

MAY 3, 2015

Scripture Reflection

Last week the Gospel used shepherd imagery; this week the Scriptures employ agricultural images with the vine and the branches. John emphasizes the fundamental and necessary relationship with God by presenting himself as the plant and us as the branches of that plant closely connected to him for our nourishment and life. Jesus describes a close union with God, who prunes us, the branches, so that we can change and thrive. In this way we have a more fruitful and deeper spiritual life, producing the fruit of virtue and charitable actions. This pruning occurs because the Word has been spoken to us. As the Word takes up a home within us and speaks to our hearts we become the disciples Christ calls us to be.

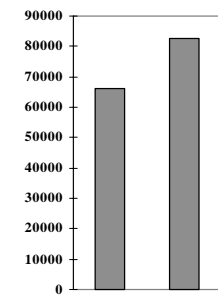
There can be no truth or justice without judgment, but we often set ourselves as the true arbiters of judgment, even if it is in the quietness of our hearts where we whisper condemnation of the "others," however we may categorize and group them. But this is not our personal task. Jesus is "the true vine" and God "is the vine-grower." It is God who "removes every branch that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit." We have no need to condemn, for we do not know how God is pruning others or ourselves, preparing us to flourish in growth and fruitfulness.

God looks at us, whoever we are, at whatever point we are in our lives, however far we have strayed, and asks that we "bear much fruit and become my disciples." Do not fear the other disciples; just attempt to become one more firmly rooted in the soil that nourishes us all, entwined with the vine and pruned by the loving hands of the vine grower.

• **God is the pruner of the vine. Am I open to be pruned, to be changed, to bear greater witness as a follower of the Lord Jesus?**

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

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 **\$82,665.00** and are

over Diocesan Goal with 270 of our families participating. Now, as our pledges are met, funds will be returned to the Parish and will 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 this 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.

Retreat Opportunity

Father Richard Tomkosky, Pastor of Saint John the Baptist Parish and Retreat Center in New Baltimore, will sponsor an overnight weekend retreat at the parish Retreat Center from Friday evening, **May 29** until Sunday afternoon, **May 31**. The topic: "The meaning of St. Louis Marie deMontfort's Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary and how Marian devotion can deepen one's Catholic faith." Meals and lodging are included. Space is limited. Reservations are required by May 22. Please call (814) 733-2210 for cost and more information.

ANNUAL CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE

Our Diocese's Annual Catholic Men's Conference will be held **Saturday, June 13th, 2015** at St. Francis University in Loretto, PA. For eighteen 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! For more information see the posters/brochures in the church or call Jeff Philibin, (814) 525-1818.

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: ALT.CATHEDRAL@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

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 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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 3, 2015

Readings: Acts 9:26-31; 1 Jn 3:18-24; Jn 15:1-8

MASS INTENTIONS

May 4, Monday: Easter Weekday

Readings: Acts 14:5-18; Jn 14:21-26

6:45 AM Msgr. Thomas Madden (Estate)
8:00 AM Mike Smith (Sally Hancock)
12:00 PM Amandus Gallagher (Jaime Robertson)

May 5, Tuesday: Easter Weekday

Readings: Acts 14:19-28; Jn 14:27-31

6:45 AM Joseph A. Keirn (Mom and Dad)
8:00 AM Leroy and Irmira Helfrich (Estate)
12:00 PM Joseph C. Prendergast (Zach, Kayla, Gemma)

May 6, Wednesday: Easter Weekday

Readings: Acts 15:1-6; Jn 15:1-8

6:45 AM Patty Hmel (Barbara and Mike Chisko)
8:00 AM Jim Roland (Frank, Rae, Joseph Kapfhammer)
12:00 PM Int. of Wm. & Kathleen Walcutt (Blazewicz)

May 7, Thursday: Easter Weekday

Readings: Acts 15:7-21; Jn 15:9-11

6:45 AM Carol Taylor (Cathedral Parish)
8:00 AM Vi Franchio (Rose Roberts)
12:00 PM Jennie Calabrese (Gladys Yon)
7:00 PM Confirmation

May 8, Friday: Easter Weekday

Readings: Acts 15:22-31; Jn 15:12-17

6:45 AM Dick Huber (Susie and Dick Barry)
8:00 AM Mel Koch (Mark and Diane Moschella)
12:00 PM Edward Moloney, Birthday (Madeline Vogel)

May 9, Saturday: Easter Weekday

Readings: Acts 16: 1-10; Jn 15:18-21

8:00 AM Deacon John Rys (Deacon/Mrs. Jim Woome)
12:00 PM Mildred Flick (Daughters)
Vigil: Sixth Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 10:25-26, 34-34, 44-48; 1 Jn 4:7-10; Jn 15:9-17

5:00 PM Edgar L. Johnston (Mary and Robert Carey)

Confession, Wednesday, May 6, at 7:00 PM during later part of Confirmation practice.

EASTER SCHEDULE FOR THE PARISH
Confirmation, this Thursday, May 7, 7:00 PM.
Ascension Thursday, Holy Day, May 14
May Crowning, Sunday, May 17, 6:30 PM.
Ice Cream Social follows in the Parish Hall.

Thank You!

