

NOVEMBER 27, 2016

Scripture Reflection

Advent often makes us think of the theme of waiting. The message of this week’s Gospel reading is simple: “Stay awake! Christ is on his way.” Be prepared like Noah, who alone of his generation believed God’s promises to be true. Be prepared even if your preparation mystifies your friends and family. Be prepared, even in the midst of everyday activities.

In all of the readings, people are engaged in a journey. The prophet Isaiah summons all the nations to make a pilgrimage to the house of the Lord that is set on a mountain top. The summit of the mountain is the symbolic dwelling of the Lord. Jesus exhorts the disciples to be vigilant in their daily tasks; whether in the field or at the mill, they must be watchful for the coming of the Lord. As the season of Advent begins, we, too, are encouraged to look for all the times and ways that the Lord intervenes in our daily life.

The Gospel of Matthew addresses a crisis. The generation for which it was written, 50 years or more after Jesus’ death and resurrection, was the first to accept that the Lord’s return would be delayed. Fervent belief in Christ’s imminent arrival energized an earlier generation of Christians. By Matthew’s time that same belief brought Christians mockery and doubt. “What do we mean when we say Christ will come again?” Matthew’s response lays the groundwork for Christian ethics. “Stay awake! No one knows the day or the hour. Act always as if Christ were near.” Christ’s arrival is not about the future, but the present. Christians must live in such a way that Christ could come at any moment and find them ready to meet the Lord.

The four weeks of Advent are a time to recommit to discovering Christ in our lives. As the lights of the wreath multiply, we must intensify our search for Christ’s subtle light. This is a fitting time to undertake days of reflection, or practices like a daily examen or spiritual inventory. It is also a time for new joy. Training our hearts throughout Advent to catch sight of Christ’s daily arrival will provide new reasons for Christmas joy. Let us stay awake, then! Christ is on his way.

• Advent is a time of light and hope. Where do you need light in your life? Where do you need hope restored?

AMERICA MAGAZINE: November 21, 2016 Issue, Michael Simone, S.J.
AT HOME WITH THE WORD 2016. (C) 2015 ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO, LITURGY TRAINING PUBLICATIONS, 3949 South Racine Avenue CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60609. REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION.

Welcome and Congratulations!

Cathedral Parish celebrated the *Rite of Welcoming and Acceptance* last Sunday, November 20 at the 10:00 AM Mass. We warmly acknowledge two catechumens seeking Baptism at the Easter Vigil, Jason Burkle and Madisyn Runk. We also acknowledge these candidates, already one with us in Baptism, who seek full communion within the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil: Courtney Becker, Mickey Fields, Kelsey Henry, Brandon Leeper, Carlee McCaulley, and Heather Ritchey. Having completed *Inquiry*, these catechumens and candidates are now entering the period of sharing the Word of God and learning about the Catholic Faith. They are on journey to the Easter Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. We extend a warm, hospitable welcome to these individuals.

Mail Ministry to Elderly, Homebound, Seriously Sick, and Grieving

As we enter our third year of ministry, our thirty-person-committee would like to say thank you for your support. Many card recipients, and often their families, have expressed gratitude for the simple gift of a card sent on behalf of Cathedral Parish. Some ongoing relationships have developed into visits by phone on in person. Deb Jeffco shared at a recent meeting, “I have been able to become friends with an elderly couple through my weekly visit. I was even invited to their wedding! I can feel their joy as we share a prayer and laugh together. And all this started with a card.”

We continue to ask for the Parish’s help in identifying family members, friends, and neighbors who may also be encouraged by a simple message and greeting that comes to them through the mail from the “Cathedral Parish Family.”

We also need your help. We would like to expand our ministry to people who are seriously ill and those who need special prayer in their time of grief from losing a loved one. This means we will need more folks on the committee. Everyone is invited to join.

Please call the Parish Office if you have information about men, women, children and youth in need of our simple outreach. Please call, also, if you want to join this important ministry. Lastly, we can always use more stamps!

