

MAY 16, 2021

God remains where love remains. When a believer realizes without doubt that God is love, it is a powerful moment. Being able to place our resurrection trust in this fundamental truth allows us to experience God's presence in all of our experiences: the good and the bad, positive and negative, life enriching and destructive events we encounter. It is no wonder that St. Paul so accurately tells us that it is love that endures all things and lasts. How can God not endure or ever fade away? Because he is God, Jesus also guarded and protected his disciples as the endearing shepherd who always had their best interest at heart.

If we become too immersed in the world, we lose touch with these deeper realities. We can become so preoccupied with preserving what we have created or think that we need, forgetting that it is not building our city that really matters, but God's. Jesus clearly did not belong to the world and, by virtue of his resurrection, he tries to get us to understand that we do not either. The truth brings us to other worldly, more divine places and takes our eyes off of the concerns that often captivate our fears and storm our senses.

Life can easily erode our faith. Think of your life over the last couple of weeks. What challenged your faith and distracted your divine glance? Even being overly stimulated with technology and social media can erode our sense of confidence and cause us to forget who we really are. We need to distance ourselves from the world in order to experience the joy that Christ offers. The world will never like the word of God. It is too challenging and too perplexing. The world mistakenly believes that it can survive on its own. It is a mistaken judgment that may cost people a lot in the end. It is all so very simple: God remains when we love one another. If in all the business of our lives and all that each day brings, the good and the bad, we follow the call and path of love, we will walk with God. There is nothing to fear and anxiety finds no home.

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Memorare to Saint Joseph

Remember, O Most Chaste spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto you, my spiritual father, and beg protection. O Foster Father of the Redeemer, despise not my petitions, but in your goodness hear and answer me. Amen.

The Year of Saint Joseph

Pope Francis wrote *Patris Corde* against the backdrop of the global Pandemic. He writes that amid the crisis, "our lives were woven together and sustained by ordinary people, people often overlooked. People who do not appear in newspaper and magazine headlines, or on the latest television show, yet in these very days, are surely shaping the events of history. Each of us can discover in Joseph-the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence-an intercessor, and a guide in times of trouble. Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear or are in the shadows, can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation."

Saint Joseph, Patron of the Dying, pray for us.

According to tradition, Joseph died sometime before the beginning of Jesus' public life. Because he died in the loving presence of Jesus and Mary, he is also invoked as the Patron of a Happy Death. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1014). "O glorious St. Joseph, I entreat you as my special patron at the hour of my death. Help me to live each day in God's grace, that I may always be spiritually prepared for death. St. Joseph patron of departing souls, pray for me Amen." **Pope Francis Apostolic Letter, Patris Corde, December 8, 2020, 6. 2021 Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Liturgy Committee, Liturgy Office, Mary, Mother of the Church Pastoral Center, 2713- West Chestnut Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601.**

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.

MAY DAYS

May Days at the Basilica of St. Michael - May 29th & May 30th at Our Lady of Loretto Hall- Live entertainment, Cinch Tournament (Call Mag 814-674-2631) basket auction, flea market, silent auction, food, and beverages. Sstursday, 4pm-8pm. Proceeds from the weekend festival benefit Our Lady of Loretto Community Hall. Please see our website www.basilicam-loretto.org for more information.

*Thank you, Lord,
for the many blessings
you have given and continue to give to the
Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament Family.*

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

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Chris Laraia - Pre-K thru 12 - 312-7317

E-mail: claraia@dioceseaj.org

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

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 16, 2021

MASS INTENTIONS

May 17, Monday: Easter Weekday

6:45AM + The Lavelle Family
12:00PM + Leo B. Winkler, Birthday (Family)

May 18, Tuesday: Saint John I, Pope and Martyr

6:45AM + Helen Soyka (Fred & Gail Martynuska)
12:00PM + Jim Davidson (Maureen Halerz)

May 19, Wednesday: Easter Weekday

6:45AM + Our Mothers (McNelis All Stars)
12:00PM + Madeline Vogel (Mr & Mrs Stephen Kinder)

May 20, Thursday: St. Bernadine of Siena, Pr.

