

APRIL 26, 2015

Scripture Reflection

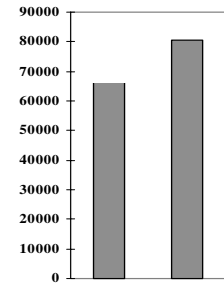
One of the most frequent subjects of early Christian art is Jesus the Good Shepherd. The beautiful fresco in Rome's catacomb of Saint Domitilla is representative. In a setting of verdant growth, a young Jesus appears, a sheep draped around his shoulders, while other sheep look longingly at him, symbolizing that as Good Shepherd Christ will lead his followers to paradise.

Though most of us do not have a lot of experience with shepherds, it might seem to us plain foolishness that a shepherd would actually lay down his life for his sheep. What is the point of keeping sheep except to provide for one's own needs? What point is there in saving the sheep if the shepherd dies?

A serious reflection, however, allows us to grasp Jesus' point. True leaders, "good shepherds," are those who seek not their own well-being, but the good of those who are entrusted to their care. While we may not have a lot of contact with shepherds, we can think of examples of people laying down their lives for others. Any parent who has walked the floor in the middle of the night with a sick or fussy baby knows what it means to lay down one's life. Any child who cares for an aging parent with patience knows what it means to lay down one's life. Any employer or supervisor who stays late at the office figuring out how to tweak the budget, or forgoes a bonus in order not to lay anyone off, knows what it means to lay down one's life. All of these involve a kind of dying to self so that others might have life in its fullness.

On the Fourth Sunday of Easter we always celebrate Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who protects his flock, provides for our needs, and goes in search of any sheep that are lost. This is also the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Pray for holy shepherds. Pray for your priests. Pray for seminarians. As Pope Francis says, "How wonderful it is to be surprised by God's call, to embrace his word, to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, in adoration of the divine mystery and in generous service to our neighbors!" Pray for members of the Church to come forward to serve as good shepherds.

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 **\$80,510.00** and are **over Diocesan Goal** with

290 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.

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.

THE 38TH ANNUAL ROSARY MARCH

Sunday, May 3, 2015 at 3:00 PM in the Expo I Building at the Clearfield Fair Grounds. Guest Speaker will be Fr. Marc J. Solomon, a Clearfield native and Pastor of Christ the King Parish, Houtzdale, Pennsylvania. Join us in the outdoor Rosary and Eucharistic Procession. "Pray the Rosary everyday in order to obtain peace for the world." (Our Lady of Fatima 1917.) There will be religious articles, books, literature, food and much more! In case of inclement weather, the Rosary Procession will be moved into the Expo I Building. For more information: call Bill Moore at 814-765-0171.

Brian Morden Foundation Benefit For Children with Cancer

The Ride, Run, and Fun event is **Saturday, May 23rd from 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM** at Legion Park in Hollidaysburg. Registraton is at 8:30 AM for a leisure bicycle ride through Hollidaysburg, a run/walk around Legion Park's track, or a digital scavenger hunt to begin at 9:30 AM. A **SUPERHERO CARNIVAL** begins at **10:00 AM** featuring a balloon artist, photo booth, bouncy house, face painting and more. Fee: \$20 per person or \$35 per family. Pre-register before May 8th in order to receive a T-shirt. Call 946-3977.

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

EUCHARIST:

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 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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 26, 2015

Readings: Acts 4:8-12; 1 Jn 3:1-2; Jn 10:11-18

MASS INTENTIONS

April 27, Monday: Easter Weekday

Readings: Acts 11:1-18; Jn 10:1-10

6:45 AM Nozzie, Jennie, Sandi Calabrese (Family)
8:00 AM Sam & Louise Coen, Wed. (Dave & Karen)
12:00 PM Jack Leiden, Wed. Anniv. (Wife, Sally)

April 28, Tuesday: Saint Peter Chanel, priest, martyr

Readings: Acts 11:19-26; Jn 10:22-30

6:45 AM **NO MASS**
8:00 AM Mary O'Leary, Birth. (Tom & Mary Boslet)
12:00 PM John Moloney, Anniversary (Family)

April 29, Wednesday: Saint Catherine of Siena, doc.

