

march 29, 2015

Scripture Reflection

Although the Passion Narratives of all four Gospels are similar in many ways, there are also significant differences among them. In Mark's Passion the *suffering* of Jesus is highlighted more so than in the other three narratives. Jesus is tragically rejected, unfairly condemned, viciously beaten, horribly insulted, and cruelly mistreated by multiple groups. The cross is central to Mark's Passion; the cross is salvation. The way of discipleship is the way of suffering.

Mark narrates vividly Jesus' anguish in the garden. This Gospel does not flinch from the most brutal aspects of the torture and execution - the scourging, mocking, and crowning of thorns. Yet the Evangelist writes from the viewpoint of Easter faith, which is rooted in the mystery of the cross. While the called disciples flee, the women who had followed him in Galilee stand at the cross. The profession of Jesus as Son of God is uttered by the Gentile centurion. And Jesus dies with a cry, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

Mark's Jesus is deserted and abandoned. He is physically abused; thus, the anointing at the beginning of the story, preparing his body for what lies ahead. The statement of total aloneness on the cross, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" Is this despair or an unfinished lament that ends in triumphant hope? Easter faith professes that Jesus identifies himself with the persecuted upright man who has trusted God, and found in God the source of his consolation and ultimate triumph.

With Mark's Passion Narrative we are ushered into Holy Week. We enter Jerusalem where we will die and rise with the Lord. Mark makes no attempt to soften the cruelty and pain. Are we ready to enter the holy city? Do we accept the cross in our lives? The tree of defeat becomes the tree of victory. We prepare ourselves to journey the way of the cross - sometimes alone and abandoned, sometimes hurt and in pain, but always under the sign of our salvation and hope. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**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. Anyone wishing to donate items for the Basket Bingo on April 26 and needs these items picked up, please contact Paula Truby at 931-2838 or Roberta Burns at 301-741-6467. Items need to be collected by March 31. **Tickets are being sold after all weekend Masses and at the Parish Office during the week.**

**Bishop Guilfoyle High School
Host Family Program**

With the growth in academics and student body, Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School has the privilege of educating international students from all over the world. They are a great asset to our students, faculty and to our local community. Meanwhile, we also try our best to show them what our country and local community can offer them besides education. We want to make them feel welcome and at home. BG has started a host Family Program and we welcome our local families to join us. You and your families may have the opportunity to build a lifelong friendship with a family on the other side of the world. If you, your families, or your friends are interested in knowing more about our Host Family Program, please feel free to contact us at admissions@bguilfoyle.org or 814-944-3636.

Saint Demetrius Parish Roast Beef Dinner

Saint Demetrius Parish in Gallitzin will hold its annual Roast Beef Dinner/Spring Festival on Sunday, April 12. It will feature games, baskets, a bake sale, and of course our delicious roast beef dinner. Location: Church Hall (former St. Patrick building) at the top of Church Street. Time: 11:30 AM to....? Tickets: Adults, \$8.50; Children, \$5.00; 4 and under FREE; Takeouts, \$9.00.

Thank you to all who supported our Fish Luncheons. No Luncheon served Good Friday.

**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

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

MARCH 29, 2015

Readings: *Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mk 14:1--15:47*

MASS INTENTIONS

March 30, Monday of Holy Week

Readings: *Is 42:1-7; Jn 12:1-11*

- 6:45 AM Jack Swope (Wife, Patty)
- 8:00 AM Michael Ratzesberger (Mother & Family)
- 11:00 AM Chrism Mass

March 31, Tuesday of Holy Week

Readings: *Is 49:1-6; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38*

- 6:45 AM Patty Hmel (Family)
- 8:00 AM Kimberly Kokolis Moran (Parish Finance Com)
- 12:00 PM Edgar L. Johnston, Anniv. (Wife, Amelia)

April 1, Wednesday of Holy Week

Readings: *Is 50:4-9; Mt 26: 14-25*

- 6:45 AM Dick Huber (Cathedral Parish)
- 8:00 AM Pat Rabine (John & Elaine Tooney)
- 12:00 PM Louise Hallinan (Family)

THE THREE DAYS

April 2, Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper

Readings: *Ex 12:1-8,11-14; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15*

7:30 PM For the Poor

April 3, **Good Friday**

Readings: *Jer 20:10-13; Jn 10:31-42*

- 9:00 AM Morning Prayer
 - 12:00 PM Celebration of the Lord's Passion
- Readings: *Is 52:13--53:12; Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn 18:1--19:42*
- 7:30 PM Tenebrae

April 4, **Holy Saturday**

- 9:00 AM Office of Readings
 - 8:30 PM Easter Vigil For the People of God
- Readings: *Gn 22: 1-18; Ex 14:15--15:1; Is 54:5-14; Ez 36:16-17,18-28; Is 12:2-3,4,5-6; Mk 16:1-7*

April 5, **Easter Sunday**

- Readings: *Acts 10:34, 27-43; Col 3:1-4; Mk 16:1-7*
- 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 PM (No 5:00 PM Mass)

Rest In Peace - Please remember in prayer our parishioners, Dick Huber and Theresa Pellegrino, who died and were buried from the Cathedral this past week. May they rest in peace and may their families be comforted in the faith.

