

april 3, 2016

Scripture Reflection

The readings for the Sundays of Easter explore the Paschal Mystery---the dying and rising of Christ. Originally the texts were selected for the newly baptized, offering a follow-up catechesis after initiation. But it became clear that they provided continuing catechesis for everyone. Each year we more deeply embrace the astonishing grace of the resurrection. The First Readings, from Acts describe the life of the fledgling Christian community celebrating the mission and teaching of Jesus. The Second Readings are from Revelation. The Gospel accounts come mainly from John: some recount post-Resurrection appearances of Jesus; others are taken from Jesus' earthly ministry, but have implications for the disciples after Jesus is raised from the dead.

The Gospel describes Jesus' commissioning of the disciples and then the conversion of Thomas. Thomas's doubt anticipates the readers' question: was Jesus' presence after the Resurrection physical or spiritual? John's account is not an answer but a proclamation that faith in the Risen Lord was the beginning of a new life among the disciples.

John's Gospel describes the risen Christ among the disciples, in which the breath of the Lord carries the gift of the Spirit, empowering them as the church to carry out Christ's mission of forgiveness. This was the power of the witness of life, of death conquered, of new life given, of the glorified life to come; it could overwhelm and frighten but had an inescapable pull. It was the challenge of the church to bear witness to this life, a confounding reality that even the apostle Thomas struggled to understand even as Jesus stood before him. The church was asked to bear witness to the very challenge Christ issued to Thomas: "Do not doubt but believe." The witness of the church was to life, through the preaching of Christ raised up, through the forgiveness of sins, through the healing of the sick and desperate. It was life that always drove the church, for the message always had a single purpose: "So that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name."

• **Stand with Thomas. The Risen Christ calls him forward to believe in resurrection. Do you believe?**

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

AMERICA MAGAZINE: March 28, 2016 Issue, John W. Martens.

EASTER SCHEDULE FOR THE PARISH
First Eucharist, Sunday, April 10, 10:00 AM.
Communal Anointing of the Sick, Sunday, April 17 at the 10:00 AM Mass.
Parish Social follows on the portico.
Confirmation, Thursday, April 21, 7:00 PM.
Concert Under the Dome, Friday, April 22, at 7:00 PM. David Jaronowski on the Organ.
Neophyte Mass, Saturday, April 23, 5:00 PM.
May Crowning, Sunday, May 1, 6:30 PM.
Ice Cream Social follows in the Parish Hall.
Ascension, Holy Day, Thursday, May 5.

Additional Easter Flower Memorials

Robert and Patricia Frederick
Loved Ones of Raymond and Mary Lutchko
Fiona McConnell - Connie Tippery

ANOINTING OF SICK AT EASTER MASS

On **Sunday, April 17**, at the **10:00 AM Mass**, Cathedral Parish will celebrate the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. This is the Parish's annual celebration of Christ's sacramental healing. Catholics of any age (having reached the age of reason - seven years old) who are suffering from serious illness are encouraged to participate in this healing Sacrament of the Church. Only those whose health is seriously impaired by sickness or old age are proper subjects for this Sacrament. Physical illness, addictions such as alcohol and drug abuse, along with psychological illness are reasons to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. If you have questions as to whether you are a proper candidate for this Sacrament, please call the Parish Office (944-4603) and ask to speak to one of the priests. Health care professionals will be in attendance for this healing rite. Cathedral Parish has many brothers and sisters in need of this beautiful Sacrament, please take the opportunity to receive it this Easter Season. Call the Parish Office to register to receive this important Sacrament and to arrange transportation if needed. Also, Prayer Shawls will be blessed and distributed at this special Easter Liturgy. A social follows on the Cathedral portico.

Year of Mercy: Bible Study

Reminder: You are invited to join the group of parishioners meeting on **April 19**, from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM in the Seton Suite, to break open the Word of God and reflect on God's mercy.

