

# January 31, 2016

## Scripture Reflection

The lot of the prophet is a dismal one. Jeremiah often laments his call, wishing he hadn't been born. He is derided by the people and cursed. He's commanded not to marry or have a family. He is thrown into a cistern and left to die. And eventually, he will be dragged to Egypt. Today's reading recounts the origin of Jeremiah's call. Even before his birth, God had dedicated Jeremiah as a prophet to the nations. God will place the word in his mouth and make of the prophet a pillar of iron, a wall of brass against the land.

Today's Gospel follows that of last Sunday when Jesus read from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. The listeners' response is ambiguous. First they speak favorably about him, but soon the mood changes and they expel him from the town. They take offense when he reminds them of their history of faithlessness to the Word of God. After all, he is one of them; how dare he chastise them! By recounting this story near the beginning of Jesus' ministry, Luke alerts us to the opposing reactions that Jesus' message and mission will receive as he continues to preach the Word of God in their midst.

The scripture to which Jesus refers announces the ultimate age of fulfillment. It provides a glimpse into the kind of Messiah that Jesus will be, namely one who will refashion society for the sake of the oppressed. Here Jesus insists that God even goes beyond the confines of Israel into the territory of the Gentiles. This filled the people in the synagogue with fury. To think that the prophetic promise of fulfillment would be extended to the Gentiles was, in their estimation, pure blasphemy. In indignation, they rose up against Jesus. They drove him outside the city limits and sought to cast him down, but he escaped unscathed. The lot of the prophet is a dismal one.

• **It is difficult to speak the truth. Sometimes we are heard; many times we are not.**

*Living the Word*, Laurie Brink and Paul Colloton, World Library Publications, 2015, page 52.

*Living the Word*, Dianne Bergant and James Wallace, World Library Publications, 2012, page 51.

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## 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 25, the campaign office reported a new pledge total of **\$1,261,273.00. We are over Goal!** We are most grateful to our donors for their commitment and sacrifice to the Cathedral Parish and hope that everyone will join in this project. Please remember that every contribution is appreciated from the smallest to the largest as it comes from a member of our Cathedral Parish Family.

### 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.

**Nocturnal Adoration** - Friday, February 5, at Saint Mary Parish. Cathedral hour is 9:00 PM - 10:00 PM. New members are always welcome.

### 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.

### ANOIDING 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**

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JANUARY 31, 2016

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

### MASS INTENTIONS

February 1, Monday: Weekday

Readings: 2 Sm 15:13-14,30; 16:5-13; Mk 5:1-20

6:45 AM William 'Bill' Crouse (Jane Kiser & Betty Claar)  
8:00 AM Nozzie, Jennie, Sandy Calabrese (Family)  
12:00 PM Robert Smithmyer, Birth. (Wife and Family)

February 2, Tuesday: The Presentation of the Lord

Readings: Mal 3:1-4; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40

6:45 AM Msgr. Thomas Madden (Estate)  
8:00 AM Bebe Milliron (Tom and Patricia Forr)  
12:00 PM Pat Rabine, Anniversary (Family)

February 3, Wednesday: Saint Blaise, Bishop, Martyr

Readings: 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17; Mk 6:1-6

6:45 AM Merle & Joan Hirt (Children and Families)  
8:00 AM Helen O'Leary (Sister, Patty Swope)  
12:00 PM Intentions of Dana Foose (Blazewicz Family)

February 4, Thursday: Weekday

Readings: 1 Kgs 2:1-4,10-12; Mk 6:7-13

6:45 AM Bernard Weaver, Ann. (Jim, Elaine & Family)  
8:00 AM Sam Coen (Joyce Goss)  
12:00 PM Paul Rose (Elaine and Don Fee)

February 5, Friday: Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

Readings: Sir 47:2-11; Mk 6:14-29

6:45 AM Dick Huber (Maureen Wood)  
8:00 AM Henriette M. Thibault (M/M Paul Watkins, Jr.)  
12:00 PM Danyll Rougeux (Peggy McLucas Family)

February 6, Saturday: Saint Paul Miki and Companions

Readings: 1 Kgs 3:4-13; Mk 6:30-34

8:00 AM Deacon John Rys (M. Misitano/J. DeAntonio)  
12:00 PM Herbert J. Kutruff (M/M Pat Riley)  
Vigil: Fifth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Readings: Is 6:1-2,3-8; 1 Cor 15:1-11; Lk 5:1-11

5:00 PM M. Virginia Jones (Yeager Family)

### First Friday Communion Calls This Week

Our clergy visit the sick and home-bound of the parish each month. Call the Parish Office at 944-4603 to arrange a visit for yourself or a loved one. Please call, also, if admitted to the hospital, so our clergy may visit as soon as possible.

**Charismatic Prayer Group** - The Charismatic Prayer Group will not meet this Monday but will meet again on February 8th with Fr. Christopher Panagoplos, TOR to give a teaching. All are welcome!

