

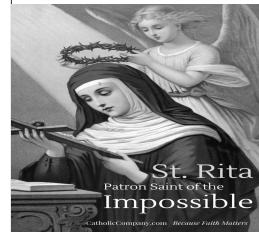
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 17, 2020

F “I will ask the Father, and he will give you . . . the Spirit of truth.”

— John 14:16–17

*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*



FEAST DAY

MAY 22

**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: 7:30 AM - 5PM,
Saturday 7:30 AM - 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 IS NOW OPEN FOR PERSONAL PRAYER Beginning May 16. (see pg 4 for restrictions)



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: ltaylor@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

THE REASON FOR OUR HOPE

"What is the reason for your hope?" Imagine somebody coming up to you and asking you that question. Not "What are you hoping for?" or "What are you hoping to do?" No, this isn't about our desires for possessions or aspirations for life, it's "Why do you hope?" Peter today tells us that we ought to be ready to give an answer to this question. Truth be told, few of us spend much time thinking about why we hope. Luckily, the scriptures today give us our answers. We hope because Christ suffered for us, in order that we might come to God. We hope because we know that, in the Spirit, God grants us another Advocate through Christ to remain with us always. No matter what we might hope for, whatever we might hope to do, we must always first know and proclaim the reason for our hope: the presence of God in Christ, with us through the power of the Spirit.

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MAY 22

SAINT RITA OF CASCIA (1381-1457)

If you're ever in Philadelphia on May 22, forget parking anywhere near Saint Rita's shrine. Cars line streets and fill medians as throngs pack a candlelight vigil and six Masses, honoring this patroness of lost causes, hopeless situations, and—as her statue in countless churches built by twentieth-century immigrants testifies—difficult marriages, troubled homes, and alienated children. Wise people warn, be careful what you pray for. "Divine Savior," Rita prayed, "let me suffer like you!" Obedient to parents who refused her wish to become a nun, Rita married a man who returned her devotion with twenty years of abuse. When enemies murdered him, Rita's two sons swore revenge. Paintings depict her pointing the angry boys toward Christ crucified, whom she begged to restrain them. Within the year, both sons died. Alone now, Rita went to the convent but was refused. The nuns feared violence, since one of them was related to the murderer. Rita arranged peace between the families, made vows, and became much sought after as a counselor and intercessor for forty years on earth—and ever since in heaven.

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

LIGHT OF BELIEF

Every believer in this world must become a spark of light.

—Pope Saint John XXIII

PATRIOTISM

Patriotism is supporting your country all the time, and your government when it deserves it.

—Mark Twain

PRAYER TO ST. RITA OF CASCIA

O Holy Patroness of those in need, St. Rita, whose pleadings before thy Divine Lord are almost irresistible, who for thy lavishness in granting favors hast been called the Advocate of the Hopeless and even of the Impossible; St. Rita, so humble, so pure, so mortified, so patient and of such compassionate love for thy Crucified Jesus that thou couldst obtain from Him whatsoever thou askest, on account of which all confidently have recourse to thee expecting, if not always relief, at least comfort; be propitious to our petition, showing thy power with God on behalf of thy suppliant; be lavish to us, as thou hast been in so many wonderful cases, for the greater glory of God, for the spreading of thine own devotion, and for the consolation of those who trust in thee.

We promise, if our petition is granted, to glorify thee by making known thy favor, to bless and sing thy praises forever. Relying then upon thy merits and power before the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we pray thee grant that [here mention your request].

By the singular merits of thy childhood,
Obtain for us our request.

By thy perfect union with the Divine Will,
Obtain for us our request.

By thy heroic sufferings during thy married life,
Etc. [repeat: Obtain for us our request after each line]

By the consolation thou didst experience at the conversion of thy husband,

By the sacrifice of thy children rather than see them grievously offend God,

By the miraculous entrance into the convent,

By thy severe penances and thrice daily bloody scourgings,

By the suffering caused by the wound thou didst receive from the thorn of thy Crucified Savior,

By the Divine love which consumed thy heart,

By that remarkable devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, on which alone thou didst exist for four years,

By the happiness with which thou didst part from thy trials to join thy Divine Spouse,

By the perfect example thou gavest to people of every state of life.