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: 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

CHRISTIAN INITIATION TEAM - 944-4603

CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME - 944-4603

MAIL MINISTRY TO ELDERLY, HOMEBOUND, SERIOUSLY SICK, AND GRIEVING - 944-4603

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL
Web: www.holytrinitycatholic.school
Altoona Campus (Pre-K thru Grade 4) - 381-7011
Hollidaysburg Campus (Pre-K thru Grade 4) - 695-6112
Middle School Campus (Grades 5 thru 8) - 942-7835

BISHOP GUILFOYLE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
Web: www.bishopguilfoyle.org - 944-4014

DIRECTORS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Chris Laraia - Pre-K thru 8 - 312-7317
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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 27, 2016

Readings: Is 2:1-5; Rom 13:11-14; Mt 24:37-44

MASS INTENTIONS

November 28, Monday: Advent Weekday

Readings: Is 4:2-6; Mt 8:5-11

6:45 AM Msgr. Paul Panza and Family

8:00 AM Lori Crilley (Kathie Civils)

12:00 PM Danyll Rougeux (Sandy & Sal Randazzo)

November 29, Tuesday: Advent Weekday

Readings: Is 11:1-10; Lk10:21-24

6:45 AM Health of Patricia Wall (Sister, Sylvia)

8:00 AM Derek Behe (Cathedral Parish)

12:00 PM Ron Fiochetta (Mark & Diane Moschella)

November 30, Wednesday: Saint Andrew, Apostle

Readings: Rom 10:9-18; Mt 4:18-22

6:45 AM Max Kessler (Mary Conrad)

8:00 AM Bernadette Weakland (Doris Smith / Fam.)

12:00 PM Jim Davisdon (Pat Rhoads)

December 1, Thursday: Advent Weekday

Readings: Is 26:1-6; Mt 6:21,24-17

6:45 AM George D. Barry (Green, Tyler, Maryl, Barrys)

8:00 AM Joanna Tetanich (Judy Kotzatoski)

12:00 PM Pat Rabine (Helen & Andrew Farrell)

December 2, Friday: Advent Weekday

Readings: Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31

6:45 AM Marian Clemens (Bob and Jean Jones)

8:00 AM John Bauer (Gina Romani)

12:00 PM Betty McCabe (Brooks and Karen Smith)

Decamber 3, Saturday: Saint Francis Xavier, Priest

Readings: Is 30:19-21,23-26; Mt 9:35--10:1,5,6-8

8:00 AM Catherine Mincin (Stan and Susan Galant)

12:00 PM Herbert J. Kutruff, Ann. (Sam & Judy Kokolis)

Vigil: Second Sunday of Advent

Readings: Is 11:1-10; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

5:00 PM Argenia 'Arg' Sposeto (A. & B. Winkler)

Pray For Our Sick - Remember our sisters and brothers who are weakened by illness. Prayers are sometimes the best prescribed medicine.

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• **Annual Marriage Social/Winterfest** •

• On **Saturday, December 10 at 6:00 PM** in •
• Cathedral Hall for Cathedral couples and •
• widowed parishioners. Be sure to sign up at the •
• Cathedral Square door this weekend or call •
• Chris Laraia at 312-7317 by November 30th. •
• Reservations required, sorry, no walk-ins please. •
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Advent Season Begins

The Advent wreath is lighted. The Church displays her violet colors. The Scriptures proclaim anticipation and hope. There is no *Glory to God* at Mass. We prepare. The long awaited Messiah is coming into our lives, now and at the end of time. Advent is a season of joy. Rejoice in the knowledge that God comes to be with his people. We will be collecting non-perishable food items, paper products and cleaning products throughout the season of Advent. Baskets are placed at the church doors to receive donations whenever you visit the church. Be conscious of the needy this Advent

Liturgical Note

Advent begins a new liturgical year. The Sunday readings are from Cycle A, Gospel of Matthew; the weekday readings are from Cycle I.

Families Needed - If your family would like to carry the Advent candles on a particular Advent Sunday, please call Amelia at 944-3674 or the Parish Office.

Advent Evening Prayer with Exposition and Benediction

On the Sundays of Advent and Christmas we will gather at 6:30 PM to pray the Hours of the Church. Families are encouraged to make this a part of their Advent and Christmas prayer. We are the Parish Family of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, and all those with a deep love of the Eucharist are invited to be present before the Sacrament in exposition on the altar. Please join us for Evening Prayer this First Sunday of Advent.

