

MARCH 28, 2021

Many struggle with Jesus. Some who consider themselves faithful hail him in their churches but still struggle to figure out what to do with him on our streets. The message is somehow more palatable when it echoes pious renderings and sentiments and involves singing hosannas during worship. It becomes a bit trickier when it gets to the part about changing the way we conduct the business of our lives, becoming more sensitive to the disadvantaged, poor, and marginalized, and living as servants of our Loving Creator. Ultimately, it is a struggle between wanting to be God ourselves and letting God be God as God is. That's why it's so easy to become hypocritical. We, like those who hailed Christ as he arrived in Jerusalem and sent Christ to the cross to die, also talk out of both sides of our mouths. We entertain what suits us at the time and walk away from the rest.

Many neglect God's beautiful creation because they prefer what humans have made instead. Progress isn't seen in preserving and enhancing what God has made but replacing it with something we believe is better and more useful. The earth, flowers, and animals are all expendable if they stand in the way of the "more" we want to achieve. We seek to remove as many obstacles and hurdles as possible in search of the easiest, quickest, and most efficient path we can find. We have created drugs and laws that preserve our free choice, even though it may mean setting aside God's vision and example. Why suffer when we can easily be put to rest? Why endure insult or injury when we can retaliate, eliminate or subdue? Why accept life when it is acceptable to choose otherwise? We want to be God and resist accepting the fact that our real Creator has already given us the blueprints for the life we need to live in the Beatitudes and in the example of his Passion. We don't like being stewards and managers and really want the power to do as we wish and desire. We want to create our own way.

Where has the true, effective Christian voice been through all of the wars and violence, prejudice and unjust conquests, abuse of human beings and attempted extinctions of nationalities, the establishments of procedures and protocols that serve only a few and not the many and all of the injustices and exploitations that are a part of our human history? A few courageous prophets have stood up and out throughout all of the comings and goings of our human journey with many receiving the same fate as the Crucified One we hail this week. Some still walk among us as shining stars showing us how it really can be. How would Jesus' journey have ended if he lived life as we do? Unless we encounter the good with the bad, the just with the unjust, the grace with the sin, the glory with the cross, the death with the life we most certainly risk rendering God obsolete. After all, haven't we already convinced ourselves that we can do better?

The Year of Saint Joseph

This is a snapshot of communities serving in the diocese under the patronage and in devotion to Saint Joseph.

Sisters of Saint Joseph: Established their first convent in Ebensburg, PA in 1869 having come to the U. S. via St. Louis in 1836. Originally founded in 1650 assisted by a Jesuit priest, Fr. Jean-Pierre Medaille S.J in LePuy France, six lay "ordinary" Catholic French women, living outside of a convent, and without habit, devoted themselves to the needs of the ordinary people. The Congregation of the Sisters or the Daughters of Saint Joseph were placed under the protection of St. Joseph, by His Excellency, Henri de Maupas, in 1651. "A Sister of Saint Joseph works in sincere charity-the manner of Saint Joseph whose name she bears...with an orientation towards excellence tempered by gentleness, peace and joy." (Excerpts from COMUNIDAD PARA EL MUNDO The History of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and the Vice Province of Peru By Mary M. McGlone, CSJ, © November, 2004)

Discalced Carmelite Nuns, Carmelite Monastery, Loretto: Mother Celine of the Eucharist, OCD, Prioress, shared, "Did you know that behind the walls of cloistered Carmelite monasteries around the world, St. Joseph is prayed to daily, loved, and honored in a special way? That is because our foundress, St. Teresa of Jesus (Avila), had a passionate devotion to him. She would affectionately call him the "glorious St. Joseph." While she worked to bring about the Discalced (without shoes) reform with the Carmelite Order in 1562, St. Joseph appeared to her many times promising to bring about great blessings and success on the renewal Teresa was called to initiate

Carmelite Community of the Word, Gallitzin: Sr. Marilyn Welch, CCW., "As daughters of Teresa of Avila, our spirituality follows her lead, recognizing St. Joseph as one who is always ready to guide and intercede on our behalf as he did for Mary and Jesus during his life on earth. Teresa of Avila teaches us that wisdom and spiritual fruitfulness come from a spirituality rooted in total dedication to the Incarnate Word." (CCW Constitutions #12) 2021, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Liturgy Committee, Liturgy Office, Mary, Mother of the Church Pastoral Center, 2713 W. 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.

