

FEBRUARY 4, 2018

Scripture Reflection

Today's readings remind us of our constant need for healing and of the salvation that can be found in Jesus. In the First Reading, Job, once a wealthy and highly respected man, now finds himself undone through no fault of his own. His oxen and asses were stolen, lightning killed his sheep, and a great wind blew down his house while his kids were partying inside, and everyone was killed. Now he has come down with the worst case of boils that anyone could imagine! And so he laments his very existence and the apparent meaninglessness of life.

The Gospel provides a counterpoint to Job's lament as we see Jesus first raising Peter's mother-in-law from her sick bed, healing the crowds of people who came to the door later that evening, rising early the next day to go off to pray, and then telling his disciples that they must be off to the nearby villages to preach. What is Jesus preaching? In words and actions, he is preaching the Good News that God's reign is at hand. God's salvation is upon us!

As he drove away demons and freed people from illness, Jesus proved that the good news he preached was true, that is was at last the time of fulfillment, that God's kingdom was indeed at hand. More than the other evangelists, Mark stresses the urgency of this message.

Have you ever felt hopeless, like Job? Yet Job continued turning to God, even when he felt he would not see happiness again. Jesus spent himself healing and teaching people in today's Gospel. Yet he turned to God, too. He took time to pray, and felt free not to feel forced into service when he heard, "Everyone is looking for you." Prayer strengthened him to move on and continue his mission to preach and manifest God's presence in his works. Job and Jesus found freedom in their relationship with God. Job did not give up on God, even though God seemed absent. Jesus remained faithful to his mission, even when people wanted him to remain with them.

● **Christians never lose hope. How has Jesus the Lord strengthened your hope?**

AT HOME with the WORD 2018, Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, pg. 43. AMERICA MAGAZINE, "For This Purpose Have I Come" Michael R. Simone, S.J., January 16, 2018. Living the Word, Laurie Brink and Paul Colloton, World Library Publications, 2017, pg. 48.

Parish Celebration!

Last Sunday at the 10:00AM Mass, Father Athanasius FHS (Richard Fornwalt) celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving with the Cathedral Parish. It was an event marked with enthusiasm, prayer, and pride that one of our own sons has become a priest of the Church. A native of the Cathedral Parish, Father Athanasius is presently in graduate school in Detroit. When his studies are completed, he will return to the Phoenix Diocese where his Franciscan community, the Friars of the Holy Spirit, is located. Father gifted the Parish with a beautiful crucifix which will be placed in the new Cathedral Parish Center. We thank God for his vocation and may he have many, many years of priestly service to God's people.

Catholic Schools Week

Holy Trinity Catholic School has gifted the Cathedral Parish with a postcard celebrating Catholic Schools week. We are given twelve reasons to choose Catholic Schools. Cathedral Parish strongly supports and encourages all to consider a Catholic education for your children. A postcard can be found in this week's bulletin.

Untold Blessings

Sister Theresa will be offering Bishop Robert Barron's DVD titled - *Untold Blessings: Three Paths to Holiness* at Holy Rosary Church in Juniata. The dates and times are as follows: Tuesdays from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM, February 20, 26 and March 6. Bishop Barron paints a beautiful picture of what it takes to be a follower of Jesus Christ. If you are able to attend please call Sister at 942-5747. God bless you.

Official Move

The parish offices have officially moved to the Cathedral Parish Center. Finally telephones and computers have been installed. All parish business will now take place in the new Center. Business hours are from 9:00AM to 4:00PM, Monday through Friday. Former offices in the rectory will return to become parlors where priests and individuals may meet for counseling and meetings. Thank you to all in the Parish who made this a reality through the capital campaign. We are grateful for your generosity and your continued commitment to your pledges.

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

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 4, 2018

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

MASS INTENTIONS

February 5, Monday: Saint Agatha, Virgin & Martyr

Readings: 1 Kgs 8:1-7,9-13; Mk 6:53-56

6:45 AM Bernard Weaver, Anniv. (Jim & Elaine)

8:00 AM Helen Zurilla, Anniv. (Dave Capouellez)

12:00 PM Mary Dodson, Birthday (Family)

February 6, Tuesday: St. Paul Miki & Companions Martyrs

Readings: 1 Kgs 8:22-23,27-30; Mk 7:1-13

6:45 AM Bob & Kathy Cowan & Robbie Lutz (Family)

8:00 AM Fathers, Mothers, Sisters, Brothers

12:00 PM Elverda Holtz, Thanksgiving

February 7, Wednesday: Weekday

Readings: 1 Kgs 10:1-10; Mk 7:14-23

6:45 AM In Thanksgiving & Remem. (Kling/WeaverFam)

8:00 AM In Thanksgiving, Birth. (Elverda Holtz)

12:00 PM Alma Reismeier (Husband, Fred)

February 8, Thursday: St. Emiliani & St. Bakhita, Virgin

Readings: 1 Kgs 11:4-13; Mk 7:24-30

6:45 AM Jerry Smith (Kirk & Donna Kling)

8:00 AM Bea Mannion (Jim & Steph Kilcoyne)

12:00 PM Joe Maltet, Anniv. (Family)