Pray for us, O holy St. Rita, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

<p>MAY 17, 2020 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 10:30 AM</p>	<p>SCRIPTURE REFLECTION</p> <p>MAY 17, 2020</p>
<p>OUR LADY OF FATIMA MASS INTENTIONS</p> <p>Today's Intention - Frances Kasun Readings: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; 1 Pt 3:15-18; Jn 14:15-21</p> <p>May 24, 2020, Seventh Sunday of Easter Readings: Acts 1:12-14; Ps 27:1, 4, 7-8; 1 Pt 4:13-16; Jn 17:1-11; Allison Purdy-Ritchey, (Becki Grace)</p>	<p>Looking back now over almost 2,000 years of the Church's history we can see how this promise has been fulfilled. There were many heretics and schismatics who threatened the very continuance of the Church as God's faithful people on earth. There were crises and numerous catastrophes caused by the human weaknesses of its heads and its members, yet the Church survived and spread and continued to send saints to heaven because of the direct and active aid of the Holy Spirit.</p>
<p>Cathedral Mass Intention</p> <p>May 18, Monday: Saint John 1, Pope and Martyr Readings: Acts 16:11-15; Jn 15:26-16:4 + Lavelle Family (Phyllis Lavelle Sheets) + Joseph Anthony Moffa (Estate)</p> <p>May 19, Tuesday: Easter Weekday Readings: Acts 16:23-34; Jn 16:5-11 + Hilda Conrad (Jack & Nancy Kirkpatrick) + Kristina Giblock (Father Joe Dzurenko)</p> <p>May 20, Wednesday: Saint Bernardine of Siena, Readings: Acts 17:15,22-18:1; Jn 16:12-15 + Our Mothers (McNellis All Stars) + Trudy Eicher (Family & Friends)</p> <p>May 21, Thursday: The Ascension of the Lord Readings: Acts 1:1-11/Eph 1:17-23/Mt 28: 16-20 + John Hallinan (Family) + Kevin Sheetz (Mom & Dad)</p> <p>May 22, Friday: Saint Rita of Cascia, Religious Readings: Acts 18:9-18; Jn 16:20-23 + Michael Zurilla, Anniversary (Family) + Madeline Vogel (Pat Rhoa)</p> <p>May 23, Saturday: Easter Weekday Readings: Acts 18:23-28; Jn 16:23-28 + Frances Kasun (Steve & Robin Kasun) + John Bauer (Wife)</p> <p>Vigil: SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Readings: Acts 1:12-14; 1 Pt 4:13-16; Jn 17:1-11 + Frances Pagliaro, Birthday (Family)</p> <p><i>Jesus, Son of the Living Father, Have Mercy on Me a Sinner.</i></p>	<p>During those two thousand years great empires have risen and fallen. They had large armies and vast wealth and earthly resources at their disposal, yet they disintegrated like all things human. The names of one-time mighty men who ruled over millions are now nothing more than a nuisance for children in their history classes. The large tracts of our globe which they ruled are now divided and known by other names. This was, is, and will be the lot of all merely human enterprises. Today's despots, where they rule with iron hand, will share the same fate.</p> <p>In the midst of all these upheavals the Church of Christ has continued to flourish because it was directed and sustained by the Holy Spirit, who abides within it. How can we ever show enough gratitude to the three Divine Persons of the Blessed Trinity who planned so lovingly and so efficaciously for our safe journey to heaven? The Father sent His Son as man among us so that we men could become His brothers, and adopted sons of the Father. The Son suffered hardships, insults and misunderstandings during His temporary stay on earth, and ended like a crucified malefactor because of the sins of mankind. But He rose triumphantly from the dead and set up the Church as a society which would bring to men of all races, ages and colors the salvation and exaltation of mankind, which His life and death had won for us.</p> <p>Knowing only too well the weaknesses and waywardness of human nature, He and the Father sent the Holy Spirit to remain with His Church as its infallible guide until the last man has entered heaven.</p> <p>This is a very brief summary of what the Blessed Trinity has done, and is continuing to do for us, through the Church. We, the people of God, the chosen race of the New Testament are God's Church on earth. It is for you and me that the Holy Spirit is at work this very day. When He guides the steps of Peter's successor, the Pope, or the deliberations of the bishops, the heirs of the apostolic college, it is for us and for our salvation that He is acting. While we are faithful members of the Church, and of Christ's mystical body, while we remain live branches safely attached to the vine who is Christ, we have nothing to fear; we are on the sure road to heaven, to enjoy eternal happiness with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit whom we shall thank and glorify forever.</p>
<p><i>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.</i></p>	<p>Excerpted from The Sunday Readings by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.</p>

Cont'd from pg.2

LET US PRAY.

O God, Who in Thine infinite tenderness hast vouchsafed to regard the prayer of Thy servant, Blessed Rita, and dost grant to her supplication that which is impossible to human foresight, skill and efforts, in reward of her compassionate love and firm reliance on Thy promise, have pity on our adversity and succor us in our calamities, that the unbeliever may know Thou art the recompense of the humble, the defense of the helpless, and the strength of those who trust in Thee, through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

OLOF WILL BE OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

We are pleased to announce that beginning Saturday, May 16, the OLOF will be open for private prayer, for 25 people or less, from 7:30 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. Facial masks are to be worn, social distancing is to be observed, and persons are asked to self-sanitize their seating area before and after their visit.

A schedule for the availability of the Sacrament of Reconciliation will probably be announced early next week.