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: 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

Reverend Monsignor Robert C. Mazur, Rector

Reverend Father Dennis M. Kurdziel, Parochial Vicar

Deacon Michael A. Anna

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 3, 2016

Readings: Acts 5:12-16; Rev 1:9-11, 12-13, 17-19; Jn 20:19-31

MASS INTENTIONS

April 4, Monday: The Annunciation of the Lord

Readings: Is 7:1-14; 8:10; Heb 10:4-10; Lk1:26-38

6:45 AM Bill Stehman (Fred Martynuska)
8:00 AM M. Virginia Jones (Carl R. Colyer, Sr.)
12:00 PM Danyll Rougeux (Lorraine and Bob Beck)

April 5, Tuesday: Saint Vincent Ferrer, Priest

Readings: Acts 4:32-37; Jn3:7-15

6:45 AM Helen Zurilla, Birthday (Family)
8:00 AM Stan Coleman (Axinn Family)
12:00 PM Jim and Ellie Cutts & Son
7:00 PM Confirmatin

April 6, Wednesday: Easter Weekday

Readings: Acts 5:17-26; Jn 3:16-21

6:45 AM Cancer Patients and Caregivers
8:00 AM Joe Milliron (Mr. and Mrs. Tom Kilcoyne)
12:00 PM Betty McCabe (Mike Laratonda)

April 7, Thursday: Saint John Baptist de la Salle, Priest

Readings: Acts 5:27-33; Jn 3:31-36

6:45 AM M/M Ludwig Schoch (M/M Francis Dambeck)
8:00 AM Coy R. Smith, Sr., Anniv. (Wife)
12:00 PM Health of Robert Schmitt (Bobbi Schmitt Fam.)
7:00 PM Confirmation

April 8, Friday: Easter Weekday

Readings: Acts 5:34-42; Jn 6:1-15

6:45 AM Deceased Members of McGreal Family
8:00 AM Deacon John Rys, Anniversary (Family)
12:00 PM Tom Byrne (Cecelia Hollern)

April 9, Saturday: Easter Weekday

Readings: Acts 6: 1-7; Jn 6:16-21

8:00 AM George Weamer (Barbara Karl)
12:00 PM Rita Kantoski (Janet Tomlinson)

Vigil: Third Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 5:27-32, 40-41; Rv 5:11-14; Jn 21:1-19

5:00 PM John Schmitt, Birthday (Bobbi and Girls)

Please remember our sick in your Easter prayers.

Charismatic Prayer

The Charismatic Prayer Group will meet this Monday at 7:30 PM (note the time change from 7:00 PM due to Confirmation practice). Janine Anna, wife of Deacon Michael Anna, will be giving a witness talk. Please come and be blessed! All are most welcome!!

JUBILEE OF MERCY INVITATION

Cathedral Parish is invited to participate in an Evening of Reflection on the Spiritual Works of Mercy. These reflection opportunities are scheduled throughout the Diocese during the Jubilee of Mercy. Catholics from the greater Altoona area are invited to **Saint Mark Hall** (below the church), 416 Sixth Avenue, Altoona, on **Tuesday, April 12** from **6:00 PM to 9:00 PM**. There will be prayer, prepared reflections on mercy, and time for group discussion. All are invited to take part in this opportunity to reflect on God's mercy in our lives. Please call the Cathedral Parish at 944-4603 to reserve a place on Tuesday, April 12 at Saint Mark Church.

BASKET BINGO MEETING -Your help needed! On **Thursday, April 7** at **6:30 PM** an important meeting will be held in the **Seton Suite**.

