

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 19, 2019

*“Behold, God’s dwelling is
with the human race.”*

— Revelation 21:3

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 12th Avenue
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: 6:00 PM
Rosary: 10:05 AM - Rosary: 5:40 PM

Our Lady of Fatima Parish Administrator

Very Reverend Alan E. Thomas, VG

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 Winter
9AM - 6PM Summer

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. 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

Very Rev. Alan E. Thomas, VG, Administrator

PH: 814-742-7075, Allison, Secretary

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

Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School:

Web: www.bishopguilfoyle.org – 944-4014

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: 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: 6:45 AM

8:00 AM

8:00 AM

10:00 AM

12:00 Noon

12:00 Noon

12:00 Noon

5:30 PM

Saturday: 8:00 AM

5:00 PM

12:00 Noon

May 19, 2019

Fifth Sunday of Easter

MISSIONARIES OF MERCY

Paul's back! After last week's "violent abuse," opponents organized a lynch mob that beat Paul nearly to death. But call Paul the "energizing evangelist," transforming deadly cruelty into life-giving zeal. Paul's past courage should inspire our commitment; Revelation's future "new heaven, new earth" should inspire our optimism. But Revelation's present assurance, "Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race," should challenge us to become "missionaries of mercy." Because Pope Francis declared that the Church's credibility is completely dependent on our showing unconditional mercy. Mercy, said Francis, makes the Church, the world, and everyone young again, reawakened to life's noblest virtues. Fittingly, in today's Gospel Jesus reinforces that theme: "This is how all will know you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

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TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Frequent fliers today have many ways to accrue air miles, so one doesn't always have to endure long hours in cramped seats to earn free hours in cramped seats. In St. Paul's day, there were no such perks, nor would there have been any legal system for him to protest the shipwrecks he endured. He had other rewards in mind. The churches that he established in the catalogue of cities from today's first reading must have been very different from one another. Language, culture, customs, religious history, obstacles to community, social challenges, the places where they met, their clothing, their bread and wine, all distinct, particular to the area.

There were social customs as well: in a Christian household, the only place where a slave would be able to stand legally as an equal with the master would be at the table of the Lord, because at that table a new world of reconciliation was imaged. While Paul revered local customs, he was relentless about challenging the ways that people lived their Christian lives and how their worship reflected them. It is much the same today, as a global Catholic Church seeks to respect local customs and culture, allowing for differences in many things, yet always giving expression to the underlying presence of Christ, who binds us all together into his body.

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

GARDENING

Kind hearts are the garden,
Kind thoughts are the root,
Kind words are the blossoms,
Kind deeds are the fruit.

—Anonymous

IMPENETRABLE

The same fence that shuts others out shuts us in.

—Anonymous

May 19 John 13:31-33A, 34-35

"By this everyone will know you are my disciples. If you love one another." Today Jesus teaches us that the real sign of the Church is the presence of LOVE.

THEREE WAYS TO FIND (AND BRING) EASTER HOPE ALL YEAR LONG

1. See the world with "Easter eyes."

Be on the lookout for signs of hope—in nature, in other people, in God—wherever you are. And tell others what you see.

Be present at the foot of the cross.

Don't hesitate to ask for help in your own times of trouble. And be there with others when they suffer sorrow or doubt.

Choose life over death, always.

In everything you do, be a witness to hope. Live as though you know death doesn't get the last word...because it doesn't.

May 19, 2019
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
10:30 AM

May 19, 2019 Scripture Reflections

OUR LADY OF FATIMA MASS INTENTIONS

Readings: Acts 14:21-27; Rv 21:1-5; Jn 13:31-33,34-35

Today's Intention-Fr. James D. Zatalava

Readings: Acts:15:1-2,22-29; Rv 21:10-14,22-23; Jn 14:23-29

Sun., May 26th, David Conrad, (wife Karen and Family)

Cathedral Mass Intention

May 20, Monday: Saint Bernardine of Siena, Priest

Readings: Acts 14:5-18; Jn 14:21-26

6:45 AM Rita Simasek (Carmen Robosson)

