

AUGUST 17, 2014

Scripture Reflection

In today's readings, we ponder the power of God's love to attract all people. As the exiles are returning to their land after the Babylonian exile, Isaiah, in the First Reading, delivers God's Word. God directs them not to worship him in a way that excludes others. All are welcome. For you observe what is right, God says, your neighbors will be attracted to me. God calls his people to be signs of his presence in the ways they treat one another.

The story of Jesus and the Canaanite woman is one of the most touching in the Gospel according to Matthew. Jesus first rebuffs the Canaanite woman, making it clear that Jews are his priority. The woman pleads, is rejected, and pleads again. Jesus compares her to a dog, but the woman turns his insult around in a clever way. Jesus affirms the woman's great faith and heals her daughter.

Isaiah and many other prophets spoke of a time when all the nations would be welcomed into the covenant, but when and how this would take place would be realized in the course of salvation history. In the ministry of Jesus and the church we see the prophecy of Isaiah coming to fruition. Jesus might indeed be inciting the Canaanite woman, and his disciples, to a recognition of this new moment in salvation history by evoking her faith in the God of the Jews. Perhaps Jesus' ministry to the Gentiles is unfolding in the encounter, in which she hears words of rejection but, nevertheless, stands her ground as a woman, a Canaanite and a mother. God's plan in welcoming the Gentiles was not to exclude Israel, just as God's election of Israel was intended ultimately to welcome all humanity into the family of God. It is difficult for us, because we so often desire to divide the world into us and them, to remember that our salvation is dependent not upon the sort of people we are but upon the mercy of God, which is for all people.

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AMERICA MAGAZINE: August 4-11, 2014

September Tours of Cathedral

September is the month our Cathedral celebrates its anniversary of dedication. Again this September the Cathedral will offer four tours of this singular structure. The one hour tours are scheduled for: Sunday, September 7th at 1:00 PM; Thursday, September 18th at 7:00 PM; Sunday, September 21st at 1:00 PM; and Tuesday, September 30th at 7:00 PM. Plan to attend one of the four dates.

Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass

Bishop Mark Bartchak and the Family Life Office cordially invite all couples celebrating their 1st, 25th, 40th, 50th, and 60+ Wedding Anniversary in 2014 (and their families) to attend the **Annual Wedding Anniversary Liturgy**. Couples may attend **Sunday, September 14** at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament at **2:00 PM**. Bishop Mark will be the celebrant and homilist. Punch and cookies will be available after the Mass for anniversary couples and their families. **Reservations must be made through the parish by Monday, August 18.**

Please note: all Cathedral jubilarians are invited to submit your names and wedding dates to the Parish Office so we can arrange for you to receive a special gift from the Parish to mark this wonderful occasion.

ANNUAL SUMMER RAFFLE

The Annual Cathedral Raffle takes the place of the summer festival raffle and will also replace the ACCS quarterly raffles. There will be twenty cash prizes with over \$5,000.00 in prizes ranging from \$2,000 to \$25. **One ticket is \$5.00. Each family is asked to purchase four tickets.** The drawing will be **Saturday, September 20th** at **Family Night** in Cathedral Hall. You need not be present to win. Tickets are sold after weekend Masses and are available at the Parish Office during the week.

Ministry to Homebound and Elderly Meeting

Tuesday, August 26, 6:30 PM in the St. John Room. Interested individuals are encouraged to attend.

ACCS School Council Meeting

Wednesday, August 27, 6:30 PM in the St. John Room.

Parish Liturgy Committee Meeting

Thursday, August 28, 12:45 PM, in the Seton Suite.

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 11:15 AM - 12:30 PM

Pre-Kindergarten thru 8.

Sunday evening 6:15 PM - 8:30 PM

Grades 9 thru 12.

EUCHARIST:

Sunday: 5:00 PM (Vigil)
8:00 AM

Holyday: 5:30 PM (Vigil)
8:00 AM

Weekday: 6:45 AM
8:00 AM

10:00 AM

12:00 Noon

12:00 Noon

12:00 Noon

5:30 PM

Saturday: 8:00 AM

5:00 PM

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 - 381-7011 Middle - 944-1250

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 - 943-7423

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Kevin J. Luke - 944-2044

Web: www.altoonacathedral.org

Fax: 814-942-4337

E-MAIL: altcathedral@dioceseaj.org

Serving the People of God in the City of Altoona Since 1851

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 17, 2014

Readings: *Is 56:1,6-7; Rom 11:13-15, 29-32; Mt 15:21-28*

Mass Intentions

August 18, Monday: Weekday

Readings: *Ez 24:15-24; Mt 19:16-22*

6:45 AM Deceased Relatives of Sisters of IHM

8:00 AM Audrey Krause (Mary Lysinger)

12:00 PM Tom Byrne (Anthony & Phyllis Russo)

August 19, Tuesday: Saint John Eudes, priest

Readings: *Ez 28:1-10; Mt 19:23-30*

6:45 AM Lisa Gailey (Carm & Jim Drass)

8:00 AM Peggy Joyce (Family)

12:00 PM George Seidel (David & Jeanne Thompson)

August 20, Wednesday: Saint Bernard, abbot, doctor

Readings: *Ez 34:1-11; Mt 20:1-16*

6:45 AM Betty Schwalenberg (Tony & Karyl Sawinski)

8:00 AM Vi Franchio (Fran Prosperi)

12:00 PM Harold Knob (Jean Fornwalt)

August 21, Thursday: Saint Pius X, pope

Readings: *Ez 36:23-28; Mt. 22:1-14*

6:45 AM Rudy Seidel (Jim & Elaine Weaver)

8:00 AM Jack Swope (Wife, Patty)

12:00 PM Nancy Geis, Anniversary (Mom & Family)

