

MARCH 14, 2021

Is there something to Lent that goes beyond our own spiritual house cleaning and spiritual refinement? Yes, there is! It has to do with listening and learning so that we can take up the task of the Gospel with greater clarity and fortitude. While the spiritual refocusing of Lent is necessary, the fruit of this Lenten conversion has much more to do with learning how we can be a better Church than it does about our eternal salvation. Salvation is a gift that flows out of God's unconditional Mercy and cannot be merited. The spiritual maturity we can experience as a result of our Lenten disciplines serves to reduce the anxiety and apprehension we may experience as messengers of good, but very challenging, and unsettling, news.

St. Oscar Romero said that, "a church that doesn't provoke any crises, a gospel that doesn't unsettle, a word of God that doesn't get under anyone's skin, a word of God that doesn't touch the real sin of the society in which it is being proclaimed, what gospel is that?" When we listen to those descriptive and provocative words, do they resonate with anything in our experience? As messengers of the Gospel, we are called to bring an unsettling message to the world. If our main concern is protecting our self-interests, then we are missing something huge! Many really struggle with being rejected, dismissed, or perceived as someone who is speaking out of turn. There is a counter cultural message that must be preached that clearly sides with the poor, marginalized, victimized, oppressed, neglected, disregarded, and lost souls throughout the world. There is a widespread misery among the peoples that is all too often allowed to fester with no one coming forward to offer a change or resolution.

The Church can speak to the needed structural changes that will allow people to earn just wages, feed their families and share abundantly and equally in the gifts of God's good earth. Such a vision is not some optimistic fairy tale, but the vision of the Creator himself. Lent reminds us, as St. Oscar Romero also states, that, "we are workers, not master builder, ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own." We are not called to labor simply for the benefit of the here and now but of the "what is to come." Our myopic vision can be replaced by a more far reaching Lenten vision that is much greater and deeper in scope. As long as we are carrying the right blueprints with us and our thoughts extend beyond ourselves, then even the little things we do and the simplest prayer we utter go a long way. They give witness to our preference for the light of Christ and not the darkness of error and sin

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The Year of Saint Joseph

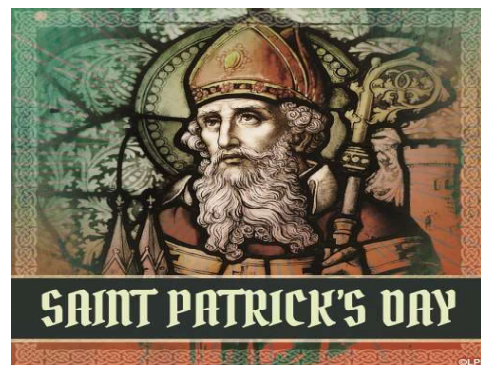
On December 8, 2020, the 150th Anniversary of the proclamation of Saint Joseph as Patron Saint of the Universal Church, Pope Francis issued the Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde* (With a Father's Heart) as an extended reflection of the holy father of Jesus and spouse Mary. Written in the backdrop of the Covid-19 Pandemic he shares, "Saint Joseph devoted himself as a father in varied ways: beloved, tender and loving, obedient, accepting, creatively courageous, working, and in the shadows."

Because of Pope Francis' deep devotion to Saint Joseph, he also announced on December 8 that the Church would be celebrating a Year of Saint Joseph, "which would take place for one year up to December 8, 2021. This is to be a special year with a special focus of the Church's prayers and activities devoted to Saint Joseph. This year can also be a special year for those in need of Saint Joseph's healing intercession in their relationship with their own father. It will be a year of discovery and growth for all.

March 19, 2021 is the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. According to the gospels, Joseph was a skilled craftsman and a descendant of King David. Joseph, learning of Mary's pregnancy with a child that was not his, and under penalty of law she would be put to death, deciding to quietly dissolve the marriage "as he was a righteous man. Told in his dreams by an angel of God that he was to take Mary as his wife and make her child as his own. "Joseph did as the angel commanded him, he took her as his wife." (Matthew 1:19-25)

On this special day of the Church year many parishes will offer a banquet of blessings called the Saint Joseph Table. If your parish does not celebrate this tradition, or is not celebrating this year, consider making an offering of food donation to your local food bank or parish collection.

Their will be prayer experiences, liturgies, special activities and local pilgrimage sites named throughout the eight counties in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. There will be many opportunities to gain Plenary Indulgences during the year according to the norms of the Church.



