

MAY 17 2015

Scripture Reflection

The prayer of Jesus in John's Gospel today is very different from the "Our Father" in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. In John's Gospel portrait, Jesus is not teaching his disciples how to pray so much as allowing them to eavesdrop on his own intimate conversation with God. This intimacy is then extended to the disciples, "so they may be one just as we are one". This union makes the disciples true children of God who are now able to share completely in Jesus' joy.

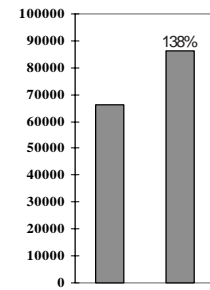
Today's selection from John's Gospel is just a glimpse of this intimate prayer. This high priestly prayer of Jesus has three units: Jesus' prayer for himself (17:1-5), for his disciples (vv.6-19), and for future believers (vv.20-26). Today the Lectionary presents just the middle part of the prayer concerning Jesus' disciples. We are invited to listen as Jesus, whose death is imminent, gives voice to his deepest hopes for his loved ones.

Jesus' concern for his disciples is plainly stated in his prayer. He wishes to share with his followers the union he enjoys with God. The disciples share in God's holiness by accepting God's word through Jesus. The Lord acknowledges the resistance that God's word encounters from the world, that segment of society that is antagonistic toward God. Jesus himself was hated by that world and now, because of God's word, his followers will suffer the same fate. It is for this reason that Jesus prays for them.

Jesus prays on behalf of his disciples for the courage and protection they will need to bear joyful, steadfast witness to a hostile world. We are to make the prayer of Jesus our prayer. May God be glorified in the proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ. May we believers be transformed by the power and truth of the gospel. And may others come to believe through us and how we witness to the gospel in word and deed. It takes courage to witness to our faith. We join Jesus in praying for that courage.

• **Do you consider yourself a witness to Christ in your daily life? Take time and reflect on some examples of your witnessing to the faith.**

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 **\$88,775.00** and with

only 326 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.

A second letter was mailed last week to those who 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.

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.

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)	Holyday:	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

Reverend Father John J. Slovickovski, In Residence

Deacon James F. Leap, Senior Deacon

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 GULFOYLE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Web: www.bishopgulfoyle.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

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 17, 2015

Readings: Acts 1:15-17,20-26; 1 Jn 4:11-16; Jn 17:11-19

MASS INTENTIONS

May 18, Monday: Saint John I, Pope, Martyr

Readings: Acts 19:1-8; Jn 16:29-33

6:45 AM Jean Wilk (Bob Korinchak)
8:00 AM Jim Roland (Bob and Chris Laraia)
12:00 PM Rose Grillo Skupien (Sharon Schmitt)

May 19, Tuesday: Easter Weekday

Readings: Acts 20:17-27; Jn 17:1-11

6:45 AM Kathryn Kurdziel, Anniversary (Family)
8:00 AM Randy and Jean Koury (25th Anniversary)
12:00 PM Eleanor Hupert, Anniversary (Family)

May 20, Wednesday: Saint Bernardine of Siena, Priest

Readings: Acts 20:28-38; Jn 17:11-19

6:45 AM Patty Hmel (Bart, Eileen and Family)
8:00 AM Nathan Boslet (Jane & Jim Davidson Family)
12:00 PM Amandus Gallagher (Greg & Kathy Clemens)

May 21, Thursday: Saint Christopher Magallanes

Readings: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Jn 17:20-26

6:45 AM Deacon John Rys (Forr Family)
8:00 AM John Hallinan (Family)
12:00 PM Edgar L. Johnston (M/M Gary Koeck)
7:00 PM Bishop Guilfoyle Baccalaureate Mass

May 22, Friday: Saint Rita of Cascia, Religious

Readings: Acts 25:13-21; Jn 21:15-19

6:45 AM Nozzie, Jennie, Sandy Calabrese (Family)
8:00 AM Health of Betty and Tim Stultz (Alley Cats)
12:00 PM Pat Dennis, Anniversary (Daughter, Betty)
7:00 PM Bishop Guilfoyle Graduation

May 23, Saturday: Easter Weekday

Readings: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Jn 21:20-25

8:00 AM Mike Kling, Birth (Mom, Dad, Brothers, Sisters)
12:00 PM Rob Beiswenger (Connie Montler)
Vigil: Pentecost

Readings: Acts 2:1-11; 1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23

5:00 PM Francis Pagliaro, 93rd Birthday (Family)

Charismatic Prayer Group - The Charismatic Prayer Group will meet this Monday, May 18 at 7:00 PM in the Cathedral. Sr. Linda LaMagna CCW will be giving a spiritual talk. Her talk will be based on the popular book, "Forming Intentional Disciples" by Sherry A. Waddell. Come and learn more about the path to know and follow Jesus! All are welcome!

