

SEPTEMBER 8, 2019

Scripture Reflection

The cost of being a follower of Jesus is demanding. The Second Reading illustrates this in the request Paul makes of his close friend Philemon. (This is the only private letter from Paul that has survived.) Paul, in prison, asks Philemon to receive back a slave, Onesimus who had run away. Paul had converted Onesimus to Christ and so asks Philemon to receive him back "no longer as a slave but as a brother." Paul asks Philemon to extend forgiveness.

Today's First Reading from the Book of Wisdom reminds us that we do not have answers to everything. Even more so, we must recognize that we cannot understand God's mind. Only through the gift of wisdom and the Holy Spirit can we "know God's counsel."

The Gospel continues the theme of the cost of discipleship. Jesus offers a series of sayings that require a depth of commitment, for example, "Whoever does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple." Jesus is being provocative and demanding. His unsettling language causes us to sit up and pay attention. When he says we should "hate our family members," Jesus obviously is not to be taken literally. What we hate is what is opposed to our relationship with him. The full meaning of the First Commandment to love God above all things is fleshed out in the examples Jesus gives: neither family members, or possessions, or even one's life can be placed above love and commitment to God. Priority must be given to our relationship with Jesus Christ.

• What demands does your Christian faith make on you?

"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!

Baptism Congratulations!

On Sunday, September 8th at the 10:00AM Mass. Aleem Anacetus Otwane, was baptized and welcomed into our Cathedral Parish Family. Congratulations to parents, James and Amy. May the graces of the Sacrament of Baptism strengthen Aleem and the adults who care for her.

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 and at the Parish Office.

PARKING !

If you are doing any business at the Church office we have placed orange cones in front of the building for you to park at. The college students were parking there instead, and we are trying to restrict it for your use only.

Arise

Arise Group Leader Meeting... Wednesday, September 11, 2019, 6:00 PM Parish Center, Religious Education Floor.

Arise Together in Christ is a 6 week, Catholic based, small group faith-sharing program that guides Christians to know God better, grow spiritually, meet new people, improve our relationship with Christ, and put our faith into action.

Season 3, "In the Footsteps of Christ" will focus on the key themes of Catholic social teaching.

Please consider participating in this program beginning on Sunday, October 6th. Sign-up weekends will be held at the Cathedral Square door beginning September 14th.

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 Evening 6:15 PM-8:15 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
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

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

September 8, 2019

Readings: Wis 9:13-18; Phlm 9-10, 12-17; Lk 14:25-33

MASS INTENTIONS

September 9, Monday: Saint Peter Claver, Priest

Readings: Col 1:24-2:3; Lk 6:6-11

6:45 AM Audrey Krause (Phyllis Lavelle Sheetz)

12:00 PM Hilda Conrad (M/M R. Cummins & Family)

September 10, Tuesday: Weekday

Readings: Col 2:6-15; Lk 6:12-19

6:45 AM Kay Alyce Seidel & Irwin Lint (Family)

12:00 PM Angeline Mangicame (Dan & Ann Costlow)

September 11, Wednesday: Weekday

Readings: Col 3:11; Lk 6:20-26

6:45 AM Roberta Lamont (Dave & Maureen Hanekamp)

12:00 PM Special Intention (M/M Randy Grove)

September 12, Thursday: The Most Holy Name of Mary

Readings: Col 3:12-17; Lk 6:27-38

6:45 AM Alice Winkler (Lori & Tim Wright)

12:00 PM Rosemarie Fedeli (Family)

September 13, Friday: St John Chrysostom, Bp. & Dr.

Readings: 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14; Lk 6:39-42

6:45 AM Rudy Seidel (Family)

12:00 PM Msgr. Roy Kline (Earl & Sandy Krug)

September 14, Saturday: Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Readings: Num 21:4-9; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17

8:00 AM Carrie Kibler Detwiler (Skip Cowan Family)

12:00 PM Rita Luciano (Jim & Elaine Weaver)

Vigil: Twenty-Fourth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Readings: Ex 32:7-11, 13-14; 1 Tm 1: 12-17; Lk 15:1-32

5:00 PM Michael Dionis (Donald & Jeanette Betar)

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.

Help Needed:

We will meet on Wednesday September 11, 2019 at 9:00 AM to clean the church, bring buckets and rags with you.. All are welcome to join in and give of your time, talent, and treasures.

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.

Religious Ed

Just a reminder that the Religious Education Pre K-8th Grade, will be resuming classes this Sunday, from 8:30 AM-9:45 AM. If you did not already sign up, and if this is your first time please make sure that you have your child or children's Baptismal Certificate with you.

