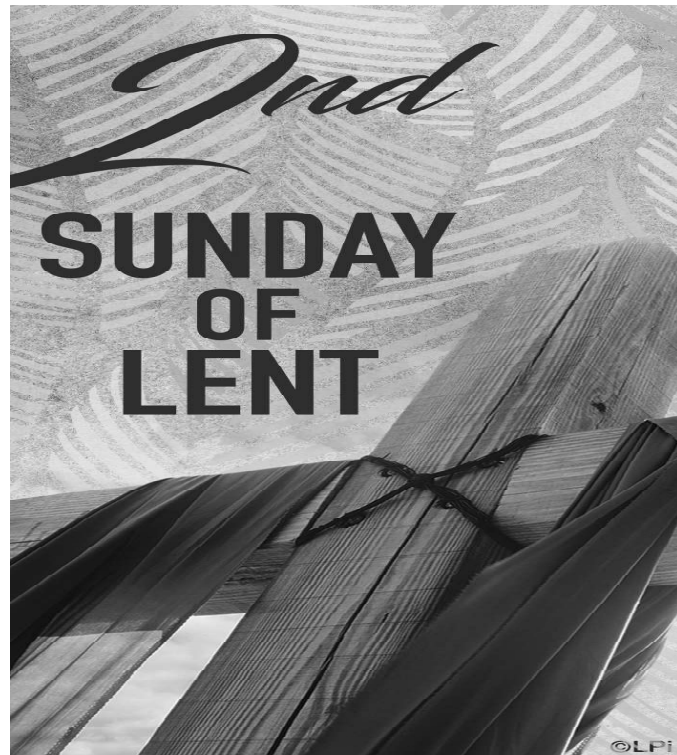


## MARCH 7, 2021

Many prefer a “create as you go” approach to life where laws and protocols primarily exist to secure and protect liberties rather than dictate and outline proper and right behavior. There are no real benchmarks for acceptable ethical and moral behavior, with a “you can’t tell me what to do” attitude prevailing. Parents are even limited in what they can request of their children, and dealing with threatening behaviors, especially from adults, are a challenge as well. Acceptable and expected conduct seems to amount to safeguarding each other’s space rather than increasing awareness of necessary relationships that require a more refined and higher response.

We have lost our axis to the world of “anything goes” and no longer see the Ten Commandments as practical and wise guideposts to effective living. We live on “relativism island” where only a possible suggestion to “love and do not harm” may be the only standard able to be preached. While Jesus most certainly emphasized love above anything else, it was never about warm fuzzy feelings or halfhearted humanitarian efforts. The love of which Jesus spoke establishes an intimate connection with God, neighbor, self, and creation. Because this love, who is God Himself, is at the foundational core of our lives, it demands actions and attitudes that serve to build up, increase, and free up those relationships. Love requires proper conduct. Preserving and enhancing these love centered relationships is at the heart of the Ten Commandments (and the Beatitudes) and the reason for Jesus’ display of anger in the temple.

The Ten Commandments can save the world from turmoil and conflict by instilling basic moral and relational principles within us. They also hold a healthy sense of sin in balance and always remind us of our relationship with God and the freedom God offers. Our faith preserves these jewels of truth that we often look beyond, dismiss altogether, or seek to remove from public view. Human beings can be so arrogant at times. Our Lenten journey, especially when embarked upon with sincerity and resolve, can restore all of our essential relationships. When we get absorbed in life’s preoccupations and demands, things can quickly get distorted and we can find ourselves way off track. In short, we find ourselves in sin. Humanity is losing a sense of both grace and sin. We need both to understand what is real and true. Until we do, the oppressive systems and ideologies that hurt so many will never change. We will never change. We are grateful for those courageous souls who willingly embrace the conversion and hard work Lent demands and stand against antiquated systems and ideologies. They give us hope that all is not lost. ©LPi



### Parents Just Don’t Understand

Anybody remember the old rap song by the Fresh Prince, aka Will Smith, “Parents Just Don’t Understand?” As we grow up, it is sometimes a struggle for us to imagine that our parents understand us. It can seem impossible that Mom and Dad remember the stress of exam week or peer pressure. We never saw them as children; we never saw their disappointed faces when they weren’t invited to a party, or their dashed hopes at a bad test grade. We never saw them homesick their first week of college or nervous to ask their crush to Homecoming.

We’re often the same way about God. We gripe about what He asks of us. “He doesn’t understand sin — he’s all-good,” we think. “He doesn’t understand temptation — He is perfect.”

In Scripture, God can be very much a father, telling us what we can and cannot do. And yet, in His divine genius, He is sometimes simply a man at a well, asking for a drink.

For me, it turns out I didn’t need to tell my parents anything about what I was going through as a kid — they knew already. What I needed was for them to tell me what to do, and how to do it.

