

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

April 19, 2020

"Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

— John 20:29b

Our Lady of Fatima
Pleaded that we pray the Holy Rosary
privately from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm
Sunday thru Friday.
Saturday 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM



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Our Lady of Fatima Parish
 2010 12th Avenue
www.ourladyoffatimaaltoona.org
Rectory Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 11 AM - 2PM

Parish Office: 814-942-0371

Our Lady of Fatima Church

Our Lady of Fatima Parish Administrator

Rev. Msgr. Stanley B. Carson

**Parish Secretary
 Carol Z. Smith**

Eucharist for the home bound - weekly:

Patty Flanagan 942-0371 for arrangements.

*(DISCONTINUED-due to Covid-19 virus.)

Our Lady of Fatima Church is open

***Sunday through Friday: 8:30 AM - 5PM,**

Saturday 7:30 - 5 PM

for visits before the Blessed Sacrament.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals will be held at Our Lady of Fatima.

Preparation for Baptism, and Weddings will be held at the Cathedral. 944-4603

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

Parishioners wishing to receive the sacrament of healing may call the Cathedral Parish Office to make arrangements. 814-944-4603

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH IS A RESULT OF THE MERGER BETWEEN THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCHES OF SS. PETER & PAUL AND ST. LEO THE GREAT IN 1995.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA CLOSED DUE TO COVID-19



Cathedral Church Office: 814-944-4603

One Cathedral Square

Most Reverend Mark L. Bartchak, Bishop

Rev. Msgr. Stanley B. Carson, Administrator

PH: 814-944-4603

Rev. 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

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

Reconciliation @ Cathedral: 7:00 PM Wednesday

12:30 PM Saturday

Religious Education @ Cathedral: Pre-K through 11

Sacramental Formation @ Cathedral: First Reconciliation

First Communion

Confirmation

Sacramental Formation @ the Cathedral: Baptismal Prep

Marriage Prep

Christian Initiation

Hospital Visitation: Call the Cathedral: 944-4603

Masses discontinued because of covid-19 virus

Cathedral Eucharist:

Sunday: 5:00 PM (Vigil) Holy Days: 5:30 PM (Vigil) Weekdays: 6:45 AM

8:00 AM

8:00 AM

12:00 Noon

10:00 AM

12:00 Noon

12:00 Noon

5:30 PM

Saturday : 8:00 AM

5:00 PM

12:00 Noon

April 19, 2020

Second Sunday of Easter (or Sunday of Divine Mercy)

GET REAL!

Those of us who flatter ourselves that we have a “realistic” view of the world may listen to the first reading today and say, “Get real!” when we hear Luke’s account of the early, Elysian days of the Christian movement. All seems to be rosy, lots of wonders are performed, everyone shares selflessly, they eat together in “exultation,” and the Lord added to their numbers? Well, who wouldn’t be attracted to a group like this? From the wind that swept through the upper room at Pentecost as the Spirit of God blew over the face of the waters in Genesis, and the fire that appeared over each disciple as the light appeared at the dawn of creation, Luke’s intent in Acts is to show a new creation, a restoration of creation’s original goodness through the working of the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit who continues to make us into the Body of Christ. We may occasionally, like Thomas in the Gospel, say, “Get real!” but our ultimate reality in the Spirit is to work continually to make our Christian community a new creation, one in which others will find God’s joy and beauty.

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SAINT ANSELM (1033-1109)

April 21

For anyone disheartened at how easily contemporary discussions of disputed church-state issues escalate from civil discourse to shrill polemic, Anselm provides perspective. Grounded in the Benedictine Rule’s balanced “prayer and work,” this monk-scholar, called from his abbey to become Archbishop of Canterbury, was thrust into firestorms of political intrigue, himself the target of warring bishops and nobles, kings and popes. Yet from depths of inner peace, Anselm wrote this moving exhortation by which today’s Liturgy of the Hours celebrates him: “Rise up, insignificant man! From your preoccupations, flee a while. From your turbulent thoughts, hide for a time. Your crushing responsibilities cast aside. Your burdensome business lay down. Free a little space for God. Rest a little while in him!” “Faith seeking understanding” was his strikingly contemporary motto; and though renowned as an erudite philosopher-theologian, Anselm also left personal letters, profound for their insights on Christian friendship. Along with those, he composed “A Prayer for My Friends” and “A Prayer for My Enemies,” reminding us that those who love God most passionately are also those who love others most humanly.

