

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 16, 2025

Mass Intentions

February 16, Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00AM Pro Popolo/For the People

10:00AM+James Cole (Jane Kiser)

5:00PM+ Mary Irene McGreal (Family)

Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church 11:30AM

February 17, Monday, The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

12:00PM+Michael Ratzesberger, Birthday (Mother)

February 18, Tuesday, Weekday

12:00PM+Kevin Sheehan (McNelis All Stars and Friends)

February 19, Wednesday, Weekday

12:00PM+Regina Kutruff (Michele & John Beiswenger)

February 20, Thursday, Weekday

12:00PM+Mary Ann (Koehle) Weakland (Anonymous)

February 21, Friday, Saint Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

12:00PM Special Intentions Health and Safety of Daughter (Mom)

February 22, Saturday, The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle

12:00PM+William V. Bettwy (Tim & JoAnn Bettwy)

Vigil: Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00PM+Ruthie McConnell, Birthday (John & Mary Jo McConnell)

February 23, Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00AM+Susan M. Bauer (Regina Damiano)

10:00AM+Shirley Keirn (Husband Joe)

5:00PM Pro Popolo/ For the People

Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church 11:30AM

Lenten Parish Mission

Holy Name Parish in Ebensburg will have their Lenten Parish Mission with retired U.S. Elite Navy Seal, Dom Raso on Friday, March 28 at 7:00P.M. in the church. All are welcomed.

Stewardship Reflections

Today's readings speak of an essential quality for the Christian steward, hope. According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. "Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit (CCC 1817)."

In many ways this is the very definition of a stewardship way of life, focusing on eternity as we live our daily lives and rely on God to provide for our needs and satisfy our deepest longings for meaning and happiness right now.

In today's Gospel, Jesus describes the character of one who is living a life of hope, the life of a Christian steward whose trust is firmly rooted in God and who is focused on others and eternity. It is not always an easy life, but it is a deeply meaningful life and one that leads to eternal reward.



Our parish's Pastoral Council will be meeting on Tuesday, February 18, at 6:30 P.M.

FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION

All meetings/sessions will be held in the Cathedral basement from 6:30-8:00PM. A parent must accompany your child to the meetings. Please contact Chris Laraia if you are unable to attend a meeting so that make up work can be assigned.

PARENTS / STUDENT SESSIONS:

March 11, 2025

April 8, 2025

First Communion will be celebrated at the 10:00AM Mass May 4, 2025. If you have any questions please call Chris Laraia, 814-312-7317 or email me at claraia@dioceseaj.org

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS

Sunday, February 9, 2025, \$ 6,982.90

Thank you for your monetary and personal contributions to the life of our parish.



Liturgical Ministers Schedules

The schedule and assignment of liturgical ministers will to be done by our parish office.

The schedule for Lent and Holy Week will be prepared during the week of February 17th. If you have requests, preferences, or are not going to be available, please notify the office this Monday. Thank you.

Liturgical Ministers Recruitment

Our parish, like most parishes, is in need of more liturgical ministers. LITURGICAL MINISTER VOLUNTEER cards will be available at our entrances during the month of February. Prayerfully and seriously consider volunteering as a Greeter, Usher, Server, Reader, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, Funeral Server, or part of a Team to Serve when the Bishop celebrates Mass. Training will take place during Lent.



EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Planted Near Water

We all know that there are times when life can feel, as Jeremiah writes, empty and wasted. There are moments when we think we resemble a barren bush, thirsting in the desert sun.

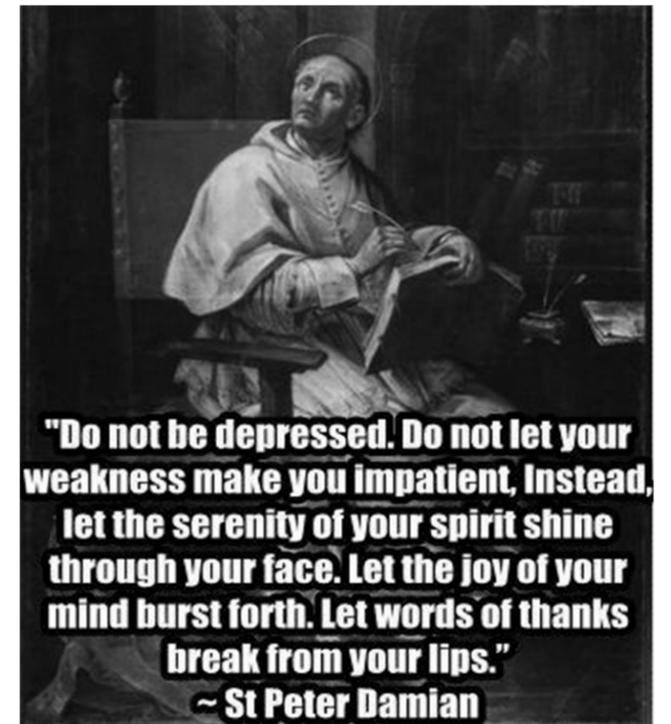
That's why it is imperative for us to know the location of our water source. I promise you, it's closer than you think. God never planted a seed in barren ground.