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)
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

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

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

**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION
OF THE LORD
March 28, 2021
MASS INTENTIONS**

March 29, Monday: of Holy Week

6:45 AM + Msgr. Paul Panza (Ed & Lois Simanski)
11:00 AM + Deseased Clergy

March 30, Tuesday: of Holy Week

6:45 AM + Louise Hallinan (Family)
12:00 PM + Amelia Seiler, Birth. (Husband, Jim)

March 31, Wednesday: of Holy Week

6:45 AM + Sheila Krape (Chris McNelis)
12:00 PM + Mary Catherine Moran Aigner
(Peg & Joe Serra)

April 1, Thursday: Mass of The Lord's Supper

7:00 PM Intentions of the Celebrant

April 2, Friday of the Passion of the Lord

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
12:00 PM Commemoration of the Lord's Passion
5:30 PM Stations of the Cross

April 3, Saturday: Holy Saturday

9:00 AM Office of the Readings

Vigil: Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

7:00 PM Pro Popolo/For the People

April 4, Easter Sunday Resurrection of the Lord

8:00 AM Parishioners and Benefactors
10:00 PM Parishioners and Benefactors
12:00 PM Parishioners and Benefactors
5:00 PM There is no Evening Mass today

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

The Cathedral Parish Office will be closed Thursday, April 1 to Monday April 5, will reopen on Tuesday April 6th.

Enrich your Lent!

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

Readings for the week of March 28, 2021

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

Monday: Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14 [1a]/Jn 12:1-11

Tuesday: Is 49:1-6/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17 [cf. 15ab]/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a/Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34 [14c]/Mt 26:14-25

Thursday: Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9/Ps 89:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [2a]/Rv 1:5-8/Lk 4:16-21

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18 [cf. 1 Cor 10:16]/1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15

Friday: Is 52:13—53:12/Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25 [Lk 23:46]/ Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/Jn 18:1—19:42

Saturday: Vigil: Gn 1:1—2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a/Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 [30] or Ps 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20-22 [5b]/Gn 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11 [1]/Ex 14:15—15:1/Ex 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18 [1b]/ Is 54:5-14/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 [2a]/Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [3]/ Bar 3:9-15, 32—4:4/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [Jn 6:68c]/Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28/ Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 [42:2] or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3] or Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19 [12a]/Rom 6:3-11/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/Mk 16:1-7

Next Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 [24]/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/ Jn 20:1-9 or Mk 16:1-7 or Lk 24:13-3

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.

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.

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 21, \$6,658.50**



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

HOLY TRIDUUM

As you know, the Holy Triduum (Holy Three Days), are the "high point of the entire liturgical year." The preeminent liturgies begin with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper which will be celebrated on Holy Thursday, April 1, at 7:00 P.M. Mass will be followed by adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 10:00 P.M. On Good Friday, April 2, you are invited to join Bishop Mark for Morning Prayer at 9 o'clock. Our bishop will also lead us in the liturgy of the Commemoration of the Lord's Passion at Noon. The Scriptural Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 5:30 P.M. On Holy Saturday, April 3, Bishop Mark will lead us in the Office of Readings at 9 o'clock in the morning. This year, the Easter Vigil Mass, celebrated by Bishop Mark, will begin at 7:00 P.M. Our Masses on Easter Sunday, April 4, will be at 8:00 A.M., 10:00 A.M. and Noon. There is no 5 o'clock evening Mass on Easter Sunday.

While significant progress has been made, our liturgies will be influenced a bit by the Covid-19 pandemic. There will be no washing of the feet on Holy Thursday. For the Veneration of the Cross on Good Friday, we are to bow or make the sign of the cross. The cross is not to be kissed. Collection baskets will be at the entrances for our contributions for the shrines of the Holy Land. This year's Easter Vigil is beginning earlier than usual without the blessing of fire or the lighting of individually held candles. Small bottles of Holy Water will be available for home use. Masks are to be worn and safe distancing is to be observed at all liturgies.

Rice Bowl Collection

If you have a Rice Bowl that you want to turn in, you may do so this week at the Holy Thursday Mass, or any other Masses over the weekend, or you may drop it off at the Parish Office Monday thru Wednesday of Holy Week 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Or anyday next week Tuesday thru Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

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.**

**FIRE: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
IN PERSON CLASS to resume**

FIRE Class

Sunday Evening March 28th, 2021

We will meet from 6:15-7:15 PM

Masks are required!

Meet in the Education Center on 14th Street.

Final FIRE Class

Sunday Evening April 11th, 2021

We will meet from 6:15-7:15 PM

Masks are required!

Meet in the Education Center on 14th Street

CONFIRMATION

Tuesday April 13th, 2021 at 7:00 PM

The Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament

Candidates and Sponsors should arrive at 6:30 PM

Nocturnal Adoration

The Nocturnal Adoration for this month will take place at Sacred Heart Church, 511- 20th Street, on Friday, April 9th, 2021 from 8:00 PM to 11:00 PM.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

You are invited to spend some time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament from after the noon Mass on Wednesday, April 7th, until after the 7:00 P.M. confessions. There is a sign-up sheet on the table at the center of the cathedral.

