

MARCH 10, 2019

Scripture Reflection

The account of Jesus' temptation appears with slight variations in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. The first temptation was not only for Jesus to make bread from stone, but also to use his divine authority over creation to satisfy his hunger. The second temptation was not just the enticement of royal power, but rather a temptation to give in to the world's fantasies of kingship (which the devil had corrupted) rather than to proclaim the true kingdom that God has established. The third temptation was not just a testing of trust in divine grace, but rather an abuse of God's favor for Jesus' own glorification. Jesus bore divine gifts, but they were for mission. As he repelled each temptation, Jesus resisted using these gifts to satisfy his own needs.

The account in this Sunday's Gospel reading has some details specific to Luke, who presents the three tests in a different order than Matthew does. Both Evangelists agree that in the first temptation Jesus resisted using his divine authority to feed himself, but Luke places the kingship temptation second and the Jerusalem temptation last. Doing so highlights the role of Jerusalem as the place of Jesus' glorification. The devil suggests that since Jesus has God's attention at all times, he ought to use that divine grace to reveal his status. Jesus instead waits for the moment the Father has chosen to reveal the Son, which is the resurrection. Luke's narrative here foreshadows the moment when the Father lifts Jesus up not for spectacle but for salvation.

As Jesus was tempted, so are his disciples. The Father who endowed the Son with every gift has also given the Son's disciples everything they have, and they face temptations similar to those Jesus overcame. God's presence and action always accompany a call to serve. As Jesus overcame temptations to use divine grace for himself, so Christians must continue to seek God's purpose in every gift they receive. Only then will they fulfill God's saving mission.

- **How does it feel to overcome temptation? What are you feeling -- relief, joy, apprehension, peace?**

AMERICA MAGAZINE, "Jesus' temptation reminds us to use our gifts to serve." Michael R. Simone, S.J., February 22, 2019.

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS

The **Middle States Accreditation Team** will visit Holy Trinity Catholic School March 17 through 20. Bishop will have Mass in the Cathedral with the Holy Trinity school family (students, teachers, administration, and staff) recognizing this accreditation process on Wednesday, March 20, at 10:00 A.M. All are welcome to join in this Mass.

The annual **Cash Bash** is scheduled for Saturday, March 23 at Maria Parish Center at the Middle School. Only 200 tickets are sold for this event. Each ticket costs \$100.00; grand prize is \$3,000.00, second prize is \$1,500.00, and third prize is \$500.00. Call the Middle School for more information at 942-7835.

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. If you are interested in the summer preschool program, please leave your email address at the end of the survey. We will be in touch with additional information. Preschool Survey Link: <https://goo.gl/forms/5Trvs3H3HmyAqq6y2>.

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](https://www.funds2orgs.com) will issue a check for the collected shoes. The monies earned will be used to support our citizens in need. We have a box available at the front door of the Cathedral 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.

Baptism Congratulations!

On Sunday, March 3, Nicole Alexandra Fuentes Herrera was baptized and welcomed into our Cathedral Parish Family. Congratulations to parents, Gabriel and Lizeth, and godparents, Juan Rodriguez Santacruz and Ma de los Angeles Fuentes Rodriguez.

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

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

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

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 10, 2019

Readings: Dt 26:4-10; Rom 10:8-13; Lk 4:1-13

MASS INTENTIONS

March 11, Monday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Lev. 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46:

6:45 AM Joseph A. Moffa (Estate)
8:00 AM Anna Mercer (Agnes Yatta)
12:00 PM Theresa Kennedy (M/M J. Mark Bover)

March 12, Tuesday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Is 55:10-11; Mt 16:7-15

6:45 AM Prayer and Thanksgiving (Grove Family)
8:00 AM Anna Matthew (Sandra Martin)
12:00 PM Janet Tomlinson (Patty and Bob Hopfl)

March 13, Wednesday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32

6:45 AM Rosemarie Fedeli (Family)
8:00 AM Joe Wiedemer, Anniversary (Family)
12:00 PM Mim Pufka Billman (C.J. Kowalski / Casey Smith)

