

# **FEBRUARY 24, 2019**

## *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?**

AT HOME with the WORD 2019, Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, pg. 49. AMERICA MAGAZINE, "What does it mean to be a child of God?" Michael R. Simone, S.J., February 8, 2019.

## **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/5Trvs3H3HmyAqq6y2>.

### **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.

# **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 - 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](http://WWW.ALTOONACATHEDRAL.ORG)**

**FAX: 814-942-4337**

**E-MAIL: [ALTCATHEDRAL@DIOCESEAJ.ORG](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](mailto:lthayer@dioceseaj.org)

***SERVING THE PEOPLE OF GOD IN THE CITY OF ALTOONA SINCE 1851***

## SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*FEBRUARY 24, 2019*

*Readings:* 1 Sm 26:2,7-9,12-13,22-23; 1 Cor 15:45-49; Lk 6:27-38

### MASS INTENTIONS

February 25, Monday: Weekday

*Readings: Sir 1:1-10; Mk 9:14-29*

6:45 AM Joe Tomlinson (Davidson Family)  
8:00 AM David Baronner (Jim Byrne)  
12:00 PM Vincent Stoehr (Joan Straw)

February 26, Tuesday: Weekday

*Readings: Sir 2:1-11; Mk 9:30-37*

6:45 AM Terry J. Joyce (Family)  
8:00 AM Tom Welteroth (Family)  
12:00 PM Alma Reismeier (Fred)

February 27, Wednesday: Weekday

*Readings: Sir 4:11-19; Mk 9:38-40*

6:45 AM John Flinn (Sheila Stone)  
8:00 AM Steve Flanagan (Patty & Bear McCloskey)  
12:00 PM Madeline Vogel (Jane Davidson Family)

February 28, Thursday: Weekday

*Readings: Sir 5:1-8; Mk 9:41-50*

6:45 AM Joseph A. Keirn (Mom and Dad)  
8:00 AM Patty Geis, Anniversary (Family)  
12:00 PM Eric Hockenberry Jr., Birthday (Mom)

March 1, Friday: Weekday

*Readings: Sir 6:5-17; Mk 10:1-12*

6:45 AM Kryder & Elizabeth Miller (Irwin Family)  
8:00 AM Good Health of Susan Bauer (Children)  
12:00 PM Irene Schlecht (Pat Byrne)

February 2, Saturday: Weekday

*Readings: Sir 17:1-15; Mk 10:13-16*

8:00 AM Herbert J. Kutruuff (John Prospero)  
12:00 PM Ray Plummer (Bernie and Louise Joyce)

Vigil: Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Readings: Sir 27:4-7; 1 Cor 15:54-58; Lk 6:39-45*

5:00 PM Frances Pagliaro (Mr. & Mrs. Bob Weimer)

### Mardi Gras Celebration

The Parish will gather for our annual Mardi Gras Party on **March 2 at 6:00 PM** in the Cathedral Hall. All parishioners are invited to join in the celebration prior to our forty day Lenten journey. The event promises great food for all and there will be games for the children. Clear your calendars and plan to join the parish family for a great evening of socializing, eating, and games.

### ARISE

The Lenten theme is Change Our Hearts - discussion groups begin to gather the week of March 3rd. Those that gathered in the fall are invited back. Those who did not join then are invited back to become part of a group this Lent.

This Lent the theme is CONVERSION- both as a turning from and as turning toward. This is an invitation to encounter and rediscover Christ in new ways. This is an opportunity to reinvigorate our faith, to recognize the Holy Spirit as the empowerment that anchors our daily lives. We are called to be disciples of the Lord, to attempt to live each day more in the image of Jesus Christ.

### ARISE MEETING FOR ALL GROUP LEADERS

The meeting will take place in the Seton Suite at 6:15 P.M. We will hand out participant books and your group list. Please call if you cannot attend so that we can get your materials to you prior to March 3rd, 2019.

### Rest in Peace

This past week Dorothy Stephens died and was buried from the Cathedral. May Dorothy be at peace; may her family be at peace.

### An Idea for Lenten Season

Lent will begin on Wednesday, March 6th. Give serious thought to the **1-1-1 Plan**: one sin, one add-in, one give-up. (1) Concentrate or focus on one sin or fault that is getting in the way of your relationship with God. (2) Add one positive activity that will deepen your prayer and spiritual life (especially if you think you are too busy to put anything more into an impossibly busy schedule!). (3) Deny yourself something you really like or are attached to.

### Lenten Easter Mailing

Parishioners were mailed the schedule for the Cathedral's annual, ninety day journey of Lent, the Three Days, and Easter Season this past week. If you did not receive this mailing, please call the Parish Office and a copy will be forwarded.

### Thank you

The parish is grateful to the following who volunteered their time for the Lenten/Easter mailing: MaryAnn Bell, Paula Clemens, Patty McCloskey, and Bill and Grace Smith.

**Please remember our sick in your prayers.**

### 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, March 6

Our monthly day of Eucharistic Adoration will be Wednesday, March 6, which is Ash Wednesday. What a great opportunity for prayer as we begin the forty day journey to the Three Days of the Lord's death and resurrection. Monthly Eucharistic Adoration at the Cathedral is from 12:30 P.M. until 8:00 P.M. Note: The Blessed Sacrament will be reposed for the 5:30 P.M. Mass with the distribution of ashes; the Blessed Sacrament will be placed in exposition after that Mass. As Lent begins plan to make time (a half hour to an hour) in quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in exposition. Come to the Blessed Sacrament Chapel and reflect on the beginning of your Lenten journey of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

If you wish, you can stop in the Cathedral Hall and enjoy one of our delicious Fish Lunches, served from 11:00 A.M. until 1:30 P.M., before going up into the Cathedral for prayer.

### Religious Ed / Pre K-8

No Religious Education class on Sunday March 3, due to Mardi Gras on Saturday March 2 at 6:00 PM. Come and enjoy food, games, prizes and music as we prepare for Lent. Help is needed for the children's area.

### Lenten Fish Lunches

Cathedral Parish Social Committee will again offer the delicious Fish Lunches 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 project. Do you know someone who is homebound 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 Lunches!

### 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.

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

### *Liturgical Reflection ...*

The solemn exposition of the Holy Eucharist offers the opportunity to the people of God for prayerful 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 hungers the quenches our thirsts.

Order for the Solemn Exposition of the Holy Eucharist, 1993, Number 3.

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