

# SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
February 24, 2019  
Merciful and gracious is the LORD,  
slow to anger and abounding  
in kindness.  
— Psalm 103:8

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.

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**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: 6:00 PM  
Rosary: 10:05 AM - Rosary: 5:40 PM

Our Lady of Fatima Parish Administrator  
Reverend Monsignor Robert C. Mazur  
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

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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  
Reverend Monsignor Robert C. Mazur, Rector

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)  
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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](http://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: [lthayer@dioceseaj.org](mailto:lthayer@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 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

**February 23, 2019**

### **Saint Polycarp's Story**

*Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna, disciple of Saint John the Apostle and friend of Saint Ignatius of Antioch, was a revered Christian leader during the first half of the second century.*

*Saint Ignatius, on his way to Rome to be martyred, visited Polycarp at Smyrna, and later at Troas wrote him a personal letter. The Asia Minor Churches recognized Polycarp's leadership by choosing him as a representative to discuss with Pope Anicetus the date of the Easter celebration in Rome—a major controversy in the early Church.*

*Only one of the many letters written by Polycarp has been preserved, the one he wrote to the Church of Philippi in Macedonia.*

*At 86, Polycarp was led into the crowded Smyrna stadium to be burned alive. The flames did not harm him and he was finally killed by a dagger. The centurion ordered the saint's body burned. The "Acts" of Polycarp's martyrdom are the earliest preserved, fully reliable account of a Christian martyr's death. He died in 155.*

### **Reflection**

*Polycarp was recognized as a Christian leader by all Asia Minor Christians—a strong fortress of faith and loyalty to Jesus Christ. His own strength emerged from his trust in God, even when events contradicted this trust. Living among pagans and under a government opposed to the new religion, he led and fed his flock. Like the Good Shepherd, he laid down his life for his sheep and kept them from more persecution in Smyrna. He summarized his trust in God just before he died: "Father... I bless Thee, for having made me worthy of the day and the hour..." (Acts of Martyrdom, Chapter 14). Saint Polycarp is the Patron Saint of: Earaches*

*Saint Polycarp, (flourished 2nd century; feast day February 23), Greek bishop of Smyrna who was the leading 2nd-century Christian figure in Roman Asia by virtue of his work during the initial appearance of the fundamental theological literature of Christianity. Historically, he formed a link between the apostolic and patristic ages.*

*By his major writing, The Letter to the Philippians, and by his widespread moral authority, Polycarp combated various heretical sects, including certain Gnostic groups that claimed religious salvation exclusively through their arcane spiritual knowledge. Polycarp's Letter to the Philippians contains a classic formulation in which he refutes the Gnostics' argument that God's incarnation in, and the death and Resurrection of, Christ were all imaginary phenomena of purely moral or mythological significance.*

*More important, however, is the way in which Polycarp referred to the apostle Paul in The Letter to the Philippians. Not only does he repeatedly quote from Paul's writings but he also stresses the personal importance of Paul as a primary authority of the Christian church. It must be remembered that at that time Paul had been adopted as a primary authority by the Gnostic heretics. Polycarp, in response, reclaimed Paul as a treasured figure of the orthodox church. It is apparently thus partly due to Polycarp that Paul, the disputed apostle, became a theologically respectable part of the Christian church's tradition. Furthermore, Polycarp's orthodox use of the Pauline texts marked a crucial advance in the Christian theology of biblical interpretation. According to certain scholars, Polycarp may even have composed or directly influenced some of the letters traditionally ascribed to St. Paul, the so-called Pastoral Letters (I and II Timothy, Titus). These letters possess a 2nd-century vocabulary and style that are characteristic of Polycarp.*

*Polycarp's Letter to the Philippians is doubly important for its early testimony to the existence of various other New Testament texts. It probably is the first to quote passages from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, the Acts of the Apostles, and the first letters of St. Peter and St. John. Other immediate postapostolic writers employed a more oral tradition.*

*Toward the end of his life Polycarp visited Bishop Anicetus of Rome to discuss with him the date at which the Easter festival was to be celebrated, a controversy that threatened to provoke a schism between Rome and Asia Minor. The two men could not reach agreement on a common date on which to celebrate Easter, so they agreed that Rome and Asia Minor would follow different practices in this regard. On his return to Smyrna, Polycarp was arrested by the Roman proconsul and burned to death when he refused to renounce Christianity. This event has been eulogized in the Martyrdom of Polycarp, one of the earliest-known Christian documents of this nature.*

FEBRUARY 24, 2019  
SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
10:30 AM

