

First Sunday of Lent

February 26, 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: ithayer@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



"If we wish to serve God and love our neighbor well, we must manifest our joy in the service we render to Him and them."

SAINT KATHARINE DREXEL

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.

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.

OUR FASCINATING FAITH

Lent

One of the liturgical reforms mandated at the Second Vatican Council was that the focus of the season of Lent should be restored as a time of preparation for—or renewal of—baptism. The bishops at the Council were aware of the fact that the origins of Lent as a distinctive liturgical season lay in the early centuries when the Church celebrated the sacraments of Christian initiation only once a year, at the Easter Vigil. In order to prepare those who were to receive those sacraments, a special period of preparation (eventually lasting forty days) gradually developed.

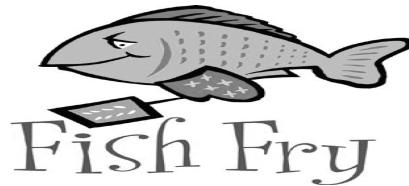
By the time of the Second Vatican Council, the initiatory character of Lent had long been forgotten, and it had become simply a time of penance focused on individual spiritual renewal. The introduction of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and the revision of the Lectionary after the Council have changed all of that. Now the Sunday scripture readings during Lent are very carefully selected with an eye to the journey of those preparing to be initiated at the Easter Vigil. Once again, the entire community is asked to undergo penance in solidarity with the candidates for Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

Thus, in order to appreciate fully the meaning of the readings during this season, the “filter” through which they must be heard is always the knowledge that we are helping to prepare our sisters and brothers in the catechumenate for their initiation at the Easter Vigil.

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THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

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 are available on the Fridays of Lent, except Good Friday. The cost is \$10.00 for a large fish sandwich, mac & cheese, and cole slaw.



FIRST SUNDAY OF Lent

FEBRUARY 26, 2023

At that time Jesus was
let by the Spirit into the desert
to be tempted by the devil.
Matthew 4:1

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JESUS' MODEL OF FAITHFULNESS

Ashes and gardens, failings and faithfulness, death and life. As we enter into Lent, we are invited to turn our thoughts, hearts, and lives toward God and God's ways, to turn away from the death of sin, which separates us from God, and to embrace the gift of life offered in Christ, now and into eternity. Eve and Adam listened to the serpent rather than God who had given them a garden filled with beauty and abundance. On the contrary, Jesus stood firm in the face of temptation. This Lent, we ponder the choices we make in our daily lives, trust in God's mercy as we repent from sinfulness, and strengthen our commitment to discipleship, following Jesus' model of faithfulness.

TURN AWAY FROM SIN

Lent is a season in which we resolve to turn away from sin and turn toward Jesus. Turning away from sin requires us to admit that we miss the mark and fail to live as God desires. The first Sunday of Lent always includes a gospel account of Jesus facing temptation in the desert. Notice that it is not generic temptation Jesus meets, nor do we. Our temptations are personal, areas of particular weakness, situations in which, like Eve and Adam, we may rationalize and give in to sin rather than holding firm to what we know is right and just. Jesus gives us a model for meeting temptation: draw on the wisdom and truth found in sacred scripture and the teaching tradition of the Church to know what we must do or not do. Be strong and know that the Lord is with you as you resolve to be faithful.

TRUST IN GOD'S MERCY

"Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned." The refrain of today's Responsorial Psalm gives voice to our conviction that God is good and reminds us that we can trust in God's mercy as we face our sin, seek forgiveness, and resolve to avoid sin in the future. The more deeply we grow in relationship with Christ, the more sure of God's love we become. Rooted in this love, we can admit our failings and trust that God always desires to be close to us, drawing us into abundant life. Lent is a good time to seek God's mercy and forgiveness in the sacrament of reconciliation. We can take heart in the assurance that forgiveness awaits our repentant heart.

TODAY'S READINGS

Genesis 2:7–9, 3:1–7
Psalm 51:3–4, 5–6, 12–13, 17
Romans 5:12–19 [12, 17–19]
Matthew 4:1–11

