

**april 24, 2016**

*Scripture Reflection*

John's account of the Last Supper includes a lengthy teaching by Christ; we hear a brief but key part of it today. Once Judas has left, Jesus indicates that the time has come for him to fulfill his mission. It will glorify both himself and the Father: all things will be made new. The disciples will share in this glorification when they enact a new commandment: to love one another. This will require the same sacrificial love for others as Christ had for them, and it will become the defining feature in the identity of a disciple, including us.

The quintessential act of discipleship by which outsiders would recognize Jesus' followers is love. "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." It is a simple command: Love one another. It has to be love. Simple as it is, everyone can love, from the baby to the elderly person. It is not an achievement; it is not a talent; it is not a skill; but everyone can offer it. Every act of love is complete and perfect, an example of God with us, God in us and God among us. Love has its own logic. The more it is offered and shared, the greater it becomes. Love heals the wounds of sin by offering a balm of mercy and forgiveness.

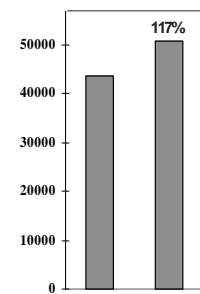
But it is not unfair to ask, if love is the mark of Jesus' disciples, why is there often so little love on display among the disciples of Jesus? Why is there not only a lack of charity but hurtful words and angry denunciations? It is God's love that will recreate us and sustain us, allowing us to love our brothers and sisters, so why are we so resistant to God's transforming love? And Jesus' love is not just a commandment for this life; it offers us a foretaste of the sweetness of the life to come. For the "living image of perfect virtue," our model for life, was raised up to life eternal, offering for us a path to follow him home. There will be, John tells us, no more death, suffering, mourning, crying or pain, for "the Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made." Love alone awaits us.

• **This week perform one concrete act in which you love as Jesus loved. For example, listen compassionately to a coworker, neighbor, or family member you usually find difficult to relate to. Look for a new way to understand that person.**

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AMERICA MAGAZINE: April 18, 2016 Issue, John W. Martens.

**ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL 2016**



Every registered family is asked to participate in the 2016 Annual Catholic Appeal. A gift of any amount will be appreciated. This year the Cathedral Parish goal is set at **\$43,522.00**. We have raised **\$50,776.00**

and are **over Diocesan Goal** with 188 of our families participating. Now, as our pledges are met, funds will be returned to the Parish and will help with special projects. All monies collected for this Annual Appeal go directly to help support the dozens of ministries sponsored by the Diocese. Your participation is vital to the success of ACA 2016.

Please prayerfully consider making a gift within the next few weeks. You may return your gift to the Development Office by mail, return it to the Parish Office or drop it in the Sunday collection. Thank you for your participation in this year's Annual Catholic Appeal.

**Jubilee Year of Mercy Italy Pilgrimage**

The Catholic Register of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown is sponsoring a Pilgrimage to Italy to coincide with the Canonization of Mother Teresa, August 29 - September 8, 2016 (11 days). \$4,299 from Altoona-Johnstown or Washington DC. Contact Marianna at UNITOURS 1-800-777-7432 or [www.bit.ly/AltoonaCanonization](http://www.bit.ly/AltoonaCanonization). The Pilgrimage includes: round trip airfare on British Airways, breakfast and dinner per itinerary, specially selected hotel accommodations, air-conditioned motor coach, full-time tour manager, departure tax and current fuel charge. For more information or to obtain a brochure contact Msgr. Tim Stein at the Catholic Register, 925 South Logan Blvd., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648. Email: [tstein@dioceseaj.org](mailto:tstein@dioceseaj.org) or telephone: 814 695-7563.

**Prayer Service For Healing**

Bishop Mark will preside at a Diocesan Prayer Service for victims of abuse and their families here in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament on Tuesday, May 17 at 7:00 PM. The service will include Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Evening Prayer and a homily by Bishop Mark. Reconciliation will also be available.

**THE CHURCH OF ALTOONA-JOHNSTOWN**  
**THE CATHEDRAL**  
**OF THE**  
**BLESSED SACRAMENT**

**ONE CATHEDRAL SQUARE, Altoona, Pennsylvania 16601-3315**  
**Church Office: 814-944-4603**

**CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS:**

The process of formation for those seeking God through membership in the Catholic Christian community.

**INFANT BAPTISM:**

Arrange in advance for pre-baptismal instructions.

**CONFIRMATION:**

Ninth, tenth and eleventh grade students are invited to participate in the Confirmation Preparation Process.

**RECONCILIATION:**

Wednesday: 7:00 PM, Saturday: 12:30 PM.  
Communal Penance Services: Advent and Lent.

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK:**

Communal celebration Easter Season.

**MARRIAGE:**

Arrange nine months in advance. Couples expected to participate in pre-marriage preparation program.

