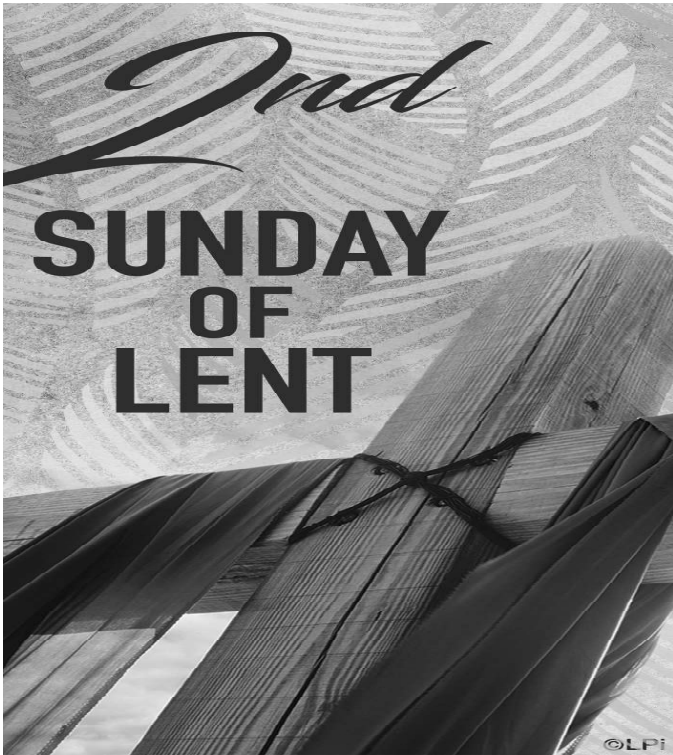


**FEBRUARY 28, 2021**

A pregnant woman was walking in the store and met an old friend. Her friend exclaimed, “You are absolutely beaming!” The new life God placed in her womb radiated throughout her body. It was brightly visible on her face and in her eyes. Transformation and change usually happen from the inside out. It is very rare that simply imposing structure from the outside does any good. Yes, it is true that routines and habits can change when things are done differently. But, for this change to last there has to be an interior renewal and metamorphosis as well. Simply regulating behavior and bringing someone into conformity with accepted protocols doesn’t mean their heart and soul come with them.

Peter was a homeless man who lived in a very remote and rudimentary tent community. He was happy to make his daily trip to McDonald’s and always welcomed a gift card or two so that he could buy some coffee and something to eat. A generous advocate worked to secure him an apartment in hopes of moving Peter out of his makeshift housing and into something safer. Peter finally got the grand tour of his new “digs,” received his own key, remarked how wonderful the place was, closed the door behind him when they left and never returned. He preferred his tent. No matter how much things changed on the outside, Peter was happy where he was. A poignant lesson was learned that day.

How is your Lent going? By now you ought to have a sense of whether you’re really “into it” this year and something transformational is happening. For many, it’s only the stuff on the outside that changes for a few weeks and then they return to business as usual. For others, there are some real inner changes happening that are deepening their relationships with God, others, self, and creation. If we are serious about moving to a new place and radiating with the presence of new life and joy, then we have to clear the way to listen for God’s call. Then, there is God’s request to change things up a bit and order our lives differently. After realizing we have been called and given a mission, we have to trust that this is where we need to be. And then, after all of this hard work we are asked to act. The fruit that is revealed will indicate whether our journey is authentic. The brilliance of conversion will begin to shine on our faces as we contemplate the One to whom we are asked to listen.



**When Sacrifice Becomes Mundane**

It seems to happen every year, like clockwork: we drag a bit, as we enter into the second week of Lent. On Ash Wednesday, we feel a bit like soldiers banging our shields, rushing into battle. “We’re ready, God!” our hearts cry out. “Transform us through sacrifice! Your will be done!”

But by now, these Lenten resolutions are no longer novelties — they’ve joined the ranks of everyday inconveniences, which somehow are the hardest to bear. Because transformation, in real life, happens in inches, just as a battle is won slowly in the crash of one sword against another. It’s not always a dramatic thing, to the naked eye. It’s the perseverance in prayer despite weariness, or the continual denial of some pleasure even though there’s that nagging voice in our minds saying: go ahead, God doesn’t really mind.

It’s a week when we all need a shock to the system — and wouldn’t you know it, this Sunday God gives us a double-whammy of dramatic sacrificial scenes. We picture Abraham, who also cried “Ready!” when God called, never imagining what He would ask: the surrender of his long-awaited son. We see Christ himself transfigured, as God shows us what He is ready to give up for love of us.

We must remain committed, persevering daily in acknowledging that everything belongs to God. What we sacrifice, we simply give back to Him.

If God is for us, who can be against us? Can we still reply, “Ready!” when we hear the call of God?

