

# **NOVEMBER 18, 2018**

## *Scripture Reflection*

Reading the signs of the times! The tone and words of today's readings appear dark and troubling, but they are intended to offer us hope and expectation. Our First Reading, from the prophet Daniel, looks forward to an afterlife where those faithful to God will rise to an eternal life. This passage is the earliest reference in the Scriptures to hope in an individual resurrection.

Today's Gospel passage comes from a chapter in Mark's Gospel in which Jesus speaks, about his Second Coming at the end of time. Jesus uses images, pictures, and the imagination of the Jewish people to describe this event. He is not giving a blueprint for exactly what is going to take place in the future. Instead, by means of the images, he conveys a simple truth that he will return at the end of time.

Mark's community lived in a time of turmoil and probably wondered whether Jesus' return was near, but the Gospel warns against seeking out dates and times. Jesus turns his disciples' attention instead to signs of his subtle presence. He uses the example of a fig tree's springtime growth to describe such signs. Most trees in Jesus' native land are evergreen, but the fig grows and loses its leaves in yearly cycles. Farmers knew spring was near when they saw a change in the fig's branches. Similarly, disciples who paid attention could notice changes around them that heralded Jesus' arrival. An essential task of a disciple, in Mark's day as well as ours, is to seek our "signs of the times," evidence that Jesus is at work and about to make a saving appearance.

As part of the Gospel, the Good News, Jesus' words offer us the hope that we are destined for eternal life. The Gospel calls on us to be watchful and to lead our lives in expectation of the master's return. *When* he will come is not important; what is important is that we lead our daily lives prepared to meet him when in fact he does return, as we pray daily in the Our Father, "Thy Kingdom come!"

- **Where do you see the tender branches and sprouting leaves that reveal Christ's presence?**

AT HOME with the WORD 2018, Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, pg. 147. AMERICA MAGAZINE, "How can we know that Christ is near?" Michael R. Simone, S.J., November 2, 2018.

## **We Remember Our Dead in November**

Every November 2<sup>nd</sup> the Catholic Church prays for the faithful departed, that is, the souls in purgatory. The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines purgatory as a state of final purification after death and before entrance into heaven for those who died in God's friendship. Purgatory is a final cleansing of human imperfection before one is able to enter the joy of heaven.

The Church gives the name *Purgatory* to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the eternal punishment of the damned in hell. The Church formulated her doctrine of faith on Purgatory especially at the Councils of Florence and Trent. In the rich tradition of the Church, certain texts of Scripture speak of a cleansing fire. Saint Gregory the Great said, "As for certain lesser faults, we must believe that, before the Final Judgment, there is a purifying fire. He who is truth says that whoever utters blasphemy against the Holy Spirit will be pardoned neither in this age or in the age to come. From this sentence we understand that certain offenses can be forgiven in this age, but certain others in the age to come."

The teaching on Purgatory is also based on the practice of prayer for the dead, again mentioned in Sacred Scripture: "Therefore (Judas Maccabeus) made atonement for the dead, that they might be delivered from their sin." (II Maccabees 12:46) From the beginning the Church has honored the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, so that, thus, purified, they may attain eternal happiness with God in heaven. The Church also commends almsgiving and works of penance undertaken on behalf of the dead. Saint John Chrysostom writes, "Let us help and commemorate our dead. If Job's sons were purified by their Father's sacrifice, why would we doubt that our offerings for the dead bring them some consolation? Let us not hesitate to help those who have died and to offer our prayers for them."

Catechism of the Catholic Church, Numbers 1030 through 1032.

