

FEBRUARY 18, 2018

Scripture Reflection

For the next several weeks the Church celebrates Lent. Lasting a symbolic forty days (it doesn't count out to precisely forty days), Lent reminds us of times of testing described in the Bible, such as the forty years the Jews wandered in the wilderness after the Exodus and other stories we will hear about during Lent. It is a time of preparation for the great celebration of Easter.

Today's First Reading recalls an important "forty" story---in which God grieved all the evil that had come into the world and decided to renew creation through a flood. For forty days it rained. When Noah and his family returned to dry land, God established a new, everlasting covenant with humanity that was signified by a rainbow. The Gospel continues the theme of testing and preparation by recalling the story of Jesus' sojourn in the wilderness where he was tested by Satan for forty days, and then appeared in public proclaiming the nearness of the reign of God and preaching the need for repentance.

Jesus urges repentance as a first step toward faith. As Pope Francis recently reminded his listeners, "Only those who recognize their sins and ask forgiveness can receive the understanding and forgiveness of others." It is pointless to seek reconciliation with someone we have wronged if we refuse first to change. Moreover, it is only through our own repentance that we can learn to recognize and trust the true repentance of others. A person who has never sought forgiveness has little understanding of how to forgive another. Repentance for our sins strengthens our compassion for others.

Lent has begun, and with it comes an opportunity to increase our faith through works of penance. Every time we set right some wrong we have done, we come that much closer to the faith of Jesus, who found signs of the Father's love in everything his eyes beheld.

- **For what have you had to ask forgiveness from someone?**

AT HOME with the WORD 2018, Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, pg. 49. AMERICA MAGAZINE, "Forgive Us as We Forgive" Michael R. Simone, S.J., January 26, 2018.

Prayer Partners for Lent

Forms are available at the church doors. Everyone is invited to participate in the Prayer Partner activity this Lent. You will receive by mail the name of a parishioner along with the name of someone preparing to receive Baptism, Confirmation or Eucharist during the Easter Season.

Pierogi, Ravioli, and Gnocchi Sale

Our Lady of Fatima Parish is sponsoring a Pierogi, Gnocchi and 6-Cheese Ravioli sale. Orders can be made at the Parish Office at 2010 Twelfth Avenue, phone 942-0371, or email: olfoff10@hotmail.com no later than Wednesday, February 21.

Liturgical Ministers - New Schedule

A new schedule is being prepared for liturgical ministers. Please notify the Parish Office with your scheduling changes by February 25. Thank you.

Lenten Evening Prayer

On Sunday, February 25, there will be Evening Prayer at 6:30 PM within Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Everyone is invited to participate in this special Lenten Liturgy.

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS EVENTS

Open House

Holy Trinity will host an open house on Thursday, March 22nd from 6:00 PM until 7:30 PM at all three locations. Please come and meet the teachers, visit the classrooms and see what we are all about! Elementary offers Pre-K thru 3-4th grade. Middle school offers 5th thru 8th grade. Altoona Elementary Campus: 424 Wopsonnock Avenue, Altoona, PA, 381-7011; Hollidaysburg Elementary Campus: Spruce and Wayne Street, Hollidaysburg, PA, 695-6112; and, Middle School Campus: 5519 Sixth Avenue, Altoona, PA, 942-7835.

Official Move

The parish offices have officially moved to the Cathedral Parish Center. 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. 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

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 18, 2018

Readings: Gn 9:8-15; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15

MASS INTENTIONS

February 19, Monday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Lv 19:1-2,11-18; Mt 25:31-46

6:45 AM Msgr. Paul Panza (Daughters of R & A Mayes)

8:00 AM Peggy Joyce (Family)

12:00 PM Chuck Hennigan (Wife/Family)

February 20, Tuesday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15

6:45 AM Grace & Albert Cowan (Skip Cowan Family)

8:00 AM Sr. Louise DeMarillac Coyle, SC (McNelis All-Stars)

12:00 PM Erla Stombaugh, Anniv. (Rose Family)

February 21, Wednesday: St. Peter Damian Bp. & Dr.

Readings: Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32

6:45 AM Fathers, Mothers, Sisters, Brothers

8:00 AM Jerry Kibler Family (Friedhoff/Kuczek Fam)

12:00 PM Lois Riley (Helen Force)

February 22, Thursday: The Chair of St. Peter, Apostle

Readings: 1 Pt 5:1-4; Mt 16:13-19

6:45 AM Jim Davidson (Hilda Conrad)

8:00 AM William V. Bettwy (Tim & JoAnn Bettwy)

12:00 PM Tom Byrne (Rose Family)

February 23, Friday: St. Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr

Readings: Ex 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26

6:45 AM Richard & Dorothy Irwin Fam (Irwin Family)

8:00 AM Anna Mercer (Paul & Family)

12:00 PM Max Kirsch (Madeline Vogel Family)

February 24, Saturday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48

8:00 AM Herbert Kutruff (Bill & Grace Smith)

12:00 PM Eugene & Barbara Stoltz, 50th Anniv. (Family)

Vigil: Second Sunday of Lent

Readings: Gn 22:1-2,9-13,15-18; Rom 8:31-34; Mk 9:2-10

5:00 PM Frances Pagliaro (Alice & Butch Winkler)

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.

