

Bulletin # 102656

**Our Lady of Fatima
2010 12th Avenue
Altoona, PA 16601**

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Special Instructions:

PENTECOST SUNDAY

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May 20, 2018



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.

PENTECOST SUNDAY
May 20, 2018

There are different kinds of
spiritual gifts but the same
Spirit.
— 1 Corinthians 12:4

Our Lady of Fatima Parish
2010 12th Avenue
www.ourladyoffatimaaltoona.com
Rectory Office Hours:
Monday – Friday 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Parish Office: 814-942-0371

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

Our Lady of Fatima Mass Schedule
Sunday: 10:30 AM - Holy Days: 6:00 PM
Rosary: 10:05 AM - Rosary: 5:40 PM

Mail Ministry to Elderly, Homebound, Seriously Sick
and Grieving - 944-4603

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

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

Parish Secretary
Carol Z. Smith

Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School:

Web: www.bishopguilfoyle.org – 944-4014

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

Directors of Religious Education:
Chris Laraia – Pre-K thru 8 - 312-7317
Jean Koury – 9 thru 12 – 949-2777

Our Lady of Fatima Church is open
Monday through Friday: 9AM - 6PM
for visits before the Blessed Sacrament.

Religious Education Office: Sundays – 943-7424

Director of Music Ministry
Leslie C. Thayer, MM, CAGO
Music Ministry Office - 944-2044
E-Mail: ltayer@dioceseaj.org

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals will be held
at Our Lady of Fatima.

Reconciliation @ Cathedral: 7:00 PM Wednesday
12:30 PM Saturday

Preparation for Baptism, and Weddings will be held at
the Cathedral. 944-4603

Religious Education @ Cathedral: Pre-K through 11
Sacramental Formation @ Cathedral: First Reconciliation
First Communion
Confirmation

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

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

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.

MAY 20, 2018
ALL ARE SENT

Fifty days after Easter Sunday we celebrate the fulfillment of all God's promises in the feast of Pentecost, a feast that has sometimes been called the birthday of the church. One last time we are reminded that we Christians have received the Holy Spirit, not for our own benefit, but to enable us to follow our Christian vocation.

The centerpiece of the scriptures for Pentecost is the account in Acts of the Apostles of the sending of the Holy Spirit to the disciples. The other readings for this Sunday help us to understand what it means to live out our Christian vocation. Paul's letter shows us the gifts and fruits that the Holy Spirit gives to us. John's Gospel reminds us that Jesus has sent all his disciples to share his forgiveness and peace, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

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TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

The disciples gathered on the fiftieth day after the Resurrection were not keeping their first Pentecost. For them, Pentecost was the fiftieth day after Passover, a feast of the first fruits of the harvest. It was the second most important feast of the year. Today, Jews gather on the eve of the feast to study scripture and the law, and after the feast begins at sundown, spend the day in joyful social gatherings. The meaning of the celebration is the giving of the law on Mount Sinai, so for Christians the connection to the gifts of the Holy Spirit is obvious. In Sicily and in the Pantheon in Rome, today the descent of the Holy Spirit is enacted with a stunning ritual. Some churches there have an "eye" in the roof open to the sky, called an oculus. After the Gospel today, thousands of rose petals fall from the oculus onto the assembly. Churches and homes are decked in greenery and flowers to express the new life the Holy Spirit brings on this, the "birthday of the church."

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

GUIDE US TODAY

*Holy Spirit, you who pointed out the way for your disciples to announce the gospel, we pray to you:
As in the time of the apostles, guide today's messengers of the Good News.*

—From *Come, Lord Jesus* by Lucien Deiss, CSSp, copyright © 1976, 1981, Lucien Deiss. Published by World Library Publications. p. 183

The Story of St. Rita of Cascia

EARLY LIFE

Rita was born in the year 1381 in the village of Roccaporena, near Cascia, Italy. Her parents, Antonio and Amata Lotti, considered her birth a very special gift from God, for Rita was born to them as they were already advancing in age. As a young girl Rita frequently visited the convent of the Augustinian Nuns in Cascia and dreamed of one day joining their community. Her parents, however, had promised her in marriage, according to the custom of the day, to Paolo Mancini, a good man of strong and impetuous character. Rita accepted her parents' decision, resolved to see this as God's will for her.