March 14, Thursday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Mt 7:7-12

6:45 AM Florence Moffa Brook (Estate)
8:00 AM Mary Joyce Wustrow (Bear and Patty McCloskey)
12:00 PM Mildred Brandt Dill (John and Ann Wolf)

March 15, Friday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26

6:45 AM Barbara Byers (Jim and Patti Iubelt)
8:00 AM Tom Welteroth (Family)
12:00 PM Alma Reismeier (Husband, Fred)

March 16, Saturday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48

8:00 AM Norm 'Red' Drenning (Mike and Sherry Byrne)
12:00 PM Henry Shields (Querry Family)

Vigil: Second Sunday of Lent

Readings: Gn 15:5-12, 17-18; Phil 3:17-4:1; Lk 9:28-36

5:00 PM Alice Winkler (Cindy Nicholson)

Lenten Evening Prayer

This evening and every Sunday in Lent, there will be Evening Prayer at 6:30 PM within Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Everyone is invited to participate in this special Lenten Liturgy.

PRAYING THE STATIONS

Stations of the Cross will be prayed this **Friday** evening, March 16 at **7:00 PM** and every Friday of Lent.

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.

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 Thursday March 21, in the Cathedral Hall at 6:30 PM.

An Idea for Lenten Season

Lent began 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.

FIRE CLASS for March 2019

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 Evening Prayer; the Spring Session will follow in the Cathedral Hall until 8:15 PM.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, March 3, 2019 - \$8,328.00
Ash Wednesday Collection \$2,370.00

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

LENT HAS BEGUN

The forty days of Lent prepare us for the Three Days. Our ashes this past Wednesday reminded us that like Jesus who died on the cross, we too will die. The blessed ashes also called us to repentance. We must turn away from sin Through *Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving*, we prepare to commemorate the Three Days - Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter. The spiritual quality of our Lent will reflect the spiritual quality of our Easter. The serious, penitential days of Lent have arrived. The Cathedral is simply decorated - no flowers, no plants. The Cross is placed next to the baptismal font; the purple hangings are displayed, and only two candles stand on each side of the altar. There are no *Alleluias* and no *Glory to God*. As we pray the *I Confess* at the beginning of Mass, the Church asks that we strike our chest once with our hand at the words "through my most grievous fault". Sinfulness and the need for God's mercy are before us. Intensify prayer, fasting, and giving alms to the poor. Baskets are placed at the church doors for your donations of non-perishable food items or cleaning and paper products throughout the Lent and Easter seasons. Plan to go to Confession during these Lenten days. The parish Communal Penance Service is scheduled for Wednesday, April 10 at 6:30 PM.

Prayer Shawls

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

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). Lunches are served 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!

Thank you

The three boards at the Cathedral doors exhibiting photos and names of our candidates for the Easter Sacraments were prepared by Jim Seiler and Jean Koury. The three boards present: (1) adult candidates for Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist; (2) eleventh grade parishioners seeking to celebrate Confirmation; and (3) our second graders who will celebrate their First Communion. Thank you Jim and Jean for the beautiful boards at the three doors of the Cathedral. These will remain throughout Lent and the Easter Season.

Prayer Partners for Lent

Forms are available at the church doors. Everyone is invited to participate in the Prayer Partner activity this Lent. You will receive by mail the name of a parishioner along with the name of someone preparing to receive Baptism, Confirmation or Eucharist during the Easter Season. Remember them in prayer.

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

EUCCHARISTIC

ADORATION

Liturgical Reflection ...

Lent is a rich season to take time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. One may pray before the tabernacle or participate in Eucharistic Adoration with the Blessed Sacrament in Exposition within the monstrance. The celebration of the Eucharist in the Sacrifice of the Mass is truly the origin and end of the worship given to the Eucharist outside of Mass. The reservation of the Eucharist permits the practice of adoring and praising this great Sacrament, offering the Reserved Sacrament the worship due to God. Accordingly, forms of adoration that are not only private but also public and communitarian in nature, as approved by the Church, are strongly promoted.

Instruction on the Eucharist, Chapter VI, Number 129.