

JANUARY 25, 2015

Scripture Reflection

All three readings this Sunday involve a prophetic interruption of business as usual and a call to change one's ways in light of a new situation. The story of Jonah presents a Hebrew prophet who refuses to carry God's message to those hated pagans, the Ninevites. The Lord God interrupts his flight from duty. When, reluctantly, Jonah goes forward with the bad news of doom for the Ninevites, all of them repent with sack cloth, ashes, and fasting. This results in the good news of God's mercy.

In a contrasting story, Mark tells of Jesus prophetically confronting his fellow Galileans with the good news: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand," and following it with a challenge: "Repent, and believe in the gospel." When is the best time to repent? Now. Now is always the time. Who knows whether there will be time if you wait? We are shown what repentance entails by the story of the four "first responders." Jesus interrupts not only their workday (nets) but all their relationships (father, boat, fellow workers).

Repentance, as the Ninevites demonstrated, is a simple process: turn from sin and turn to God. It is a process of letting go and mourning, like Augustine, the loss of the cruel comfort of sin. But we ought to concentrate more fully on what we gain, namely, a friend who guides us to the highest good, who calls us to the kingdom of God. Jesus offers this guidance, announcing that "the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." Repentance here is less about giving up a former life, though it is that, than about gaining a new life with Jesus.

The immediacy of repentance in Mark is on display, for the new disciples respond without question and follow Jesus. In this way it is no different than the story on display in Jonah when he brings his message to Nineveh. It seems strange, perhaps unbelievable, that people would respond to God so quickly, but there is a reality buttressing these quick decisions. **When the truth has been found, and the time is right, why not interrupt business as usual and repent now?**

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AMERICA MAGAZINE: January 19-26, 2015

Cathedral Parish in Midst of Decision Making

There is a need to provide a permanent space for Religious Education for the Parish. Last winter the furnace broke in the former school building. Since that time religious education classes have been occurring in the Cathedral Hall on a temporary basis. Renovation and upgrades to meet building codes for either the former convent building or school building have been estimated by engineers at \$1.7 million for each building. A three story building is presently for sale next to the rectory. This building could provide: (1) office space on the first floor for the parish (moving the office from the rectory into a site separate from the residency for the clergy); (2) Religious Education on the second floor for Pre-K through eighth grade along with Catechesis of the Good Shepherd; (3) the third floor (lower level) could be an activities center with a kitchen and open area to seat a large number of people. The cost of purchase and renovation of this possible building is estimated to be lower than the cost to upgrade either of the two other buildings. We realize this decision will involve seeking gifts from parishioners to make this project possible. Councils from the parish continue to meet to discuss the possibility of this project. Please pray with us as we review and discuss the facts surrounding this decision.

Directives With Regard to the Flu Season

Because of the seriousness of this flu season, Bishop Bartchak has asked that the Precious Blood of the Lord not be offered at Mass temporarily. It is the belief of the Catholic Church that the whole Body of Christ is present under either form of consecrated bread or wine. Also, the exchange of the sign of peace should avoid bodily contact. A reverent nod with eye contact and a smile will be the temporary practice. Reception of Holy Communion on the hand is encouraged; however, reception on the tongue may not be denied. These norms are in effect throughout the winter months or until the flu season is over.

Eucharistic Ministers - Please note the revised schedule posted weekly in the Sacristy as you arrive for Mass to check on your assignment.

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

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: ALTICATHEDRAL@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

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

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF GOD IN THE CITY OF ALTOONA SINCE 1851

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JANUARY 25, 2015

Readings: Jon 3:1-5,10; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mk1:14-20

MASS INTENTIONS

January 26, Monday: Saints Timothy and Titus, bishops

Readings: 2 Tm 1:1-8; Mk 3:22-30

6:45 AM Dan Savine (Phyllis Sunderland)
8:00 AM Mike Smith (Kathy Fraundorfer)
12:00 PM Michael Ratzesberger (Mother & Family)

January 27, Tuesday: Saint Angela Merici, virgin

Readings: Heb 10:1-10; Mk 3:31-35

6:45 AM Dennis Irwin (Hugh & Donna Kelleher)
8:00 AM Anastasia 'Annie' Hanlin (Doris Smith)
12:00 PM Viola Franchio (Kathy & Paul Vincent)

January 28, Wednesday: Saint Thomas Aquinas, doc.

Readings: Heb 10:11-18; Mk 4:1-20

6:45 AM Alice Ann Martynuska (Gail & Fred)
8:00 AM Joseph Pagliaro (Kathy Clapper Family)
12:00 PM Msgr. Ildephonse Denny, Anniv. (Cathedral)

January 29, Thursday: Weekday

Readings: Heb 10:19-25; Mk 4:21-25

6:45 AM Msgr. Thomas Madden (Estate)
8:00 AM Rose Grillo Skupien (Anna Jacobs)
12:00 PM Joseph C. Prendergast (Zach, Kayla, Gemma)

January 30, Friday: Weekday

Readings: Heb 10: 32-39; Mk 4:26-34

6:45 AM Donna Seidel (Kathleen & Ed Zeak)
8:00 AM Walter Mazur (Family)
12:00 PM Health of George Walcutt (Blazewicz Family)

January 31, Saturday: Saint John Bosco, priest

Readings: Heb 11:1-2,8-19; Mk 4:35-41

8:00 AM Virginia Pheasant (Nancy & Skip)
12:00 PM Rob Beiswenger (Tom Murphy)
Vigil: Fourth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Readings: Dt 18:15-20; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mk1:21-28

5:00 PM Brian McCaulley, Anniv. (Wife & Sons)

Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School Raffle

Students from our Catholic high school are selling the school's annual raffle tickets after Masses this weekend, January 24-25. Each Raffle ticket costs \$5.00. The top prize is \$10,000.00; 2nd prize is \$1,500.00; 3rd prize is \$1,000.00; and there are five \$100.00 prizes. The drawing will be February 11. Please help our students with this annual fundraiser.