MARRIED LIFE

The young couple was joined in marriage and soon twin boys were born to them. Rita found herself occupied with the typical concerns of a wife, mother, and homemaker of Roccaporena, while Paolo was employed as a watchman for the town. In Cascia, as elsewhere, a great rivalry existed between two popular political factions, the Guelphs, and the Ghibellines. As a minor official of the town, Paolo often found himself drawn into the conflict, and the strain that this caused probably accounts for the tension, which he sometimes brought into the Mancini household. By her prayer, patience, and affection, however, Rita was able to ease the stress and worry her husband experienced, but she was not able to shield him altogether from the dangers to which society exposed him.

PEACEMAKER

Now alone in the world and without family responsibilities, Rita once more turned her thoughts to the desired vocation of her youth, that of joining the Augustinian Nuns of Saint Mary Magdalene Monastery. Some of the religious of the community, however, were relatives of the members of the political faction considered responsible for Paolo's death, and so as not to tempt the harmony of the convent, Rita's request for admission was denied. Fortunately, she was not to be easily dissuaded from following what she knew to be God's plan for her. She implored her three patron saints — John the Baptist, Augustine, and Nicholas of Tolentino to assist her, and she set about the task of establishing peace between the hostile parties of Cascia with such success that her entry into the monastery was assured.



Liturgical Reflection...

This is Pentecost Sunday and the fifty days of the Easter Feast conclude. Today we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit who reveals faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the Holy Spirit that enlightens the minds of believers to go forth and share the good news of the dying and rising of the Lord. Christians are people of life. We boldly proclaim our shared faith in Christ's saving death and resurrection. With 1.3 billion Catholics we proclaim with certitude and trust our faith in God's abiding love, the Lord's salvific death and resurrection, and the Spirit's guiding presence in our lives.

2018, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 S. Logan Blvd., Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648

May 20

John 20:19-23

Today, on Pentecost, we remember Christ has given us the Holy Spirit to assist us in raising our family and he expects us to use this personal gift. Let's turn off the noise, apps and distractions in our lives and let the Holy Spirit guide us to the truth.

THE GIFT OF THE THORN

At the age of thirty-six Rita pledged to follow the ancient Rule of Saint Augustine. For the next forty years she gave herself wholeheartedly to prayer and works of charity, striving especially to preserve peace and harmony among the citizens of Cascia. With a pure love she wanted more and more to be intimately joined to the redemptive suffering of Jesus, and this desire of hers was satisfied in an extraordinary way. One day when she was about sixty years of age, she was meditating before an image of Christ crucified, as she was long accustomed to doing. Suddenly a small wound appeared on her forehead, as though a thorn from the crown that encircled Christ's head had loosed itself and penetrated her own flesh. For the next fifteen years she bore this external sign of stigmatization and union with the Lord. In spite of the pain she constantly experienced, she offered herself courageously for the physical and spiritual well being of others. During the last four years of her life Rita was confined to bed and was able to eat so little that she was practically sustained on the Eucharist alone. She was, nevertheless, an inspiration to her sisters in religion and to all who came to visit her, by her patience and joyful disposition despite her great suffering.

THE ROSE

One of those who visited her some few months before her death — a relative from her hometown of Roccaporena — was privileged to witness firsthand the extraordinary things wrought by Rita's requests. When asked whether she had any special desires, Rita asked only that a rose from the garden of her parents' home be brought to her. It was a small favor to ask, but quite an impossible one to grant in the month of January! Nevertheless, on returning home the woman discovered, to her amazement, a single brightly-colored blossom on the bush where the nun said it would be. Picking it, she returned immediately to the monastery and presented it to Rita who gave thanks to God for this sign of love. Thus, the saint of the thorn became the saint of the rose, and she whose impossible requests were granted her became the advocate of all those whose own requests seem impossible as well. As she breathed her last, Rita's final words to the sisters who gathered around her were, "Remain in the holy love of Jesus. Remain in obedience to the holy Roman Church. Remain in peace and fraternal charity."

DEATH

Having faithfully and lovingly responded to God's many invitations to her in the course of her seventy-six years, Rita returned to God in peace on May 22, 1457. Her body, which has remained incorrupt over the centuries, is venerated today in the shrine of Cascia, which bears her name. Her feast is observed on the anniversary of her death, 22 May.

Prayer to St. Rita of Cascia on Page for Impossible causes.



**OUR LADY URGES US TO PRAY THE HOLY ROSARY FOR
PEACE AND OFFER
SACRIFICES BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!**