

**MARCH 21, 2021**

Any good teacher or parent will tell you that once a lesson is really learned it doesn't need to be taught again. When we internalize things we have learned, they become a part of who we are and influence how we perceive and interact with our world. The same is true for the law God has written upon our hearts. Once humanity learns this lesson, we will simply know it to be true and act accordingly. Sometimes, it is hard to get people to learn the lessons they need to learn. They are often distracted, disinterested, conflicted, misdirected, or just too stubborn and unable or unwilling to see what is right before their eyes. Understanding that God is in a loving and committed relationship with those fashioned and formed in God's own image, seems like such a simple lesson to learn. But history and experience has proven that it is not.

We struggle with faith, especially when that faith asks us to learn something very particular about ourselves. We must, like a grain of wheat, fall to the ground and die. Because God's DNA is at the very core of who we are, there are specific pearls of wisdom that must be acquired before we can live a full life. One very powerful lesson is that it is not the task of the world to tell us who we are and what has meaning, but God. For many, death is not an opportunity for greater life but a permanent ending to the life they have known. Jesus knew every dimension to what it means to be fully human because he was! He knows the joys, limitations, sorrows, frustrations, wonders, suffering, opportunities, and joys of the human experience. Jesus can teach us a wealth of knowledge and life's lessons from his example, especially obedience.

When we accept the law God has placed in our hearts and gain wisdom from it, then when we suffer we learn to listen more attentively to the Voice behind that law. We naturally flee to our Creator for inspiration, consolation, hope, direction, and comfort as we navigate through this time of darkness. We will not need to run from it, subdue it, fight it, or be overcome by it because we will know, having internalized this profound lesson before, that God will bring new life. God's law is love and love never fails. Even in the moments of Jesus' deepest despair, he glorified the name of his Father. What he learned allowed him to put everything in perspective and be obedient to the tender, loving Voice that echoed within. As Lent quickly winds down, may we learn the same! Then, may we gain the fortitude and wisdom to help others see what is right before their eyes.

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**The Year of Saint Joseph**

The first way to get to know Saint Joseph is through reading and praying with the Gospels of Jesus Christ according to Saint Matthew and Saint Luke. We learn the history of Saint Joseph in an indirect way through the story of the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth. The actions and facts of Saint Joseph's life are revealed through his relationships and roles as a foster father of Jesus and the spouse of Mary.

During this special time in the Catholic Church, the Faithful will have the opportunity to commit themselves "with prayer and good works, to obtain, with the help of St. Joseph, head of the Heavenly Family of Nazareth, comfort and relief from the serious human and social tribulations that besiege the contemporary world today." They will be granted what is called a "Plenary Indulgence," a time to repair the sinful relationship that we entered into because of personal sin, thou we have been forgiven. "It is in offering actions and prayers that allow for "A way to reduce the amount of punishment one has to undergo for sins." (#1471, *Catechism of the Catholic Church*).

There is a lengthy list of options named by Pope Francis and the Vatican Committee on Indulgences in addition to the standard obligations. A growing list of pilgrimage opportunities will be offered by the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. **2021, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Liturgy Committee, Liturgy Office, Mary, Mother of Church Pastoral Center, 2713- West Chestnut Avenue, Altoona Pa 16601.**

During this special year of Saint Joseph you may want to enter into the 33 day prayer to consecrate yourself to Saint Joseph. What does it mean for a person? It is basically you acknowledging that he is your spiritual father, and you want to be like him. To show it, you entrust yourself entirely into his paternal care so that he can help you acquire his virtues and become holy, you make a formal act of entrustment in prayer to you spiritual father. Saint Joseph in turn, will give those consecrated to him his undivided attention, protection and guidance.

Father Donald Caaoway, MIC has written a book, *Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of our Spiritual Father*, to assist you. They prayer can be made in a group or by a single person. Based on the Litany to Saint Joseph and his 24 different titles, a series of special prayers and quotes of holy man and women is followed by a reflection on a wonder of St. Joseph. You are bound to be enlightened by your broaden sense and appreciation of the "silent St. Joseph" and find a trusting companion and protector in him and the entire Holy Family. **2021, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Liturgy Committee, Liturgy Office, Mary, Mother of Church Pastoral Center, 2713- West Chestnut Avenue, Altoona Pa 16601.**

**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**

**FAX: 814-942-4337**

**E-MAIL: 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
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***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 LENT

March 21, 2021

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### March 22, Monday: Lenten Weekday

6:45 AM + Deceased of Hrubiak & Kurdziel Families

(Father Dennis Hrubiak)

