

AUGUST 18, 2019

Scripture Reflection

“I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!” These words in the Gospel cause us to take notice. How does Jesus as the Prince of Peace square with Jesus who brings discord and division to the world? Throughout the Old Testament, fire symbolizes God’s presence in the burning bush (Exodus 3:2). In Elijah’s great battle with the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel, God’s fire consumed Elijah’s sacrifice. At Pentecost, flames of fire appeared over the heads of the Apostles symbolizing the descent of the Holy Spirit.

The symbol of fire also bears with it the power to purify. When the fire of God’s Spirit fills our hearts, we are purified of selfishness and whatever is not compatible with a relationship with God. In the process of purification, we experience the pain of separation from what has divided us from God. Commitment to Jesus bears consequences. It brings about division from those who are opposed to Jesus. The heart of Jesus’ message is that our relationship with him is the most significant relationship of all.

Today’s reading from the letter to the Hebrews reiterates the Gospel theme that our relationship with Jesus is the most important aspect in our lives. The author compares life’s journey to a race we are running. On a race of life, we are called, as any runner is, to keep our eyes fixed on the goal, the prize. We are “keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus.”

- **Have there been times when your relationship with God has been tested by the values of your friends and family?**

“Inquiry”

Anyone interested in learning more about the Catholic Church, or just seeking information, you are welcome to join us for “Inquiry” which will begin Sunday, September 15th from 11:00-12:00 in the Seton Suite. Please call Tammy Datris, Director of RCIA, 934-2441, if you are interested in joining!

Independent Catholic Foundation

We recently received a handful of newsletters from the Independent Catholic Foundation, which is dedicated to providing for the long-term benefits of parishes, schools, cemeteries and ministries within the diocese. If you did not pick up a copy, you may contact the Foundation at (814) 201-2080 to request one by mail, or you may read or download one through its “Resources” webpage at www.icfdaj.org.

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday, September 4, Cathedral Parish will have Eucharistic Adoration from 12:30 P.M. until 8:00 P.M. A sign-up sheet is located on the cross aisle table to choose your time for visitation before the Blessed Sacrament. There are still times in late afternoon and early evening that need people present for adoration. The Church asks that at least two people be present at all times when there is Exposition of the Sacrament.

Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School

The Bishop Guilfoyle Athletic Office is selling lottery calendars for \$25 based on the evening daily number. Lottery calendars start September 1st and run until August 31, 2020. If you would be interested in purchasing any calendars, or have any questions please contact the BG Athletic Office at 944-8847. Thank you in advance for your support.

Annual Cathedral Raffle

All parishioners will be asked to help with the annual late summer/early fall 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 6th on the Cathedral Portico. You need not be present to win. Tickets are available after all Masses.

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-

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 6:15 PM- 8:15 PM

Grades 9 thru 12.

WEB: WWW.ALTOONACATHEDRAL.ORG

FAX: 814-942-4337

E-MAIL: ALTCATHEDRAL@DIOCESEAJ.ORG

EUCHARIST:

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
12:00 Noon
Saturday: 8:00 AM
12:00 Noon

Most Reverend Mark L. Bartchak, J.C.D., Bishop

Very Reverend Alan E. Thomas VG, Administrator

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

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 18, 2019

Readings: Jer 38:4-6,8-10; Heb 12:1-4; Lk 12:49-53

MASS INTENTIONS

August 19, Monday: Saint John Eudes, Priest

Readings: Jgs 2:11-19; Mt 19:16-22

6:45 AM Kevin Sheets (Mom & Dad)

12:00 PM James Davidson (Family)

August 20, Tuesday: St. Bernard, Abbot & Dr. of the Church

Readings: Jgs 6:11-24; Mt 19:23-30

6:45 AM Steve Flanagan (Mike & Sherry Byrne)

12:00 PM Carrie Kibler Detwiler (Mom & Dad)

August 21, Wednesday: Saint Pius X, Pope

Readings: Jgs 9:6-15; Mt 20:1-16

6:45 AM Bob Wojcik (McNelis All Stars)

12:00 PM Vincent Stoehr (Kevin Roesch)

August 22, Thursday: The Queenship of the BVM

Readings: Jgs 11:29-39; Mt 22:1-14

6:45 AM John Bauer (Wife)

12:00 PM Jane Davidson (Cathy & Kerry Hallinan)

August 23, Friday: Saint Rose of Lima, Virgin

Readings: Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14-16, 22; Mt 22:34-40

6:45 AM Nance L. Geis, Anniv. (Geis Family)

12:00 PM Madeline Vogel, Birth. (Mary Gene & Maureen)

August 24, Saturday: Saint Bartholomew, Apostle

Readings: Rv 21:9-14; Jn 1:45-51

8:00 AM Irene Schlecht (Jim & Elaine Weaver)

12:00 PM Herbert J. Kutruff (Kelly Farrell Mercer)

Vigil: Twenty-First Sunday In Ordinary Time

Readings: Is 66:18-21; Heb 12:5-7, 11-13; Lk 13:22-30

5:00 PM Joseph Pagliaro, Birthday (Family)

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

Catholic Ministry Drive

We are most grateful to those who have so generously responded to the 2019 Catholic Ministries Drive. As of the end of July we have pledged totaling **\$36,390.00**. Our goal for 2019 is **\$50,706.00**. Thank you for your generosity. It is most important that we receive your response as soon as possible. Monies received over our diocesan goal will help us to complete Charity Hall in The Cathedral Parish Center.