12:00 AM Eleanor Hupert (Family)

May 21, Tuesday: Saint Christopher Magallanes

Readings: Acts 14:19-28; Jn 14:27-31

6:45 AM John Hallinan (Family)

12:00 PM Trudy Eicher (Family and Friends)

May 22, Wednesday Saint Rita of Cascia, Religious

Readings: Acts 15:1-6; Jn 15:1-8

6:45 AM Michael Zurilla, Anniversary (Family)

12:00 PM Kevin Sheets (Helen and Jim Seidel)

May 23, Thursday: Easter Weekday

Readings: Acts 15; 7-21; Jn 15:9-11

6:45 AM Mike Kling, Birthday (Family)

12:00 PM Madeline Vogel (Cathedral Parish)

May 24, Friday: Easter Weekday

Readings: Acts 15:22-31; Jn 15:12-17

6:45 AM Dottie Berger (Sister Ann Crouse)

12:00 PM Ray Plummer (Kathy & Greg Clemens)

May 25, Saturday: Sts. Bede the Venerable, Gregory VII

Readings: Acts 16:1-10; Jn 15:18-21

8:00 AM John Capouellez, Birthday (Family)

12:00 PM Sally Colledge (Pete Colledge and Family)

Vigil: Sixth Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts:15:1-2,22-29; Rv 21:10-14,22-23; Jn 14:23-29

5:00 PM Frances Pagliaro, Birthday (Family)

**Ascension Thursday, May 30th, Holy Day of
Obligation - Mass at OLOF will be @ 6 PM.**

In a few weeks, we will celebrate the Solemnity of Pentecost, which marks the beginning of the Church. Today's readings offer a sense of the spread of the Church, and what the Lord calls each of us to do.

The readings from the Acts shows Paul and Barnabas concluding their first missionary journey by returning to the church of Antioch that had authorized their mission. On their journey, they set up structures of leadership to empower and encourage their new communities "to persevere in the faith" in view of the inevitable hardships to come.

The Book of Revelation reminds us of our future hopes, when creation is renewed and the old world of hardships gives way to a glorious future. "He [God] will dwell with him and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them as their God." The Resurrection offers a foretaste of this promised union with God.

In bidding farewell to his disciples at the Last Supper, Jesus offers encouragement by summarizing for them his teaching during his three-year ministry. Jesus' central message is captured in these words: "I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you should also love one another." His sacrificial death for humanity provides the model for how we are to love one another. In this sense, it is a new commandment that challenges Christ's followers to embrace, at the heart of love, a sacrificial love and calls on followers to live it in their lives. Sacrificial love becomes the mark of disciples.

- In what way is the new commandment to love one another a "new commandment"?

Congratulations to Emma Masic and Elizabeth Stitt who Graduated from Bishop Guilfoyle High School, Friday evening at the Cathedral. May God Bless them on their journey threw life.

AT HOME with the WORD 2019, Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, pg. 87.

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.

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

Stewardship Reflections

"This is how you will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John13:35). How will you respond to Jesus this week in the giving of your time, talent, and treasure?

Confirmation

Our Lady of Fatima candidate, Gretta Levine will be confirmed on Tuesday, May 28th, at 7:00 PM. with the Cathedral candidates.

Religious Education - PK/8

The final F.I.R.E. class will be held in the Cathedral Hall this evening from 6:15 until 8:15 PM. All Service Hour forms are due now.

Vacation Bible School 2019

"Set Sail With the Holy Trinity"; July 29 to August 2. Ages 4-10 more information to come.

HTCS News

Spring Concert - There will be a Spring Concert on Monday, May 20th at 6:30 PM at the Maria Parish Center (Middle School Gymnasium). Ensembles involved: - 4th Grade Beginning Band - Middle School Concert Band - Elementary Chorus - Middle School Concert Choir - Performing Arts ensemble

The Spring Concert is a great opportunity for our Holy Trinity students to showcase their hard work and musical growth over the third and fourth quarter. This is a required event for all 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade students involved in these ensembles.

