

DECEMBER 2, 2018

Scripture Reflection

A new liturgical year begins today, and with it a new set of Sunday readings. With only a few exceptions, this year's Gospel readings will come the Gospel of Luke. A very Christian tradition held that the author was the physician and travel companion that Paul mentions in several letters. Writing around the world A.D. 80, Luke gave an account of two significant events - the destruction of Jerusalem and the rapid spread of belief in Christ. Luke explained both events with an elegant thesis: God's promises to Israel were fulfilled in Jesus. The Temple was no longer necessary, since the divine Spirit now dwelt with the Christian community. People flocked to the Christian community to enjoy the beginning of life in God's long awaited kingdom.

In today's Gospel, we hear the glorious Son of Man, the Risen Christ, who will return in power so great that it will shake the heavens. Those who wait for him need not cower in fear. Instead that should stand tall because it is the dawn of redemption for those who practice faithful endurance. Yes, the faithful will suffer difficulties, but soon they will experience the justice, mercy, and compassion of God in the presence of the Son of Man.

Luke speaks of three arrivals of Jesus his nativity, his second coming and his daily arrival in the Spirit to his disciples. Luke's hope is that when Christ comes again, those who had been living daily in the Spirit would have grown so accustomed to the following Christ that they could enter without fear into the fullness of the kingdom.

- **“Stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.” Do you anticipate the end with fear or with joy?**

AT HOME with the WORD 2019, Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, pg. 149. AMERICA MAGAZINE, "How can we speak the truth in love?" Michael R. Simone, S.J., November 2, 2018.

Liturgy of the Hours

The Constitution of the Sacred Liturgy (Second Vatican Council, 1963) states that Christ continues "his Priestly work through the agency of his Church... not only by celebrating the Eucharist, but also in other ways, especially by praying the Divine Office" (Number 83). This important non-sacramental liturgical prayer traces its roots to the fundamentally biblical prayer of the Jewish synagogue. Its Christian forms have evolved "by tradition going back to early Christian times... so that the whole course of the day and night is made holy by the praises of God" (Number 84). The particular contributions of the Vatican II reform of the Hours is the restoration of their celebration to the whole praying church, clerics and laity alike. All are invited to pray the Hours, especially Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer.

The Liturgy of the Hours includes the following major elements in the Roman rite: a hymn; psalms and scriptural canticles, with accompanying antiphons that emphasize the particular season of the liturgical year; Scripture proclamation and response; the Canticles of Zechariah and Mary at Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer, respectively; intercessions; the Lord's Prayer; collect; final blessing and dismissal.

The intent of the Hours is to give voice to the praise of all creation and thanks of the believing Church for creation and redemption. It is a focused time of offering praise and thanks to God. It is also a privileged but not exclusive time of God's self-disclosure to the community of the redeemed. Taking time to pray the Hours of the Church reminds believers that we are pilgrims on journey to the kingdom.

Every year at Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter Seasons, the Cathedral offers Evening Prayer, following the encouragement of the Church. Because we are under the title of the Blessed Sacrament, we place Evening Prayer within Eucharistic Exposition and Benediction. Please make time on the Sunday evenings of these special liturgical seasons to gather for Evening Prayer at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament.

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 2, 2018

Readings: Jer 33:14-16; 1 Thes 3:12-4:2; Lk 21:25-24-36

MASS INTENTIONS

December 3, Monday: Saint Francis Xavier, Priest

Readings: Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11

6:45 AM Pat Vierkorn (Carol Galioto)
8:00 AM Derek Behe (Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Pearson)
12:00 PM Fr. Bill Kiel Health (Bob and Kathy Chirdon)

December 4, Tuesday: St. John Damascene, Priest & Doctor

Readings: Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24

6:45 AM Christina Flanagan (Eileen Edwards)
8:00 AM Kevin Sheets (John Prosperi)
12:00 PM David A. Baronner (Tom and Vicky McGraw)

December 5, Wednesday Advent Weekday

Readings: Is 25:6-10; Mt 15:29-37

6:45 AM For Priests
8:00 AM Fred Fedeli (Wife, Rose Marie)
12:00 PM Jim Davidson (Shilling Family)

December 6, Thursday Saint Nicholas, Bishop

Readings: Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21-27

6:45 AM Richard Anthony (Greg and Kathy Clemens)
8:00 AM Lindy Adams (Skip Cowan)
12:00 PM Ray Plummer (Janie Davidson)

