

AUGUST 30, 2015

Scripture Reflection

There is a saying attributed to St. Francis of Assisi: "Preach the Gospel always; when necessary use words." James challenges us to "be doers of the word and not hearers only", and the Gospel instructs us to honor God with both our hearts and our lips. The message seems clear: live our faith with integrity in such a way that what is true in our hearts shows through in all our words and actions.

The Book of Deuteronomy is focused on the Torah, proclaimed at Sinai, that exhorts the people to observe all that God has commanded. Israel is reminded that to hear means to faithfully observe the one true God's commands. James continues the message to become doers of the Word not just hearers. He gives an example: take care of the widows and orphans. These groups are meant to include all who are defenseless and need God's people to care for them. The reading from Mark's Gospel describes the Pharisaic traditions that had added obligations to the Law (such as hand washing). God is not honored by following traditions alone but from having a heart that listens to God's voice and obeys. God wishes to receive sincere, whole-hearted response rather than lip service. Jesus states that defilement, separation from God, does not come from non-observance of traditions (from what we eat or how we eat it) but from evil within our own hearts.

Jesus' theme is to convert our own hearts in order to follow God's law. Jesus warns us against our hearts being turned against God and our fellow humans. For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come. The starting point regarding excising sin is always a searching, personal moral inventory, since whenever we sin it is because we have given ourselves permission, in however subtle a way, to do what we desire. Once free of evil, then the Christian is free to serve God in a life full of service to others.

• **The closer I get to God should equal the closer I am to my brothers and sisters in need. If I am faithful and constant in prayer, then I am busy doing all that the Lord asks of me.**

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: Vol. 213 No. 4, Whole No. 5097 Aug. 17-24, 2015

Birth of Mary Celebration

The annual Birth of Mary Celebration will be held on **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.

Blue and White Mass

Bishop Mark will celebrate the annual Blue and White Mass on **September 12th** at 5:00 PM here at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. The Liturgy pays tribute to emergency responders such as police officers, firefighters, and medical professionals. The Mass is celebrated every year on or around the observance of the September 11, 2001, attacks on our country. All are welcome. God Bless America!

Diocese Announces

Altoona School Regionalization

At the conclusion of the 2015-2016 academic year, Altoona Central Catholic School, Saint Rose of Lima School, Saint John the Evangelist School all in Altoona, Hollidaysburg Catholic School, and Saint Patrick School in Newry will close as parish schools. Effective in the 2016-2017 academic year, one regional school will open with two campuses for students in pre-kindergarten through grade five. One campus will be at the current site of Altoona Central Catholic School and the other will be at the current site of Hollidaysburg Catholic School. Both locations will offer the same curriculum. A third campus - the current site of Saint Rose of Lima School - will house a middle school for students in grades six, seven, and eight. The curriculum will be based on the STREAM model (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, and Math) and will include numerous partnerships with local universities and businesses. Through those collaborations, students will engage in hands-on educational opportunities designed to create a more seamless transition into high school.

The Interim Board selected the three campus sites based on the capacity and potential of each facility, as well as the geographic locations related to our student populations. A committee made up of parents, teachers and administrators will have the opportunity to name the new regional school and campuses.

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) 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

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
AUGUST 30, 2015

Readings: Dt 4:1-2,6-8; Jas 1:17-18,21-22,27; Mk 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

MASS INTENTIONS

August 31, Monday: Weekday

Readings: 1 Thes 4:13-18; Lk 4:16-30

6:45 AM Jim Roland (Darlene and Michael Dalby)
8:00 AM Seriously Sick (Dombrowskis)
12:00 PM Genevieve Moloney, Birth. (Madeline Vogel)

September 1, Tuesday: Weekday

Readings: 1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11; Lk 4:31-37

6:45 AM Margaret McConnell (Mike and Mary Malligan)
8:00 AM Kimberly Kokolis Moran (Finance Council)
12:00 PM Justine Allen (Jean Fornwalt)

September 2, Wednesday: Weekday

Readings: Col 1:1-8; Lk 4:38-44

6:45 AM Eleanor Toth (Kling Family)
8:00 AM Patrick Hallinan (Family)
12:00 PM Deacon John Rys (Michael & Heidi Douglas)

