

January 17, 2016

Scripture Reflection

Joy and delight are the key features of the relationship between God and Jerusalem. The power of the marital imagery to define the relationship between God and his people is why Jesus begins his ministry in the Gospel of John at the wedding in Cana, the only Gospel in which this scene occurs. Jesus' ministry, therefore, begins with a party, overflowing with wine. Well, it was overflowing, which is why Jesus' mother intercedes and encourages him to rectify the situation "when the wine gave out." Jesus seems to challenge Mary when he responds: "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." Mary's response, "Do whatever he tells you," shows that while this was not Jesus' ultimate "hour," it was time to reveal his divine nature and mission.

The wedding feast of Cana is the setting for Jesus' first miracle in his public ministry--another "epiphany," or manifestation of God's intervention in human affairs. Like the Gospel for Epiphany about the Magi and last week's Gospel about the baptism of Jesus, this story from John the Evangelist announces that God transforms the human condition. The changing of the water into wine is not intended to be an exhibition, but a "sign" of the glory of God that Jesus would continue to reveal throughout his mission.

The Gospel of John calls this event, and all of Jesus' miracles, "signs," and this was the first of Jesus' signs, which revealed his glory and caused his disciples to believe in him. The wedding at Cana also is a sign that as God rejoices over his bride Jerusalem, so Jesus the bridegroom invites his bride, the church, into nuptial relationship. This is a marriage that will last forever, an eternal joy, like a wedding reception where the good wine never runs out.

• **Think about marital imagery as an analogy for the relationship between God and God's people in the Bible. How have you experienced God's love? Is it sometimes a troubled relationship for you? Have you experienced your relationship with God as a wedding reception overflowing with wine?**

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Jubilee of Mercy

This is a Holy Year when believers are called to celebrate God's mercy. Perhaps you can think of a particular aspect of your life where mercy could be more evident. How are you doing in the area of patience? Are you a good listener or do you start thinking of your response even before the other person is done speaking? Isn't it interesting that we can be very patient with outsiders, but when it comes to family (spouse, parents, sisters and brothers) our patience is really tested. Pray to be more merciful. Ask God to give you the gift of patience.

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.

ACCS 200 CLUB DINNER

Altoona Central Catholic School is having a 200 Club Dinner on **January 23rd at 6:00 PM** at Father Kelly Hall. \$100.00 gets two people in the door, all their food and drink, and a chance to win money. The top three prizes are \$3,000.00, \$2,000.00, and \$1,000.00 which can be won individually or split between the final five contestants. Every 20th number drawn will also win \$100. We will sell chances for the 200th ball which will be placed in the drawing when we are down to 5 balls (leaving six contestants). At this point one more ball will be drawn out and the remaining five contestants will decide to continue or split the \$6,000 prize money. Any wishing to purchase tickets can call ACCS at 814-381-7011.

Calendar of Prizes 2016 - Missing Numbers

Thank you to all who supported this annual fundraiser. However, there are still 17 calendars not returned: **028, 038, 081, 369, 403, 471, 609, 666, 702, 807, 810, 829, 830, 888, 911, 941, and 949**. If anyone has unsold tickets please return them to the Parish Office as we have several people waiting to purchase tickets. The rectory door has a mail slot accessible at any time. The office is open from 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM Monday through Friday.

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

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

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

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JANUARY 17, 2016

Readings: *Is 62:1-5; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11*

MASS INTENTIONS

January 18, Monday: Weekday

Readings: *1 Sm 1:1-8; Mk 1:14-20*

6:45 AM Michael Kling, Ann. (Mom, Dad, Siblings)
8:00 AM Margie McConnell (Skip Cowan & Family)
12:00 PM Paul Rose (Freida Conrad & Family)

January 19, Tuesday: Weekday

Readings: *1 Sm 16:1-13; Mk 2:23-28*

6:45 AM Michael Febbo (Pete & Erica Russo)
8:00 AM Stan 'Beamer' Wilinski (McNelis All-Stars)
12:00 PM Barbara Riley Becker (Siblings, Marjorie/John)

January 20, Wednesday: Saint Fabian/Saint Sebastian

Readings: *1 Sm 17: 32-33,37,40-51; Mk 3:1-6*

6:45 AM Eileen Humphreys (Cathedral Parish)
8:00 AM Mildred Mauceri (Mary Lysinger)
12:00 PM Irene Kelly Wood, Ann. (Daughter, Maureen)

January 21, Thursday: Saint Agnes, Virgin, Martyr

Readings: *1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7; Mk 3:7-12*

6:45 AM Joan Hirt (Barb & Steve Gerhart)
8:00 AM Henriette Thibault (John & Mary Louise Butler)
12:00 PM Ann Civiello, Anniversary (Family)