**DEVOTIONS:**

Novena of the Miraculous Medal - Monday 7:45 AM.  
Rosary - Wednesday 6:00 PM.  
Charismatic Prayer - Monday 7:00 PM.  
Evening Prayer within Eucharistic Exposition - Advent and Christmas, Lent and Easter Seasons - Sunday 6:30 PM.  
Eucharistic Day - Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM:**

September through April: Pre-Kindergarten thru 12.  
Sunday morning 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM  
Pre-Kindergarten thru 8.  
Sunday evening 6:15 PM - 8:30 PM  
Grades 9 thru 12.

**WEB: WWW.ALTOONACATHEDRAL.ORG**

**FAX: 814-942-4337**

**E-MAIL: ALT-CATHEDRAL@DIOCESEAJ.ORG**

**EUCCHARIST:**

Day	Time	Day	Time	Day	Time		
Sunday	5:00 PM (Vigil) 8:00 AM 10:00 AM 12:00 Noon 5:00 PM	Holyday	5:30 PM (Vigil) 8:00 AM 12:00 Noon 5:30 PM	Weekday	6:45 AM 8:00 AM 12:00 Noon	Saturday	8:00 AM 12:00 Noon

**Most Reverend Mark L. Bartchak, Bishop**

**Reverend Monsignor Robert C. Mazur, Rector**

**Reverend Father Dennis M. Kurdziel, Parochial Vicar**

**CHRISTIAN INITIATION TEAM - 944-4603**

**CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME - 944-4603**

**ALTOONA CENTRAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL**  
Web: [www.altoonacentralcatholic.com](http://www.altoonacentralcatholic.com)  
Elementary - Pre-K thru Grade 5 - 381-7011

**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 - 946-3475  
Jean Koury - 9 thru 12 - 949-2777  
Religious Education Office: Sundays - 943-7424

**MUSIC MINISTRY**  
Nina M. Tedeschi  
Choir Director and Head Organist - 944-2044  
Kevin J. Luke - E-mail: [kluke@dioceseaj.org](mailto:kluke@dioceseaj.org)  
Administrative Duties and Organist - 944-2044

**SERVING THE PEOPLE OF GOD IN THE CITY OF ALTOONA SINCE 1851**

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 24, 2016

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

### MASS INTENTIONS

April 25, Monday: Saint Mark, Evangelist

Readings: 1 Pt 5:5-14; Mk 16:15-20

6:45 AM Joseph A. Moffa, Birthday (Estate)  
8:00 AM Helen Itle, Anniversary (Sister)  
12:00 PM Joan Mitchell (Lois Duncan)

April 26, Tuesday: Easter Weekday

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

6:45 AM No Mass  
8:00 AM No Mass  
12:00 PM Jack Leiden, Wed. Anniv. (Wife, Sally)

April 27, Wednesday: Easter Weekday

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

6:45 AM Myron Yeager (Tom and Patricia Forr)  
8:00 AM Jerry Smith (Mary Litzinger)  
12:00 PM Diane Johnston, Birthday (Mother)

April 28, Thursday: Saint Peter Chanel, Priest, Martyr

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

6:45 AM Bill Crouse (Butch & Irene Schlecht)  
8:00 AM Brian and Barry Elmers (Skip Cowan)  
12:00 PM John Moloney, Anniversary (Family)

April 29, Friday: Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin, Doctor

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

6:45 AM M. Virginia Jones (John and Stephanie Supps)  
8:00 AM Pat Rabine (Tom and Beth Moore)  
12:00 PM Pat Geis (Kay Wesner)

April 30, Saturday: Saint Pius V, Pope

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

8:00 AM Herb Kutruff (Kait Lambert)  
12:00 PM Andrea Crum (Gretchen Packard)  
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 Kravetz Family (Frances Pagliaro)

### Please Note this week's Mass Schedule:

Due to the Spring Convocation of our Priests with Bishop this week, we have only one Mass scheduled for Tuesday, April 26. Mass will be celebrated at 12:00 Noon only. Please pass this information on to those who pray with us daily but may not see this notice. Thank You.

**Pray For Our Sick** - Remember our sisters and brothers who are weakened by illness. Prayers are sometimes the best prescribed medicine.

## May Crowning Within Evening Prayer

Sunday, May 1

As is our custom, all First Communicants are asked to be present wearing their Communion Day clothing as they will be in the opening procession at May Crowning. All who received Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil, families who have had children baptized and all of our parishioners who have been confirmed are also encouraged to attend this parish celebration with their families and friends. Everyone in the assembly is invited to bring a fresh flower to present to the Blessed Mother during this Evening Prayer which will last approximately forty-five minutes. Following May Crowning we will gather in the Cathedral Hall for an Ice Cream Social. Evening Prayer begins at 6:30 PM.

