

MARCH 11, 2018

Scripture Reflection

In the man born blind, Jesus sees both a person and an opportunity to make the works of God visible through him. Ordinary clay saliva, and washing heal the man's physical blindness. His openness frees him to do as Jesus asked and so he gains physical sight. As the story unfolds, he also gains insight into who Jesus was: naming him prophet, from God, and Son of Man. He also gains the courage to speak truth to the Pharisees, blinded by seeing only what they wanted to see. By their refusal to look into the heart and really see Jesus and the healed blind man, those choose to be blind. To sin one must know that something is wrong and choose to do it.

Part of the irony of the story is that it is the man's neighbors who are really the blind ones. It is they who cannot see beyond their presumptions and prejudices and truly perceive the blind man. Moreover, they cannot truly see Jesus, saying that they know that he is a sinner. As Jesus heals the man's physical blindness, he is also trying to heal the blindness of the bystanders by giving them the eyes of faith, so they can see what the blind man now sees: that if Jesus were not from God he would not be able to do anything.

Our union with Christ gives us light to distinguish truth from falsehood, right from wrong, light from darkness. His light helps us see beyond mere appearance and preconceptions into the heart. Are we willing to see as God sees? Or does fear of rejection or change keep us blind, like the man's parents and the Pharisees? When we look into the heart, we see others and ourselves as God does, people of light and darkness, whose darkness when named, can be healed. Turn to the light and ask the Divine Physician to open your eyes. Though we might think of healing physical blindness as a great miracle, the Gospel of John seems to be saying that it is spiritual blindness that truly needs to be overcome, and it is the healing of spiritual blindness that is the greatest miracle.

- **How has blindness kept you in the dark and unable to see the works of God?**

Living the Word, World Library Publications, Laurie Brink and Frederick Bauerschmidt, 2014, pg. 79; Laurie Brink and Paul Colloton, 2017, pg. 74.

24 Hours for the Lord

Pope Francis has again requested worldwide participation in a unique prayer experience during the season of Lent - **24 Hours for the Lord**. Holy Father has asked that one church in each diocese have confessors available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation while as many of the faithful as possible pray before the Blessed Sacrament in exposition on the altar.

The designated church in our Diocese is the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. Eucharistic adoration and confessions will take place from 4:00 PM on Friday, March 16, until 4:00 PM Saturday, March 17. Bishop will begin **24 Hours for the Lord** with formal prayer at 4:00 PM this Friday, March 16.

People from throughout the diocese have been invited to make pilgrimage to the Cathedral Church. This can be done as individuals, families or groups. It is an occasion for reconciliation, renewal, and conversion as we are drawn to God's mercy these Lenten days.

Please note that Cathedral will have Stations of the Cross on Friday at 7:00 PM. Also, there will be Mass on Saturday at 8:00 AM and Noon (the Blessed Sacrament will be reposed for the celebration of Mass).

Different groups within the Cathedral Parish will be contacted this week to schedule time before the Sacrament with the opportunity for confession. Please be ready to generously respond as we take advantage of a beautiful occasion for spiritual closeness with the Lord. Plan to take an hour out of the twenty-four hours to reflect on God's merciful love.

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS EVENTS

Open House

Holy Trinity will host an open house on Thursday, March 22, from 6:00 to 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 3rd and 4th grade. Middle school offers 5th thru 8th grade. Altoona Elementary Campus: 424 Wopsononock Avenue, 16601, 381-7011; Hollidaysburg Elementary Campus: Spruce and Wayne Street, 16648, 695-6112; Middle School Campus: 5519 Sixth Avenue, 16602, 942-7835.

