

**DECEMBER 16, 2018**

*Scripture Reflection*

Good news! Let us rejoice in anticipation! This theme is evident in today's readings. In the First Reading, we hear that on that final day when God's justice is fully manifest, he will take away Jerusalem's shame and give her cause for great rejoicing. "Daughter Zion" is a personification of the ideal city of Jerusalem where God, the king of Israel, can dwell as its savior and lover.

Today's Gospel describes a scene in which John the Baptist preaches repentance in anticipation of the coming messiah. When John tells the crowds that they must live righteously, they are so enamored with his words that they think he is the long-awaited messiah. He lays that idea to rest, saying, "one mightier than I is coming. . . . He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." John the Baptist's call for transformation and repentance was a call for a world in which human imagination would work in concert with God's. And God's dream bore little resemblance to the world the Romans had created. God demanded that slaves be freed, debtors forgiven and foreigners welcomed.

Entering God's imagination requires inner conversion and external signs that a transformation has occurred. It may come as a surprise to us that tax collectors and soldiers too sought John's baptism and trusted him to recognize in their obedience to his direction (not taking more than what is legally theirs, not harassing or blackmailing people) as a sign of their conversion.

When Christ comes again, may he find his disciples comforting a victim of human trafficking, giving encouragement to a homeless addict, repairing the damage inflicted on an abused spouse or mentoring an abandoned child. By these signs he will recognize their transformation. These disciples will be the wheat he gathers into his barns.

- **How do you use your gifts to serve God's dreams?**

AT HOME with the WORD 2019, Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, pg. 23. AMERICA MAGAZINE, "How can we imagine a different world?" Michael R. Simone, S.J., November 30, 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](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**

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 16, 2018

Readings: Zep 3:14-18; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

### MASS INTENTIONS

December 17, Monday: Late Advent Weekday

Readings: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17

6:45 AM Helen Hanlon (Mr. & Mrs. Francis Dambeck)  
8:00 AM Joseph A. Knott (Rick & Cammy Pulcino)  
12:00 PM Mary Kantoski, Birthday (Family)

December 18, Tuesday: Late Advent Weekday

Readings: Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25

6:45 AM Bob Weaver (Jim and Elaine Weaver)  
8:00 AM Anna Flanagan, Ann. (Patty & Bear McCloskey)  
12:00 PM Billy and Patty Geis (Geis Family)

December 19, Wednesday: Late Advent Weekday

Readings: Jgs 13:2-7; Lk 1:5-25

6:45 AM Allan Conrad (Barb and Jack Shoemaker)  
8:00 AM Family and Friends (McNelis All-Stars)  
12:00 PM John Bettwy (Joseph and Jean Bettwy)

December 20, Thursday: Late Advent Weekday

Readings: Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38

6:45 AM Catherine Hardin (Patti Marshall)  
8:00 AM Julianne Seidel (Patrick Gaeto & Maria Tarsi)  
12:00 PM Julia M. Febbo (Kim and Michael Febbo II)

December 21, Friday: St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor

Readings: Sg 2:8-14; Lk 1:39-45

6:45 AM Joseph Mangiacame (Janet and Bob Nearhood)  
8:00 AM Carrie Kibler Detwiler (Mom & Dad)  
12:00 PM Rosemary Kwolek (Greg and Kathy Clemens)

December 22, Saturday: Late Advent Weekday

Readings: 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56

8:00 AM Susan Bauer, Birthday, (Children)  
12:00 PM Ray Plummer (Dan and Brigid Sheedy)  
Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Readings: Mi 5:1-4; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

5:00 PM Mildred Brady, Ann. (Joe & Dee Shellenberger)

### Advent of Christmas Concert Today

The Cathedral Choir, guest singers, and members of the Altoona Symphony will present Sing the Songs of Bethlehem, a concert of Advent and Christmas music in the "Lessons and Carols" format, composed and arranged by K. Lee Scott, **this afternoon, December 16 at 3:00 PM** in the Cathedral. The audience will be invited to participate in singing the familiar carols. There will be a free-will offering.

**Please remember our sick in your prayers.**

### Communal Advent Penance Service

Cathedral Parish will celebrate our annual Advent Penance Service this Wednesday, December 19 at 6:30 PM. Bishop will preside along with twelve priests. Our second grade parishioners will be making their First Confession. There will be a reception in the Cathedral Hall following the Penance Service to congratulate our First Penitents. All are welcome. The Reconciliation Liturgy lasts one hour. Everyone going to Confession will have the opportunity to go face-to-face or anonymously to each priest. This is a rich opportunity to prepare for the great Christmas Feast. Free your calendars and be present to celebrate the Lord's sacramental forgiveness at this annual liturgy.

