

JANUARY 21, 2018

Scripture Reflection

Today's readings invite us to reflect on the quality of our response to Jesus' invitation to walk in the spirit of Christ in our daily lives. Will our response be half-hearted, or are we willing to allow ourselves to be radically changed by our calling?

Today's Gospel story focuses on conversion of heart. Jesus appears on the scene at the beginning of his public ministry proclaiming God's Gospel---that God's reign is already on the doorstep---and shouting, "Repent and believe in the gospel." The energy and immediacy of the story is palpable. Thus, when Jesus calls his disciples, they respond immediately, leaving their old lives behind and following Jesus.

Jesus has a good reason to call fishermen, as he does in this Sunday's Gospel passage. Early on, he realized the scope of his Father's plans, and he needed help. His first act was to call four fishermen. In Jesus' day fishermen were free individuals. The work was arduous and dangerous. The Sea of Galilee is subject to storms; and even in good weather, work on the sea poses risks. Fishermen had to be intelligent enough to master two crafts---sailing and fishing---just to perform their daily tasks. In fishermen Jesus found motivated, hard-working, smart, self-confident and courageous partners.

Jesus wanted individuals who knew how to fish, who knew how to cast a net again and again even when no success came at first. He wanted individuals who were flexible, who could shift their boat when winds and currents changed. He wanted individuals who were not afraid to set out into deep water, who knew how to trust the tools of their trade and each other.

● **All are called to be fishermen in God's kingdom. Name your God-given talents that make you qualify as a fisherman for the Lord.**

AT HOME with the WORD 2018, Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, pg. 39. AMERICA MAGAZINE, "Imitate Me" Michael R. Simone, S.J., December 29, 2017.

45th Annual March for Life

The March for Life was held on Friday, January 19, in Washington, D.C. The funds collected last weekend amounted to \$1,150.82. We are grateful.

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 today 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.

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 thru January 26th. For more information, contact Holy Trinity at 942-7835.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

January 28 to February 3

All Schools Mass

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

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

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

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

**THIRD SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

JANUARY 21, 2018

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

MASS INTENTIONS

January 22, Monday: Day of Prayer - Unborn Children

Readings: 2 Sm 5:1-7,10; Mk 3:22-30

6:45 AM Dwight Dittsworth (Fran & Chrissy Dambeck)

8:00 AM Michael Morris (Patty & Bear McCloskey)

12:00 PM Billy R. Geis, Anniversary (Geis Family)

January 23, Tuesday: Saint Vincent, Deacon & Mtyr

Readings: 2 Sm 6:12-15,17-19; Mk 3:31-35

6:45 AM Msgr. Paul D. Panza (Axinn Family)

8:00 AM Jim Davidson, Birth. (Family)

12:00 PM Charles & Mildred Brady (M/M Shellenberger)

January 24, Wednesday: St. Francis de Sales, Bp & Dr

Readings: 2 Sm 7:4-17; Mk 4:1-20

6:45 AM David Riley (Carol Riley)

8:00 AM Harry Smith, Birth. (Mary Lysinger Family)

12:00 PM Ronnie Geis (Ron & Jean Sheehan)

January 25, Thursday: Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle

Readings: Acts 22:3-16; Mk 16:15-18

6:45 AM Anna Marie Rossman (Mildred Mazur)

8:00 AM Bernadette Weakland (M/M Tom Heasley, Jr.)

12:00 PM Mike Chisko (Family)

January 26, Friday: St. Timothy & St. Titus, Bishops

Readings: 2 Tm 1:1-8; Mk 4:26-34

6:45 AM Donna Civils & Ken Lytle (Nancy & Skip)

8:00 AM Lois Sanker (Friend)

12:00 PM Myra Mangiacarne (Stanley Krish Family)

January 27, Saturday: St. Angela Merici, Virgin & Relig. Fndr.

