

MARCH 20, 2016

Scripture Reflection

Luke is a master storyteller, and his account of the Passion of Jesus is a tapestry of locations, images, conversations, and details that engage the listener in the drama of Jesus’ final hours. Luke’s account begins with the Last Supper. Throughout his Gospel account Luke presents Jesus’ ministry as one of compassion. On his journey to the Cross Jesus stops to comfort the weeping “daughters of Jerusalem” and on the Cross he extends the promise of eternal life to one of the thieves. The last words of the story summarize Jesus’ life: he willingly hands over his spirit; his whole self is offered to the Father.

Palm Sunday is a festive event in which the church commemorates and re-enacts Christ’s entry into Jerusalem, a symbol of his kingship and victorious celebration. It is the beginning of the culmination of Jesus’ life’s work, both in the sense of its fulfillment and its end. It is also, as Jesus knew when he rode into Jerusalem, the entry into his death. As he approached Jerusalem, death approached him. But while this was a triumphal entry, the man for others alone comprehended the true import of his entry and why this victorious moment was a preparation for his death. It was a triumph still to be comprehended by those who followed after him and those who sang him into the city.

Why should it even have been this way? Msgr. John P. Meier writes that “as a person lives, so that person dies... Jesus’ message and praxis consisted of radical love for God and neighbor, of humble service and sacrifice for others, even for enemies. This message was based on total confidence in and surrender to the God who was coming in his kingdom as Father. Jesus’ acts of healing, exorcising, pursuing the lost sheep, eating with sinners, declaring sins forgiven, teaching the crowds and disputing with opponents were all concrete expressions of his service of love. Jesus was indeed the ‘man for others’ whose whole life interprets his death--and vice versa” (*New Jerome Biblical Commentary*, 1326).

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 14, 2016 Issue, John W. Martens.

Moving Forward In Faith

Our Capital Campaign

Gifts continue to be made to the Parish Capital Campaign. Our total in pledges to date is: **\$1,343,857.25**. The goal was set at 1,200,000; and we have met the goal for the renovation of the interior and exterior of the newly purchased building on Thirteenth Avenue, the demolition of the two buildings, and the creation of a new parking lot. Additional monies help with costs for the engineering firm drawing up the specifications for the three-floor building to be submitted to the city’s Code Office. An additional pledge was received this week. If you have not yet made your pledge (possible over five years), please consider your gift and submit your pledge either in the mail, the Sunday collection, or at the Parish Office. Thank you!

FIRE Rally Retreat:

There will be a FIRE Rally on **Saturday, April 16, 2016 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. Speakers include: Fr. Jonathan St. Andre, TOR; Bob and Marci Sutton, Sr. Linda LaMagna, CCW; Msgr. Robert Mazur and Bishop Mark Bartchak. Music will be led by the Cathedral and St. Joan Charismatic Prayer Groups. Cost is \$18. Students are free. Pre-registration is required as lunch will be provided. To register e-mail [tonycond@aol.com](mailto:tonycond@aol.com) or call 941-3832. All ages are welcome.

CCW 14th Annual Paschal Festival  
“Hands & Hearts Haiti Fet” (Celebration)

**Sunday, April 17, 2016**, at Our Lady of Loretto Hall, 279 St. Elizabeth Street, Loretto, PA 15940. The afternoon will include a buffet dinner, silent auction, an opportunity to purchase Haitian art and a program to highlight our recent Haiti Mission. Doors open at 1:45 PM; dinner will be served at 2:30 PM and the program will begin at 3:30 PM. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$15 for children under 13. Contact the CCW Incarnation Center at 886-4098 for tickets or for more information. Ticket deadline is April 8, 2016. All proceeds will help us continue our ministry in Haiti.

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

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](http://WWW.ALTOONACATHEDRAL.ORG)

FAX: 814-942-4337

E-MAIL: [ALTCATHEDRAL@DIOCESEAJ.ORG](mailto:ALTCATHEDRAL@DIOCESEAJ.ORG)

EUCHARIST:

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

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](http://www.altoonacentralcatholic.com)  
Elementary - Pre-K thru Grade 5 - 381-7011

BISHOP GUILFOYLE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL  
Web: [www.bishopguilfoyle.org](http://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](mailto:kluke@dioceseaj.org)  
Administrative Duties and Organist - 944-2044

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

**PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD’S PASSION**  
**MARCH 20, 2016**

*Readings: Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Lk 22:14--23:56*

**MASS INTENTIONS**

March 21, Monday of Holy Week

*Readings: Is 42:1-7; Jn 12:1-11*

6:45 AM Mary Hanley - Birthday Intention (Family)

8:00 AM Bishop Howard Carroll, Anniv. (Cathedral)

11:00 AM Chrism Mass

March 22, Tuesday of Holy Week

*Readings: Is 49:1-6; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38*

6:45 AM M. Virginia Jones (John & Elaine Toomey)

8:00 AM Clementine Kawtoski (Prorok Family)

12:00 PM Pat Rabine (Pat Rhoa)

March 23, Wednesday of Holy Week

*Readings: Is 50:4-9; Mt 26:14-25*

6:45 AM John Casanave (Tom and Patricia Forr)

8:00 AM Jim and Peggy Mullan (Daughter, Skip)

12:00 PM David Conrad, Anniv. (Wife and Children)

