

DECEMBER 25, 2014

Scripture Reflection

The story is told of a nativity play at a Catholic middle school. The parents had arrived along with the pastor for the play. The sister in charge said to the pastor that she had trouble with the boy who was playing the innkeeper because he had his heart set on playing Saint Joseph. Rehearsals had not gone well, but she was sure everything would be fine in the performance.

As Mary and Joseph knocked at the inn, the innkeeper gruffly yelled out, "Who's there?" "Joseph, and my wife Mary," came the reply. The innkeeper did not budge, so Joseph knocked again. The innkeeper barked, "Who's there?" "Joseph, and my wife Mary," came the reply. The twelve year old innkeeper put his head around the door and blurted out, "Mary and the baby can come in, but Joseph, you can get lost!"

With that, Joseph burst into tears; the shepherds tore into the innkeeper; and the three wise men started to rumble with the children who were inside the camel costume. Sister, half angry and half in tears, turned to the audience and said, "This wasn't the way it was supposed to go," and it took ten minutes to restore order.

The pastor thought it was great. What he liked most about it was that it was human and real. For a long time we have cleaned up Christmas too much. The original Christmas must have been a terribly messy affair. Traveling for days in the last month of her pregnancy, Joseph had to help his wife have a child in a cave where the smell of animals must have been shocking.

Scripture tells us that our God is Emmanuel, meaning *God is with us*. God meets us as we are. Emmanuel leads us to find the way to a life that has meaning and purpose, a life that ultimately leads to eternal life. This Christmas we celebrate the presence of the Word of God dwelling among us. We are very human and imperfect. God meets us here. And we have reason to celebrate.

Preaching to the Converted, Richard Leonard, Paulist Press, 2006, page 243

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.

Parish in Midst of Consideration

Religious Education for the Parish has been taking place in the Cathedral Hall. Last winter the furnace broke in the former school. Classes in the Hall are a temporary situation until a more permanent location can be provided. Both the former school building and convent building are in need of significant renovations and upgrades to meet code regulations. A building is for sale near the Cathedral and the Parish is considering its purchase for Parish Offices, Religious Education, and a Parish Activity Center. Both the Finance Council and the Parish Council are involved in these discussions. More information will be forth coming.

Calendar of Prizes 2015

Calendar of Prizes 2015 are being sold at the Cathedral Square door after all weekend 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 on Monday, September 7, the Anniversary of the Dedication of the Cathedral, someone will win our **Grand Prize of \$5,000.00** for a Family Trip or Cash Option. The Calendar of Prizes makes a great Christmas gift that lasts all year! We still have **125** tickets to sell. Don't be left out! Some numbers came out four times in 2014! Please help with this annual fund-raiser.

Christmas Evening Prayer with Exposition and Benediction

On the Sundays of Christmas, 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.

THE CATHEDRAL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT One Cathedral Square, Altoona, Pennsylvania



*O God, radiant with the splendor of the true light,
bathe us in the mysteries of Christ's light on earth.*

