

JANUARY 7, 2018

Scripture Reflection

For the surrounding culture, Christmas is “over.” The decorations are put away, the children are back in school, and we are back to “normal.” Meanwhile, in our faith tradition, the Magi have steadfastly made their way to Jesus to worship and honor him with their treasures. They protect the child from Herod’s evil intent by avoiding his request for information about the child. In this holy season, let us not lose focus on the infant Jesus in his parents’ arms, and let us protect the hope his birth brings us.

Two feasts of the Christmas season celebrate Christ’s revelation to the whole world. Today’s feast commemorates the “physical” revelation of Christ, the moment when Gentiles recognized the incarnate Messiah. Tomorrow we celebrate a “spiritual” revelation of Christ. The feast of the Baptism of the Lord marks the moment when Jews and Gentiles together recognized the divine sonship of Jesus. These two feasts mark the return to Ordinary Time, that period of the liturgical year when the church reflects on its continuing mission to reveal Christ to the world in body and spirit.

Matthew highlights the great vision of Isaiah 60 in the attention he gives to the Magi and their gifts. In Isaiah’s prophecy God’s mercy to Israel becomes an act of divine mercy to the whole world. In Matthew’s hands, this prophecy foreshadows the Christian community’s inclusion of the Gentiles.

We disciples are Christ’s tangible presence in the world. That same child whose light brought such joy to the Magi now, through us, offers his mercy to every person. Through us, every day, Christ feeds multitudes; he heals, teaches and guides countless people. Through individual volunteers and major institutions, through simple acts of kindness or worldwide coordinated efforts the world can encounter, through the Christian community, the enduring, tangible presence of Christ.

- **In your life, who has guided you in Christ? Who do you guide to Jesus Christ?**

AT HOME with the WORD 2018, Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, pg. 33. AMERICA MAGAZINE, “Rise Up; Your Light Has Come” Michael R. Simone, S.J., January 7, 2018.

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL Closing and Delay Information

It is the policy of Holy Trinity Catholic School to close or delay school whenever the Altoona Area Schools are closed due to severe weather conditions. When it is necessary to close school, the announcement will be made by phone through PowerSchool Messenger, along with notification on the ACCESS channel and local TV stations. This procedure is also followed in case of delayed school openings or early dismissals due to road conditions.

Annual Sponsors for Cathedral Mass

Thank you to the following institutions who have again sponsored the weekly Sunday 10:00 AM Mass from the Cathedral on radio WFBG 1290AM. These donations have made the broadcast available to the homebound and ill who are unable to join us for Mass. The Cathedral Parish has received notes of appreciation from many listeners who tune in every Sunday morning for Mass. Also note that these donations have been a source of revenue for the Parish. We are grateful.

2018	LIVE FROM THE CATHEDRAL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT 10:00 AM SUNDAY MASS on radio WFBG 1290 AM	2018
Please support the following sponsors of this weekly broadcast for those unable to attend Sunday Mass		
<i>The Altoona Curve Baseball Club Garvey Manor & Our Lady of the Alleghenies Residence ARC Federal Credit Union UPMC Altoona Bettwy Electric, Inc. Irwin Financial/Raymond James ISB Investment Savings Bank Riley Plumbing & Heating Stanley J. Krish Funeral Home Allegheny Glass & Mirror Calvary Cemetery Quality Services McCloskey Builders Jones Funeral Home Kerr's Kreations & Kerr Landscaping Beck's Maintenance Warner's Florist, Gifts, Greenhouses Young, Oakes Brown & Company</i>		
2018	<i>Anonymous Donor</i>	2018

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

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

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

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 7, 2018

Readings: *Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3,5-6; Mt 2:1-12*

MASS INTENTIONS

January 8, Monday: The Baptism of the Lord

Readings: *Is 55:1-11; Mk 1:7-11*

6:45 AM Dec'd Michael & Ella Gibbons Fam. (Irwin Fam)

8:00 AM Bernard J. Joyce (Family)

12:00 PM Virginia Jones (Ruth Novak Family)

January 9, Tuesday: Weekday (1st Wk. in Ord. Time)

Readings: *1 Sm 1:9-20; Mk 1:21-28*

6:45 AM Bill Crouse (Dave & Karen Rhoa)

8:00 AM Jack Weidman (Jim & Steph Kilcoyne)

12:00 PM Patty Weidemer, Anniv. (Husband, Joe & Fam)

January 10, Wednesday: Weekday

Readings: *1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Mk 1:29-39*

6:45 AM Maureen Martynuska Wolf (Family)

8:00 AM Derek Behe (Mom & Dad)

12:00 PM Ed Harington (Sally Leiden Family)

January 11, Thursday: Weekday

Readings: *1 Sm 4:1-11; Mk 1:40-45*

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

8:00 AM BeBe Milliron (Gary & LouAnn Craid)

