

MAY 8, 2016

Scripture Reflection

John does not have Jesus praying in the garden of Gethsemane but at the Last Supper. Jesus prays to the Father for his disciples and for all who will hear their words about him. He prays that all may be one. The ending that God has planned for all who believe in Jesus is that we enter into unity with Jesus and the Father and the Holy Spirit.

In the reading from John's account of the Gospel, Jesus' prayer for unity expresses a carefully thought out identity of Jesus. He prays for his disciples, earnestly desiring that they come to know the same intimate union with him that he has with the Father. This union springs from the love of God for Jesus and his love for those the Father has given him. The love of the disciples will be a sign to the world that Jesus has come from the Father and will in turn bring glory to God.

Jesus prays for the unity of all believers, a unity that does not merely resemble the unity that exists between Jesus and his Father, but actually participates in it. Furthermore, joined to Jesus, believers share in the glory of Jesus that was manifested through his death, resurrection, and exaltation. Believers are to manifest this divine union to the world so that the world will see not only that God sent Jesus, but also that God loves believers with the same love with which Jesus is loved. Having made God's name known to believers, Jesus asks that these believers might be with him. If the love with which God loves Jesus resides in those who believe in him, Jesus himself will abide in them.

• **In the Gospel of John this is Jesus' final prayer. The Lord prays for unity. Are you busy creating unity among your family, friends, community, and the Church?**

Living the Word, Dennis D. Sylva and James A. Wallace, World Library Publications, 2009, page 124.

AT HOME WITH THE WORD 2016. (C) 2015 ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO, LITURGY TRAINING PUBLICATIONS, 3949 South Racine Avenue CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60609. REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION.

Living the Word, Diane Bergant and James Wallace, World Library Publications, 2012, page 118.

Great News! Holy Trinity Catholic School

Plans are progressing with the opening of the new regional school Pre-K through Eighth Grade. Our first school year will begin this August, 2016. **Holy Trinity Catholic School** will have two elementary campuses, Pre-K through fourth grade, one at the Altoona campus and the other at the Hollidaysburg campus; grades five through eight will be located at the Middle School campus. There is much excitement as plans begin to take concrete form. There will be a revised and highly challenging curriculum for our seventh and eighth graders at the middle school. Class size is being maintained at a low pupil per teacher ratio especially at the elementary level.

Many people have volunteered on the various committees in the planning of this regionalization. We are excited about the new look of Catholic education in the wider Altoona/Hollidaysburg area. Teachers are soon to sign contracts. And enrollment continues to increase. The Cathedral Parish is committed to Holy Trinity Catholic School and Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School. To all parents with school age children, consider a quality, challenging education within the context of our faith in Jesus Christ. Please register your child(ren) at Holy Trinity Catholic School and Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School!

There is a picnic-social scheduled at Brush Mountain Sportsmen Club on Sunday, June 5, at Noon. Bishop Bartchak will celebrate Sunday Mass; food will be provided for participants; and entertainment is planned for our children. This is an opportunity for the new Holy Trinity Catholic School community to come together on the eve of beginning a new era for Catholic education in our area. If interested in joining in this picnic-social, please call the Altoona Central Catholic School at 381-7011. All are welcome!

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL UPDATE

This year the Cathedral Parish goal is set at **\$43,522.00**. We have raised **\$51,176.00** and are **over Diocesan Goal** with 192 of our families participating. Thus far pledges exceed goal by \$7,654.00; all monies over goal will be returned to the Parish.

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

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

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

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 8, 2016

Readings: Acts 7:55-60; Rv 22:12-14,16-17,20; Jn 17:20-26

MASS INTENTIONS

May 9, Monday: Easter Weekday

Readings: Acts 19:1-8; Jn 16:29-33

6:45 AM Julia Febbo (Mr. & Mrs. Clair Robertson)
8:00 AM Henriette Thibault (John & Mary Louise Butler)
12:00 PM Mel Koch (Mark and Diane Moschella)

May 10, Tuesday: Saint Damien de Veuster, Priest

Readings: Acts 20:17-27; Jn 17:1-11

6:45 AM Eleanor Toth (Joe and Rebecca Clark)
8:00 AM Rick Cowan/Karen Cowan Dougherty (Mom)
12:00 PM Tom Byrne (Linda Himes and Family)

May 11, Wednesday: Easter Weekday

Readings: Acts 20:28-38; Jn 17:11-19

6:45 AM Mildred Mauceri (Gary and Janet Roesch)
8:00 AM Kathy Rossbach, Anniversary (Family)
12:00 PM Danyll Rougeux (Cathedral Ushers)

May 12, Thursday: Saints Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs

Readings: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Jn 17:20-26

6:45 AM Pat Rabine (Gretchen Packard)
8:00 AM Jim Roland (Bauer Family)
12:00 PM Betty McCabe (Ed and Lois Simanski)

May 13, Friday: Our Lady of Fatima

Readings: Acts 25:13-21; Jn 21:15-19

6:45 AM William 'Bill' Crouse, Wed. Anniv, (Family)
8:00 AM Jerry Smith (Kevin and Cindy Bosler)
12:00 PM Mary O'Leary (Tom and Mary Boslet)

May 14, Saturday: Saint Matthias, Apostle

Readings: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Jn 15:9-17

8:00 AM Hilda Conrad - Mother's Day Blessing (Mary)
10:00 AM Ordination
12:00 PM No Noon Mass

Vigil: Pentecost

Readings: Acts 2:1-11; 1 Cor 12:3-7,12-13; Jn 20:19-23

5:00 PM Moose Plutko (Joe and Jean Bettwy)

Easter Evening Prayer - Every Sunday in the Easter Season the Cathedral Parish gathers at 6:30 PM for Evening Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in exposition. This liturgy concludes with Benediction and lasts only forty minutes. All are invited to participate. Bring the family, bring a friend.

