

NOVEMBER 24, 2019

Scripture Reflection

On this final Sunday of the liturgical year, the Church invites us to celebrate the kingship of Jesus Christ. All the readings provide an insight into the true nature of this kingship. The First Reading reminds us that all kingship ultimately comes from God. God promised that the kingdom of David would endure forever. The Gospel accounts proclaim that Jesus is David's descendant and heir to his kingdom. God's plan for the salvation of humanity is celebrated in the hymn in today's Second Reading from Paul's Letter to the Colossians. God's Son became man is the image of the invisible God. God's plan is to "reconcile all things for him, making peace by the blood on the cross."

The Gospel illustrates the fulfillment of God's plan. The irony is that the kingship of Christ is revealed through his Cross, not through power and majesty, but in the humiliation of the Crucifixion. Today's Gospel presents a memorable scene where the innocent Jesus is crucified between two criminals. The first criminal mocks Jesus, while the other admits his guilt and recognizes Jesus' innocence. In what must be the clearest acknowledgement of Jesus' kingship in the Gospel accounts, the criminal confesses, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus embraces this criminal's sincerity and faith and promises him, "Today you will be with me in Paradise." To be with Jesus in his kingdom is the destiny for every Christian who confesses with this criminal, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." The death of Jesus on the Cross establishes his kingdom and brings salvation to all who call on the name of the Lord.

• How is the kingship of Jesus different from that of all other kings?

AT HOME with the WORD 2019, Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, pg. 147

Stewardship Reflections

Jesus came to us without earthly glory but on a cross, crowned by thorns. "The grandeur of his kingdom is not power as defined in this world, but the love of God, a love capable of encountering and healing all things." (Pope Francis, Homily, November 20, 2016) Reflect on possibilities of how you can honor God through hardship.

"By their worthy deeds in this life, people make a real human contribution to building up the kingdom. They do so with the understanding that we will be held accountable for our actions, independent of the actions of others. And even though discipleship and stewardship set the necessary terms of Christian life in this world, they have their ultimate reward in another life." (Stewardship: A Disciple's Response, USCCB, 1993.)

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.

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.**

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.

ARISE

Thank you to the group leaders and those parishioners who participated in this third session of ARISE. The next gathering will be Lent 2020 Plan to join in this six-week reflection on scripture and your personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

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

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST KING OF THE UNIVERSE

November 24, 2019

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

MASS INTENTIONS

November 25, Monday: Saint Catherine of Alexandria

Readings: Dn 1:1-6, 8-20; Lk 21:1-4

6:45 AM + John Bauer (Wife)

12:00 PM + Alice Winkler (Jane Davidson Family)

November 26, Tuesday: Weekday

Readings: Dn 2:31-45; Lk 21:5-11

6:45 AM Chris Keagy Family (Carol Smith)

12:00 PM + Dan & Marian Burns (M/M Dave Hanekamp)

November 27, Wednesday: Weekday

Readings: Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28; Lk 21:12-19

6:45 AM + Hilda Conrad (M/M Richard Cimmino)

12:00 PM + Mildred Brady Birth (M/M Joe Shellenberger)

November 28, Thursday: Thanksgiving

Readings: Dn 6:12-28; Lk 21:20-28

9:00 AM + Angeline Mangiacame (Dan & Ann Costlow)

November 29, Friday: Weekday

Readings: Dn 7:2-14; Lk 21:29-33

6:45 AM Special Intention (M/M Randy Grove)

12:00 PM O.L.O.F. ARISE Group (Carol Smith)

November 30 Saturday: Saint Andrew, Apostle

Readings: Rom 10:9-18; Mt 4:18-22

8:00 AM + John Capouellez Anniversary (Family)

12:00 PM Rose Marie Fedeli (Family)

Vigil: First Sunday in Advent

Readings: Is 2:1-5; Rom 13:11-14; Mt 24:37-44

5:00 PM + John McCloskey (Paul McCloskey & Family)

Christian Mothers Meeting

The next Christian Mothers and Women meeting will be on December 11.

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.

Confirmation Prep

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).

Confirmation Prep

December 7th Saturday 12:45-6:00 10th Grade Gifts of the Holy Spirit & Parable Retreat

Religious Education

December 8th FIRE class 6:15-8:15 PM

December 15th FIRE class 6:15-8:15 PM

First Reconciliation Prep

Sunday December 3rd there will be a 1st Reconciliation Prep class from 6:30-8:00 PM in the Cathedral Hall.

ADVENT CANDLES

Anyone interested in carrying the Advent Candles during the Opening Procession before all Mass, please contact Chris Laraia, before November 25th at 814-312-7317. OR you may also call the Parish Office at 814-944-4603, between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

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!

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, November 17, 2019 - \$6,699.00

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 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 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.

Thanksgiving Reminder

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

Religious Art Calendars

Our parish's Religious Art Calendar for 2020 will be available at our Cathedral's entrances next weekend. Gratitude is extended to Bob Jones and his generosity in providing our calendars.

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

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.

Thank You

The Cathedral Christian Mothers are grateful for your kindness the weekend of November 10th with the annual collection for the poor in our community. Your generous donations amounted to \$1,700.00. Know that these monies will go to those in need for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

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 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.

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday, December 4th, 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.

Looking Ahead

Just a look ahead for the upcoming Christmas Concert on Sunday December 15th at 3:00 PM in the Cathedral Church. Their will be more to come at a later date.

Advent Penance Service

Our annual Advent Penance Service will be on December 18th at 6:30 PM