

JANUARY 13, 2019

Scripture Reflection

Seldom do all four Gospels include the same story with very similar wording. However, the acknowledgment of John the Baptist that “one mightier than I is coming” is echoed from Mark 1:7 (the source for Luke and Matthew) to John (1:26-27). Even the late-first-century Jewish historian Josephus knows of John the Baptist (Antiquities 18.5.2). In today’s reading, Luke does not narrate Jesus’ actual baptism, but we do glimpse the heavenly affirmation: “You are my beloved Son with you I am well pleased” (Luke 3:22). Luke may have wanted to avoid the awkward theological problem: If John proclaimed a “baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (Luke 3:3), why would Jesus need such a baptism? Similarly, the evangelist John does not narrate the actual baptism.

Luke understood the baptism that John offered to be about more than repentance. It was about making a public declaration of citizenship in God’s coming kingdom. A conversion of heart was simply the necessary first step. Life under God’s reign required a new heart and a new spirit, and such a life required a clean break with the past. In Jesus’ case, no conversion was necessary for this public declaration. Baptism revealed instead his true nature as God’s beloved Son.

The baptism of Jesus is the first demonstration of the loving relationship that all believers will come to share with God. God extended the same divine love at Pentecost to any who took up the Son’s mission, and through sacramental baptism to any who have dedicated themselves to the Son in subsequent ages.

At his baptism, Jesus experienced divine love with new intensity; he responded to that gift with such fierce passion that his subsequent life and death transformed the world. The same “spirit and fire” is the inheritance of all Christians. When Christians announce to the world that their life is now under God’s reign, they encounter the same divine love Jesus experienced. In that encounter, Christians find a mission that perfects their own abilities and continues some aspect of Jesus’ work.

- **In what ways have you encountered the intensity of divine love?**

Living the Word, Laurie Brink and Paul Colloton, World Library Publications, 2018, pg. 39. AMERICA MAGAZINE, “Jesus wants to transform us. Will we let him?” Michael R. Simone, S.J., December 28, 2018.

Relic Pilgrimage of Saint John Vianney’s Incorrupt Heart

The Shrine of Ars, France, has entrusted to the Knights of Columbus the major relic of Saint Jean Vianney’s incorrupt heart for a national tour of the United States from November 2018 through June 2019. The Knights of Columbus will provide this special opportunity to venerate a major relic of the patron of parish priests, whose holiness and integrity is a model for clergy and laity alike.

The **reliquary** holding Father Vianney’s heart will be in the **Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament**, Altoona, on **Thursday, January 31st**. Veneration will occur throughout the day from 7:30 A.M. through 7:30 P.M. The regular daily Mass schedule will be observed: Masses at 6:45 A.M., 8:00 A.M., and Noon. Bishop will be the main celebrant at a concelebrated Mass at 5:30 P.M.

Confessors will be available for confessions throughout the day. Father Vianney was renowned for his gift as a confessor in the Sacrament of Penance. This holy priest undertook a life of heroic penance and prayer to draw his people away from sin and closer to God. Known for his wise spiritual counsels and the gift of reading hearts, he soon became a “prisoner” of the confessional, hearing confessions for up to eighteen hours a day. Thousands came from across Europe and beyond to seek this holy confessor. Pilgrimage to the Altoona Cathedral on this day will allow all to seek sacramental forgiveness in Christ.

At Bishop Bartchak’s request the Apostolic Penitentiary has granted permission to receive an **Indulgence** attached to the pilgrimage to the relic of Saint John Vianney. An indulgence is the remission of temporal punishment for sin, in response to prayers or good works. It is God, through the Church, who remits the temporal punishment. Receiving the indulgence requires; first, celebrating the Sacrament of Penance leading to a genuine conversion of heart; second, receiving Holy Communion while fully participating at Mass; third, venerating the holy relic of Saint John Vianney; and fourth, praying for the intentions of the Holy Father, Pope Francis, by reciting the Apostles’ Creed, Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory be.

Throughout the morning and afternoon, school children and adults will be able to venerate this first class relic of Saint John Vianney. The Knights of Columbus will stand as honor guards. Plan to be present this last day of January to venerate the relic of a holy parish priest. It will be an opportunity for grace and a special day to pray for vocations to the priesthood – a particular priority for the Knight of Columbus.