Easter Evening Prayer - Every Sunday in Easter Season the Cathedral Parish gathers at 6:30 PM for Evening Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

Independent Catholic Foundation News

The Independent Catholic Foundation seeks applicants for the 2019 Welge Scholarship which provides financial assistance to worthy parishioners who are entering their junior or senior year of college and are a member in good standing here at Cathedral Parish. Applications are available in the parish office or can be downloaded from the "Grants" page of the Foundation website, www.icfdaj.org. Completed applications, including the pastor's signature, are due no later than 4:00 PM on Friday, June 15.

Collection May 12th = \$ 2,104.25

BIRTHDAYS: Shauna Baranik,5/25; Mike Byrne 5/26; Bonnie Long 5/28; Dan Smith 5/29; Rita Sral 5/31;

There will be a baptismal preparation session for infant baptism on Tuesday June 4th, at 7:00 P.M. in the Seton Suite. Parents need not wait until your baby is born to attend the class. All parents are expected to attend this informative meeting regarding your baby's baptism.



OUR LADY URGES US TO PRAY THE HOLY ROSARY

FOR

PEACE AND OFFER

SACRIFICES BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!

Memorial Day

Notice that there will only be one Mass said on Monday May 27 at 9:00 AM at the Cathedral. Cathedral Parish Office will be closed and re-open on Tuesday May 28 at 9:00 AM.

Eucharistic Adoration

There will be adoration before the Blessed Sacrament in exposition on Wednesday, June 5th from 12:30 PM until 8:00 PM. The Monstrance is located in front of the tabernacle in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. All are invited to make time in our schedules to spend quality prayer time before the Blessed Sacrament.

THE MASS

Sister Theresa, CCW, will be offering Bishop Robert Barron's DVD on "THE MASS". This is a wonderful opportunity for you to understand more deeply what the Mass is all about.

We will meet Tuesday, June 4th, 11th, and 18th from 6:30 to 8:00 PM at the Sacred Heart School Building. Please come and bring a friend. God bless you.

Families United for Change

Is Your Family Suffering from Drug Addiction? We are a group of Family Members affected by Addiction. We are starting a grass roots efforts to bring about change in recovery. All are Welcome! Next Meeting: May 14th, 2019 (and every second Tuesday of the Month).

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Hope Community Church
1520- 11th Street, Lower Level
Altoona, Pa.

Phone: 814-934-8067

Holy Trinity Graduation

Our 8th Grade Graduation will take place Thursday May 23, 2019 at 6:00 PM with Mass at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament.

HTCS YARD SALE!

Saturday June 1, 2019, from 7:00 AM until 1:00 PM we will hold our Annual Yard Sale at the Middle School Gym (Maria Parish Center) at Saint Rose of Lima Parish. We are currently collecting your unwanted treasures. Items can be dropped off at the Middle School gym anytime.

Society of St. Vincent dePaul

We are dedicated to helping the poor and the suffering. Through our local Council we provide various services to the needy in our community. Our Financial needs department is located in our Altoona Thrift Store. The services we provide vary greatly. We provide financial help for the following situations and more.

- * To prevent loss of electricity, heat and water to their residence when they receive a termination notice.
- * To help with obtaining housing or to avoid loss of housing.
- * To shelter homeless temporarily in motels until housing can be found.
- * To provide beds and furniture for people who were homeless
- * To provide gas for people who have no money and are looking for a job or providing transportation for a sick family member.

We provide food for residents in emergency situations, serve meals when Sister Paula's kitchen is closed for the holidays and help in special situations such as help repair a vehicle for the resident to obtain employment, etc.

Thank you for your donation. It is greatly appreciated and will help us to do our mission.

Talents and gifts in the family

Respect for Self and Others. Everyone can do some things well. We call them gifts. Think of things you do well and draw a picture to show how you can use your gifts to make others happy.

Make a family talent/Gifts chain. Cut strips of colored construction paper, the same number for each member of the family. Choose a different color for each family member.