# **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](http://WWW.ALTOONACATHEDRAL.ORG)**

**FAX: 814-942-4337**

**E-MAIL: [ALTCATHEDRAL@DIOCESEAJ.ORG](mailto: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](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***

**THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY  
ORDINARY TIME  
NOVEMBER 18, 2018**

*Readings: Dn 7:13-14; Rv 1:5-8; Jn 18:33-37*

**MASS INTENTIONS**

November 19, Monday: Weekday

*Readings: Rv 1:1-4, 2:1-5; Lk 18:35-43*

6:45 AM NO MASS  
8:00 AM Billie Baker (Oma Jean Baker Family)  
12:00 PM Walter Beech, Anniversary (Debbie Ball Family)

November 20, Tuesday: Weekday

*Readings: Rv 3:1-6, 14-22; Lk 19:1-10*

6:45 AM Michael Dionis, Birthday (Mom and Dad)  
8:00 AM NO MASS  
12:00 PM Dave Lysinger, Anniversary (Family)

November 21, Wednesday: Presentation of the BVM

*Readings: Rv 4:1-11; Lk 19:11-28*

6:45 AM Joseph A. Keirn (Mom and Dad)  
8:00 AM All Veterans (McNellis All-Stars)  
12:00 PM BeBe Milliron (Mr. and Mrs. James Kilcoyne)

November 22, Thursday: Thanksgiving Day

*Readings: Sir 50:20-24; Col 3:12-17; Mk 5:18-20*

9:00 AM Deceased Members (Wm. Penn Assoc., Br. 800)

November 23, Friday: Bl. Mguel Agustin Pro, Priest & Martyr.

*Readings: Rv 10:8-11; Lk 19:45-48*

6:45 AM NO MASS  
8:00 AM Joe Maltet, Anniversary (Family)  
12:00 PM Jimmy Hollobaugh (Dan Hallinan & Colleen Furry)

November 24, Saturday: St. Andrew, Priests, Companions, Mtyrs

*Readings: Rv 11:4-12; Lk 20:27-40*

8:00 AM Janet Tomlinson (Joshua Walker)  
(In Crypt Chapel)  
12:00 PM Barbara Byers (Trisha and Mark Whittaker)  
Vigil: Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe  
*Readings: Dn 7:13-14; Rv 1:5-8; Jn 18:33-37*  
5:00 PM Edward Raichle, Anniversary (Daughter & Families)

**Daily Mass Schedule**

This week there will be no 6:45 AM Mass on Monday, no 8:00 AM Mass on Tuesday, and no 6:45 AM Mass on Friday. There will be two Masses on those days.

**Helpers Needed for Advent Mailing**

On Tuesday, November 20th at 9:00 AM we will gather in the Cathedral Parish Center to prepare the Advent Mailing.

**ARISE**

Thank you to the group leaders and those parishioners who participated in this first session of ARISE. The next gathering will be Lent of 2019. Plan to join in this six-week reflection on scripture and your personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

**Inquiry**

Anyone interested in the Catholic Faith is invited each Sunday morning at 11:00 A.M. to meet in the Seton Suite. Maybe you pray regularly with us each Sunday. Perhaps your spouse is Catholic. Maybe you have some questions that need to be discussed. Perhaps you have felt a leaning toward Catholicism. At *Inquiry* no commitments are made. Know you are most welcome to join the Christian Initiation Team on Sunday mornings.

**Rite of Acceptance of Catechumens  
Rite of Welcoming of Candidates**

On Sunday, November 25<sup>th</sup> at the 10:00 AM Mass, Cathedral Parish will formally accept our Catechumens on their journey to receive Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist; and we will formally welcome our Candidates, those already one with us in Baptism, who are seeking Confirmation and/or Eucharist.

**Calendars of Prizes 2019 Are Here!**

Calendars of Prizes 2019 are being sold at the Cathedral Square door after all Masses. Each calendar costs \$20.00. There is a \$10.00 daily prize; an additional \$1,000.00 in special monthly prizes awarded throughout the year; and a grand prize of \$5,000.00. Due to the state regulations for small games of chance, it is necessary that all one thousand tickets be sold. Otherwise, the parish will lose money on unsold tickets. If you have a favorite three digit number, call the Parish Office (944-4603) weekdays between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM to check on availability or stop at the Cathedral Square door after Mass. These make great Christmas gifts that last all year!

