

SEPTEMBER 23, 2018

Scripture Reflection

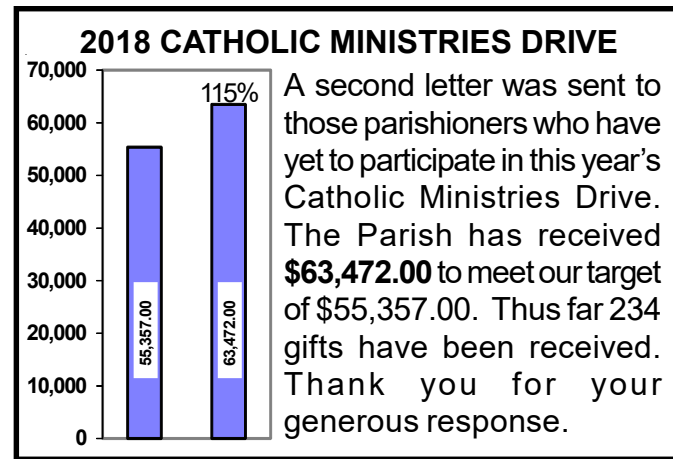
What is authentic, selfless ambition? Today's liturgy issues God's call to avoid jealousy and selfish ambition, and to cultivate sincerity, humility, and peace (James 3:13-18). The Gospel illustrates this message especially clearly. The disciples are so preoccupied with their own ambitions that they have failed to confront Jesus' reality - so in conflict with their expectations: "They had been discussing who was the greatest." Jesus uses this opportunity to illustrate true discipleship: "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." True leadership, says Jesus, is servant leadership!

Key to this week's Gospel is *diakonía*. Translators often render this term as "service," which is broadly accurate, but *diakonía* was a very specific kind of service. One practiced it primarily by following another's instructions. People of every social status, from slaves to high royal officials, performed *diakonía* in the course of their duties. In the New Testament, this kind of service has a strong connection to hospitality and food. It is the word Luke uses to describe Martha's concerns (Lk 10:40) and the term John uses to describe the banquet staff at the wedding in Cana (Jn 2:5, 9). In contemporary culture, the closest analogue to *diakonía* might be the work of a restaurant's waiters. These examples add nuance to Jesus' counsel: "Whoever wishes to be first must be like a waiter to everyone else."

Taking a little child, Jesus draws everyone's attention to this child. A child is vulnerable and powerless with no influence at all. Especially in the society of Jesus' day, a child was considered to be at the lowest level of society's hierarchy. Children are dependent and need things done for them. In this way Jesus shows that his kingdom values are very different. Instead of promoting one's own prestige, the focus must be on the other, on the most vulnerable members of society--the poor, those who have no wealth or power, those who need things done for them--like little children.

- **How do you "wait on" others? How do you practice servant leadership?**

AT HOME with the WORD 2018, Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, pg. 131. AMERICA MAGAZINE, "Why do we follow Jesus?" Michael R. Simone, S.J., September 7, 2018.



Benefit Dinner

Our brother, Jim Luther, has stage-four cancer. There will be a benefit Spaghetti dinner at Saint Patrick Catholic Church Hall, Newry, next Sunday, September 30, 2018, from 1:00 PM until 5:00 PM. Tickets are \$10.00 per person; eat in or take out. Join us for a great time while we raise money to help Jim with his fight. All proceeds will aid Jim's expenses. Any questions, please call: Theresa Chandler at 502-7316 or Ann Makowiecki at 329-6927. Monetary gifts may be sent: Jim Luther, 1071 Mill Road, Duncansville, PA 16635.

Annual September Tours

Again this year the Cathedral will offer one-hour tours on four separate dates in September of the magnificent Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. September 7 marked the 87th anniversary of the formal dedication of the Cathedral. The remaining tour dates are: this Tuesday, September 25 at 7:00 P.M.; and Sunday, September 30 at 1:00 P.M. Light refreshments will be provided. Please call the Parish Office (944-4603) to make reservations.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

The annual commemoration of the sixth and final apparition of Our Lady of Fatima will be held at Our Lady of Fatima Parish on Saturday, October 13th, from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM. There will be Exposition, Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Each hour the Rosary will be prayed for peace in the world and for vocations to the priesthood followed by the Chaplet of Divine Mercy for the souls in purgatory. The remainder of the hour will be in silent prayer.

Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group

The Cathedral Prayer Group meeting will be this Monday, September 24, at 7:00 PM. "Come to his gates with thanksgiving; enter his courts with praise" (Ps 100:4). All are welcome to attend!

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 afternoon 2:00 PM - 4:00 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, J.C.D., 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

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 23, 2018

Readings: Wis 2:12, 17-20; Jas 3:16-4:3; Mk 9:30-37

MASS INTENTIONS

September 24, Monday: Weekday

Readings: Prv 3:27-34; Lk 8:16-18

6:45 AM BeBe Milliron (John and Beth)
8:00 AM Work Friends (Patty Emigh)
12:00 PM John Knott (M/M Larry Nevling Family)

September 25, Tuesday: Weekday

Readings: Prv 21:1-6, 10-13; Lk 8:19-21

6:45 AM Poor Souls
8:00 AM Joe Wiedemer (John Palma)
12:00 PM Msgr. Paul D. Panza (Stanley Krish Family)

September 26, Wednesday: Sts. Cosmas & Damian, Martyrs

Readings: Prv 30:5-9; Lk 9:1-6

6:45 AM Joe Tomlinson (Ken and Kathie Civils)
8:00 AM John Bauer (Rosemarie Fedeli)
12:00 PM Alfred Rutolo, Birthday (Family)

September 27, Thursday: St. Vincent dePaul, Priest

Readings: Eccl 1:2-11; Lk 9:7-9

6:45 AM Dec'd. of Michael & Ella Gibbons Fam. (Irwin Family)
8:00 AM Marjorie Jackson (Marlene & Paul Sheets)
12:00 PM John Bettwy (Joan and Bob Lozinak)

September 28, Friday: St. Wenceslaus, St. Lawrence, Martyrs

Readings: Eccl 3:1-11; Lk 9:18-22

6:45 AM Paul Weible (Michael and Suzan Kuny)
8:00 AM Derek Behe (M/M Lynn Pearson)
12:00 PM Margie Smith (Dennis and Eileen)

September 29, Saturday: Sts. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael

Readings: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; Jn 1:47-51

8:00 AM Linda Blackie, Birthday (Friend)
12:00 PM John Vogel, Birthday (Madeline Vogel Family)
Vigil: Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Readings: Nm 11:25-29; Jas 5:1-6; Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48
5:00 PM Bernadine Garcia (Mary Lysinger)

Pray For Our Sick

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

Eucharistic Adoration

Eucharistic adoration will be the first Wednesday of next month, **October 3** from 12:30 PM until 8:00 PM. Please note this in your schedules and plan to spend some quality time in prayer before the Sacrament in exposition.

ARISE

Cathedral Parish will begin the **ARISE Together in Christ** process the second week of October. **ARISE** is a spiritual process to renew us while providing opportunities for us to develop a closer relationship with Jesus Christ, grow in community, and reach out in service to others.

The heart of this process will be gathering in small groups here in the parish and in homes to read and pray the Scriptures. The process guides participants through five distinct periods or seasons, each of which last six weeks. The first of the five seasons begins this October. The theme of this season is **Encountering Christ Today**.

Each small group will be determined the last weekend of September and the first weekend of October. At this time there will be sign-up sheets for each group at the Cathedral Square door. Cathedral Parish has fifteen group leaders to guide each group through discussion and prayer.

Parishioners are encouraged to join a group for prayer and renewal. Each of us desires a close relationship with Jesus Christ which will be strengthened in community and send us forth to serve others in the name of the Lord Jesus. Please make a commitment to this opportunity for spiritual renewal and growth.

