

march 15, 2015

Scripture Reflection

Samuel anoints David and the spirit of the Lord rushed upon him. No one in Jesse's family considered his youngest son as a candidate for king, but God did. It seems that God often chooses the least likely to accomplish great things.

The man born blind has sight given him. This sign serves to reveal Jesus' identity and confirm his disciples' belief in him. But like other signs, those who do not believe strengthen their animosity toward him.

In the story of the healing of the man born blind and its subsequent conflict, we find a startling example of someone courageous enough to proclaim belief in the face of intense opposition. The story is full of clashes. The healing occurred on the Sabbath. This man professes Jesus as a prophet. Some of his neighbors are not sure who he is. His parents are interrogated; they refuse to get involved. He is brought twice before the Pharisees. The Pharisees unite in proclaiming Jesus a sinner. Pressured to agree with them, he steadfastly refused to do so. The man is expelled from the synagogue.

The man born blind is a new creation, both physically with sight and spiritually with faith. The blind man who now sees professes to Jesus, "I do believe, Lord." The Pharisees, unable to recognize Jesus as the Son of Man, are truly blind. When given the opportunity to move into the light of faith, they chose the darkness of disbelief. This is the second 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 spiritual blindness this Fourth Sunday of Lent. Can I name my own blindness? What keeps us from seeing with the eyes of faith? Like the man born blind who received sight, we need the stamina and courage to proclaim our faith both in comfort and in conflict.

To keep it simple this Lent,
try the 1-1-1 Plan:
one sin, ONE ADD-IN, one give-up.

One Add-In

The next step in 1-1-1 Lent is to add one thing of God that you haven't been doing to your routine. Because we are all so busy, it's a good idea to not just pick an add-in, but to schedule a regular time when you put it on your calendar so you don't "forget."

Ideas for add-ins are pretty much endless, but some include:

- Go to Mass, in the middle of the week.
- Attend the Stations of the Cross as a family.
- Read a Gospel.
- Volunteer at a social ministry.
- Get up early to pray.

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 Masses.**

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

Garvey Manor Bingo

A Bingo will be held on Sunday, March 22, 2015 from 2:00 PM until 5:00 PM. The proceeds benefit activity programs for residents of Garvey Manor / Our Lady of the Alleghenies. Space is limited. Preregistration is required. For more information, call 695-5571.

**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
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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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 15, 2015

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

MASS INTENTIONS

March 16, Monday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54

6:45 AM John Bishop (Emily Bishop)
8:00 AM Pat Rabine (Tom & Pat Forr)
12:00 PM Mike Smith (Patty Swope)

March 17, Tuesday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Ez 47:1-9,12; Jn 5:1-16

6:45 AM Terrance Shea (Daughter, Mary Farrell)
8:00 AM Dennis Irwin (Jennifer & Cliff Plank)
12:00 PM Barbara Rhule (Lois Duncan)

March 18, Wednesday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30

6:45 AM Jim Roland (Dave,Patrick,Karen Rhoa)
8:00 AM Michael Cassidy (Dave Behe Family)
12:00 PM Nathan Bolet (Patty & Bear McCloskey)

March 19, Thursday: St. Joseph, Spouse of BVM

Readings: 2 Sm 7:4-5,12-14,16; Rom 4:13,16-18,22;
Mt 1:16,18-21,24

6:45 AM Murray & Georgia Dolphin (Family)
8:00 AM Good Health Trudy Eicher (Betsy & Paul Cote)
12:00 PM John Batkiewicz, Birth. (Patricia Batkiewicz)

March 20, Friday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Wis 2:1,12-22; Jn 7:1-2,10,25-30

6:45 AM Carol Taylor (Sylvia Conrad)
8:00 AM Henriette Thibault (Teresa Stayer)
12:00 PM Frank J. DeLeo (Mother, Jane McCutcheon)

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

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

March 21, Saturday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53

8:00 AM Bill McNelis (1967 McNelis All-Stars)
12:00 PM Bishop Howard Carroll, Anniv. (Cathedral)
Vigil: Fifth Sunday of Lent

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

5:00 PM Nozzie Calabrese, Anniv. (Family)

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

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 Saturday, March 21. For more information call 941-3832.

SECOND SCRUTINY

Continuing this Sunday at the 10:00 AM Mass, the Church will celebrate the second of the three scrutinies with our Elect and Candidates. On the Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 15, the Gospel tells of the man born blind who received his sight; and on the Fifth Sunday of Lent, March 22, the Gospel will proclaim the story of Lazarus 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. We are to name our blindness. Sometimes God is right in front of us, and we miss his presence. Sometimes we are so focused on the daily routine that we miss the Lord as our companion on the journey of life. We pray to be healed of any spiritual blindness.

NOTE: For the 4th and 5th Sundays of Lent, the scriptural readings will be from Cycle A.

Annual Catholic Appeal 2015

Last 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. This week Maryann Joyce Bistline, Chair of the Parish Finance Council, will speak at all Masses. Please participate in this year's annual drive that helps both the Diocese and the Parish. Thank you.

Saint Vincent dePaul

The Assumption Chapel Food Pantry sent a letter thanking Cathedral parishioners for their compassionate donation of \$1,434.00 in cash and checks to the Pantry. In the calendar year 2014, the Pantry provided groceries to 28,642 client visits, a 14% increase over 2013.

Altoona Central Catholic Athletics presents Guys Night Out...March Madness!

On Saturday, March 28 at 6:00 PM, at Father Kelley Hall, 5th Street and 25th Avenue, come watch NCAA men's tournament games with friends. There are multiple big screen televisions available for viewing. The entry fee is \$25.00 and includes great food-all you can eat, adult beverages, prizes and gifts. Make checks payable to: ACCS - Athletic Committee. For tickets/questions, call Joe DeLeo at 935-2144.

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* at Saint Therese of the Child Jesus.

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

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.

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

Liturgical Reflection ...

The Church has consistently endorsed for fifty years that the faithful receive the Lord's Body from hosts consecrated at the same Mass. It is most desirable that the faithful, just as the priest himself is bound to do, receive the Lord's Body from hosts consecrated at the same Mass. By this practice the sign of Communion stands out more clearly as a participation in the sacrifice actually being celebrated. The Church desires that hosts from the tabernacle not normally be distributed at Communion, but rather the distribution would be from those hosts consecrated at the altar during that 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 8, 2015 - \$9,312.88

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.

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

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.

ACCS News

Registration continues for new students, Pre-School through Grade 5. Please call the school office at 381-7011 to arrange a tour of our school. Upcoming activities are as follows:

March 17 - Finance Council Meeting

March 25 - Chuck-E-Cheese Fundraiser

March 27 - The Living Stations presented by
Grade 5, 10:00 AM, at Saint
Therese of the Child Jesus

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.