September 3, Thursday: Saint Gregory the Great, Pope

Readings: Col 1:9-14; Lk 5:1-11

6:45 AM Alice Ann Martynuska, Birthday (Sons)
8:00 AM Sr. Ann, Disc. Carmelite Nun (Brother, Joe)
12:00 PM Kathleen Duffy, Birthday (Husband, Jack)

September 4, Friday: Weekday

Readings: Col 1:15-20; Lk 5:33-39

6:45 AM Carie Robuck (Stanley J. Krish Family)
8:00 AM Bill Hoff, Jr. (Family)
12:00 PM Jennie Calabrese, Birthday (Family)

September 5, Saturday: Weekday

Readings: Col 1: 21-23; Lk 6:1-5

8:00 AM Deceased Members of McGreal Family
12:00 PM Sam Coen (Ron Skupien)
Vigil: Twenty-Third Sunday In Ordinary Time
Readings: Is 35:4-7; Jas 2:1-5; Mk 7:31-37
5:00 PM Msgr. George Flinn, Ann. (Sheila Stone & Fam.)

First Friday Communion Calls This Week

Our clergy visit the sick and home-bound of the parish each month. Call the Parish Office at 944-4603 to arrange a visit for yourself or a loved one.

Nocturnal Adoration

The Nocturnal Adoration Society will meet here in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament on **Friday, September 4th** from 8:00 PM until 11:00 PM. New members are always welcome.

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.

Parish Social to Say Good-Bye to Father John Slovickovski following 10:00 AM Mass

Father John Slovickovski 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. Please join us on the portico for a social after Father celebrates Mass with us at Cathedral one more time.

Suicide Awareness

There will be a Blair County Walk, **Out of the Darkness**, to prevent suicide. The walk will be at Mansion Park Field on Saturday, September 26th. Registration begins at 9:00 AM; Walk 10:30 AM-11:15 AM; Closing 11:15 AM; Sharing for Survivors 11:30-Noon. Money will be raised for critical research and prevention programs in the area of mental health. This event is sponsored by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Questions, please call John or Mary Jo 814-515-1122.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

A Bereavement Support Group meets on the first Wednesday of every month at Catholic Charities, next to the Cathedral, from 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM. Call 944-9388, ext. 205 to register for the **September 2nd** session.

Proclaim! and live Mass to Change Channels

Beginning on September 13th, *Proclaim!* and the live Mass will permanently move from WWCP TV FOX 8 to WATM ABC 23. *Proclaim!* will still air at 10:30 and the Mass will still air at 11:00 AM.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, August 23, 2015 - \$9,189.39

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 eleven Cathedral couples for the celebration to be held here at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament on **September 20th** at 2:00 PM.

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!

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 13th** 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 is the first Inquiry Session to discuss aspects of our faith with anyone who might be thinking of joining the Catholic Church.

R.C.I.A. Teaching Team Planning Meeting
Sunday, September 6th at 11:00 AM in the Seton Suite.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP - The Prayer Group will **not** meet this Monday, August 31st. The next meeting will be Monday, September 14th at 7:00 P.M.

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

Liturgical Reflection ...

**General
Instruction
of the
Roman Missal**

Altar Servers assist the priest at Mass. Servers care for the candles before and after Mass. They carry the cross and candles in the opening and closing processions. A server holds the *Roman Missal* for the priest celebrant when not at the altar. Servers help with the bread, wine, and water during the preparation of the gifts. The servers provide water and towel for the washing of the priest's hands. Where it is the custom the server rings the bell at the appropriate time. Altar servers participate at Mass, responding to the prayers and dialogues, and joining in the singing of the songs and acclamations. Faith communities determine the appropriate age for altar servers; the Diocese directs that they have received the Sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist.

General Instruction of the Roman Missal, Number 100.

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

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!

ATTENTION RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (Pre K-8)

Registration for 2015-16 for all students, both new and returning is being held after all Masses this 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 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**.

ANNUAL RAFFLE

The Annual Cathedral Raffle **tickets are available** for sale at the **Parish Office!** We are now looking volunteers to sell tickets after weekend Masses. There will be twenty cash prizes with \$5,000.00 in prizes ranging from \$2,000.00 to \$25.00 **One ticket costs \$5.00**. Each family is asked to purchase or sell at least four tickets. The drawing will be held **Saturday, October 31** at **Family Night** in Cathedral Hall. You need not be present to win.