

MARCH 18, 2018

Scripture Reflection

For the third week we turn to the Gospel of John for one of the most dramatic encounters in its pages. Jesus had been sent for with an anguished message: "Master, the one you love is ill" (John 11:3). But he allowed several days to pass before he arrived in the town of Bethany, outside of Jerusalem. We can hear both the sorrow and the anger in Martha's voice when she says, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died" (11:21). And then the hope against all hope as she continues, "But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you". That mixture of anguish and hope in the face of death is the inheritance of any believer who has suffered the loss of a loved one. Having faith does not lessen the pain of death.

If we read the story of Lazarus not simply as a story about Jesus's victory over bodily death, but also his victory over sin, then we can see ourselves like Lazarus, lying in the tomb of our own evil actions, bound by them the way that Lazarus is bound by his burial cloths. We also see Jesus weeping, grieving by the tomb in which the deadly power of sin has enclosed us. And we hear his cry, "Come out!" as an invitation to us to rise from our sins and turn back to God.

"I will open your graves and have you rise from them" (Ezekiel 37:12). "I will put my spirit in you that you may live" (Ezekiel 37:14). These words both comfort and challenge. To experience new life we have to do what Jesus did, go to the tomb and face the stench of whatever is deadly. By facing our darkness, sin, and death we can find light, forgiveness, and life. When we are willing to name and claim these realities, we invite Jesus to come and say, "Come out!" and go free. It takes a willingness to open our lives to the Spirit of God who dwells in us. The first step is honesty about our fears, frustrations, and faith like Mary and Martha, and a willingness to be misunderstood as Jesus was when he wept. When we can be vulnerable and honest about darkness and sin in our lives, Jesus shows us a way to freedom and fullness of life.

- **What darkness or sin keeps you from the love and life God promises?**

Living the Word, World Library Publications; Dennis Sylva and James Wallace, 2008, pg. 94; Laurie Brink and Frederick Bauerschmidt, 2014, pg. 86; Laurie Brink and Paul Colloton, 2017, pg. 81.

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. This week 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*. Monsignor Mazur spoke at all Masses last week; Jennifer Crawford, Chair of the Parish Council, is speaking at Masses this weekend about the drive. The insert in today's bulletin is a copy of the letter to the Cathedral received from the Diocese concerning this year's drive.

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.

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.

Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group

The Cathedral Prayer Group will meet on Monday, March 26th, at 7:00 PM, here at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. Deacon Michael Anna will be the speaker. All are welcome!

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 18, 2018

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

MASS INTENTIONS

- March 19, Monday: Saint Joseph, Spouse of BVM
Readings: 2 Sm 7:4-5,12-14,16; Rom 4:13,16-18,22; Mt 1:16,18-21,24
6:45 AM Richard & Dorothy Irwin Family (Irwins)
8:00 AM Billie Baker (John and Anita Jubas)
12:00 PM For All Priests
- March 20, Tuesday: Lenten Weekday
Readings: Nm 21:4-9; Jn 8:21-30
6:45 AM Barry and Brian Elmers (Mom and Dad)
8:00 AM Jane Gallagher Gaitan (McNelis All-Stars)
12:00 PM Patty Geis (Margaret Misitano and Family)
- March 21, Wednesday: Lenten Weekday
Readings: Dn 3:14-20,91-92,95; Jn 8:31-42
6:45 AM Bishop Howard Carroll, Anniv (Cathedral Parish)
8:00 AM Mary Hanley, Birthday (Sister)
12:00 PM Betty McCabe (Randy and Jean Koury)
- March 22, Thursday: Lenten Weekday
Readings: Gn 17:3-9; Jn 8:51-59
6:45 AM David Riley (Carol Riley)
8:00 AM Bernadette Weakland (M/M Francis Krug)
12:00 PM Jordan Over (Mary Gene Vogel)
- March 23, Friday: Saint Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop
Readings: Jer 20:10-13; Jn 10:31-42
6:45 AM JoyAnn Biem Phillips (Bob & Joan Lozinak)
8:00 AM Joe Tomlinson (Mary Ann Bell)
12:00 PM Poor Souls
- March 24, Saturday: Blessed Oscar Romero, Bp. & Martyr
Readings: Ez 37:21-28; Jn 11:45-56
8:00 AM Herbert Kutruff (Helen Farrell)
12:00 PM M. Virginia Jones (Guido & Debbie Santella)
Vigil: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
Readings: Mk 11:1-10; Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mk 14:1-15:47
5:00 PM Pat Rabine, Birthday (Family)

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. Tickets are available now at the Parish Office: \$25.00 per person with value pack for an additional \$30.

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

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

Our final Stations of the Cross will be prayed this **Friday** evening, March 23 at **7:00 PM**.

The Third Scrutiny

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) will celebrate the third and final scrutiny this Sunday at the 10:00 AM Mass. Please note that the scriptures are from cycle A readings. 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 Lazarus who is called from the shadows of the grave and untied to live fully in Jesus Christ. Name those sins that keep us tied to the shadows of death and sin.

Communal Penance Service

The annual Lenten Penance Service is this Wednesday, March 21 at 6:30 PM. There will be a dozen priests available to hear confessions. Be present to participate in this Lenten prayer. The forty days of Lent have us come to terms with our sins. This Wednesday is an opportunity to name those sins and receive the Lord's mercy and forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance.

Appreciation

Thank you to Mary Ann Bell, Bill and Grace Smith, Paula Miller, Paulette Farabaugh and Patty McCloskey who helped with the parish mailing this week.

Last Lenten Fish Luncheon

On the Fridays of Lent, Cathedral offers 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. Remember, a great fish sandwich this Friday, March 23, from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. There will be no fish luncheon on Friday, Good Friday.

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!

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.

Liturgical Reflection ...

Lent has us focus on the cross where both death and life are found. Jesus obediently accepted death on a cross so that sins might be forgiven and our relationship with God be restored. The Preface at the Funeral Mass prays, "For even though by our own fault we perish, yet by your compassion and your grace, when seized by death according to our sins, we are redeemed through Christ's great victory..." Sin causes us to lose our life in the Lord. We seek life through the Lord's victory on Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Redemption is ours, both for the living and dead, in the salvific death of the Lord.

Roman Missal, Preface V, For The Dead.

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

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, March 11, 2018 - \$8,990.00

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.

Holy Trinity Catholic School

There will be an **OPEN HOUSE** for Holy Trinity Catholic School at the three campuses on Thursday, March 22, from 6:00 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. Come and meet the teachers, visit the classrooms, and see what we are all about! Elementary offers Pre-K through 3rd and 4th grades. Middle School offers 5th through 8th grades. Addresses are: *Altoona Elementary Campus* at 424 Wopsonnock Avenue, telephone: 381-7011; *Hollidaysburg Elementary Campus*, Spruce and Wayne Streets, telephone: 695-6112; *Middle School Campus*, 5519 Sixth Avenue, Altoona, telephone: 942-7835.

Holy Trinity has provided a beautiful postcard announcing the Open House. Share the good news of our Catholic School with someone interested in sending their child or children to an outstanding place to learn, grow, and know Jesus Christ. The postcard has been inserted in today's bulletin.

Rest In Peace

John Bettwy, Steve Kruse and Joe Wiedemer 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.