1:40-45

**Monday:** Gn 4:1-15, 25/Ps 50:1 and 8, 16bc-17, 20-21 [14a]/Mk 8:11-13

**Tuesday:** Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10/Ps 29:1a and 2, 3ac-4, 3b and 9c-10 [11b]/Mk 8:14-21

**Wednesday:** Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17 [cf. 3a]/2 Cor 5:20—6:2/ Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

**Thursday:** Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [Ps 40:5a]/ Lk 9:22-25

**Friday:** Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19 [19b]/Mt 9:14-15

**Saturday:** Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [11ab]/Lk 5:27-32

**Next Sunday:** Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 10]/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-1

#### Drive Thru Lenten Fish Lunches

Cathedral Parish Social Committee will offer drive thru 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 cost is \$9.00.

#### TODAY, FEBRUARY 14, IS NATIONAL MARRIAGE DAY

We pray for all married couples: that they may strive daily to faithfully and lovingly live out their marriage vows, bearing witness to the love God has for each of us.



#### OFFERTORY COLLECTION Sunday, February 7, 2021 \$9,526.00

#### Calendar of Prizes 2021 Are Here!

The Calendar of Prizes are still available at the Parish Office from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday.

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.

#### FAST AND ABSTINENCE

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence. Abstinence refers to not eating meat at all on those days. Persons 14 years of age and older are to abstain. Fasting refers to one full meal, with two small meals, and no eating between meals. People who have reached their 18th birthday and up to their 59th are obligated to fast. In addition to these obligations, other forms of fast and abstinence may be observed.

#### 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.



#### Ash Wednesday Reflection

Good stewards realize they really don't own anything. It all belongs to God. It is not so much that God owns them, but they are not ours because we are called to offer them to him.

The reality is that you and I were born naked and with nothing. We will die naked and with nothing. If we really could possess something material, there would be a way to take it with us. But alas, it all slips through our grasp and passes away. Even though all of us came from dust to dust we will return, through Jesus Christ we will live forever in a perfect state. The only thing we can take with us? Our hearts and whether or not we loved.

#### THE DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES

Ashes will be distributed during Masses on Ash Wednesday. Due to the COVID pandemic, this year ashes will be distributed by sprinkling them on the head and not on the forehead with a sign of the cross.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS WILL BE PRAYED DURING LENT ON FRIDAYS AT 5:30 P.M.