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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Cathedral Social Hall "Cave Quest"

June 6-10, 2016, 8:45 - 11:30 AM Ages 3-10

Join us as we go spelunking through *Cave Quest*, led by the light of Jesus. Registration is \$5.00 per child to cover cost of T-shirt. Adult and teen helpers are needed. Those over 18 must have Diocesan and PA State Child Protection Clearances. Please call Chris Laraia at 312-7317 for more information. **Registration deadline is Monday, May 16.**

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS

Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Prince Gallitzin #2625 will meet on Monday, May 9 at 6:30 PM for a social followed by a meeting at 7:00 PM in the St. Rose of Lima Social Hall. New members welcome!

Cathedral Christian Mothers Meeting

Wednesday, May 11 at 6:30 PM in the Seton Suite. All ladies of the parish are welcome to attend.

Please Note this Saturday's Mass Schedule:

Due to Ordination scheduled for 10:00 AM there will be no Noon Mass on May 14. Please pass this information on to those who pray with us daily but may not see this notice. Thank You.

Prayer Service For Healing

Bishop Mark will preside at a Diocesan Prayer Service for victims of abuse and their families here in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament on **Tuesday, May 17 at 7:00 PM**. The service will include Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Evening Prayer and a homily by Bishop Mark. Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick will also be available.

Jubilee Year of Mercy Continues

Cathedral Parish has been meeting monthly to break open Scripture surrounding the theme of mercy. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 23 at 6:30 PM in the Seton Suite. All are welcome. May we continue to see the face of God in the mercy we show to one another.

Plan ahead. The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown is planning a pilgrimage to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. on November 12, 2016. Cathedral Parish will be sharing a bus with others. Check your schedules and keep the date clear!

Ordination of Deacons

One man will be ordained to the Permanent Diaconate, and two men will be ordained as Transitional Deacons here in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament on May 14, 2016, at 10:00 AM. Bishop Mark will ordain Donald Gibboney, a member of Most Holy Trinity Parish in Huntingdon to the Permanent Diaconate. Seminarian Peter Crowe attends Saint Vincent Seminary in Latrobe and is a member of Our Lady of Victory Parish in State College and seminarian Jonathan Dickson, a member of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Parish here in Altoona, attends Saint Mary Seminary in Baltimore. These men will be will be ordained as Transitional Deacons and look to be ordained to the Priesthood in 2017.

Charismatic Healing Mass

The Charismatic Prayer Group meetings will resume this Monday, May 9. There will be a Healing Mass on **Monday, May 23**, 2016 at 7:00 PM here in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. Fr. Bill Kiel, from the Diocese of Greensburg, will be the main celebrant. All are welcome, especially those in need of physical, emotional, or spiritual healing, and those who support and care for them as well. Music for the Mass will be led by the Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group Music Ministry. For more information, please call 814 941-3832.

Rest In Peace

Please remember in prayer Stephen Hiner, a cousin of Mary Ann Bell, who died and was buried from the Cathedral this past week. Steve was a 1970 graduate of Bishop Guilfoyle High School. May he rest in peace.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, April 24, 2016 - \$9,150.00

Easter Collection and **Easter Flower Memorial** totals will be reported at the end of the Easter Season as we continue to receive additional gifts.

Sacramental Prep - Confirmation

All Ninth Grade High School Students are to attend a Confirmation Prep Session on **Sunday, May 15**, at 7:15 PM in the Parish Hall following Evening Prayer.

Parents of First Communicants Please Note:

The pictures taken at First Communion are printed and may be picked up at the Parish Office during our regular business hours of 9:30 AM until 5:30 PM Monday through Friday.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry

Shawls symbolize shelter, peace, and spiritual sustenance. The members of Cathedral Prayer Shawl Ministry have lovingly donated their time and talents by creating hand-knitted and crocheted shawls for those in need of God's comfort. Parishioners are encouraged to submit names of individuals for whom they would like to receive a Prayer Shawl. Please call the Parish Office or Lorraine Beck at 942-7774.

Catholics Returning Home - Have you thought about coming home to the Catholic Church? Call the Parish Office at 944-4603 for information on the date and time of the next *Catholics Returning Home* informal listening session

Did Your Remember to bring a non-perishable food item or paper product for the needy?

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

Liturgical Reflection ...

On the Seventh Sunday of Easter we look at the Spiritual Work of Mercy to **forgive injuries**. A follower of Christ is called not only to forgive, but to forgive generously. This act of mercy can be extremely challenging. Forgiveness is a divine gift rooted in the mercy of God. From a human perspective forgiveness can sometimes be more than challenging. Hurt and anger sometimes lead to thoughts of revenge and hate. On the cross, Jesus forgave his trespassers. To those who hurt us and offend us, we offer mercy. To those who show no remorse or accept no responsibility for causing injury, we offer mercy. Many times we must turn to the Lord of mercy to forgive the injuries we ourselves have caused. May the Easter Christ gift us with mercy to forgive those who cause hurt and injury. Be Merciful, Bill Huebsch, Twenty-Third Publications, 2015, pgs. 14-16.

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