

AUGUST 23, 2015

Scripture Reflection

Joshua poses a challenge to the tribes of Israel that remains relevant for each of us: decide today whom you will serve. Is it time to take stock of where you place your faithfulness? Make a list of the people and things in your life that are most important to you. Be as honest as you can. You might look over last month's credit card spending, calendar, and phone texts to get a true sense of where and with whom you spend the most time, money, and energy. Who and what comes first? Where is God on the list? Can you honestly say, "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord"?

Jesus realizes that he puts difficult choices before his followers. Some might even be shocked at his suggestion that they eat and drink of his Body and Blood. When Jesus tells his disciples that they will eat his flesh and drink his blood, they respond. "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" It is only by being subject and open to the Spirit that we are able to grasp Jesus' teaching, that it brings us to life. Openness to another, even when understanding is missing, brings about unity. The disciples need to make a decision. Will they remain with the current limited world of flesh, or will they believe and accept his words of Spirit and life: some return to their old ways, but the Twelve remain.

When the disciples were asked if they too wished to go away, Peter speaks for us. "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." The choice needs to be made again and again over the course of a lifetime. When everything is going well and life is full of successes, the choice is a no-brainer. When life has thrown us some curve balls and tragedy, sickness, and death strikes, the choice must be made. Do we remain with the Lord or do we leave? As for me and my house, we shall stay and serve the Lord. Really, where else would we go?

• **Would you identify yourself as a faithful follower of the Lord? Have you ever blamed God; so angry, you would not talk to him? Have you ever thanked God in the midst of pain and hurt?**

AT HOME WITH THE WORD 2015. (C) 2014 ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO, LITURGY TRAINING PUBLICATIONS, 3949 South Racine Avenue CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60609 REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION.

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CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Catholic schools provide a nurturing and caring environment for our children where Jesus Christ is the center of daily life. The greater Altoona area has a plan for the future of Catholic education in our community. The decision has been made to regionalize our Catholic schools. For the 2016-2017 school year there will be one school with three sites. Two elementary sites will be to the north and south (housing pre-K through fifth grade) with one middle school (housing sixth through eighth grade) in between the two elementary sites. The name of the school along with the names of the three sites will be chosen by a committee made up of parents, teachers and administrators.

The regionalization plan is the result of decreasing enrollment and increasing costs which will directly address utilizing our best resources, improving curriculum, keeping tuition at a reasonable rate, and ensuring our elementary students consistency in exceptional high school readiness upon graduation. Regionalization will help local families choose a Catholic school that offers the highest quality education in a safe environment for learning and personal development. Hallmarks of a Catholic school are challenging academics, a developed discipline, competing athletics, value laden activities, and always, Jesus Christ at the center of school life.

Catholic education in the greater Altoona area is provided pre-K through 12. With the new plan, there will be two elementary sites (pre-K through grade five), one middle school (grades six through eight), and Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School (grades nine through twelve). We believe that Catholic education makes a difference. Cathedral Parish has been committed to the availability of a quality Catholic education since our founding in 1851, and we stand by this commitment for future generations of children in our community.

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 11:15 AM - 12:30 PM
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	Holiday:	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

Reverend Father John J. Slovickovski, In Residence

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-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 23, 2015

Readings: Jos 24:1-2, 15-17, 18; Eph 5:21-32; Jn 6:60-69

MASS INTENTIONS

August 24, Monday: Saint Bartholomew, Apostle

Readings: Rv 21:9-14; Jn 1:45-51

6:45 AM Patty Hmel (Barbara and Mike Chisko)
8:00 AM Ruby Doyle (Alley Cats)
12:00 PM Madeline Vogel, 91st Birthday (Family)

August 25, Tuesday: Saint Louis

Readings: 1 Thes 2:1-8; Mt 23:23-26

6:45 AM Joseph A. Keirn (Mom and Dad)
8:00 AM Vi Franchio (John Prospero)
12:00 PM Mildred Flick (Daughters)

August 26, Wednesday: Weekday

Readings: 1 Thes 2:9-13; Mt 23:27-32

6:45 AM Nozzie, Jennie, Sandy Calabrese (Family)
8:00 AM Msgr. Ildephonse Denny (Skip Cowan Family)
12:00 PM Intention of Wm. Walcutt (Blazewicz Family)

August 27, Thursday: Saint Monica

Readings: 1 Thes 3:7-13; Mt 24:42-51

6:45 AM Msgr. Thomas Madden (Estate)
8:00 AM Health of Christina Flanagan (Bear and Pat)
12:00 PM Pat Rabine (Pat Byrne and Family)

August 28, Friday: Saint Augustine, Bishop, Doctor

Readings: 1 Thes 4:1-8; Mt 25:1-13

6:45 AM Dick Huber (Dr. Frank and Mary Aigner)
8:00 AM Louise Mincin, Birthday (Susan Galant)
12:00 PM Jim Roland (Cathedral R.C.I.A. Group)

August 29, Saturday: Passion of Saint John the Baptist

Readings: 1 Thes 4:9-11; Mk 6:17-29

8:00 AM Safe Return to School (Dombrowskis)
12:00 PM Rob Beiswenger (M/M Kirk Kling)
Vigil: Twenty-Second Sunday In Ordinary Time
Readings: Dt 4:1-2, 6-8; Jas 1:17-18, 21-22, 27;
Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
5:00 PM Joseph Pagliaro, Birthday (Wife and Family)

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

ETERNAL PEACE

This past week M. Virginia Jones died and was buried from the Cathedral Parish. May Virginia know peace and happiness in the presence of our crucified and risen Lord. May her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren know that same peace.

