

march 1, 2015

Scripture Reflection

We have no trouble hearing the basic message of the Transfiguration as it speaks to us with our hindsight. Many listeners are aware that, although the verses are not a part of this reading, the Transfiguration story comes soon after the first prediction of the Passion and Resurrection of Christ, just eight verses earlier. So today's story is a consoling reminder that Jesus' Passion and Death will indeed result in the glory of the Resurrection of the Son of Man. Already, this early in Lent, we get a glimpse of Easter.

But the God who showed them a vision of heavenly glory and spoke to them out of the glory was the same God who spoke to them when Jesus said that he would suffer and die. When you listen to God, you do not get to pick just the "good stuff," the words that appeal to you: God asks that you listen always.

But trials, tests and suffering are not the end of the story. Paul asks us in Romans, "What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else?" The end of the story is God's glory, but it requires hearing God's voice in the midst of trials, suffering, pain and loss, even when it seems to be God's voice commanding the suffering. Be patient and listen again, for the voice of God desires only our blessing.

• **God is with us ~ in good times and in bad times. Remember a blessing you received and remember a cross you bore. Did you experience the presence of God in both circumstances?**

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**To keep it simple this Lent,
try the 1-1-1 Plan:
one sin, one add-in, one give-up.**

1. Concentrate or focus on one sin or fault that is getting in the way of your relationship with God and with others.
2. Add one positive activity that will deepen your prayer and spiritual life (especially if you think you are too busy to put anything more into an impossibly busy schedule!).
- 3 Deny yourself something you really like or are attached to.

Our Sunday Visitor 2015

F.I.R.E. CLASSES for March

March 1st - We will gather in Church for Evening Prayer, 6:30 PM. Those attending Eucharistic Adoration at Our Lady of Lourdes are excused.

March 15 - Class will be held in the Hall at 6:15 PM

March 29 - Class will be held in the Hall at 6:15 PM

Sacramental Prep - Confirmation

All Eleventh Grade High School Students are to attend a Confirmation Prep Session on **Sunday, March 8**, at 6:15 PM in the Seton Suite.

Altoona Central Catholic School

ACCS is having an **Open House** for Pre-K and Kindergarten **Registration** on Wednesday, March 4, 2015 from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

LONGABERGER/VERA BRADLEY

BASKET BINGO - Sunday April 26, 2015

Proceeds will assist our children in Catholic Schools, our Religious Education Program and Youth Activities. Want to help? The Committee is in need of the following items: gift cards, theme baskets, new items such as home decor, kitchen items, non perishables and monetary gifts, etc.; also cases of water and soda. Items can be dropped off at the Parish Office during the week. Gift cards etc. may be placed the collection basket in envelopes marked Basket Bingo. Teen help would be appreciated for Set-up and Clean -up call Paula or Ashton Truby @931-2838.

A Note from our Sister Parish - 1/31/15

Dear Msgr. Mazur & Friends,

Thank you for your gift to the people and ministries of the Diocese of Mandeville, Jamaica. More than we can express, we are grateful for your gift of \$5,000.00 in faithful support of your sister parish, St. Margaret Mary Church, Lionel Town.

Your sacrifice, prayers, and generosity allow us to continue the mission of the Church; and this support is a tribute to the deep spiritual commitment you have in proclaiming the message of the Gospel. Through your support, we are able to continue to respond to the many needs of the infirmed, aging, and those who lack basic necessities like food, clothing, and shelter. We also strive to provide opportunities for education and formation in the faith.

