

march 8, 2015

Scripture Reflection

The Book of Exodus focuses on bodily thirst, with God miraculously providing water for the grumbling Israelites in the desert. These were the very people whom God had miraculously delivered out of Egyptian bondage. Yet they suggest that their rescue was done, not out of God's loving-kindness, but so that they will die of thirst in the desert. Why does God endure such thanklessness and rebellion? Because God is kind and merciful.

The Gospel of John tells us of a Samaritan, a person of another culture and religion, a foreigner, a stranger, a woman. Jesus not only talks with the woman, but in a carefully orchestrated, seven-part dialogue (each speaks seven times), he guides her progressively from ignorance to enlightenment, from misunderstanding to clearer understanding. She is the most carefully and intensely catechized person in the Gospel of John.

Jesus arrives at the well at noon. He is thirsty and asks for a drink. The Samaritan woman is in for the encounter of her life. A simple drink leads to her facing her life-quest for living water. Life giving water is not well water, but fresh flowing water that will give life. As she grows in her understanding that Jesus is the one who is the life giving water, she comes to faith in Jesus as the one sent by God. She goes to share this good news with those in the village. She becomes one of the first evangelizers of good news.

At the well this woman's thirsts are quenched with life giving water. This is the first scrutiny for our Elect, those to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist this Easter. The Church invites all believers to scrutinize this Third Sunday of Lent. Describe the deepest thirst of the human heart. Can I name my deepest thirsts? Allow Jesus, our life giving water, to quench whatever it is that we need to grow closer to the Lord. Then let us go out, like the Samaritan woman, and share the good news!

To keep it simple this Lent,
try the 1-1-1 Plan:
ONE SIN, one add-in, one give-up.
One Sin

Most of us, if we are honest, know at least one area of sin to focus on during Lent. If you aren't sure, or are having trouble narrowing it down, use the traditional Seven Deadly Sins as a guide. (Contrary to what one may gather from all the emphasis on sex these days, there are six deadly sins besides lust!) The seven deadly sins are: PRIDE: an excessive love of self or the desire to be better or more important than others. LUST: an intense desire, usually for sexual pleasure, but also for money, power, or fame. GLUTTONY: over-consumption, usually of food or drink. GREED: the desire for and love of possessions. SLOTH: physical laziness, also disinterest in spiritual matters or neglecting spiritual growth. ANGER OR WRATH: uncontrolled feelings of hatred or rage. ENVY AND JEALOUSY: sadness or desire for the possessions, happiness, talents, or abilities of another.

If you need help in identifying which sin to concentrate on this year, ask God in prayer to reveal it to you. If you still aren't sure, ask your family or close friends. Just be sure you are willing to listen to them and accept their assessment.

Our Sunday Visitor 2015

**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. **Tickets are being sold after all Masses.**

Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School Open House - We would like to invite you, your families and your friends to attend our Open House on **March 22, 2015** from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. For further information regarding our Open House, please feel free to contact us at admission@bguilfoyle.org or 814-944-3636.

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

EUCHARIST:

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

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 8, 2015

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

MASS INTENTIONS

March 9, Monday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: 2 Kings 5:1-15; Lk 4:24-30

6:45 AM Jim Roland (Cathedral Prayer Group)
8:00 AM Henriette Thibault (Tom & Beth Moore)
12:00 PM Thomas Cawley (Sue Berglund)

March 10, Tuesday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Dn 3:25,34-43; Mt 18:21-35

6:45 AM Joseph A. Keirn (Mom & Dad)
8:00 AM Pat Rabine (Mary Ann Bell)
12:00 PM Francis Kuhn (Pat Rhoa)

March 11, Wednesday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Dt 4:1,5-9; Mt 5:17-19

6:45 AM Deceased Sisters IHM
8:00 AM Kimberly Kokolis Moran (Rick & Cindy Lytle)
12:00 PM Robert Smithmyer (Ken Rahm & Daughters)

March 12, Thursday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Jer 7:23-28; Lk 11:14-23

6:45 AM Terrence Shea (Kevin & Jane Byrne)
8:00 AM George Karl, Birthday (Barbara & Stephanie)
12:00 PM Francis & Eileen Lytle (Children & Grnchildren)

March 13, Friday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Hos 14:2-10; Mt 12:28-34

6:45 AM Kevin Hanlin (McAndrew Family)
8:00 AM Leroy & Irmira Helfrich (Estate)
12:00 PM Amandus Gallagher (Janet Tomlinson)

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

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

March 14, Saturday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Hos 6:1-6; Lk 18:9-14

8:00 AM Mike Gority (Betty & Paul Cote)
12:00 PM Rob Beiswenger (Connie Montler)
Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Lent

Readings: 1 Sam 16:1,6-7,10-13; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41

5:00 PM Jim Kelly, Birthday (Wife, Mary Ellen)

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.

Pray For Our Sick - Remember our sisters and brothers who are weakened by illness. Prayers are sometimes the best prescribed medicine.

SCRUTINIES

Beginning this 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.

Thank You

Janet Belsey, Jean Koury, Paula Clemens, Bill and Grace Smith, and Theresa Vaughn prepared the mailing for the Annual Catholic Appeal. We are grateful for their time to this project.

Enclosure - Included in this week's bulletin is a copy of Bishop Barchak's letter to the Parish regarding the Annual Catholic Appeal 2015. On the other side is a copy of Monsignor Mazur's letter addressing this year's appeal.

Annual Catholic Appeal 2015

This week every parishioner received a letter from Monsignor Mazur regarding the Annual Catholic Appeal 2015. If you did not receive this mailing, please call the Parish Office. Your Pastor will speak at each Mass this weekend about this year's appeal. Next week the Chair of the Parish Finance Council will speak.

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, April 3.

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.

F.I.R.E. CLASSES for March

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

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.

Liturgical Reflection ...

General

Instruction

of the

Roman Missal

Third Edition

The forty days of Lent prepare believers to die and rise with Christ during the Three Days: Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter. The annual Lenten retreat invites Christians to deeply reflect on what is sinful in our lives and what must die in order that the new life of Easter can be genuinely celebrated. The Homily is part of the Mass and is highly recommended. The Homily should be an explanation of some aspect of the readings from Sacred Scripture or any text from the Mass of the day, and should take into account both the mystery being celebrated and the particular needs of the listeners. The Church recommends a daily Homily on the weekdays of Lent. The Homily directs the Lenten retreat of baptismal renewal and penitential practices. It is appropriate for a brief period of silence to be observed after the Homily.

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal, Numbers 65 and 66.

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

OFFERTORY COLLECTION Sunday, March 1, 2015 - \$8,266.00

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.

Rescheduled Meetings

First Eucharist Preparation Meeting is rescheduled to Tuesday, March 10 at 6:30 PM in the Seton Suite.

Basket Bingo Meeting is rescheduled to Wednesday, March 11 at 7:00 PM in the Seton Suite.

Bishop Mark's Eucharistic Adoration for High School Students will be held on Saturday, March 21 at Our Lady of Lourdes. Gathering time is 10:00 AM. Adoration will be at 10:30 AM. Pre-registration is required. Call Jean Koury at 949-2777.

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.