## FEBRUARY 24, 2019

### Scripture Reflection

#### OUR LADY OF FATIMA MASS INTENTIONS

Readings: 1 Sm 26:2,7-9,12-13,22-23; 1 Cor 15:45-49; Lk 6:27-38

Today's Intention-Fr. James D. Zatalava

Readings: Sir:27:4-7; 1 Cor 15:54-58; Lk 6:39-45

Sun., March 3rd, Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Intention: Fr. Dennis Kurdziel, (Connie McKnight & Cassidy),  
For Continued Good Health

#### Cathedral Mass Intention

##### February 25, Monday: Weekday

Readings: Sir 1:1-10; Mk 9:14-29

6:45 AM Joe Tomlinson (Davidson Family)

8:00 AM David Baronner (Jim Byrne)

12:00 PM Vincent Stoehr (Joan Straw)

##### February 26, Tuesday: Weekday

Readings: Sir 2:1-11; Mk 9:30-37

6:45 AM Terry J. Joyce (Family)

8:00 AM Tom Welteroth (Family)

12:00 PM Alma Reismeier (Fred)

##### February 27, Wednesday: Weekday

Readings: Sir 4:11-19; Mk 9:38-40

6:45 AM John Flinn (Sheila Stone)

8:00 AM Steve Flanagan (Patty & Bear McCloskey)

12:00 PM M Adaline Vogel (Jane Davidson Family)

##### February 28, Thursday: Weekday

Readings: Sir 5:1-8; Mk 9:41-50

6:45 AM Joseph A. Keirn (Mom and Dad)

8:00 AM Patty Geis, Anniversary (Family)

12:00 PM Eric Hockenberry Jr., Birthday (Mom)

##### March 1, Friday: Weekday

Readings: Sir 6:5-17; Mk 10:1-12

6:45 AM Kryder & Elizabeth Miller (Irwin Family)

8:00 AM Good Health of Susan Bauer (Children)

12:00 PM Irene Schlecht (Pat Byrne)

##### February 2, Saturday: Weekday

Readings: Sir 17:1-15; Mk 10:13-16

8:00 AM Herbert J. Kutruuff (John Prospero)

12:00 PM Ray Plummer (Bernie and Louise Joyce)

##### Vigil: Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Sir 27:4-7; 1 Cor 15:54-58; Lk 6:39-45

5:00 PM Frances Pagliaro (Mr. & Mrs. Bob Weimer)

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

*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.*

Today's Gospel, which is part of Luke's sermon on the plain, is a teaching on loving one's enemies. From a practical point of view, we are told that we should treat others as we would want to be treated. More importantly from a God-centered point of view, we are told to be merciful like our heavenly Father, who is kind to everyone, even the ungrateful and wicked.

Luke understands Jesus to be a prophet, and in this Sunday's Gospel reading, he relates some of Jesus' most challenging and difficult teachings. Jesus' words are easy to dismiss as impossible, or to critique as ideals that no one was ever meant to achieve. This would be a mistake. Jesus intended his disciples to strive to fulfill these commandments. Jesus drew these lessons from careful study of the Father's ways. His first was the Father's gift of eternal love. Another lesson came from the study of the Father's ways in Israel's history. Divine love always overcame judgment, and God's fidelity to the covenant remained strong regardless of human transgression. A final lesson came from nature; the sun rises on both sinners and saints, and God's rain falls equally on the righteous and the wicked. Jesus built his own life around these lessons, and he expected his disciples to do the same.

Christian disciples are called "children of God". As children of God, Christians can hope for blessings in this life and eternal fellowship with God in the next. Children resemble their parents. It might be astonishing at first to realize that living the Gospel makes us like the Father, but this is what it means to be a child of God. There is no arrogance or pride in finding the loving thing to do in any given situation, or forgiving those who wrong us, or sharing our gifts even with those who do not deserve them. God is always ready to love, give and forgive; just so, those who call themselves "children of God" must follow God's example in all ways.

- The Gospel provides examples of how we should behave. What do these tell us of God's mercy?

AT HOME with the WORD 2019, Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, pg. 49. AMERICA MAGAZINE, "What does it mean to be a child of God?" Michael R. Simone, S.J., February 8, 2019.

**Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School Drama Club presents "Hello, Dolly" on Friday, March 1, and Saturday, March 2, at 7:30 PM at the Mishler Theatre.**

**Precious Blood of the Lord**

Because of the seriousness of this flu season, Bishop Bartchak has asked that the Precious Blood of the Lord not be offered at Mass temporarily. It is the belief of the Catholic Church that the whole Body of Christ is present under either form of consecrated bread and wine. Also, the exchange of the sign of peace should avoid bodily contact. A reverend nod with eye contact and a smile will be the temporary practice. Reception of Holy Communion on the hand is encouraged; however, reception on the tongue may not be denied. These norms are in effect throughout the winter months or until the flu season is over.

