

SEPTEMBER 6, 2015

Scripture Reflection

How can people be upset about a lion being killed, even if it was lured out of a protected area and slaughtered? A lion? There are babies being killed throughout the country, the world even, and people are upset about animals? Why is Planned Parenthood not at the top of the news? But what about human lives after conception, do these lives matter at all? Do #BlackLivesMatter? Do the lives of migrants drowning in the Mediterranean matter to anyone?

Expressing moral outrage over animals and their environment need not be at odds with defending the lives of innocent babies in the womb whose lives are brutally ended or with neighbors whose lives are at risk daily from racism, manifested in numerous ways, but most clearly in white supremacist rhetoric that leads even to the mass murder of black Christians praying in the quiet of a church. One can act on behalf of migrants making their way to Europe on the flimsiest of vessels and still speak out about the incarceration rate in U.S. prisons.

This passage from the Gospel according to Mark recounts Jesus's ministry in the area of the Decapolis, an area east of the Sea of Galilee, in which Greek and Semitic cultures mingled. He heals a deaf-mute man. While this is a miracle story portraying Jesus as the compassionate healer, it also foreshadows God's new creation where all will be restored. Additionally, the story shows how Jesus warned his disciples to hear and not to be deaf to his message, and to proclaim the Kingdom and not be mute.

We must cry out for the oppressed, weep for the loss of innocent life and act, but we must never forget to pray in hope. God has not forgotten and God will not forget. Our hope for justice is an inkling of God's will, "who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin".

• **Catholic social teaching directs believers to have a "preferential option to the poor." There are poor here in Altoona, in our country, and throughout the world. What are you doing for these brothers and sisters?**

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: August 31-September 7, 2015, John W. Martens.



Nine Eleven

This Friday, September 11, is the anniversary of the terrorist attacks on American soil. May those who survived be consoled with the knowledge of God's love. May the innocent victims know the peace of the Easter

Lord. May nations work together for an end to the plague of terror and the birth of peace among all God's nations and religions. Bishop Bartchak will gather in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament on **Saturday, September 12 at 5:00 PM** for the **Blue and White Mass** to honor the military, firefighters, police officers, doctors, nurses, and emergency medical technicians who serve our communities. All are welcome.

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

Birth of Mary Celebration

The annual Birth of Mary Celebration will be held on **Tuesday, September 8th** at Saint Catherine of Siena Parish in Duncansville. Masses will be celebrated by the Pastor at 7:45AM and 12:05PM. A continuous rosary will be prayed throughout the day. Bishop Mark will celebrate Mass at 6:00 PM. All are welcome.

Bishop Guilfoyle Merchandise For Sale

New BG items for sale to benefit the BG Baseball program. Items include ladies tote, cinch sac, stadium seat, blanket, and golf umbrella. Order forms are available on the Bishop Guilfoyle website under the News/Calendar tab. Order forms and samples of the items are available at the BG Athletic Office. Orders with payment must be turned into the Athletic Office no later than September 18! Pick-up date for items is October 21st. Any questions call Raymalee Frank (330-6167) or Denise Stewart (329-2567)

Cub Scout Pack 25 - Sponsored by Saint Mary's Church, Altoona, Pack 25 will be reinstating its program starting September 17 at 7:00 PM at Saint Mary's Memorial Hall located at 1420 Fourth Avenue. At this time, registration will be taken and the \$34 enrollment fee will be collected. Please call Bryon Farber, Cub Master at 505-4676 with any questions.

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: ALTCATHEDRAL@DIOCESEAJ.ORG

EUCCHARIST:

| | | | | | |
|---------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|-----------|------------|
| Sunday: | 5:00 PM (Vigil) | Holiday: | 5:30 PM (Vigil) | Weekday: | 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 |

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

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SEPTEMBER 6, 2015

Readings: *Is 35:4-7; Jas 2:1-5; Mk 7:31-37*

MASS INTENTIONS

September 7, Monday: **84th Anniversary of Dedication**
Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament

Readings: *Is 56:1,6-7; 1 Cor 3:9-11,16-17; Jn 2:13-22*
9:00 AM For the Local Church

September 8, Tuesday: Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Readings: *Mic 5:1-4; Mt 1:1-16, 18-23*

6:45 AM Kimberly Kokolis Moran (Tom and Pat Forr)
8:00 AM Bill McNelis (Jim and Steph Kilcoyne)
12:00 PM Danyll Rougeux (Leo and Maryann Holtz)

September 9, Wednesday: Saint Peter Claver, Priest
Readings: *Col 3:1-11; Lk 6:20-26*

6:45 AM Good Health (Friend)
8:00 AM Audrey Krause (Phyllis Sheetz)
12:00 PM Nathan Boslet (Dr. Pete and Kathie Starr)

September 10, Thursday: Weekday

Readings: *Col 3:12-17; Lk 6:27-38*
6:45 AM Jim Roland (Herb and Regina Kutruff)
8:00 AM Henriette Thibault (M/M Anthony Eckenrode)
12:00 PM Mary Jean Gibbons, Ann. (Husband & Family)

September 11, Friday: Weekday

Readings: *1 Tm 1:1-2,12-14; Lk 6:39-42*
6:45 AM Eleanor Toth (Cathy and Joe Koehle)
8:00 AM Sam Coen (Donna & Kirk Kling)
12:00 PM Pat Rabine (Mark & Diane Moschella)

September 12, Saturday: The Most Holy Name of Mary
Readings: *1 Tm 1:15-17; Lk 6:43-49*

8:00 AM Deacon John Rys (Barb Civiello)
12:00 PM Teresa Bruno, Anniv. (Gabby and Children)
Vigil: Twenty-Fourth Sunday In Ordinary Time
Readings: *Is 50:5-9; Jas 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35*
5:00 PM Wedding Anniversary, Jim and Mary Ellen Kelly

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

Tour of Cathedral Today! At **1:00 PM** we will give the first of our four one hour September tours of this magnificent building. If you have never taken a tour or if you want to bring a neighbor or friend this year, you are welcome to join us. Our next tour is scheduled for **Thursday, September 17th at 7:00 PM.**

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP - The Prayer Group will **not** meet this Monday, September 7th. The next meeting will be on September 14th at 7:00 P.M.

