

**JUNE 14, 2015**

*Scripture Reflection*

Ezekiel describes in his parable the coming of the unusual kingdom, comparing it to a tree growing from “a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind.” Jesus reimagines this metaphor, comparing the kingdom of God not to a cedar sprig but to something even more unassuming, a mustard seed, which “when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

The growing shrub is not notable for its majesty but for its purpose. And the purpose of the cedar and the mustard shrub is to offer shelter for birds of every kind. What do these birds represent? Biblical scholars agree that the birds represent the nations, the Gentiles, who will find a home in the branches.

But this is not the only metaphor Jesus uses for the kingdom of God, Jesus uses the parable of the sowing of the seeds to explain how the kingdom is spread to the world. There is a mystery at the heart of the kingdom’s growth, here reflected by the unknown growth of the seeds, which stand for the individuals who populate the kingdom.

But just as there is mystery in the sowing and in the growing, there is mystery in the harvesting. The harvesting is the most mysterious of all the agricultural metaphors of the kingdom of God, for it is our destiny to be cut down. While we grow, struggling to root ourselves, threatened with drought, heat or other enemies, we are growing to be harvested. Yet our reaping is not our death, for though the kingdom is mysteriously present in us, embodied and alive, the kingdom truly comes when we are “at home with the Lord.”

• **The kingdom of God is a central and fundamental concept for Christians. How would you explain the kingdom of God to someone who might ask?**

**CONGRATULATIONS HIGH SCHOOL GRADS!**

We offer our continued support, encouragement, prayers, and best wishes to the following members of the **Class of 2015** from Cathedral Parish: \*Timothy Bartkowiak, \*Samuel McCloskey, \*Ashton Truby and \*Own Wolf graduated from **Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School** on May 22. And \*Jonathan Carper, \*Daniel Dodson, Nicholas Dumm, \*Brooklyn Haugh, Alyssa Hughes, \*Dalton Igoe, Alyssa McCullough, Dominic Scalice, Collin Steele, and Conner Steele, graduated from **Altoona Area High School** on June 6.

**\*Receiving Recognition for Academic Excellence, Scholarships and Awards.**

At Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School, **Timothy Bartkowiak** was awarded the Saint Francis University Founders Scholarship. **Samuel McCloskey** received a Lehigh University Athletic Scholarship, the Marty Bennetti Memorial Award, the Joe Cohen Blanket and the Tom Lane Award. **Ashton Truby** was the recipient of the Saint Vincent College Presidential Scholarship, the Alumni Grant, the Catholic High School Scholarship, the First-Generation Grant, Wimmer Scholarship, the President’s Education Awards Program: recognition for Outstanding Academic Excellence, Altoona Mirror’s 20 under 20 Future Leaders of Central PA award, Catholic Charities Matthew 25 Youth Humanitarian Award and the Mission Club Award. And **Owen Wolf** received the John Carroll University Scholarship, the Andrew “Dewey” McCarthy Scholarship, the Altruism Award, the John McDonald Award and the District VI Sportsmanship Award.

At Altoona Area High School, **Jonathan Carper** was awarded the Big A Booster Club Scholarship, the Blair County NAACP Youth Council Scholarship, the President’s Award for Educational Excellence, the Rotary Club of Altoona Scholarship, the William Whittaker Scholarship and the Wright Elementary PTO Scholarship; **Brooklyn Haugh** received the National Art Honor Society Award and the Logan Lodge #490 Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania Scholarship. **Dalton Igoe** was presented the Jordan Synclair Miller Memorial Scholarship. We would also like to note that **Daniel Dodson** has been accepted into the Air Force Academy Prep School in Colorado Springs, CO. Many of our graduates have served Cathedral Parish as Altar Servers and several now serve as Lectors or Eucharistic Ministers. Congratulations, graduates!