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

EASTER

It is the hour to rend thy chains, the blossom time of souls.

—Katharine Lee Bates

FIRE

Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire.

—St. Catherine of Siena

APRIL 19, 2020
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
10:30 AM

***DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
SCRIPTURE REFLECTION
APRIL 19, 2020***

OUR LADY OF FATIMA MASS INTENTIONS

Readings: Acts 2:42-47; 1 Pt 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31
Today's Intention-Vanessa Burr

APRIL 26, 2020, THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
Readings: Acts 2:14, 22-33; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35
Poor souls, (anonymous)

A Wave of Mercy

The evangelist John makes us share in the emotion felt by the Apostles in their meeting with Christ after his Resurrection. Our attention focuses on the gesture of the Master, who transmits to the fearful, astounded disciples the mission of being ministers of divine Mercy. He shows them his hands and his side, which bear the marks of the Passion, and tells them: "As the Father has sent me, even so I send you" (Jn 20:22-23). Jesus entrusted to them the gift of "forgiving sins," a gift that flows from the wounds in his hands, his feet, and especially from his pierced side. From there a wave of mercy is poured out over all humanity.

Let us relive this moment with great spiritual intensity. Today the Lord also shows us his glorious wounds and his heart, an inexhaustible source of light and truth, of love and forgiveness.

The Heart of Christ! His "Sacred Heart" has given (us) everything: redemption, salvation, sanctification. St. Faustina Kowalska saw coming from this Heart that was overflowing with generous love two rays of light which illuminated the world. "The Two rays," according to what Jesus himself told her, "represent the blood and the water." The blood recalls the sacrifice of Golgotha and the mystery of the Eucharist; the water according to the rich symbolism of the Evangelist John, makes us think of Baptism and the Gift of the Holy Spirit (cf. Jn 3:5; 4:14).

Through the mystery of this wounded heart, the restorative tide of God's merciful love continues to spread over the men and women of our time. Here alone can those who long for true and lasting happiness find its secret.

St. John Paul II, Homily, April 22, 2001

John Paul II, born Karol Józef Wojtyła in 1920, was elected pope in 1978 and exercised his ministry with a tireless missionary spirit. He died in 2005 and was canonized in 2014.

Cathedral Mass Intention

April 20, Monday: Easter Weekday

Readings: Acts 4:14, 23-31; Jn 3:1-8

+ Clara Mullan (Nancy & Skip)

+ Msgr. Paul Panza (Kathie Kantoski)

+ April 21, Tuesday: St. Anselm, Bishop & Doctor

Readings: Acts 4:32-37; Jn 3:7-15

+ Jack Bauer (Rosemarie Fideli)

+ Dcd. of Michael & Ella Gibbons (Children Tom Irwin)

April 22, Wednesday: Easter Weekday

Readings: Acts 5:17-26; Jn 3:16-21

+ Rick Cowan & Karen Cowan Dougherty (Mom)

+ Frances Pagliaro (Mr & Mrs Bernie Koehle)

April 23, Thursday: St. George, Martyr; St. Adelbert

Readings: Acts 5:27-33; Jn 3:31-36

+ Barbara Byers (Greg & Sandy Dulla)

+ Fred T Lumadue (Paul & Emma Kowalski)

April 24, Friday: St. Fedelis of Sigmaringen, Priest

Readings: Acts 5:34-42; Jn 6:1-15

+ Lavelle Family (Phyllis Lavelle Sheetz)

+ Janet Tomlinson (Donald & Mary Smithmyer)

April 25, Saturday: Saint Mark, Evangelist

Readings: 1 Pt 5:5-14; Mk 16:15-20

+ Joseph A. Moffa Birthday (Estate)

+ Alice & Andy Sussa (Dan & Wendy Cowan)

Vigil: THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Readings: Acts 2:14, 22-33; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35

+ Diane M. Johnston Birthday (Mother & Family)

*Jesus, Son of the Living Father,
Have Mercy on Me a Sinner.*

Please pray for all of our parishioners, especially for those who have illnesses great and small and our seniors who are lonely and need comfort and care.