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.

ANOINTING 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 - Monday 7:45 AM.
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 afternoon 2:00 PM - 4:00 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 8:00 AM 12:00 Noon
				Saturday:	8:00 AM 12:00 Noon

Most Reverend Mark L. Bartchak, J.C.D., Bishop

Reverend Monsignor Robert C. Mazur, Rector

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

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

JANUARY 13, 2019

Readings: *Is 40:1-5,9-11; Ti 2:11-14,3:4-7; Lk 3:15-16,21-22*

MASS INTENTIONS

January 14, Monday: Weekday, 1st Wk in Ordinary Time

Readings: *Heb 1:1-6; Mk 1:14-20*

6:45 AM Billie Baker (Bob and Judy Baker)
8:00 AM Ernest & Catherine Raskauskes (Johnson Family)
12:00 PM Joan Carney (Pat Rhoa)

January 15, Tuesday: Weekday

Readings: *Heb 2:5-12; Mk 1:21-28*

6:45 AM Janet Tomlinson (Tom and Patricia Forr)
8:00 AM Roseann Simelbauer (Anna Willmendinger)
12:00 PM Sally Colledge (Pete Colledge and Family)

January 16, Wednesday: Weekday

Readings: *Heb 2:14-18; Mk 1:29-39*

6:45 AM John Flinn (Cathedral Parish)
8:00 AM An End to Abortion (McNelis All-Stars)
12:00 PM Rose Ciavarella (Joseph Plutko Family)

January 17, Thursday: Saint Anthony, Abbot

Readings: *Heb 3:7-14; Mk 1:40-45*

6:45 AM Bill Crouse / Mike Kling, Anniv. (Families)
8:00 AM Dr. Fred Petrunak, Birthday (Family)
12:00 PM Alma Reismeier (Husband, Fred)

January 18, Friday: Weekday

Readings: *Heb 4:1-5, 11; Mk 2:1-12*

6:45 AM Barbara Byers (Liz & Lesley Ventre / Mary Leamer)
8:00 AM Stephen Flanagan (Pete and Kathy Starr)
12:00 PM Joyce McNeal (Kathy Ryan)

January 19, Saturday: Weekday

Readings: *Heb 4:12-16; Mk 2:13-17*

8:00 AM Matthew Gordon (Mike and Sherry Byrne)
12:00 PM Bernard Frederick (Robert & Patricia Frederick)
Vigil: Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

Readings: *Is 62:1-5; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11*

5:00 PM Bernie Garcia (Marge Dennis)

Final Christmas Evening Prayer with Exposition and Benediction

On the Sundays of Christmas season, we will gather at 6:30 PM to pray the Hours of the Church. Families are encouraged to make this a part of their Christmas prayer. We are the Parish Family of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, and all those with a deep love of the Eucharist are invited to be present before the Sacrament in exposition on the altar.

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

Calendar of Prizes 2019

Thank you to all who participated in this annual fundraiser for the Parish. Please note: there are four outstanding calendars that have not been returned. The numbers are **088, 159, 290, and 677**. If you have these numbers, please return them to the Cathedral Office. We do have requests to purchase these calendars. Thank you.

Week of Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins Friday, January 18, and concludes on Friday, January 25. You are encouraged to participate in the two opportunities for ecumenical prayer.

Dates for Ecumenical Services

On Sunday, January 20, 2019, Bishop Michael Rhyne of the Lutheran tradition will host an ecumenical service at Saint James Lutheran Church, 525 Mifflin Street, Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. The service begins at 3:00 PM. Bishop Mark Bartchak will be in attendance. All are invited to participate in this prayer.

On Sunday, January 27, 2019, Bishop Gregory of Nyssa of the Orthodox tradition will host an ecumenical service at Christ the Saviour Cathedral, 300 Garfield Street, Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The service begins at 3:00 PM. Bishop Mark Bartchak will be in attendance. All are invited to participate in this prayer.