Similarly, we don’t need to tell God about human nature. We need God to tell us about His nature. He’s good enough to ask us for a drink, to enter into our humanity. But we have to remember, for our own sakes, to have the humility to ask Him for something, too — the water that will quench our eternal thirst.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

©LPi

# 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) 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**

## THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

February 28, 2021

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### March 8, Monday: Saint John of God

6:45 AM + Joseph Soyka (Karen & Steve Martynuska)  
12:00 PM + Jane Davidson (Gary & Janet Roesch)

#### March 9, Tuesday: Saint Francis of Rome

6:45 AM + Bill & Kathleen Hoff Wed. Ann. (Family)  
12:00 PM + Gerri Rose Remembrance (Elizabeth Rose)

#### March 10, Wednesday: Lenten Weekday

6:45 AM + Priests (Anonymous)  
12:00 PM + Alfred Rutolo, Ann. (Family)

#### March 11, Thursday: Lenten Weekday

6:45 AM + Joseph Anthony Moffa (Estate)  
12:00 PM + Joyce Moyer (Marie & Sharon Yanchik)

#### March 12, Friday: Lenten Weekday

6:45 AM + Jack Bauer Mike & Sherry Byrne)  
12:00 PM + Karl Burgmeier (Daughter Carol)

#### March 13, Saturday: Lenten Weekday

8:00 AM + Joe Wiedemer, Ann. (Family)  
12:00 PM + Irene DeBernardis Doug & Jan Stoehr)  
**Vigil: FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**  
5:00 PM + Marti Stefanon (Kathy Grove)

#### March 14, Sunday

8:00 AM + Eric Hockenberry Sr, Birthday (Family)  
10:00 AM + Sister Beverly Hmel, Birth. (Sam & Judy Kokolis)  
12:00 PM + Angeline Mangiacarne, Birthday (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 March 7, 2021

**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

**Monday:** 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4 [cf 42:3]/ Lk 4:24-30

**Tuesday:** Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [6a]/Mt 18:21-35

**Wednesday:** Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20]/ Mt 5:17-19

**Thursday:** Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 [8]/Lk 11:14-23

**Friday:** Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17 [cf. 11 and 9a]/Mk 12:28-34

**Saturday:** Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab [cf. Hos 6:6]/Lk 18:9-14

**Next Sunday:** 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 [6ab]/Eph 2:4-10/Jn 3:14-21 or 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4m 5, 6 [1]/ Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

#### 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,

## OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, February 28, \$5,510.42

#### Enrich your Lent!

Listen to JMJ Catholic Radio, WMMH, 91.9 FM, or online at [www.jmj750.com](http://www.jmj750.com)

#### 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.

#### 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.

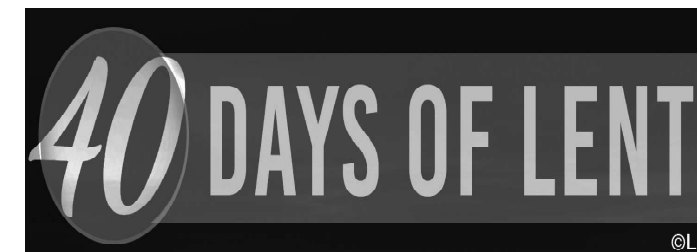
We wish to thank all those in advance who choose to participate in our project. If you have any questions, please call Chris Laraia at 814-312-7317.

#### How to Understand the Catholic Mass

For many Catholics, going to Mass has been a weekly habit since they were small children; and yet those *Catholics* can often feel like they are just 'going through the motions' and not really understanding what truly *happens* at the Mass on a spiritual level.

Bishop Guilfoyle's student evangelization organization, is hosting a 3-week presentation aimed at helping adult Catholics get more out of the Mass and really understand what happens there. "The Mass (Revealed)" will be held from 6-7:30 pm on Sunday evenings at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Altoona, and is opened to **ALL** interested adults or teens of any age! Sessions will be held in the church, where appropriate spacing and masking will be observed.

The program kicks off on Sunday evening, March 14th, with a presentation by Bob Sutton on understanding the basics of the Mass. Father Peter Crowe will be present on March 21st, and March 28th, a group of teens will give personal testimonies about their experiences of worship and the Eucharist. There is no cost to attend.



#### 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.

#### Be a Disciple of Hope

The annual Catholic Ministry Drive supports 14 ministries through which people are accompanied in their journey. There are so many gifted and generous laypersons in our diocese who shared their time and talent to support our Catholic ministries. Without their help and your help, we could not fulfill our mission. This year, more than others, our world, our nation, our communities, our parishes, and our families need tangible expressions of hope.

Please reflect on Bishop Mark's invitation when it arrives this week and return your pledge card in next weekend's offertory. **Our target is \$46,385.00**

#### One Faith YOUTH GROUP

Next event at St. Mary's will be Friday, March 12, beginning with the Stations of the Cross at 7:00 p.m.

After Stations and Mass we will continue at St. Mary's Memorial Hall until 9:30 p.m. with playing glow in the dark capture the flag, having cheese pizza, and some fellowship. All are welcome, Catholic or not, ages 13-18. Ethan Potter- Youth Leader.