# 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:**

<b>Sunday:</b>	5:00 PM (Vigil) 8:00 AM 10:00 AM 12:00 Noon 5:00 PM	<b>Holyday:</b>	5:30 PM (Vigil) 8:00 AM 12:00 Noon 5:30 PM	<b>Weekday:</b>	6:45 AM 8:00 AM 12:00 Noon	<b>Saturday:</b>	8:00 AM 12:00 Noon
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**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](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**

## ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JUNE 14, 2015

Readings: Ez 17:22-24; 2 Cor 5:6-10; Mk 4:26-34

### MASS INTENTIONS

June 15, Monday: Weekday

Readings: 2 Cor 6:1-10; Mt 5:38-42

6:45 AM No Mass  
8:00 AM Bishop James Hogan, Anniv. (Cathedral)  
12:00 PM Billy Geis, Birth (Mom and Family)

June 16, Tuesday: Weekday

Readings: 2 Cor 8:1-9; Mt 5:43-48

6:45 AM Jean Wilk (Bob Korinchak)  
8:00 AM No Mass  
12:00 PM Justine Allen (Ted and Kathy Sheehan)

June 17, Wednesday: Weekday

Readings: 2 Cor 9:6-11; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

6:45 AM No Mass  
8:00 AM Vi Franchio (Karen and Bob Fiore)  
12:00 PM Francis Goss, Wed. Ann. (Wife and Family)

June 18, Thursday: Weekday

Readings: 2 Cor 11:1-11; Mt 6:7-15

6:45 AM Betty Schwalenberg (Pat & Kevin McMullen)  
8:00 AM No Mass  
12:00 PM Birthday Int./ Nathaniel Hockenberry (Family)

June 19, Friday: Saint Romuald, Abbot

Readings: 2 Cor 11:18, 21-30; Mt 6:19-23

6:45 AM Jennie Calabrese (Tom and Patricia Forr)  
8:00 AM James & Hilda Conrad, Wed. Ann. Rem. (Mary)  
12:00 PM Jim Roland (Joan and Randy Donnelly)

June 20, Saturday: Weekday

Readings: 2 Cor 12:1-10; Mt 6:24-34

8:00 AM Harold "Sonny" Leighty (McNelis All-Stars)  
12:00 PM Rob Beiswenger (M/M Robert Chirdon)  
Vigil: Twelfth Sunday In Ordinary Time  
Readings: Jb 38:1, 8-11; 2 Cor 5:14-17; Mk 4:35-41  
5:00 PM Chris Amerine (Kathy Grove)

### Note Daily Mass Schedule

This is the second week of annual retreats for our parish priests and there are only two Masses scheduled Monday through Thursday this week. Please pray for your clergy as they will be remembering you during this week of reflection and prayer.

### Rest In Peace

Please remember in prayer Father Louis Mulvehill, who died and was buried from the Cathedral this past week. May he rest in the peace of Christ. May his family and friends be comforted in the faith.

### Annual Vacation Bible School This Week!

**Camp Discovery** is being held **June 15-19**, from 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM in Cathedral Hall, for children ages 3 - 10. May our children grow in their love of Jesus. There is no charge for Vacation Bible School but monetary donations to purchase shirts and snacks are appreciated.

### Baptism Congratulations!

Elio Graham Parsons was baptized and welcomed into our Cathedral Parish Family on Sunday, June 7, at the Noon Mass. Congratulations to parents, Matthew and Alanna Daniels Parsons, along with Godparents, Grandparents, relatives and friends. Elio will grow in his Christian identity to the degree that family and friends model the faith.

### Baptismal Preparation

**Monday, June 15** in the Seton Suite at 7:00 PM. Attendance at Baptismal Prep is required before a baptism is scheduled at Cathedral Parish and class is offered every other month. You do not have to wait until your baby arrives to come to class. Godparents are encouraged to attend as well. Call the Parish Office at 944-4603 to register. Next scheduled class, Monday, August 3.

### Father's Day Weekend - Cereal Collection

On the weekend of **June 20-21** we are encouraged to bring boxes of cereal to help stock the shelves of the Saint Vincent dePaul Food Pantry for the summer months. Perhaps we could ask relatives and friends to join in the collection occurring throughout Blair County next weekend.

### Seventh Annual Knights of Columbus #551 Golf Tournament - Saturday, June 20, 2015.

8:00 AM Shotgun Start - Registration at 7:30AM.  
**Benefits: Catholic Charities, Altoona - "In Memory of Deacon John Rys"** at King Valley Golf Club, 132 King Valley Lane, Imler, PA. Format: Scramble, Entry Fee: \$65.00 per golfer. Tee and Hole Sponsors \$50 (sponsorship only) \$310 (sponsorship and foursome). Dinner and Prizes immediately following under the pavilion at the course. To register, donate, sponsor or have questions, contact Terry Anderson at 814-932-0465 or email [topsailboo@gmail.com](mailto:topsailboo@gmail.com).

