

APRIL 8, 2018

Scripture Reflection

If we choose to live as Easter people, our lives will be radically transformed. This is what happened to Jesus' disciples. They went from being cowards, afraid for their lives, to bold messengers of the Gospel. The earliest Christian communities were transformed, aspiring to live a way of life radically different from their previous one. The question for us today is whether we will allow ourselves to be profoundly transformed by the Easter message and so become revealers of God.

In the first part of today's Gospel reading, Jesus shared the Spirit with the apostles and directed them to use it for the forgiveness of sins. With the Spirit, the apostles were able to speak with divine authority. They could forgive offenses against God on God's behalf. This ministry continues today both in the church, through the sacrament of reconciliation, and among individual Christians when they forgive and perform works of mercy.

In the second part of the Gospel reading, Jesus chides Thomas for his slowness of faith, but he also shows that he is able to overcome Thomas's doubts and bring him to belief. At various times in history, Christians have used this Gospel to defend the use of material things like sacramentals, pilgrimages, icons or other religious art. Christ is willing to use things that are seen to strengthen us when we are weak in faith. Those of us who through baptism continue his mission in the Spirit must remember that as individuals and as church, we are icons of Christ. The world must see in us the same merciful Christ who appeared to the apostles. Then from us they can learn of Christ's mission and perform great works with his Spirit.

- **How has the Risen Lord called you to continue his mission of mercy, joy, and peace?**

AT HOME with the WORD 2018, Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, pg. 77. AMERICA MAGAZINE, "Sent to Show Mercy" Michael R. Simone, S.J., April 2, 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.

Infant Baptismal Preparation

There will be a baptismal preparation session for infant baptism on **Thursday, April 19th, at 7:00 P.M.** in the Seton Suite. Parents need not wait until your baby is born to attend the class. All parents are expected to attend this informative meeting regarding your baby's baptism.

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS

Now Accepting Applications for 2018-2019

Applications are available at the school office and on the school website (See front of bulletin).

IOWA Assessments

The IOWA Assessments for students in grades 2 through 8 are scheduled Monday, April 9. Please make sure your children get plenty of rest during this time and eat a healthy breakfast each day.

Elementary Shadow Day

Our 4th graders will spend the day at the Middle School this month. HTCS Altoona will visit on Monday, April 23. HTCS Hollidaysburg will visit on Tuesday, April 24.

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 EASTER

APRIL 8, 2018

Readings: Acts 4:32-35; 1 Jn 5:1-6; Jn 20:19-31

MASS INTENTIONS

April 9, Monday: The Annunciation of the Lord

Readings: Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38

6:45 AM Elizabeth Karl (Bob and Joan Lozinak)

8:00 AM Leroy & Irmina Helfrich (Estate)

12:00 PM M. Virginia Jones (Randy & Jean Koury Fam)

April 10, Tuesday: Easter Weekday

Readings: Acts 4:32-37; Jn 3:7-15

6:45 AM Msgr. Paul Panza (Tom and Patricia Forr)

8:00 AM Joe Wiedemer (Murphy and Patty Montler)

12:00 PM Michael Dionis (Fran and Jack Robine)

7:00 PM Confirmation

April 11, Wednesday: Saint Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr

Readings: Acts 5:17-26; Jn 3:16-21

6:45 AM Marian Clemens (Mike and Sherry Byrne)

8:00 AM Derek Behe (Mom and Dad)

12:00 PM John Bettwy (Joseph and Jean Bettwy)

April 12, Thursday: Easter Weekday

Readings: Acts 5:27-33; Jn 3:31-36

6:45 AM David Conrad (Nora Maginnis)

8:00 AM Julianne Seidel (Kay Wesner & Ann Gates)

12:00 PM Louise Talko (Tom and Vicky McGraw)

7:00 PM Confirmation

April 13, Friday: Saint Martin I, Pope and Martyr

Readings: Acts 5:34-42; Jn 6:1-15

6:45 AM Patrick Eberle (Mary and Jim Farrell)

8:00 AM Mike Chisko (Bart and Eileen Hmel)

12:00 PM Tom Byrne (Jack and Colleen Douglass)

April 14, Saturday: Easter Weekday

Readings: Acts 6:1-7; Jn 6:16-21

8:00 AM M. Charlotte McCall, Birth.(Greg & Karen Querry)

12:00 PM Gloria Hockenberry, Birthday

Vigil: Third Sunday of Easter

Readings: Act 3:13-15, 17-19; 1 Jn 2:1-5; Lk 24:35-48

5:00 PM Bernadine Garcia (Charlotte Irwin)

Confessions on Wednesday, April 11, 2018

Confessions will be heard at 7:00 PM during Confirmation practice.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas

Prince Gallitzin Court #2625 will meet on Monday, April 9th for a social at 6:30 PM, followed by the meeting at 7:00 PM at the St. Rose of Lima Social Hall. New members welcome!

