

**MARCH 31, 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 Second Scrutiny. They are to name what keeps them blind to Christ in their lives. We too, are invited to scrutinize our lives.

Jesus saw more than the surface in the man born blind. Jesus sees both a person and an opportunity to make the works of God visible through him. Ordinary clay, saliva, and washing heal the man's physical blindness. His openness frees him to do as Jesus as asked and so he gains physical sight. As the story unfolds, he also gains insight into who Jesus is: naming him prophet, from God, and Son of Man. He also gains the courage to speak truth to the Pharisees, blinded by seeing only what they wanted to see. By their refusal to look into the heart and really see Jesus and the healed blind man, they choose sin. To sin one must know that something is wrong and choose to do it.

The Gospel reading describes an encounter between Jesus, a blind man, and the Pharisees, which culminates in the answer to the disciples' question. "Who sinned?" In the ancient world, sickness was believed to be the manifestation of sin. In the case of the man born blind, the likely culprits would be the man's parents. But Jesus counters that not all sickness derives from sin, and in fact in this case, the man's blindness will lead not only to physical sight but spiritual vision as well. As the narrative continues, it becomes apparent that the man "sees" Jesus as a prophet and recognizes him as a man from God while the Pharisees remain blinded by their failure to recognize Jesus' true identity. The disciples' questions is answered. The sin of the Pharisees remains because they are confident in their own righteousness.

Our union with Christ gives us light to distinguish truth from falsehood, right from wrong, light from darkness. His light helps us see beyond mere appearance and preconceptions into the heart. Are we willing to see as God sees? Or does fear of rejection or change keep us blind, like the man's parents and the Pharisees? When we look into the heart, we see others and ourselves as God does, people of light and darkness, whose darkness, when named, can be healed. Turn to the light and ask the Divine Physician to open your eyes.

- **If you were to name your one blindness (in a spiritual sense), what would it be ?**

Living the Word, Laurie Brink and Paul Colloton, World Library Publications, 2018, pg. 88. 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**

Through Baptism, we see the light that is Jesus Christ. May we be the light in the darkness of today's world through the wise use our time, talent, and treasure.

**Garvey Manor Volunteers**

At Garvey Manor and Our Lady of the Alleghenies Residence, we consider every volunteer a blessing. We are currently recruiting volunteers for a variety of positions. Even an hour or two a week or month of an individual's time can make a difference! For more information, please call Kathy LaVelle, Assistant Activities Director and Volunteer Coordinator at 695-5571.

**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 6:15 PM- 8:15 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**

**Very Reverend Alan E. Thomas VG, Administator**

**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***

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 31, 2019

Readings: 1Sm:16:1, 6-7, 10-13; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41

### MASS INTENTIONS

April 1, Monday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54

6:45 AM Regina Osmolinski (Henry)  
8:00 AM Anna Matthew (John and Rose Ann)  
12:00 PM Guy Walter (Mary Lysinger)

April 2, Tuesday: Saint Francis of Paola, Hermit

Readings: Ez 47:1-9,12; Jn 5:1-16

6:45 AM Anna Schoch (Mr & Mrs Francis Dambeck)  
8:00 AM Patrick Cooney (Frank Fiore)  
12:00 PM Mary Johnson (Stanley J. Krish Family)

April 3, Wednesday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30

6:45 AM Barry & Brian Elmers (Mom and Dad)  
8:00 AM Joseph A. Keirn (Mom and Dad)  
12:00 PM Theresa Kennedy (M/M Mark Bover)

April 4, Thursday: Saint Isidore, Bishop and Doctor

Readings: Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47

6:45 AM Barbara Byers (Jim & Patti lubelt)  
8:00 AM Bobby McCabe (Tom & Lisa Lavine Fam.)  
12:00 PM Janet Tomlinson (Tim & Anne Marie Longwill)

April 5, Friday: Saint Vincent Ferrer, Priest

Readings: Wis 2:1, 12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

6:45 AM Carrie Moffa (Family)  
8:00 AM Mini Pufka Billman (C.J.Kowalski, C. Smith)  
12:00 PM Charles Brady (Dee and Joe Shellenberger)

April 6, Saturday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53

8:00 AM Helen Zurilla, Birthday (Dave Capouellez)  
12:00 PM Anna Marie Jacobs, Ann. (Rudolph Family)

Vigil: Fifth Sunday of Lent

Readings: Ez 37:12-14; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45

5:00 PM Dolores Snyder, Anniversary (Family)

### 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, April 5 at **7:00 PM** and every Friday of Lent.

### ARISE

The Lenten theme is Change Our Hearts - discussion groups began 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.

### Rest in Peace

This past week Bishop Joseph Adamec, Rose Stefanon, Josephine Behe, and Jean Herbert, who died and were buried from the Cathedral Parish this past week. For their Eternal Peace.

### The Scrutinies

On the 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 31<sup>st</sup>, and April 7<sup>th</sup>. 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 man born blind (March 31<sup>st</sup>), and Lazarus raised from the dead (April 7<sup>th</sup>). 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.

### HEALING MASS

The Cathedral Prayer Group will meet on Monday, April 8th, at 7:00 PM, here at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. For a Healing Mass with Fr. Jonathan St. André, TOR, Celebrant. *For all in need of physical, emotional or spiritual healing and those who support them.* All are welcome!

### 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 24, 2019 - \$6,831.00

### 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.

### MONTH OF APRIL

F.I.R.E. will meet on Sunday Evenings from 6:15 PM 8:15 PM in the Church Hall.

### CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

11th Grade Confirmation Candidates and their sponsors or parent: A session will be held this evening from 6:15 - 8:15 PM in the Hall. All paper work is due!

### 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.

*Please remember our sick in your prayers.*

### 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.

### 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.

## EUCCHARISTIC

## ADORATION

### Liturgical Reflection ...

The devotion promoting the faithful to visit the Blessed Sacrament draws them into an even deeper share in the paschal mystery and leads them to respond gratefully to the gift of him who through his humanity pours divine life into the members of his body. Abiding with Christ the Lord, the faithful enjoy the Lord's intimate friendship and pour out their hearts before him and themselves and for those dear to them, and they pray for the peace and salvation of the world. Offering their entire lives with Christ to the Father in the Holy Spirit, believers derive from the Holy Sacrament and increase of faith, hope, and charity

Order for the Solemn Exposition of the Holy Eucharist, Introduction, Number 5