

NOVEMBER 22, 2015

Scripture Reflection

The prophet Daniel, in the First Reading, describes one like the Son of Man (the title that Christ used for himself). God gives dominion and glory to him, so that all may serve him. This is a Kingdom that is both universal and eternal.

From the Gospel, we learn that Jesus' Kingdom "does not belong to this world." It is not a civil or military rule as some expected the Messiah's reign to be. It is not bound by geography or history, but is beyond time and space. The reign of God exists in human hearts and calls for human allegiance to God and God's commandments of love, justice, and hope. It belongs to the heavenly arena, where God's life and love are experienced fully. However, the Kingdom can, in its incipient form, be experienced in this present life. Whenever we experience goodness and love, God is present and therefore so is his Kingdom, at least in miniature. The Kingdom is both present and yet to come in its fullness, when all will belong to God completely.

Pilate asked the Teacher, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered: "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." It is a true answer, of course, but also elusive, for though Jesus' kingdom is "not from this world" and does not involve peace treaties, concordats, armies and diplomatic corps, it includes all of this world and all that is in it.

Pilate asked Jesus if he was a king and Jesus replied, "You say I am a king." Jesus is careful with his response, and then clarifies what he means. He is not the kind of king that Pilate is asking about. He has no intention of challenging the Roman rulers. However, his rule is authentic, leading those who hear him to the truth of God.

• Christ is the universal ruler over nations and peoples. Does the feast of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, help you make sense of the Church's role in the world?

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: November 16, 2015 Issue, John W. Martens.

Updates on Events in Parish

- (1) Needed patching has been done between the Cathedral and rectory. Thank you to parishioner, Jason Strohm, who coordinated this project with New Enterprise and Limestone.
- (2) Cleaning up of our properties between Fourteenth Avenue and the parking lot continues, Thank you to Jean Koury, the Chip and Sheri Gray Family, and John Fischer who have worked to clean up the properties of brush, wood, and leaves. This is being done at the insistence of the City of Altoona. There is more work to be done. If interested please call Parish Office to make arrangements.
- (3) The Crypt Chapel below the main altar in the Cathedral continues its renovation. New lighting and drop ceiling have been installed, thank you to Tim Bettwy. A green marble backing has been placed to hold the beautiful marble crucifix from the chapel of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth of the former Mercy Hospital. And new arches have been created within the chapel. The Parish is grateful to the generosity of an anonymous donor from the parish.
- (4) The project for the 2015 Annual Catholic Appeal, the replacement of heating units and a section of new steps on the front of the Cathedral (alley side), will be undertaken in the spring of 2016.
- (5) The razing of the former school building and former convent building is scheduled within the next weeks. We have been penalized by the City's Codes Office for the delay with this project. The delay was due to the contracted company removing the asbestos weeks later than originally scheduled.

Carmelite Community of the Word

Overnight Retreat, Friday, December 4, 7:00 PM to Saturday, December 5, 3:00 PM at the Incarnation Center, Galitzin. "Christ Have Mercy; a deep encounter with the mercy of Christ" will invite participants into a personal examination and encounter with the God of Mercy. Donation: \$40 per person or \$50 for married couple. Preregistration is requested November 30. For registration or directions, call 814-886-4098.

Charismatic Mass - Monday, November 23

In the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament at 7:00 PM. Celebrant - Fr. Bob Hiltz, T.O.R.

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

FAX: 814-942-4337

E-MAIL: ALTCATHEDRAL@DIOCESEAJ.ORG

EUCCHARIST:

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

Elementary - Pre-K thru Grade 5 - 381-7011

BISHOP GUILFOYLE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Web: 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

Administrative Duties and Organist - 944-2044

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

**OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,
KING OF THE UNIVERSE**

NOVEMBER 22, 2015

Readings: Dn 7:13-14; Rv 1:5-8; Jn 18:33-37

MASS INTENTIONS

November 23, Monday: Saint Clement I, Pope, Martyr

Readings: Dn 1:1-6, 8-20; Lk 21:1-4

6:45 AM Joan Hirt (Bruno Family)
8:00 AM Jim Roland (Margaret Misitano & Frank)
12:00 PM Danyll Rougeux (Connie O'Lare)

November 24, Tuesday: Vietnamese Martyrs

Readings: Dn 2:31-45; Lk 21:5-11

6:45 AM Beverly Huber, Birthday (Son, Tom)
8:00 AM Lavelle Family (Phyllis Sheetz)
12:00 PM Dick Cowan, Anniversary (Wife, Skip)

November 25, Wednesday: Saint Catherine of Alexandria

Readings: Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28; Lk 21:12-19

6:45 AM Bud Seidel, Anniv. (Jim, Elaine & Family)
8:00 AM Kenneth Lytle, Birthday (Nancy and Skip)
12:00 PM Virginia Jones (Madeline Vogel Family)

November 26, Thursday: **Thanksgiving Day**

Readings: Sir 50:20-24; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Lk 17:11-19

9:00 AM In Thanksgiving (Wm. Penn Association)

November 27, Friday: Weekday

Readings: Dn 7:2-14; Lk 21:29-33

6:45 AM **No Mass**
8:00 AM Deacon John Rys (Denis & Connie Navarro)
12:00 PM Lois J. Riley (Husband, Jim)

November 28, Saturday: Weekday

Readings: Dn 7:15-27; Lk 21:34-36

8:00 AM Deceased of Kilcoyne Family - *Crypt*
12:00 PM Ernie Tommasetti (Duffy Family)
Vigil: First Sunday of Advent
Readings: Jer 33:14-16; 1 Thes 3:12-4:2; Lk 21:25-28, 34-36
5:00 PM Ron Fiochetta (Mark & Diane Moschella)

Thanksgiving Day Mass

Our Thanksgiving Day Mass will be on Thursday, November 26, at 9:00 AM. Please remember to bring a non-perishable food item, paper product, or monetary gift to be carried to the altar during the Offertory procession. All donations will be distributed to the needy during the holiday season.

