

**DECEMBER 28, 2014**

*Scripture Reflection*

Our Gospel from Luke today is a tale of God's actions through the devout to produce future hope. The parents of Jesus are presented by Luke as devout observers of the Jewish law who fulfilled what was required of them to do for Jesus. Only in this Gospel do we read about Mary and Joseph taking the infant Jesus to Jerusalem to fulfill the Law (Luke 2:22-24). While there they meet two godly people. Simeon is described as "righteous and devout" and Anna as a prophetess who "never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer" (2:25, 37).

Families are so different. Many families have a mother and a father living together with children. Some families have children living with a mother; some have children living with a father. In other families, stepsisters and stepbrothers and half sisters and half brothers live together. Some families have no sisters or brothers at all. Some families have a husband and wife, and no children. Some families have grandparents living with their grandchildren. Some have uncles or aunts or nieces or nephews living with them. Some families have one single person living alone in the house. Some families are made up of two people that are really good friends and enjoy being roommates. But the one thing all families have in common is love.

Today's Gospel passage is about the initial and long-term maintenance of the relationship with God and the hopes to which such a life leads. Mary and Joseph start their son out on the right foot, and Simeon and Anna have grown old in righteousness and worship. Beginning and maintaining the relationship with God opens one to God's future expansive plans.

• **What do you wish for your family? How can you be a better member of your family?**

*Living the Word*, Daniel Sylva and James Wallace, World Library Publications, 2008, page 30.

*In Touch with the Word*, Lisa-Marie Calderone-Stewart, Saint Mary's Press, 2004, page 58.

2015 **LIVE FROM THE CATHEDRAL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** 2015  
**10:00 AM SUNDAY MASS**  
on radio  
**WFBG 1290 AM**

Please support the following sponsors of this weekly broadcast for those unable to get to Sunday Mass

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**Cathedral Music Ministry**

Join us for an evening with Mary Castner as she performs titles from her album, "By Faith", along with some new songs. The concert will be held on **Saturday, January 3, 2015** at 7:30 PM! For more information on Mary, visit her website at <http://www.marycastnermusic.com/>. Her album is available for download on iTunes, Amazon, eMusic, Google Play, and Spotify. A free will offering will be received afterwards.

**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.

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

**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 11:15 AM - 12:30 PM  
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**

**EUCCHARIST:**

<b>Sunday:</b>	<b>5:00 PM (Vigil)</b>	<b>Holyday:</b>	<b>5:30 PM (Vigil)</b>	<b>Weekday:</b>	<b>6:45 AM</b>
	<b>8:00 AM</b>		<b>8:00 AM</b>		<b>8:00 AM</b>
	<b>10:00 AM</b>		<b>12:00 Noon</b>		<b>12:00 Noon</b>
	<b>12:00 Noon</b>		<b>5:30 PM</b>	<b>Saturday:</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>
	<b>5:00 PM</b>				<b>12:00 Noon</b>

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

**Most Reverend Mark L. Bartchak, Bishop**

**Reverend Monsignor Robert C. Mazur, Rector**

**Reverend Father Dennis M. Kurdziel, Parochial Vicar**

**Reverend Father John J. Slovickovski, In Residence**

**Deacon John E. Rys**

**Deacon James F. Leap, Senior Deacon**

**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**

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH**

**DECEMBER 28, 2014**

Readings: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21; Lk 2: 22-40

**MASS INTENTIONS**

December 29, Monday: Fifth Day-Octave of Nativity

Readings: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35

- 6:45 AM Don and Dorothy Hanekamp (Family)
- 8:00 AM Don Godish (Mary Lysinger)
- 12:00 PM Thomas Reighard, Anniv. (Tina Faltzwiez)

December 30, Tuesday: Sixth Day-Octave of Nativity

Readings: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40

- 6:45 AM Terrence Shea (John & Judith Mierlg)
- 8:00 AM Rose Grillo Skupien (Anna Jacobs)
- 12:00 PM Theresa Kuny (Mike & Suzan)

December 31, Wednesday: Seventh Day-Octave of Nativity

Readings: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18

- 6:45 AM Dan Savine (Don and Sherry Snively)
- 8:00 AM Susie Elmers (Duane and Nancy Elmers)
- 12:00 PM Dec. Christian Mothers (Cathedral C.M.)

**Vigil of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**  
**5:30 PM** Margaret McConnell (Mark Sanker Family)  
 January 1, Thursday: **Mary, the Holy Mother of God**  
 Readings: Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21  
**8:00 AM** Vi Franchio (Fran Prosperi)  
**10:00 AM** For People of God  
**12:00 PM** Rita Shannon Dittsworth (John Conti Family)  
No evening Mass

January 2, Friday: Saints Basil and Gregory, Bishops

Readings: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28

- 6:45 AM Nozzie, Jennie & Sandy Calabrese (Family)
- 8:00 AM Jubilee Blessings, Sister Beverly (Scotty Harris)
- 12:00 PM Father J. Joseph Strittmatter (J. Tomlinson)

January 3 Saturday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus

Readings: 1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Jn 1:29-34

- 8:00 AM Jim Roland (Cathedral R.C.I.A. Group)
  - 12:00 PM Rob Beiswenger (M/M Edward Lapczywski)
- Vigil: The Epiphany of the Lord

Readings: Is 60: 1-6; Eph 3:2-3,5-6; Mt 2:1-12

- 5:00 PM Joseph C. Prendergast (Nephew, Butch)

**Charismatic Prayer Group**

The Charismatic Prayer Group will NOT meet on Monday, December 29th. We will resume our meetings on Monday, January 5th, 2015.