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 will mark the 88th anniversary of the formal dedication of the Cathedral. The tour dates are: Sunday, September 1 at 1:00 P.M.; Tuesday, September 10 at 7:00 P.M.; Tuesday, September 17 at 7:00 P.M.; and Sunday, September 22 at 1:00 P.M. Light refreshments will be provided. Please call the Parish Office (944-4603) to make reservations.

Annual Wedding Anniversary Liturgy

Bishop Mark and the Family Life Office cordially invite couples celebrating their 1st, 5th, 10th, 25th, 40th 50th, 55th and 60th+ Wedding Anniversary in 2019 (and their families) to attend the **Annual Wedding Anniversary Liturgy** to be held **Sunday, September 15th** here in the **Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament**. The Liturgy begins at 2:00 PM and light refreshments will follow. Parishioners are encouraged to call the Parish Office at 944-4603 to register by **Tuesday, August 23.**

Stewardship Reflection

Trying to live as a Christian in today's society can be challenging at times. Although stewardship is challenging there is a peace that comes with the decision we make for Christ and living his will when we share our time, talent and treasure.

Making God our **first priority** frees us of our ties to material possession and the judgement that divides the Body of Christ, the Church, and all her members. Christian stewards look to today's Second Reading for inspiration by "keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus." (Heb. 12:2).

Catholic Education

Have you considered a Catholic school education for your child? Not only do our schools boast of excellent academics, competitive sports, with a variety of extracurricular activities, but most importantly, Jesus Christ is at the center of our Catholic school life. Our most recent alumni say it was the sense of family they liked most about school. They were at home in their Catholic school. For more information, in grades Pre-K through 8, call Holy Trinity Catholic School at 942-7835; in grades 9 through 12, call Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School at 944-4014.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, August 11, 2019 - \$7,228.00

Healing Patch Volunteers Needed

1 in 7 children will lose a parent or sibling by the age of 20. Behind this statistic are real children- who are struggling with difficult emotions like loneliness, fear, and anger. At the Home Nursing Agency Healing Patch, these children find hope and healing are possible through connecting with others. New volunteers are needed to meet the growing number of families finding support at the Healing Patch. While volunteers must understand they are unable to "fix" what has happened, they are able to facilitate activities to help children and adults connect and share their feelings in a safe and welcoming environment. Volunteers are essential for group nights, which occur two evenings a month from September thru May. New volunteers receive comprehensive training and have assistance in obtaining necessary clearances. For more information, contact Melody Ray, Volunteer Coordinator/Grief Specialist, at 814-947-7200 or raym@upmc.edu.

Young Adult Ministry

The Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament will be starting a "Young Adult Ministry", Age 18 – 30. Our first gathering, for those not yet Confirmed or those young adults feeling the need to learn more about the Catholic Religion, will be on Sunday, September 15th after the 10:00 AM Mass in the St. John's Room. Any young adult youth interested in joining our Young Adult Ministry or being a part of this new endeavor (TEAM) please call Tammy Datrix at 934-2441. There will be younger individuals organizing this group on a monthly basis.

Gluten Sensitivity

There may be parishioners who have found that they have physical disorders related to gluten intolerance. The spectrum of illnesses includes celiac disorder, wheat allergy, bloating, abdominal discomfort, diarrhea, muscular disturbances, and bone or joint pain. The ordinary hosts distributed at Communion contain gluten. If you have found that you are gluten sensitive, special bread is available that possess a very low gluten content. Please tell the priest before Mass, and he will consecrate the low-gluten host for you to receive at that Mass.

Religious Education

Registration for Grades PK-11 will be held in the Parish Center Education floor, 14th St. entrance, before and after all masses on **August 17 and 18**. If you are new to the program please bring a copy of your child's baptism certificate. All students must be registered before the start of classes on September 8th. Please call Chris Laraia (312-7317) for PK/8, or Jean Koury (934-7316) for 9-11.

Blair Garden Club Trip / Renziehausen Park

The Garden Club of McKeesport Rose Garden and Aboretum and tea Thursday, September 12th. Leaving Lowe's parking lot at 9:30 AM. Arrive at McKeesport for luncheon and tea approximately 12 Noon. Guided tour of garden after luncheon.

Cost is \$60.00... includes bus, luncheon and tip for driver. Appx. return time to Lowe's is 6:00 PM. Contact Emma Kowalski at 942-0202 home or 932-0375 cell.

BLUE MASS

There will be a Blue Mass, honoring first responders for their service at 11:00 AM, Sunday, September 8th at Saint John Gualbert Cathedral in Johnstown. This event is open to all police, law enforcement, public safety, firefighters and EMT's and their families. The Blue Mass celebration will be open to the general public and honors those who serve our community in a most outstanding way as first responders. Anyone wishing to attend, plus those seeking further information, can contact (814) 659-6240, or evyanz@hotmail.com.

Charismatic Prayer Group Dates

Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group and Alive in the Spirit student group. Sunday, September 8th, Sunday October 6th, Sunday November 3rd, and Sunday December 1st, all will be held at Bishop Guilfoyle High School from 6:00PM - 7:00PM.

Monday September 23rd, and Monday November 18th, will be held at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament Church at 7:00 PM. All are welcome to join us.

Prayer Shawls

If anyone feels that they need some comfort in their troubled times, please feel free to contact Lorraine Beck at 814-942-7774 for one of our Prayer Shawls. These shawls have been Blessed and may bring you the comfort that you need.