

January 24, 2016

Scripture Reflection

The broad context for Ezra's reading of the Law of Moses to the people "before the Water Gate" is the return from the exile in Babylon and the reconstruction of the religious life of the people of Israel. The scene at the Water Gate is a public assembly in which the law was proclaimed to and heard by all the people. Public proclamation was a sort of ancient Internet, bringing the law to all the people and creating a sense of communal accountability. It was the task of Ezra as priest and scribe to build the people up by interpreting God's word.

Since we are in Year C of the Sunday Lectionary, our Gospel readings come from Luke. Today's text begins with the first four verses of chapter one and then skips to chapter four, omitting the infancy narratives we read during Christmas Time. Jesus is now an adult and he returns to the synagogue in Nazareth, where he reads from the scroll of the prophet, Isaiah. This dramatic moment marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry.

Jesus proclaimed the good word for the people, reading from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah, he explains Scripture by reference to himself, saying, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." Jesus interpretation is to identify himself as the one who fulfills the promises of God in Scripture. It is a bold and shocking declaration, which reorients the interpretation of Scripture for Jesus' disciples. Jesus' explanation means that Christians everywhere interpret the word of God through the clarifying lens of Christ. As the church, our task is still the same as that of Ezra and the gathered people of Israel: to hear God's word proclaimed, to ponder it and to listen. But we do so as the church, listening for the voice and guidance of the Messiah, the one who interpreted the Scripture with his life and death

- **How much do you depend on Scripture?**
- Do you read your Bible at home in prayer?**
- Do the readings proclaimed at Sunday Mass go with you throughout the week?**

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More On *Moving Forward In Faith*
Our Capital Campaign

I am pleased to provide an update on the progress of our *Moving Forward In Faith* campaign. On Monday, January 18, the campaign office reported a new pledge total of **\$1,242,373.00. We are over Goal!** This total has been generated through the generosity of approximately 290 parishioners and families. We are most grateful to our donors for their commitment and sacrifice to the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament Parish and ask that the remainder of our Parish Family join us in this important project.

Please remember that every contribution, from the smallest to the largest, is necessary since we are doing this together as a parish family. There is a supply of extra brochures and other material on the table at the Cathedral Square entrance. If you need a pledge envelope or any information about our campaign please take a brochure from the table. Thanks to your sacrifice, we will show that as a parish family we came together in our time of need.

The first monthly notices along with a specially marked "Pledge Redemption Envelope" for those who made a pledge to the campaign will start in a few weeks.

**COMING SOON TO THE CATHEDRAL
LENTEN LUNCHES**

Ash Wednesday and Fridays of Lent

11:00 AM until 1:30 PM

FISH SANDWICH

with

MACARONI & CHEESE

or

FRENCH FRIES

\$6.50

**Ash Wednesday - February 10,
Friday - February 12, Friday - February 19;
Friday - February 26, Friday - March 4,
Friday - March 11, Friday - March 18**

(No Lunch Served on Good Friday)

Eat-in or Take-out. No pre-paid orders.

Please call in orders of ten or more.

Volunteers are needed to help with food preparation and serving! Please call 944-4603

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

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

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

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JANUARY 24, 2016

Readings: Neh 8:2-4,5-6,8-10; 1 Cor 12:12-30; Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

MASS INTENTIONS

January 25, Monday: Conversion of Saint Paul, Apostle

Readings: Acts 22:3-16; Mk 16:15-18

6:45 AM Jack Swope (Wife, Patty)
8:00 AM Beverly Huber, Anniversary (Son, Tom)
12:00 PM Robert Jones (Brian and Teresa Stayer)

January 26, Tuesday: Saints Timothy and Titus, Bishops

Readings: 2 Tm 1:1-8; Mk 3:31-35

6:45 AM Michael Ratzesberger, Birthday (Family)
8:00 AM Julia Febbo (Randy and Jean Koury)
12:00 PM Edgar A. Johnston, Birth. (Mother & Family)

January 27, Wednesday: Saint Angela Merici, Virgin

Readings: 2 Sm 7:4-17; Mk 4:1-20

6:45 AM Cancer Patients and Care Givers
8:00 AM Joan Hirt, Anniv. (Children and Families)
12:00 PM Billy Geis, Anniversary (Mom and Family)

January 28, Thursday: Saint Thomas Aquinas, Doctor

Readings: 2 Sm 7:18-19,24-29; Mk 4:21-25

6:45 AM Bill Crouse (M/M Clair Robertson)
8:00 AM Theresa McCall (Theresa Heasely)
12:00 PM Msgr. Ildephonse Denny, Anniv. (Cathedral)

January 29, Friday: Weekday

Readings: 2 Sm 11:1-4,5-10,13-17; Mk 4:26-34

6:45 AM Bebe Milliron (Dr. Pete and Kathie Starr)
8:00 AM Carl Drexler (Mary Ann Bell)
12:00 PM Betty McCabe (Bob and Chris Laraia)

January 30, Saturday: Weekday

Readings: 2 Sm 12:1-7,10-17; Mk 4:35-41

8:00 AM George Weamer (Frank and Angie Lubert)
12:00 PM Brian McCaulley (Wife and Sons)

Vigil: Fourth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Readings: Jer 1:4-5,17-19; 1 Cor 12:31--13:13; Lk 4:21-30

5:00 PM Walter Mazur, Anniversary (Family)

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

BGCHS Raffle - Our students at Bishop Guilfoyle are selling raffle tickets after Masses this weekend, January 23 and 24. Each ticket costs \$5.00. Cash prizes are: first- \$10,000; second- \$1,500; third- \$1,000, and fourth- five prizes of \$100 each. The drawing will be held February 12th at halftime during the Girls Basketball game, but you do not need to be present to win.