*May God continue to bless you for your commitment and generosity. Personally, I am overwhelmed by the efforts you make to share the Mysteries of Faith with so many. My prayers continue to be shared for you. Yours in Christ's Passion
Most Rev. Neil Tiedemann, C.P., Bishop of Mandeville*

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

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF GOD IN THE CITY OF ALTOONA SINCE 1851

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 John E. Rys

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 1, 2015

Readings: Gn 22:1-2,9-13,15-18; Rom 8:31-34; Mk 9:2-10

MASS INTENTIONS

March 2, Monday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Dn 9:4-10; Lk 6:36-38

6:45 AM Nozzie, Jennie, Sandy Calabrese (Family)
8:00 AM Pete Lysinger (Mary & Family)
12:00 PM Thomas Cawley (Sue Berglund)

March 3, Tuesday: Saint Katherine Drexel, virgin

Readings: Is 1:10,16-20; Mt 23:1-12

6:45 AM Msgr. Thomas Madden (Estate)
8:00 AM Vi Franchio (Terry Tomasetti)
12:00 PM Joseph Prendergast (Kathy Strunk)

March 4, Wednesday: Saint Casimir

Readings: Jer 18:18-20; Mt 20:17-28

6:45 AM Terrance Shea (Kevin & Jane Byrne)
8:00 AM Jim Roland (David, Karen & Patrick Rhoa)
12:00 PM Joseph Pagliaro (Jen & Cory Geishauser)

March 5, Thursday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Jer 17:5-10; Lk 16:19-31

6:45 AM Fr. J. Joseph Strittmatter (Tom & Patricia Forr)
8:00 AM Lena & Paul Eisaman (Nancy & Skip)
12:00 PM Amandus Gallagher (Semonchik Family)

March 6, Friday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Gn 37:3-4,12-13,17-23; Mt 21:33-43,45-46

6:45 AM Lucille Minick (Lois & Ed Simanski)
8:00 AM Kimberly Kokolis Moran (Cathedral Parish)
12:00 PM Camille McMullen (H. Donna/F. Fornwalt)

Lenten Lunch: 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

March 7, Saturday: Saints Perpetua and Felicity, Mtrs.

Readings: Mi 7:14-5,18-20; Lk 15:1-3,11-32

8:00 AM For Those Grieving (Drombrowskis)
12:00 PM Jeff Fornwalt, Anniversary (Family)
Vigil: Third Sunday of Lent

Readings: Ex 17:3-7; Rom 5:1-2,5-8; Jn 4:5-42

5:00 PM Chuck Roberts (Wife, Marian)

Lenten Evening Prayer

Every Sunday in Lent the Cathedral Parish gathers at 6:30 PM for Evening Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in exposition. This Liturgy concludes with Benediction. All are invited to participate in this Lenten prayer this evening.

Enclosure - Please review the flyer enclosed regarding the Annual Catholic Appeal 2015 which is about to begin here in our Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown.

CHRISTIAN INITIATION

Last Sunday at the Diocesan *Rite of Election* our Catechumens: Jessica Roland and Alexis Williams were presented to Bishop Mark and invited to sign their names in the Book of the Elect, enrolling in the final steps of preparation for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist in the Catholic Church. And with his greeting, on behalf of the universal Church, Bishop Mark called our Candidates: Dylan Allen, Benjamin Barr, James Farrell, Richard Kerr, Stephane Tonello and Michelle Verba who seek Confirmation and Eucharist, to Continuing Conversion. Please pray especially for these men and women continuing their journey to the Easter Sacraments during this Lenten Season of purification and enlightenment.

SCRUTINIES

Beginning next Sunday at the 10:00 AM Mass, the Church will celebrate the three scrutinies with our Elect and Candidates. On the Third Sunday of Lent, March 8, the Gospel will tell the story of the woman at the well; on the Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 15, the Gospel will tell of the man born blind who regained his sight; and on the Fifth Sunday of Lent, March 22, the Gospel will proclaim the story of Lazarus being called from his grave into life. The scrutinies are not only for our Elect and Candidates, but also for us, the fully initiated. We are to look deeply and seriously at our lives these Lenten days and see what needs to be cleansed of sin and what calls us closer to our God. Please enter the next three weeks with open hearts as we prepare to die and rise with Christ after the forty days of Lent. At the conclusion of the First Scrutiny, our Elect and Candidates receive the gift of the Creed from the assembled at Mass. Those preparing for the Easter Sacraments will stand throughout the body of the Cathedral Church and receive the Profession of Faith from parishioners gathered at the 10:00 AM Mass. **NOTE:** For the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of Lent, the scriptural readings will be from Cycle A.

