

SEPTEMBER 4, 2016

Scripture Reflection

The Gospel of Luke has a central message: God’s mercy, in the person of Jesus Christ, has been offered to all without exception. God’s gracious gift, however, has one limitation, which is our willingness to respond to God’s mercy. Discipleship, the result of responding to God’s mercy, has a price. On the road to Jerusalem, Jesus asks his disciples to weigh the cost of discipleship and determine whether they are willing to pay the price.

Jesus offers two parables to explain why the things of this life are secondary to Jesus’ call. Jesus describes building a tower and waging a war, both activities for which a great deal of money, planning and people are needed. He asks, “which of you intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it?” And “What king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand?” The focus of these stories is on the disciples. If you follow me, do you have what it takes to complete your mission? This means Jesus’ disciples must be all in.

Jesus needs to know whether he has the builders and the soldiers committed to completing the tasks to build the kingdom and to defend it. For the kingdom is an exercise in construction but also a battle waged against the forces of evil. For Jesus to complete the kingdom, he needs steadfast disciples; for the battle to be waged successfully, he needs faithful disciples. What blocks you from discipleship? Career? Bank account? Housework? Are you so mesmerized by family drama that you neglect spiritual obligations and the needs of others? Every one of us faces obstacles to discipleship. We cannot desert family or job, but we can incorporate prayerfulness and charity into both.

• **Would you describe yourself as a true disciple of Christ? Is your discipleship filled with mercy?**

AMERICA MAGAZINE: August 29 - September 6, 2016 Issue, John W. Martens.
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Looking Ahead

Parish Family Social/Halloween Celebration

Saturday, October 29, 2016
Cathedral Hall, 6:00 PM

Games, prizes, Pumpkin Carving, and Food
All ages welcome and invited
to dress as your favorite saint.
RSVP to Parish office at 944-4603

Annual Marriage Social/Winterfest

Saturday, December 10, 2016
Cathedral Hall, 6:00 PM
Food, Prizes, Music and Dancing

All married and widowed are welcome
Please bring a picture of your wedding to display.
RSVP to Chris by Nov. 27th at 312-7317

Plan Ahead - The Diocese of Altoona-Jophnston is planning a **Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception** in Washington, D.C. on **November 12, 2016**. Cathedral Parish will be sharing a bus with other parishes. The tentative schedule for the day is as follows: 11:00 AM - Arrival, Noon - Midday Prayer; 12:45 PM - Lunch, 1:30 PM - Reconciliation Opportunity, 3:00 PM - Mass with Bishop Mark as celebrant and homilist, 4:30 PM - Departure. The pilgrimage also offers the opportunity for a Plenary Indulgence during this *Year of Mercy*. The program for the day will contain the appropriate prayers for this Indulgence. Plans will be finalized in the near future, but please call the Parish Office at 944-4603 to leave your contact information if you are interested in making the pilgrimage.

First Reconciliation

All Parents of children in Cathedral Parish and Our Lady of Fatima attending Holy Trinity Catholic School, our Religious Education program, or Home Schooling who will be celebrating the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion this year, please take note. Our first meeting will be held in the *Seton Suite* on **Tuesday, September 27th** from **6:30 PM - 8:00 PM**. Every student **must** be accompanied by a parent or adult who will present the child’s Baptismal Certificate. (If you cannot locate the certificate, please call the **Parish of Baptism** to obtain a copy before this meeting.) This is the first of three sessions of preparation required before the reception of Reconciliation in Advent.

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 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM
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: ALT.CATHEDRAL@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

CHRISTIAN INITIATION TEAM - 944-4603

CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME - 944-4603

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL
Web: www.holytrinitycatholic.school
Altoona Campus (Pre-K thru Grade 4) - 381-7011
Hollidaysburg Campus (Pre-K thru Grade 4) - 695-6112
Middle School Campus (Grades 5 thru 8) - 942-7835

BISHOP GUILFOYLE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
Web: www.bishopguilfoyle.org - 944-4014

DIRECTORS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Chris Laraia - Pre-K thru 8 - 312-7317
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

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SEPTEMBER 4, 2016

Readings: Wis 9:13-18; Phlm 9-10,12-17; Lk 14:25-33

MASS INTENTIONS

September 5, Monday: Labor Day
Readings: Thes 4:1-2,9-12; Mt 6:31-34
9:00 AM Angela Cronin Chadwick (Jim & Mary Farrell)
September 6, Tuesday: Weekday
Readings: 1 Cor 6:1-11; Lk 6:12-19
6:45 AM Josephine Dillon (Cathedral Parish)
8:00 AM Lois J. Riley (Cathedral Staff)
12:00 PM Msgr. George B. Flinn (S. Stone/Flinn Fam.)