The **Charismatic Prayer Group** will not meet this Monday June 15. Please join us on Monday, June 22 at 7:00 PM for a Eucharistic Festival of Praise.

### FORTNIGHT FOR FREEDOM

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops will once again sponsor a **Fortnight for Freedom** from June 21 to July 4. The theme this year is "**Freedom to Bear Witness**" to the truth of the Gospel. In observance of this fortnight, Bishop Mark Bartchak will preside at a **Holy Hour on Thursday, June 25, at 7:00 PM** in the Cathedral. The Holy Hour will include Evening Prayer, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, a Homily from the Bishop, and Benediction. Plan to join in our unified prayer for the preservation of religious liberty.

**Save the Date - Monday, June 22 - 6:00 PM**  
**Parish Council Social/Barbeque on the Loggia.**

### FAITH DAY AT DELGROSSO'S 2015

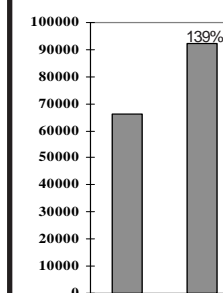
Come! Join Catholics from across the Diocese to celebrate our faith and enjoy a day of rides and slides!! Or just come and enjoy America's best amusement park food!! **SUNDAY, JUNE 28 - DelGrosso's Amusement Park in Tipton, PA.**

Highlights of the day include: a collection of nonperishable food items or a free-will offering for Catholic Charities in our Diocese; Liturgy at 3:00 PM with Bishop Mark; a Picnic in the Diocesan Pavilion, #2 at 5:00 PM; and over 30 different park rides, games, Tipton Rapids Waterslides and Tipton Waterworks. At the **Parish Office** you may obtain; (1) **Diocesan Faith Day Vouchers** which when presented at the park will allow you to purchase **All-Day Ride & Slide Passes** for a reduced price of \$12 (a \$19.95 value)! Additionally, \$3 for each pass sold will be donated to the Angel Fund for Camp Zaccheaus and Camp Timothy; (2) **Tickets** for the **Picnic after Mass**; Adults \$8.25, Children \$7.25. For more information, contact Francine Swope the in the Diocesan Youth Ministry Office at 317-2646 or on the web [www.dioceseaj.org](http://www.dioceseaj.org).

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, June 7, 2015 - \$9,154.88

### ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL 2015



Every registered family is asked to participate in the 2015 Annual Catholic Appeal. A gift of any amount will be appreciated. This year the Cathedral Parish goal was set at **\$66,350.00**. We have raised **\$92,590.00** and with

only 354 of our 958 families participating, our cash exceeds goal, so all funds received now will be returned to the Parish to help with our **special Parish Project** of replacing the steps in the front of the Cathedral going down to the alley and the adjoining steps going down the front (alley side) of the Cathedral.

All monies collected for this Annual Appeal go directly to help support the dozens of ministries sponsored by the Diocese. Your participation is vital to the success of ACA 2015.

If you have not yet participated, you may return your gift directly to the Development Office by mail; return it to the Parish Office; or drop it in the Sunday collection. Thank you for your participation in this year's Annual Catholic Appeal.

### CATHEDRAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Newly registered Cathedral families and those established families with children ready to enter our Religious Education Program in the fall for the first time are asked to contact Chris Laraia at 312-7317 as soon as possible to pre-register for 2015-2016.

**Please remember our sick in your prayers.**

### Liturgical Reflection ...

#### General Instruction of the Roman Missal

Every celebration of the Mass is directed by the Bishop, either in person or through Priests who are his helpers. When the Bishop is present at Mass where the people are gathered, it is most fitting that he himself celebrates the Eucharist and the gathered priests join him in the sacred action as concelebrants. This is done not for the sake of adding outward solemnity to the rite, but to signify more vividly the mystery of the Church, "the sacrament of unity." When the bishop gathers with his priests at Mass the fullness of the sign of unity is made visible, the Church is gathered with its Bishop, priests and people.

General Instruction of the Roman Missal, Number 92.

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