Fiftieth Anniversary

Last Monday, September 17th, Bishop Bartchak celebrated Mass with the diaconal community of the Diocese. The deacons and their wives gathered for Eucharist that marked the fiftieth anniversary of the restoration of the Permanent Diaconate in 1968 as one of the fruits of the Second Vatican Council. A dozen priests joined the Bishop in commemorating this golden anniversary. Cathedral Parish remembered Deacon Bill Cronin, Deacon James Leap, and Deacon John Rys who served here at the Parish. We also prayed for Deacon John Szwarc's good health. The Cathedral Social Committee provided a delicious dinner in the Cathedral Hall following Mass. God bless our deacons! And may the Holy Spirit provide us with more vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life.

Did You Remember?

Did you remember to bring non-perishable food items and paper products for the needy of our community? Bins are located at the three doors of the Cathedral.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, September 16, 2018 - \$8,538.00

Generous Gift

The Estate of Catherine Nagle has left an extremely generous gift to the Cathedral Parish. As a parishioner of the Cathedral, Catherine was the librarian at McNelis School and Altoona Central Catholic School for many years. When Catherine died she was widowed and her three sons had preceded her in death. She left her Estate to her parish family. These monies will help towards the creation of Charity Hall on the bottom floor of the Cathedral Parish Center. Charity Hall will bear a plaque recognizing Catherine's generosity to the Cathedral Parish. We are grateful.

Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation Preparation is a three year process that begins with our ninth grade students and continues through tenth and eleventh grades. This includes all our Catholic school, public school and home schooled students coming together as a parish Community. Meeting date is Sunday, September 9. Times for various grades are as follows:

Ninth Grade: All BGCHS, Religious Education and Home schooled students and a parent will meet at **11:00 AM in the Church Hall.**

Tenth Grade: All BGCHS, Religious Education and Home schooled students and a parent will meet at **1:00 PM in the Church Hall.**

Eleventh Grade: All BGCHS, Religious Education and Home Schooled students and a parent will meet at **6:00 PM in the Church Hall.**

F. I. R. E. Classes are as follows:

Religious Education Students -

September 30th, 2018, 2:00 - 4:00 PM.

Annual Cathedral Raffle

Parishioners are asked to help with the annual raffle. Each ticket costs \$5.00. There are twenty cash prizes: first prize - \$1,000.00; second prize - \$500.00; third and fourth prizes - \$250.00; fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth prizes - \$100.00; eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth prizes - \$50.00; seventeenth, eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth prizes - \$25.00. The drawing will be after the 10:00 AM Mass on Sunday, October 7th on the Cathedral Portico. Please stop by the Cathedral Square Door after all Masses. If able, please sell additional tickets to family, friends and co-workers. You need not be present to win. To date we have received monies to cover the twenty prizes. All sales will now profit the Parish.

Interested in the Catholic Church?

Do you know someone who is interested in learning more about the Catholic Church? Perhaps you have considered becoming Catholic. Maybe you pray regularly with your spouse at Sunday Mass. Maybe you have felt a leaning toward the Catholic faith. Perhaps you have some questions that need to be discussed. You are invited to join others this September to enter into *Inquiry* into the Catholic faith. No commitments are made at the beginning of this *Inquiry*. Know that you are most welcomed to join us this fall when we meet every Sunday following the 10:00 AM Mass. The next gathering for *Inquiry* is today, **Sunday, September 23rd at 11:00 AM in the Seton Suite** (below the Rectory; entrance from Fourteenth Street).

Saint Francis Feast Day

Mary, Queen of Angels, Secular Franciscan Fraternity invites you to join us in celebrating the Feast Day of our Seraphic Father, Saint Francis. Mass will be celebrated at Our Lady of Mount Carmel at 7:00 PM, Thursday, October 4. Come and join us.

Liturgical Reflection ...

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

There are occasions and circumstances that sometimes make it impossible for the body to be present for the Funeral Mass. When extraordinary circumstances make cremation of a body the only feasible choice, pastoral sensitivity must be exercised by priests, deacons, and others who minister to the family of the deceased. Such circumstances are seen as exceptions to the general practice of the Church which is to have the body of the deceased present for the Vigil of the Deceased and the Funeral Mass.

Order of Christian Funerals, Cremation, 1998, Introduction, Number 415.

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