

MARCH 4, 2018

Scripture Reflection

A canticle from Isaiah sings that we shall draw water joyfully from the well-springs of salvation (Isaiah 12:3). Water bookends our readings and our lives of faith. The Israelites grumble in their thirst. Moses cries out to God in exasperation. God gives the people water from a rock. In today's Gospel story, the woman who came to the well that day also was thirsty, in many ways. She needed water to stay alive, but her soul was also thirsting. Jesus came with his thirst; that is probably where they first connected. Both were thirsty.

Perhaps the metaphor of thirst, even more than the metaphor of hunger, conveys the desperation of the soul's need for God. We might pass a day or two without food and experience only mild discomfort. But cut off from water, we are quickly afflicted with thirst; we experience it as an immediate threat to our life and health. Like the Israelites in the desert, we soon begin to grumble. The Samaritan woman must already feel the pangs of spiritual thirst. Though initially disconcerted by being addressed by a Jewish man, she engages him in conversation, yearning for the living water that he offers, bringing relief to her life of spiritual longing. Lent is an opportunity to let ourselves feel our spiritual thirst and to welcome the living water that Jesus offers.

Jesus gives a Samaritan woman more than water by ordinary means---dialogue and presence. The story is not ordinary. Why? Jews considered Samaritans to be less than human. Men did not speak to women in public. But Jesus spoke to this Samaritan woman in a public place. His request, "Give me a drink," put himself in need of her and began a conversation that satisfied her deeper thirsts for God and acceptance. Transformed, she returns to the people she tried to avoid and shares her experience. She leads them to Jesus. Their encounter with him transformed them. They came to know that the Savior, the Lord, was in their midst.

- **Can I name my spiritual thirst? Wisdom? Understanding? Mercy? Something else?**

Living the Word, World Library Publications, Dennis Sylva and James Wallace, 2008, pg. 80; Laurie Brink and Frederick Bauerschmidt, 2014, pg. 72; Laurie Brink and Paul Colloton, 2017, pg. 66.

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.

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.

Last Supper Drama

The Last Supper Drama will be performed at Saint Michael Parish, Hollidaysburg, Monday of Holy Week, March 26, 2018, 8:00 PM until 9:00 PM. The event features an adult cast from St. Michael and St. Mary Parishes of Hollidaysburg and St. Patrick Parish of Newry. Watch and listen as Christ's disciples speak of their thoughts and emotions, as they prepare to share in the First Eucharist and our Lord's Redeeming Passion. The drama is one hour and requires no audience participation. There is no cost or offering.

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.

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 4, 2018

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

MASS INTENTIONS

March 5, Monday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: 2 Kgs 5:1-15; Lk 4:24-30

6:45 AM Bernadine Yarnell (Cathedral Parish)

8:00 AM Mike Chisko (Family)

12:00 PM Myra Mangiacarne (Colleen Sheehan)

March 6, Tuesday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Dn 3:25,34-43; Mt 18:21-35

6:45 AM M/M Andrew Lesko (Fran & Chrissy Dambeck)

8:00 AM Patrick J. Cooney (L. & R. Cunningham Fam.)

12:00 PM Janet Tomlinson (Tim & JoAnn Bettwy)

March 7, Wednesday: Sts. Perpetua & Felicity, Martyrs

Readings: Dt 4:1,5-9; Mt 5:17-19

6:45 AM Carrie Moffa (Estate)

8:00 AM Louise Beam (Bear & Patricia McCloskey)

12:00 PM M. Virginia Jones (Bauer Family)

March 8, Thursday: Saint John of God, Religious

Readings: Jer 7:23-28; Lk 11:14-23

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

8:00 AM BeBe Milliron (Janet Frank)

12:00 PM Betty McCabe (Jane Davidson Family)

March 9, Friday: Saint Frances of Rome, Religious

Readings: Hos 14:2-10; Mk 12:28-34

6:45 AM David Riley (Carol Riley)

8:00 AM Health of Shirley Williams (Sister, Sandra)

12:00 PM Bill & Kathleen Hoff, Anniv. (Justin McCaulley)

March 10, Saturday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Hos 6:1-6; Lk 18:9-14

8:00 AM BeBe Milliron (John & Lisa Karl)

12:00 PM Alfred Rutolo, Anniv. (Daughter & Family)

Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Lent

Readings: 1 Sm 16:1,6-7,10-13; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41

5:00 PM John Bauer (Rosemarie Fedeli)

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.

Eucharistic Adoration

Cathedral Parish will hold our monthly **Eucharistic Adoration on Wednesday, March 7**, from 12:30 PM until 8:00 PM. What a great prayer opportunity for the season of Lent. Schedule 30 to 60 minutes before the Blessed Sacrament this Wednesday. Please join the parish 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.

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. Today we stand with the woman at the well and name our thirsts---some good and some not so good. We seek Jesus, Life-Giving Water!

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.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, February 25, 2018 - \$8,188.00

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

Rest In Peace

This past week Deborah Barr died and was buried. May Deborah 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.

PRAYING THE STATIONS

Stations of the Cross will be prayed this **Friday** evening, March 9 at **7:00 PM** and every Friday of Lent.

Confirmation Preparation

All Eleventh Grade Candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation will meet on Sunday, March 4, at 6:15 PM in the Church Hall. Your Session #3 Paper is due on the name of your Saint for your Confirmation name.

F.I.R.E. Classes Scheduled

F.I.R.E. Classes will be held on Sunday, March 11, 2018 and Sunday, March 25, 2018, from 6:15 to 8:30 PM in the Church Hall.

Apple Dumpling & Chocolate P.B. Brownie Sale

Our Lady of Fatima Parish is sponsoring an Apple Dumpling and Chocolate P. B. Brownie Sale on Friday, March 23 from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM. Apple Dumplings, regular and sugar free, are \$5.00 each. Chocolate Chunk Peanut Butter Brownies are \$6.50 for a 9-pack. Just in time for your Palm Sunday Brunch. Deadline for orders is Friday, March 16, 2018. Call 814-942-0371 or email: olfoff10@hotmail.com.

Liturgical Reflection ...

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

Today the Elect (those seeking the Easter Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) hear the Gospel of the woman at the well. She is thirsting for something in her life; sin has taken her to the wrong places. She discovers that Christ is the living water who leads us from sin to new life. When we celebrate the Funeral Mass for a sister or brother, we call upon God's mercy to forgive whatever sinful offenses may stand in the way of salvation. As one of the prayers at the Funeral Mass begins, "O God, who are mercy for sinners..." we are reminded that both the living and dead stand in need of God's mercy and compassion.

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

Daylight Savings Time Begins

A reminder that Daylight Savings Time begins next Sunday, March 11. Please remember to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night.

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, a great fish sandwich this Friday, March 9, from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM.

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.