

NOVEMBER 17, 2019

Scripture Reflection

Central to the readings are Jesus' words in the Gospel: "By your perseverance you will secure your lives."

In the Gospel reading, Jesus predicts the Temple's destruction. For the Jewish people, this would be disastrous since the Temple was where God dwelt among his people and the people carried out their religious sacrifices. Yet the words of Jesus came true. In AD 70, the Roman army destroyed the Temple and Jerusalem. As Jesus said, "not a stone will be left upon another stone that will be thrown down."

The Church came to interpret the destruction of the Temple as a sign that the world would come to an end. Jesus' words here are not meant to be taken literally as though he is offering a blueprint for what will occur at the end of the world. The foundational message is that, just as God brought our world into existence, so God will bring the world as we know it to an end. Jesus warns his followers not to be afraid and not to be deceived by people who claim to read the signs of the time and foretell when the end will happen. As we experience natural disasters, deceptions, and persecution, the virtue that should be the hallmark of our lives is perseverance. Trust in the Lord's guidance and protection.

In the First Reading, the prophet Malachi offers further advice regarding the end of time. When God's judgement occurs, those who are faithful and "fear the name" of the Lord will experience God's healing and salvation.

- **Are you at all influenced by the belief that the world will come to an end?**

Stewardship Reflections

Jesus urges us to persevere through trials and tribulation. True joy born of hope in Christ transcends circumstance and transforms our encounters, so we can live in joyful gratitude. How can we as stewards bring hope to those in the world that are in need of our Spirit? Take some time this week to think about how you can share the love and joy of God in the midst of the people and activities that you are a part of.

"Followers of the Lord Jesus live their discipleship as spouses and parents, single adults and youth, employers and employees, consumers and investors, citizen and neighbors. By our baptism and confirmation, every member of our community is called to live his or her faith in the world.

Helpers Needed

We will meet next Wednesday at 9:00 AM, to tidy up the Cathedral for the Thanksgiving Holiday. We are so blessed that so many have come forward to help. Please bring buckets and rags and join us.

Sacrament Class

8 week course will be offered this January in two locations. Fr Timothy Grimme will be teaching at St. Michael Church Hall, St. Michael on Tuesday 6:30-8:30 PM beginning January 7th. Dr. James Merrick will be teaching at the Seton Suite, Cathedral, Altoona on Thursdays from 6:30-8:30 PM beginning January 9th. These classes may be taken for continuing education credit and Master Catechist requirements. For registration, please contact Marybeth at (814) 361-2000 or by email at mheinze@dioceseaj.org. **All are welcome.**

Friar's Nook

Start off your Christmas shopping with a stop at The Friar's Nook Gift Shop Pre Black Friday Sale Nov. 16th -23rd! The entire store will be 20% off, with great savings on nativities, gifts, flags, cards, and much more! The shop is located at 793- Monastery Road, Hollidaysburg (on St. Bernadine Monastery campus), and the hours are Monday-Saturday 10:00 AM-4:00 PM. Please call 814-695-3802 with any questions.

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: 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

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

November 17, 2019

Readings: Mal 3:19-20; 2 Thes 3:7-12; Lk 21:5-19

MASS INTENTIONS

November 18, Monday: The Dedication of the Basilicas

Readings: 1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Lk 18:35-43

6:45 AM + James Joseph Luther (Joe Plutko Family)

12:00 PM + Walter Beech Anniversary (Family)

November 19, Tuesday: Weekday

Readings: 2 Mc 6:18-31; Lk 19:1-10

6:45 AM Good Health Susan Bauer (Children)

12:00 PM For Priests (Anon)

November 20, Wednesday: Weekday

Readings: 2 Mc 7:1, 20-31; Lk 19:11-28

6:45 AM + Bob Schraff (McNelis All Stars)

12:00 PM + Michael Dionis Birthday (Mom & Dad)

November 21, Thursday: Presentation of the BVM

Readings: 1 Mc 2:15-29; Lk 19:41-44

6:45 AM + Irene Schlect (Janet Azales)

12:00 PM + Madeline Vogel (John & Alice Joyce)

November 22, Friday: Sts. Cecelia, Virgin and Martyr

Readings: 1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59; Lk 19:45-48

6:45 AM Poor Souls (Fred Petrunak Sr.)

