

JANUARY 14, 2018

Scripture Reflection

Christmas time ended with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord on Monday, January 8, and now we enter "Ordinary Time," a time to reflect on the life of Jesus and commit ourselves to following him. Appropriately, then, the theme of today's Scripture readings is God's invitation and response.

The First Reading tells the story of young Samuel who was serving in the Israelite sanctuary in Shiloh under the priest, Eli. Three times Samuel heard the voice, until Eli realized that God was calling his servant. He instructed Samuel to respond, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." From that time, we are told, God was with Samuel, making all of his words effective.

Today's Gospel invites us to reflect on another calling---that of Jesus' disciples. In this call story it is John the Baptist who helps two of his own disciples recognize the Lord. When they go to Jesus, he initiates the encounter by asking, "What are you looking for?"---a key question for any seeker. Their response---"Where are you staying?"---has profound implications. The Greek word *menein* means "to remain" or "to stay with," and in John's Gospel it also describes the divine dwelling within a person, like the relationship that Jesus has with the Father.

After the lights and carols of Christmas, Ordinary Time---which actually means counted time (we number the weeks of Ordinary Time with ordinal numbers)---can seem so, well, ordinary. But it is in the ordinary days of our ordinary lives that God asks us to build his Kingdom. The Lectionary readings during these weeks take us through the life of Christ. Striving to live Jesus' example of love, reconciliation, and healing can transform our most ordinary moments into extraordinary moments of charity. St. Thérèse of Lisieux wrote "What matters in life is not great deeds, but great love." Thérèse's gift was recognizing God in the little, every day moments.

● **Like Samuel and like the disciples of Jesus, we too have been called. In what ways are you answering your call to follow the Lord?**

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL EVENTS Cereal Drive

Holy Trinity is conducting a cereal drive for the Altoona Food Bank this month. Students are asked to bring in cereal starting January 8th to 26th. For more information or to participate, contact Holy Trinity at 942-7835.

Catholic Schools Week-January 28 to February 3

Day of Giving

Holy Trinity Catholic School is inviting all of our Parishes, Alumni and Friends to be a part of the Day of Giving on January 30, 2018! This is an opportunity to support our mission in Catholic Education. At Holy Trinity, we foster an environment of spiritual and intellectual growth integrating Catholic traditions and faith throughout the educational process. The link to our online donation page will be posted on our website January 22nd. The page will be active to accept donations from 9:00 AM on January 30 through 9:00 AM (Eastern) on January 31. Be watching our Facebook page for special live posts throughout the event.

Holy Trinity Open House

Holy Trinity will host an Open House for prospective parents and students on Tuesday, January 30th from 9:00 AM until Noon at all three campus locations. This is a great opportunity for families to tour our campuses and meet teachers, parents and students. Prospective families can visit classrooms while in session.

Guardian For A Day at Holy Trinity

We will be hosting a special day during Catholic Schools Week for students in grades 4-6 to invite a friend to spend the day at HTCS on Thursday, February 1st. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to ask a friend to join them for the day and experience a day in the life of a HTCS Guardian. We encourage our parishioners to talk about school. Prospective families need to hear your stories, because you understand firsthand the value of a Catholic Education.

All Schools Mass

All Schools Mass will be on February 2nd at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament at 9:30 AM.

First LEGO League

We are excited to announce that Holy Trinity Catholic School has a team participating in First LEGO League. First LEGO League offers hands-on problem solving, programming experience, project based learning, real-world application of math and science concepts, along with the discovery of fun in science and technology.

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.

Charismatic Prayer - Monday 7:00 PM.

