

JANUARY 12, 2020

Scripture Reflection

Today marks the end of the Christmas season. Matthew describes the baptism and anointing by the Holy Spirit of the Adult Jesus in a richly symbolic way that expresses Jesus' acceptance of the mission that the Father has given him as God's suffering servant. Jesus baptism unfolds in the form of a drama in two parts. The first part focuses on Jesus' acceptance of his mission. Jesus comes to John to be baptized, but John objects: "I need to be baptized by you." Although Jesus is the Lamb of God who is without sin, by this action, Jesus, as the Lamb, identifies himself with humanity in order to take away the sins of the world (John 1:29). Jesus' baptism looks forward to his death. When saying that he accepting baptism he "fulfills all righteousness," Jesus submits himself to his Father's will, consenting to a path leading to suffering, death, and Resurrection for the forgiveness of humanity's sins.

The second part of Matthew's drama focuses on the Father's response to Jesus' acceptance. God identifies Jesus unambiguously as "my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Finally, "the heavens were opened" at Jesus' baptism, reversing what happened through Adam's sin. Adam's rejection of God destroyed the intimate relationship between humankind and God. Now Jesus' baptism restores God's relationship with humankind intended at the beginning of creation.

By accepting Baptism, we embrace what Jesus accomplished for us. Through the waters of Baptism, we become a new creation, our sins are forgiven, and we enter an intimate relationship a beloved child of God, Father, Son, and Spirit, together with all who, like us, have become a new creation through the waters of Baptism.

- **What is meant when Jesus says: Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness?**

Gifting the Cathedral Parish

As wills and insurance policies are established with your attorney, remember the Cathedral Parish as a beneficiary of your estate. Perhaps you would like to direct your gift to a particular ministry or project at the Parish. Please realize that Mass Stipends go directly to fulfilling that canonical wish and do not aid the financial life of the Parish.

March for Life Bus Trip

Buses will be leaving the Altoona area at 7:00 A.M. and should return to this area about 9:30 P.M. each of the participants will be requested to bring their lunch with them and enough money to cover the cost of their supper. Once again we will be requesting donations to support the March for Life and other pro-life activities. We will be offering pro-life stickers, ribbons, and precious feet in exchange for and donation. We are collecting the weekend of January 18th & 19th after all masses and at all doors.

When: Friday January 24, 2020

Where: Washington D.C.

Costs: Adults- \$15.00; Students- \$10.00

For Reservations call:

Patricia or Marita Forr- 946-0681

Roxann Blazewicz- 695-8008

Jesse Ickes- 660-1052

March for Life Collection

There will be a collection after all Masses next weekend to offset the cost of transportation to Washington D.C. Friday January 24th. Many will be marching for this most worthwhile cause.

Baptismal Prep Class

The next Baptismal Prep Class will be on Wednesday, February 5th at 7:00 PM in the Seton Suite.

Gluten Sensitivity

There may be parishioners who have found that they have physical disorders related to gluten intolerance. The spectrum of illnesses includes celiac disorder, wheat allergy, bloating, abdominal discomfort, diarrhea, muscular disturbances, and bone or joint pain. The ordinary hosts distributed at Communion contain gluten. If you have found that you are gluten sensitive, special bread is available that possess a very low gluten content. Please tell the priest before Mass, and he will consecrate the low-gluten host for you to receive at that Mass.

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 -

Charismatic Prayer - Monday 7:00 PM.

Eucharistic Adoration - First Wednesday - 12:30 PM - 8:00 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 Evening 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
12:00 Noon
Saturday: 8:00 AM
12:00 Noon

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

Reverend Monsignor Stanley Carson, 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

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

January 12, 2020

Readings: Is 42:1-4,6-7; Acts 10:34-3; Mt 3:13-17

MASS INTENTIONS

January 13, Monday: St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor

Readings: 1 Sm 1:1-8; Mk 1:14-20

6:45 AM + Albert & Grace Cowan (Family)

12:00 PM + Jack Bauer (Greg & Judy Cardone Family)

January 14, Tuesday: Weekday

Readings: 1 Sm 1:9-20; Mk 1:21-28

6:45 AM + Richard & Dorothy Irwin (Children Of Tom Irwin)

12:00 PM + Barbara Byers (Cathedral Parish)

January 15, Wednesday: Weekday

Readings: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Mk 1:29-39

6:45 AM + End to Abortion (McNelis All Stars)

12:00 PM + Alice Winkler, Ann. (Geis Family)

January 16, Thursday: Weekday

Readings: 1 Sm 4:1-11; Mk 1:40-45

6:45 AM + Deceased Mike & Ella Gibbons (Children)

12:00 PM + Joseph A. Keirn (Mom & Dad)

January 17, Friday: Saint Anthony Abbott

Readings: 1 Sm 24:3-21; Mk 3:13-19

6:45 AM + Kirk Kling / Bill Crouse, Ann. (Families)

12:00 PM + Tom and Mary Irwin (Children)

January 18, Saturday: Weekday

Readings: 1 Sm 9:1-4,17-19,10:1; Mk 2:13-17

8:00 AM + Loretta Batkewicz (Josephine Skelin)

12:00 PM + Herbert Ketruff (Barry & Darlene Weston)

Vigil: SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Readings: Is 49:3, 5-6; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34

5:00 PM + Mercedes Moyer (M/ M Fran Dambeck)

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

Catholic Ministry Drive

As of the end of November, 125 households, or 14.01% of our parish, pledged \$40,618.00 towards last year's Catholic Ministry Drive target of \$50,706.00. Gratitude is extended to those who have contributed.

All School Mass

Holy Trinity Catholic School will hold an All School Mass here at the Cathedral on January 30th at 10:00 AM. All are invited!

Precious Blood

Because of the seriousness of this flu, Bishop Bartchak has asked that the Precious Blood of the Lord not be offered at Mass temporarily. It is the belief of the Catholic Church that the whole Body of Christ is present under either form of consecrated bread and wine. Also, the exchange of the sign of peace should avoid bodily contact. A reverent nod with eye contact and a smile will be the temporary practice. Reception of Holy Communion on the hand is encouraged; however, reception on the tongue may not be denied. These norms are in effect throughout the winter months or until the flu season is over.

Finance Council Meeting

The parish's Finance Council will be meeting at 4:00 P.M. on Monday, January 13, in the Cathedral Parish Center conference room.

Pastoral Council Meeting

The Pastoral Council of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament Parish will meet on Tuesday, January 21, at 6:30 P.M. in the Cathedral Parish Center conference room.

Help Needed

Volunteers are needed on Monday afternoon, January 13, at 1:00 P.M. to take down our Christmas decorations. The help of some young adults would be appreciated.

Stewardship Reflection Baptism of the Lord

Through the Sacrament of Baptism we become members of God's family and members of the Body of Christ, the Church. Each members of the body of Christ has an obligation due to baptism to build up that Body, "As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. But as it is, God placed the parts, each one of them, in the body as he intended." (1 Cor. 12:12,18)

Think Spring, Think Basket Bingo!

We are now accepting any donations that you may have. If you have any questions, or to drop off donations please call Lorraine Beck at 942-7774, or call the Parish Office 944-4603 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM from Monday-Friday.

Helpers Needed

We will meet every Wednesday at 9:00 AM, to tidy up the Cathedral. We are so blessed that so many have come forward to help. Please bring buckets and rags and join us.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION Sunday, January 5, 2020 - \$7,546.55

January 19th, and 26th

FIRE class 6:15-8:15 PM in the Cathedral Church Basement.

Annual Sponsors for Cathedral Mass

Thank you to the following institutions who have again sponsored the weekly Sunday 10:00 AM Mass from the Cathedral on radio WFBG 1290AM. These donations have made the broadcast available to the homebound and ill who are unable to join us for Mass.

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LIVE FROM THE CATHEDRAL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT 10:00 AM SUNDAY MASS on radio WFBG 1290 AM

Please support the following sponsors of this weekly broadcast for those unable to attend Sunday Mass. There may be a few more.

The Altoona Curve Baseball Club
Garvey Manor &
Our Lady of the Alleghenies Residence
ARC Federal Credit Union
Bettwy Electric, Inc.
Irwin Financial/Raymond James
Riley Plumbing & Heating
Stanley J. Krish Funeral Home
Allegheny Glass & Mirror
Quality Services
McCloskey Builders
Jones Funeral Home
Beck's Maintenance
Warner's Florist, Gifts, Greenhouses
Young, Oakes Brown & Company
Anonymous Donor

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Prayer Shawls

If anyone feels that they need some comfort in their troubled times, please feel free to contact Lorraine Beck at 814-942-7774 for one of our Prayer Shawls. These shawls have been Blessed and may bring you the comfort that you need.

Calendar of Prizes 2020 Are Here!

Calendar of prizes 2020 are being sold at the Cathedral Square Door after all masses starting this weekend. Each calendar costs \$20.00. There is a \$20.00 daily prize; an additional \$1,000.00 in special monthly prizes awarded throughout the year; and a grand prize of \$1,500.00. Due to the states regulations for small games of chance, it is necessary that we sell all one thousand tickets, otherwise the parish will lose money on unsold tickets. If you have a favorite three digit number, call the Parish Office at 814-944-4603 weekdays between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM to check for availability or stop by the Cathedral door after Mass on the weekends. Their are still 256 left. Still a chance to win the BIG MONEY!

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

RCIA is a process (a journey) through which people enter the Catholic Church. This includes people who have not been baptized (called catechumens) and people who have been baptized in another Christian Church now seeking full Communion with the Catholic Church (referred to as candidates). If you are interested in learning more about RCIA, join us Sunday from 11:00am - Noon in the Seton Suite. Please reach out to Tammy Datri, Director of RCIA at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. We look forward to you joining us!

Religious Education News PK-8

Classes have resumed on Sundays, at 8:30 AM. Until further notice, all classes will be dismissed from the Parish Center lower level alley doors. PK/K parents please continue to go to the classroom to pick up your child.

Contibution Reports

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

Ministry to the Elderly, Seriously Ill and Grieving

Thank you for to every one who has donated stamps for this ministry.

Please continue to call the office with the names and addresses of a family member or friend who you know would appreciate a kind word and a prayer through the mail. We would like to be able to reach out to as many people as we can. If you would like to join this ministry call the office 814-944-4603 or Jeanne Thompson at 814-317-2672.