**First Communion Sessions**

First Communion Sessions is scheduled for this Wednesday, February 27 and. All sessions are held in the Seton Suite from 6:30 PM until 8:00 PM. All students MUST be accompanied by an adult. If unable to attend a session, please call Chris Laraia at 814-312-7317.

**FIRE CLASSES for March 2019 Sunday March 3RD 2:00-4:00 & Sunday March 24TH 2:00-4:00**

**March 1, 2019 is First Friday.** If you wish to receive communion, please call the Cathedral Office at 944-4603, one of the priest's will be glad to come visit you.

**March 6 is Ash Wednesday, Masses @ 6:45. 8:00 AM and Noon.** None will be given at Our Lady of Fatima. **March 6 is also a day of Adoration at the Cathedral.**

**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (February 24)**

Today's Gospel is full of stewardship advice: give to everyone who asks; expect nothing in return; do not judge or condemn; love your enemies. Live your life with kindness and great mercy!

**Adaline Cassarly's 90th Birthday is FEBRUARY 27 and not March 27.**

**You still have time to send her a birthday card by Tuesday.**

**(My Fault, Sorry Adaline!)**

***Eucharistic***

**Liturgical Reflection...**

The solemn exposition of the Holy Eucharist offers the opportunity to the people of God for prayerful reflection on their call to a deeper devotion to the Eucharist. And this deep reverence and devotion challenge believers to a more faithful living of the Christian life. Eucharistic Adoration provides God's people with an opportunity to become more aware of Christ's presence with his people.

***Adoration***

Adoration also invites the faithful to a spiritual communion with the Lord Jesus. Prayer before the reserved Sacrament helps focus attention on the Eucharistic Lord who feeds our hungers and quenches our thirsts. Order for the Solemn Exposition of the Holy Eucharist, 1993, Number 3.

2019, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 S. Logan Blvd., Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648

**2018 Contributions for Income Tax Purposes.**

**I hope to have them completed by March 9th.**

**I apologize for holding up your Tax returns. I have excellent volunteers helping me.**

**Collection for February 17: \$ 1579.20**

**Nocturnal Adoration - Friday March 1 will be held at St. Marks Church, Altoona, 8-11 PM**

**BIRTHDAYS: Alicia Carper, March 1; Cassidy McKnight, March 2; Neil Cassarly, March 4.**



**OUR LADY URGES US TO PRAY THE HOLY ROSARY**

**FOR**

**PEACE AND OFFER**

**SACRIFICES BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!**

February 24, 2019

## DO NO HARM

*We listen quite a while before we get to the “punch line” of the first reading today: even though it would be an easy thing to do, David will not harm the anointed one of the Lord. We, of course, know that Jesus is the Messiah, the anointed one of God, but the Bible uses this term for many different people. It is scripture’s way of indicating who has been chosen by God for a special place and mission in salvation history.*

*In today’s Gospel, Jesus presents a greatly enlarged list of those who, as children of God, we should not harm, but love instead: our enemies, those who curse us or do us harm, those who owe us money, the ungrateful, the wicked. The point of Jesus’ teaching is not to encourage these kinds of behaviors in others, but rather to form us in the image of our heavenly Father by increasing our opportunities to love unconditionally, expecting no return; to be merciful and forgiving, even when it would be easier not to.*

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## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

*When the Roman Empire turned a favorable eye toward the once-persecuted Christians, among the effects was a population explosion in the baptismal font, as Christian sympathizers stepped from the shadows. With more and more people becoming Christians, laws were passed to protect Sunday as a work-free day. Soon, it became possible to celebrate Mass later in the morning, rather than the older custom of gathering before dawn to celebrate Eucharist. Amazingly, despite the increasing numbers of Christians, there was great resistance to adding to the number of worship events; the Eucharist that began as a few friends around a table soon was transformed into a more formal event with throngs crowding a large hall. All the Christians in a city or town would gather around the bishop for the one Sunday Eucharist, and only when the crowds became unmanageable was there an impulse to divide the assembly by splitting off a new bishop and flock.*

*Now, sixteen hundred years later, many parishes see a need to trim or combine Mass schedules. This is often seen as tough surgery. Yet our forebears in the faith would see it as a gain: a filling up of the Eucharist with a large and vigorous assembly, a fullness of ministry, an opportunity to make the Church more fully visible and stronger for service.*

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

## DESTROYING ONE’S ENEMIES

*Am I not destroying my enemies when I make friends of them?*

—Abraham Lincoln

## RECIPROCITY

*If God loved us as much as we love God, where would we all be?*

Anonymous

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