Please remember our sick in your Easter prayers.



Liturgical Reflection ...

The Local Church of Altoona-Johnstown will assemble on Monday of Holy Week, March 30, at 11:00 AM in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament for the annual Chrism Mass. Bishop will gather with his college of priests assisted by his deacons with the assembled faithful from throughout the Diocese. Bishop will bless the Oil of the Catechumens, the Oil of the Sick, and Sacred Chrism. These consecrated oils will be used for the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders and the Anointing of the Sick; also, new altars will be consecrated with Sacred Chrism. Each parish community will take a portion of the three oils back to the parish for use in the appropriate liturgical celebrations. The entire diocesan family is invited to participate in this annual Liturgy.

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

Mass Schedule Note:

Due to the **Chrism Mass** celebrated at **11:00 AM** on Monday of Holy Week, there will be no Noon Mass on Monday, March 30. All are invited to participate in the Chrism Mass.

HOLY THURSDAY DINNER - PLEASE CALL

At the end of Lent and as we enter *The Three Days*, the Parish will gather for **Dinner at 6:00 PM on April 2** in the church hall before our 7:30 PM Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper. There will be a basket placed on the serving table to receive donations (if able) for this catered meal.

The Charismatic Prayer Group would like to thank Bishop Bartchak, Monsignor Mazur, Deacon Rys, Sue Cronin, Butch Winkler and the Social Committee, Pat Duffy, Fred Drexler and Dwight Drexler for their marvelous help and support for the *Life in the Spirit Seminar* held last Saturday. You helped to make it a great success! The Prayer Group will not meet this Monday evening, March 30th.

The next Prayer Meeting will be held on April 13th. Sr. Miriam James, SOLT, will be speaking at this meeting. Sister is a nationally known evangelist and conference speaker and recently appeared on EWTN's *Life on the Rock*. She will be in the diocese for two days speaking at our Catholic high schools. We are blessed to have her with us. All youth and adults from the parish are welcome to attend.

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 final Lenten prayer tonight.

Single, Widowed, Divorced

The Parish Social Committee would like to provide occasional social events for parishioners who are single, widowed or divorced. If you would be interested in getting together to discuss organizing social gatherings, a bus trip or any type of event, please call the Cathedral Parish Office at 944-4602. A date to meet will be announced; check the bulletin for future dates.

Daily Lenten Collection

A basket has been located on the table at the cross aisle for daily collections at the 6:45 AM and 8:00 AM daily Masses. A collection has been 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. Thus far we have collected over four thousand dollars. Thank you.

Reconciliation

Our last opportunity for formal Confession before Easter is Wednesday, April 1 at 7:00 PM. No confessions are scheduled on Holy Saturday.



Liturgical Reflection ...

Today is Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion. The Church names this Holy Week. Of all the weeks in the year, this is the holiest. We carry our blessed palms as we enter the holy city Jerusalem. In Jerusalem we will die and rise with our Lord this week. We have had forty days to name those things that must die so that we can rise to new life with Christ. Holy Thursday evening we will gather in the upper room with the Lord; we will meet him Good Friday on Calvary; we will pray outside his tomb Holy Saturday; and on Easter we will proclaim the joyful praises of the Church for all that God has done for us. Take your palms home and place them prominently to recall the glory of this week.

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OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, March 22, 2015 - \$8,945.00

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL 2015

This year the Cathedral Parish goal is set at **\$66,350.00**. Where do these monies go? Realize that all money collected for the Appeal goes directly to help support the dozens of ministries sponsored by the Diocese. Your participation is vital to the success of ACA 2015. Please help our Local Church and Parish meet the set goal. Funds over goal return to the Parish and will help us with our special 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.

Thus far we have received gifts from nearly two hundred individuals/families. Please prayerfully consider making a gift within the next few weeks. You may return your gift 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.

Second F.I.R.E. CLASS for March

Tonight, Sunday, March 29 - Class will be held in Cathedral Hall, 6:15 PM to 8:30 PM.

Easter Flower Memorials - If you have not deposited your special envelope in memory of a loved one this weekend (or any envelope marked clearly with your intention), please make these returns to the Parish Office tomorrow, March 30, for publication in the Easter bulletin. Thank you.

Please Remember Our Military In Prayer

Please keep all of our Cathedral men and women in the armed services in your Easter prayer.