12:00 PM Janet Pufka (Joan Smith)

January 12, Friday: Weekday

Readings: *1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-29; Mk 2:1-12*

6:45 AM Patty Seidl / Dave Weaver (Jim & Elaine)

8:00 AM Marion Roberts (Cathedral Parish)

12:00 PM Diane Hallinan (Jane Davidson)

January 13, Saturday: Saint Hilary, Bishop & Doctor

Readings: *1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19, 10:1; Mk 2:13-17*

8:00 AM Rose Ann Himmelein (Randy & Jean Koury)

12:00 PM Myra Mangiacame (Jessie & Katie Mangicame)

Vigil: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

5:00 PM Francis Pagliaro, Anniversary (Family)

Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group

The Cathedral Prayer Group will meet this Monday, January 8th, 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!

Additional Christmas Flower Memorials

Mr. & Mrs. John I. Butler

Christmas Evening Prayer with Exposition and Benediction

On the Sundays of Christmas season, 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. Please join us for Evening Prayer this evening, Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, at 6:30 PM.

Monthly Eucharistic Adoration

Cathedral Parish will offer our monthly adoration before the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesday, February 7, from 12:30 PM until 8:00 PM. Plan ahead to make time for quiet prayer before the Sacrament of Life. Please pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life from among the members of the diocesan family. Adoration is a rich opportunity for deepening our spiritual life and our relationship with the Lord.

Christian Initiation - Inquiry Sessions

Are you interested in the Catholic Church? Do you know someone who might be interested in seeking information about our Catholic faith? Today the Cathedral Christian Initiation Team will meet in the Seton Suite at 11:00 AM with all those seeking information on the Catholic Church.

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 on Sunday, January 14th 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.

A prayer service will be celebrated 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.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, December 31, 2017 - \$7,877.00

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

Christmas Season concludes with the Baptism of the Lord on Monday, January 8th. The Christmas totals of the Christmas Collection will be provided in the January 14th bulletin as the Cathedral continues to receive your generous gifts.

Weekend Retreat

The Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus invite girls in grades 7-12 to a weekend retreat, Stepping Stones to Prayer, from January 12-14, 2018. The retreat will be held at Saint Joseph Convent, 1872 Munster Road, Portage. The weekend begins Friday at 6:00 PM and ends on Sunday at 1:00 PM. Register by Wednesday, January 10 by contacting Sister Jacinta at 814-886-4459. Meals provided. Suggested donation \$35.00.

Class on Sacraments

Are you interested in learning more about the church's great gifts of the seven sacraments? Msgr. Mazur will be teaching a class on Sacraments sponsored by the Lay Ecclesial Ministry Office of the Diocese. There will be six classes on Monday evenings, January 8, 15, 22, 29, February 5, 12, from 6:30PM to 9:00PM in the Seton Suite. Make a commitment for six Monday evenings to learn about the Catholic Church's great gifts of the Sacraments. Please call the Parish Office at 944-4603 to register for these classes.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Classes Resume January 7th for Pre-K - Grade 8

Reminder that dismissal is from the alley side door throughout the winter season.

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

January 7, 2018 and January 28, 2018.

Class will be held in the Church Hall at 6:15 PM.

Please remember our sick in your prayers.



Liturgical Reflection ...

Today is the Epiphany of the Lord and the last Sunday of Christmas time. Tomorrow, Monday, January 8, is the feast of the Baptism of the Lord and the formal ending of the Christmas season. Today the Church celebrates with the wise visitors from the east that the Word Made Flesh has arrived for all peoples and all nations. Jesus, born in Bethlehem, raised in Nazareth, and crucified in Jerusalem, is Lord of all races and nations. May the Christian Gospel be proclaimed throughout the world to all inhabitants.

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

Calendars of Prizes 2018

Calendars of Prizes 2018 are being sold at the Cathedral Square door after all Masses. 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. Due to the state regulations for small games of chance, it is necessary that all one thousand tickets be sold. Otherwise, the parish will lose money on unsold tickets. If you have a favorite three digit number, call the Parish Office (944-4603) weekdays between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM to check on availability or stop at the Cathedral Square door after Mass. These make great gifts that last all year! There are just over 100 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.

Volunteering at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament Parish

Would you like to volunteer your time and talent to the Cathedral Parish but do not know how to obtain the mandatory state and diocesan clearances? Every employee and volunteer must fulfill all clearances needed from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown to participate in parish activities. Every parish and church-associated activity are required to meet these standards as we uphold our commitment to protecting God's children and youth. Cathedral Parish is offering assistance to fulfill all clearances at the Altoona Public Library on Saturday, January 13 from 9:00 AM through 1:00 PM. Free help to fill in the forms and to view the training films will be provided. The Parish will cover any costs needed for these required clearances. For more information, please call the Cathedral Parish Office at 944-4603 or Chris Laraia at 312-7317.