Stewardship Reflections

Give Yourself Completely

The early days of the first Christian community were not easy by any measurement. Jesus had been executed, and his disciples had to be discreet so as not to meet a similar fate. Jesus was now risen, but the truth of his resurrection was not accepted by all. However, the depiction of that early community in Acts 2:42-47 would lead someone to believe it was the opposite situation. We are told of community life where people lean on each other and share great joy. They ate and prayed together, and many wonders and signs were occurring to lift the community and bear witness to the power of Jesus Christ. They were disciples living out their faith, and it was their strong sense of stewardship that made all this possible in the face of threatening Roman and Jewish powers.

Today, we find the Church in a new turmoil. Increasing secularism, abuse scandals, and a lack of true fidelity place us once again in a time that is not easy. A friend of mine likes to say that any challenge of sin we encounter in the Church has its origin in a lack or misunderstanding of the stewardship way of life. We create our burdens by not using our gifts wisely and by turning inward selfishly.

Could we use the story in Acts of the early Church to help us today? If we begin with the decision to give of ourselves completely to God and His people, will we become agents of change? There is only one way to find out.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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Prayer Shawl Makers Needed

Anyone wanting to and able to knit, we are in need of people to knit Prayer Shawls. Please get in touch with Lorraine Beck at 814-946-7774.

Pastoral Visits/Communion Calls

Clergy are to obey the protocols of health care facilities. Pastoral Visits and Communion Calls should be made only when there is a danger of death.

Contributions

Even during a pandemic, the financial support of parishioners is very important to a parish. However, due to their own financial challenges during a time like this, families might not be able to sustain their current level of giving. As a parish we will need to curtail spending and make adjustments.

A NOTE FROM MSGR. STAN CARSON:

THE DOMESTIC CHURCH

Because of Covid-19 and the governor's "stay-at-home" order, our churches have not been open for public worship or private prayer. We've been praying at home. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "From the beginning, the core of the Church was often constituted by those who had become believers together with all their household." Families who became believers were "islands of Christian life in the unbelieving world." The Second Vatican Council referred to the family as the "domestic Church."

This Sunday's reading from the Acts of the Apostles Chapter 2, verses 42-47, mentions that the early Church listened to the teachings of the apostles, shared their resources in fellowship, celebrated the Eucharist, and prayed. "Breaking bread", a reference to the Eucharist, took place in their homes.

Families have been spending much more time at home due to the coronavirus. You've been learning, sharing, working, playing, and praying as the domestic Church. And, I suspect that you've had to be a bit more merciful to each other too. The Catechism mentions that it is within the home that a person learns "generous - even repeated - forgiveness."

As the Church celebrates "Divine Mercy Sunday", may your family become more aware of the merciful love of God. Trust in God's mercy. Be merciful to one another. Someday, hopefully soon, our families will gather together again as a "family of families" for the Eucharist, "the breaking of Bread," around the table of the Lord.

Spiritual Communion Prayer

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I Love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there, and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen



Financial Considerations

In order to deal with the projected shortfall in contributions, pastors, and administrators, with the assistance of their finance council may need to consider the most essential tasks required in their parishes at present and which employees are necessary for these tasks. There may be a need for temporary or permanent layoffs. The diocesan director of human resources would be involved in those types of decisions.

Prayers to Mary by Pope Francis

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

*Holy Virgin of Guadalupe,
Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas.
We fly to you today as your beloved children.
We ask you to intercede for us with
your Son,
as you did at the wedding in Cana.*

*Pray for us, loving Mother,
and gain for our nation and world,
and for all our families and loved ones,
the protection of your holy angels,
that we may be spared the worst of this
illness.*

For those already afflicted,



we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance.

*Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful,
wipe away their tears and help them to trust.
In this time of trial and testing,
teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be
patient and kind.
Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our
hearts.*

*We come to you with confidence,
knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother,
health of the sick and cause of our joy.*

*Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,
keep us in the embrace of your arms,*



The Prayer of Saint Anselm

*O Lord my God,
Teach my heart where and how to seek you,
where and how to find you.*

*.....
Lord, you are my Lord and my God,
and I have never seen you.
You have created and re-created me,
all the good I have comes from you,
and still I do not know you.*

.....

**OUR LADY URGES US TO PRAY THE
HOLY
ROSARY
FOR
PEACE AND OFFER
SACRIFICES BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!**

I have not yet accomplished that for which I was made.

*.....
Teach me to seek you,
and as I seek you, show yourself to me,
for I cannot seek you unless you show me how.*

*.....
Let me seek you by desiring you,
and desire you by seeking you;
Let me find you by loving you,
and love you in finding you.*