Discuss things each member of the family does well. Include ways they contribute to life of the family, such as a good sense of humor to taking out the garbage willingly. Write one of these talents or contributions on each strip of construction paper. Be sincere about the compliments represented.

Form one of the strips of paper into a circle and staple or tape the ends together. Form a circle with a strip from another member of the family and "thread" it through the first circle, forming a new "link". Tape or staple it together. Continue until all the strips you have written on are included.

When we concentrate on the wonderful gifts our children bring to the family, rather than on "problems," we are apt to be better parents. Helping our children view themselves in positive ways boosts their self-esteem. Children (and adults) who value themselves value other people. They have much more potential to be peacemakers in our troubled world.

Feast Day - May 22

Patron Saint of:

Impossible Causes, Victims of Abuse, Sickness, Loneliness, Parenthood, Widows

The Precious Pearl

The Story of Saint Rita of Cascia

This information was taken from the book, "The Precious Pearl," written by Michael DiGregorio, OSA

High in the hills of the republic of Cascia, in a tiny Umbrian village called Roccaporena, Antonio and Amata Lotti were well-respected peacemakers. In 1381, they welcomed their only child, Margherita. In the local dialect, her name meant "pearl," but she was known simply as Rita. Baptized in the church of St. Augustine in Cascia, Rita became acquainted with the local Augustinian nuns of St. Mary Magdalene Monastery and was attracted to their way of life. But her parents arranged a marriage for her in order to provide safety and security, and so Rita obediently married Paolo Mancini with whom she had two sons.

In the troubling political climate of the times, there was often open conflict between families. Paolo was the victim of one such conflict, and he was murdered when their sons were still young. The expectation of society at the time was that the boys should avenge the murder of their father to defend family honor. Rita, however, influenced by the peacemaking example of her parents, pledged to forgive her husband's killers. She faced a steep challenge, however, in convincing her sons to do the same. Tradition has it that she often pointed out to them the image of the crucified Christ and the fact that he forgave those who killed him. Within a year, however, both sons succumbed to a deadly illness leaving Rita not only a widow, but also childless. Following these tragedies, Rita placed her trust in God, accepting them and relying on her deep faith to find her way. After eighteen years of marriage, Rita felt called to a second but familiar vocation: to religious life in the Augustinian convent.

But the sisters at St. Mary Magdalene Monastery were hesitant and refused her request. However, Rita was not discouraged, convinced that she was called to the contemplative community. She returned and asked for entry again, but the sisters even more firmly refused, citing that although Rita had forgiven her husband's killers, her family had not. There were members of the rival family in the convent; her presence would be detrimental to community harmony. And so, inspired by her three patron saints (St. Augustine of Hippo, St. Nicholas of Tolentine and John the Baptist), Rita set out to make peace between the families. She went to her husband's family and exhorted them to put aside their hostility and stubbornness. They were convinced by her courage and agreed. The rival family, astounded by this overture of peace, also agreed. The two families exchanged a peace embrace and signed a written agreement, putting the vendetta to rest forever. A fresco depicting the scene of the peace embrace was placed on a wall of the Church of Saint Francis in Cascia, an enduring reminder of the power of good over evil and a testament to the widow whose forgiving spirit achieved the impossible.

At the age of 36, Rita finally was accepted into the Augustinian convent. She lived a regular life of prayer, contemplation and spiritual reading, according to the Rule of Saint Augustine. For forty years she lived this routine lifestyle until Good Friday of 1442, fifteen years before her death, when she had an extraordinary experience. In contemplation before an image of Jesus that was very dear to her, the *Jesus of Holy Saturday* or, as it is also known, *the Resurgent Christ*, she was moved by a deeper awareness of the physical and spiritual burden of pain which Christ so freely and willingly embraced for love of her and of all humanity. With the tender, compassionate heart of a person fully motivated by grateful love, she spoke her willingness to relieve Christ's suffering by sharing even the smallest part of his pain. Her offer was accepted, her prayer was answered, and Rita was united with Jesus in a profound experience of spiritual intimacy, a thorn from his crown penetrating her forehead. The wound it caused remained open and visible until the day of her death.

