

MARCH 25, 2018

Scripture Reflection

There are similarities among the four Gospels regarding Jesus' passion. A comparison with the other Gospels shows that Mark packs his account with details that other evangelists smooth over or omit. The man carrying a water jar, the hymns after the dinner, the young man who leaves his clothes behind to get away, and the names of Simon's young sons are just some of the rich details of Mark's passion narrative. These give his Gospel an immediacy that readers throughout the centuries have found engaging.

Today's Gospel tells the story of Jesus' suffering, death and burial---a long narrative with many sub-stories---one of which is particularly meaningful on this Palm Sunday. When the unnamed woman anoints Jesus with a superabundance of perfume, Jesus says that she is doing it for his burial, but anointing of the head would have made most people of his day think of the anointing of a messiah king. *Messiah* means "anointed."

Mark's passion account is a map for Christians facing distress. Jesus prayed at every point; he even quoted from the psalms while he hung on the cross. He offered no resistance to his persecutors and was vindicated by Pilate and the centurion (although neither took any action to save him from his fate). Instead of fighting his accusers, Jesus turned the whole matter over to his Father and accepted in obedience whatever outcome befell him. Remaining in tune with the Father's will, even when it seemed absurd, brought Jesus to the resurrection.

In today's Gospel reading, Mark encourages Christians to follow Jesus in the same faith. Because of Jesus' perfect obedience, Christians know how to face persecution and have the divine strength to do it. Christians of every age can face the turmoil in their own lives with trust in God's love. If today's Gospel gives us any call to discipleship, it is to hold fast in prayer and to trust in God so that we can brave hostility and turmoil for the good of others. Through us, Jesus' death can bring all to new life.

- **Would you say that you have a deep trust in God? Trusting in God's love can help us through difficult times.**

AT HOME with the WORD 2018, Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, pg. 69. AMERICA MAGAZINE, "Does our trust in God withstand moments of turmoil?" Michael R. Simone, S.J., March 9, 2018.

2018 Catholic Ministries Drive

The annual Catholic Ministries Drive is underway in the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese. You have received a letter from the Bishop containing your return envelope. Monsignor Mazur has mailed each parishioner a letter requesting your participation in this annual drive. This year's appeal focuses on 14 ministries of *Caring for the Poor and Strengthening Families, Nurturing Our Youth, and Forming Clergy and Laity.*

The Cathedral Parish has been given the target goal of **\$55,357.00** for 2018. Your generosity is being requested. Aware that the Parish is in the midst of a five-year pledge to the capital campaign and that the annual budget relies heavily on your weekly offering to the Cathedral Parish, this is an annual opportunity to assist the Diocese in the ministries offered throughout our eight-county Local Church.

Also, know that all monies that exceed the target goal come back to the Parish. These monies will go to the payment of the paving of the upper parking lot which took place last fall.

Thank you for your generous response to this request. You may place your envelope (marked **2018 Catholic Ministries Drive**) in the weekly collection or drop off at the parish office in the Parish Center. Your past generosity has always seen the Cathedral exceed our goal with monies returning to the Parish.

Holy Thursday Dinner

At the end of Lent and as we enter *The Three Days*, the Cathedral Parish will gather for Dinner at 6:00 PM this Thursday, March 29, at 6:00 PM in the Cathedral Hall before our 7:30 PM Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper. There will be a basket placed on the serving table to receive donations (if able) for this catered meal. All are welcome.

FISH LUNCHEON WORKERS THANK YOU!

A special "Thanks" to the following who helped make the Lenten Fish Luncheons a success: Mary Beth Adams, Mary Ann Bell, Jim and Ann Dixon, Bobbie Dixon, Dwight Drexler, Fred Drexler, Pat Duffy, Tony Eckenrode, John Fischer, Janet Hammond, Ron Helfrich, Jim Kilcoyne, Stephanie Kilcoyne, Matt Koeck, Jean Koury, Danette Lee, Christine McCulloch, Beth Moore, Gail and John Murphy, Donnie Rabine, Dana Tomlinson, Dottie Watcher and Butch Winkler.

Thank you also to all who supported our Fish Luncheons. No Lunch served on Good Friday.

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.

ANOINTING 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

EUCHARIST:

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

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

MARCH 25, 2018

Readings: Mk 11:1-10; Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mk 14:1-15:47

MASS INTENTIONS

March 26, Monday of Holy Week

Readings: Is 42:1-7; Jn 12:1-11

6:45 AM Carol Colobrese (Ed McCaulley)

8:00 AM Joyce Rourke McNeal (Cathedral Parish)

11:00 AM **Chrism Mass**

Readings: Is 42:1-7; Jn 12:1-11

March 27, Tuesday of Holy Week

Readings: Is 49:1-6; Jn 13:21-33,36-38

6:45 AM Jim Paul, Sr. (M/M Francis Dambeck)

8:00 AM Patrick J. Cooney (Betty Schlesinger Fam)

