

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 19, 2023

Our Lady of Fatima Parish
2010 12th Avenue
www.ourladyoffatimaaltoona.org

Rectory Office Hours:
Tuesdays and Thursdays
11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Parish Office: 814-942-0371
or call the Cathedral Office at 944-4603.

Our Lady of Fatima Parish
Rev. Msgr. Stanley B. Carson, Administrator

Parish Secretary
Paula Hall

Director of Music Ministry
Cathy McFee

Eucharist: Sunday: 11:30 AM

Holy Days: 5:30 PM

Holy Communion for the home bound - weekly:
Patty Flanagan 942-0371 for arrangements.

Our Lady of Fatima Church is open
Sunday through Saturday: 7:30 AM - 5PM
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.

Cathedral Church Office: 814-944-4603

One Cathedral Square

Most Reverend Mark L. Bartchak, Bishop

Rev. Msgr. Stanley B. Carson, Administrator

Paula Clemens, Secretary

PH: 814-944-4603

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

Director of Religious Education:
Chris Laraia – Pre-K thru 8 - 312-7317

Religious Education Office: Sundays – 943-7424

Director of Music Ministry

Leslie C. Thayer, MM, CAGO

Music Ministry Office - 944-2044

E-Mail: ltthayer@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: 12:00 PM

8:00 AM

8:00 AM

Saturday: 12:00 PM

10:00 AM

12:00 Noon

5:00 PM

THE FATIMA TOWERS

OUR LADY OF FATIMA MASS INTENTIONS

11:30 A.M.

This Sunday, February 19, Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

James R. Riley (Mark & Marcy Agee)

Next Sunday, February 26, First Sunday of Lent

Cathy "Kate" & Pete Starr, Wed. Anniv. (Pete, Children & Grandchildren)

Cathedral Mass Intentions

February 19, Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM +Peggy Joyce (Family)

10:00 AM +Rita Beck (Tim & Anne Marie Longwill)

5:00 PM Pro Popolo/For the People

February 20, Monday, Weekday

12:00 PM +Edgar A. Johnston, Birth. (Mother)

February 21, Tuesday, St. Peter Damian, Bp. & Dr.

12:00 PM +Pete & the Special Intentions of Sally Colledge
(Children)

February 22, Ash Wednesday

8:00 AM +Libby Ann Allen (Linda Lambert)

12:00 PM +Peter Rossi (Tom & Beth Moore)

5:30 PM +Special Intention (Anonymous)

February 23, Thursday After Ash Wednesday

12:00 P.M. +William V. Bettwy, Anniv. (Tim & JoAnn Bettwy)

February 24, Friday After Ash Wednesday

12:00 PM +Charles Yanchik, Birth. (Family)

February 25,, Saturday After Ash Wednesday

12:00 PM +Ronold Solnosky (Wife, Nancy)

Vigil: First Sunday of Lent

5:00 PM +Michael Dionis, Anniv.) (Mom & Dad)

February 26, First Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM +Terry Joyce (Family)

10:00 AM +Mark & Matt Burns (Dave & Maureen Hanekamp)

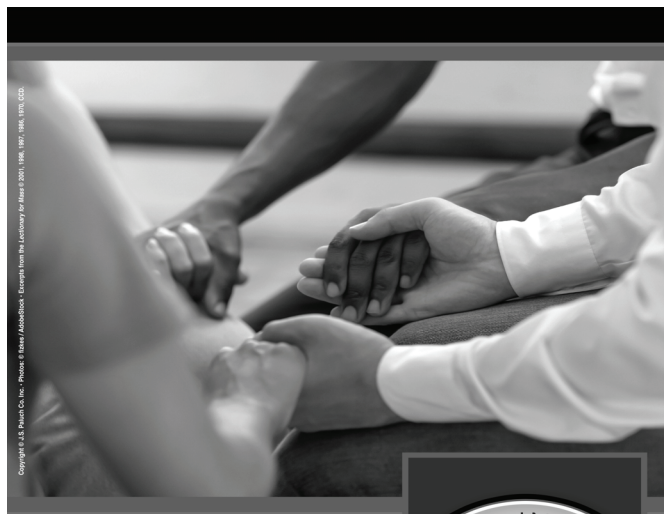
5:00 P.M. Pro Popolo/For the People

There is Mass at 11:30 A.M. at Our Lady of Fatima Parish.