Please note: There will be no 6:45 AM Mass on Friday, November 27. The Parish Office will be closed on Thursday and Friday this week.

Liturgical Reflection ...

Thursday, November 26, is Thanksgiving Day and a special day of prayer in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. It is a **Day of Prayer for the Harvest and Fruits of the Earth**. As our country gives thanks for our many blessings, we take time to give God thanks and praise for the many gifts we have received. All are encouraged to participate at Mass this day. Please join in praying the following:



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

**O God, the source of every gift,
we confess that all we have and are comes from you,
teach us to recognize the effects of your boundless care
and to love you with a grateful heart.**

**We give you thanks and praise for your many favors.
In gratitude may we share these gifts with others.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen**

Renderings of New Parish Activity Center

Drawings and floor plans of the new Parish Activity Center are on view by the Cathedral Square door of the Cathedral. If you have not yet seen the plans for this project, please take time to review them.

Collection for Catholic Charities

For 75 years, Catholic Charities has helped our neighbors throughout Central Pennsylvania regardless of faith or background. 100% of contributions received this weekend will directly help your neighbors in need. If you forgot the special envelope provided you may return it or any other envelope marked 'Catholic Charities' along with your regular offertory gift next weekend. Thank you for helping Catholic Charities of Altoona-Johnstown to reduce poverty in communities throughout the Diocese.

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.

CHRISTIAN INITIATION

Rite of Welcoming and Acceptance

Those planning to join the Catholic Church celebrate the *Rite of Welcoming and Acceptance* this weekend at our Saturday, 5:00 PM Mass. Beginning next weekend, they will be with us at 10:00 AM Mass and will be dismissed after the Universal Prayer to more closely reflect on God's word proclaimed in Holy Scripture. The Parish Family gathers to support and pray for these men and women on journey to the Easter Sacraments.

MUSIC MINISTRY NOTES

Adult Choir Rehearsal Schedule is as follows: Tuesday, November 24; Saturday, December 5; Thursday, December 10; and Saturday, December 12. Our **Advent of Christmas Concert** is scheduled for **7:00 PM** on **Sunday, December 13**.

Youth Choir For Christmas Eve 5:00 PM Mass

We would like to have a group of students ready to present a half hour of carols before Mass on December 24. Call Nina Tedeschi at the Cathedral Music Ministry Office, 944-2044, if interested for rehearsal dates and times.

Liturgical Reflection ...

**General
Instruction
of the
Roman Missal**

During this past liturgical year the General Instruction of the Roman Missal was reviewed. Particular aspects of the Mass were discussed as presented by the Church. The use of bells, the number of candles, the processional cross, decorations around the altar, images of saints, placement of tabernacle, seasonal practices, genuflections and bows, and various liturgical ministries were presented within the context of the mystery of faith. The Church gathers to celebrate the paschal supper instituted by Christ as the Sacrifice of his Body and Blood. The General Instruction is an aid to assist the universal Church at liturgy in giving praise and thanks to our God through our Lord Jesus in the Holy Spirit.

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

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, November 15, 2015 - \$8,081.00

Christian Mothers Collection - \$1,700.00

Stewardship of Time - Help is needed on Monday morning, November 23, to prepare the Parish Advent/Christmas mailing. If you are available to help, please drop by the Seton Suite between 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM. Thank you.

Cornucopia

Thank you to Gretchen Packard and sisters, Kathleen and Connie, who prepared the beautiful cornucopia by the altar for Thanksgiving.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (Pre K-Grade 8)

Religious Education Classes are held in the Parish Hall on Sunday mornings from **8:30 AM - 9:45 AM** for Grades 1- Grade 8,. Pre-K and Kindergarten join Miss Gabi in the Music Room. **No Classes** will be held on **November 29**. Happy Thanksgiving!
F.I.R.E. (High School Religious Education) Family Intergenerational Religious Education for Students in Grades 9 -11 with parent or guardian, will meet in the Seton Suite from 6:15PM until 8:30 PM tonight, November 22.

**SACRAMENT PREPARATION
CONFIRMATION**

All Eleventh Grade Students - Confirmation Session I - Sunday, **November 29**. We will meet in the Cathedral for Evening Prayer at 6:30 PM followed by a one hour class in Cathedral Hall.
BAPTISM PREPARATION is required before a Baptism can be scheduled here at Cathedral Parish and classes are offered every other month. Our next session will be **Monday, December 14** at **7:00 PM** in the Seton Suite. You need not wait until your child is born to attend class. To register, please call the Parish Office at 944-4603.