Readings: Acts 12:24--13:5; Jn 12:44-50

6:45 AM Jean Wilk (Joe & Sue Kornichak)
8:00 AM **NO MASS**
12:00 PM Diane Johnston, Birthday (Mother)

April 30, Thursday: Saint Pius V, Pope

Readings: Acts 13:13-25; Jn 13:16-20

6:45 AM Stephen Hammond (Wayne & Theresa)
8:00 AM Annie Hanlin (Terry & Jeanne Hanlin)
12:00 PM Joey Behe (Bob Behe Family)

May 1, Friday: Saint Joseph the Worker

Readings: Gn 1:26--2:3; Mt 13:54-58

6:45 AM Ellen Burkey (Myrtle Mckee)
8:00 AM Clara Mullan (Nancy & Skip)
12:00 PM Pat Rabine (Mike & Sherry Byrne)

May 2, Saturday: Saint Athanasius, bishop, doctor

Readings: Acts 13:44-52; Jn 14:7-14

8:00 AM Ann Chirdon (Rick & Cindy Lytle)
12:00 PM Shirley Rader (Debbie Fornwalt Beiswenger)
Vigil: Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

5:00 PM Deacon John Rys (MM Clarence E. Robertson)

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Today has been designated as "World Day of Prayer for Vocations." Please keep Bishop Bartchak and our Cathedral clergy in your prayers. We pray for vocations to the priesthood, religious life, and the diaconate.

EASTER SCHEDULE FOR THE PARISH

Confirmation, 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.

CONCERTS UNDER THE DOME TONIGHT!

The Concerts Under the Dome Series will present "The Cathedral Musicians" in concert on **Sunday, April 26**, at **7:00 PM** here in the Cathedral. Music Directors Kevin Luke and Nina Tedeschi will be joined by Mya Bartkowiak, James Dengler and Sam Kibler. The group will perform various works on the Steinmeyer organ and Yamaha grand piano. A free will donation will be taken to help bring in more talent with our concert series.

Please Note Mass Schedule - Due to the Spring Convocation of our Priests with Bishop Mark this week, we have scheduled only two Masses on Tuesday, April 28, and Wednesday, April 29.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS PLEASE NOTE:

A new liturgical ministry schedule for May 16th through June 28th is being prepared. Unavailable dates or changes are needed by Friday May 1st. If you have vacation plans for July or August it would be good to have that information now also. Thank You.

OUTREACH TO OUR HOMEBOUND

A meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 28** at **6:30 PM** in the Saint John Room. New volunteers are welcome. Thank you to all who are involved in this ministry; all who are donating supplies, sending cards, and making phone calls. Our efforts have been very much appreciated.

Recipients of Anointing of the Sick

Last Sunday at the 10:00 AM Mass, the following received the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick: Bob Beck, Barbara Byers, Jessie Ehredt, Patricia Grove, Cookie Hardin, Sister Beverly Hmel, Olivia Henderson, Mary Letrich, Anna Matthew, Anna and Paul Mercer, Frances Pagliaro, Alma Reismeier, Amelia Seiler, Jean and Ronald Sheehan, Doris Silveri, Deacon John Szwarc, Joe Tomlinson and Alice Winkler. May the healing grace of Christ be with these sisters and brothers. Prayer Shawls were given to all who requested this gift.

Charismatic Prayer Group

Bob and Marci Sutton will be giving a teaching on evangelization entitled, "Sharing Your Story: The Power of Personal Connection" at this Monday's (April 27th) Prayer Meeting. Praise and Worship will precede the presentation and prayer ministry will follow. All are welcome.

PARISH CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

The **Rite of Sending** will be celebrated on Sunday, May 3 at 10:00 AM Mass. Candidates and Sponsors should be in church no later than 9:40AM. **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.

CATHEDRAL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2015

Discover His plan! Discover His purpose! In **Camp Discovery**, your children will learn that Jesus works in and through us! They'll look into the Bible, God's Holy Word, and explore five tree-mendous Bible accounts where God works in his people to save them and through his people to serve!

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**.

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.

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.

Liturgical Reflection ...

A genuflection, made by bending the right knee to the ground, signifies adoration. Genuflection is reserved for the Most Blessed Sacrament. During Mass, three genuflections are made by the Priest Celebrant: following the elevation of the consecrated Host, after the elevation of the consecrated Chalice, and before Communion. A bow signifies reverence and honor shown to the persons themselves or to the signs that represent them. There are two kinds of bow: a bow of the head and a bow of the body. A bow of the head is made when the three Divine Persons are named together and at the names of Jesus, of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and of the Saint in whose honor Mass is being celebrated. A bow of the body, a profound bow, is made to the altar and during the Creed.

General Instruction of the Roman Missal, Numbers 274 and 275.

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