F.I.R.E Classes

Today, September 8th., and September 22nd, in the Cathedral Hall 6:15-8:15 PM.

Confirmation Prep for September

Confirmation prep for ALL students seeking Confirmation. (AAHS, BG, HLBG, Home Schooled)

There will be a parent meeting with all Ninth and Tenth Grade Candidates, following the 10:00 AM Mass in the Cathedral Hall. This will be a brief meeting lasting about 30 minutes.

September 15th Sunday 6:15-7:30 PM

Confirmation prep 11th Grade Candidate meeting, along with a parent and/or your sponsor.

Stewardship Reflection

Christian Stewards view their possessions as gifts that are meant to build God's kingdom here on earth. We are challenged to use our resources to reach out to others and build God's kingdom of love, justice, and peace. We are urged to be intentional about our faith and not let habitual relationships or ways of living hold us back from being a faithful Christian.

Could any one of us renounce all our earthly possessions as a steward and disciple? How can we take steps towards living this vision?

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, September 1, 2019 - \$8,054.00

Save the Date!

"Concerts Under the Dome" Performance!

The world-famous **Vienna Boys Choir** will be passing through Pennsylvania from Allentown to West Virginia on their US tour in October, and will present a concert in the Cathedral on Sunday, October 27, 7:00 pm. The concert is free, but a free-will donation would be appreciated.

The Touring Choir consists of 25 boys, ages 10-14, who spend 6 months of the year on tour worldwide before returning to Vienna, Austria, and then another group of 25 leave for their 6-month experience. The Choir School is made up of only 100 boys who audition at age 8 and live full-time at the school until their voices change. In addition to the obvious musical skills they must hone, their academic study is equally important and they tour with instructors who hold "school" each day, even as they travel.

If you or your business or employer would like to help support this very special concert, there will be a form in the bulletin the weekend of September 8. Thank you to the individuals, businesses, and foundations who have stepped forward already to make this concert possible! Feel free to contact our Music Director, Leslie Thayer, with questions.

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.

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 Datri at 934-2441. There will be younger individuals organizing this group on a monthly basis.

Catechetical Sunday

The Church celebrates with all our catechists today. Many people come forward annually to pass on the faith to our children, adolescents, and adults. The theme for this year is **Enlisting Witnesses for Jesus Christ**. Cathedral Parish Catechists will be acknowledged and we will pray *The Rite Blessing of Catechists* on Sunday September 15th at the 10:00AM Mass.

We express appreciation to the following: **Holy Trinity Catholic School:** Danielle Aikens; **Religious Education Pre-K-8:** Chris Laraia, Director, Gabriele Cronin, Beth Moore, Kathy Hughes, Helen Carper (Our Lady of Fatima Parish), Kristin John, Carol Galioto, Debra Leberfinger, Darlene Sinisi, Nicole Burkle, Jeanne Thompson, and Melinda Summers (Our Lady of Fatima Parish); **Family Intergenerational Religious Education (F.I.R.E.) 9th through 12th:** Jean Koury, Director, Fr. Dennis Kurdziel; Phyllis Baker; **Infant Baptismal Preparation:** Chris Laraia, Judy Kokolis, Paula Clemens, Gabrielle Cronin; **First Reconciliation and First Eucharist:** Fr. Dennis Kurdziel, Chris Laraia; **Confirmation:** Jean Koury, Fr. Kurdziel, Phyllis Baker; **Marriage Preparation:** Fr. Kurdziel, Clark and Kim Adelman, Bob and Christ Laraia, Jesse and Nicole Ickes; **Christian Initiation of Adults:** Jeanne Thompson, Diocesan Director, Fr. Dennis Kurtziel Tammy Datri, Parish Director, Bob Datri, Peter and Barbara Rossi, Carol Galioto, Joe Dzuranko, Gary Long, Janine Golden, Katie Mangicame;

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Is a process (a journey) through which people enter the Catholic Church. This includes people who have not been baptized (called catechumens) and people who have been baptized in another Christian Church now seeking full Communion with the Catholic (referred to as candidates). If you are interested in learning more about RCIA our first class is Sept. 15th from 11:00am - Noon in the Seton Suite. Please reach out to Tammy Datri, Director of RCIA at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. We look forward to you joining us!

Rest in Peace

This past week Patricia Koeck and Marti Stefanon died and were buried from here. May they rest in the peace and the love of the risen Christ; may their families be comforted in the faith.