**THE THREE DAYS**

March 24, **Holy Thursday** Mass of the Lord’s Supper

*Readings: Ex 12:1-8,11-14; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15*

7:30 PM For the Poor

March 25, **Good Friday**

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

12:00 PM Celebration of the Lord’s Passion

*Readings: Is 52:13--53:12; Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9;*

*Jn 18:1--19:42*

7:30 PM Tenebrae

March 26, **Holy Saturday**

9:00 AM Office of Readings

8:30 PM Easter Vigil For the People of God

*Readings: Gn 1:1-2:2; Ex 14:15--15:1; Is 55:1-11;*

*Bar 9-15,32--4:4; Rom 6:3-11; Lk 24:1-12*

March 27, **Easter Sunday**

*Readings: Acts 10:34,37-43; Col 3:1-4; Jn 20:1-9*

8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 PM (No 5:00 PM Mass)

**Lenten Evening Prayer**

Every Sunday in Lent the Cathedral Parish gathers at 6:30 PM for Evening Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in exposition. This Liturgy concludes with Benediction. All are invited to participate in this final Lenten prayer this evening.

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



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

**Liturgical Reflection ...**

The Local Church of Altoona-Johnstown will assemble on Monday of Holy Week, March 21, at 11:00 AM in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament for the annual Chrism Mass. Bishop will gather with his college of priests assisted by his deacons with the assembled faithful from throughout the Diocese. Bishop will bless the Oil of the Catechumens, the Oil of the Sick, and Sacred Chrism. These consecrated oils will be used for the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders and the Anointing of the Sick; also, new altars will be consecrated with Sacred Chrism. Each parish community will take a portion of the three oils back to the parish for use in the appropriate liturgical celebrations. The entire diocesan family is invited to participate in this annual Liturgy.

**Mass Schedule Note:**

Due to the **Chrism Mass** celebrated at **11:00 AM** on Monday of Holy Week, there will be no Noon Mass on **Monday, March 21**. All are invited to participate in the Chrism Mass.

**Living Stations** - Our parochial school students will present the *Living Stations* on **Wednesday, March 23** at **10:00 AM** here in the Cathedral. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

**Reconciliation**

Our last opportunity for formal Confession before Easter is Wednesday, March 23 at 7:00 PM. No confessions are scheduled on Holy Saturday.

**LONGABERGER/VERA BRADLEY**

**BASKET BINGO - Sunday April 24, 2016**

**Father Kelley Hall, 429 25th Avenue, 1:00 PM**

**Tickets are available now!** The \$25.00 entry ticket includes 15 games of Basket Bingo (featuring Longaberger baskets and Vera Bradley bags) with complimentary food and beverages. For \$30.00 more you can purchase the additional Value Pack which includes: 108 door prize tickets, 6 walk-around tickets, a dobber and Bingo cards for 5 Special Games. **Tickets are being sold after all weekend Masses at the Cathedral Square Door.** You may also purchase tickets at the Parish Office weekdays between 9:30 AM and 5:30 PM. To reserve tables please call Roberta Burns at 946-0238. Donations are still being accepted to fill baskets. Call Paula Truby: 931-2838 or Roberta Burns: 946-0238 for pick-up by April 5.

**Please Remember Our Military In Prayer**

Please keep all of our Cathedral men and women in the armed services in your Easter prayer.

**CATHEDRAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**Palm Sunday Seder Meal Today!**

Class will begin at 11:00 AM in the Church Hall. All family members are encouraged to join in this prayerful experience. Parents are asked to donate individually wrapped candies to be used for Easter treats for our children. Please drop off donations by Monday, March 21st.

**Second F.I.R.E. CLASS for March Tonight!**

March 20 - Class will be held in Cathedral Hall 6:15 PM -8:30 PM.

**HOLY THURSDAY DINNER - PLEASE CALL**

At the end of Lent and as we enter *The Three Days*, the Parish will gather for **Dinner at 6:00 PM** on **March 24** in the church hall before our 7:30 PM Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper. There will be a basket placed on the serving table to receive donations (if able) for this catered meal.

**Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group**

The Charistic Prayer Group will meet on Monday, March 21, at 7:00 PM in the Cathedral.

**Liturgical Reflection ...**

**JUBILEE**

**YEAR OF**

**MERCY**

This final week of Lent the Diocese cites the Corporal Work of Mercy to **bury the dead**. As the Crucified Lord dies and is buried we remember the burial of our sisters and brothers. Do you know someone who has recently lost a parent, a spouse, a family member or friend? Take time to comfort them with both your presence and your words. Grief is a painful human experience. Survivors adjust to life with the loss of someone they loved. We are there to walk with them through the mourning process. Kind words and serious prayer are wonderful gifts to those who bury their dead. This Holy Week we remember that the dead and buried Christ rose on the third day. May we show God's mercy by bringing hope to those who grieve the loss of a loved one.

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

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION**

**Sunday, March 13, 2016 - \$8,806.00**

**Easter Flower Memorials** - If you have not deposited your special envelope in memory of a loved one this weekend (or any envelope marked clearly with your intention), please make these returns to the Parish Office tomorrow, March 21, for publication in the Easter bulletin. Thank you.

**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 135 households and are less than \$10,000.00 away from goal having raised **\$33,550.00**. 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.

**Year of Mercy: Bible Study**

You are invited to join the group of parishioners meeting next 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.

**Thank you to all who supported our Fish Luncheons. No Luncheon served Good Friday.**