TABERNACLE CANDLE

During the month of February, the Sanctuary/Tabernacle Candle has been donated by Barb and Ken Smithmyer. In honor of Elaine Smithmyer and in memory of Edward Smithmyer and Edward & Rita Raichle.



"But I say to you,
love your enemies
and pray for those
who persecute you."

Matthew 5:44



TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Take no revenge and cherish no grudge; love your neighbor as yourself.
(Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18).

Psalms — Our God shows mercy and graciousness
(Psalm 103).

Second Reading — You are the temple of God, and holy
(1 Corinthians 3:16-23).

Gospel — Offer no resistance; love your enemies
(Matthew 5:38-48).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Sir 1:1-10; Ps 93:1-2, 5; Mk 9:14-29

Tuesday: Sir 2:1-11; Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28,
39-40; Mk 9:30-37

Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-6ab, 12-14, 17;
2 Cor 5:20 — 6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 9:22-25

Friday: Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-6ab, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15

Saturday: Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-6; Lk 5:27-32

Sunday: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Ps 51:3-6, 12-13, 17;
Rom 5:12-19 [12, 17-19]; Mt 4:1-11

Thank You Very Much

Your prayers, volunteerism, and financial support are deeply appreciated.

The contributions for Sunday, February 12, were \$1,951.00





Lent begins on February 22.

Ashes will be distributed at Our Lady of Fatima Church during a Liturgy of the Word prayer service at 3:00 P.M.

Ashes will be distributed during Masses at the Cathedral at 8:00 A.M., Noon, and 5:30 P.M.

OUR FASCINATING FAITH

Ashes

There are three major Biblical traditions concerning ashes: repentance, mourning, and mortality, and they are interrelated. Repeatedly throughout the Bible we encounter the use of ashes (often together with sackcloth) as a penitential practice. A similar practice is seen when someone is in mourning or distress. And ashes are a metaphor for human life, which is seen as brief and destined to end in death:

Ashes are the result of fire, the complete burning of something that was alive. They are ephemeral; the slightest puff of air can send them away into nothingness. It is easy to see how ashes came to symbolize fleeting human life or the humility of repentance.

Ashes can represent other things as well. For example, ashes are often used to fertilize our gardens and fields. Ash is therefore necessary to bring about and nourish life.

We can now begin to see how appropriate a symbol ashes are for the season of Lent. For Lent is not only a time of repentance, of sorrow for our sins. It is a baptismal season of preparation for the new life of our catechumens and of recalling the new life of our own baptism. We start Lent in ashes, and end it in Easter. What will the ashes mean to you this Lent?

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HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

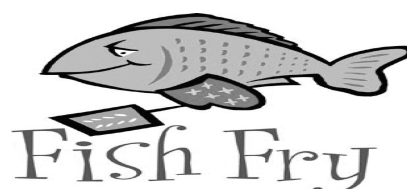
In the future, our Mass on holy days of obligation will be at 5:30 P.M. instead of 6:00 P.M. The change will allow Msgr. Carson to return to the cathedral in time for special liturgies that are sometimes scheduled for 7:00 P.M. and for Wednesday evening confessions at 7:00 P.M.

FAST AND ABSTINENCE

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of abstinence and fasting. All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence. Abstinence means that people 14 years of age and older are not to eat meat at all on the designated days. Fasting means eating only one full meal, with two small meals, and no eating between meals. People who have reached their 18th birthday and up to their 59th birthday are obligated to fast. Additional forms of abstinence and fasting may also be undertaken voluntarily on a personal basis.