January 22, Friday: Giving Thanks - Gift of Human Life

Readings: *1 Sm 24:3-21; Mk 3:13-19*

6:45 AM Deceased of McGreal Family
8:00 AM Bill, Lee, Billy Scholz (Kilcoyne Family)
12:00 PM Bebe Milliron, Birthday (Dan Milliron)

January 23, Saturday: Saint Vincent, Deacon, Martyr

Readings: *2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27; Mk 3:20-21*

8:00 AM Argenia 'Arg' Sposato (Book Club Friends)
12:00 PM Rita Kantoski (Family)

Vigil: Third Sunday In Ordinary Time

Readings: *Neh 8:2-4, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Cor 12:12-30; Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21*
5:00 PM Dick Huber (Catherine Nagle)

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Every year Christians throughout the world pray for unity within the Christian household. The week is annually observed from January 18 through January 25. Pray for unity among all the baptized.

Please Remember Our Military In Prayer

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



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

Liturgical Reflection ...

On Friday, January 22, all dioceses in the United States of America are observing a Day of Prayer for the **Legal Protection of Unborn Children**. On this day of the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision, *Roe vs. Wade* (1973), the Church in America prays for the violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion, and of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee to the right to life. Members of the Diocese are encouraged to go to Mass on this day, pray the rosary, the chaplet of Divine Mercy, fast and abstain, and join the Altoona-Johnstown family in praying the following:

O, God, who adorn creation with splendor and beauty, and fashion human lives in your image and likeness, awaken in every heart reverence for the work of your hands, and renew among your people a readiness to nurture and sustain your precious gift of human life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

CELEBRATING GOD'S GIFT OF LIFE

Bishop Mark Bartchak will preside over a *Prayer Service Celebrating God's Gift of Life* here in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament on Thursday, January 21 at 7:00 PM. All are invited and encouraged to participate in this special Liturgy of the Hours which will include a Blessing for the Pilgrims marching in Washington, D.C. on Friday, January 22.

Collection for the March for Life

Citizens Concerned for Human Life are accepting donations at the doors of the Cathedral this weekend to offset the costs for the March to Washington, DC on Friday. Please be generous.

Parish Liturgy Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 20 at 12:45 PM in the Seton Suite. Lunch will be provided and we will discuss Lent/Easter and *Jubilee of Mercy* Holy Year plans for Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament Parish.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS PLEASE NOTE:

A new liturgical ministry schedule for January 30/31 through February 27/28 is being prepared. Unavailable dates or changes are needed asap. New schedules will be mailed on Wednesday.

Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group

The Charismatic Prayer Group will NOT meet this Monday, January 18. A Charismatic Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Bob Hilz, TOR on Monday, January 25, at 7:00 PM here in the Cathedral.

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.

Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest

Saturday, January 23 at St. Mary's Memorial Hall for boys and girls ages 9-14. Registration/check-in at 12:30 PM, warm-up/practice 12:30-1:00 PM and competition begins at 1:00 PM. Winners will advance to District Finals in Tipton in February. Call 329-6094 or 502-7413.

Liturgical Reflection ...

JUBILEE

YEAR OF

MERCY

God's mercy is evident in the Gospel today of the wedding at Cana in Galilee. In the midst of the wedding reception the wine runs out. The Mother of the Lord intercedes and seeks the help of Jesus. Mercy and understanding are pivotal in the gospel story. To avoid embarrassment and, perhaps, shame, the Lord turns water into wine. This is an epiphany, that is, a manifestation of God's intervention in human affairs. The glory of God shines forth in the mercy and love of Jesus Christ at Cana in Galilee.

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

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, January 10, 2016 - \$8,127.00

Christmas Collection 2015 - \$19,833.65

Christmas Flower Memorials 2015 - \$3,729.00

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

Capital Campaign Note: When making a payment on your pledge, please clearly mark your check memo line, Capital Campaign or Moving Forward in Faith. If you want your gift to be kept private, place it in a separate envelope from your regular offertory gift marked as above, and it will go directly to Monsignor Mazur.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

No Classes are scheduled for today, **January 17**. **FIRE Class** will meet next **Sunday, January 24**.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

First Eucharist - On **Wednesday, January 20**, the FIRST 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. Mark your calendars also for sessions on Wednesdays, February 24 and March 23.

BGCHS Raffle - Our students at Bishop Guilfoyle are selling raffle tickets after Masses next 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.

**THINK SPRING
THINK BASKET BINGO
APRIL 3, 2016**