**Please Remember Our Military In Prayer**

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



**Liturgical Reflection ...**

This Thursday, January 1, is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. It is a holy day of obligation for the faithful in the United States. During this Christmastime, Thursday's Mass honors and remembers Mary, the Mother of God. This is her most ancient title in Christendom. As the creche is displayed in church, we look upon Mary who bore the incarnate Word of God. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal encourages each local church to designate particular days of prayer throughout the liturgical year. Thursday is a Day of Prayer in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown for World Justice and Peace. As a new civil year begins, we gather to pray with Mary, the Mother of God, and ask God's blessing for justice and peace throughout 2015.

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal, Number 373.

2014, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 South Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648.

**NOTE OF APPRECIATION**

*The priests, deacons and staff are most appreciative of your cards, gifts, baked goods, fruits and assortments. Your taking the time to be especially kind is affirmative to our ministry here at Cathedral Parish. Your generosity to us has added to the delight of the holy season. Thank you for taking the time to remember.*

**Liturgical Ministers, Parish Council, Finance Council and Catechists**

You are invited to come to the Main Sacristy after Mass to receive a Christmas gift in the name of the parish. Thank you for all you do in service to the Cathedral Parish. Your time and talent are acknowledged and appreciated.

**Christmas Evening Prayer with Exposition and Benediction**

On the Sundays of the Christmas Season, **December 28, January 4 and 11**, we will gather at **6:30 PM** to pray the Hours of the Church. Families are encouraged to make this a part of their 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. Evening Prayer and Benediction go about forty minutes.

**CHRISTIAN INITIATION**

Our Catechumens and Catechumens have been on break for Christmas. We continue to remember them in prayer as they journey to the Easter Sacraments. Next Sunday, they will return to 10:00 AM Mass and will be dismissed to reflect on the Scriptures proclaimed and to learn more about our Catholic faith and tradition.

**Appreciation**

Thank you to all parishioners who participated in the Cathedral *Christmas for Families Program*. Your donations of gift cards and requested clothing were deeply appreciated by many people. A special thank you to Jean Koury who coordinated this project, and to all those who did the shopping!

**Baptism Congratulations!**

On Saturday evening, December 20, Nico Cruz Pyo was baptized and welcomed into our Cathedral Parish Family. Congratulations to parents, Stephen and Jodi, along with brother, Dominic. May the graces of the Sacrament of Baptism strengthen both our children and the adults who care for them.

**Catholics Returning Home**

Have you thought about coming home to the Catholic Church? Call the Parish Office at 944-4603 for information on the date and time of the next *Catholics Returning Home* informal listening session.

**Nocturnal Adoration** - Friday, January 3rd at Saint Rose of Lima. Cathedral hour is 8:00 PM- 9:00 PM.

**Liturgical Reflection ...**

**General Instruction of the Roman Missal Third Edition**

Throughout the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, the Church directs that the ordering of the Mass should lead to the full, active, and conscious participation of all assembled for the celebration of the Eucharist. The scripture readings, the Mass prayers, the music, and the various liturgical roles of the ordained and lay faithful all enhance the participation of those gathered to celebrate the Lord's Supper. The Church encourages various accommodations to the cultures and traditions of particular regions. Today is a wonderful opportunity to bless families following the Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful) on this feast of the Holy Family. As families gather for the Christmas holidays for Mass, it is an appropriate occasion to add this prayer to the Eucharist.

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal, Numbers 5, 17, 18, 20, 23, and 24.

2014, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 South Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648.

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION**

**Sunday, December 21 - \$10,529**

The Christmas Season concludes with the Baptism of the Lord on Sunday, January 11th. Christmas totals - Christmas Collection and Christmas Flower Memorials - will be provided in the January 18th bulletin as the Cathedral continues to receive your generous gifts.

**Calendar of Prizes 2015**

Calendar of Prizes 2015 are being sold at the Cathedral Square door after all Masses. Like last year, each calendar costs \$20.00. There is a \$10.00 daily prize; an additional \$1,000.00 in special monthly prizes awarded throughout the year; and a grand prize of \$5,000.00 for a Family Trip or Cash Option. The Calendar of Prizes makes a great January birthday gift. We have less than **100** tickets left to sell. Don't be left out! Get yours today! Ticket sellers are asked to make their returns as soon as possible so that we can account for all 1000 tickets before New Year's Day when our prize is \$50.00.

**Gifting the Cathedral Parish**

As wills and insurance policies are established with your attorney, remember the Cathedral Parish as a beneficiary of your estate. Perhaps you would like to direct your gift to a particular ministry or project at the Parish. Please realize that Mass Stipends go directly to fulfilling that canonical wish and do not aid the financial life of the Parish.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**No Classes** are scheduled for **December 28th**. **FIRE Classes** for January 11th and 25th.