

FEBRUARY 25, 2018

Scripture Reflection

On first view, today's First Reading and Gospel appear to have little in common: Isaac is sacrificed and Jesus is transfigured before two of his disciples. When we dig deeper, however, we discover in both readings a profound message about God's mercy and faithfulness in times of trouble. In addition to some superficial similarities between the sacrifice of Isaac and the Transfiguration (both are set on a mountain, and in both a voice from the heavens speaks) they both teach about God's restorative love and mercy.

Scholars do know how the Isaac story was understood in Jesus' day, and that understanding is key to an interpretation of this Sunday's Gospel. Jewish traditions of the first century A.D. emphasized a detail that is utterly lacking in the Bible. Isaac, they relate, was a willing victim. He knew that God had demanded of his father, and he offered himself for the success of the covenant. Isaac emerges from these accounts a martyr, a hero. These nonbiblical traditions were widespread because the Jewish people in Jesus' day had only recently emerged from a time of persecution. Stories of good Jews sacrificing themselves for their nation were popular, and the "Binding of Isaac" became such a story.

Mark wrote his account of the transfiguration in this light. Jesus is Isaac, offering himself freely for the good of all. The transfiguration thus fulfills Isaac's example and foreshadows the cross. The transfiguration also prefigures the resurrection. The events in today's Gospel passage symbolize the perfect obedience that led to Jesus' glory and the salvation of all. For Isaac, obedience brought forth a nation. For Jesus, self-offering led to glory. This glory was an obscure life and dishonorable death that somehow freed others to live and die in grace. Just so, we must offer ourselves for the good of others. If our quiet acts of transformation this Lent help even one other person feel the love of God, then we have learned to live out the mystery of the Transfiguration.

- **Do you feel that you are following God's will in your life? Do you have a peace in good times and in bad times?**

AT HOME with the WORD 2018, Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, pg. 51. AMERICA MAGAZINE, "How can our obedience lead to freedom?" Michael R. Simone, S.J., January 26, 2018.

Lenten Evening Prayer

This evening and every Sunday in Lent, 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.

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.

Bus Trip

The Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Bishop Garvey Assembly are sponsoring a bus trip to the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA for 'JESUS'. This is a live performance that includes transportation, performance, and a family style meal at the Hershey Farm Restaurant. The date is Wednesday, June 20, 2018, departing from Martins Grocery Store in Duncansville at 7:00 AM and the Bull Pen Restaurant in Tyrone at 6:30 AM. The cost is \$120.00 per person and will be sold as 'first come first serve' until 2 buses are sold out. Reservations: Call Sir Knight Ron Harella at 814-696-3295.

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS EVENTS

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.

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 25, 2018

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

MASS INTENTIONS

February 26, Monday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Dn 9:4-10; Lk 6:36-38

6:45 AM Joe Tomlinson, Birth (Mary & Joe Smithmyer)

8:00 AM Terry J. Joyce (Family)

12:00 PM James Moschella (Mark & Diane Moschella)

February 27, Tuesday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Is 1:10,16-20; Mt 23:1-12

6:45 AM Fred Martynuska (Family)

8:00 AM Catherine Mincin (Steve Trotter)

12:00 PM Louise Talko (Jen & Cory Geishauser)

February 28, Wednesday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Jer 18:18-20; Mtt 20:17-28

6:45 AM Jim and Peggy Mullan (Skip Cowan)

8:00 AM Patty Zerbe Geis, Anniv. (Geis Family)

12:00 PM Eric Hockenberry, Jr., Birth (Mom)

March 1, Thursday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Jer 17:5-10; Lk 16:19-31

6:45 AM Dean Barry (Diane Litzinger)

8:00 AM Derek Behe (Cheryl Brown)

12:00 PM Thomas and Mary Irwin (Irwin Family)

March 2, Friday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Gn 37:3-4,12-13,17-28; Mt21:33-43,45-46

6:45 AM Msgr. Thomas Madden (Estate)

8:00 AM Anna Mercer (Paul & Family)

12:00 PM Julianne Seidel (Patty & Joe Gaeto)

March 3, Saturday: Saint Katharine Drexel, Virgin

Readings: Mi 7:14-15,18-20; Lk 15:1-3,11-32

8:00 AM Robb Robertson (Bauer Family)

12:00 PM Carrie Detwiler, Health (Mary Gene Vogel)

Vigil: Third Sunday of Lent

Readings: Ex 17:3-7; Rom 5:1-2,5-8; Jn 4:5-42

5:00 PM Bernadine Garcia (Sisters, Mary & Kate)

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.

Sympathy Expressed

Bishop Bartchak's mother, Rosemary, died and was buried this past week from Saint Monica Church outside of Cleveland. May Rosemary be at peace with the crucified and risen Lord. Bishop is very much a part of the Cathedral Parish, helping frequently with Masses and Confessions, residing here at the Cathedral rectory. The Parish expresses our sympathy to the Bartchak Family and, especially, to Bishop. We offer prayers for the peaceful repose of Rosemary's soul. And may Bishop Mark, her son, find peace in our shared faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Thank you

The three boards at the Cathedral doors exhibiting photos and names of our candidates for the Easter Sacraments were prepared by Jim Seiler and Jean Koury. The three boards present: (1) adult candidates for Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist, along with children to be baptized; (2) eleventh grade parishioners seeking to celebrate Confirmation; and (3) our second graders who will celebrate their First Communion. Thank you Jim and Jean for the beautiful boards at the three doors of the Cathedral.

The Three Scrutinies

On the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent the Cathedral Parish will celebrate the formal rites of scrutiny with our Elect (those to receive Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) and our Candidates (those already one with us by Baptism who seek full membership in the Catholic Church). This rite will be celebrated at the 10:00 A.M. Mass on March 4th, 11th, and 18th. Please note that the scriptures on these Sundays at all Masses will be from cycle A readings. The annual Gospels for each scrutiny are: the woman at the well (March 4th), the man born blind (March 11th), and Lazarus raised from the dead (March 18th). Like the Elect and Candidates, we too are called to scrutinize our lives and name those sins that must die so that we may more fully live our life in Christ. Lent is a serious time to turn from sin and return to the Lord. Be ready to scrutinize, to name your sins, and seek renewed life in Jesus Christ.

PRAYING THE STATIONS

Stations of the Cross will be prayed this **Friday** evening, March 2 at **7:00 PM** and every Friday of Lent.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, February 18, 2018 - \$7,956.00

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

Rest In Peace

This past week Rosemary Shay and Matthew Schraf died and were buried. 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.

Eucharistic Adoration

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

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.

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

Liturgical Reflection ...

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

During these forty days of Lent we recall our sins and seek the Lord's forgiveness, especially in the Sacrament of Penance. We are invited to fast, pray and give alms to the poor. These Lenten practices are to turn us from sin, and bring us closer to the Lord. It is part of our Catholic faith to have Mass for our faithful departed. When someone dies, family and friends have a Mass offered for the one who has died. Parishes list the Mass intentions each week. Usually these Masses are for the dead, praying that God will shed his mercy and compassion on the deceased. Mass intentions for the deceased seek God's mercy and peace for the faithful and, perhaps, not so faithful, Christian. **Order of Christian Funerals**, 1998-1989, Number 129.

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

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, March 2, from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM.

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.

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 \$30, 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.