Roman Missal - Christmas Mass during the Night

+ Mark L. Bartchak

Most Reverend Mark L. Bartchak
Bishop

Robert C. Mazur
Reverend Monsignor Robert C. Mazur
Rector

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

John J. Slovick
Reverend Father John J. Slovick
In Residence

John E. Rys
Deacon John E. Rys

James F. Leap
Deacon James F. Leap
Senior Deacon

John J. Szwarc
Deacon John J. Szwarc
Senior Deacon

*******CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS*******

Joseph and Sophie Adamczyk, Paul Tetanich/
 Barbara and Clair Duffy, Edward and Mary Yetsko
 James J. Adams
 Lucy and Joe Alianiello, Chris Jacobs, Anna Reed/
 Rose Riccio, MaryAnn Bankston
 Bartchak and Beck Families
 Anthony and Christine Bartkowiak
 Bauer Parents and Family
 Bearer and Kirkpatrick Families
 Mr. and Mrs. Walt Becker, Sr., Naomi Long
 Jack Bell, Deceased of Bell and Sanders Families
 Benamati and Kokolis Families
 John and Florence Bender, Alice and Sam Marino/
 William Scully, Clare DeLozier
 Aidan Bender, Mara Kirkpatrick, Fionna McConnell/
 Ben Wilson
 Elizabeth "Betty" Berge
 Mr. and Mrs. Clair A. Boslet, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Krieger
 Boyle and O'Connor Family
 Robert and Ethel Brandt, Robert Vaughn, Sr./
 George Jodon, Jr.
 Catherine Watson Brandt
 Deceased of Brennan and Schnaubelt Families
 John S. Byers/
 Gene and Patty Datris, Ed and Mary Ruth Weiland
 Caldwell and Hoefler Families
 Gene Capone
 Carroll and Bussman Families
 Deceased of Chelton, Pietsch and Plunket Families
 Timothy Chirdon
 Cathedral Christian Mothers - Living and Deceased
 Rita Chverchko and Family
 Clay-Pilarz and Lesko Families, Helen E. Lesko/
 Moyer and Lidwell Families, Mercedes Moyer/
 Jim, Catherine and Cathy Moyer
 Bill Clemens, John & Katy Young
 Margaret Coder
 Vincent Consalvo, Patrick Consalvo
 Dick Cowan, Rick Cowan, Karen Cowan Dougherty
 Craig and Bouey Families
 Deacon William Cronin, Laura Cronin, Jeffrey Cronin,
 Chalmers Helble
 Cumo Brothers: John, Joe and Gene, Mother and Dad
 Andrew Cupples
 Dambeck and Moyer Families
 Debbie (Fox) Davis, Rita Fox and Paul Fox/
 Daniel R. Wilson
 DeHaas Family, Fischer Family
 Rusty Dennis, Patty and Clyde Dennis, Paul and
 Dora Luke, Ella & Pat Marlett
 Rita Shannon Dittsworth
 Dombrowski -Radwonski Family
 Joseph and Pat Doyle, Mary Christina
 Kathleen Duffy
 Joseph and Verna Eckenrode, Rose and Patricia
 Cole Robert Egan
 James M. Elder

Marjorie Evangelisto
 Janet Evans, George Vierkorn
 Michael Farrell
 Eleanor Feather, Fr. Joseph Strittmatter
 Carl Fischer
 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Fleck
 John & Mildred Flick, David & Brandon Flick
 Catherine Frederick, Walt Beech
 Max Friedenberger
 Stella and Mandy Gallagher
 Paul and Rosemary Gebhardt
 William Geis, Nancty Geis and Billy Geis
 Russell and Sophia Gibbons Family
 M/M Daniel Gioiosa, M/M William Bettwy
 Albert and Jennie Giosa, Wally and Cecelia Wargo
 Nancy Gority Family
 Damian A. Gormont
 Goss and Walker Families
 Robert A. Grove
 Mr. and Mrs. James Heitsenrether, Larry Miller
 Josephine and Marion Hicks
 Deceased of Himmelein Family,
 Deceased of Robertazzi Family
 Hollingshead and Shaffer Families
 Sarah Long Irvin, Jerry Feagley
 Dennis Irwin and Tyler Irwin/
 Richard and Dorothy Musselman
 Jacobs and Bettwy Families
 E. LaRue Johnson
 Johns-Freet and Jones Family
 Edgar L. Johnston, Edgar A. Johnston/
 Diane M. Johnston and Amelia Hofbauer
 Mr. and Mrs. Harry Johnston Family/
 Wife, Jean Johnston
 Robert M. Jones, Sr. Family
 Jones, Makdad Families, Douglas and Sara
 John & Lily Jorkasky
 Joyce and Plummer Families
 Deceased of Joyce-Hallinan Families/
 Bernie and Peggy Joyce, Glenn and Vivian Bistline/
 Bernie McLucas
 Mary Kathryn Kantoski,
 Deceased of Hayford and Kantoski Families
 Charles and Geraldine Kapfhammer
 Jim Kapfhammer,
 Deceased of Owen and Kapfhammer Families
 George W. Karl
 Richard C. Kerr, Sr., Richard C. Kerr III, Bill Wertz, Sr.
 Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Kimmel
 Mike Kling, Geishauser-Weaver Families
 John and Victoria Koeck, Melissa Hofer, Brock Hofer
 Paul Koegler
 Edward Kosut
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lee, Sr.
 John Leiden
 Lilly Family: Valentine, Maude, Pat, Tom, Lyle,
 Jim, and Serge