Prayer Partners for Lent - Forms are available at the church doors. Everyone is invited to participate in the Prayer Partner activity this Lent. You will receive by mail the name of a parishioner along with the name of someone preparing to receive Baptism, Confirmation or Eucharist during the Easter Season.

Lenten Lunch This Friday At Cathedral

Cathedral Social Committee is serving Lenten Lunches on the Fridays of Lent from 11:00 AM until 1:30 PM or until sold out. The menu includes a fish sandwich with your choice of macaroni & cheese or french fries for \$6.00. Please note: there will be no Lunch served on Good Friday,

Pictures of Candidates for Easter Sacraments

At the three doors of the Cathedral you will find the names and pictures of those journeying to the Easter Sacraments: our Catechumens and Candidates, our children receiving First Eucharist, and our high school students to receive Confirmation. Be sure to look for your "Prayer Partner".

PRAYING THE STATIONS

Stations of the Cross will be prayed this **Friday** evening at **7:00 PM** and every Friday of Lent. Bring the family and, if you wish, walk the Stations as we make the way of the cross our own journey to Calvary and resurrection. Mark your calendar also for Friday, March 27, at 10:00 AM when our ACCS students will present the *Living Stations* here in the Cathedral.

CONFIRMATION Session for Adults

Monsignor Mazur will offer classes for all Catholic adults (age 21 and older) who have never received the Sacrament of Confirmation. This Sacrament is one of the three Initiation Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. One must have received all three of these Sacraments in order to be a godparent at Baptism or a sponsor at Confirmation. If interested in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, please call the Parish Office at 944-4603.

Nocturnal Adoration - Friday, March 6, at Saint Mark Parish. Cathedral hour is 10:00 PM- 11:00 PM.

Liturgical Reflection ...

**General
Instruction
of the
Roman Missal
Third Edition**

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal makes specific references to the Season of Lent. The *Glory to God* is not prayed during the Sundays of Lent. During Lent, instead of the Alleluias, the Verse before the Gospel is sung. During Lent it is forbidden for the altar to be decorated with flowers (exceptions are the Fourth Sunday of Lent, solemnities and feasts). The playing of the organ and musical instruments is allowed only in order to support the singing. The color violet or purple reflects the seriousness of the season. The Sundays of Lent are prayed without exception; no other choice of Mass is permitted. A Funeral Mass may not be celebrated on Sundays of Lent, Holy Thursday, and the Paschal Triduum (Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter)

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal, Numbers 53, 62, 305, 313, 346, 354, and 380.

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

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, February 22, 2015 - \$9,868.50

Daily Lenten Collection

A basket is located on the table at the cross aisle for daily collections at the 6:45 AM and 8:00 AM daily Masses. A collection is taken up at the Noon Mass throughout Lent. All monies will go to help the needy of our community and our partner parish, St. Margaret Mary in Lionel Town, Jamaica. The bright yellow envelope that appears in our March packet is also for our sister parish.

Cathedral Parish Meetings Scheduled

Parish Council - Monday, March 9, at 7:00 PM in the Saint John Room

Parish Liturgy Committee - Wednesday, March 11, at 12:45 PM in the Seton Suite.

All-Staff Meeting - Wednesday, March 18, at 12:45 PM in the Saint John Room.

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 March 4 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. Please call, also, if admitted to the hospital, so our clergy may visit as soon as possible.

Charismatic Prayer

The Charismatic Prayer Group will meet this Monday at 7:00 PM in the church. Registration continues for the *Life in the Spirit* Seminar on March 21. For more information call 941-3832.