

# DECEMBER 13, 2015

## Scripture Reflection

There can be no mistaking the message of the prophet Zephaniah to the people of Israel. The phrases, "shout for joy," "sing joyfully," and "be glad and exult" are delivered as commands to the people because "the king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst." This Third Sunday of Advent, once referred to as "Gaudete Sunday," is the Sunday to rejoice. Zephaniah makes it clear that the reason for rejoicing rests in the action of God on behalf of God's own people. Their enemies have been defeated and there will be no more "misfortune to fear." This same message brings us comfort.

Paul from his prison cell wrote to the Philippians telling them to "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice." Not because Paul had the things of this world but because God was with him in his prison cell as he wrote to the Philippian church. Paul, in light of his encounter and life with the risen Lord, asked that joy be placed at the center of the Christian life, encouraging the Philippians to live their lives in gentleness, without worry or fear, because the Lord, who had come, was coming again.

The text from Luke's Gospel is one of the longer passages not centered on a teaching of Jesus, but of John the Baptist. Three different groups--the crowds, the tax collectors, and the soldiers--are responding to John's warning in the previous verse that any tree not producing good fruit will be thrown into the fire. In today's readings we hear only their questions and John's answers, group by group. Note that John does not tell them to change their vocation or profession; instead he tells them that they need to change the way they act as soldiers, or tax collectors, or members of their community. They are to express their repentance by being more compassionate, considerate, and honest in all they do. Now willing to do these things, they are filled with great expectation; they are ready to welcome the one that John announces. This is good news, a promise of joy to the people who will hear God's call and await the Messiah's coming. We are the people being prepared to rejoice always.

• **Would you describe yourself as a joyful person? Do others see you as someone filled with joy? This third week of Advent share some joy with others.**

AT HOME WITH THE WORD 2015. (C) 2014 ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO, LITURGY TRAINING PUBLICATIONS, 3949 South Racine Avenue CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60609. REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION. AMERICA MAGAZINE: December 7-14, 2015 Issue, John W. Martens.

## Jubilee Year of Mercy

This past Tuesday, December 8th, the Church officially opened the JUBILEE OF MERCY. The year of grace will close on November 20, 2016. At all Masses on the Holy Day of the Immaculate Conception, we prayed prayers to welcome in the holy year. The focus of the year will be the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. The Parish is gifting each family with a magnet to hang in your homes that contains the Corporal Works of Mercy and the Spiritual Works of Mercy. A suggestion is to choose one of these works for a week or a month, and be engaged at bringing the mercy of God to others by enfleshing that particular work of mercy.

Also, the Parish is gifting each family with a prayer card containing the official logo of the Year of Mercy and the official prayer of mercy for the Jubilee. The official logo shows the God of mercy carrying us on his back. Jesus is the Shepherd who seeks us out and showers his mercy upon us. Please keep this prayer card handy at home and pray the prayer regularly throughout the year.

And throughout the Jubilee Year of Mercy, the Universal Prayer (General Intercessions) at Sunday Mass will end with everyone praying the prayer for mercy, found on the back of the Music Aid

## Moving Forward In Faith

Our Capital Campaign is well on its way toward goal! Thank you to all of our volunteers visiting parishioners, and thank you to Mary Louise Ball, Paula Clemens, Sally Leiden, Paula Miller, Ann Orr and Tom Orr for preparing Thursday's mailing.

**BGCHS Raffle** - Our Students at Bishop Guilfoyle are selling raffle tickets. Each ticket costs \$5.00. Cash prizes are: first- \$10,00; second- \$1,500; third- \$1,000 and (5) fourth place prizes of \$100 each. Call 330-3464 or your favorite BG student.

## Collection of Food For The Poor

Baskets are placed at the church doors for donations of non-perishable food items and paper products for the poor. Monetary donations are also still being accepted for Catholic Charities.