12:00PM + Julianne Seidel (Don Sgro)

#### March 23, Tuesday: Saint Turibius of Mogrovejo

6:45 AM + Angeline Mangiacarne, Birthday (Family)

12:00 PM + Jim Doud, Anniversary (Debbie Ball)

#### March 24, Wednesday: Lenten Weekday

6:45 AM + Janet Tomlinson (M/M Regis McCloskey)

12:00 PM + Gerri Rose, Ann.(Kathleen Rose Davis)

#### March 25, Thursday: THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

6:45 AM + Orvita Knott (Richard & Connie Steinbeiser)

12:00 PM + Sandy Cuzzolina, Anniversary (Family)

#### March 26, Friday: Lenten Weekday

6:45 AM + Dan & Marian Burns(M/M Dave Hanekamp)

12:00 PM + Lori Keirn(Dorie Seymour)

#### March 27, Saturday: Lenten Weekday

8:00 AM + Alice Winkler(Mary Jane & Les Hildebrand)

12:00 PM + Madeline Vogel(Shelly & John Wolf Sr.)

#### *Vigil:* PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

5:00PM + Edgar L Johnston, Anniversary (Wife)

#### March 28, Sunday

8:00 AM + Anna Marie Jacobs (Kirk Dodson)

10:00 PM + Barry & Brian Elmers (Mom & Dad)

12:00 PM + Dorothy Stephens (Robert Farabaugh)

5:00 PM Pro Popolo/ For the People

***Please remember our sick in your prayers.***

#### Palm Sunday

Palm will be distributed on Palm Sunday after all the Masses.

#### Enrich your Lent!

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

#### Readings for the week of March 21, 2021

**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

**Monday:** Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/ Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [4ab]/Jn 8:1-11

**Tuesday:** Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21 [2]/Jn 8:21-30

**Wednesday:** Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56 [52b]/Jn 8:31-42

**Thursday:** Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8, 8-9, 10, 11 [8a, 9a]/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38

**Friday:** Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7 [cf. 7]/ Jn 10:31-42

**Saturday:** Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13 [cf. 10d]/Jn 11:45-56

**Next Sunday:** Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16/Is 50:4-7/ Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 [2a]/Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14:1—15:47 or 15:1-39

#### First Communion Prep Meeting

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

#### Drive Thru Lenten Fish Lunches

Cathedral Parish Social Committee will offer their last Fish Lunch on Friday, March 26th, from 11:00 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.

#### 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.

#### 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, March 14, \$6,963.00

#### Helpers Needed

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

#### ARISE Together in Christ

ARISE small groups will be resuming April 11th. Sign up sheets will be available at the Cathedral Square Door on Saturday, March 20th. If any questions contact Chris Laraia at 814-312-7317.

#### Stewardship Reflections

You are like a grain of wheat. Keeping your time, talent, and treasure to yourself yields no harvest. With God's grace we can die to ourselves and bear fruit for His kingdom. When you live for others, the evangelizing mission of Jesus Christ is revealed. Is God calling you to be charitable in a specific way this week?

We are called to detach from our own desires and entrust our lives to all that God has in store for us. As this Lenten season comes to a close, let us strive to partake in the richness God has offered to us through his covenant by more faithfully living out our call to be disciples of Christ, with frequent reception of the sacraments, and heartfelt service to our families and neighbors. (*Stewardship Bulletin Reflection*, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, February 22, 2021).

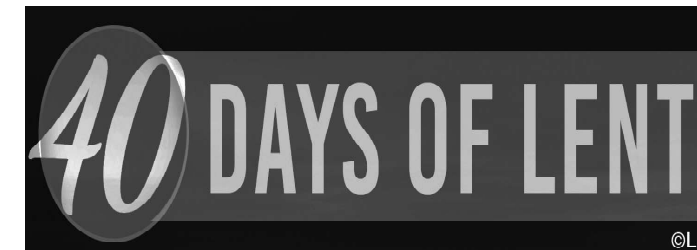
#### Basket Bingo Meeting

We will be holding a meeting regarding our Basket Bingo on Thursday April 8th at 6:30 PM at the Cathedral Parish Center in the Conference Room. We are going to pray that this year's Basket Bingo can take place on Sunday, September 26th, 2021. If anyone interested or has any ideas please come and join us, there is plenty of room for social distancing. All are welcome.

#### 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](mailto:kofc551@gmail.com) or [bobkasunvb@gmail.com](mailto:bobkasunvb@gmail.com).



#### 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](http://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!