September 7, Wednesday: Dedication of Cathedral
Readings: Is 56:1,6-7; Eph 2:19-22; Mt 16:13-19
6:45 AM M. Virginia Jones (Tom & Patricia Forr)
8:00 AM Pat Rabine (Fran Hallinan)
12:00 PM Deacon James Leap (Cathedral Parish)

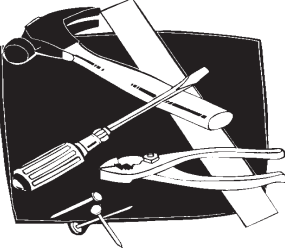
September 8, Thursday: Nativity of the Blessed Virgin
Readings: Mi 5:1-4; Mt 1:1-16, 18-23
6:45 AM David Riley (Carol Riley & Children)
8:00 AM David Conrad (Judy & Bill Stroup)
12:00 PM Homer L. Mentzer, Jr. (Sister, Colleen & Bill)

September 9, Friday: Saint Peter Claver, Priest
Readings: 1 Cor 9:16-19,22-27; Lk 6:39-42
6:45 AM Donald Dominic Della (Bob & Joan Lozinak)
8:00 AM Audrey Krause (Phyllis Lavelle Sheetz)
12:00 PM Alice Socboria (Paul & Adeline Cassarly)

September 10, Saturday: Weekday
Readings: 1 Cor 10;14-22; Lk 6:43-49
8:00 AM Jerry Smith (Tom Riggleman & Family)
12:00 PM Herb Kutruff (Pat Rhoa)
Vigil: Twenty-Fourth Sunday In Ordinary Time
Readings: Ex 32:7-11,13-14; 1 Tm 1:12-17; Lk 15:1-32
5:00 PM Jim & Mary Ellen Kelly, Wedding Anniv.

Miraculous Medal Novena will be prayed at 8:45 AM, Monday morning, before the 9:00 AM Mass.

FIRST CATHEDRAL TOUR TODAY!
September is the month our Cathedral celebrates its anniversary of dedication. This year we celebrate our 85th anniversary (1931-2016). Again this September the Cathedral will offer four tours of this singular structure. The schedule for the one hour tours is as follows:today, Sunday, September 4th at 1:00 PM; Thursday, September 15th at 7:00 PM; Sunday, September 25th at 1:00 PM; and Thursday, September 29th at 7:00 PM. Plan to attend one of the four dates. Invite relatives, friends, and neighbors who may have never been inside this beautiful Cathedral to join you!

Liturgical Reflection ...
Monday, September 5, is a special Day of Prayer in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. The local church will observe the intention for Human Rights and Equality. Please pray the following for all who seek just and rewarding work.

2016, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 South Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648.

O God, full of mercy and compassion,
many seek work to meet the needs of their families.
Provide labor that offers just wages and dignity of life
so that all may live comfortably in our day.
We remember employers and employees.
Fill all hearts with the fire of your love
so that there is equality among all.
Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Anniversary of Dedication
This Wednesday, September 7, is the eighty-fifth anniversary of the dedication of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. It is a solemnity here in the Cathedral itself which means there will be three readings from scripture, the *Glory to God* and *Creed*. All are invited and encouraged to participate at Mass on this special occasion.
Remember the **Grand Prize** is awarded for the **2016 Calendar of Prizes** on Wednesday, September 7th. The winner may receive a Family Trip or a Cash Prize of \$5,000.00. Watch for the evening drawing!
LITURGICAL MINISTERS PLEASE NOTE:
Please provide dates of unavailability and any changes of address, phone number, or email address to Sue at the Parish Office at 944-4603 or scronin@dioceseaj.org by Tuesday, September 6. New schedules will be sent out on Wednesday, September 7 for weekends of September 17-18 through October 29-30. Thank you.