Confirmations Throughout Easter Season

There are two Confirmations scheduled here at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament during this second week of the Easter Season. On Tuesday, April 5 the first of these celebrations includes the following parishes: Saint Mary and Saint Michael, Hollidaysburg; Saint Patrick, Newry; Most Holy Trinity, Huntingdon; Immaculate Conception, Dudley; Saint Catherine Parishes in Duncansville and Mount Union; Saint John the Evangelist, Everett; Saint Joseph, Williamsburg and Saint Thomas More, Roaring Spring. And on Thursday, April 7, members of Saint Nicholas, Nicktown; Saint Aloysius and Saint Francis Xavier, Cresson; Queen of Peace, Patton; Saint Benedict, Carrolltown; Saint Bernard, Hastings and Saint Demetrius, Gallitizin will gather with Bishop Barchak to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and complete their reception of the Sacraments of Initiation. We welcome them to the Cathedral and offer our congratulations and prayers for their active participation in the life of the Church.

Charismatic Prayer Group FIRE Rally Retreat:

There will be a FIRE Rally on **Saturday, April 16**, from **8:00 AM to 3:30 PM**, at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. Exciting talks and prayer experiences to ignite the flame of the Holy Spirit in your life. Music will be led by the Cathedral and St. Joan's Charismatic Prayer Goups. Cost is \$18. Students are free. Pre-registration is required as lunch will be provided. For more information or to register e-mail tonycond@aol.com or call 941-3832. All ages are welcome.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

FIRST EUCHARIST

Practice - **Thursday, April 7**, at **4:00 PM** in the Cathedral. Please be prompt. Families should be present on **Sunday, April 10** by **9:30 AM** to prepare for the Opening Procession of the 10:00 AM Mass.

BAPTISM

Our next session of Baptismal Prep is scheduled for **Thursday, April 14**, at **7:00 PM** in the Seton Suite. Class is offered every other month and is required before Baptism is scheduled. Please call the Parish Office at 944-4603 to register.

F.I.R.E. Session

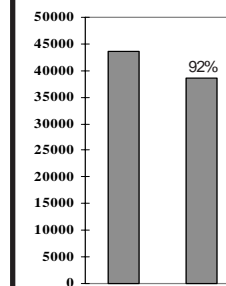
Sunday, April 10 in the Parish Hall from **6:15 PM - 8:30 PM**. Sign-up to work Basket Bingo on April 24 for a good time and Service Hours.

LONGABERGER/VERA BRADLEY

BASKET BINGO - Sunday April 24, 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 24 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 April 5. **Tickets are being sold after Mass this weekend and they will be available at the Parish Office during the week.**

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL 2016



This year the Cathedral Parish goal is set at **\$43,522.00** (this reflects a one-third reduction of \$21,728.00 from the original goal of \$65,250.00). Where do these monies go? Realize that all money collected for the Appeal goes directly to help

support the dozens of ministries sponsored by the Diocese. Your participation is vital to the success of ACA 2016. Please help our Local Church and Parish meet the set goal. Funds over goal return to the Parish and will help us with special projects. Thus far we have received gifts from 155 households and are less than \$3,300.00 away from goal having raised **\$40,231.00**. Please prayerfully consider making a gift within the next few weeks. You may return your gift to the Development Office by mail, return it to the Parish Office or drop it in the Sunday collection. Thank you for your participation in this year's Annual Catholic Appeal.

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 May 16.

Liturgical Reflection ...

During the Jubilee of Mercy, the Church is looking more closely at the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. During Lent the Diocese reflected on the Corporal Works of Mercy. Throughout the Easter Season, these inserts will review the six Spiritual Works of Mercy. Today we look at the Spiritual Work to **convert sinners**. God's face is the face of a merciful Father who is always patient. Mercy moves us to learn how to caution others by looking inward to see our own faults and opens ourselves to being cautioned by others. Merciful Christians refrain from judging. One of the best ways to caution sinners is to simply live convincingly ourselves. When situations arise at work, school, home, or the parish in which it is possible to act selfishly, mercy moves us to act in a loving way. By our action we show others to love by the self-giving love of the merciful Easter Lord.

Be Merciful, Bill Huebsch, Twenty-Third Publications, 2015, pgs. 13-14.

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

**JUBILEE
YEAR OF
MERCY**