

DECEMBER 7, 2014

Scripture Reflection

What comfort is there in waiting? Comfort is usually not found waiting for an appointment at the doctor's office as the minutes tick away. Then you simply hope, as frustration builds, that you can get out as quickly as possible and get on with your life. This sort of ordinary, everyday hope has to do with desires and wishes that come and go and quickly pass.

But there is another kind of waiting that brings deeper comfort because it is based upon more fundamental hope. Fundamental hope does not have to do with "having" or "acquiring," but is focused on the welfare of people and our hope of salvation. Josef Pieper spoke of fundamental hope as arising when everyday hopes withered and blew away. "Out of the loss of common, everyday hope true hope arises," wrote Pieper in *Hope and History*. This is the hope of the martyrs, which persists when all human hopes have been vanquished.

This fundamental hope, grounded in the being of the living God of Israel, led Isaiah to call out, "Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God." It is the promise of God himself, who will act in the future for his people. The hope of the early Christians was that Jesus would indeed enact the hopes of Isaiah, establishing the kingdom of never-ending peace and righteousness, the end of waiting in exile banished. When the kingdom was not established in the way the early Christians had hoped, but through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the disciples did not abandon Jesus or his promises but relied upon a more fundamental hope: the truthfulness and faithfulness of God to do what God had promised in a time that is not our own and does not adhere to human schedules or calculations.

It is the more fundamental reality that gives us deep comfort: Jesus will return and in the returning of Jesus our deepest needs are met. Our waiting is not the absence of hope, or hope in a dreary waiting room, or dreams that do not come to fruition. It is the comfort of the living God, who comes to us when ordinary hopes disappear and who is coming to us even now. And the joy of this hope gives comfort even in the waiting.

- **Are you a hopeful person? How do you handle hopes that are not met?**

Advent Penance Service

Our communal celebration of Advent Reconciliation is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 17** at 6:30 PM. All are encouraged to attend this seasonal Liturgy. This Reconciliation Liturgy will last one hour. Additional priests will be present to help with individual confessions. This Penance Service is for the entire Parish Family. Our second grade students will celebrate their First Penance during the parish service. There will be a reception following at 7:30 PM to congratulate the First Penitents. All are welcome to join us in the Cathedral Hall.

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 Christmas gift. Please help with this annual fund-raiser. We still have 427 tickets to sell.

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.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry

Shawls symbolize shelter, peace, and spiritual sustenance. The members of Cathedral Prayer Shawl Ministry have lovingly donated their time and talents by creating hand-knitted and crocheted shawls for those in need of God's comfort. Parishioners are encouraged to submit names of individuals for whom they would like to receive a Prayer Shawl. Please call the Parish Office or Lorraine Beck at 942-7774.

Collection of Food For The Poor

Baskets are placed at the church doors for donations of non-perishable food items and paper products for the poor.

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:

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

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

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 7, 2014

Readings: *Is 40:1-5,9-11; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk1:1-8*

MASS INTENTIONS

December 8, Monday: **Immaculate Conception**
Holy Day of Obligation

Readings: *Gn 3:9-15,20; Eph 1:3-6,11-12; Lk 1:26-38*

6:45 AM Bud Seidel (Jim, Elaine, and Family)
8:00 AM Fr. John Slovikovski (Dombrowskis)
12:00 PM Camille McMullen (Pat & Kathy Sherry)
5:30 PM Dennis Irwin (Jim and Helen Seidel)

December 9, Tuesday: St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

Readings: *Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14*

6:45 AM John Luddy, Anniversary (Family)
8:00 AM Rose Grillo Skupien (Kathleen Cassarly)
12:00 PM Mildred Flick (Daughters)

December 10, Wednesday: Advent Weekday

Readings: *Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30*

6:45 AM Maureen Ann Wolf (Husband & Daughters)
8:00 AM Louis Garner (Nancy & Duane Elmers)
12:00 PM Jim Parks (Cathedral Ushers)

December 11, Thursday: Saint Damasus I, Pope

Readings: *41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15*

6:45 AM Msgr. Thomas Madden (Estate)
8:00 AM Connie Mitchell (K. Detwiler & P. Colello)
12:00 PM Rita Shannon Dittsworth (Cathedral Parish)

December 12, Friday: Our Lady of Guadalupe

Readings: *Zec 2:14-17; Lk 1:26-38*

6:45 AM Alice Ann Martynuska (Gail and Fred)
8:00 AM Robert Maloskey (Cathedral Parish)
12:00 PM Robert Smithmyer (Mary Grove)

December 13, Saturday: Saint Lucy, Virgin, Martyr

Readings: *Sir 48:1-4,9-11; Mt 17:9,10-13*

8:00 AM Marian and Thomas Swires (Children)
12:00 PM James Roland (Susan Kapfhammer)
Vigil: Third Sunday of Advent

Readings: *Is 61:1-2,10-11; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8,19-28*

5:00 PM Amandus Gallagher (Mike & Stacey Adams)

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

CHRISTIAN INITIATION - Following the Prayer of the Faithful at 10:00 AM Mass each Sunday, our Catechumens and Candidates are dismissed to reflect on the Scriptures proclaimed and to learn more about our Catholic faith and tradition. Please remember these individuals in your Advent prayers.