CATHEDRAL SUMMER RAFFLE
This fund-raiser substitutes for the annual Cathedral festival; the profit replaces the profit of the festival. Everyone is asked to participate in this summer event. Additional tickets are available at the Cathedral Square door after Masses and at the Parish Office during the week.
There will be twenty cash prizes: (1) \$2,000.00; (2) \$1,000.00 (3) \$500.00; (4) \$250.00; (5) \$100.00; (6) \$100.00; (7) \$100.00; (8) \$100.00; (9) \$100.00; (10) \$100.00; (11) \$50.00; (12) \$50.00; (13) \$50.00; (14) \$50.00; (15) \$50.00;(16) \$50.00; (17) \$25.00; (18) \$25.00; (19) \$25.00; (20) \$25.00. **The cost per ticket is \$5.00. Each family is asked to purchase four tickets.** The drawing will be **Sunday, October 2, 2016**, after the 10:00 AM Mass on the Cathedral Portico.

Wedding Anniversary Liturgy
Bishop Mark and the Family Life Office of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown invited couples marking their first, 5th, 10th, 25th, 40th 50th, 55th, and 60th+ wedding anniversary this calendar year to attend the annual Wedding Anniversary Liturgies. We have registered three Cathedral couples for the celebration to be held here at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament on **September 11th at 2:00 PM**.
Cathedral Choir Notes
Rehearsals have now resumed after our summer break. Please join us on Thursday evenings in the Music Room from 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM. Cantors and Psalmists are asked to arrive at 6:30 PM. No experience is necessary. If you simply love to sing, come give the choir a try. Call 944-2044 for more information or to arrange an informal audition.
Parish Website - Parishioners are asked to bring to our attention items that may need updated and changed. Please call the Parish Office with such information. We are grateful to those who have done so. Also, if you have any pictures you think might be posted, drop them off at the Parish. Thank you.

JUBILEE
YEAR OF
MERCY
2016, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 South Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648.

Liturgical Reflection ...
Disciples of the Lord need to know what is truly important in their faith life. Distractions, possessions, and attachments must be left behind. Following Jesus demands a total commitment and an understanding that the Lord is the first priority in life and relationships. Such a life presumes the virtue of mercy. Filled with compassion and charity, believers witness to the faith with a love that reflects the face of God. The baptized need the wisdom to choose that which is of God and reject that which is not of God. In mercy we support one another in the serious call to follow Christ in our daily lives.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION
Sunday, August 28, 2016 - \$9,076.50
Christian Initiation - **INQUIRY - September 11**
The Cathedral Christian Initiation Team will hold weekly Sunday morning *Inquiry Sessions* with those seeking information on the Catholic Church beginning after Labor Day from **11:00 AM - Noon**.
Baptism Congratulations
Landon Charles Shellenberger, son of Ryan Shellenberger and Melisa Plunkett, was baptized on Saturday, August 27, here in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. And at 10:00 AM Mass on Sunday, August 28, Emalyn Louise Settle, was baptized and welcomed into our Cathedral Parish Family. Congratulations to parents Joshua Settle and Brooke McCready along with brother, Jaden Baker. Best wishes also to Godparents, Grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins of Landon and Emalyn, as they will grow in their Christian identity to the degree that family and friends model the faith.
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (Pre K-Grade 8)
First day of Class is next Sunday, **September 11th**. We will meet in the Parish Hall from **8:30 AM - 9:45 AM** (Pre K - K in the Music Room). Please arrive at 8:10 AM with a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate to register new students. Parents of returning students are asked update contact information: addresses, phone numbers, etc. also, if you have not already done so.
BLUE AND WHITE MASS
Bishop Bartchak will gather in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament on **Saturday, September 17 at 5:00 PM** for the annual **Blue and White Mass** to honor the military, firefighters, police officers, doctors, nurses, and emergency medical technicians who serve our communities. All are welcome to attend.