Radio Mass

Our parish's live radio Mass will be on Sunday, at 10:00 A.M. on WFBG 1290 AM. Until we are able to resume public worship, the participants of the Mass will include the priest, organist, cantor and reader/s. (Due to technical difficulties at the station, COVID-19 issues, and the availability of prerecorded Masses by the bishop and by St. Benedict Parish in Johnstown, our parish's Mass has not been on the air since the beginning of March.) We are pleased to be able to provide this service once again.

Mass for Widows and Widowers

Remember your loved ones on Sunday, May 31, 2020 with a televised Mass celebrated by Bishop Mark Bartchak at 11:00 am on WATM ABC 23 and will be rebroadcast that night at 9:00 p.m. on Atlantic Broadband channel 9.

All persons who have lost a spouse through death throughout the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese are invited to register by contacting Family Life Office by calling 814-317-2647/814-317-2643 or email familylife@dioceseaj.org to have your spouse acknowledged and remembered at Mass. When registering, please give your name, address, phone number and name of your spouse who had passed away. Deadline to register is May 20, 2020.

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: LOVING JESUS AND KEEPING HIS COMMANDMENTS

Father Matthew the Poor is the name of a Coptic (Egyptian) Orthodox Monk and theologian who wrote 181 books and many spiritual and theological articles.

One of his books is entitled If You Love Me: Serving Christ and the Church In Spirit and in Truth. Father Matthew emphasizes the need for service as an expression of love...love for Jesus and love for the Church.

In this weekend's Gospel passage (John 14:15-21), Jesus tells us that "if" we love Him we will keep His commandments. The most essential of His commandments is to love God, our neighbors, and ourselves. To love someone means that we care about them and express that concern through service. In order for us to "keep" the commandments of Jesus we need to know what they are: we are to love, serve, forgive, trust, pray, do what he did, and help make more disciples. Familiarity with the Gospels will teach us even more of what Jesus commands, so that our love for Him and the Church is obviously evident.

During the COVID-19 pandemic people have been creatively loving Jesus by keeping His commandments and serving others. As we transition into a more public participation in the life of the Church there will a need for a love that is also expressed through patience and good judgment. We will be able to do that because Jesus hasn't abandoned us. His presence continues to be a source of encouragement and hope.

Special thanks goes out to David Stein our Parishioner/Gardener. He has been unfailing in keeping our grounds in excellent shape. He comes and goes, you only know he was here by the landscape. No, he does not mow the lawn.

Lord God,

send forth upon us your Holy Spirit that we may be strengthened by your gift of grace.

May we excel in every virtue:

in love that is sincere,

in concern for the sick and the poor,

in self-discipline,

and in holiness of life.

May we in this life imitate your Son – who came not to be served but to serve – that we may one day reign with him in heaven. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



SIXTH SUNDAY OF *Easter*

MAY 17, 2020

A TIME OF TRANSITION, INSTABILITY, AND HOPE

Today's readings describe that period when the apostles are getting used to acting on their own. Acts describes the spreading of the word to Samaria, curing the sick, and their reception of the Holy Spirit. First Peter reminds us that our response to evil must be to do good and to speak of our hope with gentleness and reverence. The psalm is joyous with praise for God and a reminder of God's saving of those held captive in Egypt long, long ago. John talks not only about the Father and Jesus but also another Advocate, who will remain even when Jesus leaves. The readings also contain the promise of continued love and comfort. The readings today reflect a time of transition, instability, and hope, much like we are experiencing in these days of the pandemic.

WHEN YOU ARE MALIGNED

Each of the readings describes a time of transition and uncertainty. In Acts, the apostles are learning how to respond to those seeking to share in the joy of healing the sick and casting out unclean spirits. In First Peter, the new Christian community is reminded that they will be maligned. Their response to such suffering is shaped by Jesus' example of gentleness and reverence. The Gospel offers Jesus' words of consolation to those who are being left behind. All those who had lost Jesus once through crucifixion must prepare to lose him again. But this time they are promised that they will not be abandoned. They are left with the promise that Jesus' new commandments are the continuing guide to a life that, through death and resurrection, unites those who believe in Jesus, the Father, and the Spirit.

KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS

If keeping Jesus' commandments is the key to loving him, being loved by the Father, and accompanied by the Spirit, then what choice do we have but to keep his commandments? It seems simple, but unlike the commandments carried down the mountain by Moses, Jesus did not leave us with ten statements of conduct to guide our actions. Jesus left us with a much more complicated commandment, to love our neighbor as ourselves. This commandment requires that we first love ourselves as Jesus loved us. We must see in ourselves what Jesus saw in each one of us. Jesus saw that we too are made in the image and likeness of God and that we carry with us the fragility of our humanity. We must see that same God-likeness and humanity in every person we encounter. It is not just ourselves we see in the face of our family, friends, acquaintances, and strangers. It is the face of God. We should act accordingly, especially during this pandemic.

John 14:15

Jesus said, "If you love me
you will keep my commandments."

TODAY'S READINGS

Acts 8:5–8, 14–17
Psalm 66:1–7, 16, 20
1 Peter 3:15–18
John 14:15–21

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