Clair and Mary Lockard, Matthew and Madeline Kirsch
 G. Wilson Longwill, Dorothy Longwill
 Mr. and Mrs. C. James Love
 Mr. and Mrs. Brian J. Lucas
 Paul Luke Family, Clyde Myers Family
 Charles R. Lumadue
 William J. and Mary M. Lumadue
 William and Madeline Lumadue
 Carl Lutz
 David Lysinger
 Francis and Eileen Lytle
 Tom and Marie Madigan, Pat and Shirley Kutruff/
 Richard Kutruff
 Julius and Alice Mangiacarne, Jane Restauri
 Luigi and Maria Martino, June Martino, Chris Amerine
 Daniel and Anna Gioiosa
 Fred and Alice Martynuska, Marge & Jim Ansman
 Deceased of Martynuska/Soyka Families
 Walter Mazur
 Brian J. McCaulley
 McCloskey and DeCarlo Family
 McCloskey and Flick Families/
 Flanagan and Lach Families
 Rebecca McCloskey
 McGough and Hallinan Families
 Philip and Camille McMullen
 Samuel and Carole Mento,
 Jennie and Hy Adelman, Francesco and Vincenza/
 Mento, Joseph and Virginia White, Helen Faretta/
 Tom Capruscio, James and Josephine Filoromo/
 Barbara Peters
 Homer and Mary Mentzer, Audrey and Dutch Reimer
 Phil and Pat Reimer, William and Maddie Lumadue
 Paul and Anna Mercer
 Michael and Dana Miller
 Misitano and Moloney Families
 Moloney-Vogel Deceased, Benedict Kedzuf
 Moloney-Vogel Family, ChristinaSnopek
 Maureen Moore, Charles and Mary Jane Moore/
 Leo Kwolek
 Moran and Hershey Families
 Joe Moran, Steve and Margaret Tutko
 Wilma C. Morning
 Rose and John Moryken, Elizabeth and Regis Dixon
 Murawsky & Pipta Families
 John & Gail Murphy
 Marion Nagle, John Nagle, Jean Hair
 Robert J. Nagle, Anthony Nagle, Patrick Nagle
 Charles and Catherine Ann Nelson
 Hank Noel, Cherrie Snyder
 Paul M. O'Leary
 Joseph Pagliaro, Rose Kravetz
 Pellegrino and Wolfe Families
 Plutko, Bettwy, Brennan and Todd Families
 Mary Grace Bagley Porta, George V. Porta/
 William J. McCloskey, Helen V. Koeck McCloskey/
 Father Paul, Father Gino Baroni

Frank and Freda Potopa, Anthony W. Conrad, Sr./
 'Bill' Conrad
 Deceased of Prendergast and O'Malley Families
 Lisa A. Belsey Pufka
 Stephen Pyo Family
 Donald G. Rabine, Sister Jean Malloy, SC
 Helen and Frank Radwanski, Grace Rougeux
 Walter and Mary Rapsky, John and Mary McGraw
 Deceased family members; Anna Reed/
 Chris Jacobs, Mary Ann Bankston
 Joann Reese, Joseph Chirdon
 Pete and Devin Rhoa
 Chuck Roberts, Mr. and Mrs. George Truby/
 Anna Glover
 Robertson Families and Franco Families
 Mr. and Mrs. James Robuck
 James Roland and Jeanette Roland
 Kathy Roszbach
 Walter Sanker, Philip Altiero, Susan Altiero/
 Earl and Virginia Strohm
 Savino Family, Ashley Myers
 Terrance Shea, George Glashauser, Mark Farrell
 Sheehan and Murphy Family
 David and Patricia Shellenberger, Mildred Brady
 Robert Smithmyer
 Delores Snyder
 Angela M. Spinazzola
 William and Barbara Stayer, George Seidel
 Attilio Stefanon
 Annika Rose Steinbeiser
 Joseph H. Stephens, David J. Stephens
 Anna, James and Margaret Stoner
 Strobert Families
 Todd Subalusky
 Marian and Thomas Swires, John and Louise Ford
 Jack Swope, Mary Ann, Pat Allan
 Rene A. Thibault, Rene P. Thibault
 Dominick and Edna Thomas
 Don Tomlinson and John Tomlinson
 Deceased of the Trexler- Strate Families
 Donald and Jean Truby
 Clapper-Kolbenschlag-Truby Families
 John R. Vogel, Edward and Genevieve Moloney
 Dorothy Wachter
 William J. Wagner, M. Genevieve Wagner
 Barbara Jane Wiedley, Therese Kuny
 Wahl and Dixon Families
 Patricia Wiedemer
 Cathy Jo Wild
 Deceased of Winkler and Prendergast Families
 Wolf-Brandt Family
 Maureen Ann Wolf, Henry and Regina Wolf
 Irene Kelly Wood and Joseph A. Wood
 Yeager Family Deceased
 Zeughardt Family and Ducio Family