12:00 PM + Mimie Ciambotti (Pat Rhoa)

November 23 Saturday: Sts. Clement, Columban

Readings: Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9; Lk 18:1-8

8:00 AM + Stephen Flanagan (Karen & Greg Querry)

12:00 PM + Ray Plummer (Dr. Joseph & Rebecca Clark)

Vigil: Thirty-Fourth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Readings: 2 Sm 5:1-5; Col 1:12-20; Lk 23:35-43

5:00 PM + Dick, Rick & Karen Dougherty (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 October we have pledges totaling **\$40,308.14**. 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 17th 6:15 PM-8:15 PM

November 24, 2019 Sunday 6:15-7:30 PM

Eleventh Grade Confirmation Prep Session

All Catholic School, Home Schooled and

Religious Ed students and sponsor (or parent).

ADVENT CANDLES

Anyone interested in carrying the Advent Candles during the Opening Procession before Mass, please contact Chris Laraia, before November 24th at 814-312-7317.

Ministry to the Elderly, Seriously Ill and Grieving

We will be approaching the fifth year which began as a simple Thanksgiving Card to our parishioners who were on the First Friday visitation list and those residing in elder care homes. Our twenty person committee has been sending cards, making phone calls and visiting with some men and women who invited us into their homes. We are thankful for your support but want to tell you that committee members feel as they are receiving more than what they are giving. Paula Miller who began by praying a simple Hail Mary with a resident over four years ago shared, "I cannot begin to tell you how enriched my life has become since joining this ministry. After each visit, I would leave more blessed than when I arrived. Our homebound so appreciate that we, as a member of their parish family, remember them either with a card or a visit. Their smiles are priceless!"

If you can please call the office 814-944-4603, with the name and address of a family member or friend who you know would welcome a kind word and a prayer through the mail we would be able to reach out to many more. If you would like to join this ministry please call the office at 814-944-4603, or Jeanne Thompson at 814-317-2672. And we can always use stamps!

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.

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

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, November 10, 2019 - \$6,249.00

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 Dattris 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 Dattris, Director of RCIA at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. We look forward to you joining us!

Charismatic Prayer Group Dates

Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group and Alive in the Spirit student group. 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.

Nocturnal Adoration

Will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes, 2716- Broad Avenue Altoona, on Friday December 6th from 8:00 PM to 11:00 PM. They are the host church for this event. Please try to visit for an hour. You may attend anytime.

Final Live Training

Mandated Reporter and Protecting God's Children.

Saturday November 19, 2019 at Saint Patrick's in Newry, from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Contact Justin Kirkland@dioceseaj.org or call 814-317-2606.

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.

Remembering Our Dead

The following men and women were buried from the Cathedral Parish during the Year of Grace 2019. Please remember the following in prayer who are listed on our board of the deceased in the Our Mother of Sorrow/Pieta Chapel. We pray for the following: Mary Letrich, Robert Watkins, Mary Alice Winkler, Hilda Conrad, James Luther, Msgr. Roy Kline, Peter and Tom Lynam, Angeline Mangiacarne, Dorothy Stephens, Alberta Rapsky, Most Reverend Joseph Adamec, Rose Stefanon, Josephine Behe, Jean Herbert, Joseph Knott, Edward Wolfe, Dorothy Berger, Elmira Larue Johnson, John Adams Sr., Jane Davidson, Deacon John J. Szwarc, Karen Wachter Hazlet, Patricia Koeck, Marti Stefanon, Ida Davis, Charles Craig, William Boslet, Robert Wojcik, Elizabeth Consalvo, Louis Probst, Joseph Mercer Jr., Patricia Leap, Frances Nancy Speckhart, Gina Strayer, John E. Denis, Father Anthony Lagarski.

Calendar of Prizes 2020 Are Here!

Calendar of prizes 2020 are being sold at the Cathedral Square Door after all masses starting this weekend. Each calendar costs \$20.00. There is a \$20.00 daily prize; an additional \$1,000.00 in special monthly prizes awarded throughout the year; and a grand prize of \$1,500.00. Due to the states regulations for small games of chance, it is necessary that we sell all one thousand tickets are sold. Otherwise the parish will lose money on unsold tickets. If you have a favorite tree digit number, call the Parish Office at 814-944-4603 weekdays between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM to check for availability or stop by the Cathedral door after Mass on the weekends. These make great Christmas gifts and stocking stuffers.

Thanksgiving Reminder

There will only be one mass on Thanksgiving Day at 9:00 AM. Please remember to bring your non parishable food item with you, to bring forward during mass.