Eucharistic Adoration - First Wednesday - 12:30 PM - 8:00 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: ALTCATHEDRAL@DIOCESEAJ.ORG

EUCHARIST:

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

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

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

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

Leslie C. Thayer, MM, CAGO

Music Ministry Office - 944-2044

E-mail: lthayer@dioceseaj.org

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JANUARY 14, 2018

Readings: 1 Sm 3:3-10,19; 1 Cor 6:13-15,17-20; Jn 1:35-42

MASS INTENTIONS

January 15, Monday: Weekday

Readings: 1 Sm 15:16-23; Mk 2:18-22

6:45 AM David Arnottmas (Larry & Stephanie Tonello)

8:00 AM Lindy & Boose Adams (Nancy & Skip)

12:00 PM Michael Febbo (Febbo Family)

January 16, Tuesday: Weekday

Readings: 1 Sm 16:1-13; Mk 2:23-28

6:45 AM George Dean Barry (Dodson Family)

8:00 AM An End to Abortion (McNelis All-Stars)

12:00 PM John Bauer (Greg & Judy Cardone Family)

January 17, Wednesday: Saint Anthony Abbot

Readings: 1 Sm 17:32-33,37,40-51; Mk 3:1-6

6:45 AM Mike Kling, Anniv. (Mom, Dad, Brother & Sisters)

8:00 AM Dr. Fred Petrunak (Family)

12:00 PM Virginia Jones (Ann Macklin & Melanie Lee)

January 18, Thursday: Weekday

Readings: 1 Sm 18:6-9,19:1-7; Mk 3:7-12

6:45 AM Bill Crouse, Ann./Michael Kling, Ann.(Families)

8:00 AM BeBe Milliron (John & Lisa Karl)

12:00 PM Rose Ann Himmelein (Diana Fanale)

January 19, Friday: Weekday

Readings: 1 Sm 24:3-21; Mk 3:13-19

6:45 AM Jim Davidson (Michael Davidson)

8:00 AM Angela Cronin Chadwick (Butch & Alice Winkler)

12:00 PM Thomas & Mary Irwin (Family)

January 20, Saturday: Weekday

Readings: 1 Sm 24:3-21; Mk 3:20-21

8:00 AM Myra Mangiacarne (Regina Kutruff Family)

12:00 PM M/M Charles McCall, Anniv. (Family)

Vigil: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Jon 3:1-5,10; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mk 1:14-20

5:00 PM Cathy Moyer, Birth. (Daughters & Family)

Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group

The Cathedral Prayer Group will meet on Monday, January 22nd, at 7:00 PM, here at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. Join us for Praise and Worship, Spirit-filled teachings and witnessing, prayer ministry, and fellowship! All are welcome!

Basket Bingo Meeting

Think Spring — Think Basket Bingo on May 6. There will be a meeting to plan for our annual Basket Bingo on January 25, 2018, at 6:30 PM in the Cathedral Hall. Anyone interested please stop by.

Flu Season Announcement

Because of the seriousness of this flu season, Bishop Bartchak has asked that the Precious Blood of the Lord not be offered at Mass temporarily. It is the belief of the Catholic Church that the whole Body of Christ is present under either form of consecrated bread and wine. Also, the exchange of the sign of peace should avoid bodily contact. A reverent nod with eye contact and a smile will be the temporary practice. Reception of Holy Communion on the hand is encouraged; however, reception on the tongue may not be denied. These norms are in effect throughout the winter months or until the flu season is over.

Rite of Welcoming and Acceptance

Those seeking the Easter Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist will be formally welcomed and received here at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament today at the 10:00 AM Mass.

45th Annual March for Life

The 45th Annual March for Life will be held on Friday, January 19, in Washington, D.C. The annual fundraiser will be held the weekend of January 13-14. These donations support the March for Life and other pro-life activities.

Buses will be leaving the Altoona area at 7:00 AM on January 19 and should return to this area about 9:30 PM. The cost will be kept at \$15.00 per person, \$10.00 for students. Participants are requested to bring their lunch and enough money to cover the cost of their supper. Reservations, call Patricia or Marita Forr, 946-0681; Roxann Blazewicz, 695-8008, or Anne Zelnosky, 942-2723.

Prayer Service

There will be a special Prayer Service at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament on Thursday, January 18 at 7:00 PM. A blessing will be given for all those going on the March for Life.