# 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.

### ANOIDING 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](http://WWW.ALTOONACATHEDRAL.ORG)

FAX: 814-942-4337

E-MAIL: [ALTCATHEDRAL@DIOCESEAJ.ORG](mailto:ALTCATHEDRAL@DIOCESEAJ.ORG)

### EUCHARIST:

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

Deacon Michael A. Anna

Deacon John J. Szwarc, Senior Deacon

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*

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 13, 2015

Zep 3:14-18; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

### MASS INTENTIONS

December 14, Monday: Saint John of the Cross

Readings: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17; Mt 21:23-27

6:45 AM Dick Huber (Toots)  
8:00 AM Freddy Fedeli (Wife, Rosemarie)  
12:00 PM Jack Houseman (Maureen Wood)

December 15, Tuesday: Advent Weekday

Readings: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32

6:45 AM Bob Weaver, Ann. (Jim, Elaine & Family)  
8:00 AM Health of Bill Crouse (McNelis All-Stars)  
12:00 PM Ronald Stock (Eleanor Fischer & Family)

December 16, Wednesday: Advent Weekday

Readings: Is 45:6-8, 18, 21-25; Lk 7:18-23

6:45 AM Beverly Fabian (Trotler Family)  
8:00 AM Henriette Thibault (David/Jeanne Thompson)  
12:00 PM Sam Coen (Mary Lou Moffitt)

December 17, Thursday: Late Advent Weekday

Readings: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17

6:45 AM Msgr. Thomas Madden (Estate)  
8:00 AM Bernadette Weakland (Paul/Emma Kowalski)  
12:00 PM Mary Kathryn Kantoski, Birthday (Mom/Dad)

December 18, Friday: Late Advent Weekday

Readings: Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25

6:45 AM Joan Hirt (Carl & Ann Bennett)  
8:00 AM Deceased Members of Kilcoyne Family  
12:00 PM Amelia Hofbauer, Anniversary (Daughter)

December 19, Saturday: Late Advent Weekday

Readings: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25; Lk 1:5-25

8:00 AM Rick Fornwalt (Jim & Steph Kilcoyne)  
12:00 PM Paul Rose (Jean Koury)  
Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Readings: Mi 5:1-4; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

5:00 PM Nozzie, Jennie, Sandy Calabrese (Family)

Today, the **Third Sunday of Advent**, is traditionally known as **Gaudete** Sunday, so-called from the first word of the antiphon at the Introit. *Gaudete* ("Rejoice"), taken from the Latin translation of Phil 4:4-5, sets a tone of joyful expectation for the Lord's Birth and Second Coming, as does the permitted use of rose-colored vestments and our rose-color trimmed bulletins. Beginning on Thursday the "O" Antiphons are sung as well as the hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." "O Wisdom", "O sacred Lord", "O Flower of Jesse's stem".

### Advent of Christmas Concert Tonight!

The Cathedral Festival Choir will present an evening of classical and traditional music for the Advent and Christmas seasons on **Sunday, December 13 at 7:00 PM**. Take some time from your busy December schedule to hear the sounds of the season in the glorious acoustics of the Cathedral. Admission is free and open to the public; a free-will offering will be accepted. Make this Cathedral tradition a part of your preparations for the Christmas feast.

**Please Note:** Due to the Concert tonight we will not have Advent Evening Prayer. Plan to bring the family next Sunday evening at 6:30PM.

#### Advent Penance Service

Our communal celebration of Advent Reconciliation is scheduled for this **Wednesday, December 16** at 6:30 PM. All are encouraged to attend this seasonal Liturgy that will last one hour. Additional priests will be present to help with individual confessions. This Penance Service is for the entire Parish Family. Our second grade students will celebrate their First Penance during this special Advent service. There will be a reception following the service to congratulate the First Penitents. All are welcome to join us in the Cathedral Hall.

#### First Reconciliation This Wednesday

Parents and students should be seated in the reserved front-middle sections of the Cathedral no later than 6:15 PM. Please bring your son's or daughter's baptismal candle or a new white candle.

#### Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group

The Charismatic Prayer Group will meet this Monday, December 14th at 7:00 PM in the Cathedral. We will have Praise and Worship followed by a Christmas Social. Everyone is invited.

