

MARCH 24, 2019

Scripture Reflection

Today the readings from Cycle A are proclaimed at Mass. Our elect (seeking Baptism, and Eucharist) and our Candidates (seeking Confirmation) celebrate the First Scrutiny. They are to name their thirsts as they stand with the woman at the well. We, too, are to name our thirsts.

A canticle from Isaiah sings that we shall draw water joyfully from the well-springs of salvation (Isaiah 12:3). Water bookends our readings and our lives of faith. The Israelites grumble in their thirst. Moses cries out to God in exasperation. God gives people water from a rock. An extraordinary event made known that the Lord was in their midst.

Jesus gave a Samaritan woman more than water by ordinary means--dialogue and presence. The story is not ordinary. Why? Jews considered Samaritans to be less than human. Men did not speak to women in public. But Jesus spoke to this Samaritan woman in a public place. His request, "Give me a drink," put himself in need of her and began a conversation that satisfied her deeper thirst for God and acceptance. Jesus suggests that the woman should ask him for water and he would give her living water. Though she failed to understand at first, her quest for water leads her to recognize Jesus as the messiah. Transformed, she returns to the people that she tried to avoid and shares her experience. She led the people she tried to avoid to Jesus. Their encounter with him transformed them. They came to know that the Savior, the Lord, was in their midst.

Today's readings point out that water is a natural and spiritual gift. As Moses strikes the rock, God gives life to the Israelites by providing water for them to drink. In the encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well, Jesus promises life giving water, the gift of eternal life. At Easter, we celebrate the life received in the waters of Baptism.

- **How does the water of Baptism continue to quench your thirsts ?**

Living the Word, Laurie Brink and Paul Colloton, World Library Publications, 2018, pg. 80. AT HOME with the WORD 2019, Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications.

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS

Holy Trinity Summer Preschool

The Holy Trinity Catholic School is very excited to be offering Summer Preschool this year at both of our elementary locations. As we need to begin to purchase materials and supplies for the program, we are asking anyone that may be interested to call the Altoona location at 381-7011, or the Hollidaysburg location at 695-6112. The details are as follows:

- Time: 8:00 Am to 3:00 PM each day.
- Classes begin June 17. (Themed weeks)
- \$125.00 a week per child.
- Ages 3-5 (Must be potty trained).
- Highly qualified teachers and an aide.
- Must pack a lunch.
- Bring a change of clothes.

Carmelite Community of the Word

An **Overnight Retreat** will be held on April 12 and 13, 2019. What the "**People of the Passion**" teach us about Jesus today! As we journey through Lent to Holy Week, this retreat offers the opportunity to reflect on 7 people who witnessed the death of Jesus. The Retreat begins on Friday evening at 7:00 PM, and ends on Saturday at 3:00 PM, and will include presentations on the theme, guided prayer opportunities and time for quiet personal reflection. The donation is \$40.00 per person, or \$60.00 for a married couple. The donation includes overnight accommodations, meals and all materials. Pre-registration with donation is required by April 8. Sessions will be held at Carmelite Community of the Word Incarnation center, 394 Bem Road, Gallitzin, PA. To register, get directions, or for more information, call 814-886-4098.

Stewardship Reflections

May this Lenten season symbolize a harvest which we recognize our sinfulness in order to bear the fruit of a Christ-centered life.

May the water of Baptism well up inside you so all of those whom you encounter recognize you as a trustworthy steward and disciple of Jesus Christ.

Did You Remember?

Did you remember to bring non-perishable food items and paper products for the needy of our community? Bins are located at the three doors of the Cathedral.

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

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)	Holyday:	5:30 PM (Vigil)	Weekday:	6:45 AM
	8:00 AM		8:00 AM		8:00 AM
	10:00 AM		12:00 Noon		12:00 Noon
	12:00 Noon		5:30 PM	Saturday:	8:00 AM
	5:00 PM				12:00 Noon

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

Alan E. Thomas VG, 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

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT*MARCH 24, 2019**Readings: Ex 17:3-7; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42***MASS INTENTIONS**

March 25, Monday: The Annunciation of the Lord
Readings: Is 7:10-14; 8:10 Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38
 6:45 AM Dorothy Stephens (Leonard & Kathy Oakes)
 8:00 AM M. Virginia Jones (Collette & TJ Evangelisto)
 12:00 PM Joe Tomlinson (Randy and Jean Koury)

March 26, Tuesday: Lenten Weekday
Readings: Dn 3:25, 34-43; Mt 18:21-35
 6:45 AM Jim Davidson (Ken & Donna Wojick)
 8:00 AM Patricia Geis (Cathedral Parish)
11:00 AM FUNERAL MASS
BISHOP JOSEPH ADAMEC, DD, STL

March 27, Wednesday: Lenten Weekday
Readings: Dt 4:1, 5-9; Mt 5:17-19
 6:45 AM John Bauer (Bill and Linda Raia & Family)
 8:00 AM Josephine Hicks, Ann. (Daughter, Jacqueline)
 12:00 PM Charles Hennigan, Ann. (Wife and Family)

March 28, Thursday: Lenten Weekday
Readings: Jer 7:23-28; Lk 11:14-23
 6:45 AM Mary Delozier (Eileen Edwards)
 8:00 AM Bea Mannion (Robert and Sue Baranik)
 12:00 PM Dick Cowan (Wife, Skip Cowan)

March 29, Friday: Lenten Weekday
Readings: Hos 14:2-10; Mt 12:28-34
 6:45 AM Leroy and Irmina Helfrich (Family)
 8:00 AM Carrie Kibler Detwiler (Mom and Dad)
 12:00 PM Thomas and Mary Irwin (Children)

March 30, Saturday: Lenten Weekday
Readings: Hos 6:1-6; Lk 18:9-14
 8:00 AM Isabel Conrad, Birth. (Leonard & Kathy Oakes)
 12:00 PM Louise Hallinan (Family)
 Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Lent
Readings: 1Sm:16 1, 6-7, 10-13; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41
 5:00 PM Edgar L Johnston, Anniv. (Wife & Family)

Please Note

There will be no NOON MASS on March 26 due to Bishop Joseph V. Adamec Funeral Mass.

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.

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.

An Idea for Lenten Season

Lent began March 6th. If you gave serious thought to the **1-1-1 Plan**: one sin, one add-in, one give-up. (1) Focusing on one sin or fault that is getting in the way of your relationship with God. (2) Adding a positive activity that will deepen your prayer and spiritual life. (3) Denying yourself things you really like or are attached to. You still have time to reset!

The Three Scrutinies

On the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent the Cathedral Parish will celebrate the formal rites of scrutiny with our Elect (those to receive Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) and our Candidates (those already one with us by Baptism who seek full membership in the Catholic Church). This rite will be celebrated at the 10:00 A.M. Mass on March 24th, 31st, and April 7th. Please note that the scriptures on these Sundays at all Masses will be from Cycle A readings. The annual Gospels for each scrutiny are: the woman at the well (March 24th), the man born blind (March 31st), and Lazarus raised from the dead (April 7th). Like the Elect and Candidates, we too are called to scrutinize our lives and name those sins that must die so that we may more fully live our life in Christ. Lent is a serious time to turn from sin and return to the Lord. Be ready to scrutinize, to name your sins, and seek renewed life in Jesus Christ.

Eucharistic Adoration

Eucharistic adoration will be the first Wednesday of next month, **April 3** from 12:30 PM until 8:00 PM. Please note this in your schedules and plan to spend some quality time in prayer before the Sacrament in exposition.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION**Sunday, March 17, 2019 - \$8,385.00****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, and monetary donations. Items can be dropped off at the Parish Office during the week between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM, or may be picked up by calling: Lorraine Beck, 942-7774. Tickets are available now at the Cathedral Square door after all masses and at the Parish Office: \$25.00 per person with value pack for an additional \$30. If you purchase your tickets by April 15th you will receive 1 set of Special Bingo cards.

Baptismal Prep Class

There will be a Baptismal Prep class on Tuesday April 9th at 7:00 PM in the Seton Suite.

First Communion Meeting

Reminder of the last meeting, Wednesday March 27, 6:30-8:00 PM. This will be the third and final meeting for First Communion.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

Sunday, March 24th 2:00-4:00 PM in the Cathedral Hall of the Church.

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.

PRAYING THE STATIONS

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

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!

The CROSS

Our beautiful ten foot CROSS has been placed at the baptismal font for the seasons of Lent and Easter. This is the cross that will be used on Good Friday for veneration. This custom-made cross holds the relic of the True Cross. Special respect is to be shown to this sacred object. As you enter and leave the Cathedral by way of the front doors, take time to show reverence to this Cross. A genuflection would be proper; one may kiss the sacred relic; one may touch the relic of the True Cross. Please make the conscious effort to show some form of respect to this very holy symbol of the faith. During the forty days, take more time and thought when signing yourself with the sign of the cross.

Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group

The Cathedral Prayer Group will meet on Monday, April 8th, at 7:00 PM, here at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. Join us for Praise and Worship, Spirit-filled teachings and witnessing, prayer ministry, and fellowship! All are welcome!

Liturgical Reflection ...

Eucharistic Adoration is a hallmark of Catholic piety. All are encouraged these Lenten days, and throughout the year, to spend time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Pope Saint John Paul II said that "adoration of the Most Holy Sacrament is an important daily practice and becomes inexhaustible source of holiness." Believers place themselves in the divine presence of the Lord who suffered and died for our salvation when praying before the Holy Sacrament. This is the source of our spiritual nourishment as we pray before the holy bread that has become the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ.

Instruction on the Eucharist, Chapter VI, Number 136, 2019.

EUCCHARISTIC**ADORATION**