Class on Saint Paul

Are you interested in learning more about Saint Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles? Msgr. Mazur will be teaching a six-week class on Saint Paul sponsored by the Diaconal Formation Office of the Diocese. Classes will meet on Tuesdays, January 16, 23, 30, February 6, 13, and 20 in the Seton Suite from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM. Make a commitment for six Tuesday evenings to learn more about this remarkable man who through the Holy Spirit helped influence the direction of the very early church. Please call the Parish Office at 944-4603 to register.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, January 7, 2017 - \$9,661.00

Christmas, December 25, 2017 - \$23,085.00

Christmas Flowers - \$3,754.00

Contribution Reports for Income Tax purposes may be obtained by calling the Parish Office: 944-4603.

F.I.R.E. Classes for January, 2018

January 28, 2018. Class will be held in the Church Hall at 6:15 PM.

First Communion Sessions Schedule

First Communion sessions will be held Wednesday, January 24, Wednesday, February 21, and Wednesday, March 7. All sessions are held in the Seton Suite from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM. All students MUST be accompanied by an adult. First Communion will be held at the 10:00 AM Mass on Sunday, April 15 for the Cathedral students. Our Lady of Fatima students will be scheduled later. Practice for Cathedral students will be held on Thursday, April 12 at 4:00 PM in the Church and Confessions will be heard following practice. Group and individual pictures will be taken after the 10:00 AM First Communion Mass.

Ecumenical Prayer

Bishop Bartchak will host an Ecumenical Prayer Service here in the Cathedral on Sunday, January 21 at 2:00PM. Bishops from the Orthodox and Lutheran traditions will be with us, also there will be the regional representative for the Presbyterian tradition. Please make arrangements in your schedules to be present for this important gathering of Christian leaders in the various traditions during the Week for Christian Unity. A social will follow in the Cathedral hall.

Calendars of Prizes 2018

There are just over 50 remaining Calendars to be sold. If anyone has Calendar of Prize tickets that need to be turned in, please do so. They need entered into the computer.

Mass of Thanksgiving

Father Athanasius FHS, known to our parishioners as Richard Fornwalt, will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving with us on **Sunday, January 28** at the **10:00AM Mass**. Father is a native son of the Cathedral Parish. Here is where Father received his sacraments, joined us weekly for Mass, and grew in his deep relationship with the Lord. We warmly welcome him home to celebrate the Eucharist with us.

Fr. Athanasius was ordained June 3, 2017 by Bishop Olmsted of the Phoenix Diocese. Father is presently in graduate school studying for a degree in Pastoral Theology with a focus on the New Evangelization at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit. Father Athanasius is a member of the Franciscan Friars of the Holy Spirit situated in Laveen, Arizona. Father is one of the seven founders of this Franciscan community.

The Cathedral Parish has reason to celebrate that one its own has been ordained to the priesthood. We continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Please plan to join the Parish Family on the last Sunday of January (January 28) at the 10:00AM Mass. A social will follow in the vestibule of the Cathedral. It will be an opportunity to talk and shake hands with our newly ordained Father Athanasius.

Bishop Guilfoyle High School Raffle

The annual raffle at Bishop Guilfoyle High School will be held **February 7** at halftime during the Girls Basketball Game in the BG gym. Cathedral Parishioners from our Catholic high school will be selling the raffle tickets next weekend after all Masses at the Cathedral doors. **Each ticket costs \$5.00.** Prizes include: 1st Prize: \$10,000.00; 2nd Prize: \$1,500.00; 3rd Prize: \$1,000.00; and five 4th Prizes: \$100.00. Help our BG students sell their raffle tickets. Thank you.

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

Liturgical Reflection ...

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist points out Jesus, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" At every Mass the invitation to receive the Body and Blood of Christ begins with, "Behold the Lamb of God." When one of our members dies, the Church especially encourages the celebration of the Mass. The funeral liturgy is the central liturgical celebration of the Christian community for the deceased. As the deceased gathered weekly with the faith community in life, so in death the Christian is commemorated at the sacred Mysteries, calling upon God's mercy.

Order of Christian Funerals, 1998-1989, Numbers 46 and 264.

2018, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 South Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648.