DAY OF PRAYER

Monday, September 7, is a special day of prayer in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. It is a **Day of Prayer for Human Rights and Equality**. Please join the Local Church in praying the following:



**O God, who gave one origin to all peoples,
fill all hearts with the fire of your love
and kindle in them a desire
for the just advancement of their neighbor,
that, through the good things which your richly bestow upon all,
each human person may be brought to perfection,
every division may be removed,
and equity and justice may be established in human society.
Through Christ, our Lord. Amen**

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

Anniversary of Dedication

This Labor Day, September 7th, is the eighty-fourth anniversary of the dedication of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. It was Labor Day in 1931 when Bishop John McCort hosted the great celebration. Cardinal Dennis Dougherty of Philadelphia was here to officiate at the ceremony. There was a Labor Day parade earlier in the city where the Cardinal and our Bishop were the grand marshals. The 9:00 AM Mass this September 7th will commemorate this historic moment in our parish life. It is a solemnity in the Cathedral itself which means there will be three readings from scripture, a *Glory to God* and *Creed* along with incense. Bishop Mark Bartchak will preside at this Liturgy. All are invited and encouraged to participate in this special Mass.

Wedding Anniversary Liturgy

Bishop Mark and the Family Life Office of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown invite couples marking their first, 5th, 10th, 25th, 40th 50th, 55th, and 60th+ wedding anniversary this calendar year to attend the annual Wedding Anniversary Liturgy. We have registered twelve Cathedral couples for the celebration to be held here at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament on **September 20th** at 2:00 PM. A light reception will follow in Cathedral Hall after Mass for the couples and their families.

Rides to Mass Needed - An elderly gentleman who lives near the Jaffa Shrine is looking for a ride to Mass here at the Cathedral. We also have had a request from the mother of a freshman at Penn State Altoona who would like to come to 8:00 AM Mass on Sundays. If willing to help, please call the Parish Office.

Annual Calendar of Prizes 2015

Our **Grand Prize** will be awarded tomorrow evening, **September 7th**. The Pennsylvania Lottery 7:00 PM drawing of the Straight, Pick Three, Daily Number will determine our winner of a **\$5,000.00** Prize. Good luck!

Parish Liturgy Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 8 at 12:45 PM in the Seton Suite.

MUSIC MINISTRY NOTE:

Choir Practice Resumed: **Thursday** evenings; Cantors and Psalmists at 6:30 PM and All Choir Members 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM. New members are welcome. Call the Music Ministry Office at 944-2044 for more information. Call also if interested in the Children's Choir forming soon!

Christian Initiation - Inquiry Sessions

Are you interested in the Catholic Church? Do you know someone who might be interested in seeking information about our Catholic faith? Next **Sunday, September 13th**, the Cathedral Christian Initiation Team will meet in the Seton Suite at 11:00 AM with all those seeking information on the Catholic Church. No commitments are made at this time. This is the first Inquiry Session to discuss aspects of our faith with anyone who might be thinking of joining the Catholic Church.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, August 30, 2015 - \$9,006.00

R.C.I.A. Teaching Team Planning Meeting
Today at **11:00 AM** in the Seton Suite.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (Pre K-Grade 8)

First day of Class is next Sunday, **September 13th**. **Please note:** class times have changed for the 2015-16 school year. We will meet in the Parish Hall from **8:30 AM - 9:45 AM**. Please arrive at 8:10 AM with a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate to register new students. Parents of returning students are asked to update contact information: addresses, phone numbers, etc. also.

HIGH SCHOOL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

F.I.R.E. Groups - Family Intergenerational Religious Education for Parents and Students in Grades 9-11 (Religious Ed and Home-schooled) meet in Cathedral Hall following 5:00 PM Mass from **6:15 PM - 8:30 PM** on **Sundays, September 13th** and **September 27th**.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION (Grade 9-11)

MEETING DATES: Mandatory Parent Attendance
Ninth Grade: **ALL** BGCHS, Religious Ed and Home schooled students each with a parent. **September 13th, 2015 - Sunday at 11:00 AM** (Following the 10:00 AM Mass) in the Hall.

Tenth Grade: **ALL** BGCHS, Religious Ed and Home schooled students each with a parent. **September 16th, 2015 - Wednesday** evening in the Seton Suite at **7:00 PM**.

Eleventh Grade: **ALL** BGCHS, Religious Ed and Home schooled students each with a parent. **September 20th, 2015 - Sunday at 6:00 PM** (Following the 5:00 PM Mass) in the Hall. Families with more than one student need only attend once.

Liturgical Reflection ...

**General
Instruction
of the
Roman Missal**

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal gives particular directives for the celebration of Mass. It is noted that the cross adorned with the figure of Christ crucified is carried in the opening procession. This cross may be placed next to the altar to serve as the altar cross. It is desirable that such a cross should remain near the altar even outside of liturgical celebrations, so as to remind the faithful of the saving Passion of the Lord. The cross bearing the figure of the Crucified is a traditional piece of art in Catholic life.

General Instruction of the Roman Missal, Numbers 117, 122, and 308.

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