

JUNE 17, 2018

Scripture Reflection

The Gospel presents two parables that focus on God's work within us and in the spread of God's Kingdom. In the first parable, Jesus compares the growth of God's Kingdom on earth to God's creative power working mysteriously in the world of nature. In the second parable, Jesus compares the growth of the Kingdom to a small mustard seed planted in the ground that becomes the largest of plants.

From the tiniest of seeds, the mustard seed, comes a plant that can grow anywhere from six feet to eight feet in height and is strong enough to accommodate the nests of birds. More important, mustard plants were, according to Pliny's *Natural History*, extraordinarily hardy and difficult to control. Pliny warned that mustard left unattended would quickly take over an entire garden. The symbol Jesus proposes, then, does not just describe a kingdom that grows to great size in spite of a small start, but one that is also resilient and ever-expanding. Destroy it, and it will sprout up again quickly. Very soon, all evidence of the disruption vanishes under ever-greater waves of new growth. The kingdom that Jesus revealed grew fast, recovered quickly from damage and flourished anywhere it sprouted.

Jesus also called attention to the mysterious way seeds sprout and grow. That something so tiny could give rise to something so much larger than itself suggested divine activity. After sowing, a farmer had little more to do until harvest. "Through it all the seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how." The disciples of both Jesus' day and Mark's needed a reminder that the success of their mission was in God's hands, not their own. Their cooperation was important for planting and harvest, but the growth came from divine power.

Jesus' disciples today also need to trust in the promise of small beginnings and in the power of grace. Many of us dream great dreams for the church and the human community, but the kingdom is ultimately God's dream, not ours. Our role is to till and sow and then look on in wonder as God brings it to fruition.

- **Can you name mustard seeds that have transformed your life?**

AT HOME with the WORD 2018, Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, pg. 101. AMERICA MAGAZINE, "What mustard seeds have transformed your life?" Michael R. Simone, S.J., June 1, 2018.

2018 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE

Category	Amount
Target	\$55,357.00
Actual Received	\$51,592.00 (93%)

A second letter was sent to those parishioners who have yet to participate in this year's Catholic Ministries Drive. The Parish has received **\$51,592.00** to meet our target of **\$55,357.00**. Thus far 193 gifts have been received.

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.

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. Thank you for your generous response to this annual request.

Gentle Reminder

In Catholic practice, whenever Mass is celebrated, the Church requests that the readers be members of the Catholic Church. At a wedding, at a funeral, at a baptism, any celebration taking place within Mass, the Church asks that the reader(s) be members of the Catholic family. When any of these specific liturgies take place outside of Mass, a non-Catholic baptized Christian may read the scripture.

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS Registrations for the 2018-2019 School Year!

Please share the good news about HTCS with your friends and family! We are accepting applications now for grades Pre-K through 8 for the 2018-2019 school year. Applications are available in the school office and on the school website. **Reminder:** Current families who have not completed registration, please do so as soon as possible.

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: ALTACATHEDRAL@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

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JUNE 17, 2018

Readings: Ez 17:22-24; 2 Cor 5:6-10; Mk 4:26-34

MASS INTENTIONS

June 18, Monday: Weekday

Readings: 1 Kgs 21:1-16; Mt 5:38-42

6:45 AM NO MASS

8:00 AM Nathaniel Hockenberry, Birthday (Mom)

12:00 PM Francis Goss, Anniversary (Wife and Family)

June 19, Tuesday: Saint Romuald, Abbot

Readings: 1 Kgs 21:17-29; Mt 5:43-48

6:45 AM Mary Moffa Jenaway (Estate)

8:00 AM NO MASS

12:00 PM Jerry Smith (Mike and Sherri Byrne)

June 20, Wednesday: Weekday

Readings: 2 Kgs 2:1, 6-14; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

6:45 AM NO MASS

8:00 AM Our Fathers (McNelis All-Stars)

12:00 PM Lois Riley (Husband, Jim)

June 21, Thursday: Saint Aloysius Gonzaga, Religious

Readings: Sir 48:1-14; Mt 6:7-15

6:45 AM Cookie Hardin, Birthday (Betsy Cote)

8:00 AM NO MASS

12:00 PM Mike Chisko (Family)

June 22, Friday: St. Paulinus, Sts. John Fisher/Thomas More

Readings: 2 Kgs 11:1-4, 9-18, 20; Mt 6:19-23

6:45 AM NO MASS

8:00 AM Bernard J. Joyce (Family)

12:00 PM Michael A. Febbo (Kim Febbo)

June 23, Saturday: Weekday, Blessed Virgin Mary

Readings: 2 Chr 24:17-25; Mt 6:24-34

8:00 AM Joe Tomlinson (Tony and Sue Conrad)

12:00 PM Bernie Garcia (Ann and Family)

Vigil: Solemnity of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

Readings: Vigil: Jer 1:4-10; 1 Pt 1:8-12; Lk 1:5-17

5:00 PM Anna Marie Jacobs (Greg & Kathy Clemens)

Day: Is 49:1-6; Acts 13:22-26; Lk 1:57-66, 80

NOTE Daily Mass Schedule

Because of Father Dennis's absence, there will be two Masses scheduled daily. There will always be the Noon Mass each day; the 6:45 AM and 8:00 AM will alternate each week. Thank you for your understanding.