**2018 Catholic Ministries Drive**

Cathedral Parish received pledges the targeted goal of \$55,357.00 for the fiscal year. To date we have received **\$63,762.00** in gifts. Your generosity is most appreciated.

**Beautiful Cornucopia**

Thank you to Gretchen Packard for the beautiful cornucopia to the side of the altar. This is a symbol of the many gifts from God for which we are thankful. For the fruits of the earth, we give thanks.

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION  
Sunday, November 11, 2018 - \$7,693.00**

**Thank You**

The Cathedral Christian Mothers are grateful for your kindness last week with the annual collection for the poor in our community. Your generous donations amounted to \$2,019.00. Know that these monies will go to those in need for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

**Readers**

There are six remaining workbooks for our Readers to be used in the Year of Grace 2019. Those Readers who did not attend the annual fall workshop may pick up their books in the main sacristy after Mass. The Parish is grateful for the time and talent that our readers share with us each Sunday with the proclamation of the Word of God. These workbooks aid our Readers to prayerfully prepare the particular reading for the day. Throughout the week each Reader is asked to prayerfully review and spiritually reflect on the assigned reading.

**First Reconciliation Schedule**

First Reconciliation is scheduled at the Parish Advent Penance Service on Wednesday, December 19, 2018, at 6:30 PM. There will be a meeting on December 5 in the Seton Suite from 6:30 PM until 8:00 PM. All students must be accompanied by an adult. Please bring a **COPY** of your child's baptism certificate. Call Chris Laraia at 814-312-7317 if you are unable to attend.

**Holy Trinity Catholic School**

Our parochial elementary school will participate in the city's *Spirit of Christmas Parade* on Thursday, November 29 at 6:00 PM. The theme of this year's float is *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. The tree lighting ceremony and fireworks will take place after the parade at the Heritage Center.

**ORDER OF  
CHRISTIAN  
FUNERALS**

**Liturgical Reflection ...**

The body of the deceased is honored throughout the funeral rites. Holy water reminds the assembly of the saving waters of baptism. Its use reminds the living of the deceased's baptism when they died to sin and were claimed for Christ into eternity. Incense is used during the funeral rites as a sign of honor to the body of the deceased, which through baptism became the temple of the Holy Spirit. A white pall is placed over the casket of the deceased as a reminder of the white garment they once wore over their body at baptism. Order of Christian Funerals, 1998, Numbers 36, 37, and 38.

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

**Thanksgiving Day**

This Thursday, November 22, is Thanksgiving Day and a special Day of Prayer in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. We pray in gratitude for the Harvest and Fruits of the earth. As our country pauses and gives thanks to God, Catholics are encouraged to participate at Mass and give thanks for all we have received from God. Please join in praying the following:

*God, you are generous in your love for us.  
On Thanksgiving Day we come before you  
with gratitude for your abundant gifts.  
Open our hearts to the needs  
of our brothers and sisters,  
so that we may share your gifts  
in loving service.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**Eucharistic Adoration**

Plan ahead! Cathedral will have monthly adoration before the Blessed Sacrament here in the Cathedral on Wednesday, December 5th from 12:30 PM to 8:00 PM. Make time to pray for the Sacrament in exposition, and remember to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

**Religious Education**

**F.I.R.E. Class cancelled** for Sunday, November 18th. Make-up will be on Wednesday, December 12th, 2018 from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM.

**Confirmation Preparation for December 2018**

**All Ninth Grade Candidates** will meet on Sunday December 2nd in the Church at 6:30 PM for Evening Prayer. The *Fall Session* will follow in the Cathedral Hall until 8:00 PM.

**All Tenth Grade Candidates** will meet on Sunday, December 9th in the Church at 6:30 PM for Evening Prayer. The *Fall Session* will follow in the Cathedral Hall until 8:00 PM.