Toward the end of her life, Rita progressively weakened physically. Several months before her death, she was visited by a relative from Roccaporena who asked if there was anything she could do for the ailing woman. Rita at first declined, but then made a simple request to have a rose from the garden of her family home brought to her.

continued

It was January, the dead of winter in the hills of Umbria, but upon her return home the relative passed Rita's family garden and found to her astonishment a single fresh rose in the snow-covered garden on an otherwise barren bush. She immediately returned to the convent where she presented the miraculous rose to Rita who accepted it with quiet and grateful assurance.

For the four decades she had spent in Casica's convent she had prayed especially for her husband Paolo, who had died so violently, and for her two sons, who had died so young. The dark, cold earth of Roccaporena, which held their mortal remains, had now produced a beautiful sign of spring and beauty out of season. So, Rita believed, had God brought forth, through her prayers, their eternal life despite tragedy and violence. She now knew that she would soon be one with them again.

Rita died peacefully on May 22, 1457. An old and revered tradition records that the bells of the convent immediately began to peal unaided by human hands, calling the people of Cascia to the doors of the convent, and announcing the triumphant completion of a life faithfully lived. The nuns prepared her for burial and placed her in a simple wooden coffin. A carpenter who had been partially paralyzed by a stroke, voiced the sentiments of many others when he spoke of the beautiful life of this humble nun in bringing lasting peace to the people of Cascia. "If only I were well," he said, "I would have prepared a place more worthy of you." With those words, he was healed; Rita's first miracle was performed. He fashioned the elaborate and richly decorated coffin which would hold Rita's body for several centuries. She was never buried in it, however. So many people came to look upon the gentle face of the "Peacemaker of Cascia" that her burial had to be delayed. It became clear that something exceptional was occurring as her body seemed to be free from nature's usual course. It is still incorrupt today, now in a glass-enclosed coffin, in the basilica of Cascia.

We need St. Rita's prayers now more than ever. She is the patron saint of impossible causes and if you look around at all that is happening in the world today you truly feel the only way back to some kind of peace is through God's intervention. St. Rita is a beautiful example of keeping your faith throughout any and all difficult situations.

Prayer to St. Rita #1

Dear Rita, model wife and widow, you yourself suffered in a long illness showing patience out of love for God. Teach us to pray as you did. Many invoke you for help, full of confidence in your intercession. Deign to come now to our aid for the relief and cure of (mention your request). To God all things are possible; may this healing give glory to the Lord. Amen.

Prayer to St. Rita, Helper of the Hopeless #2

HOLY PATRONESS

Of those in need, St. Rita, So humble, pure and patient, Whose pleadings with your Divine Spouse Are irresistible, Obtain for me From your Crucified Jesus The request I make of you. (Mention request.) Be propitious towards me For the greater glory of God, And I promise to honor you And to sing your praise forever. O glorious St. Rita, Who miraculously participated In the sorrowful Passion Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Obtain for me The grace to suffer with resignation The troubles of this life, And protect me in all my needs. Amen. Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be (3 times)

Novena Prayer to St Rita

O holy protectress of those who are in utmost need, shining as a star of hope in the midst of darkness, in patience and fortitude as the patriarch Job, scourge of devils, health of the sick, deliverer of those in extreme need, admiration of saints and model of all states! With confident trust, and firmly united to the adorable will of my God, through the merits of my only Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and in particular of that painful crown of thorns which with a tender devotion thou didst daily contemplate; through the merits of the most sweet Virgin Mary and thine own excellent graces and virtues, I implore thee with my whole heart and soul, to obtain my earnest petition, provided it be for the greater glory of God and my salvation (*mention your request*).

Guide and purify my intention, O holy protectress and most dear advocate, that I may obtain the pardon of all my sins and the grace to persevere daily, as thou didst, in walking with courage and generosity and unwavering fidelity upon the heavenward path on which the love of my sweet Lord desires to lead me. Amen.

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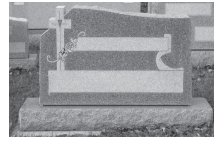
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