December 7, Friday: St. Ambrose Bishop & Doctor

Readings: Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31

6:45 AM Michael & Ella Gibbons Family (Irwin Family)
8:00 AM Anna Mercer (Charles Angermeier Family)
12:00 PM Bea Mannion (John Adams Family)

5:30 PM Madeline Vogel (Kathy & Bob Ford)

December 8, Saturday: Immaculate Conception of the BVM

Readings: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

8:00 AM Carrie Kibler Detwiler (Dan & Brigid Sheedy)
12:00 PM Mildred Brandt Dill (Fischer Family)

Vigil: Second Sunday in Advent

Readings: Bar 5:1-9; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3: 1-6

5:00 PM Frances Pagliaro (Mary Ann Bell)

Prayer Partners for Advent and Christmas

Parishioners are encouraged to sign-up to become a Prayer-Partner for someone in the Parish Family during Advent and Christmas. If you have not already filled in the form, Prayer-Partner Forms are available at the three doors of the Cathedral. Take time to fill in the needed information. You will receive the name and address of the person(s) you will be praying for in the mail. Make sure to pray daily. And, perhaps, you could send a Christmas Card or give a telephone call.

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.

Rite of Acceptance of Catechumens Rite of Welcoming of Candidates

Last Sunday at the 10:00AM Mass, we welcomed two catechumens and four candidates into the formal process of Christian Initiation. Katie Biem and Chris Litzinger are seeking Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. Nikole Beeler, Ashley Bender, Mark Biem, and Tyler Luther, already one with us in Baptism, are seeking full membership in the Catholic Church and the Sacraments of Confirmation and/or Eucharist.

With these combined rites completed, our catechumens and candidates will now be dismissed at Mass after the Universal Prayer. At that time they will, first, reflect further on the readings of the day, and secondly, spend about an hour of discussing and reflecting on essential truths of the Catholic Faith.

Please continue to pray for these six adults making their journey to the Easter Sacraments. They will need the support and strength from the faithful of the Cathedral Parish for them to complete their journey to Easter and beyond. We joyfully welcome Katie, Chris, Nikole, Ashley, Mark, and Tyler.

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 9:00AM 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!

OFFERTORY COLLECTION Sunday, November 25, 2018 - \$8,046.00

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.

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.

Holy Trinity Catholic School Toy Drive

Our parochial school is sponsoring a **Toy Drive** to benefit Saint Vincent DePaul Family Kitchen and Hollidaysburg American Rescue Workers. New and unwrapped toys (maximum \$15.00) will be collected from November 28 through December 13 at each of the three campuses at their respected offices. Sister Paula allows parents or grandparents who come to the soup kitchen to one of these these gifts to give to their child or grandchild. The American Rescue Workers provide toys to families in need. Feel free to participate in this service activity.

Winter Concerts

Holy Trinity Middle School Winter Concert with all Holy Trinity students participating will be on Thursday, December 13 at 7:00PM in the Maria Parish Center. The Bishop Guilfoyle High School Concert (with the Holy Trinity Band Members participating) is Sunday, December 16 at 2PM at Bishop Guilfoyle High School.

Care for the Poor

There are bins at the three doors of the Cathedral for non-perishable items.

Liturgical Reflection ...

Advent prepares us for the great celebration of Christmas. Advent has a twofold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered and as a season when that remembrance directs our mind and heart to await Christ's second coming at the end of time. Advent season is a period for devout and joyful expectation.

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

Religious Education

F.I.R.E. Classes for December 2018

Class will be on Wednesday, December 5th from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM in the Church Hall.

F.I.R.E. make-up class 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.

Families Needed

If your family would like to carry the Advent candles on a particular Advent Sunday, please call Chris Laraia at 814-312-7317, or the Parish Office at 944-4603.

Rest in Peace

This past week Ray Plummer and Barry Saletnik were buried from the Cathedral. May Mary Alice Plummer and daughters, along with Patty Saletnik and children find comfort in the faith. May Ray and Barry find peace in the Risen Lord. We remember our dead in prayer grounded in the certain hope of new life.

Evening Prayer Within Benediction

This Sunday evening at 6:30PM there will be Advent Evening Prayer with Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. This is one of the liturgies of the Church. Psalmody, Scripture with reflection, along with prayer and quiet time, make up this beautiful liturgy to end the day. All are invited to return this evening for this wonderful Advent preparation for Christmas.

Advent Communal Penance Service

Cathedral Parish will have our Advent Penance Service on Wednesday December 19 at 6:30 PM

Please remember our sick in your prayers.