May Crowning Within Evening Prayer Tonight! Sunday, May 17, at 6:30 PM.

As is our custom, all First Communicants are asked to be present wearing their Communion Day clothing as they will be in the opening procession at May Crowning. All who received Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil, families who have had children baptized and all of our parishioners who have been confirmed are also encouraged to attend this parish celebration with their families and friends. Everyone in the assembly is invited to bring a fresh flower to present to the Blessed Mother during this Evening Prayer which will last approximately forty-five minutes. Following May Crowning we will gather in the Cathedral Hall for an Ice Cream Social.

Parish Council Meeting - Monday, May 18 at 7:00 PM in the Saint John Room.

Baptism Congratulations!

On Saturday evening, May 9, at the 5:00 PM Mass Jia Marie Ritchey was baptized and welcomed into our Cathedral Parish Family. Congratulations to parents, Jason and Kristy 'Swires' Ritchey, along with brother, Jace Matthew and Godparents, Aunt Kourtney and Uncle Mark. Jia will grow in her Christian identity to the degree that her family and friends model the faith.

Next Session of 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 and class is held 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.

ANNUAL CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE

All men (high school age and older) are encouraged to attend the annual Catholic Men's Fellowship Conference at St. Francis University, Loretto on **Saturday, June 13**, 2015. For 18 years, this day has provided a wonderful way to deepen the faith and fellowship with the men of our diocese. It's truly a great day full of energy and renewal! Presentations by national speakers; opportunity for Sacrament of Penance; closing Mass with Bishop Mark. Call 814-248-1466 or Jeff Philibin, 814-525-1818 to register. Information and online registration - www.thecatholiccall.org.

Challenges For The Parish

This week the Department of Code Enforcement of the City of Altoona officially condemned the former school building. Bricks are falling off the structure. The former convent building is close to follow. As was stated earlier in the bulletin, the Parish Finance Council and the Parish Pastoral Council looked into renovating either structure. Having contacted an engineer, the lower cost was \$1.7 million for each building to be renovated and meet code requirements. Both the former school and convent buildings are slated to be razed. We are presently seeking bids on this project. The future use of the property is for much needed parking.

The Parish is in need of space for religious education, sacramental formation, and parish offices. The former Kopp Building (next to the rectory) has been presented to the Cathedral Parish for sale. In light of our needs, both the Finance Council and Parish Council have unanimously supported proceeding with this purchase. The final papers are presently being drawn together for the sale of this property. This is a former warehouse and there is an immediate need to make classrooms for religious education. Religious Education classes have been taking place in the hall for the past year and a half. This is an historic time for the Cathedral Parish as we plan for the future. Each of us will be called upon to be stewards of our time, talent, and treasure. More information will be forthcoming.

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 and call the Parish Office if a loved one is in the hospital so Father can visit. We need your help!

General Instruction of the Roman Missal

Liturgical Reflection ...

The dignity of the Word of God requires that in the church there be a suitable place from which it may be proclaimed and toward which the attention of the faithful naturally turns during the Liturgy of the Word. It is appropriate that generally this place be a stationary ambo and not simply a movable lectern. The ambo is located in keeping with the design of each church in such a way that the ordained ministers and readers may be seen and heard by the faithful. From the ambo only the scriptural readings, the Responsorial Psalm, and Easter Proclamation (*Exsultet*) are proclaimed. The dignity of the ambo requires that only a minister of the word stands at it.

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal, Number 309.

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

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, May 10, 2015 - \$9,212.00

Easter Collection and Easter Flower Memorial totals will be reported at the end of the Easter Season as we continue to receive additional gifts.

Collection for Catholic Relief Service in Nepal

Our Parish was very generous in our second collection last weekend and we will still be accepting donations throughout this week. Mark any envelope with **CRS** or **Nepal** and drop off at the Parish Office or place in collection.

The Blessed Mother and Pope Francis

During this month of May, Pope Francis shares these thoughts. "Mary was able to turn a stable into a home for Jesus, with poor swaddling clothes and an abundance of love. She is the handmaid of the Father who sings his praises. She is the friend who is ever concerned that wine not be lacking in our lives. She is the woman whose heart was pierced by a sword and who understands all our pain."

CATHEDRAL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2015

Registration is open for ages 3-10 who will attend Vacation Bible School from **June 15-19**, 2015 from **9:30-11:30 AM**. Come along with us as we sing fun songs, do crazy crafts, eat yummy snacks, play awesome games, and more. Plus, you'll learn all about Jesus our Savior and how he is at work through us! Can't wait to see you there! To register, call Chris Laraia at 312-7317, today; stop by the Parish Office tomorrow; or call 944-4603. **Please note today, May 17** is our actual cut off date for registration as we need to order T-shirts. There is no charge for Vacation Bible School. Donations for snacks and T-shirts are appreciated. Please keep our leaders and helpers in your prayers as we prepare.