Readings for the week of March 26, 2023

**Sunday:** Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (7)/Rom 8:8-11/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/Jn 8:1-11
**Tuesday:** Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21/Jn 8:21-30
**Wednesday:** Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/On 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Jn 8:31-42
**Thursday:** Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 8:51-59
**Friday:** Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc4, 5-6, 7/Jn 10:31-42
**Saturday:** Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abccd, 13/Jn 11:45-56

**Next Sunday:** Mt 21:1-11/ls 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24(2a)/Phil 2:6-11/Mt 26:14—27:66 or 27-11-54

**Confirmation Meeting**
April 2, Grade 11, candidates and sponsors, final meeting! 2:30-4:30, Cathedral Hall. All make up work and eligibility forms MUST be turned in at this time. Interviews will take place at this meeting.

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION**
Sunday, March 19, 2023, $9,595.57
Thank you for your financial and spiritual support.

**Stewardship Reflections**
Jesus answered Martha’s prayers on His terms, not hers. Yet the outcome is much more than she could have imagined. If we are to be good stewards and protectors of the gifts God had given, we must begin by spending more time with God. It is a belief that in those moments when we most struggle, Jesus is there with us. We must listen for God’s help, so that in turn we are able to assist someone else that may be suffering. We need to give our time through prayerful listening.
May each of us, use our time as treasure to help build his kingdom on earth. May we have the courage to fulfill our role in the Divine Plan according to God’s will by “loving our neighbor as ourself.” (Stewardship Reflection, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, Inc. 2020/02/21)

**Stations of the Cross will be prayed during**
Lent on Fridays at 5:30 P.M.

**Fish Fry**
Our parish’s Annual Lenten Fish Fry Lunch is on the Fridays of Lent, except Good Friday. The drive-thru lunches will be available from 11:00 A.M. until 1:30 P.M. The cost is $10.00 for a large fish sandwich, mac & cheese, and cole slaw. For ten or more lunch purchases, delivery is available but you need to call ahead at 814-944-4603. Take out and cash only.

**Easter Egg Hunt**
Our parish’s Easter Egg Hunt is on Sunday, April 2nd from 2:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. in the lower level parking lot. Bring your own basket. There will be a special appearance by the Easter Bunny. Hop on over for egg-cellent fun!

**Good Friday is a day 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, 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, additional forms of fast and abstinence may be observed.

**Contribution Reports**
Contribution reports for income tax purposes may be obtained by calling Paula at the Parish Office: 944-4603.

**Strengthen in Christ**
Our diocesan Men’s Conference is on Saturday, April 29, at Mount Aloysius College in Cresson. Registration forms are available at our entrances. The cost is $20.00. The conference begins at 9:00 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m. Bishop Mark will be celebrating Mass at 4:00 p.m.
Of all Jesus’ miracles, the most unsettling might be when he made a dead person alive. We know of three times when he did so: a girl, a young man, and Lazarus. The miracle teaches us he has the power of life and death. He anticipates his resurrection. Sin hurts us. Some sin kills us, spiritually. The three miracles reveal to us that no matter our circumstances, Jesus can give life to us. The three miracles are instructive of the three ways we feel dead. The little dead girl symbolizes sin before it has time to mature. She’s in bed and, once alive, gets right back to her life. The young man is lying in his casket in a funeral procession. This is sin allowed to fester, to grow and become somewhat normalized. Once raised, he has a short walk back home. Lazarus, a full-grown dead man, lies wrapped in burial bands in the tomb. Once he is raised, much needs to be done. He’ll need to remove those bands, find new clothes, and travel all the way back home. That is sin allowed to go all the way, unchecked for months or years. It’s the most spectacular of the three and reveals Jesus’ glory more than the others.

What hope that should give us, for us and those whom we love! Jesus knows our sin hurts us and can even kill us spiritually. No matter the extent of the damage, he is always ready for the miracle of making the dead fully alive.

Father John Muir

**Communal Penance Services**
You are encouraged to experience God’s mercy during Lent by participating in one of the local Penance Services: Sunday, March 26, St. Rose of Lima Church at 5:00 P.M.; Monday, March 27, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church at 7:00 P.M.; Wednesday, March 29, Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament at 6:00 P.M.; Thursday, March 30, Our Lady of Lourdes Church at 5:30 P.M.; and Sunday, April 2, St. Mary Church (Hollidaysburg) at 4:00 P.M.

**Extra Times for Confession**
On Saturday, April 1, Msgr. Carson will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation at 8:30 A.M. and at 12:30 P.M. On Sunday, April 2, Msgr. Carson will be available for Confessions at Our Lady of Fatima Church at 12:30 P.M.

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**The Church of Altoona-Johnstown**

**THE CATHEDRAL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

**ONE CATHEDRAL SQUARE, Altoona, Pennsylvania 16601-3315**

Church Office: 814-944-4603

**Christians 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:
National ninth 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.

**Deviations:**
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 Mass:**
Sunday morning 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM
Grades 9 thru 12.

**Confirmation:**
Ninth, tenth and eleventh grade students are invited to participate in the Confirmation Preparation Process.

**Infant Baptism:**
Arrange in advance for pre-baptismal instructions.

**Christian Initiation Team:** 814-944-4603

Catholics Returning Home: 814-944-4603

Mail Ministry to Eldery, Homebound, Seriously Sick, and Grieving: 814-944-4603

Holy Trinity Catholic School: Web: www.holytrinitycatholicschool.org
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 - 814-944-4014

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