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

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

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 11, 2018

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

MASS INTENTIONS

March 12, Monday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54

6:45 AM Joseph A. Moffa, Anniversary (Estate)

8:00 AM Grace and Albert Cowan (Skip Cowan)

12:00 PM Rose Himmelein (Minnie Yahner)

March 13, Tuesday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Ez 47:1-9,12; Jn 5:1-16

6:45 AM Jim Davidson (Alianiello Family)

8:00 AM David Conrad (Jim and Steph Kilcoyne)

12:00 PM Lois J. Riley (Helen Force)

March 14, Wednesday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30

6:45 AM Irene Kelly Wood (Son, Matt)

8:00 AM Eric Hockenberry, Sr., Birthday (Wife)

12:00 PM Sister Beverly-Health/Birth. (Mildred Mazur)

March 15, Thursday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47

6:45 AM Michael Dionis (Cathedral Parish)

8:00 AM Rosemary Shay (Rita and Jerry Kibler)

12:00 PM Louise Talko (Diana Hencherick)

March 16, Friday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Wis 2:1,12-22; Jn 7:1-2,10,25-30

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

8:00 AM Maint. Dept., PSU-Altoona (M/M Bernard Behe)

12:00 PM Janet Tomlinson (Greg and Kathy Clemens)

March 17, Saturday: Saint Patrick, Bishop

Readings: Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53

8:00 AM Bernie Garcia (Chip and Bob Klesiewicz)

12:00 PM George Sheedy (John and Alice Joyce)

Vigil: Fifth Sunday of Lent

Readings: Ez 37:12-14; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45

5:00 PM Dolores Snyder, Anniversary (Family)

THINK BASKET BINGO - SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2018

It's that time of year again for our **4th Annual Basket Bingo**. A meeting will be held in the Church Hall on March 15 at 6:30 PM. Please plan to attend. We're asking for your support. All kinds of items are needed. They 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.

Restoration of the Chalice at Mass for the Faithful

At the center of the Church's annual liturgical calendar is the commemoration of the Lord's death and resurrection during the Three Days. Lent will end late in the afternoon of Thursday, March 29. The Three Days will begin Holy Thursday evening, March 29, with the *Mass of the Lord's Supper*. As the Church enters the sacred Triduum, the offering of the chalice is to be restored in all the parishes of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. At the *Mass of the Lord's Supper* all in the Diocesan Church will be welcomed to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord under the species of bread and wine. Consistently the Church has stated that the fullness of the sign of Mass is seen in the reception of both the consecrated bread and the consecrated wine. This is what Jesus the Lord directed on the night before he died, to eat his Body and drink his Blood. All are invited to receive Holy Communion under the elements of both bread and wine Holy Thursday evening. Also, beginning at the *Mass of the Lord's Supper*, we will now return to the regular manner of exchanging the sign of peace.

PRAYING THE STATIONS

Stations of the Cross will be prayed this **Friday** evening, March 16 at **7:00 PM** and every Friday of Lent.

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 man born blind and name our blindness to God, that is, our sins. We seek Jesus, the light of the world.

Vacation Bible School

The theme this Summer will be Shipwrecked 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.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas

Gallitzin Court #2625, will meet on Monday, March 12 for a social at 6:30 PM followed by the meeting at 7:00 PM at the Saint Rose of Lima Social Hall. New members are welcome!

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.

Eucharistic Adoration

Cathedral Parish will hold our monthly Eucharistic Adoration on Easter Wednesday, April 4, from 12:30 PM until 8:00 PM.

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.

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

Liturgical Reflection ...

Our sins go before us always. We must seek forgiveness that comes from God alone. Lent is our annual retreat to seek the strength to turn away from sin and live in the grace of God's love. It is part of Catholic life to pray for our dead. God is the one to judge us. We seek the Lord to be merciful and loving in judgement of our deceased. At the Funeral Mass we pray, "O God, whose nature is always to forgive and to show mercy, we humbly implore you for your servant (who has died)..." Jesus Christ died on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. We seek that forgiveness for our faithful departed.

Roman Missal, Masses for the Dead, I. For the Funeral, A, Outside Easter Time.

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

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, March 4, 2018 - \$9,102.00

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

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.

F.I.R.E. Students Feed the Hungry

Cathedral F.I.R.E. students will be feeding the hungry of our community on Palm Sunday in the Cathedral Hall from 1:30 PM until 3:00 PM.

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 16, 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.

Rest in Peace

Clyde Kirsch and Scott Askey died and were buried this past week. 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.