Charismatic Prayer Group

The Charismatic Prayer Group will meet this Monday, January 26 at 7:00 PM in the Cathedral. Father Bob Hilz will be giving a teaching. He asks that we bring our Bibles and a notebook. Please join us! All are welcome!

ECUMENICAL SERVICE TODAY!

Today, **January 25**, 2015, Bishop Mark Bartchak will host an Ecumenical Service here in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. The service begins at **3:00 PM**. All are invited and encouraged to participate in this prayer. A social follows in the Cathedral Hall.

OUTREACH TO OUR HOMEBOUND

Training Sessions for parishioners participating in our newly formed Ministry to Our Homebound and Elderly Parishioners are scheduled for **Tuesday, January 27**. Members may attend from 12:00 Noon - 1:00 PM or in the evening 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM.

TENTH GRADE CONFIRMATION RETREAT SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM has been moved to Father Kelly Hall, 429 Twenty-fifth Avenue.

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.

Knights of Columbus Saint Bridgid Dance

The Feast of St. Bridgid Dance will be held at The Knights of Columbus, 1508 12th Avenue on Saturday, January 31, 2015 from 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM. Irish food and drink and music by **Full Kilt** is included in the \$20.00 donation. Tickets must be purchased in advance and are limited so please get yours soon by calling Rick Tomlinson at 814-280-7661 A portion of the proceeds will benefit Catholic Charities. Come out for a great time supporting a great cause!

Blessing of Candles

Monday, February 2nd, is the commemoration of the Presentation of the Lord. Forty days will have passed since the great feast of Christmas. Candles will be blessed to be used throughout the liturgical year. Blessed candles will be available to take home: \$5.00 for a votive candle and \$5.00 for a box of two blessed tapers.

Blessing of Throats

On **Tuesday, February 3rd** the Feast of Saint Blaise, bishop and martyr, throats will be blessed at all Masses, 6:45 AM, 8:00 AM and Noon. Also, throats will be blessed at 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, January 18, 2015 - \$8,892.50

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

Generosity for the Right to Life

Thank you for your generous gift of **\$1,278.15** collected at the Cathedral doors last weekend. These monies helped with the cost for buses for the March For Life in Washington, D.C. on January 22.

Gluten Sensitivity

There may be parishioners who have found that they have physical disorders related to gluten intolerance. The spectrum of illnesses includes celiac disorder, wheat allergy, bloating, abdominal discomfort, diarrhea, muscular disturbances, and bone or joint pain. The ordinary hosts distributed at Communion contain gluten. If you have found that you are gluten sensitive, special bread is available that possess a very low gluten content. Please tell the priest before Mass, and he will consecrate the low-gluten host for you to receive at Communion.

BASKET BINGO UPDATE

The committee is in need of the following items in order for us to have a successful fundraiser: 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 rectory or envelopes can be dropped into the collection basket marked Basket Bingo. Or they can be picked up by calling Roberta Burns @946-0238 or 1-(301)748-6467 or Paula Truby @931-2838.

THIRD ANNUAL CABARET NIGHT

In Memory of Doreen Fogle - Sunday, January 25 at **1:30 PM** at the Altoona High School Auditorium. Mrs. Fogel, a teacher at Bishop Guilfoyle High School, passed away in 2012 and the show raises money for scholarships in her name at BG and Altoona High. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors.

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, January 25 - Pre-k through grade 8 classes will be held in the Cathedral Hall from 11:15 AM until 12:30 PM. **F.I.R.E. - Sunday, January 25**, 6:15 PM - 8:30 PM for students in grades 9-11 in Cathedral Hall.

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

MARRIAGE - The Cathedral Parish is hosting Marriage Preparation **Saturdays, January 24, January 31 and February 7** in Cathedral Hall from 9:30 AM to Noon. Father Dennis Kurdziel and our Cathedral Parish Marriage Preparation Team will present the three sessions. All Cathedral couples planning 2015 weddings are encouraged to attend.

BAPTISM - Our next Baptismal Preparation Class will be held on **Monday, February 9**, at **7:00 PM** in the Seton Suite. This required class is offered every other month. You need not wait until your child is born to attend class. Sponsors are encouraged to attend also. 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 Reflection ...
General Instruction of the Roman Missal Third Edition	The Mass consists in some sense of two parts, namely the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist, these being so closely interconnected that they form but one single act of worship. For in the Mass is spread the table both of God's Word and of the Body of Christ, and from it the faithful are to be instructed and refreshed. The Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist flow together so well that both form the one prayer of praise and thanks in the Church, the holy Mass
	The General Instruction of the Roman Missal, Number 28.
	2015, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 South Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648.