

JANUARY 11, 2015

Scripture Reflection

All four Gospels record the story of John's baptizing ministry. Matthew and Luke have as their source the Gospel of Mark. John's source is independent. Despite their slight differences, they all agree that John deferred to Jesus, recognizing that "one mightier than I is coming after me". In Mark's account of Jesus' baptism, the descent of the Spirit occurs immediately as Jesus comes up out of the water. A voice from heaven addresses Jesus directly: "You are my beloved son." Mark suggests that this was a personal revelation meant only for Jesus. Matthew's account is slightly different. The voice from the heavens speaks to all present, "This is my beloved Son." Throughout Mark's Gospel, Jesus' true identity is not made public until after his crucifixion, since Mark's portrayal of Jesus is as the suffering Messiah.

John the Baptist preaches that compared to Jesus, who baptizes with the Holy Spirit, he himself is not even fit to be a servant who unties Jesus' sandal. This greater status of Jesus is based on his relationship to the Father and the Spirit. The Spirit comes upon Jesus and a voice from heaven testifies that Jesus is God's Son. Jesus becomes the Spirit-bearer, and the first thing that this implies is shown right after today's reading: "At once the Spirit drove him out into the desert". The verb is a powerful one that is often used to describe Jesus driving out demons. Coming in the power of the Spirit means his complete submission to the way the Spirit works in his life. Out in the wilderness to which the Spirit drives Jesus are Satan and wild animals. But the Spirit and ministering angels also appear there.

Mark's account of the baptism of Jesus portrays the inner life of Jesus as one empowered and guided by the Holy Spirit and, as a result, the unique giver of the Spirit who will liberate humanity. This is the same Spirit received in the Sacrament of Baptism. Claimed for Christ, we walk in the strength and power of the Holy Spirit.

- **Identify how the Spirit is guiding me to concretely share in Jesus' ministry of prayer, proclamation, and service.**

Living the Word, Sylva and Wallace, World Library Publications, 2008, page 40. Living the Word, Brunk and Bauerschmidt, World Library Publications, 2014, pages 40-41

2015 **LIVE FROM THE** 2015
CATHEDRAL OF THE
BLESSED SACRAMENT
10:00 AM SUNDAY MASS
on radio
WFBG 1290 AM

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The **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** begins Sunday, January 18. Bishop Mark L. Bartchak will host an **Ecumenical Prayer Service** on **Sunday, January 25 at 3:00 PM** here in the Cathedral.

Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School Raffle

Students from our Catholic high school will be selling the school's annual raffle tickets after Masses the weekend of 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 fund-raiser.

Charismatic Prayer Group - There will not be a regular prayer meeting this Monday at 7:00 PM but there will be a **PLANNING SESSION** for the *Life in the Spirit Seminar* coming up on March 21. All are welcome and needed to plan this holy day of prayer! Please try to attend.

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

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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

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

JANUARY 11, 2015

Readings: *Is 42:1-4,6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Mk1:7-11*

MASS INTENTIONS

January 12, Monday: Weekday

Readings: *Heb 1:1-6; Mk1:14-20*

6:45 AM Patty Seidel & Dave Weaver (Jim and Elaine)
8:00 AM Dorothy Smith, Anniv. (Bill and Grace)
12:00 PM Amandus Gallagher (Val and Karla Moschella)

January 13, Tuesday: Saint Hilary, Bishop, Doctor

Readings: *Heb 2:5-12; Mk 1:29-39*

6:45 AM Nozzie, Jennie, and Sandy Calabrese (Family)
8:00 AM Leroy and Irmira Helfrich (Estate)
12:00 PM Jean M. Cole (Charlie and Nancy Craig)

January 14, Wednesday: Weekday

Readings: *Heb 2:14-18; Mk 1:29-39*

6:45 AM Kevin Hanlin (McAndrew Family)
8:00 AM Jim Roland (Joyce Koegler)
12:00 PM Eileen Lytle (Steve and Bonnie Garmon)

January 15, Thursday: Weekday

Readings: *Heb 3:7-14; Mk 1:40-45*

6:45 AM Dennis Irwin (Carole Litzinger)
8:00 AM Helen "Lindy" Adams (Nancy and Skip)
12:00 PM Robert Smithmyer (Doug and Connie Glunt)

January 16, Friday: Weekday

Readings: *Heb 4:1-5,11; Mk 2:1-12*

6:45 AM Terrence Shea (Vinny Johnson)
8:00 AM Donald Godish (Cathedral Parish)
12:00 PM Fr. J. Joseph Strittmatter (Tom and Pat Forr)

January 17, Saturday: Saint Anthony, Abbot

Readings: *Heb 4:12-16; Mk2:13-17*

8:00 AM Michael Kling (Mom, Dad, Brothers and Sisters)
12:00 PM Genevieve Moloney, Anniv. (Madeline Vogel)
Vigil: Second Sunday In Ordinary Time

Readings: *1 Sam 3:3-10,19; 1 Cor 6:13-15,17-20; Jn 1:35-42*
5:00 PM Rob Beiswenger (Lois Bergamaschi)

PARISH MEETINGS

Parish Council Meeting - Monday, January 12 at 7:00 PM in the Saint John Room.