12:00 PM Josephine Hicks, Anniv. (Jacqueline)

March 28, Wednesday of Holy Week

Readings: Is 50:4-9; Mt 26:14-25

6:45 AM Robert Burkey (Family)

8:00 AM Mary Pat Williams (Kerry & Pat Byrne)

12:00 PM Thadeus Zaczek (Sister)

THE THREE DAYS

March 29, **Holy Thursday**

Readings: Ex 12:1-8,11-14; Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15

7:30 PM Joe Wiedemer (Cathedral Christian Mothers)
Adoration until 10:00 PM

March 30, **Good Friday of the Passion of the Lord**

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

12:00 PM Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Readings: Is 52:13-53:12; Heb 4:14-16,5:7-9; Jn 18:1-19:42

7:30 PM Tenebrae

March 31, **Holy Saturday**

9:00 AM Office of Readings

8:30 PM **Easter Vigil**

Readings: Gn 1:1-2:2; Exodus 14:15-15:1; Is 55:1:11;
Baruch 3:9-15,32-4:4; Rom 6:3-11; Mk 16:1-7

Barbara Byers (George and Carol Thur)

April 1, **Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord**

Readings: Acts 10:34; Col 3:1-4; Jn 20:1-9

8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 PM (No 5:00 PM Mass)

Mass Schedule Note

Due to the **Chrism Mass** celebrated at 11:00 AM on Monday of Holy Week, there will be no Noon Mass on Monday, March 26. All are invited to participate in the Chrism Mass.

Confessions

Confessions before Easter will be heard on Wednesday of Holy Week, March 28 at 7:00 PM.

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 this 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.

Chrism Mass

The Local Church of Altoona-Johnstown will assemble tomorrow, the Monday of Holy Week, March 26, at 11:00 AM in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament for the annual Chrism Mass. Bishop will gather with his college of priests assisted by his deacons with the assembled faithful from throughout the Diocese. Bishop will bless the Oil of the Catechumens, the Oil of the Sick, and Sacred Chrism. These consecrated oils will be used for the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders and Anointing of the Sick; also, new altars will be consecrated with Sacred Chrism. Each parish community will take a portion of the three oils back to the parish for use in the appropriate liturgical celebrations. The entire diocesan family is invited to participate in this annual Liturgy.

Eucharistic Adoration

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

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.

Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group

The Cathedral Prayer Group will meet this Monday, March 26th, at 7:00 PM, here at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. Deacon Michael Anna will be the homilist. All are welcome! Join us for Praise and Worship, Spirit-filled teachings and witnessing, prayer ministry, and fellowship!

CCW 16th Annual "Hands & Hearts Haiti Fèt"

The Carmelite Community of the Word invites you to our 16th Annual Hands & Hearts Haiti Fèt (Paschal Festival), on Sunday, April 22, 2018, at Our Lady of Loretto Hall, 279 St. Elizabeth St., Loretto, PA 15940. Please join us for an afternoon focusing on the culture of Haiti, particularly the music and cuisine. The meal will feature Haitian dishes prepared by Chef Gina Tusing. A portion of the afternoon will include a few Haitian songs performed by a small choral group who has studied and practiced the music of the Little Sisters of the Incarnation of Haiti for this event. Doors open at 1:45 PM; Dinner and Silent Auction at 2:30 PM followed by entertainment. Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$15 for children under 13. Each participant is asked to contribute new underwear or socks for children, infant to teen sizes, girls or boys. Contact the CCW Incarnation Center at 814-886-4098 for tickets of more information. Ticket deadline is April 16, 2018. All proceeds help us continue our ministry in Haiti.



Liturgical Reflection ...

Today is Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. The Christian world begins its holiest of weeks. Today we enter the sacred city Jerusalem where our Lord is met with shouts of Hosannas, only later to be handed over to crucifixion and death. Lent will end this week before the great Three Days of the Lord's death and resurrection. Can you name what must die in your life so that new life can enter? For forty days we have fasted, prayed, and given alms. We will die with the Lord, only to rise with him. For the living and the dead, these are the days commemorating our salvation in Jesus Christ. Death and resurrection ground our faith. We dare to enter the holy city to die and rise with our Lord.

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

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, March 18, 2018 - \$8,276.00

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 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 Sunday, April 8, in the Cathedral Hall from 1:30 PM until 3:00 PM.

Lenten Evening Prayer

This evening 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.

The Friar's Nook Gift Shop

The Friar's Nook Gift Shop (Saint Bernardine Monastery, 793 Monastery Road, Hollidaysburg) will be holding an Easter bake sale Monday through Wednesday of Holy Week (March 26th - March 28th). The bake sale will include Franciscan inspired Easter bread and ethnic cookies. Fresh products brought in daily! Celebrate Easter by receiving 20% off your entire purchase.

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. 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. **Basket Bingo tickets are being sold at the Cathedral Square door starting March 24, 2018: \$25.00 per person with value pack for an additional \$30.**