

march 22, 2015

Scripture Reflection

The passage from Ezekiel testifies to God's absolute and unconditional control over the powers of life and death, over destruction and restoration. The prophet uses the metaphor of the restoration of life to dead bodies to illustrate the unbelievable nature of the restoration of the nation. The people probably thought that neither restoration was possible. However, the prophet is insisting that anything is possible with God.

The Gospel tells that Jesus, despite his love for Lazarus, delays his return until Lazarus has died in order that his disciples might come to greater belief. The death and restoration to life of Lazarus point to the future death and resurrection of Jesus and of everyone who believes in him. When Jesus tells Martha that her brother will rise, she probably thought that he meant at the general resurrection, a position taught by the Pharisees.

Jesus adds, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." Here Jesus moves beyond the traditional Jewish expectation of the general resurrection and has applied that language to the new life that a person enters by accepting him as "the one sent by the Father." Belief in Jesus establishes a bond of life that not even death can sever. Although believers die physically, this bond will bring them back to life. Furthermore, this bond will survive physical death and keep believers from an eternal death. A solemn question is posed: "Do you believe?"

This is the third scrutiny for our Elect, those to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. The Church invites all believers to scrutinize our lives this Fifth Sunday of Lent. Do we believe? Is faith in Jesus Christ stronger than death? What keeps us in the shadows of our graves, from fully believing? Jesus calls us forth. The return of Lazarus to physical life is a sign of a deeper awakening to the eternal life that comes from Christian conversion and Baptism. We stand with Lazarus and hear our Lord say, "Untie him and let him go." Untie us Lord, and lead into a new life of faith.

To keep it simple this Lent,
try the 1-1-1 Plan:
one sin, one add-in, ONE GIVE-UP.

One Give-Up

Giving up something for Lent has been part of the Church almost since the beginning. While giving up sweets and alcohol are time-honored, consider giving up one thing that you really like or enjoy. Just make sure it is something that lets you feel the deprivation and is at least a little bit challenging. Make it difficult but doable.

- Fast from fault finding and nagging, and fast from a critical tongue or a closed mind.
- Give up impulse purchases.
- Give up an unhealthy habit, like smoking.
- Limit the time you watch TV or surf the web.
- Give up fast food and donate the money you save.

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. 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.** Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 24 at 7:00 PM in Saint John Room.

A Retreat for Women - Clay in the Potter's Hand
Friday, April 17 (5:30 PM) - Sunday, April 19 (12 Noon)
This weekend retreat is offered to women seeking to remain clay in the Potter's Hand, where we allow God to continually form us anew. Sponsored by Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus at the Novitiate, 1872 Munster Road, Portage, PA. Call 814-505-2290 or email sisterjacinta@gmail.com by April 15 to register. Suggested donation is \$50, but not required.

**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) 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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 22, 2015

Readings: Ez 37:12-14; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45

MASS INTENTIONS

March 23, Monday: St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop

Readings: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; Jn 8:1-11

6:45 AM Joseph A. Keirn (Mom & Dad)

8:00 AM Mike Smith (Dolcy Gibbons)

12:00 PM Homer Poulos (Bob & Chris Laraia)

March 24, Tuesday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Nm 21:4-9; Jn 8:21-30

6:45 AM Nozzie, Jennie, Sandy Calabrese (Family)

8:00 AM Henriette Thibault (Dev. Office A-J Diocese)

12:00 PM Pat Rabine, Birthday (Rabine Children)

March 25, Wednesday: The Annunciation of the Lord

Readings: Is 7:10-14; 8:10; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38

6:45 AM Monsignor Thomas Madden (Estate)

8:00 AM Louise Mincin (Susan Galant)

12:00 PM Amandus Gallagher (Val & Karla Moschella)

6:30 PM Communal Penance Service

March 26, Thursday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Gn 17:3-9; Jn 8:51-59

6:45 AM William Boling, Jr. (Cathedral Parish)

8:00 AM Don Truby, Birthday (Family)

12:00 PM Eileen Lytle (Steve & Bonnie Garmon)

March 27, Friday: Lenten Weekday

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

6:45 AM Margaret McConnell (Mike & Mary Mulligan)

8:00 AM Marie Greiner (Nancy & Skip)

12:00 PM Josephine Hicks, Ann. (Daughter, Jacqueline)

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

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

March 28, Saturday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Ez 37:21-28; Jn 11:45-56

8:00 AM Jom Roland (Cathedral Prayer Group)

12:00 PM Rob Beiswenger (Joseph Dzurenko)

Vigil: Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Readings: Mk 11:1-10 (Blessing of palm/Procession)

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

5:00 PM Dec. Conzo/Jacobs Families (Pat & Pam)

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

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.