Father Dennis Kurdziel

Your prayers are working! Father Dennis continues to regain his strength. He is to be back at the rectory soon. Nonetheless, it will be some time before he resumes his responsibilities at Mass. Keep those prayers coming!

Happy Father's Day

Thank you, Dad. You provide for us, share your wisdom, and gave us life. We remember all fathers, living and dead, with the following prayer:

God our Father, in your wisdom and love You make all things. Bless these men, that they may be strengthened as Christian fathers. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honor them with a spirit of profound respect. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Cathedral Liturgical Ministers

The Parish is presently preparing new members for the various liturgical ministries for Mass. Men, women and children have come forward to volunteer their time and talent in this important area of parish life. If interested in being an altar server, usher (minister of hospitality), choir member, cantor, commentator, reader, or extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, please call the Parish Office at 944-4603.

Because we are the Cathedral Parish, we offer a weekly Sunday 5:00 P.M. Mass for the wider Catholic community. Liturgical ministers are asked to seriously think of volunteering once a month at the Sunday 5:00 P.M. This is a service to the wider Church and there is a need for liturgical ministers at this Sunday afternoon Mass. If you are able to assist in this area, the Parish is very grateful.

Liturgy of the Hours

The Cathedral offers Evening Prayer through the course of the liturgical year during the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. Evening Prayer is part of the official hours of prayer for the universal Church and is a formal Liturgy of the Church. The Second Vatican Council strongly encouraged that the Hours be prayed publicly in church. As the Cathedral Church, we offer Evening Prayer to the wider Christian community. The Hours consist of the Psalms, Scripture, and prayer. Here at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, we place Evening Prayer within Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. All are encouraged to take part in this Liturgy of the Church which begins each Sunday evening at 6:30PM and lasts about forty minutes.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION Sunday, June 10, 2018 - \$7,407.00

Baptismal Preparation

There will be a Baptismal Prep Session for parents preparing to have their child baptized here at the Cathedral Parish this 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.

Vacation Bible School This Week

The theme this Summer is Shipwrecked

June 18-22, 2018, 8:30-11:30AM. Ages 4-10, \$5.00

Adult and teen help is needed. For more information call: Chris Laraia @312-7317.

Cathedral Christian Mothers

Christian Mothers are sponsoring a bus trip to the Lancaster Sight and Sound theatre production of "**Jesus**" on August 4th. Cost is \$155.00 for adults and \$105.00 for children. Price includes transportation, lunch and tickets to the 3:00 PM show. Trip is through Freedom Excursions. Please contact Carol Galio at 946-3769 as soon as possible.

Eucharistic Adoration

Please note that the first Wednesday in July this year is the Fourth of July. There will be no Eucharistic Adoration on this day. Next month our date for adoration will be Wednesday, **July 11** from 12:30 PM until 8:00 PM. Because of the national holiday, Eucharistic Adoration is moved to the second Wednesday of July. This is for the month of July only. We resume our regular first Wednesday of the month adoration schedule in August (Wednesday, August 1). Please note this in your schedules and plan to spend some quality time in prayer before the Sacrament in exposition.

Liturgical Reflection ...

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

Saint Paul continues to remind the Corinthian Christians that believers walk by faith. The day will come when each of us will leave our body behind and go home to the Lord. Death is a great separation from our bodies that have been formed in the image of God. We believe that our soul will be reunited with its body on the great day of the Lord's coming again in glory. As we pray at graveside, *God of the living and the dead, accept our prayers for those who have died in Christ and are buried with him in the hope of rising again.*

Order of Christian Funerals, 1998/1989, Number 222:B.

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

Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group

The Cathedral Prayer Group will meet this Monday, June 18th, at 7:00 PM, here at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome! Join us for Praise and Worship, Spirit-filled teachings and witnessing, prayer ministry, and fellowship!

Diocese - Annual Faith and Family Day

All parishioners are invited to the annual celebration at DelGrosso's Amusement Park, Tipton on Sunday, June 24.

- Mass is at 3:00 PM with Bishop Mark as the Main Celebrant at the Park Stage across from Pavilion #2. Mass will begin with a Family Faith Procession with representatives from attending parishes.

- There will be a Faith Day Dessert Contest (pre-registration form is due by June 8)

- DelGrosso Picnic Lunch at 5:00 PM (Order form and payment by June 18)

There is a \$10.00 discount for the normal \$29.95 All Day Fun Pass for rides and the Waterpark and Laguna Rapids. DelGrosso's will donate \$3.00 of every pass to the Angel Fund for Camp Zacchaeus and Camp Timothy.

Forms for the Dessert Contest Registration and Picnic Lunch Order, and separate Coupon Vouchers to be used at the Entrance Gate of the Park can be picked up at the Cathedral Square Entrance after all Masses on June 2, 3, 9, 10, 16 and 17. For more information you can contact Jeanne Thompson 317-2672, the Cathedral Parish Office 944-4603, or the Diocese of Altoona Johnstown website www.dioceseaj.org.

Summer Social

Parish Council along with the sub-committees and Finance Council will have the annual summer social on the loggia on Tuesday, June 26 at 6:00 PM.

Please remember our sick in your prayers.