

SEPTEMBER 15, 2019

Scripture Reflection

As we look back over the lives, we recall with embarrassment and guilt sinful events we should rather forget. Each of the readings recalls such moments but these are celebrated instead of forgotten. In the readings from Exodus the people of Israel, whom God had liberated from slavery, have turned away to worship false gods. In prayer, Moses mediates on their behalf and they experience the joy of God's merciful love.

In his letter to Timothy, Paul recalls his former way of life as he persecuted Christ and his followers. Without excusing himself, Paul celebrates the forgiveness he has experienced through the Risen Christ's call and transformation.

The Gospel offers three parables displaying God's immense love and forgiveness. "There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance."

This joy is captured in the parable that could be called the "Parable of the Forgiving Father." After patiently awaiting his son's return, the father sees him in the distance, runs, and embraces him. Such actions may have been extraordinary for a Jewish patriarch. The son begins to ask forgiveness, saying, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you," but the father interrupts his prepared speech and throws a party to welcome him back. Forgiveness results in celebration.

The second part of the parable, contrasts the father's joy and forgiveness with the elder son's inability to forgive. He cannot share his father's joy. Undoubtedly, the father portrays the greatest example of God's forgiving and embracing love.

- **How can you imitate St. Paul in celebrating God's loving forgiveness in your life?**

"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!

Annual Cathedral Raffle

All parishioners are 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 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.

Hurricane Dorian Collection

There will be a special collection the weekend of September 21 & 22, at all masses throughout the Diocese. Checks may be made payable to Catholic Charities. All contributions will be forwarded to Catholic Relief Services and Catholic Charities USA who will see that financial assistance will go to those in need.

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-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

September 15, 2019

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

MASS INTENTIONS

September 16, Monday: Sts. Cornelius, Pope & Cyprian, Bp.

Readings: 1 Tm 2:1-8; Lk 7:1-10

6:45 AM Bill Clemens, Anniv. (Daughter Carole)

12:00 PM John Hupert (Family)

September 17, Tuesday: St. Robert Bellarmine, Bp. & Dr.

Readings: 1 Tm 3:1-13; Lk 7:11-17

6:45 AM Kitty Bell, Anniversary (Family)

12:00 PM Fred Fedeli (Rosemarie Fedeli)

September 18, Wednesday: Weekday

Readings: 1 Tm 3:14-16; Lk 7:31-35

6:45 AM Cathedral Anniversary (McNellis All Stars)

12:00 PM Sally Colledge (Pete Colledge & Family)

September 19, Thursday: St. Januarius, Bp. & Martyr

Readings: 1 Tm 4:12-16; Lk 7:36-50

6:45 AM Special Intention - Health

12:00 PM Kyle Holtz (Family)

September 20, Friday: Sts. Andrew & Paul and Comp., Martyrs

Readings: 1 Tm 6:2-12; Lk 8:1-3

6:45 AM Bernie McLucas (Family)

12:00 PM Steve Flanagan (M/M Steven McCloskey)

September 21, Saturday: St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Readings: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Mt 9:9-13

8:00 AM Dottie Berger (Pat Byrne & Family)

12:00 PM Priests

Vigil: Twenty-Fifth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Readings: Am 8:4-7; 1 Tm 2:1-8; Lk 16:1-13

5:00 PM Mary Ann Irwin (M/M Francis Dambeck)

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 **\$38,535.00**. 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 of the magnificent Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. The tour dates are: 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.

F.I.R.E Classes

Sunday, 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

In today's parable, we hear of a father who showers his once-lost child with abundant love even before he asks for forgiveness. The older, faithful son believed that he, and not his wasteful brother, was entitled to a great banquet. Do we relate to the son who displayed an attitude of deserving something extraordinarily special, or do we try to imitate our Father by reaching out with forgiveness and reconciliation?

The grace of our Lord has been abundant, along with the faith and love that are in Jesus Christ. A life of Stewardship is a continual process of conversion and growth. As we embrace Stewardship we are freed to view life in a new way: a precious gift from a loving God.

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.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, September 8, 2019 - \$7,259.00

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, 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, the Prayer Group will be held at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament Church at 7:00 PM. Father Alan Thomas will be the speaker. All are welcome to join us. Sunday November 17th - 6PM. Join us at The Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel, Loretta PA. For a Festival of Praise. Praise and Worship, prayer ministry and witness talks. Stay tuned via emails, newspaper for additional 2019 dates.

Books

We are most grateful to an anonymous donor for providing a timely booklet for each family of the parish. "Letter to a suffering Church" written by Bishop Robert Barron, seeks to address the devastating sexual abuse crisis, may be picked up at each door as you exit the church today.

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 **Stay With Us**. Cathedral Parish Catechists will be acknowledged and we will pray *The Rite Blessing of Catechists* this 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 Galimoto, Debra Leberfinger, Darlene Sinisi, Nicole Burkle, Jeanne Thompson, and Melinda Summers (Our Lady of Fatima Parish) Mary Ann Bell, Allison Stinson; **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 Galimoto, Joe Dzuranko, Gary Long, Nikole Beeler, Katie Mangicarne, Mark Biem.

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 Ida Davis died and was buried from here. May she rest in the peace and the love of the risen Christ; may her family be comforted in faith.