

FEBRUARY 1, 2015

Scripture Reflection

We are all formally students for some time in our lives, and it is best to remain informal students throughout our lives. For there is no point at which there is not something we can learn. At the same time, most of us function as teachers at many points in our lives, some of us professionally but most of us casually, guiding and directing people in ways that might even escape us. We teach by how we live, how we treat people, how we respond under stress, how we help a neighbor.

It is telling and humbling for biblical scholars to remember that Jesus did not choose his apostles from among the biblical experts in Jewish *halakha* (roughly equivalent to canon lawyers today) but from among the fishermen. How could fishermen be teachers in the Bible and Jewish law when they had not been formally trained? What did they know that the experts did not? It was not technical expertise that Jesus sought in his apostles but the willingness to encounter the Word of God as life-changing and life-giving.

It was the encounter with truth that led the students, the crowds of ordinary people in Galilee, Judea and elsewhere, to throng around the teacher Jesus; they responded as people hungry to learn the deepest reality about God and themselves. So, "when the Sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes." The religious experts, the scribes, are mentioned, though it seems they are not present, as a contrast to Jesus' authority.

Yet, Jesus' final act in the Capernaum synagogue is the demonstration of the divine ground of his teaching authority. For "just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out. 'What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.'" Jesus healed the man of the unclean spirit, and the people were again amazed, referring to this action of Jesus as a "teaching". "They kept on asking one another. 'What is this? A new teaching---with authority!' It is God's presence and power that is the lesson not only to learn but to encounter.

• **Are you still learning and growing in knowledge through Jesus our teacher?**

AMERICA MAGAZINE: January 19-26, 2015

NATIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

This past week our diocese with the country celebrated Catholic Schools Week - **CATHOLIC SCHOOLS Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service**. Here at the Cathedral Parish we strongly endorse Catholic education. Our children are encouraged to participate in our Catholic educational system from pre-school through twelfth grade. Our young people receive a quality education where the class size invites individual attention, compete in reputable athletics, and learn to be of service within the community, all in the context of our Catholic faith.

Our elementary students continue to academically achieve on par with if not higher than national averages. This year our young children have begun Spanish classes as an extracurricular activity. Our teachers, formally educated, have committed their lives to the formation of our children. Did you see this week how the Bishop Guilfoyle students worked from home on a snow day? Thanks to ipads and internet, they did their school work and need not make up that day at a later date.

The diocese is presently in the process of regionalizing our preschool through twelfth grade program in the greater Altoona area. The recommendation is for a middle school (grades 6 through 8) with elementary sites (preschool through grade 5). This regionalization plan is to enhance the curriculum, strengthen our classroom learning, and put our Catholic education assets to their best possible potential. The plan is proposed to take effect for the 2016-2017 school year.

Why all the attention? It is the firm belief that Catholic education is a gift to be cherished and maintained within the community. Many graduates of our local Catholic schools have become outstanding and contributing members of both society and church. We are proud of our record. We want to assure the gift of Catholic education to future generations.

MARDI GRAS PARTY - All parishioners are invited to this year's Mardi Gras Party, **Saturday, February 14 at 6:00 PM** in the Parish Hall. Dinner will be followed by entertainment and activities for both adults and children. Beverages will be available. All are invited. **Please call the Parish Office at 944-4603 to reserve your spot for the party.** Your phone call will help us determine amounts needed for food preparation as no tickets are necessary.

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

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. Slovikovski, 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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 1, 2015

Readings: Dt 18:15-20; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28

MASS INTENTIONS

February 2, Monday: The Presentation of the Lord

Readings: Mal 3:1-4; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40

6:45 AM Jean Wilk (McElheny Family)
8:00 AM Jim Roland (Paul & Kathy Vincent)
12:00 PM Dad, Bob Smithmyer (Lisa Fischer Family)

February 3, Tuesday: Saint Blaise, Bishop, Martyr

Readings: Heb 12:1-4; Mk 5:21-43

6:45 AM Nozzie, Jennie, & Sandy Calabrese (Family)
8:00 AM Dorothy Sheehan (Don & Kathy Krile)
12:00 PM Samuel & Carole Mento (Adelman Family)
Blessing of Throats - 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM

February 4, Wednesday: Weekday

Readings: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15; Mk 6:1-6

6:45 AM Bernard Weaver, Ann. (Jim & Elaine)
8:00 AM Joseph & Catherine Greiner (Nancy & Skip)
12:00 PM Eileen Lytle (Steve & Bonnie Garmon)

February 5, Thursday: Saint Agatha, Virgin, Martyr

Readings: Heb 12:18-19, 21-24; Mk 6:7-13

6:45 AM Joseph & Bertha Williams (Joseph & Virginia)
8:00 AM Leroy and Irmina Helfrich (Estate)
12:00 PM Jean M. Cole (Charles & Nancy Craig)

February 6, Friday: Saint Paul Miki and Companions

Readings: Heb 13:1-8; Mk 6:14-29

6:45 AM Terrence Shea (J. Hardin & S. Siedlarczyk)
8:00 AM Family Fire Victims (A Parishioner)
12:00 PM Fr. J. Joseph Strittmatter (Tom & Patricia Forr)

February 7, Saturday: Weekday

Readings: Heb 13:15-17, 20-21; Mk 6:30-34

8:00 AM Intentions of Barbara Meinecke (Dombrowski)
12:00 PM Kimberly Kokolis Moran (R. & C. Rougeux)
Vigil: Fifth Sunday In Ordinary Time
Readings: Jb 7:1-4, 6-7; 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23; Mk 1:29-39
5:00 PM Larry Eastbourn (Jim Kelly)

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 Group - The Charismatic Prayer Group will meet this Monday, at 7:00 PM in the Cathedral. Jeanine Chestney, a Palliative Care Nurse, will be giving a witness talk. Come and join us! All are welcome!