LENT HAS BEGUN

The forty days of Lent prepare us for the Three Days. Our ashes this past Wednesday reminded us that like Jesus who died on the cross, we too will die. The blessed ashes also called us to repentance. We must turn away from sin. Through *Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving*, we prepare to commemorate the Three Days - Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter. The spiritual quality of our Lent will reflect the spiritual quality of our Easter. The serious, penitential days of Lent have arrived. The Cathedral is simply decorated - no flowers, no plants. The Cross is placed next to the baptismal font; the purple hangings are displayed, and only two candles stand on each side of the altar. There are no *Alleluias* and no *Glory to God*. As we pray the *I Confess* at the beginning of Mass, the Church asks that we strike our chest once with our hand at the words "through my most grievous fault". Sinfulness and the need for God's mercy are before us. Intensify prayer, fasting, and giving alms to the poor. Baskets are placed at the church doors for your donations of non-perishable food items or cleaning and paper products throughout the Lent and Easter seasons. Plan to go to Confession during these Lenten days. The parish Communal Penance Service is scheduled for Wednesday, April 5 at 6:30 PM.

Pictures of Candidates for Easter Sacraments

At the three doors of the Cathedral you will find the names and pictures of those journeying to the Easter Sacraments: our Catechumens and Candidates; our children receiving First Eucharist; and our high school students to receive Confirmation. Be sure to look for your "Prayer Partner".

Lenten Fish Luncheons

On all the Fridays of Lent, 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. Make sure to tell the good news to friends. Take a fish luncheon to someone who can't leave home. Remember, great fish sandwich this Friday, February 23, from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM.

Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group

The Cathedral Prayer Group will meet on Monday, February 26th, 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!

Vacation Bible School

The theme this Summer will be Shipwrecked

Venture onto an uncharted island where kids survive and thrive and are rescued by Jesus!

June 18-22, 2018, 8:30-11:30 AM. Ages 4-10, \$5.00

Adult and teen help is needed. For more information call: Chris Laraia @312-7317.

The CROSS

Our beautiful ten foot CROSS has been placed at the baptismal font for the seasons of Lent and Easter. This is the cross that will be used on Good Friday for veneration. This custom-made cross holds the relic of the True Cross. Special respect is to be shown to this sacred object. As you enter and leave the Cathedral by way of the front doors, take time to show reverence to this Cross. A genuflection would be proper; one may kiss the sacred relic; one may touch the relic of the True Cross. Please make the conscious effort to show some form of respect to this very holy symbol of the faith. During the forty days, take more time and thought when signing yourself with the sign of the cross.

PRAYING THE STATIONS

Stations of the Cross will be prayed this **Friday** evening, February 23 at **7:00 PM** and every Friday of Lent.

Eucharistic Adoration

Cathedral Parish will hold our monthly **Eucharistic Adoration on Wednesday, March 7**, from 12:30PM until 8:00PM.

Rest In Peace

This past week Bernadine Yarnell and Michael Diones died and were buried from the Cathedral Parish. May they know peace in the Risen Christ. We receive comfort in the faith knowing that death is not the end. Christ promises new life to all the baptized. May the family members of the deceased know peace.

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, February 11, 2018 - \$9,465.00

Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2018 - \$1,851.00
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, 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.

St. Joseph's Table 3rd Annual Celebration

St. Leonard's Home will host its 3rd annual celebration of St. Joseph's Table on Saturday, March 24 from 5:00 PM until 8:00 PM at the American Legion Post 516 Social Hall at Legion Park in Hollidaysburg. The event includes a meal, cheese bar, desserts, wine, auction, prizes for bidding and entertainment. Tickets are \$20, and are available at St. Leonard's Home or by calling 695-9581 during business hours.

Women's Retreat for Lent

Dr. Joanne Cahoon, an experienced retreat leader, will be conducting a very special Women's Retreat for Lent. It is scheduled for Saturday, March 17, from 8:30 AM until 3:30 PM. Take a day during Lent to readjust focus and renew your heart in preparation for Easter glory. For information or to register, contact Good Shepherd by email: goodshepherd@dioceseaj.org or call (814)238-2110 by March 5th - \$25.00. March 6th - \$30.00. Lunch will be provided.

Liturgical Reflection ...

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

Lent has us reflect on our sinfulness and invites us to call upon God's mercy. We cannot be forgiven without the mercy of our God. Upon death Catholics have a funeral Mass for the deceased believer. At this Mass we call upon God's mercy for the dearly departed. We place our dead in the merciful hands of God. Are the faithful departed in heaven, hell or purgatory? Only God knows; the Lord is judge. We gather to call upon the loving mercy of our Redeemer that our dead be at peace in the love and forgiveness of God.
Order of Christian Funerals, 1998-1989, Number 129.

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