### Presentation of the Lord, Tuesday

**Blessing of Candles** - Every year the Church blesses candles to be used at Liturgy, devotions, and in our homes on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, February 2nd. Forty days have passed since the celebration of Christmas. Today is the blessed day when Jesus was presented in the Temple. The candles blessed are symbols of Christ as the light of the nations. You may wish to purchase blessed candles to take home and use throughout the year on special occasions such as holidays, anniversaries, birthdays, and other special days for you and your family. A box of two blessed candles is \$5.00; a six day glass votive candle is also \$5.00.

### Blessing of Throats

**Wednesday, February 3rd**, is the memorial of Saint Blaise, bishop and martyr. This is traditionally the time for Catholics to have their throats blessed. The schedule for the blessing of throats here at Cathedral is as follows: during Mass at **6:45 AM, 8:00 AM** and **12:00 Noon**, and also at **3:00 PM** and **6:00 PM** within Scripture and Prayer.

### Bishop Guilfoyle High School Open House

We would like to invite you, your families and your friends to attend our Open House on Saturday, March 12, 2016 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. This will be a great opportunity for our local families to learn first-hand more about Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School and its excellence in academics, student participation, athletics and community and tradition. We look forward to meeting you at BG. For further information, e-mail [admissions@bguilfoyle.org](mailto:admissions@bguilfoyle.org) or call 944-3636.

### THINK SPRING - THINK BASKET BINGO SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2016

It's that time of year again for our **2nd Annual Basket Bingo**. We're asking for your support. We are in need of Gift Cards, new items such as home decor, non perishables, theme baskets, household items, and monetary donations. Items can be dropped off at the Parish Office during the week between 9:30 AM and 5:30 PM, or may be picked up by calling: Roberta Burns, 946-0238; Paula Truby, 931-2838; or Lorraine Beck, 942-7774. Tickets are now available at the Parish Office also at \$25.00 per person with value pack for an additional \$30.

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, January 24, 2016 - \$6,537.88

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

### Stewardship of Time

Help is needed on Tuesday morning, February 2, to prepare the Parish Lent/Easter mailing. If you are available to help, please drop by the Seton Suite between 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM. Thank you.

### Collection of Palm

Parishioners are invited to return all blessed palm from last year to be burned and used as ashes for Ash Wednesday, February 10. Baskets are placed at the Cathedral doors to collect this blessed palm.

### 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.

### Rest In Peace

Please remember in prayer our parishioner Rose Himmelein, who died and was buried this past week. May she rest in peace and may Judy, Gale and all of her family be comforted in the faith.

### Liturgical Reflection ...

**JUBILEE**

**YEAR OF**

**MERCY**

For Saint Paul his poetic passage on love is synonymous with mercy. To the one who is patient and kind, the mercy of God is found in that heart. Mercy bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. God's mercy is shared with us, and we in turn share that mercy with others. When grounded in the love of God, we become instruments of God's mercy to one another. Free of jealousy and self-righteousness, we mirror the mercy of God. In place of judging and accusing, we become mirrors of God's understanding, compassion, and forgiveness.

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

### Baptism Congratulations

Ryker Joss McCartney was baptized and welcomed into our Cathedral Parish Family on Saturday evening, January 23, at the 5:00 PM Mass. Congratulations to parents, Ryan and Kerri Hallinan McCartney, along with godparents, Tyler and Aunt Jenna, and those relatives able to brave the snow storm to be part of this blessed event.

### CATHEDRAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**Sunday, January 31** - Pre-K through Grade 8 will have classes in the Cathedral Hall from 8:30 AM until 9:45 AM. **Sunday, February 7 - No Classes** are scheduled for Pre-K through Grade 8.

**F.I.R.E. Class:** Originally scheduled for Sunday, February 7, has been cancelled! Students are asked to be in attendance at the Parish Mardi Gras Party on Saturday, February 6, and to help as needed! **Next FIRE class is Sunday, February 21.**

**FIRST EUCHARIST** - On **Wednesday, February 24**, the Second of three Parent and Student Sessions for all young parishioners receiving First Eucharist this year will be held from 6:30 PM until 8:00 PM in Seton Suite.

### CONFIRMATION PREP SCHEDULE:

All Students Catholic School, Religious Ed and Home Schooled: **Ninth Grade** Candidates and Parent/Sponsor **Baptismal Retreat, Saturday, February 13, 2016** at Father Kelley Hall 1:30 PM until 6:00 PM.

**Eucharistic Adoration with Bishop Mark Bartchak Tuesday, February 23, 2016** at 6:30 PM in the Cathedral. All students in Confirmation Prep are encouraged to attend. A social with Bishop will follow in the Parish Hall.

**Tenth Grade** Candidates, Parent/Sponsor **Gift of the Holy Spirit/Parable Retreat Saturday, February 27**, in Cathedral Hall 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM.