

OCTOBER 20, 2019

Scripture Reflection

Today's liturgy celebrates the virtue of perseverance. In the reading from Exodus, the Israelites face an attack from the Amalekites, a nomadic tribe they encountered in their wanderings through the desert. Through Moses perseverance, as he interceded with God in prayer, the people of Israel finally triumph over their enemy.

In the Gospel reading, a widow's perseverance wins as well. Three groups of people were considered the most vulnerable and in need of support: the widow, the orphan, and the stranger. In the justice system in Israel, a judge was expected to give special attention to each of these groups. This makes the judge's lack of attention to the widow's pleas even more outrageous. Despite his rejection, the widow persists. Finally, the judge gives in, not because of the justice of her cause but because she had worn him out.

The message of these two accounts could be easily mistaken. They both advocate persistence in prayer. A literal reading of these accounts may convey that persistence in prayer will change God's mind, but this is nonsense. The God we believe in is a God of love, who promises fidelity to his covenant people. God's love for us never fluctuates (see James 1:16-17). God's love is always constant. Persistence in prayer, we change and deepen our faith and trust in God, his promises, and love for us.

Paul also calls on his coworker, Timothy, as he exercises his ministry of proclaiming the word, to "be persistent, whether it is convenient or inconvenient, convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teachings.

- **Why are we called to persevere in prayer?**

Arise

The following days and times for Arise groups and their locations are:

- Mondays, 2:00 PM, Education bldg.
- Mondays, 6:00 PM, Education bldg.
- Tuesdays, 9:00 AM, Former Baptistry
- Tuesdays, 4:30 PM Education bldg.
- Wednesdays, 9:00 AM, Former Baptistry
- Wednesdays, 6:00 PM, Former Baptistry
- Thursdays, 6:00 PM, Education bldg.

Groups will begin to meet Monday, October 6th for 6 weeks. Please feel free to join a group even if you have not signed up.

Visit Historic Churches

Father Aron Maghsoudi will be sponsoring a daytrip to visit five historic ethnic parishes in Cleveland, Ohio on Sunday October 27th. They include architecturally significant churches that serve German, Irish, Hungarian, Slovenian, and Polish communities. The bus has pick up locations in Duncansville, Central City, Boswell, and Latrobe. The cost per person is \$50.00. For more information or to register for the trip please call the parish rectory at 814-754-5224. All are welcome.

Choral Program at Mount Carmel

The Choral Ensemble from Juniata College under the direction of Dr. Russ Shelly will be performing "Miss Criolla" on Saturday, November 2nd, at 7:00 PM, at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 1100- 8th Avenue, Altoona Pa 16602. Featured in the program will be a duo on Andes instruments. This program is part of the Concert Series. A free will offering will be taken to benefit the Mount Carmel Pipe Organ Campaign. All are welcome to attend.

Charismatic Prayer Group Dates

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

On Sunday, November 17th at 6PM, join us at The Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel, Loretto, PA, for a Festival of Praise. Praise and Worship, prayer ministry and witness talks.

Pray For Our Sick - Remember our sisters and brothers who are weakened by illness in your prayers. Prayers are sometimes the best prescribed medicine.

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: ALTACATHEDRAL@DIOCESEAJ.ORG

EUCCHARIST:

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| 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

Reverend Monsignor Stanley Carson, 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-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

October 20, 2019

Readings: Ex 17:8-13; 2 Tm 3:14-4:2; Lk 18:1-8

MASS INTENTIONS

October 21, Monday: Weekday

Readings: Rom 4:20-25; Lk 12:13-21

6:45 AM Mildred Lipari (Mike & Sherry Byrne)

12:00 PM Marian Clemens Ann. (Daughter)

October 22, Tuesday: St John Paul II, Pope

Readings: Rom 5:12, 15, 17, 19-21; Lk 12:35-38

6:45 AM **NO MASS**

12:00 PM Sr. Caroline Caritas- (All Sisters of Life)

October 23, Wednesday: St. John of Capistrano, Priest

Readings: Rom 6:12-18; Lk 12:39-48

6:45 AM **NO MASS**

12:00 PM Delphina Rutolo Birthday (Family)

October 24, Thursday: St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop

Readings: Rom 6:19-23; Lk 12:49-53

6:45 AM Dave Petrak (6:45 Mass Attendees)

12:00 PM Janet Tomlinson (Donald & Mary Smithmyer)

October 25, Friday: Weekday

Readings: Rom 7:18-25; Lk 12:54-59

6:45 AM Jack Bell, Anniversary (Family)

12:00 PM Ann Frenzdel (Skip Cowan)

October 27, Saturday: Weekday

Readings: Rom 8:1-11; Lk 13:1-9

8:00 AM Lori Crilley, Anniversary (Sister Pam)

12:00 PM Rose Civerella (Donna & Dave Taddy)

Vigil: Thirtieth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Readings: Sir 12-14, 16-18; 2 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18; Lk 18:9-14

5:00 PM Myra Mangiacarne (Phil & Annetta Fleck)

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 September we have pledges 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.

