

MAY 9, 2021

“Remain in my love,” and, “I call you friends,” are powerful words that are found in John’s Gospel. Most of us probably have them committed to memory or have at least heard them proclaimed dozens of times. They are words that can easily become trite and quickly glossed over without fully pondering and digesting their profound beauty. When we take the time to immerse ourselves in them, they can radically change our lives and our relationships. They can open up new doors of adventure and hold countless possibilities for meaning. The essence of love and friendship are things that can easily be taken for granted. They have always been there and are a significant part of our lives. Many would say that they could not live without love and friendship, and they put a great deal of care into preserving, deepening and sustaining them. Love and friendship share a mutual relationship with each other that deserves more reflection.

Where does love come from? We can consider relationships that have not succeeded and conclude that they were somehow due to our “failures in love.” In doing so, we assume that human beings are the ones responsible for love, its success and also its failure. While our weakness, emotional composition and sinfulness can easily impact our ability to love, its origin is not human. God is love. God is love’s author and origin. When we love, it is God who loves in and through us. It is because of this divine closeness that Jesus is able to call us friends! It is not because of anything we have done but simply because of who we are. Realizing and contemplating this awesome reality becomes a game changer across the board. It gives us reason to clear the table of anything that can adversely affect the way we love so that we can open the door for its author to shine forth.

Coming upon this truth is what leads folks like St. Francis of Assisi to leave that which is comfortable and worldly and live a radical life. They relate with the love of God that radiates in and through all living things and appreciate their sacredness. It was having an intimate experience of God’s love and friendship that propelled St. Francis and others to embrace simplicity, act nonviolently, pursue humility, love enemies, care for the earth and open up avenues for true justice. Understanding this profound truth will also help us find peaceful solutions to world’s problems, restore relationships with our sisters and brothers, bring the grace of loving stewardship to creation and heal many wounds. Once we begin to see how wonderfully holy all of life really is, we discover joy. We lose our need for fear, develop a fierce fortitude, act prudently and seek justice. There is great power in love because it comes from God. It will never fail. It also enjoys the company of two other friends.

©LPi

The Year of Saint Joseph

The month of May begins the series of reflections on Pope Francis Apostolic Letter, *Patris Corde (With A Father’s Heart)* released on December 8, 2020.

WITH A FATHER’S HEART: that is how Joseph loved Jesus, whom all four Gospels refer to as the “the son of Joseph”. [1] Matthew and Luke, the two evangelists who speak most of Joseph, tell us very little, yet enough for us to appreciate what sort of father he was, and the mission entrusted to him by God’s providence.[2] Saint Joseph, Model of Workers, pray for us.

Saint John Paul II declared St. Joseph as “Guardian of the Redeemer” [] God revealed his savings plan to Joseph by using dreams, Pope Francis tell us in his Apostolic Letter, *Patris Corde*. In the dream an angel speaks to Joseph. “Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.” (Mt. 1:20-21) So Joseph defended her virtue and kept her from public disgrace and possibly death. May all husbands choose to be Josephs for their wives, and the mother of their children. *Patris Corde*, December 8, 2020, 2.4. **2021, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Liturgy Committee, Liturgy Office, Mary, Mother of the Church Pastoral Center, 2713- West Chestnut Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601.**

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practicing the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

The diocese has prepared a leaflet for the year of St. Joseph which includes prayers, pilgrim information, and information about the indulgence that is available. The tri-fold leaflet is on the tables in the back of the church.

Halupki Sale

The Society of Angels at Our Lady Queen of Angels Parish in Central City will be selling raw, frozen Halupki for \$15.00 per dozen at the Activities Center, 738-Sunshine Avenue, Central City, PA 15926 on Saturday May 15th from 10:00 to 1:00 PM. Advanced orders are recommended. We will be taking orders until Wednesday, May 12. To place an order please call 814-754-5224.

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

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 9, 2021

MASS INTENTIONS

May 10, Monday: St. Damien de Veuster, Priest

6:45AM + Jack Bauer (Bill & Lynann Adams)
12:00PM + Special Intention (Dr. Dennis Flynn)

May 11, Tuesday: Easter Weekday

6:45AM + Richard Anthony (Mike Fleck)
12:00PM + Richard Yahner (Minnie Yahner)

May 12, Wednesday: Sts. Nereus and Achilleus

6:45AM + Rose Stefanon (Arlene & Stephanie Markovich)
12:00PM + James Riley Sr. (Mary Lysinger)
Vigil: **THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**
5:30PM + Barbara Probst (Family)

May 13, Thursday: The Ascension of the Lord

8:00AM Pro Popolo/ For the People
12:00PM + Deb & Bill Capotosti (Joe Dunio)
5:30PM + Lois Riley (Kirk Dodson)

May 14, Friday: Saint Matthias, Apostle

6:45AM + Joseph Knott Jr. (Jeff, Beckey & Ryan Knott)
12:00PM + Geraldine Kines, Ann. (Sharon Yanchick)

May 15, Saturday: Saint Isidore

8:00AM + Paul Mercer (Children)
10:00AM Transitional Diaconate Ordination
12:00PM **NO NOON MASS**
Vigil: **SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**
5:00PM Mary Lysinger, Birthday (Terry Smith)

May 16, Sunday

8:00AM Pro Popolo/ For the People
10:00AM + Paul Sheets (Jim & Stephanie Kilcoyne)
12:00PM Vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life)
5:00PM + Edward Matosziuk III (John & Mary Leap)

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

Religious Ed PK-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.