For me, it's the Mass. Going to Mass is where I find total peace and renewal. I don't have any great theological explanation for this — Mass is simply where I can truly rest in God for a time, where nothing and no one in the world can touch me. And wouldn't you know it, it's in the toughest times that I need Mass the most — that my roots stretch harder for that water.

Woe to the rich, says Jesus — woe to the popular, to the content, to the happy. It's not because He hates to see us smile. It's because He knows our humanity. He knows our limitations. He knows that when things are going really well, we often stop looking for God.

What replenishes you as a disciple, as a steward, as a Christian? If it feels far away or hard to reach, why is that? How can you bring it closer?

We are all trees planted near water, to yield our fruit in due season. Let's pray for the strength to know where our water source is, and to seek it both in good times and in bad. — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi



COURTESY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Eucharistic Revival Spring Priest Presentations

The last of the Eucharistic Revival Year presentations will be on Saturday, March 29th, at St. Francis University, JFK Center in Loretto. From 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM. You may register online at dioceseaj.org/spring, priest, presentations or by mail. Forms are available at our entrances. The speakers are: Father Jozef Kovacik, Father George Jakopac, and Father Brian Saylor.



Men's Conference: Strength in Christ!

Sunday, March 30, from 11:30 AM to 5:30 PM at Mount Aloysius College, Cresson. The day includes lunch, talks from local priests, personal testimonies, a panel discussion, and Sunday Mass. There is no cost to attend. Visit www.dioceseaj.org to register online. Paper registration forms are also available at our entrances. The deadline to register is March 21st.



Empowered by the Holy Spirit Series

Holy Spirit Ministry will be hosting the "Empowered by the Spirit Series" on 4 consecutive Tuesdays beginning March 18th, at St. Michael Activity Center & Church, Holidaysburg. The prayer experience begins at 7PM and includes dynamic speakers, testimonies, praise & worship, small group discussions and more! Refreshments and fellowship will begin in the Activity Center at 6:30PM. The purpose of the series is to explore and equip the faithful for evangelization through the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit. There is no charge, but registration is required: holy-spiritministry20@gmail.com or calling 814-207-9110. All are welcome for this exciting series.

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEP-ER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

February 16, 2025

6th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Luke 6:17, 20-26

I craved four things as a teenager: success in sports, food, fun and the attention of popular people. However, I noticed that as I acquired them, I was more unsatisfied than before. So, I'd strive even more energetically, achieve more, and the sense of emptiness was greater still. These four things started to feel like burdens or even curses. Soon after, I encountered Christ in my high school youth group. Experiencing his love was totally different than anything those four things previously produced. It produced a lasting happiness.

Jesus utters a kind of four-fold curse in this week's Gospel of Saint Luke's "woes": "Woe to you who are rich...who are filled now...who laugh now...who are well-spoken of" (cf. Luke 6:24-26). How marvelous that these correspond perfectly to the four things that obsessed my teenage soul: riches, food, laughter and good reputation. The "woes" the Lord speaks are warnings: when those things are the purpose of your life, you'll be miserable. He is saying, "You'll be happy, or blessed, in the measure that these things do not determine the shape of our lives, and the kingdom of God does."

To some degree, we're all spiritual teenagers, addicted to one or more of those four "woes." How splendid that the Lord wants his to bless us — that is, to satisfy us, make us laugh with joy, and in the kingdom of God, offer us what will truly satisfy us. But first let's admit what is causing our "woes."

Father John Muir

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The Church of Altoona-Johnstown THE CATHEDRAL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

ONE CATHEDRAL SQUARE, Altoona, Pennsylvania 16601-3315

THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, FEBRUARY 16, 2025

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.

By appointment, by texting or calling 814-937-8240 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.

DEVOTIONS:

Eucharistic Adoration - Normally, the First Wednesday 12:30 PM - 6:45 PM

Eucharistic Day - Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ.

PRO-LIFE ROSARY

Sponsored by the Christian Mothers on Thursdays after the noon Mass.

Most Reverend Mark L. Bartchak, J.C.D., Bishop

Reverend Monsignor Stanley Carson, Administrator

Paula Clemens, Parish Secretary

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Chris Laraia - Pre-K thru 12 - 814-312-7317

Religious Education Office: Sundays - 814-943-7424

E-mail: claraia@dioceseaj.org

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

Leslie C. Thayer, MM, CAGO

Music Ministry Office - 814-944-2044

E-mail: lthayer@dioceseaj.org

CHRISTIAN INITIATION TEAM - 814-944-4603

CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME - 814-944-4603

MAIL MINISTRY TO ELDERLY, HOMEBOUND, SERIOUSLY SICK, AND GRIEVING - 814-944-4603

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM:

September through April: Pre-Kindergarten thru 12.

Sunday morning 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM Pre-Kindergarten thru 8. Grades 9-11 Sunday Evening at 6:15.

Church Office: 814-944-4603

E-MAIL: altcathedral@dioceseaj.org

Fax: 814-942-4337

WEB

www.altoonacathedral.org



Facebook

www.facebook.com/cathedralofaltoona



Mass Times

Sunday:	Weekday:
5:00 PM (Vigil)	12:00 Noon
8:00 AM	
10:00 AM	Saturday:
5:00 PM	12:00 Noon

Serving the People of God in the City of Altoona Since 1851