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

Liturgical Reflection ...

Monday, December 8, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a holy day of obligation for the faithful in the United States. The Church confesses that she who was to bear the Eternal Word of God was immaculate, free from original sin, from the moment of her conception. Mary's immaculate conception is directly connected to the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ. In Mary's womb a worthy dwelling was prepared for God's Son. Mary was preserved from the stain of sin by virtue of the death and resurrection of her Son. Catholics are obligated to participate at Mass twice, first, on the Second Sunday of Advent and, second, on Monday, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

Advent Wreath and Offertory Procession

Help is needed during the Advent Season to carry the Advent Wreath candles at the beginning of Mass and to present the gifts of bread and wine at the Offertory. Individuals/families are encouraged to volunteer. Also, all liturgical ministers are asked to be especially aware of what help might be needed when attending Liturgy.

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. Evening Prayer and Benediction go about forty minutes. Please join us tonight for Evening Prayer this First Sunday of Advent.

Advent/Christmas Prayer Partners

Sign-up forms are available 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.

Charismatic Prayer Group

The Charismatic Prayer Group will NOT meet this Monday, December 8th, due to the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. There will be a **Eucharistic Festival of Praise** on Monday, December 15th, from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Cathedral. The evening of prayer will include Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with special Praise and Worship music led by the Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group. Deacon John Rys will also be giving a witness talk. There will be fellowship and refreshments following. All are welcome!

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, November 30 - \$9,604.00

Christmas Flower Memorials - Please remember to have your Christmas Flower Memorial envelope returned to the Parish Office by **December 21** to assure that your memorial will be listed in the Christmas bulletin. If you have misplaced this rose colored envelope, just place the name of your loved one on any envelope marked "Christmas Flowers".

Advent of Christmas Concert

The Cathedral Festival Choir will present an evening of classic music for the Advent and Christmas seasons. On **Sunday, December 14** at **7:00 PM**. Take a bit of time from your busy December schedule to hear the sounds of the season in the glorious acoustics of the Cathedral. There will be a *Free Will Offering*.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

Our next Baptismal Preparation Class will be held on **Tuesday, December 9**, at **7:00 PM** in the Seton Suite. This required class is offered every other month. You need not wait until your child is born to attend class. Sponsors are encouraged to attend also. To register, please call the Parish Office at 944-4603 weekdays between 9:30 AM and 5:30 PM.

Liturgical Reflection ...

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

The celebration of the Mass, as the action of Christ and of the People of God arrayed hierarchically, is the center of the whole Christian life for the Church both universal and local, as well as for each of the faithful individually. In the Mass is found the high point both of the action by which God sanctified the world in Christ and of the worship that the human race offers to the Father, adoring him through Christ, the Son of God, in the Holy Spirit. All the sacred actions and all the activities of the Christian life are bound to the Mass, flow from the Mass and are ordered to the Mass.

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal, Number 16.

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ALTOONA CENTRAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Please join Altoona Central Catholic School (ACCS) for the 5th annual **Soup Throw-Down! Sunday, December 14**, 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Father Kelly Hall, 25th Avenue and 5th Street, Altoona. Every class, Pre-K through 5th grade, will be making a homemade soup for a contest to determine who makes the best soup. Tickets will be sold at the door for 50 cents per sample or \$6 per quart. The day will also feature several vendors and a Chinese Auction. All proceeds from this event go directly to ACCS.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sundays: December 7, 14, and 21 - Regular classes for Pre-K through Grade 8, 11:15 AM - 12:30 PM in Cathedral Hall. Pre-K and Kindergarten gather in the Music Room.

FIRE: Class Sunday, **December 7th**

6:15 PM - 8:30 PM in Cathedral Hall.

All Cathedral High School students will meet in the Cathedral Hall on Sunday, **December 14th**, in the afternoon from 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM to wrap Christmas gifts and make food boxes! This is our group Advent Service Project.

FIRE: Class Sunday, **December 21st**

6:15 PM - 8:30 PM in Cathedral Hall.

CONFIRMATION PREP

All **Ninth Grade** Candidates Baptismal Retreat is Saturday, **December 13th** in the Cathedral Hall followed by the 5:00 PM evening Mass. A parent or sponsor must attend with you.

All **Eleventh Grade** Candidates Confirmation Session II will be held on Sunday **December 14th** at 6:15 PM in the Seton Suite. The paper about your sponsor is due at this meeting.