August 22, Friday: Queenship of Blessed Virgin Mary

Readings: *Ez 37:1-14; Mt 22:34-40*

6:45 AM Rob Beiswenger (Dr. & Mrs. Greg Sweeney)

8:00 AM Bess Greinader, Bir. (Daughters, Sally & Beth)

12:00 PM Jennie Calabrese (Joan & Ron Savine)

August 23, Saturday: Saint Rose of Lima

Readings: *Ez 43:1-7; Mt 23:1-12*

8:00 AM Robert Smithmyer (Cathedral Parish)

12:00 PM Madeline Vogel, 90th Birthday (Family)

Vigil: Twenty-First Sunday In Ordinary Time

Readings: *Is 22:19-23; Rom 11:33-36; Mt 16:13-20*

5:00 PM Rose Marie Simanski, Birthday (Family)

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

Rest In Peace

Please remember in prayer, Robert Smithmyer, who died and was buried from the Cathedral this past week. May he rest in peace and may Joan and all his family and friends be comforted in the faith.

ANNUAL SOCIAL CALENDAR AT CATHEDRAL

January - downtime from Christmas

February - Mardi Gras, Saturday, February 14, 2015, Cathedral Hall

March/April - Friday Fish Luncheons, Cathedral Hall

April - Holy Thursday Dinner, April 2, 2015, Cathedral Hall

Easter Sunday, April 5, 2015, Bottles of Easter Water and Candy for Children

April - Basket Bingo, Sunday, April 26, 2015, Cathedral Hall***

May - Communal Anointing of Sick - Distribution of Prayer Shawls and Social on Portico

June - Parish Feast Day, Sunday, June 7, 2015, Body and Blood of Christ, Social on Portico

Annual Eucharistic Day, Adoration of Blessed Sacrament throughout afternoon

June - Vacation Bible School, Cathedral Hall

July/August - Annual Summer Raffle***

September - Family Night, Saturday, September 20, 2014, Cathedral Hall

October - Casino Night, Saturday, October 18, 2014, Cathedral Hall***

November - Marriage Social, Saturday, November 8, 2014, 6:00 PM, Cathedral Hall

November/December - Calendar of Prizes 2015

***Events to replace Annual Cathedral Festival

Family Night - Plan to Play

The Parish is planning **FAMILY NIGHT** on **Saturday, September 20** from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM in the Cathedral Hall. There will be a dozen activities for children and adults. Different booths and activities will invite players to take chances and win, others will be for our amusement. This event will provide families with entertainment similar to the summer festival. So bring a few dollars to play the different games. There will be food for purchase. This is a family friendly function. Parishioners of all ages are welcome to attend.

Meeting For Basket Bingo

There will be a planning meeting on Thursday, August 28 in the Seton Suite at 6:30 PM. Anyone interested in helping with this fund-raising activity (April 26, 2015) is asked to come to this meeting. The agenda includes delegating different responsibilities: volunteering to seek donations from local businesses; selling chances and door prizes; advertising; admission tickets; creating baskets with various themes. Many parishioners have helped with the festival in the past. This is an annual event that replaces the festival. Parishioners are asked to come forward to volunteer their time and talent. Plan to come to this important meeting.

Christian Initiation

Have you thought about joining the Catholic Church? Do you have questions about the faith, about God, and the Church? Cathedral Parish will begin Inquiry Sessions on Sunday, September 14 at 11:00 AM in the Seton Suite (below the Rectory). Anyone interested in looking into the Catholic Faith is invited to these initial meetings. No commitments are made at this time. Do you know someone who is searching for God; do you have a family member who is interested in the faith? Parishioners are reminded that we are called to be evangelizers. Bring someone to Christ and his Church.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, August 10 - \$9,076.00

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL 2014

This year the Cathedral Parish goal was set at **\$66,350.00**. We are **\$24,050.00** over goal having raised **\$90,400.00** and are now receiving monthly checks back from the Diocese. Additional gifts are still being accepted. Place any envelope marked ACA in the regular Sunday collection. Thank you.

Upcoming Anniversaries

On **Sunday, September 7**, the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament will celebrate its 83rd anniversary of dedication. At that time the Parish has invited two Jubilarians to join us for the celebration. Msgr. Paul Panza, former Rector of the Cathedral, is celebrating his 60th anniversary of priesthood. Sister Beverly Hmel, IHM, is celebrating her 60th anniversary of profession as a religious woman. Both Msgr. Panza and Sister Beverly will join us at the **10:00 AM Mass** on September 7. Msgr. Panza will give the homily and Sister Beverly will renew her vows of profession. There will be a social following on the portico of the Cathedral. Plan to join us on this day of memorable anniversaries.

Catholic High School's New President

Father Jack McDowell, O.F.M., has been appointed President of Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School. Father is a Franciscan of the Order of Friar Minor. Father has spent the majority of his life in education and ministry both at the collegiate and high school levels. As President, his responsibilities include development and enrollment. The President reports to the Board of Trustees of the high school. Cathedral Parish welcomes Father Jack to our community.

Liturgical Reflection ...

Constitution

50th

on the

Anniversary

Sacred Liturgy

The Church is conscious that it must celebrate the saving work of Jesus Christ by devoutly recalling it on certain days throughout the course of the year. Every week, on the day which the Church calls the Lord's Day, it keeps the memory of the Lord's resurrection, which it also celebrates once in the year, together with the blessed passion, in the most solemn festival of Easter. The season of Lent prepares believers for the death and resurrection of Christ. During the fifty days of Easter time the universal Church keeps festival with the Risen Lord. Christmas time is the annual remembrance of the Word becoming flesh and dwelling among us; Christmas is preceded by the season of Advent. These seasons are particularly sacred to the liturgical year.

Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, Numbers 102, 108, and 109.

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