

JANUARY 19, 2020

Scripture Reflection

As we begin this new season, our readings remind us of the significant outcome of our Christian faith: we are called to be witnesses. John's Gospel presents the Baptist differently from the other Gospel accounts: the prophet does not dress in an austere manner or challenge people with a rhetoric of fire and doom. Instead, the Baptist is portrayed as a witness, one of many throughout John's Gospel, to testify to the person of Jesus. The Baptist identifies Jesus as superior to him: "A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me." The Baptist testifies to Jesus' Baptism and the Spirit descending upon Jesus and concludes by saying: "I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."

The prophet Isaiah testifies to another figure, the servants, whose task is to lead the Israelites back to God. He reminds them that they are to be witnesses to all the nations of the world: I will make you a light to the nations / that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth." This servant foreshadows Jesus' mission of witnessing to all people God's plan of salvation.

In greeting his community in Corinth, Paula identifies himself as an Apostle, sent to testify to the message of Jesus Christ throughout the world. Paul reminds the Corinthians that they are "called to be holy" and that their lives are transformed by the person and message of Jesus Christ.

We are also called to be holy and, through our Baptism, our lives are to witness to the person of Jesus Christ.

- **How does the servant in the First Reading foreshadow the person of Jesus?**

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 this weekend to offset the cost of transportation to Washington D.C. Friday January 24th. Many will be marching for this most worthwhile cause.

UPMC

The Pastoral Care Department at UPMC Altoona are looking for a volunteer Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion for Wednesdays. If you are interested, please contact Tony Conrad at 889-2177 or email him at conradaw@upmc.edu.

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.

ARISE

Arise, together in Christ is a six week, Catholic based, small group, faith-sharing program that guides Christians to know God better, grow spiritually, meet new people, improve our relationship with Christ, and put our faith into action.

Season 4, "New Heart, New Spirit" will focus on key themes of our faith and social teaching.

Please consider participating in this program for Lent, beginning on Sunday, February 23rd. Sign up weekends will be held at the Cathedral Square, 13th Avenue door beginning February 1st.

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

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

January 19, 2020

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

MASS INTENTIONS

January 20, Monday: Sts. Fabian Pope, Sebastian Martyr

Readings: 1 Sm 15:16-23; Mk 2:18-22

6:45 AM + Ludwig Schoch (M/M Fran Dambeck)
12:00 PM + Murphy Montler (Wiedemer Family)

January 21, Tuesday: Saint Agnes, Virgin and Martyr

Readings: 1 Sm 16:1-13; Mk 2:23-28

6:45 AM + Albert & Grace Cowan (Family)
12:00 PM + Michael & Ella Gibbons (Children of Tom Irwin)

January 22, Wednesday: Mass for Peace and Justice

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

6:45 AM + Rose Ciavarella (Jerry & Sonya Struke)
12:00 PM + Barbara Byers (Betty Dennis)

January 23, Thursday: Sts. Marianne Cope & Vincent

Readings: 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19, 1-7; Mk 3:7-12

6:45 AM + Myra Mangiacarne (Cecil Hennigan)
12:00 PM + James Davidson Birthday (Family)

January 24, Friday: St Anthony DeSales, Bp. and Dr.

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

6:45 AM + Julianne Seidel (Ann Gates)
12:00 PM + Harry Smith (Mary Lysinger)

January 25, Saturday: Conversion of Saint Paul, Apostle

Readings: Act 22:3-16; Mk 16:15-18

8:00 AM + Bill Seidel (Altoona P&DF Postal Employees)
12:00 PM + Janet Tomlinson (Donald & Mary Smithmyer)

Vigil: THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Readings: Is 8:23-9:3; Mt 4:12-23

5:00 PM + Edgar A. Johnston Birth. (Wife, Mother, Family)

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.

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.

The Feast of St. Brigid Dance

Knights of Columbus- 1508-12th Avenue, Altoona. Featuring Full Kilt- February 1, 2020 from 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM. Donation is \$25.00, includes music, food & beverage!! Call 814-280-7661 (Rick) for tickets. **Public is Welcome!**

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

The weekend of February 1st and 2nd, we will celebrate this Feast Day. It is quite unusual for the Feast to fall on a weekend, so we will have a special Entrance Rite in which everyone is invited to participate. We will gather in the narthex (front of church), holding lit candles, for the Sign of the Cross, Greeting, and special introduction. Candles representative of those we use throughout the liturgical year will be blessed, and then we will all process into the Cathedral with the Opening Hymn. Mass will continue as usual. Watch the bulletin for additional background.

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.

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.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION
Sunday, January 5, 2020 - \$7,546.55
Christmas Collection - \$
Christmas Flowers - \$
Solemnity of Mary Collection - \$

Contribution Reports

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

January 19th, and 26th

F.I.R.E. 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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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. 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. There are still 209 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!

Thank You

Gratitude is extended to the following volunteers who helped take down our Christmas decorations on Monday, January 13th: Joe Beck and a crew from Beck Maintenance, Mary Ann Bell, Jim Dixon, Tony Eckenrode, Melissa Gormont, Janet Hammond, Ron Helfrich, Barry Lindsay, Jim Kilcoyne, Steph Kilcoyne, Patty McCloskey, John Moran, John Murphy, Karen Rhoa, Jaclyn Talasky, Mark Talasky, Herbert Tomlinson, and Denny and Steve Stefanon from Quality Services.

Baptismal Prep Class

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

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.