Parish Finance Council Meeting - Tuesday, January 13 at 3:00 PM in the Saint John Room.

Altoona Central Catholic School Council - Wednesday, January 14, at 6:30 PM in the Saint John Room.

Basket Bingo Planning Meeting - Originally scheduled for Wednesday, January 7, this meeting has been rescheduled for Tuesday, January 20 at 7:00 PM in the Seton Suite.

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 half of 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.

Christmas Evening Prayer

This evening at 6:30 PM we conclude the Christmas Season with Evening Prayer and Benediction. Come back and join the People of God in our Prayer of the Hours.

Poinsettias Available - Any persons wishing to take the beautiful poinsettias home with you may do so after Evening Prayer tonight as our celebration of the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord concludes the Christmas Season. (The ferns must be returned to the florist.)

Encourage Student Offertory Giving

All Cathedral student parishioners in parochial schools and religious education classes were given envelopes for gifting the Parish during 2015. Parents are asked to provide good example and to encourage regular giving from our young parishioners. Please have the children write their names on the envelopes for the first few months so we can be sure to apply their gifts to the correct families' donation record.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, January 4 - \$10,885.00

Solemnity of Mary, January 1 - \$3,376.12

Christmas Collection Report next week!

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

Calendar of Prizes 2015

Our first week of winning tickets have been awarded and Dan Cowan was the January special prize winner receiving \$50 for #471 on January 1st. We have four numbers unaccounted for at this date: **220, 286, 376** and **678**. If anyone has unsold tickets please return them to the Parish Office as we have several people still waiting to purchase tickets. The rectory door has a mail slot accessible at any time. The office is opened from 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM weekdays.

BASKET BINGO PREPARATIONS CONTINUE!

After some careful consideration, it has been determined that Father Kelley Hall (Saint Therese Parish) would be a better venue for our Basket Bingo. Anyone interested in helping out with this special event on Sunday, April 26 at 1:00 PM is encouraged to attend the upcoming meeting on Tuesday, January 20 at 7:00 PM in the Seton Suite. We need all willing parishioners to please volunteer their time toward this Church fund-raiser. If you are unable to attend this meeting and would like to help, please contact Paula Truby at 814-931-2838 or Roberta Burns at 301-741-6467 (please note these corrected phone numbers). We hope to have tickets available by the end of the month but you can call the Parish Office to reserve them at 944-4603.

Please remember our Catechumens and Candidates, our Military, and our Sick in your prayers.

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 revised schedule posted weekly in the Sacristy as you arrive for Mass.

CELEBRATING GOD'S GIFT OF LIFE

Bishop Mark Bartchak will preside over a *Prayer Service Celebrating God's Gift of Life* here in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament on Tuesday, January 21 at 7:00 PM. All are invited and encouraged to participate in this special Liturgy of the Hours which will include a Blessing for the Pilgrims marching in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday, January 22.

March For Life Bus Trip

The Citizens Concerned for Human Life will be requesting donations to support the March for Life and other pro-life activities after Masses next weekend, January 17-18. Buses will be leaving the Altoona area at 7:00 AM on January 22 and should return from Washington D.C. about 9:30 PM. The cost of the trip is \$15 for adults and \$10 per student. For reservations call Patricia or Marita Forr-946-0681; Roxann Blazewicz-695-8008; or Anne Zelnosky-942-2723.

Liturgical Reflection ...

General

Instruction

of the

Roman Missal

Third Edition

Today concludes the great season of Christmas. We commemorate the baptism of the Savior in the waters of the Jordan by John the Baptist. It is a day when believers recall our baptism into the dying and rising of the Lord. At baptism we are claimed for Jesus Christ. By baptism we are called to the altar where we eat and drink the Body and Blood of Christ. The Instruction of the Roman Missal clearly states that by virtue of our baptism, Christians have a right and duty to gather and participate at Mass. It is our baptism that draws us Sunday after Sunday into the celebration of the saving mysteries. Without baptism we would never know of the redeeming mysteries of Christ celebrated at Mass.

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal, Number 18.

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