Wine Tasting Fund Raiser for Catholic Charities

Please join Catholic Charities on Wednesday, February 6th at 5:30 PM at the Blairmont Club in Hollidaysburg for the ***Wines of Italy*** sampling event - an extraordinary evening of wine, food and fun, all while supporting families in your community. A sommelier will share six specially selected and spectacular Italian wines, carefully paired with delicious appetizers. The event will feature three red wines and three white wines, so there will be something for everyone to enjoy. Tickets are \$50 per person, and all proceeds will go towards funding services for those in need in our community. Space is limited for this unique event. Tickets are available by calling 814-944-9388 or can be purchased online at: www.catholiccharitiesaj.org. If you miss this special evening, Catholic Charities next wine tasting event will be on March 14th at Amici's in Ebensburg, featuring ***Wines of Spain***.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, January 6, 2019 - \$7,877.00

Contribution Reports for Income Tax purposes may be obtained by calling the Parish Office: 944-4603.

Christmas Season concludes with the Baptism of the Lord on Sunday, January 13th. The Christmas totals of the Christmas Collection will be provided in the January 20th bulletin as the Cathedral continues to receive your generous gifts.

ARISE

Cathedral Parish will begin a journey of prayer and reflection during the season of Lent. For six weeks you will be invited to gather in small groups to break open scripture and discuss how to live the faith in our daily lives. If you were unable to join the ARISE process in the fall, give some serious thought to joining a small group this Lent.

Sacrament Preparation

First Communion students and parents will meet in the Seton Suite on Wednesday, January 23rd at 6:30 PM. All students and a parent must attend. Please contact Chris Laraia at 312-7317 if you will not be able to attend this session.

Diocesan Marriage Preparation

Marriage Preparation sessions will be held in the Cathedral Parish Hall on Saturday, January 19th at 9:00 AM. Please call the parish office at 944-4603 for more information.

The Feast of Saint Bridgid Dance

There will be a dance Saturday, January 26, from 7:00 PM until 11:00 PM at the Knights of Columbus, 1508 12th Avenue. Food and drink will be provided. The Full Kilt Band will perform. Doors open at 6:30 PM. There is a \$25.00 donation per person. Call 814-280-7661 for tickets, which are sold in advance only.

Basket Bingo Meeting

The first Basket Bingo meeting will be held on January 17, at 6:00 PM in the Cathedral Hall. Contact Lorraine Beck at 942-7774.



Liturgical Reflection ...

Today concludes the Christmas celebration. With the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan, a mystery is again revealed. God is present in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Another revelation is made. This Jesus is indeed God's beloved Son and the Father is well pleased. With the Baptism of the Lord, all baptisms are confirmed. We have entered into the waters of rebirth. We stand with the Beloved Son of God.

2019, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 South Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648.

Eucharistic Adoration

Plan to take part in next month's Eucharistic Adoration scheduled for **Wednesday, February 6th** from 12:30 P.M. until 8:00 P.M.

Annual Prayer Service for Life

The Cathedral will again sponsor a prayer service on the eve of the March for Life. All are invited to prayer on Thursday, January 17th at 7:00 P.M. Bishop will preside at Evening Prayer. There will be a special blessing for the pilgrims going to Washington, D.C. the following day.

Annual March for Life

Again this year there will a bus provided for the March for Life to the nation's capital on Friday, January 18th. The cost is adults: \$15.00, and students: \$10.00. For reservations please call Patricia or Marita Forr at 946-0681; Roxann Blazewicz at 695-8008; Anne Zelnosky at 942-2723.

March For Life Collection

There will be a collection after all Masses this weekend to offset the cost of transportation to Washington, D.C. this coming Friday. Many will be marching for this most worthwhile cause.

Bishop Guilfoyle Raffle

Bishop Guilfoyle students will be selling Raffle Tickets after all Masses on January 19 and 20.

Religious Education News PK-8

Classes have resumed on Sundays, at 8:30 AM. Until further notice, all classes will be dismissed from the Parish Center lower level alley doors. PK/K parents please continue to go to the classroom to pick up your child.

Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group

The Cathedral Prayer Group will meet on Monday, January 14th, at 7:00 PM, here at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. "Come to His gates with thanksgiving; enter His courts with praise" (Psalm 100:4). Join us for Praise and Worship, Spirit-filled teachings and witnessing, prayer ministry, and fellowship! All are welcome!