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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 14, 2021

MASS INTENTIONS

March 15, Monday: Lenten Weekday

6:45 AM + David A. Baronner (Kevin & Jane Byrne)
12:00 PM + Rose Ciavarella (Linda Kutz)

March 16, Tuesday: Lenten Weekday

6:45 AM + Joseph Knott Jr (Cindy & Larry Neveling)
12:00 PM + Amelia Seiler (Sr Paula & Pauline Soup Kitchen)

March 17, Wednesday: Saint Patrick

6:45 AM + Dec. Parishioners Irish Descent (McNelis All Stars)
12:00 PM + Gina Laird (Maureen & Mary Gene Vogel)

March 18, Thursday: Saint Cyril of Jerusalem

6:45 AM + Vocations (Anonymous)
12:00 PM + Jim Davidson (The Shelling Family)

March 19, Friday: Saint Joseph Spouse of BVM

6:45 AM + For Poor Souls (Anonymous)
12:00 PM + Deb Capotosti (Mr & Mrs Joseph Clark)

March 20, Saturday: Lenten Weekday

8:00 AM + Barry Saletnik (Carrie & Clare)
12:00 PM + Thomas A & Mary Irwin (Children)
Vigil: FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
5:00 PM + Chad Dionis, Anniversary (Mom and Dad)

March 21, Sunday

8:00 AM + Mary Maurer (Dave & Karen Rhoa)
10:00 AM + Patricia Koeck (Mary Ann Hofer)
12:00 PM + Bernadine Garcia (Kathie & Ken Civils)
5:00 PM Pro Popolo/ For the People

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

Job Opportunity

Job seekers: There are various openings available throughout the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese. Log on to <https://www.dioceseaj.org/employment/>.

Enrich your Lent!

Listen to JMJ Catholic Radio, WMMH, 91.9 FM, or online at www.jmj750.com

Readings for the week of March 14, 2021

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

Monday: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b [2a]/Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9 [8]/Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18 [8a]/Jn 5:17-30

Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23 [4a]/Jn 5:31-47

Friday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [37]/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/ Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12 [2a]/Jn 7:40-53

Next Sunday: Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15 [12a]/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33 or Ez 37:12-14/Rom 8:8-11/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [7]/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

Parish Council Meeting

There will be a Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday, March 16, at 6:30 PM, at the Cathedral Parish Center.

Stewardship Reflections

The Lord's words to Samuel about who should become the next king of Israel cut right to the heart of what matters in God's eyes, "man sees the appearance, but the Lord looks into the heart." We often embrace the misconception that status and appearance are what is most important in life. Yet, God clearly states that it is our hearts that matters most.

Jesus tells us that if we live our lives as faithful stewards our deeds will shine out and be clearly seen as we reflect God's dream. What can we do so our deeds will bring light to the world in those around us? And how do we cultivate hearts worthy of God?

It starts in prayer, giving God undivided attention each day. Through this week set time aside for our Lord, He will work on our hearts so that they will become more like him.

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, 2021 \$7,232.50

Sunday, March 7, 2021 \$9,147.00

Helpers Needed

Helpers needed to clean the Cathedral Church on Wednesday, March 24 at 9:00 AM. All are welcome!

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.

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.

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.

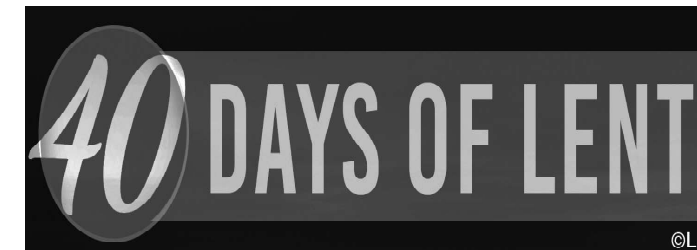
Knights of Columbus

Knights of Columbus #551 membership drive: Join the Knights of Columbus Council #551 (Altoona) for an evening of socializing, food, and a NCAA men's basketball sweet sixteen game from 7-10 pm, Saturday, March 27 as a part of the council's membership drive.

The Knights of Columbus is located at 1502- 12th Avenue. All practicing Catholic men ages 18 and older are welcome to join the Knights of Columbus. There is no cost and a cash bar will be available. Masks and social distancing will be followed. Pre-registration is encouraged by calling Bob Kasun, Knights of Columbus Council #551 membership director, at (814)-935-2031 or emailing kofc551@gmail.com or bobkasunvb@gmail.com.

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.



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

Your sacrificial gifts of prayer and treasure will make an immediate impact on ministries that care for the poor, strengthen family life, nurture our youth, and provide leadership development for clergy and laity.

During Lent, and throughout the year, we are challenged to renew our spiritual devotions and duties—and one of those holy duties is to support the Church. We are challenged to open our eyes and see those in our midst that bring hope of life through their time and talent in serving the community through the 14 ministries supported by the Catholic Ministries Drive.

If you didn't bring your Commitment Card to mass this weekend, please bring it next weekend or you may make an online gift at www.dioceseaj.org/giving. All gifts received beyond our parish target \$46,385.00, will be used to (tables and chairs in the Cathedral hall). 100% of your gifts goes directly to these ministries!