Scripture Reflection

Today’s Gospel, which is part of Luke’s sermon on the plain, is a teaching on loving one’s enemies. From a practical point of view, we are told that we should treat others as we would want to be treated. More importantly from a God-centered point of view, we are told to be merciful like our heavenly Father, who is kind to everyone, even the ungrateful and wicked.

Luke understands Jesus to be a prophet, and in this Sunday’s Gospel reading, he relates some of Jesus’ most challenging and difficult teachings. Jesus’ words are easy to dismiss as impossible, or to critique as ideals that no one was ever meant to achieve. This would be a mistake. Jesus intended his disciples to strive to fulfill these commandments.

Jesus drew these lessons from careful study of the Father’s ways. His first was the Father’s gift of eternal love. Another lesson came from the study of the Father’s ways in Israel’s history. Divine love always overcame judgement, and God’s fidelity to the covenant remained strong regardless of human transgression. A final lesson came from nature; the sun rises on both sinners and saints, and God’s rain falls equally on the righteous and the wicked. Jesus built his own life around these lessons, and he expected his disciples to do the same.

Christian disciples are called “children of God.” As children of God, Christians can hope for blessings in this life and eternal fellowship with God in the next. Children resemble their parents. It might be astonishing at first to realize that living the Gospel makes us like the Father, but this is what it means to be a child of God. There is no arrogance or pride in finding the loving thing to do in any given situation, or forgiving those who wrong us, or sharing our gifts even with those who do not deserve them. God is always ready to love, give and forgive; just so, those who call themselves “children of God” must follow God’s example in all ways.

- The Gospel provides examples of how we should behave. What do these tell us of God’s mercy?

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS

Holy Trinity Catholic School Preschool
The Holy Trinity Catholic School is looking to expand our preschool and we want to make sure that it fits the needs of our families and community. Below is a link to the survey. Please complete the survey as soon as possible. We would like to gather as much information as possible from everyone. If you are interested in the summer pre-school program, please leave your email address at the end of the survey. We will be in touch with additional information. Thank you for your help.

Preschool Survey Link: https://goo.gl/forms/StRL33HmYqAgqY62

THINK BASKET BINGO-SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2019

It’s that time of year again for our 5th Annual Basket Bingo. We’re asking for your support. We are in need of Gift Cards, new items such as home decor, non-perishables, theme baskets, household items, lottery tickets, and monetary donations. Items can be dropped off at the Parish Office during the week between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM, or may be picked up by calling: Lorraine Beck, 942-7774.

Basket Bingo Meeting
There will be a basket bingo meeting this Thursday in the Cathedral Hall at 6:30 P.M.

Shoe Collection Drive

SAINT VINCENT DEPAUL Financial Needs Office is conducting a shoe drive fundraiser to raise funds to support our citizens in need of financial support. We will earn funds based on the total weight of the pairs of gently worn, used and new shoes collected, as Funds2orgs will issue a check for the collected shoes. The monies earned will be used to support our citizens in need. Funds2orgs works with micro-entrepreneurs in helping them create small businesses in developing countries such as Haiti. It’s a win-win for everyone.

We have a box available for collection of these shoes at the back of your church starting Sunday Feb. 10th until March 30th. By donating your gently worn, used and new shoes, you can make a difference in peoples’ lives around the world. Thank you and may God reward you richly for your generosity.

St. Vincent dePaul - Altoona Thrift Store

The Altoona Thrift Store is in need of furniture donations. We sell what we can to help people in need in the community with utilities, rent, oil, etc. There are also individuals and families that receive furniture at no cost. Call for more information, 814-943-1981, ext. 102.

Prayer Shawls
If anyone needs Prayer Shawls, please contact Lorraine Beck at 942-7774.

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.

ANONITING 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.

Charismatic Prayer - Monday 7:00 PM.
Eucharistic Day - Feast of the Blood and Body 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.

Most Reverend Mark L. Bartchak, J.C.D., Bishop
Reverend Monsignor Robert C. Mazur, Rector
Reverend Father Dennis M. Kuzdiel, 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.holytrinitycatholicschool.org

Altoona Campus (Pre-K thru Grade 4) - 381-7011
Holidaysburg 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@diosceasaj.org

Eucharist:
Sunday: 5:00 PM (Vigil)
Holyday: 5:30 PM (Vigil)
Weekday: 6:45 AM
8:00 AM
8:00 AM
12:00 Noon
12:00 Noon
5:30 PM
Saturday: 8:00 AM
12:00 Noon

OFFERTORY COLLECTION
Sunday, February 17, 2019 - $7,569.00
Contribution Reports for Income Tax purposes may be obtained by calling the Parish Office: 944-4603.

First Communion Sessions
First Communion Sessions is scheduled for this Wednesday, February 27 and. All sessions are held in the Seton Suite from 6:30 PM until 8:00 PM. All students MUST be accompanied by an adult. If unable to attend a session, please call Chris Laraia at 814-312-7317.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Lenten Fish Luncheons
Cathedral Parish Social Committee will again offer the delicious Fish Luncheons on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent. (There is no Fish Lunch offered on Good Friday.) The menu includes a fish sandwich, your choice of macaroni and cheese or pierogie or french fries or haluski for $8.00 (includes drink). They will be serving this from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM or till sold out. Call in take-out orders of ten or more. Plan to participate in this annual Lenten tradition. Do you know someone who is homeless and would appreciate a delicious fish sandwich this Lent? Plan to reach out to others this Lent. Spread the great news with others about our unbelievably delicious Fish Luncheons!

FIRE CLASSES for March 2019
Sunday March 3rd, 2:00-4:00
Sunday March 24th, 2:00-4:00

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION
ALL Tenth Grade Candidates
Sunday March 17th Spring Session
We will meet in the Church for Evening Prayer at 6:15 PM. Our Spring Session will follow, in the Cathedral Hall until 8:15 PM.

ALL NINTH Grade Candidates
Sunday March 31st 2019 Spring Session
We will meet in the Church at 6:30 PM for the Evening Prayer, the Spring Session will follow in the Cathedral Hall until 8:15 PM.

Collection of Last Year’s Palm
Baskets are placed at the three doors of the Cathedral to collect last year’s blessed palms. Ashes are symbols of penance and reconciliation. The ashes come from the burning of the palms used on Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord of the previous year. The Christian use of ashes is rooted in the Jewish custom of sprinkling ashes on the head as a sign of repentance.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

The solemn exposition of the Holy Eucharist offers the opportunity to the people of God for pastoral reflection on their call to a deeper devotion to the Eucharist. And this deep reverence and devotion challenge believers to a more faithful living of the Christian life. Eucharistic Adoration provides God’s people with an opportunity to become more aware of Christ’s presence with his people. Adoration also invites the faithful to a spiritual communion with the Lord Jesus. Prayer before the reserved Sacrament helps focus attention on the Eucharistic Lord who feeds our hunger the quenches our thirsts.