Combined Meeting Scheduled

On **Tuesday, January 26 at 4:00 PM** in the Seton Suite there will be a meeting for all members of Cathedral Parish Council, Cathedral Finance Council, and Cathedral Building Committee.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - FUNDRAISER

The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring its annual **Feast of St. Brigid's Dance** on Saturday, January 30th at 1508 12th Avenue from 7:00 PM-11:00 PM. Tickets are \$20 and include music by Full Kilt, Irish food, and drinks. Tickets must be purchased in advance by calling Rick Tomlinson at 280-7661. Proceeds from this dance will be given to Joe Tomlinson to help pay for life saving medicine not covered by insurance. If you cannot attend the dance and would like to make a donation, you may do so by calling Jennifer Crawford at 505-6468 or Sue Myers at 935-7096. Donations for Joe are also being accepted at the Cathedral Parish Office.

LOOKING AHEAD!

Blessing of Candles

Tuesday, February 2nd, is the commemoration of the Presentation of the Lord. Forty days will have passed since the great feast of Christmas. Candles will be blessed to be used throughout the liturgical year. Blessed candles will be available to take home: \$5.00 for a votive candle and \$5.00 for a box of two blessed tapers.

Blessing of Throats

On **Wednesday, February 3rd** the Feast of Saint Blaise, bishop and martyr, throats will be blessed at all Masses, 6:45 AM, 8:00 AM and Noon. Also, throats will be blessed at 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM.

MARDI GRAS PARTY

All parishioners are invited to this year's Mardi Gras Party, **Saturday, February 6 at 6:00 PM** in the Parish Hall. Dinner will be followed by entertainment and activities for both adults and children. Beverages will be available. All are invited. **Please call the Parish Office at 944-4603 to reserve your spot for the party.** Your phone call will help us determine amounts needed for food preparation as no tickets are necessary.

Collection of Palm - Parishioners are invited to return all blessed palm from last year to be burned and used as our ashes for Ash Wednesday.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, January 17, 2016 - \$7,634.00

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

Generosity for the Right to Life

Thank you for your generous gift of **\$1,049.00** collected at the Cathedral doors last weekend. These monies helped with the cost for buses for the March For Life in Washington, D.C. last Friday.

Concerts Under the Dome

On **Sunday, February 7th** at two o'clock in the afternoon the *Concerts Under The Dome* series will present the **Indiana Brass Band**. This concert will feature the earlier rendition of the band featuring music before the American Civil War. You will also have an opportunity to hear and see the keyed brass instruments: keyed bugles, quinticlave, ophicleide, as well as a variety of early valved instruments to perform the diverse concert repertoire. Hope to see you there. A free will offering will be taken.

CONFESSIONS To Be OFFERED

Throughout The Diocese - Observing the Jubilee of Mercy and welcoming the beginning of the Lenten Season, the Local Church will make the Sacrament of Reconciliation, an encounter with the compassionate mercy of God, available throughout our eight counties the day following Ash Wednesday. On **Thursday, February 11th, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM**, the faithful are invited to receive the Sacrament of Penance here in the Cathedral and in most of our neighboring parishes. Holy Father Francis states that God's mercy knows no limits. The Lord's mercy gives hope and renews one's love for God and for our sisters and brothers. We receive the mercy and love of God in a very special way in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, then we are able to share God's mercy, understanding and compassion with others.

Liturgical Reflection ...

JUBILEE

YEAR OF

MERCY

As Jesus proclaims the reading from the prophet Isaiah at the synagogue in Nazareth, we hear the divine announcement of God's mercy. This is a year acceptable to the Lord, a Jubilee Year of Mercy. Glad tidings are brought to the poor. Liberty is proclaimed to captives. The blind recover their sight. And the oppressed are set free. God's mercy is celebrated when the poor experience the Lord's joy; when those held captive are set free; when the lost receive true sight; and when those held down firmly stand in the presence of God.

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

CHRISTIAN INITIATION

Following the Prayer of the Faithful at 10:00 AM Mass each Sunday, our Catechumens and Candidates are dismissed to reflect on the Scriptures proclaimed and to learn more about our Catholic faith and tradition. Please remember these individuals in your prayers.

CATHEDRAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sunday, January 24 - Pre-K through grade 8 classes will be held in the Cathedral Hall from 8:30 AM until 9:45 AM. **F.I.R.E. - Sunday, January 24**, 6:15 PM - 8:30 PM for students in grades 9-11 in Cathedral Hall.

Sunday, January 31 - Pre-K through grade 8 will have classes in the Cathedral Hall from 8:30 AM until 9:45 AM. **February F.I.R.E.** classes are scheduled for **February 7** (may be cancelled for Super Bowl) and **February 28**.

CONFIRMATION PREP SCHEDULE:

All Students Catholic School, Religious Ed and Home School: **Ninth Grade** Candidates and Parent/Sponsor **Baptismal Retreat, Saturday, February 13, 2016** at Father Kelley Hall **1:30 PM until 6:00 PM**. **Tenth Grade** Candidates, Parent/Sponsor **Gift of the Holy Spirit/Parable Retreat Saturday, February 27**, in Cathedral Hall **9:30 AM - 6:00 PM**.

Charismatic Prayer Group

The Charismatic Prayer Group will meet this Monday, January 25 at 7:00 PM in the Cathedral. for a Charismatic Mass. Father Bob Hilz will be the celebrant. All are welcome to attend!

Rest In Peace - Please remember in prayer Bill Crouse and Julia 'Tootsie' Febbo who died and were buried from the Cathedral this past week. May they rest in peace and may their families be comforted in the faith.