ANNUAL SOCIAL CALENDAR AT CATHEDRAL

January - Down time from Christmas

February - Mardi Gras in Cathedral Hall

February/March - Ash Wednesday and Friday Fish Luncheons in Cathedral Hall

April - Holy Thursday Dinner, April 2, 2015 in Cathedral Hall

Easter Sunday, April 5, 2015 - Bottles of Easter Water and Candy for Children

Communal Anointing of Sick, Sunday, April 19 - Distribution of Prayer Shawls and Social

Basket Bingo, Sunday, April 26, 2015 in Father Kelley Hall, 5th Street and 25th Avenue

May - May Crowning, Sunday, May 17, 2015 - Ice Cream Social in Cathedral Hall

June - Parish Feast Day Sunday, June 7, 2015, Body and Blood of Christ, Social on Portico

Annual Eucharistic Day, Adoration of Blessed Sacrament throughout afternoon

Vacation Bible School, "Camp Discovery," June 15 - 19, 2015 in Cathedral Hall

July - Singles/Widowed Bus Trip

August - Casino Night Saturday, August 8, 2015 in Cathedral Hall

September - Annual Raffle

October - Family Night Saturday, October 31, 2015 in Cathedral Hall

November - Married Couples Social Saturday, November 14, 2015 in Cathedral Hall

November/December - Calendar of Prizes 2016

THIRD SCRUTINY

Today we celebrate the third and final Rite of Scrutiny at 10:00 AM Mass. Please pray with our Elect and Candidates as they reflect on areas in their lives that are still bound by sin. Dismissal continues after the Creed. Elect, Candidates, Sponsors and Team will attend a **Palm Sunday Retreat** at Saint Catherine of Siena Church, Duncansville, next Sunday, March 29. Please keep them in your prayers.

First Eucharist Prep - Tuesday, March 24, in the Seton Suite, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM.

PENANCE SERVICE WEDNESDAY!

You are invited to join Bishop Mark Bartchak with a dozen of his priests in the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Lent is the Church's season to remind the faithful of our need to turn from sin and seek God's mercy. We seek reconciliation with God and our neighbor. Gather with all who identify themselves as sinners joyfully proclaiming the love and forgiveness of God. A Lenten Communal Penance Service will be celebrated this **Wednesday, March 25** at **6:30 PM** here in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. This public gathering of believers is a great preparation for the celebration of the Easter mysteries. Plan to gather for this hour of prayer celebrating God's mercy.

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.

Living Stations - Altoona Central Catholic School Fifth Grade presents the *Living Stations* at Saint Therese of the Child Jesus on **Friday, March 27** at **10:00 AM**. All are welcome.

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

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

Rest In Peace - Please remember in prayer Paul Lunger, who died and was buried this past week. May he rest in peace.

Liturgical Reflection ...

The Church stated in 1963 that the "more complete form of participation in the Mass by which the faithful, after the priest's communion, receive the Lord's Body from the sacrifice, is strongly endorsed." With the third edition of the Roman Missal, the Church reiterated, "It is most desirable that the faithful, just like the Priest himself is bound to do, receive the Lord's Body from hosts consecrated at the same Mass..." Such a practice highlights the participation in the sacrifice of the Mass actually being celebrated. Rather than regularly going to the tabernacle for Communion distribution, the Church would see this as the exception. Communion distribution should normally be those hosts consecrated at that particular Mass.

The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, Number 55. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal, Number 85.
2015, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 South Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, March 15, 2015 - \$9,162.00

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 by Palm Sunday, March 29, for publication in the Easter bulletin.

PALM SUNDAY NEXT WEEK

All Masses will begin next week on the front portico of the Cathedral. Palm branches will be blessed at the beginning of each Mass at the front door of the Cathedral. We will enter the Cathedral holding our blessed palm, singing our entrance song, and remembering how our Lord entered the holy city of Jerusalem to meet his agony and death, and his glorious resurrection.

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.

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 944-460-2. A date to meet will be announced; check the bulletin for future dates.