

JUNE 24, 2018

BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

Scripture Reflection

As we celebrate the birthday of John the Baptist, the readings focus on John's role of inspiring people to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. The first-century Jewish historian Josephus confirms the identity and ministry of John the Baptist who is depicted in all our Gospels. He wrote that the destruction of Herod's army, according to some Jewish people, came from God as a just punishment for what he (Herod) had done against John the Baptist--having him killed, though he was a good man who had urged the Jewish people to live lives of virtue, as a sign of justice to each other and in reverence to God. John's "washing" was a sign that they had truly done so (see *Antiquities* 18:5.2.116).

The gospel reading from Luke narrates events surrounding John's birth--focusing on his name. For the people of Israel, a person's name expressed an aspect of their identity. The name, John, a common one among the people of Israel, was not found in his family's lineage. It means "the Lord has been gracious" because the elderly parents, Elizabeth and Zechariah, had lost all hope of conceiving a child in their old age. God had certainly favored them.

Most of us are not prophets like John. Called from our mother's wombs, we are formed to be servants of God, to announce the gospel of the Lord. Our lives herald Jesus Christ when we imprint the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ, in our words, actions, and attitudes. Meeting us, people meet Jesus. Seeing us, they see Jesus. Encountering us, they encounter Jesus the Christ. By living Jesus, we prepare and point the way to the Lord, like John. Open your ears to hear God's will. Open your mouths and let God free your tongue to proclaim the Gospel. Allow the hand of God to calm your fears and give you the confidence and trust that Zechariah and Elizabeth exhibited. Then praise God that you have been wonderfully made to imprint the gospel with your life.

- **Name ways in which you announce the Gospel of the Lord each day.**

AT HOME with the WORD 2018, Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, pg. 103. AMERICA MAGAZINE, "Does your life reveal God's compassion to others?" Michael R. Simone, S.J., June 1, 2018. Living the Word, Laurie Brink and Paul Colloton, World Library Publications, 2017, pg. 136.

2018 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE

Category	Amount	Percentage
Target	\$55,357.00	100%
Actual Received	\$57,079.00	103%

A second letter was sent to those parishioners who have yet to participate in this year's Catholic Ministries Drive. The Parish has received **\$57,079.00** to meet our target of \$55,357.00. Thus far 200 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: 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

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

BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

JUNE 24, 2018

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

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

MASS INTENTIONS

June 25, Monday: Weekday (12th Week in Ordinary Time)

Readings: 2 Kgs 17:5-8, 13-15, 18; Mt 7:1-5

6:45 AM Souls in Purgatory

8:00 AM NO MASS

12:00 PM Billie Baker (John and Anita Jubas)

June 26, Tuesday: Weekday

Readings: 2 Kgs 19:9-11, 14-21, 31-36; Mt 7:6, 12-14

6:45 AM NO MASS

8:00 AM Betty Capouellez, Anniversary (Family)

12:00 PM Msgr. Paul D. Panza, Birth. (Mary Ann Bell)

June 27, Wednesday: St. Cyril of Alexandria, Bp. & Dr.

Readings: 2 Kgs 22:8-13, 23:1-3; Mt 7:15-20

6:45 AM Mark Chuff Family (Kathy Kantoski)

8:00 AM NO MASS

12:00 PM Rosemary Shay (Ed and Lois Simanski)

June 28, Thursday: Saint Irenaeus, Bishop and Martyr

Readings: 2 Kgs 24:8-17; Mt 7:21-29

6:45 AM NO MASS

8:00 AM Mary Petrunyak (Family)

12:00 PM Barbara Byers (Adam and Jean Thur)

June 29, Friday: Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles

Readings: Acts 12:1-11; 2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18; Mt 16:13-19

6:45 AM George Seidel, Anniv. (Jim and Elaine Weaver)

8:00 AM NO MASS

12:00 PM Joseph Knott (Richard and Connie Steinbeiser)

June 30, Saturday: Weekday, First Martyrs, BVM

Readings: Lam 2:2, 10-14, 18-19; Mt 8:5-17

8:00 AM Jerry Smith (Jim and Steph Kilcoyne)

12:00 PM Howard Peachman (Mike and Sherry Byrne)

Vigil: Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Wis 1:13-15, 2:23-24; 2 Cor 8:7, 9, 13-15; Mk 5:21-43

5:00 PM John Bauer (Greg and Judy Cardone Fam.)

NOTE Daily Mass Schedule

In light of Father Dennis's illness, 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.

Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group

The Cathedral Prayer Group will NOT meet during the month of July here at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. The next Prayer Group meeting will be on Monday, August 6.

Father Dennis Is Home

Father Dennis returned to the rectory this past Tuesday. Having lost weight, Father looks very healthy. He continues to use a cane and build up his strength from the car accident in May.

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER KURDZIEL

I have finally returned from my month long recuperation from the effects of my accident on May 7th. I am truly overwhelmed by the many acts of kindness and promises of prayer I have received from our wonderful parishioners and so many friends of our Cathedral Parish during my absence. A special word of thanks to Bishop Mark and Monsignor Mazur for all their personal kindness to me. Please pray for my continued recovery. You are and will continue to be in my prayers. Father Dennis

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.

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 17, 2018 - \$7,115.00

Outdoor Mass Honoring Married Couples

The Altoona-Johnstown Family is invited to participate and to pray for those living the Sacrament of Marriage at an Outdoor Mass Honoring Married Couples with Bishop Mark. The Mass will be on Sunday, July 15, 2018 at 7:00 PM at the Shrine of our Lady of the Alleghenies in Loretto (located next to the Basilica of Saint Michael). Bring lawn chairs! Indoors if rain.

Summer Social

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

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

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.

ARISE Meeting

There will be an ARISE Group Leader meeting on Wednesday, June 27, from 6:00 PM until 7:00 PM in the Seton Suite.

Please take time to read the insert in today's bulletin about **ARISE Together in Christ**. All parishioners will be invited to take part in this spiritual renewal taking place throughout the Diocese.

Sacramental Readiness

The Catholic Church professes a deep faith and love for our seven Sacraments. At the time of the Reformation, there were those Reformers who wished to suppress the Sacraments and highlight Scripture alone. The Catholic faith is grounded in both Word and Sacrament. The Second Vatican Council and subsequent generations of shepherds have highlighted the need for sacramental catechesis as the Christian prepares for the reception of our great sacraments.

Adults and children seeking to be baptized and/or join the Catholic Church are invited to join the process known as Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA). There is a period of time when individuals together review the scriptures, the sacraments, our sacred traditions, and particular church teachings within prayer and discussion, all leading to the Easter Vigil with the reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

Parents (and godparents) seeking the Baptism of their child participate in an evening review of this great sacrament. Second graders gather three times with their parents to prepare for First Confession. Second graders and their parents gather three times to prepare for First Communion. High school students seeking Confirmation are part of a three year process which includes prayer, retreats, discussion, and service. Couples (men and women) seeking the Sacrament of Marriage participate in a variety of Marriage Preparation programs months before the wedding.



Liturgical Reflection ...

The name John means "the Lord has been generous". Indeed God had been abundantly generous to Elizabeth and Zechariah, elderly parents who had lost hope in conceiving a child in their old age. God had certainly favored them. And the child grew and became strong in spirit. The greatest prophet who would announce Jesus as the Lamb of God! At each Mass we hear the Baptist proclaim, "Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world." We celebrate the generosity of God towards us.

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