Readings for the week of May 9, 2021

Sunday: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 [cf. 2b]/1 Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-17

Monday: Acts 16:11-15/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/Jn 15:26—16:4a

Tuesday: Acts 16:22-34/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 [7c]/Jn 16:5-11

Wednesday: Acts 17:15, 22—18:1/Ps 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14/Jn 16:12-15

Thursday: Acts 18:1-8/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [cf. 2b]/Jn 16:16-20 Ascension: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13/Mk 16:15-20

Friday: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [8]/Jn 15:9-17

Saturday: Acts 18:23-28/Ps 47:2-3, 8-10, 10 [8a]/Jn 16:23b-28

Next Sunday: Ascension: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13/Mk 16:15-20 Seventh Sunday of Easter: Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20 [19a]/1 Jn 4:11-16/Jn 17:11b-1



Stewardship Reflection

Our readings today call us to love as Christ loves. The way Jesus has loved us and continues to love us are endless. We are called to imitate this love. And He tells us the greatest way to do this when He said, "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for a friend.

This request from the Lord is no small endeavor. It is something we must work at everyday and is difficult to live. The fact of the matter is that our love for Christ increases by lovingly and faithfully following Him, our capacity to love others increases too. The more we find ways to love the Lord, the more we will find it easier to set aside our selfishness and serve others.

Do we have enough time in the day for God? Most people find little or no time left at the end of the day. Is God a priority in our lives or does he get the "leftovers?" That is why it is so important for you and your family to plan when and how you can share your time with others. We are called to give the best of our time and talent in the same way as Jesus did, with all our love. (Stewardship Reflections by Catholic Stewardship Consultants, 4/12/2021)

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, May 2, \$7,287.00

Families and the Gospel - Easter Time

Today's gospel challenges us to "love one another as I have loved you." Jesus is our model and he asked us to "lay down our life" (our time, attention, opinions and needs) for each other. This is a sacrament of the family, when God is visible in our sacrificial love for one another.

The Ascension of the Lord

As Jesus appointed apostles, he also appoints parents to represent Him in the Family; "make disciples of your children, baptizing and teaching them all they have taught you. Don't worry I am with you always."

Mothers' Day

The words of Jesus in today's gospel, "Abide in me," are appropriate on a day we honor mothers because there is a special bond connecting mothers and their children, extending beyond birth and death. They will always "abide" in each other. It's a lasting presence.

Catholic Men's Conference

During the year of St. Joseph, Holy Name Parish in Ebensburg, PA will host a Catholic Men's Conference on Saturday, September 11 from 8:30 AM- 2:00PM.

Bas Rutten will be the headline speaker. Bas Rutten is a movie and television star, as well as a former Mixed Martial Arts Champion. In recent years he has found his way back to the Catholic Faith and speaks to different groups about his faith journey. The day will include talks with Bas, Eucharistic Adoration, opportunity for confession and more. All men ages 18 and older can purchase a ticket by calling Holy Name Parish office at 814-472-7244. Tickets must be purchased in advance and are \$20.00; lunch will be provided. We pray that St. Joseph will continue to intercede for all of us, especially men to be strong husbands, fathers, sons, deacons, priests and servants of Our Lord. If you have any questions about the above information please call Fr. Brian Warchola or myself at 814-472-7244.

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.)

Precious Life, Inc.

Is a faith based, non-profit organization which offers practical help to those impacted by unplanned pregnancies through our pregnancy care centers. We are dedicated to meeting the emotional, physical and spiritual needs of women and their families, empowering them to make positive life-affirming choices.

The Baby Bottle Campaign

This runs from Mother's Day to Father's Day. You are invited to take an empty baby bottle and fill it with change, cash, or checks to support pro-life ministry. The bottles are available at the church entrances.

Basket Bingo Meeting

We will be holding a meeting regarding our Basket Bingo on Thursday May 13th 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.

Mass for Widows and Widowers to be Televised

Remember your loved ones on Sunday, May 30, 2021 with a televised Mass Celebrated by Bishop Mark Bartchak at 11:00 am on WATM ABC 23 and will be rebroadcast that night at 9:00 p.m. on Atlantic Broadband channel 9. All spouses will be acknowledged and remembered at Mass. All persons who have lost a spouse through death throughout the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese are invited to register by contacting the Family Life Office at 814-317-2643 or email familylife@dioceseaj.org. When registering, please give your name, address, phone number and the name of your spouse who has passed away. Deadline to register is May 24, 2021. Sponsored by the Diocesan Family Life Office.

Job Opening

All Saints Parish in Boswell has an opening for a part-time Administrative Assistant with a work schedule of 16 hours per week. To view a full list of responsibilities and qualifications, and to apply online go to www.dioceseaj.org/employment. Resumes must be submitted to 2713 West Chestnut Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601 Attn: Director of Human Resources or emailed to lmcevoy@dioceseaj.org by May 07, 2021.

Mass Changes

Please notice that there are changes in the Mass schedules for **Wednesday and Thursday**, Ascension of the Lord. And on Saturday there will be **NO NOON MASS** due to the Transitional Diaconate Ordination Mass.