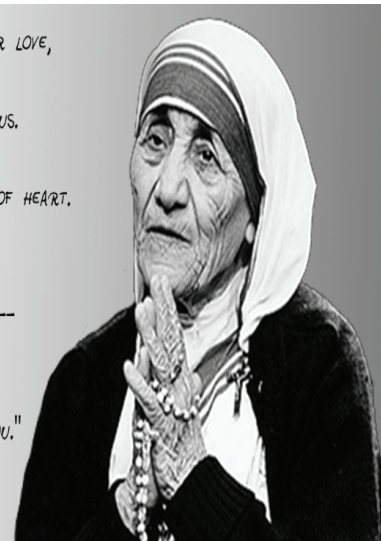
Stations of the Cross will be prayed at the Cathedral on the Fridays of Lent at 5:30 P.M. The service lasts 1/2 hour.



The cathedral's Lenten **Drive-Thru** Fish Lunches will begin on Ash Wednesday and continue on the Fridays of Lent, except Good Friday. The cost is \$10.00 for a large fish sandwich, mac & cheese, and cole slaw.

"AS LENT IS THE TIME FOR GREATER LOVE,
LISTEN TO JESUS' THIRST...
'REPENT AND BELIEVE' JESUS TELLS US.
WHAT ARE WE TO REPENT?
OUR INDIFFERENCE, OUR HARDNESS OF HEART.
WHAT ARE WE TO BELIEVE?
JESUS THIRSTS EVEN NOW,
IN YOUR HEART AND IN THE POOR --
HE KNOWS YOUR WEAKNESS.
HE WANTS ONLY YOUR LOVE,
WANTS ONLY THE CHANCE TO LOVE YOU."

~ BLESSED TERESA OF CALCUTTA





“But I say to you, love your enemies
and pray for those who persecute you.”

Matthew 5:44

NON-VIOLENT RESISTANCE

Our readings from Leviticus and from Matthew today explore an especially difficult challenge: how to respond to injury and humiliation. Leviticus teaches that, in order to be holy, God’s people must refrain from grudges or revenge. In Matthew, Jesus teaches that we must first avoid actions that continue an escalating cycle of retribution. Jesus advocated a creative non-violent resistance, a response that both refuses to accept being humiliated and keeps open the possibility of reconciliation. For his listeners, turning the other cheek or walking the second mile were ways to throw the oppressor off-balance. They expose the harm being done, and sustain one’s personal dignity. When Jesus follows with his next teaching, “love your enemies,” he points to what might be a long journey of forgiveness toward those who hurt us. At these times, we might remember that Jesus, in his suffering and death, followed a similar path.

TEMPLE OF GOD

When Paul writes “you are the temple of God,” note that he uses the plural form of “you.” He was speaking about the community at Corinth as a temple. For Paul, a temple is where God dwells. God abides, and is active within, the shared life of the community. Paul speaks at length about the divisions within the Corinthian community. These divisions were seen as a defilement of God’s temple.

We encounter divisions in our own Church today, sometimes accompanied by a troubling lack of humility and charity. Often the conflicts revolve around establishing markers of true discipleship, with some emphasizing personal faith and morality, and others emphasizing justice and the Church’s social teachings. Perhaps the Spirit, active in the temple of our shared life, points toward Jesus’ command “love your enemies.” Perhaps we best exhibit discipleship in the charity we extend, and our capacity for dialogue, with those who disagree with us or who are unkind to us.

THE SERMON

Today we conclude the series of Sunday Gospel passages from the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew’s chapters 5–7. Having proclaimed the coming of the Kingdom, Jesus extensively described to his new community what life is like in this new realm, and the inner dispositions needed to enter into it. He exposed hidden places of the heart, especially those places that needed to be healed.

The Sermon is a huge challenge for us today. The Sermon pushes against our attempts to compromise what God summons us to be and to do. It challenges our deep desires to see ourselves as virtuous, and to resist God’s desire to transform us. It reminds us that we are both loved by God and in need of God’s help. As we anticipate the season of Lent, consider prayerfully reading the Sermon as a whole. We are invited to carefully explore our deeper motivations, to allow God to uncover and to heal our fears and our wounds.

TODAY’S READINGS

Leviticus 19:1–2, 17–18
Psalm 1–2, 3–4, 8, 10, 12–13
1 Corinthians 3:16–23
Matthew 5:38–48

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