Presentation of the Lord, Monday

Blessing of Candles - Every year the Church blesses candles to be used at Liturgy, devotions, and in our homes on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, February 2nd. Forty days have passed since the celebration of Christmas. Today is the blessed day when Jesus was presented in the Temple. The candles blessed are symbols of Christ as the light of the nations. You may wish to purchase blessed candles to take home and use throughout the year on special occasions such as holidays, anniversaries, birthdays, and other special days for you and your family. A box of two blessed candles is \$5.00; a six day glass votive candle is also \$5.00.

Blessing of Throats

Tuesday, February 3rd, is the memorial of Saint Blaise, bishop and martyr. This is traditionally the time for Catholics to have their throats blessed. The schedule for the blessing of throats here at Cathedral is as follows: during Mass at **6:45 AM, 8:00 AM and 12:00 Noon**, and also at **3:00 PM and 6:00 PM** within Scripture and Prayer.

Cathedral Parish Meetings Scheduled

Parish Liturgy Committee - Tuesday, February 3, at 12:45 PM in the Seton Suite.

All-Staff Meeting - Wednesday, February 4, at 12:45 PM in the Saint John Room.

Basket Bingo Committee - Wednesday, February 4, at 7:00 PM in the Seton Suite. Anyone who is willing to be a ticket seller for this special event is encouraged to come to the meeting and sign out your tickets. We have 325 to sell! Please note: This meeting has been moved from Tuesday, February 3.

Confirmation 2015 - Planning - Thursday evening, February 5, representatives from all parishes having students confirmed here in the Cathedral during the 2015 Easter Season will meet at 6:30 PM in the Seton Suite.

Six Week Class during the Day

Monsignor Mazur will be presenting a class on **Saint Paul** in the Seton Suite on Tuesdays from **1:00 PM to 3:30 PM** on February 10, 17, 24, March 3, 10, and 17. This is open to anyone interested from the Cathedral Parish. The majority of the classes will take place during the season of Lent. It is expected that one commits to attending all six classes. Call 944-4603 to register.

Nocturnal Adoration - Friday, February 6, at Saint Mary Parish. Cathedral hour is 9:00 PM- 10:00 PM.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, January 25, 2015 - \$8,200.00

Contribution Reports for Income Tax purposes may be obtained by calling the Parish Office: 944-4603.

Concerts Under The Dome

On **Sunday, February 8th** at 2:00 PM Organist Kevin Clemens will present a Recital in celebration of his 60th Birthday here in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. Kevin is a former organist of the Cathedral. Come hear the magnificent sounds of the 78 rank 1931 G.F. Steinmeyer Organ. A free will offering will be taken to support the concert series.

Baptism Congratulations!

On Sunday, January 25, Whitney Reese Irwin was baptized and welcomed into our Cathedral Parish Family at the 8:00 AM Mass. Congratulations to parents, Eric and Megan (Farrell) Irwin, along with sisters, Courtney, Skylar and Erica. May the graces of the Sacrament of Baptism strengthen both our children and the adults who care for them.

Have You Been Confirmed?

Monsignor Mazur will offer classes for all adult Catholics who have not 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.

Do You Know Someone?

The Cathedral Parish Ministry to The Elderly and Homebound are busy sending cards to parishioners. Do you know someone who would like to hear from the parish - a regular note or card, a possible phone call or visit? Please forward names, addresses and telephone numbers to the Parish Office.

CHRISTIAN INITIATION

Following the Prayer of the Faithful at 10:00 AM Mass each Sunday, our Catechumens and Candidates are dismissed to reflect on the Scriptures proclaimed and to learn more about our Catholic faith and tradition. Please remember these individuals in your prayers.

CATHEDRAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sunday, February 1 - Pre-K through grade 8 will have classes in the Cathedral Hall from 11:15 until 12:30 PM. **February F.I.R.E.** classes are scheduled for **February 8 and 15**.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Diocesan Marriage Preparation Continues - Saturday, February 7, in Cathedral Hall from 9:30 AM to Noon. This series is being presented by the **Cathedral Parish Marriage Prep Team** with Father Dennis Kurdziel.

Baptism - Our next Baptismal Preparation Class will be held on **Monday, February 9**, at **7:00 PM** in the Seton Suite. Reminder: There will be no Baptisms scheduled during Lent, February 18 until Easter Sunday, April 5. Tentative date of April Prep session is Monday, April 6. To register, please call the Parish Office at 944-4603 weekdays between 9:30 AM and 5:30 PM.

First Eucharist - On **Tuesday, February 10**, the First Parent and Student Session for all young parishioners receiving First Eucharist this year will be held from 6:30 PM until 8:00 PM in the Seton Suite.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS PLEASE NOTE:

A new liturgical ministry schedule for the season of Lent (February 21/22 through March 28/29) is being prepared. All are asked to submit a written list of unavailable dates and any changes of addresses, phone numbers, Mass preferences, etc. by February 10. Thank You.

Liturgical Reflection ...

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

When the Sacred Scriptures are read in the Church, God himself speaks to his people, and Christ, present in his word, proclaims the Gospel. The selected readings from the Word of God are to be listened to reverently by everyone, for they are an element of the greatest importance in the Liturgy. While the readings from Sacred Scripture are addressed to all people of whatever era, a fuller understanding and a greater efficaciousness of the word is nevertheless fostered by a living commentary on the word, that is, by the Homily, as part of the liturgical action.

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal, Number 29.

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