

**Bulletin # 102656**

**Our Lady of Fatima  
2010 12th Avenue  
Altoona, PA 16601**

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**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2020**

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# SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
February 16, 2020

What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him, this God has revealed to us through the Spirit.— 1 Corinthians 2:9-10

*Our Lady of Fatima  
Pleaded that we pray the Holy Rosary before Sunday Mass and privately from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm daily.*



**Our Lady of Fatima Parish  
2010 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue**

[www.ourladyoffatimaaltoona.org](http://www.ourladyoffatimaaltoona.org)  
Rectory Office Hours:

**Monday – Friday 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

**Parish Office: 814-942-0371**



**Our Lady of Fatima Mass Schedule**

**Sunday: 10:30 AM - Holy Days: 6:00PM**

**Rosary: 10:05 AM - Rosary: 5:40 PM**

**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.**

**Our Lady of Fatima Church is open  
Monday through Friday: 9AM - 5PM  
for visits before the Blessed Sacrament.**

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

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

**R Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick  
Parishioners wishing to receive the sacrament of  
healing may call the Cathedral Parish Office to  
make arrangements. 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.**

**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](http://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: [lhayer@dioceseaj.org](mailto:lhayer@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**

**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

## CHOICE

*"If you choose you can keep the commandments," Sirach tells us. God "has set before you fire and water; to whichever you choose, stretch forth your hand" (Sirach 15:15, 16). This is a great mystery: God does not control us so completely that we cannot choose our own path. We have certain boundaries, of course, but no one but we can choose our way within those boundaries.*

*In today's reading from Matthew's Gospel, Jesus reminds us of our freedom and our responsibility for our lives. He calls us to look beyond the words of the commandments, all the way to their meaning. Look beyond the adultery to the selfishness that poisons our love. Look beyond the murder to the anger that eats away at our compassion. Look beyond the perjured testimony to the lies and deception that drive our behavior.*

*Our vocation is to choose life for ourselves, and to choose a path through our part of the world that helps make life possible and more abundant for others as well.*

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## THE CHAIR OF ST. PETER THE APOSTLE

February 22

*In brushing up for "Catholic Jeopardy," it might help to know that there is only one feast on the calendar for a thing, rather than a person or mystery. It's for a chair: Saint Peter's chair in fact.*

*After the Resurrection, there can be no doubt that the disciples reserved a special place for Simon Peter in the upper room. Later, Peter became the bishop of Antioch in today's Syria, the place where we were first called Christians. From there, he went to Rome, the center of the Empire, where it is said that Peter sat in a chair in the house of Priscilla and Aquila to instruct his flock. Jesus, in entrusting the keys of the Kingdom to Peter and his successors, entrusted his compassion and mercy to them, and charged them with pointing to the Kingdom of God. Compassion and mercy are to resonate through their teaching.*

*Since the ancient sign of a teacher is the chair ("disciple" literally means one who sits at the feet of a teacher), Peter's chair has long been treasured. Today there is a symbolic shrine of Peter's chair above the main altar of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. This monument is the last work of Bernini, a huge bronze throne supported by four doctors of the Church: Augustine and Ambrose from the Western Church, and Chrysostom and Athanasius from the East. High above it is the alabaster window of the descent of the Holy Spirit.*

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## BAD COMPANY

*People who live solely for themselves are eventually corrupted by their own company.*

—Anonymous

## CONSCIENCE

*Labor to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial fire, called conscience.*

—George Washington

FEBRUARY  
16  
2020



## SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

If you trust in God, you too shall live;  
God has set before you fire and water;  
to whichever you choose, stretch forth your hand.

SIRACH 15:15-16

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Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass  
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Saint Paul speaks of both the “wisdom of this age” and the “rulers of this age.” He refers specifically to the so-called wise people and institutions responsible for unjustly condemning Jesus to death. As we mourn the human sin that killed Jesus two thousand years ago, we also consider contemporary errors and evils that wound the Body of Christ in our own age. We easily recognize the crimes of our leaders. Religious, corporate, and government institutions have inflicted suffering on countless innocent souls. The depth of our modern-day failures threatens us with despair. But Jesus calls us to renewed faithfulness and hope. Jesus tells us to “surpass” our leaders in righteousness. He instructs us to simplify our own lives: “Let your ‘Yes’ mean ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No’ mean ‘No.’ Anything more is from the evil one.” We are right to work against the sins of our leaders, but we must also scrutinize our own lives and make peace with our families, neighbors, and coworkers.

## PASSING AWAY

There is some urgency in Christ’s call to holiness. Everything

in this age is passing away. Jesus’ call is timely and radical, pleading with us to drop other business and make reconciliation a priority. The Lord actually says to “leave your gift at the altar” and return to worship after making peace with the adversaries in our lives. Jesus is deadly serious about the need for reconciliation and righteousness, insisting that nothing—not even our eyes and arms—are worth more than love. All of today’s readings reflect on the deep connection between God’s law and healthy, peaceful love. As Saint Paul says in Romans 13:10, “love is the fulfillment of the law.” Here in the twenty-first century, we modern disciples of Christ can cultivate that mystery deep in our hearts, nurturing the tremendous twin gifts of God’s love and God’s law, offered to us freely to help us sustain a healthy and holy Body of Christ.

Today’s Readings: Sir 15:15–20; Ps 119:1–2, 4–5, 17–18, 33–34; 1 Cor 2:6–10; Mt 5:17–37 [20–22a, 27–28, 33–34a, 37]

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