Christmas For Families

All Cathedral Families and Individuals are encouraged to help others this Advent. We are sponsoring two families through Catholic Charities and hope to help at least three of our Cathedral families in need this year. Confirmation classes are shopping for specific items for four girls and five boys ranging in age from 2 1/2 to 17. Gift certificates for your favorite stores, markets, gas stations, etc. would be great additions; as well as books, craft projects, school supplies, educational toys, and comfy blankets. We will need the items by Friday, December 9th. Call Jean Koury at 934-7316 with any questions. Students will wrap gifts on December 9th.

Advent/Christmas Prayer Partners

Sign-up forms are available this weekend and next at tables located at the church doors. You may complete the form or pick one up to take home with you to return by mail.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, November 20, 2016 - \$7,262.00

Thank You - Many people do many things here at the Cathedral Parish. We are grateful for your sharing of time and talent. We particularly note the following: Gretchen Packard for the beautiful cornucopia for Thanksgiving; Jim Seiler for the four beautiful Advent candles on the Advent wreath; Lorraine Beck for the beautiful ribbons on each of the Advent candles.

Vendor of Religious Articles To Visit Cathedral

Next weekend, **December 3 and 4, *Land of Peace*** representatives will offer articles from the Holy Land for sale in the Vestibule of the Cathedral.

Liturgical Readers

To those who were unable to make our meeting this past Monday, the **Workbook for Lectors 2017** is available in the main sacristy after Masses this weekend. Please use this workbook throughout the year as a source of prayer and preparation for the weekly proclamation of God's Word at Mass. Thank you to the men and women who share their time and talent as readers at Liturgy. The Parish is

Baptism Congratulations!

On Sunday, November 20, Jesse and Katie Mangiacarne presented twin boys, Carson Louis and Connor Philip, for Baptism here in the Cathedral. May the graces of the Sacrament of Baptism strengthen both our children and the adults who care for them.

Expectant Parents Please Note:

Our next Session of **Baptismal Preparation** is scheduled for **Monday, December 5 at 7:00 PM** in the Seton Suite. This required class is offered every other month and you don't have to wait until your child is born to attend class. Godparents are encouraged to attend as well. Call the Parish Office at 944-4603 to register.

Holy Trinity Fundraiser - Cheese Ball Sale

Cheese balls are available after all Masses at the Cathedral Square door this weekend sharing the table where our Calendar of Prizes 2017 continue to be sold. Each Cheese Ball costs \$6.00; they come in a variety of flavors. Please help support our Catholic School.

Parents of Reconciliation Class Please Note:

Our third and final Session of Preparation is scheduled for this **Tuesday, November 29**, in the Seton Suite from **6:30 PM - 8:00 PM**. All students **MUST** be accompanied by an adult.*First Reconciliation will be held at the Advent Penance Service on Wednesday, December 14 at 6:30 PM. A light reception will follow in the Cathedral Hall.

F.I.R.E. Sessions

Students in Grades 9 -11 with parent or guardian, meet in the Seton Suite from 6:15PM until 8:30 PM on **December 4 and 18**.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION For Teens

Saturday, December 10, at St. Mark Parish, Altoona

Join Bishop Mark at 10:00 AM and spend some time in the presence of Jesus. There will be food and social time in the parish hall after Adoration.

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 also call, or have a family member call, if you are admitted to the hospital so that Father can visit as soon as possible. The hospital does not provide us with the names and room numbers of Cathedral parishioners, so your call is very important to us.

EUCCHARISTIC FESTIVAL OF PRAISE - Monday, November 28, at 7:00 PM in the Cathedral. Deacon Kevin Nester, Holy Trinity, Huntingdon, will be preaching.

Sponsored by Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group.

Liturgical Reflection ...

***ORDER OF
CELEBRATING
MATRIMONY***

The United States Catholic Conference of Bishops has directed the use of the revised Order of Celebrating Matrimony. The former rite was initially issued in 1969 following the Second Vatican Council. The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown begins the use of the revised ritual beginning this first week of Advent. Workshops have occurred throughout the Diocese for clergy and liturgical musicians. The liturgical inserts will reflect on the theology of matrimony, the gift of married couples to the Church, and the different aspects of the revised ritual. It is hoped that all Catholics will gain a deepened appreciation and love for this great Sacrament of the Church.

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