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

ANOINTING OF SICK AT EASTER MASS

On **Sunday, April 22**, at the **10:00 AM Mass**, Cathedral Parish will celebrate the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Catholics of any age (having reached the age of reason - seven years old) who are suffering from serious illness are encouraged to participate in this healing Sacrament of the Church. Only those whose health is seriously impaired by sickness or old age are proper subjects for this Sacrament. Physical illness, addictions such as alcohol and drug abuse, along with psychological illness are reasons to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. If you have questions as to whether you are a proper candidate for this Sacrament, please call the Parish Office (944-4603) and ask to speak to one of the priests. Health care professionals will be in attendance for this healing rite. Call the Parish Office to register to receive this important Sacrament and to arrange transportation if needed. Also, Prayer Shawls will be blessed and distributed at this annual Easter Liturgy.

Generosity of God's People

Thank you to those who were most generous throughout the forty days of Lent. The Ash Wednesday collection was \$2,068.50. The collection at the daily Masses during Lent was \$5,154.50. The Holy Thursday collection was \$538.30. And the profit from the Fish Luncheons during Lent was \$6,839.00. The monies will be shared with the poor, particularly with Catholic Charities, St. Vincent DePaul Society, and our partnered parish in Jamaica, Saint Margaret Mary Parish.

Report of Parish Lenten Almsgiving

Ash Wednesday Collection -	\$2,068.50
Lenten Fish Luncheons -	\$6,839.00
Daily Lenten Mass Collections -	\$5,154.50
Saint Margaret Mary Parish -	\$1,023.00
Holy Thursday For Poor -	\$538.30
Total -	\$15,623.30

Additional gifts of non-perishable food, paper and cleaning products were collected in baskets at the church doors throughout the Lenten season. The monies will be shared with the poor, particularly with Catholic Charities, Saint Vincent dePaul Society, and our partnered parish in Jamaica, Saint Margaret Mary Parish. The Easter and Memorial Flowers collections will appear in the May 20th bulletin.

Congratulations!

At the Easter Vigil this past Saturday, March 31, the following persons received the Sacraments of Initiation, Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist: Ian Carter, Robyn Durgin, and Timmie Liu. The following received Baptism: Piper Durgin, Kendall, Durgin, Ricky Batista-Ortiz, Tommy Batista-Ortiz, and Jessy Batista-Ortiz. The following received Confirmation: Jonathan Ambrosia-Garcia, Elliott Long, and Gabrielle MacAllister. Congratulations to the newest members of the Catholic Church! This past week Joel William McCaulley was baptized. Congratulations to parents, Justin and Carlee along with big sister, Greer, and to Joel's grandparents and extended family. Joel will grow in his Christian faith to the extent that family and parish model what we believe by our words and actions.

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

Art Classes for Kids

Cory Geishauser will offer a five week **ART CLASS** for 1st and 2nd Graders from 6:00P.M. to 7:00 P.M. and for 3rd and 4th Graders from 7:15P.M. to 8:15P.M. in the Cathedral Seton Suite on these Mondays: April 23, 30, May 7, 14, and 21. Students are encouraged to bring their own art supplies. Paper will be provided. Sign-up is by Friday, April 20th. The cost for the Art Class is \$25.00 for the five weeks; checks are made payable to *Cory Geishauser*. For more information, please contact corbengeis@gmail.com.

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.

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

Liturgical Reflection ...

We stand with Thomas today to make one of the greatest professions of faith in scripture to Jesus Christ, "My Lord, and my God!" Thomas comes face to face with the Risen Christ. The celebration of the Christian funeral brings hope and consolation to the living. When a Christian dies we proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ with certainty and witness to Christian Hope in the resurrection. The funeral rites recall God's mercy and judgment and meet the human need to turn always to God in times of crisis. Death has lost its power. We live in the mercy of God, in the risen life of the Easter Jesus.

Order of Christian Funerals, 1998/1989, Number 7.

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

Easter Evening Prayer - Every Sunday in the Easter Season the Cathedral Parish gathers at 6:30 PM for Evening Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in exposition. This liturgy concludes with Benediction. All are invited to participate in this prayer tonight. Bring the family, bring a friend.

Grief and Loss Support Group

This is a ten-week support group for adults, facilitated by Home Nursing Agency's Center for Counseling. It is an opportunity to meet other people who are grieving and share experiences of useful coping strategies. Join us in a safe, supportive and confidential setting to learn about resources and explore the grief process. Wednesdays from May 2 until July 11. Group meets from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM at the Home Nursing Agency, Room B, 500 E. Chestnut Avenue, Altoona. For more information and to register, contact Ryan Navarro at 814-940-7425.

Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group

The Cathedral Prayer Group will meet this Monday, April 9th, at 7:00 PM, here at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in the Crypt Chapel. Speaker to be announced. All are welcome!

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. A planning meeting will be held in the Church Hall on April 5, at 6:30 PM. Please plan to attend. **Basket Bingo tickets are being sold at the Cathedral Square door: \$25.00 per person with value pack for an additional \$30. If you purchase your ticket by April 15th, you will get a bonus card.**