

**APRIL 29, 2018**

*Scripture Reflection*

In last week's Gospel reading, Jesus emphasized the unity he and his disciples share, using the image of the good shepherd. This week he speaks of the same unity with the symbol of a vine and its branches.

The care of grapevines is one of the oldest horticultural practices in Western civilization. Clear archaeological evidence for winemaking comes from Armenia about 4100 B.C. The artifacts found there indicate that practices have not changed much in 6,000 years. As Jesus watched the vinedressers of his day, he saw practices like those one might find today in any of the world's great wine regions.

One of the most important of these practices is the pruning of vines. This is the symbol Jesus develops in this week's Gospel reading. Jesus is the perennial vine from which the green shoots spring. Some do not form a strong connection with him. Like the fruitless stalks of a grapevine, they draw energy but produce no fruit. Others remain firmly attached to him and produce much fruit. The Father prunes away the former in hopes of giving life more abundantly to the latter.

A disciple's decision to remain in Christ marks the difference between those who bear fruit and those who are pruned away. As John speaks of it here, remaining in Christ is an active concept. It is not enough to draw life and energy from one's faith; a disciple must also bear fruit. Saul spoke openly of his faith in Jesus Christ and inspired others to follow him. Early Christians lived in peace, sharing all they possessed. John reminds Christians of their commitment to love one another and so remain in Christ. In each example, disciples had to take the life they drew from Christ and use it to do something challenging, something life-giving to others. They were the green shoots that produced much fruit.

- **How strong is your connection to the vine?**  
**How much energy do you draw from God?**

AMERICA MAGAZINE, "Remain in Me" Michael R. Simone, S.J., April 6, 2018.

**2018 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE**

Category	Amount
Target Goal	\$55,357.00
Actual Received	\$43,400.00 (78%)

The Cathedral Parish has been given the target goal of **\$55,357.00** for 2018. Your generosity is being requested. This year's appeal focuses on 14 ministries of *Caring for the Poor and Strengthening Families, Nurturing Our Youth, and Forming Clergy and Laity*.

This is an annual opportunity to assist the Diocese in the ministries offered throughout our eight-county Local Church. 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.

To date, we have received 144 gifts at \$43,400. 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 TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS  
HTCS Yard Sale**

We will be holding our second annual Holy Trinity Yard Sale, Saturday, June 2nd. We have already started collecting those unwanted treasures. Items can be dropped off anytime between now and the end of May at the Maria Parish Center. If you are unable to drop items off there, we will also accept items at any of the three HTCS campus locations. Please keep in mind we will not be selling clothing. Our Yard Sale funds will be used for student-centered activities throughout the new school year. Students in grades 5 thru 8 can work towards service hours. For more information, please call 814-942-7835.

**Spring Concert**

Please join us and help us celebrate on Monday, May 7, at 7:00 PM at Maria Parish Center. Come and see the MS Band, Show Choir, Middle School Choir, Elementary Choirs and the HTCS Combined Choir.

**May Crowning Mass**

Join our HTCS school community on Friday, May 18th, at 9:30 AM, at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament as we celebrate the Mother of Jesus with a special May Crowning Mass.

**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](http://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](http://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](mailto:lthayer@dioceseaj.org)

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

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 29, 2018

Readings: Act 9:26-31; 1 Jn 3:18-24; Jn 15:1-8

### MASS INTENTIONS

April 30, Monday: Saint Pius V, Pope

Readings: Acts 14:5-18; Jn 14:21-26

6:45 AM Anna Marie Rossman (Dan & Agnes Mazur)

8:00 AM Angela Cronin Chadwick (Lorraine & Roberta)

12:00 PM Barbara Byers (George and Carol Thur)

May 1, Tuesday: Saint Joseph the Worker

Readings: Acts 14:19-28; Jn 14:27-31

6:45 AM Tim Nagle (Brian and Sherry Himes)

8:00 AM Jerry Smith (Kay and Denny Anderson)

12:00 PM John Bauer (Gina Romani)

May 2, Wednesday: Saint Athanasius, Bp. and Dr.

Readings: Acts 15:1-6; Jn 15:1-8

6:45 AM Jim Davidson (Sean Joyce)

8:00 AM Fred & Geraldine Petrunak, Sr. (Daughter)

12:00 PM John Bettwy (Joan and Bob Lozinak)

May 3, Thursday: Saints Philip and James, Apostles

Readings: 1 Cor 15:1-8; Jn 14:6-14

6:45 AM Dick, Rick, and Karen (Cowan Family)

8:00 AM David Conrad (Kathy and Bryan Quickel)

12:00 PM Nancy Genesi (Janet and Michele Belsey)

May 4, Friday: Easter Weekday

Readings: Acts 15:22-31; Jn 15:12-17

6:45 AM Joe Tomlinson (Tom and Patricia Forr)

8:00 AM Regis Noel (Daughter, Sandra)

12:00 PM Paul Cassarly, Anniv. (Adaline Cassarly)

May 5, Saturday: Easter Weekday

Readings: Acts 16:1-1; Jn 15:18-21

8:00 AM Herb Kutruff (Janet Tomlinson)

12:00 PM Patty Zerbee Geis, Birth. (Geis Family)

Vigil: Sixth Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48; 1 Jn4:7-10; Jn 15:9-17

5:00 PM Millie Boyle (Norman & Darlene Drenning)

**Pray For Our Sick** - Remember our sisters and brothers who are weakened by illness in your Easter prayers. Prayers are sometimes the best prescribed medicine.

### Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group

The Charismatic Prayer Group will meet on Monday, May 14, at 7:00 PM, here at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament for a **Healing Mass**. Father Bill Kiel, will be the celebrant. *"I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly"* (John 10:10). Music led by Cathedral Prayer Group Music Ministry. All are welcome!

### Recipients of Anointing of the Sick

Last Sunday, April 22, at the 10:00 AM Mass, the following received the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick: Kathy Bollinger, Carrie Detwiller, Joan Donnelly, Eleanor Fischer, James Kenawell, Suzanne Kenawell, Gerry Kibler, Rita Kibler, Margaret Shea, Mary Shea, and Alice Winkler. May the healing grace of Christ be with these sisters and brothers. Prayer Shawls were given to all who requested this gift, assured of the prayers of the Cathedral Parish.

**May Crowning Within Evening Prayer Sunday, May 6** - As is our custom, all of our **First Communicants** are asked to be present wearing their Communion Day clothing as they will be in the opening procession at May Crowning. All who received **Sacraments of Initiation** at the Easter Vigil, families who have presented children for **Baptism**, and all of our young adult parishioners who have received **Confirmation** are also encouraged to attend this parish celebration with their families and friends. Everyone in the assembly is invited to bring a fresh flower to present to the Blessed Mother during this Evening Prayer which will last approximately forty-five minutes. Following May Crowning, we will gather in the Cathedral Hall for an Ice Cream Social. Evening Prayer begins at 6:30 PM.

### Congratulations Newly Confirmed

On April 26, the Sacrament of Confirmation was received by the following parishioners:

Christopher Ball Sarah Patterson

Caleb Crawford Madisyn Runk

Paige DeGennaro Quintin Simanski

Benjamin McCloskey Zoë Wilson

### 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. Water and soda donations will be greatly appreciated. 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. Please plan to attend. **Basket Bingo tickets are still being sold at the Cathedral Square door: \$25.00 per person with value pack for an additional \$30.**

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, April 22, 2018 - \$9,181.00

The **Easter Collection** will be noted at the end of the Easter Season on Sunday May 27, 2018.

### Eucharistic Adoration

This Wednesday, **May 2**, Cathedral Parish will observe our monthly Eucharistic Adoration from **12:30 P.M. until 8:00P.M.** in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Make this week a special time of prayer. Come and pray before the Blessed Sacramental in exposition. Please remember to pray for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life. Take a half-hour to a hour in silence before the Sacrament. Bring a friend with you. A sign-up sheet is on the cross aisle in the Cathedral.

**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.

### Easter Celebrations during the Fifty Days

Easter Season began on Easter Sunday, and concludes on Pentecost Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. These are significant celebrations during that time here at the Cathedral:

May Crowning, Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 P.M.;

Ice Cream Social follows in Hall

Ascension Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, Holy Day of Obligation

Holy Trinity Catholic School, Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 A.M.,

Mass with May Crowning; Bishop celebrates

Evening Prayer (Exposition/Benediction), Sundays,

April 29, May 6, 13, 20.

### Liturgical Ministries - Help Needed

Cathedral Parish is seeking new ministers for Mass - altar servers, readers, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, ushers, choir members and cantors. Altar servers, readers, ushers (ministers of hospitality), choir and cantors are baptized Catholics. Fully initiated Catholics (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist) are welcome to be extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion.

There will be training for those interested in these ministries. All liturgical ministries require a review and practice of that particular role. Liturgical ministers are responsible and conscientious. It is necessary that all assignments be fulfilled. Also, liturgical ministers are asked to adjust personal schedules to help meet the needs of scheduling five weekend Masses, especially the Sunday 5:00PM Mass.

Any parishioner who regularly attends a particular Mass each week is asked to seriously consider sharing your gifts and talents as a liturgical minister. By baptism each of us has been called to take on the serious work of building up the kingdom of God. One way to take on this responsibility is by becoming a liturgical minister at Mass.

Please call the Parish Office, 944-4603, and name the ministry to which you would like to serve. A training session will be set-up. Thank you for considering this request.

### Baptismal Preparation

There will be a Baptismal Prep Session for parents preparing to have their child baptized here at the Cathedral Parish on Tuesday, June 19, 2018. You need not wait until the baby is born. Please call the Parish Office (944-4603) to register for this important meeting. The session begins at 7:00 P.M. in the Seton Suite and last about one hour.

## ORDER OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

### Liturgical Reflection ...

Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. When the grieving family stands graveside for the committal prayers of the Church, the concluding prayer reminds us that all life rests in Christ, the true vine of life. The prayer echoes the faith of believers: "Almighty God, through the death of your Son on the cross, you destroyed our death; through his rest in the tomb, you hallowed the graves of all who believe in you; and through his rising again, you restored us to eternal life." The crucified, buried, and risen Christ is our source of life. We are the branches of the sacred vine. Therein is our life.

**Order of Christian Funerals**, 1998/1989, Number 222.