

APRIL 18, 2021

We often act out of ignorance. Armed with the best of intentions, we think we are seeing clearly and correctly, but we are not. We don't always understand the full meaning of things and only perceive part of the truth. Hence, our judgments and actions can be impaired by myopic, incomplete or erroneous perceptions. The meaning of life, understanding of human experience, and negotiating life's challenges can all become skewed without proper understanding and vision. The resurrection of Christ is the corrective to our incomplete and limited view of life. Looking at things with the eyes of faith brings a depth of clarity and understanding to how we see God, ourselves, others, and the world.

Even the disciples struggled with their limited understanding and ignorant perceptions. It was only when Jesus opened their minds to understand the Scriptures that their eyes were opened. It was their "aha" moment when everything clicked. We all want the substance of our lives to come together, make sense, and have meaning. This is easier to achieve when things are going positively, and life is good. It is when suffering, disappointment, death, hardship, and injustice enter the picture that things can become unsettled and disoriented. Our faith in the goodness and love of God is tested. We tend to shift our focus on these difficult and challenging moments and do not see them within the greater picture of how God intends life to unfold. We can gain, from the passion and resurrection of Christ, the clear vision we need in order to move away from ignorance to enlightenment.

We need our "aha" moment when everything comes together and clicks. It can come in a fleeting instant when we feel totally connected with God, where we find ourselves, others and all of creation. It is a moment when all is right and good, regardless of how difficult our journey. Our "aha" moment assures us that God is here, right with us, in us and around us bringing us a gift and blessing we can receive nowhere else: peace. In those brief sacramental encounters when we are lifted up out of ourselves and centered, we can hear God say, "peace be with you," and we feel secure. It's all okay. The resurrected Christ has the power to bring this gift to us. Some people, as they are facing their deaths, remark about this peace. When looking into the window of eternity, they experience a depth of joy and are amazed at God's goodness and closeness. We are called to be witnesses to this Good News.

The Year of Saint Joseph

"After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; his mother said to him, "Child why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety. Then he went down with them to Nazareth, and was obedient to them." (Lk 2:46-49)

Saint John Paul II speaks of the Church's devotion to St. Joseph: "This patronage must be invoked as ever necessary for the Church, not only as a defense against all dangers, but also, and indeed primarily, as an impetus for her renewed commitment to evangelization in the world and to re-evangelization in those lands and nations where religion and the Christian life were formerly flourishing and are now put to a hard test."

"Besides trusting in Joseph's sure protection, the Church also trusts in his noble example, which transcends all individual states of life and serves as a model for the entire Christian community, whatever the condition and duties of each of its members may be." *Homily of St. John Paul II, Solemnity of St. Joseph, 19, March 1998. 2021, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Liturgy Committee, Liturgy Office, Mary, Mother of the Church Pastoral Center, 2713- West Chestnut Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601*

From the Conclusion of the Apostolic Letter Patris Corde

Hail, Guardian and Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.

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.



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
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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**

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 18, 2021

MASS INTENTIONS

April 19, Monday: Easter Weekday

6:45 AM Bp. Mark Barchak 10th Anniversary of
Episcopal Ordination (Cathedral Parish)
12:00 PM + Nancy Nagy (Linda Kutz)

April 20, Tuesday: Easter Weekday

6:45 AM + Alice Ann Martynuska (Family)
12:00 PM + Karen Detwiler, Birthday (Diane Luke)

April 21, Wednesday: St. Anselm, Bp. and Dr.

6:45 AM + Roger Doyle (McNelis All Stars)
12:00 PM + Patricia Koeck (Mr & Mrs Tom Vinglas)

April 22, Thursday: Easter Weekday

6:45 AM + Orvita Knott (Mr. & Mrs. Tim Knob)
12:00 PM + Jack Bauer (Gina Romani)

April 23, Friday: Saint George, Martyr; Saint Adalbert Bishop and Martyr

6:45 AM + Special Intention (Anonymous)
12:00 PM + Thomas A & Mary Irwin (Children)

April 24, Saturday: St. Fedelis of Sigmaringen

8:00 AM + Joyce Moyer (Mike & Suzan Kuny)
12:00 PM + Lori Keirn (Sisters Paula & Pauline)
Vigil: FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
5:00 PM + Betsy Cote (Matt & Weez Seidel)

April 25, Sunday

8:00 AM + CW04 Todd C Talasky (Mark Talasky)
10:00 AM + Jeldo Evangelisto (Joe & Laurie Hogan)
12:00 PM + Joseph Anthony Moffa Birthday (Estate)
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 April 18, 2021

Sunday: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19/Ps 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9 [7a]/1 Jn 2:1-5a/Lk 24:35-48

Monday: Acts 6:8-15/Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30 [1ab]/Jn 6:22-29

Tuesday: Acts 7:51—8:1a/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 7b and 8a, 17 and 21ab [6a]/Jn 6:30-35

Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8/Ps 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a [1]/Jn 6:35-40

Thursday: Acts 8:26-40/Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20 [1]/Jn 6:44-51

Friday: Acts 9:1-20/Ps 117:1bc, 2 [Mk 16:15]/Jn 6:52-59

Saturday: Acts 9:31-42/Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17 [12]/Jn 6:60-69

Next Sunday: Acts 4:8-12/Ps 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29 [22]/1 Jn 3:1-2/Jn 10:11-1

Tenth Grade Confirmation Prep Session

Wednesday Evening, April 21, 2021 at 6:15 PM, in the Cathedral Hall there will be a Confirmation Prep session for all 10th Grade Candidates, their parent and or sponsor. **Masks are required.**

Parish Finance Council Meeting

There will be a Parish Finance Council Meeting on Monday, April 19, at 4:00 PM, at the Cathedral Parish Center.