Hours upon hours were given to the planning for this year's Longaberger Basket and Vera Bradley Bingo. It was Cathedral's first effort and it was a great success. Many thanks to all who gave so much time to this fundraiser. We are blessed with so many people coming forward and sharing your time, talent, and treasure. Thank you to Roberta Burns, Paula Truby and their Basket Bingo Committee: Claudia Anderson, Lorraine Beck, Mary Ann Bell, Kathy Clapper, Paula Clemens, Jen Crawford, Nanci Hall, Kathy Hughes, Jean Koury, Chris Laraia, Paula Miller, Frances Pagliaro, Leonard Sapp and Toots Rhoa. Thanks also to Butch Winkler and his Kitchen Crew: Tony Eckenrode, Richard Hall, Janet Hammond, Jean Koury, Bob and Chris Laraia, Dana Tomlinson and Linda Yaskow. And to our Bingo Hall Team: Dallas Luke (caller), Andrea Patterson (announcer), Kathy Clapper, Randy Clemens, Bill Crawford, Sue and Gabrielle Cronin, Jim Hughes, Mary Ann Lumadue, Wendy McCloskey, Maureen Rhoa and Lee Truby. And finally a shout out to our High School students: Hannah Barr, Ali and Nicole Conrad, Matthew Cowan, Hannah Eberwein, Katarina Flores, Darren Hall, Eric Jin, Katie McCloskey, Trevor Miller, Rebecca Musselman, and Ashton Truby. We are also thankful to the approximately 200 people who came to play, and everyone who donated items to fill our beautiful baskets. Our profit was \$12,607.44!

Basket Bingo Committee

Meeting on **Thursday, May 14 at 7:00 PM** in the Seton Suite. Review of this year's Longaberger Basket and Vera Bradley Bingo, and planning ahead for next year's bingo.

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 May 6th session.

Charismatic Prayer Group

The Charismatic Prayer Group will not meet this Monday, May 4th. They meet again on Monday, May 11th, when Father Christopher Panagolpos, TOR, will be giving an evangelistic talk entitled. "Saint Francis Today - Go and Rebuild My House". All are welcome!

PARISH CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

The **Rite of Sending** will be celebrated today, Sunday, May 3 at 10:00 AM Mass. **Practice** will be held on Wednesday, May 6 in the Cathedral at 6:00 PM and Cathedral Parish celebrates **Confirmation** on Thursday, May 7, at 7:00 PM. This will be the fourth and final Diocesan celebration of Confirmation here in the Cathedral this Easter Season. In addition to Cathedral Parish, other parishes include Our Lady of Fatima, Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, and Saint Mark, all of Altoona; Saint Thomas the Apostle, Bedford; and Saints Peter and Paul, Philipsburg.

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, stop by the Parish Office during the week or call 944-4603. **Please note:** Cut off date for registration is **May 17**.

Be part of **Camp Discovery** Vacation Bible School! God's children of all ages will discover that Jesus is at work through us a *Camp Discovery*. Every child will hear the Good News that Jesus gives us courage, wisdom, and faith. The Lord gives us his love to share with others. At *Camp Discovery*, as the Vacation Bible School staff you can live out the theme "Jesus is at work through us" as you share the message and the fun with kids! If you can help full or part time, we have many ways to be involved to suit your schedule and interests. Call Chris Laraia at 312-7317 or e-mail clarai245@gmail.com for more information. Join us to see how Jesus is at work through us!

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

General Instruction of the Roman Missal

Liturgical Reflection ...

The Church celebrates the Paschal Mystery on the first day of the week, known as the Lord's Day or Sunday. This follows a tradition handed down from the apostles and having its origin from the day of Christ's resurrection. The fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost are celebrated in joyful exultation as one feast day, or better as one "great Sunday." These above all others are the days for the singing of the *Alleluia*. Throughout the Sundays of Easter Time, it is obligatory to celebrate the Masses for Easter.

General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar, Numbers 4 and 22.

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal, Numbers 353 and 354.

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

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, April 26, 2015 - \$9,771.00

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

Stewardship of Time

Thank you to Mary Louise Ball, Mary Ann Bell, Janet Belsey, Paula Clemens, Jean Koury, Sally Leiden and Theresa Vaughn who helped with the parish mailing this past week.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS PLEASE NOTE:

A new liturgical ministry schedule for May 16th through June 28th is being prepared. Unavailable dates or changes are needed. If you have vacation plans for July or August, it would be good to have that information now also.

Baptism Congratulations!

On Sunday, April 26, Parker Edward Bradfield was baptized and welcomed into our Cathedral Parish Family at the 10:00 AM Mass. Congratulations to parents, Todd and Carrie, along with sister, Emma. May the graces of the Sacrament of Baptism strengthen both our children and the adults who care for them.

Next Session of Baptismal Preparation

Monday, June 8, in the Seton Suite at 7:00 PM.

Mass in Honor of the Servant of God Demetrius Gallitzin

In honor of the 175th anniversary of the death of the Prince-Priest and Servant of God Demetrius Gallitzin, all are invited to a Mass on Wednesday, May 6 at 7:00 PM at the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel in Loretto. The Mass will include a healing service and Anointing of the Sick, with Father Bob Hilz, TOR, as celebrant.