#### Please Remember Our Military In Prayer

Please keep all of our Cathedral men and women in the armed services in your Advent prayer.

**Rest In Peace** - Please remember in prayer our parishioners, Herb Kutruff and George Weamer, who died and were buried this past week. May they rest in peace, and may their families and friends be comforted in the faith.

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, December 6, 2015 - \$11,364.38

**Christmas Flower Memorials** - Please remember to have your Christmas Flower Memorial envelope returned to the Parish Office by **December 21** to assure that your memorial will be listed in the Christmas bulletin. If you have misplaced this rose colored envelope, just place the name of your loved one on any envelope marked "Christmas Flowers".

#### Liturgical Ministry Schedules

All new, Eucharistic Ministers, Readers, and Altar Servers are asked to call or text Gabrielle Cronin at 932-6340 to verify mailing addresses, phone numbers Mass preferences, and training needs. The schedule for **Christmas Eve** through **January 24** will be mailed out on Tuesday morning, December 15. Thank you to those who have turned in their scheduling needs. During this busy time of year we all need to come to Mass, expecting to be called on to serve. We are blessed with many wonderful ministers, but more help is always needed, especially at Noon and 5:00 PM.

#### Calendar of Prizes 2016

Calendar of Prizes 2016 are being sold at the Cathedral Square door after all Masses. Like last year, each calendar costs \$20.00. There is a \$10.00 daily prize; an additional \$1,000.00 in special monthly prizes awarded throughout the year; and a grand prize of \$5,000.00 Family Trip or Cash Option. Due to the state regulations for small games of chance, it is necessary that all one thousand tickets be sold. Otherwise, the parish will lose money on unsold tickets. For this fund-raiser to be successful, all calendars must be sold. If you have a favorite three digit number, call the Parish Office (944-4603) weekdays between 9:30 AM and 5:00 PM to check on availability or stop at the Cathedral Square door after Mass. Thank you.

#### Liturgical Reflection ...

**JUBILEE**

**YEAR OF**

**MERCY**

In Today's Gospel of Luke, John the Baptist gives clear advice on ways to show mercy. To the crowds John says, "Share your clothes and your food." To the tax collectors, he advises, "Care for those people." And to the Roman soldiers, he warns, "Be fair. Don't abuse your power." Good advice to us. When people share with each other; when they care that all are justly treated; and when they see that all have what is necessary to live a life with dignity, then God's mercy is made evident.

2015, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 South Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648.

### Catholic Appointment Art Calendar

A gracious thank you to the **Jones Funeral Home** for providing the 2016 civil calendar. We are most grateful to Bob Jones for his generosity to Cathedral parishioners. Each household is invited to take a 2016 calendar home with you after the Masses this weekend. Please display this gift in a prominent place in your home. Enjoy the religious art. And follow the liturgical seasons with its special feasts and saints.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**Sundays: December 13, and 20** - Regular classes for Pre-K through Grade 8, 11:15 AM - 12:30 PM in Cathedral Hall. Pre-K and Kindergarten gather in the Music Room.

#### F.I.R.E. (High School Religious Education)

Our teens will be shopping for our *Christmas For Families* children on **December 13**. We will meet at **Walmart at 2:00 PM**. At our evening session we will be wrapping our gifts and packing boxes of food and non-perishable paper and cleaning products. This is our service project and all students should be in attendance.

#### Youth Choir For Christmas Eve

At 4:20 PM on December 24, all children who like to sing will be invited to join Miss Nina in the front of the Church to sing carols before the 5:00 PM Mass. Seats will be reserved for those children who come to rehearsal on **Saturday, December 19** at 10:00 AM in the Music Room. For more information call the Music Ministry Office at 944-2044 or Nina Tedeschi at 934-1684.

#### New and Expectant Parents Please Note:

Our next Session of **Baptismal Preparation** is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 6** at 7:00 PM in the Seton Suite. This change was necessary due to our very hectic Advent/Christmas schedule.