### 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!

### Advent Evening Prayer with Exposition and Benediction

On the Sundays of Advent and Christmas season, we will gather at 6:30 PM to pray the Hours of the Church. Families are encouraged to make this a part of their Advent and Christmas prayer. We are the Parish Family of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, and all those with a deep love of the Eucharist are invited to be present before the Sacrament in exposition on the altar. Please join us for Evening Prayer this Second Sunday of Advent.

### Christmas Flower Memorials

Please remember to have your Christmas Flower Memorial envelope returned to the Parish Office by **Tuesday, December 18** to assure that your memorial will be listed in the Christmas bulletin. If you have misplaced this envelope, just place the name of your loved one on any envelope marked "Christmas Flowers."

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, December 9, 2018 - \$8,251.00

### 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.

### Eucharistic Adoration

Plan ahead! Cathedral will have monthly adoration before the Blessed Sacrament here in the Cathedral on **Wednesday, January 2nd from 12:30 PM to 8:00 PM.**

### Saint Leonard's Personal Care Home

Worried about a loved one? St. Leonard's Home in Hollidaysburg provides medication management, personal hygiene assistance, socialization, meals, housekeeping and a 24-hour staff in a home-like environment. We serve men and women 62+ for whom it is no longer safe to live alone. To tour our beautiful Victorian mansion or for more information, call Sr. Cynthia Meyer at 814-695-9581 during weekday business hours.

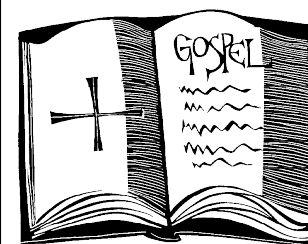
### The Friar's Nook Gift Shop - Christmas

Our store hours are Monday to Saturday from 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM. There is a Christmas Sale from December 15 to 22. This is a great way to finish up (or start) your Christmas shopping at the Friar's Nook Gift Shop, located at 793 Monastery Road, Hollidaysburg. Save 20 % off your entire purchase. A Christmas Cookie Sale will be on Thursday, December 20. Take the stress out of Christmas cookie prep. There are a variety of ethnic and traditional Christmas cookies.

### Holy Trinity Early Dismissal and Transportation

There will be early dismissal on Thursday, December 20, 2018. Middle School 10:30 AM and Elementary Schools at 10:45 AM. The AASD and HASD will ONLY provide bus transportation to school on Thursday, December 20, 2018. Therefore, all Holy Trinity students will need to provide their own transportation home.

### Liturgical Reflection ...



Today the priest may wear a rose vestment at Mass. There is an obvious tone of joy in today's Advent Mass. Christmas quickly approaches and the scripture readings speak of rejoicing in the Lord always, of the presence of the Holy One of Israel, and the Baptist telling us the Holy One will baptize in the Holy Spirit. Christians are nearing the holy commemoration of the Birth of the Savior. Our joy is obvious and, hopefully, contagious.

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

### 2019 Religious Art Calendar

Everyone is invited to take home with you the religious art calendar for 2019. The monthly pictures contained in the annual calendar are again exquisite. Please hang your calendar in a prominent place in your home for all, family and visitors, to appreciate the monthly art and the feasts and memorials of the year. The ushers will have the 2019 calendars for you at the Cathedral doors following Mass. We are grateful to Bob and Jean Jones for their gift. Jones Funeral Home has provided this annual gift for many years. Thank you!

### Advent Giving

Cathedral Parish prepares baskets of food for needy families at the conclusion of Advent for the celebration of the Christmas holidays. **Gift Cards:** Martin's, Weis, or Giant Eagle will greatly help. Please place them in an envelope and put in the collection or drop of at the Parish Office (9:00AM-5:00PM). Bins are placed at the three doors of the Cathedral to collect non-perishable food items, paper products, cleaning items, and personal care products. Please remember to bring in your donations the Sundays of Advent so we can serve the poor in our community. Paper products, laundry and cleaning products, and personal care items cannot be purchased with food stamps. Also, remember to place winter coats that are in good condition on the clothes rack located near the front doors of the Cathedral. Individuals have already contacted the Parish for heavy coats to wear throughout the upcoming winter weather.

### Christmas For Families

All Cathedral families and individuals are encouraged to help others this Advent. We are sponsoring three families through Catholic Charities. Confirmation classes are shopping for specific items for three girls and four boys ranging in age from newborn to 17. Gift certificates for your favorite stores, markets, gas stations, etc. would be great additions. We will need the items by Monday, December 11th. Call Jean Koury at 934-7316 with any questions. Students will wrap gifts on December 17th.