

JANUARY 26, 2020

Scripture Reflection

The geographical references in today's readings from Isaiah and Matthew were highly significant. The land of Zebulun and Naphtali were the territories of the northern-most tribes of Israel. In 721 BC, the Assyrians invaded these regions and destroyed the northern kingdom of Israel. Later, in 587 BC, the Babylonians destroyed the southern kingdom of Judah, sending the population into exile. Matthew uses these geographical allusions deliberately to teach that Jesus' public ministry inaugurates the restoration of God's Kingdom where it was first extinguished. Jesus brings God's light and salvation into these areas of desolation, fulfilling the prophet Isaiah's hope: "The people who walk in darkness / have seen a great light; /upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom/a light has shone."

Jesus enters Galilee with the challenge: "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Unambiguously, Jesus proclaims his intention of inaugurating God's Kingdom. He assures a call to enter a new relationship with God by undergoing a change of heart.

Jesus invites two sets of brothers, Peter and Andrew and James and John, to follow him. His call comes amid their daily occupations. They respond promptly by abandoning their ordinary activities and redirecting their lives to a new way of service to the Lord and the establishment of his kingdom.

Jesus' call comes to each of us in our everyday activities. In Baptism, we are called to recognize that "the kingdom of heaven is at hand." In our daily lives, we experience Jesus' presence and witness that we are his followers.

• **Everyone has been called to follow the Lord. How do you experience Jesus calling in your daily activities?**

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.

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.

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.

First Communion Sessions - 2020

First Communion Sessions are scheduled for Tuesdays, February 11, March 10, and March 31, 2020. All sessions are held in the Cathedral hall from 6:30 PM until 8:00 PM. All students MUST be accompanied by an adult. If unable to attend a session, please call Chris Laraia at 814-312-7317. First Communion at the Cathedral will be on Sunday, April 19 at the 10:00 AM Mass. First Communion at Our Lady of Fatima Parish will be Sunday May 3rd at the 10:30 Mass. Group and individual pictures will be taken after the 10:00 AM First Communion Mass.

March For Life

Thank you for your generosity. We had collected a total of \$900.00 for the March for Life.

Bishop Guilfoyle 28th Annual Raffle Tickets

The students will be selling raffle tickets this weekend after all masses at the doors of the Cathedral. Tickets are \$5.00 each, with the winning number being drawn on February 10th, at half time of the Boys Basketball Game. Grand prize is \$10,000.00, 2nd prize is \$1,500.00, 3rd prize is \$1,000.00 and 4th and 5th prizes of \$100.00 each! You do not need present to win.

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:

Upon Request and Communal celebration

MARRIAGE:

Arrange nine months in advance. Couples expected to participate in pre-marriage preparation program.

DEVOTIONS:

Charismatic Prayer - Normally 3rd Monday of the Month

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

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

January 26, 2020

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

MASS INTENTIONS

January 27, Monday: St. Angelo Mercuri,
Readings: 2 Sm 5:1-7, 10; Mk 3:22-30
6:45 AM + Joseph A. Knott (Tim & Anne Marie Longwill)
12:00 PM + Carrie Kibler Detwiler (Mom & Dad)

January 28, Tuesday: ST. Thomas Aquinas, Pr. & Dr.
Readings: 2 Sm 6:12-15, 17-19; Mk 3:31-35
6:45 AM + Joseph Mangicarne (Melvin Weyant)
12:00 PM + Catherine Hardin (Joe & Kim Fornwalt)

January 29, Wednesday: Weekday
Readings: 2 Sm 7:4-17; Mk 4:1-20
6:45 AM + Nancy Kennedy (Janel Long)
12:00 PM + Pat Vierkorn (Pinky Newberry)

January 30, Thursday: Weekday
Readings: 2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29; Mk 4:21-25
6:45 AM + Nancy Mignogna (Estate)
12:00 PM + Kevin Sheets (Mom & Dad)

January 31, Friday: Saint John Bosco, Priest
Readings: 2 Sm 11:1-4, 5-10, 13-17; Mk 4:26-34
6:45 AM + Nicholas Moffa (Estate)
12:00 PM + Kristina Giblock (Father Joe Dzurenko)

February 1, Saturday: Weekday
Readings: 2 Sm 12:1-7, 10-17; Mk 4:35-41
8:00 AM + Madeline Vogel (Dave & Karen Rhoa)
12:00 PM + Deb Fornwalt Beiswenger Birth. (Bob & Cathy)
Vigil: THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD
Readings: Mal 3:1-4; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40
5:00 PM + Brian McCaulley Ann. (Family)

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

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.

Baptismal Prep Class

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

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.

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

Next weekend, February 2, the Church celebrates one of the oldest feasts for which we have a record: The Presentation of the Lord. Forty days after His Birth, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem to fulfill two Mosaic laws: to present their (firstborn) son to God and too "purify" Mary after childbirth, along with the appropriate sacrifices. Although, of course, neither Jesus nor Mary needed to participate in these rituals, Mary and Joseph as faithful Jews fulfilled their obligations before their communities.

We have record of the Church commemorating the priest Simeon and prophetess Anna meeting the 40 day old baby Jesus as far back as the 4th century! By the 7th century, this Feast was accepted by Rome and included an outdoor procession by people holding lit candles: Jesus sheds the light of salvation upon all the world. We sometimes refer to this Feast as "Candlemas," from the 10th century German tradition of blessing candles for use throughout the year. This tradition was practiced in Rome by the 12th century.

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord was re-adopted in the Roman calendar in 1969 as a part of the Second Vatican Council. Our celebration of the Feast next week with the blessing of candles and procession with lit candles follows in the footsteps of millions of Catholic Christians throughout many centuries. Simultaneously, we look backwards to the beauty of Christmas-the birth of Jesus Christ, just past; and we look forward to the final redemption of all Christians in His death and resurrection!

All School Mass

Please join us this Thursday January 30th at 10:00 AM here at the Cathedral, for a Holy Trinity Catholic School Mass.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, January 19, 2020 - \$6,051.00
Christmas Collection - \$18,784.00
Christmas Flowers - \$3,189.00
Solemnity of Mary Collection - \$2,228.50

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.

2020	LIVE FROM THE CATHEDRAL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT 10:00 AM SUNDAY MASS on radio WFBG 1290 AM	2020
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 isb BANK 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		
2020		2020

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. Their are still 175 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 Datrix, Director of RCIA at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. We look forward to you joining us!

Think Spring, Think Basket Bingo!

Our next Basket Bingo meeting will be held Thursday February 6th at 6:00 PM in the Cathedral Basement. 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.

Eucharistic Adoration

Eucharistic adoration will be the first Wednesday of next month, **February 5th** from 12:30 PM until 8:00 PM. The Monstrance is located in front of the tabernacle in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Please note this in your schedules and plan to spend some quality time in prayer before the Sacrament in exposition.

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.