Parish Council Meeting

There will be a Parish Council Meeting Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 6:30 pm, in the Cathedral Parish Center.

Additional Easter Flowers

Paul & Mary Gebhardt
Mr. & Mrs. Santos Batista-Ortiz
Terrance Smith
Shaffer & Hollingshead Families
Julia, Cristina, Regino, Katarina, Virginia & Robert Jones Sr., Regino Flores Lopez, Douglas Egan

Spaghetti Dinner

The Knights of Columbus of St. John's Parish in New Baltimore is sponsoring a Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, May 16th from 11:00AM to 1:00PM. In house seating will be available as well as safe take-out option. The dinner includes spaghetti and meatballs, salad, bread and dessert. Adults (12 and over) \$9.00, Children (3-11) \$3.00, All proceeds are donated to local food banks and local charities!

OFFERTORY COLLECTION Sunday, April 11, 2021 \$5,835.00

Rice Bowl Collection

The Religious Ed Department would like to thank all parishioners for their stewardship in contributing to the Lenten RCL Rice Bowl project. This year we collected over \$1,000.00 to be given to countries in need around the world, including the United States. These monies will help to supply clean water systems, food, clothing, education, and medicine. RCL has had a larger need for help this year due to Covid-19 pandemic and this contribution is greatly appreciated.

Religious Ed PK-8

Service Hours forms are due by May 1st for grades 1-8. Final online class is May 23rd.

First Reconciliation/First Communion

Registration forms and copies of Baptism certificates are due by June 1st for those who will be receiving 1st Reconciliation/First Communion 2021-2022.

How to Fail Your Way to Heaven

You know what are some of my favorite moments in Scripture? The little "Easter eggs" of Jesus' humanity, things like Jesus falling asleep, Jesus drawing in the sand, Jesus playing with kids. And how about Jesus rising from the dead, appearing to his disciples and saying, "So, have you got anything to eat?"

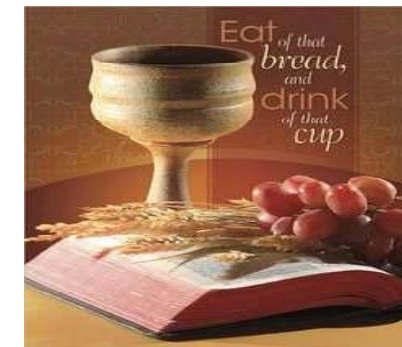
It's right for us to always keep in mind that Jesus is God. But we also have to remember that he was man. He got hungry. He cried when he felt sad and laughed when he felt happy. He got tired. He got bored.

Because he was God, none of those feelings ever led him into sin, like they do us. He never spent a car ride trying to pass the hours by seeing how annoyed he could make his older sister. He never smacked Peter over the head for saying something really stupid. But he did unleash some Biblically righteous anger on those traders in the temple, didn't he? And he wasn't shy about calling Peter "a Satan" when his friend tempted him to take the easy way out.

It's the tightrope walk we all try to balance every day, honoring our human emotions while still answering God's call to be better. Being perfect isn't the domain of the Christian — that's the domain of Christ only. Trying and failing, then trying again (and failing again) and again and again? That's the domain of the Christian.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

©LPi



Since we will not be celebrating the reception of Holy Communion as a whole large group, our children will be receiving either individually or in small groups of two to four. As you might expect, the children and their families are excited about having the opportunity to receive our Lord in the sacrament of His Body and Blood.

The following children made their First Holy Communion the weekend of April 10/11:

Alaina Ake	Jessy Batista-Ortiz
McKayla Gority	Giavanna Gormish
Jordyn Hallinan	



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Bishop Mark celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation for our parish's candidates on Tuesday, July 14, at 7:00 P.M. By receiving the special gift of the Holy Spirit and completing the process of being initiated into the Christian life, our teenagers have been strengthened with the power of the Holy Spirit so that they will live as witnesses and disciples of Jesus in word and deed. It is also hoped that they will be more involved in the life of the Church which will be enriched by their personal talents and gifts.

Confirmation Recipients

Jean Koury, D.R.E.
Phyllis Baker, Catechist

Joseph Ball	Tia Bartkowiak
Aidan Bender	Colin Butler
Mia DeStefano	Karen Duffy
Kyle Hite	Katelyn Krish