

OCTOBER 27, 2019

Scripture Reflection

The psalmist's proclamation, "The Lord hears the cry of the poor" reflects the message of today's readings. The Book of Sirach expresses the fundamental Israelite understanding that God champions the oppressed, the poor, the widow, the orphan, and the lowly. Their prayer "pierces the cloud."

From his prison cell, Paul writes to his fellow missionary Timothy as he foresees his imminent death. Looking back over his life, he expresses with conviction his trust in the Lord's love and mercy: "I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me."

The parable in the Gospel is one of Jesus' most concise and forceful. Luke conveys its purpose in the introduction, "Jesus addressed this parable to those who were convinced of their own righteousness and despised everyone else." The prayer of the Pharisee expresses this attitude. In fact, the Pharisee was not praying to God, he was talking to himself as he listed all his great virtues. He considered himself to be better than the rest of humanity. Contrasted to the Pharisees, is the tax collector, one of the most despised members of society. In his encounter with God, he recognized his unworthiness by uttering the simple prayer, "O God, be merciful to me a sinner."

Luke captures the parable's message succinctly in Jesus' ending, "whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

The humble person, as all the readings illustrate, is the one who acknowledges that all is grace. Everything comes from God. In our encounter with God, we recognize our sinfulness and needs of God's forgiveness.

- **How have deep experiences of prayer affected your life?**

Stewardship Reflections

Trustworthy stewards practice humility, giving glory to God for all things great and small. Stewardship of treasure calls us to plan our giving; that is, giving to first portion of our income, not the last.

Deciding to do this involves faith, trusting that whatever is leftover will be enough for our needs of our loved ones as well. Many of those who make this decision to put God first in their budgets find their faith deepened, and far from being impoverished, they find themselves enriched both spiritually and materially as well.

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday, November 6th, 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.

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.

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.

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

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

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

October 27, 2019

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

MASS INTENTIONS

October 28, Monday: Saints Simon & Jude Apostles

Readings: Eph 2:19-22; Lk 6:12-16

6:45 AM +Bernadine Garcia (Jeanne Summers & Fam)

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

October 29, Tuesday: Weekday

Readings: Rom 8:18-25; Lk 13:18-21

6:45 AM +Julienne Seidel (Ray & Mary Lutchko)

12:00 PM +Catherine Beech Fredrick, Birth. (Family)

October 30, Wednesday: Weekday

Readings: Rom 8:26-30; Lk 13:22-30

6:45 AM +Denis Burns (Dave & Maureen Hanekamp)

12:00 PM +Joe Wiedemer (Frankie Kessler)

October 31, Thursday: Weekday

Readings: Rom 8:31-39; Lk 13:31-35

6:45 AM +Dennis Blackie Anniversary (Friend)

12:00 PM +For Vocations (Rita & Jerry Kibler)

5:30 PM +Cecilia Losardo (Pat Rhoa)

November 1, Friday: All Saints

Readings: Rv 7:2-4, 9-14; 1 Jn 3:1-3; Mt 5:1-12

8:00 AM +Joseph A. Knott (Tim & Anne Marie Longwill)

12:00 PM +Grace Ruscito (Dave & Karen Rhoa)

5:30 PM +John Moloney & Joan Nedimyer (Family)

November 2, Saturday: All Souls

Readings: Wis 11:22-12:2; 2 Thes 1:11-2:2; Lk 19:1-10

8:00 AM +Joseph Mangicarne (M/M Frank Frucella)

12:00 PM +Rosemary Kwolek (Lois & Ed Simanski)

Vigil: Thirty-First Sunday In Ordinary Time

Readings: Wis 11:22-12:2; 2 Thes 1:11-2:2; Lk 19:1-10

5:00 PM +Donald Godish (Friend/Mary Lysinger)

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.

FIRE CLASSES for November, 2019

Sunday November 3rd, 6:15 PM-8:15 PM

Sunday November 17th 6:15 PM-8:15 PM

Confirmation Prep

All 9th Grade students seeking Confirmation there will be a Confirmation Prep *Baptismal Retreat* class on Saturday, November 9th in the Cathedral Hall from 2:00 to 5:00 PM.

First Reconciliation Prep

Next meeting with students and parents will be held on Tuesday, November 5th at 6:30 PM in the Cathedral Parish Hall. Please bring your textbooks and baptism certificates if you have not already done so.

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 Datris 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 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 Datris, 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.

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, October 20, 2019 - \$7,190.00

Save the Date!

"Concerts Under the Dome" Performance!

The world-famous **Vienna Boys Choir** will be in concert this Sunday, October 27, 7:00 pm. The concert is free, but a free-will donation would be appreciated. Doors open at 6:15 PM. Thank you to all our parishioners, businesses and foundations that made this concert possible.

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.

Patriotic Rosary

The annual Patriotic Rosary, sponsored by the Diocesan Courts of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas throughout the diocese, will be Saturday, November 2nd at 2:00 P.M. in the Cathedral. Bishop Bartchak will preside and give a reflection on the scripture. The rosary will be prayed followed by Benediction.

Nocturnal Adoration

This month Holy Roary 900 North 4th Street, Altoona will host this month, on November 11th from 8:00 PM to 11:00 PM.

Spaghetti Dinner

Saint Mary's Christian Mothers & LCBA 1290 Spaghetti Dinner, will be held on Saturday, November 9th from 5:00 pm to 7:30 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.

Book of Remembrance

In addition to the list of parishioners displayed in the vestibule who have died since last November, there will be a Book of Remembrance in the Our Mother of Sorrows/Pieta Chapel (the chapel with the image of Mary holding the crucified body of Jesus). You may list the names of your relatives and friends in that book during the month of November.

The Names of Our Dead

Throughout November the names of all those who have died and were buried from the Cathedral Parish this past liturgical year will appear in the front of the Cathedral. The month of November is the traditional time we Catholics remember our dead with special prayer. Throughout this month take time to pray for our deceased brothers and sisters. Visit the cemetery and pray for those who have gone before us. May all the faithful departed know a place of light, peace and happiness. Thank you to Jean Koury who created this year's board.

Annual Christian Mothers Collection

Christian Mothers will collect for the poor and needy in our Community the weekend of November 9th and 10th at all entrances after all the masses.

Christian Mothers Meeting

There will be a Christian Mothers Meeting November 13th at 6:30 PM in the Seton Suite.

HOLY DAY

This Friday, November 1, is a Holy Day of Obligation. Catholics are expected to participate at Mass on the Solemnity of All Saints. The Church celebrates with all the men, women, and children who have entered the kingdom of God and are seated as saints in glory. It is our humble prayer that someday this will also be our feast day. Check the Mass schedule for Friday's solemnity. Remember on Saturday, November 2, the Church commemorates All Souls Day.

A Note of Thanks

Gratitude is extended to the parishioner and non-parishioner volunteers who washed our altar albs this past week. (The albs were made available following the Noon Mass on Monday, October 21.)

Since the white robe is a symbol of the cleansing sacrament of baptism, it's important that they be well kept and clean. Thank you.