Official Appointment

Bishop Bartchak has appointed our Rector, Monsignor Mazur, Administrator of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in light of the retirement of Father James Zatalava. Sacramental and pastoral ministries will be assumed by the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament Parish.

Father John Transferred

Father John Slovikovski has been assigned as Pastor of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Johnstown. We are grateful for Father John's presence and ministry here. We give thanks for his three years of service with us.

In order to provide an occasion for the Parish to say good by and thank you, Father will return for the **10:00 A.M. Mass next Sunday, August 30**, with a social on the portico following Mass. Please plan to be present for this special event.

Annual September Tours of Cathedral

September is the month our Cathedral celebrates its anniversary of dedication. Again this September the Cathedral will offer four tours of this singular structure. The one hour tours are scheduled for: **Sunday, September 6th** at 1:00 PM; **Thursday, September 17th** at 7:00 PM; **Thursday, September 24th** at 7:00 PM; and **Sunday, September 27th** at 1:00 PM. Plan to attend one of the four dates. Invite relatives, friends, and neighbors who may have never been inside this beautiful Cathedral to join you!

Christian Initiation

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

Charismatic Prayer Group - Father Jonathan St. Andre, TOR will be presenting, "Living As A Spirit Filled Evangelizer" - based on the "Joy of the Gospel", this **Monday, August 24**, in the Cathedral. Praise and Worship will begin at 7:00 PM, followed by Father Jonathan's presentation.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, August 16, 2015 - \$8,242.00

Missionary Co-op 2015 - \$1,327.00

Anniversary Liturgies

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 either of the annual Wedding Anniversary Liturgies. Please call the Parish Office to make your reservation for the celebration here at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament on **September 20th** at 2:00 PM. The **deadline is Tuesday, August 25**.

ANNUAL RAFFLE

The Annual Cathedral Raffle **tickets are available** for sale at the **Parish Office!** We are now looking for individuals who would like to take responsibility for group sales at work, in neighborhoods, or at family gatherings, and also volunteers to sell tickets after weekend Masses. There will be twenty cash prizes with \$5,000.00 in prizes: (1) \$2,000.00; (2) \$1,000.00 (3) \$500.00; (4) \$200.00; (5) \$200.00; (6) \$100.00; (7) \$100.00; (8) \$100.00; (9) \$100.00; (10) \$100.00; (11) \$100.00; (12) \$100.00; (13) \$100.00; (14) \$50.00; (15) \$50.00; (16) \$50.00; (17) \$50.00; (18) \$50.00; (19) \$25.00; (20) \$25.00. **One ticket will cost \$5.00.** Each family is asked to purchase or sell at least four tickets. Chances were mailed this week to all adult parishioners. The drawing will be held **Saturday, October 31** at **Family Night** in Cathedral Hall. You need not be present to win.

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL 2015 UPDATE

Our Cathedral Parish goal was set at **\$66,350.00**. We have raised **\$96,570.00** to date. We are **\$30,220.00** over goal and in the past three months have received **\$19,377.94** back from the Diocese. Thank you.

Liturgical Reflection ...

General Instruction of the Roman Missal

The Church cites the ministry of those who take up the collection in the church for the upkeep of the parish plant and support of the pastoral needs of the Church, especially care for the poor. And where it is the custom, faith communities have ministers who welcome the faithful at the church doors, seat them appropriately, and direct them in processions. Parish bulletins are appropriately distributed as the faithful are leaving Mass. Emergencies that may occur in the church become the responsibility of ushers and greeters.

General Instruction of the Roman Missal, Number 105c and 105d.

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

ATTENTION RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (Pre K-8)

Class times have changed for the 2015-16 school year. We will meet in the Parish Hall from **8:30 AM - 9:45 AM**. **Registration** for 2015-16 for all students, both current and new, will be held after all Masses next weekend, **Saturday/Sunday, August 29-30** in the Seton Suite. New members are asked to bring a copy of the student's Baptismal Certificate. **First day** of Class is Sunday, **September 13**.

ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS!!

Due to the new Pennsylvania State Mandates on Youth Protection, all current or future volunteers at the parish and all employees **MUST** obtain new clearances. Please call Chris Laraia at 312-7317 for more information.

HELP NEEDED - ACCS is in need of a part-time person (20 hours per week) to do light janitorial duties, at minimum wage. Please call the school at 381-7011, and leave a message if interested.

MUSIC MINISTRY NOTE:

Choir Practice Resumes: **September 3rd**; 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!

"UNTOLD BLESSINGS"

Sister Theresa, CCW will be showing Rev. Robert Barron's DVD on "Untold Blessings: Three Paths to Holiness", with a time for discussion after each section on three Thursdays: September 10, 17 and 24 from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM at St. Mary's school building, 1905 Fifth Avenue, Altoona. Please contact Sister Theresa at 942-5747 if you can come. Bring a friend.