**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

**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)

***SERVING THE PEOPLE OF GOD IN THE CITY OF ALTOONA SINCE 1851***



## SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

February 28, 2021

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### March 1, Monday: Lenten Weekday

6:45 AM + Hilda Conrad (Dave & Pat Zeak)  
12:00 PM + Fred Fedeli (Rosemarie Fedeli)

#### March 2, Tuesday: Lenten Weekday

6:45 AM + Msgr. Roy Kline (Sandy Huber)  
12:00 PM + Dorothy Berger (Paul & Marlene Sheets)

#### March 3, Wednesday: Saint Catherine Drexel

6:45 AM + Bp. Joseph Adamec (Anonymous)  
12:00 PM + John Adams (Knights of Columbus)

#### March 4, Thursday: Saint Casimir

6:45 AM + John Duffy (The Pleva Family)  
12:00 PM + Jim Doud, Birthday (Debbie Ball)

#### March 5, Friday: Lenten Weekday

6:45 AM + Msgr. Phillip Saylor (Mary Lysinger Family)  
12:00 PM + Sr. Catherine Mary Malloy (Diana Fanale)

#### March 6, Saturday: Lenten Weekday

8:00 AM + Carrie Kibler Detwiler (Mom & Dad)  
12:00 PM + Mike Lardieri (Ed & Lois Simanski)  
**Vigil: THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**  
5:00PM Mary Lysinger, Birthday (Terry Smith)

#### March 7, Sunday

8:00 AM + Robert Beck (Jean Schandelmeier)  
10:00 AM + Fran Moses (Altoona Family Physicians)  
12:00 PM + Amelia Seiler (Joan Weston)  
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 28, 2021

**Sunday:** Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 [9]/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

**Monday:** Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9 11 and 13 [cf. 103:10a]/Lk 6:36-38

**Tuesday:** Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23 [23b]/Mt 23:1-12

**Wednesday:** Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16 [17b]/Mt 20:17-28

**Thursday:** Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [40:5a]/Lk 16:19-31

**Friday:** Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21 [5a]/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

**Saturday:** Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12 [8a]/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

**Next Sunday:** Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [Jn 6:68c]/1 Cor 1:22-25/Jn 2:13-25 or Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 [8]/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

### 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. We deliver on orders of 10 or more lunches, if you would like.

### First Communion Prep Meetings

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

### ARISE Together in Christ

ARISE small groups will be resuming during the Easter 2021 season. If interested please contact Chris Laraia at 814-312-7317 so that booklets can be ordered in time.

### EVENING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

You are invited to sing evening prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament on the Sundays of Lent at 6:30 PM. Our worship ends with benediction. Our adoration of the sacramental presence of Christ outside of Mass is a profound expression of our appreciation of the Eucharist,

### 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.

### Baptismal Prep Cless Scheduled

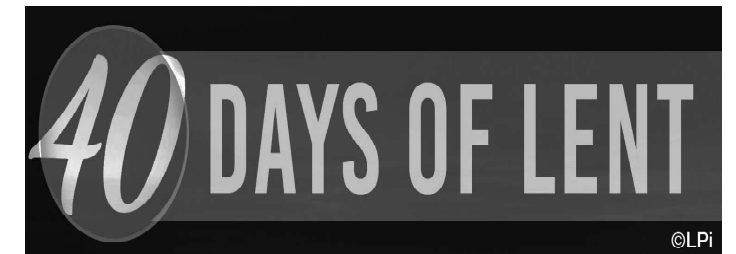
There is a Baptismal Prep class scheduled for Tuesday, March 2nd, at 6:30 PM in the Cathedral Parish Center Education Room on 14th Street entrance. **Masks** are required. Need not wait till the baby is due.

### Contribution Reports

Reports for Income Tax purposes may be obtained by calling the Parish Office at 944-4603. Office hours are 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

### Eucharistic Adoration

Eucharistic Adoration will be held the first Wednesday of next month, March 3rd from 12:30 until after the 7:00 PM confessions. The Monstrance is located in front of the tabernacle in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Please note this in your schedules and plan to spend some quality time in prayer before the Sacrament in exposition.

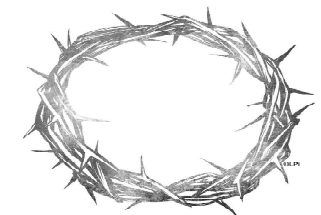


### FAST AND ABSTINENCE

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.



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



### Nocturnal Adoration

The Nocturnal Adoration for this month will take place at Saint Mark's Church, 416- 6th Avenue, on Friday March 5, 2021 from 8:00 PM to 11:00 PM.

### Pray For Our Sick

Remember our sisters and brothers who are weakened by illness in your prayers. Prayers are sometimes the best prescribed medicine.