### Recipients of Anointing of the Sick

Last Sunday at the 10:00 AM Mass, the following received the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick: Marian Clemens, Patty Dorko, Helen Glashauser, Sister Beverly Hmel, IHM, Jim Kenawell, Fran Moses, Frances Pagliaro, Robert Schmitt, Amelia Seiler, Margaret Shea, Lorraine Shuma, Carol Smith, Michael Stacey, Michael Stasko, Grace Szwarc, Deacon John Szwarc, Alice Winkler, Maureen Wood, Natalie Yaskow and Travis Youngi. May the healing grace of Christ be with these sisters and brothers. Prayer Shawls were given to all who requested this gift.

### Altoona Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Prince Gallitzin #2625 Fundraiser

Help us help our Altoona community and beyond by going to Hoss's in Altoona for dinner 11:00 AM until 9:00 PM on Sunday, May 1, 2016. Our **Hoss's Group number** is **#36478**. You must clip this entire ad and give it to your server when you pay your bill, or we will not get credit for your meal purchase. **Valid only at the Hoss's at 621 Valley View Boulevard, Altoona on Sunday, May 1, 2016.** Thank you and may God Bless You! Questions...call Mary at 946-3449.

### Easter Evening Prayer

Every Sunday in the Easter Season the Cathedral Parish gathers at 6:30 PM for Evening Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in exposition. This liturgy concludes with Benediction and lasts only forty minutes. All are invited to participate. Bring the family, bring a friend.

## OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, April 17, 2016 - \$8,493.00

**Easter Collection and Easter Flower Memorial** totals will be reported at the end of the Easter Season as we continue to receive additional gifts.

### LITURGICAL MINISTERS PLEASE NOTE:

A new liturgical ministry schedule for May 7 through June 26 is now being prepared. Unavailable dates or changes are needed by this Monday, April 25. If you have vacation plans for July or August, it would be good to have that information now also. Thank You.

**Charismatic Prayer Group** - The Charismatic Prayer Group would like to thank all from the Cathedral Parish who helped with this past Saturday's FIRE Rally. Special thanks to Bishop Bartchak, Monsignor Mazur, Father Kurdziel, Butch Winkler and the Social Committee, Sue Cronin, Paula Clemens, Dwight Drexler, Fred Drexler and Pat Duffy for all of your help in making for an excellent retreat. The Prayer Group will not meet again until Monday, May 9.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**Cathedral Social Hall "Cave Quest"**

**June 6-10, 2016, 8:45 - 11:30 AM Ages 3-10**

Join us as we go spelunking through *Cave Quest*, led by the light of Jesus. Registration is \$5.00 per child to cover cost of T-shirt. Adult and teen helpers are needed. Those over 18 must have Diocesan and PA State Child Protection Clearances. Please call Chris Laraia at 312-7317 for more information. **Registration deadline is May 16.**

## Sincere Gratitude

With sincere gratitude I have been reminded during this last week dealing with the death of my sister, Andrea, that of all the reasons it's a blessing to have a connection to Cathedral Parish, the most important is the people I pray with each day. Your unspoken prayers, your words of support and consolation and other support have been a blessing and have helped me live a resurrection spirit. You have proven to me that God does work and speak through people. Please know that I have shared these things with the members of my family who grieve with me.

*Father Dennis*

## CONFIRMATION CELEBRATED

Congratulations to our Eleventh Grade Students who were confirmed by Bishop Mark Bartchak along with young adults of nine other faith communities on Thursday evening, April 21, here in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament:

Dylan Allen	John Paul Duffy
Katie Axinn	Michael Duffy
Angelica Bartkowiak	Benjamin Dumm
Mya Bartkowiak	Kyle Green
Britney Bradford*	Paris Haugh
Jillian Brannan*	Hannah Koehle
Taylor Britton*	Trevor Miller
Sarah Callan	Myranda Oswalt
Alicia Carper*	Jayden Starr*
Matthew Cowan	Karis Taddei

Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Altoona\*

## Sacramental Prep - Confirmation

All Tenth Grade High School Students are to attend their Confirmation Prep Session, II on **Sunday, May 1**, at 6:15 PM in the Seton Suite.

**JUBILEE**

**YEAR OF**

**MERCY**

### Liturgical Reflection ...

This Fifth Week of Easter we look at the Spiritual Work of Mercy to **comfort the sorrowful**. In our lives we experience sadness and sorrow, difficulty and affliction. Through all the twists and turns of life, Christians are called to be a merciful presence to one another. Mercy moves us to pay attention to those around us. We console one another and stand firm with each other. The secret to this work of mercy is to give of our time. Do you know someone who has lost a loved one recently or several months ago? Do you know someone who has suffered a tragedy? Take time; make a visit or call them. Your presence will be a merciful comfort. Mercy moves us away from judgment and toward sympathy and compassion; it does not question what went wrong but simply and lovingly reaches out to help.

Be Merciful, Bill Huebsch, Twenty-Third Publications, 2015, pgs. 17-19.

2016, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 South Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648.