F.I.R.E

Sunday October 27th, our High School Students will be serving a hot meal to those less fortunate in the church basement from 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM. (This will replace our evening FIRE Class).

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 Sundays, after the 10:00 AM Mass in the St. John's Room. Any young adult 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.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

RCIA 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 Church (referred to as candidates). If you are interested in learning more about RCIA, join us Sunday from 11:00am - Noon in the Seton Suite. Please reach out to Tammy Datrix, Director of RCIA at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. We look forward to you joining us!

Prayer Meeting

Since April of 2018, Christian pastors and laity have been gathering early on Sunday mornings at different churches to pray for the need of the city and our faith communities. On Sunday, November 3rd the Cathedral will host the group which will gather at around 6:15 A.M. and conclude a half hour later. We will meet near the baptismal font. You are welcome to attend.

For Sale Mausoleum Crypt

Located at the Calvary Cemetary / Chapel Crypt. Includes Pre-Paid Open/Close, Crypt Front Lettering, C47 Silver Rose Casket. Cost \$8,500.00. If interested call Margaret at 814-935-1717.

Helpers Needed

We are still in need of helpers to clean the Cathedral. We meet every Wednesday at 9:00 AM. We are so blessed that so many have come forward to help. Please bring buckets and rags and join us.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, October 13, 2019 - \$6,841.00

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 world-wide 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.

Church Closing

The Cathedral Church will close on Sunday October 27th, at 2:00 PM, in preparation for the Vienna Boys Choir Concert, that is taking place that evening. The doors will reopen at 6:15 PM.

MASS CHANGE

The 5:00 PM Mass on Sunday, October 27th will be celebrated at Our Lady of Fatima Church, due to the Vienna Boys Choir Concert. Please make note of this.

Parish Council Meeting

There will be a restructuring meeting of our parish's Pastoral Council on Monday October 28th, at 6:30 P.M. in the conference room of the Cathedral Parish Center.

Spaghetti Dinner

Saint Mary's Christian Mothers & LCBA 1290 Spaghetti Dinner, will be held on Saturday, November 9th from 5:00 pm to 1:30 pm. in Saint Mary Memorial Hall, 1420- 4th Avenue, Altoona. Cost is \$8 for Adults, \$ 5 for children under 10. Children under 3 years of age, free. Eat in or take out. Tickets will be sold at the door. There will be a Basket Raffle as part of the Spaghetti Dinner.

Daily Mass Schedule

Due to the annual Fall Clergy Conference, there will be no 6:45 A.M. daily Mass on Tuesday or Wednesday of this week.

Stewardship Reflections

God does not answer our prayers merely because we continuously ask and plead for solutions to our earthly needs. Often our asking is answered by a call from God instead. Jesus calls us as disciples, to a new way of life of which stewardship is a part. Jesus does not call us as nameless people in a faceless crowd. He calls us individually by name. Each one of us, clergy, religious, lay person; married, single; adult, child, has a personal vocation.

The challenge then, is to understand our role, our vocation, and respond generously to this call from God. God intends each one of us to play a unique role in carrying out the divine plan, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did the least brother of mine, you did for me'. (Mt 26:40)

Be Baptized and Sent

Today, **World Mission Sunday**, we are called to personal encounter with Jesus Christ alive in the Church and to offer, through this Eucharist celebration, our prayers and our generous financial support, through the Society for Propagation of the Faith, to continue the mission of Jesus. Today we are "sent" out to witness to Mission in the world through our prayers and personal sacrifices for our brothers and sisters around the world. As little as \$25 helps support a catechist for a month in remote Latin America. \$75 provides for the work of Sisters caring for orphaned children in Africa. \$100 assists poor children in boarding schools in Asia. As always your prayers are your most treasured gifts to the Missions. Your prayers and financial help, offered today, **WORLD MISSION SUNDAY**, support mission priests, religious Sisters and Brothers, and lay catechists who are Christ's witnesses to a world so in need of His healing, love, and peace.

Homemade Italian Trio Dinner

There will be a Italian Dinner of Lasagna, Spaghetti & Meatballs with salad, Roll & butter & dessert, served at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 628-West 1st Street, Williamsburg Sunday November 3rd. TAKEOUTS ONLY 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM, \$11.00 each. Sunday, November 3rd, 2019. Please call Jim at 832-2139 or Sandy at 658-3600.