Readings: 2 Sm 12:1-7,10-17; Mk 4:35-41

8:00 AM Brian McCaulley, Anniv. (Wife & Sons)

12:00 PM Barbara Byers, Birth. (Cathy & Barry Krug)

Vigil: Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Dt 18:15-20; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28

5:00 PM Edgar A. Johnston, Birth. (Wife, Mother, Fam)

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

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. If you are interested please call Lorraine Beck at 942-7774.

Marriage Preparation - Snow Makeup Class

Cathedral Parish will offer marriage preparation snow makeup session this Saturday, January 27, from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM in the Cathedral Hall.



Monday, January 22, all dioceses in the United States of America are observing a Day of Prayer for the **Legal Protection of Unborn Children**. January 22 is the day of the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision, *Roe vs. Wade* (1973), the Church in America prays for the violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion, and of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee to the right to life. Members of the Diocese are encouraged to go to Mass on this day, pray the rosary, the chaplet of Divine Mercy, fast and abstain, and join the Altoona-Johnstown family in praying the following:

O God, who adorn creation with splendor and beauty, and fashion human lives in your image and likeness, awaken in every heart reverence for the work of your hands, and renew among your people a readiness to nurture and sustain your precious gift of human life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Ecumenical Prayer

Bishop Barchak will host an Ecumenical Prayer Service here in the Cathedral today, January 21 at 2:00 PM. 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.

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 23, 30, February 6, 13, 20, and 27 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. Class did not meet this past week because of the weather. Please call the Parish Office at 944-4603 to register.

Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group

The Cathedral Prayer Group will meet this 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!

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

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

Calendar of Prizes 2018

Thank you to all who participated in our annual fundraiser in the 1000 Calendar of Prizes for this year. A parishioner graciously bought the remaining 27 calendars; we are grateful. Pennsylvania Small Games of Chance insist that all tickets to a raffle be sold. Last year several people had purchased a significant number of calendars; this year that was not the case and the Parish had a larger number of calendars to sell. If you still have any calendars out, please call the Parish. Again, thank you to all who participated in this annual fundraiser.

Saint Bridgid Dance

There will be a Saint Bridgid Dance on Saturday, January 27, from 7:00 PM until 11:00 PM at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Altoona. Doors open at 6:30 PM. Entertainment will be by the Full Kilt Band. The cost, including food and drinks, is \$20.00 per person. Contact Rick Tomlinson at 280-7661.

Prayer Shawls

Anyone interested in knitting or crocheting Prayer Shawls, please contact Lorraine Beck at 942-7774.

Liturgical Reflection ...

**ORDER OF
CHRISTIAN
FUNERALS**

In today's Gospel the fishermen abandoned their nets and followed the Lord. Faithful Christians follow Christ by having total love for God and neighbor. In every celebration for the dead, the Church attaches great importance to the reading of the word of God. The readings proclaim the paschal mystery, convey hope of being gathered together again in God's kingdom, and encourage the witness to the Christian life on the part of the living. As we continue on our pilgrimage of life, we seek God's mercy and love. May our dead know peace in Christ, and may we be comforted in that same peace.

Order of Christian Funerals, 1998-1989, Number 22.

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

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, January 14, 2017 - \$7,880 .00

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

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.

Married Couples Weekend Get-Away

The **Mission of Marriage** will be held at Saint Joseph Convent, 1872 Munster Road, Portage, PA from Friday, February 9 at 5:30 PM to Sunday, February 11 at Noon. The presenter for the weekend will be Dr. John R. Wood, the author of, "Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Mission: 5 Steps to Winning the War Within," one of Dynamic Catholic's bestselling books, with over 200,000 copies distributed to date. Since the release of the book in December 2012, Dr. Wood has addressed people of all ages at more than 100 parishes and schools across the country. A suggested donation of \$75.00 Weekend / \$35.00 Day is being requested to cover meals and costs. Please register by Wednesday, February 7 by contacting Sister Jacinta sisterjacinta@gmail.com or 814-886-4459. Organized by the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.