6:45AM + Msgr. Roy Kline (Charles and Agnes Ehredt)
12:00PM + Hilda Conrad (Jerry & Rita Kibler)

May 21, Friday: St. Christopher Magallanes, Priest, and Companions, Martyr

6:45AM + John Hallinan (Family)
12:00PM + Dorothy Berger (Ellen Fisher)

May 22, Saturday: St. Rita of Cascia

8:00AM + Carrie Kibler Detwiler (Mom & Dad)
12:00PM + Barbara Probst (Family)

Vigil: PENTECOST SUNDAY

5:00 PM + M. Virginia Jones (Fred & Diane Gibbons)

May 23, Sunday

8:00AM + Mike Kling, Birthday (Family)
10:00AM + Amelia Seiler (Ken & Sue Enck)
12:00PM + Tom Plunket (Patricia Plunket)
5:00PM Pro Popolo/ For the People

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

Noon Day Mass Schedule

Due to Ordinations, there will be not be a Mass at noon on Saturdays, May 29th and June 5th.

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 May 16, 2021

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-19

Monday: Acts 19:1-8/Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab [33a]/Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27/Ps 68:10-11, 20-21 [33a]/Jn 17:1-11a

Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38/Ps 68: 29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab [33a]/Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 [1]/Jn 17:20-26

Friday: Acts 25:13b-21/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab [19a]/Jn 21:15-19

Saturday: Morning: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Ps 11:4, 5 and 7 [7b]/Jn 21:20-25

Next Sunday: Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5/ Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30 [cf. 30]/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39

Extended Vigil: Gn 11:1-9/Ps 33:10-11, 12-13, 14-15/Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b/ Dn 3:52, 52, 53, 55, 56 or Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Ez 37:1-14/Ps 107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jl 3:1-5/Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30 [cf. 30]/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39 **Day:** Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34 [cf. 30]/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Gal 5:16-25/Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 15:26-27; 16:12-15

Stewardship Reflections

Our readings today remind that we are called to be set apart as Disciples of Christ. In the Gospel, Jesus makes it clear that as Christian disciples, we do not belong to the world. We must stop and ask ourselves, "who do we belong to?" We belong to our Loving and Gracious God.

How we spend our time, and what we do with our talents and how we spend our treasures are a good reflection of who or what we belong to. Does our time reflect with God, our families and friends? Are our talents used to serve our families, fellow parishioners, and those in need? Does the way that we spend our treasures glorify God? Is it put to good use?

Our lives should be a direct reflection of Whose we are, and we are, and whose we say we are. Being a disciple of Christ will not always be easy. We were made to be saints, truly a calling that is out of this world.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, May 9, \$7,071.86

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.

Religious Education

Registration forms for grades PK / 11 have been emailed to all families. Please return these as soon as possible so that textbooks can be ordered. All classes will return in person on September 12th.

If you did not receive a form please notify Chris Laraia (814-312-7317) or stop by the Parish Office, 13th Avenue entrance Mon-Fri 9-5 for a copy.

Confirmation Preparation

All students entering grades 9,10,11 in the Fall 2021 are required to attend an information meeting with your parents on Tuesday, August 3rd at 6:30PM. in the Cathedral church hall. This includes all students from both public and parochial schools and home schooled students.

A copy of your Baptism and 1st Eucharist certificates will be needed.

Please call or email Chris Laraia, DRE for more information at (814-312-7317 or email claraia@dioceseaj.org).

Catholic Daughters T-Shirt Sale

Catholic Daughters primary focus is *Spirituality and Service!* New members are always welcomed! Contact us at www.cda2625.com/contact. Help us help our neighbors in need! Be Kind! Purchase a t-shirt with an inspirational message, The price ranges from \$8.00-\$11.00. Proceeds benefit the good works of Court Prince Gallitzin #2625. Flyers and order tickets, with all the pertinent information, are available in most church foyers and parish offices, and a flyer can be viewed online at: www.cda2625.com/t-shirt. For more information or to make a purchase, contact Kris at: krisjohn113@gmail.com.



Precious Life, Inc.

Precious Life, is a faith-based pro-life organization which offers practical help to those impacted by unplanned pregnancies. The Altoona office is located at 1716-12th Avenue. Their Baby Bottle Campaign, which runs from Mother's Day to Father's Day, helps to support pro-life services. All 200 Baby Bottles that were made available at the Cathedral parish have been taken home and will hopefully be returned filled with change, cash, or a check.

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 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 by Bas Rutten, 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.

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 Barchak 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.

Families and Gospel

Jesus was worried about His disciples and He turned to prayer. No matter how much time we spent trying to "guard and protect" our children, each day they become less dependent on us and we must let go and let God. Prayer and parenting go together.