February 9, Friday: Weekday

Readings: 1 Kgs 11:29-32,12:19; Mk 7:31-37

6:45 AM Kryder & Elizabeth Miller (Irwin Family)

8:00 AM Tim Bartek (Mildred Mazur)

12:00 PM Tom Byrne (Paul & Emma Kowalski)

February 10, Saturday: Saint Scholastica, Virgin

Readings: 1 Kgs 12:26-32,13:33-34; Mk 8:1-10

8:00 AM Madeline Seidel, Anniv. (Jim & Elaine)

12:00 PM Barbara Byers (Walt & Donna Weiland)

Vigil: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Lv 13:1-2,44-46; 1 Cor 10:31-11:1; Mk 1:40-45

5:00 PM Frances Pagliaro (M/M Jerry Sandusky)

THINK BASKET BINGO-SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2018

It's that time of year again for our **4th Annual Basket Bingo**. We're asking for your support. We are in need of Gift Cards, new items such as home decor, non-perishables, theme baskets, household items, and monetary donations. Items can be dropped off at the Parish Office during the week between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM, or may be picked up by calling: Roberta Burns, 1-301-741-6467, or Lorraine Beck, 942-7774. Tickets are available now at the Parish Office: \$25.00 per person with value pack for an additional \$30.

Blessed Candles

This past Friday, February 2, on the Presentation of the Lord all candles to be used this liturgical year were blessed at Mass. If you wish to have blessed candles in your home, these sacramentals are located on the table in the Blessed Mother Chapel. A box containing two (2) blessed candles costs \$5.00; and a glass votive candle costs \$5.00. Make sure to use these blessed candles on those special occasions in your family when there is a birthday, anniversary, or someone is ill.

Collecting Last Year's Blessed Palm

Baskets have been placed at the Cathedral doors to collect last year's blessed palm. Ashes placed on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday come from the ashes of the burned palm. Please gather your palms from home and place them in the baskets this weekend and next weekend. Ash Wednesday is February 14th.

Lenten Fish Luncheons

On Ash Wednesday, February 14, and all the Fridays of Lent (February 16, 23, March 2, 9, 16, and 23), Cathedral will offer delicious Lenten lunches. A fish sandwich with choice of macaroni and cheese or French fries for \$7.00. You may eat your lunch in the Cathedral Hall or take out. (There is no lunch on Good Friday, March 30.)

Volunteers Needed

The annual Lent/Easter mailing going to all parishioners will be prepared Wednesday, February 7th at 9:00AM in the Seton Suite. If you are able to help with this mailing, please gather in the Seton Suite this Wednesday morning.

Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group

The Cathedral Prayer Group will meet on Monday, February 12th, 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!

Calendar of Prizes 2018

There are still six (6) Calendars of Prizes outstanding that need to be returned. The numbers are: **204, 313, 528, 608, 612, and 810**. If you have these numbers, please return the stub to the raffle ticket at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, January 28, 2018 - \$8,036.00

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

Eucharistic Adoration This Wednesday

Cathedral Parish will hold our monthly **Eucharistic Adoration on Wednesday, February 7**, from 12:30PM until 8:00PM. Please schedule prayer time before the Blessed Sacrament in exposition in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of the Cathedral. A sign-up sheet is available on the cross aisle table in the Cathedral. The Church directs that at least two people always be present before the Blessed Sacrament in exposition. Make quality time this month to pray before the Blessed Sacrament. Among your prayer intentions remember to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Looking Ahead

Cathedral Parish will host our annual Vacation Bible School June 18 through 22. The theme is *"24/7 – Jesus Makes a Way Every Day"*. Adult and high school help is needed. More information to follow. Call Chris Laraia at 312-7317, or Cathedral Parish Office at 944-4603.

Mardi Gras Celebration

The Parish will gather for our annual Mardi Gras Party on Saturday, February 10, at 6:00PM in the Cathedral Hall. All parishioners are invited to join in the celebration prior to our forty day Lenten journey. The event promises great food for all and there will be games for the children. Clear your calendars and plan to join the parish family for a great evening of socializing, eating, and games. We gather to celebrate and have fun prior to our forty day Lenten retreat.

Married Couples Weekend Get-Away

The **Mission of Marriage** will be held at St. Joseph Convent, 1872 Munster Rd., 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. 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.

First Communion Sessions Schedule

First Communion sessions will be held 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.

Rest In Peace

This past week Juan Bickel died and was buried from the Cathedral Parish. May Juan know peace in the Risen Christ. May her sons and grandchildren know peace. We receive comfort in the faith knowing that death is not the end. Christ promises new life to all the baptized.

Liturgical Reflection ...

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

In today's first reading Job says, "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle....my life is like the wind." The brevity of our life on earth reminds believers that there is more. Christ died and rose from the dead to share this gift with those who believe. All the prayers of the funerary rites witness to the Christian hope that life endures into eternity. At the death of a Christian, whose life of faith was begun in the waters of baptism and strengthened at the eucharistic table, the Church intercedes on behalf of the deceased because of its confident belief that death is not the end.

Order of Christian Funerals, 1998-1989, Number 4.

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