

FEBRUARY 2, 2020

Scripture Reflection

The Eastern Churches celebrate this feast as "The Meeting," a reference to the long-awaited meeting of the Messiah with his people, represented by Simeon and Anna in the Temple.

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord is rooted within Old Testament traditions. The Book of Exodus stipulates that every firstborn Israelite male, human or animal, belongs to God. When Pharaoh would not allow the Israelites to leave Egypt and slavery, God saved the people. Consequently, the firstborn now belongs to God: "Consecrate to me every firstborn; whatever opens the womb among the Israelites, whether of human being or beast, belongs to me" (Exodus 13:2). The Israelites carried out this instruction by presenting their firstborn to God in the Temple: their firstborn of their animal was sacrificed to God while their firstborn sons were brought back by substituting animal sacrifices in their place to God.

Mary and Joseph fulfill this law by presenting Jesus in the Temple and making an offering. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Simeon recognizes Jesus as the Messiah, prophesying that "my eyes have seen your salvation /which you prepared in the sight of all peoples." He stresses that this revelation is for everyone: pagans and Jews alike. Jesus' life will involve rejection and suffering, while his mother will experience tremendous sorrow: "And you yourself a sword will pierce" (Luke 2:35). Simeon is ready to die, while Anna (who is in the account in the longer version of the Gospel reading) will live to spread the good news of the Messiah.

• What is significant about the presence of Simeon and Anna in the Temple when Jesus is presented there?

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 this weekend.

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.

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.

Calendar of Prizes 2020 Are Here!

Calendar of prizes 2020 are still being sold at the Parish Office, weekdays between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM. 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. We still have 144 left. Still a chance to win the BIG MONEY!

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.

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

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

February 2, 2020

Readings: Mal 3:1-4; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40

MASS INTENTIONS

February 3, Monday: St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr

Readings: 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16: 5-13 Mk 5:1-20

6:45 AM For Vocations (Rita and Jerry Kibler)

12:00 PM + Trudy Eicher (Family & Friends)

February 4, Tuesday: Weekday

Readings: 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14, 24-25, 30; Mk 5:21-43

6:45 AM + Bernard Weaver (Jim & Elaine)

12:00 PM+ Rosemary Kwolek(Carol Galito&Anne Rhodes)

February 5 Wednesday: Saint Agatha, Virgin & Martyr)

Readings: 2 Sm 24:2,9-17; Mk 6:1-6

6:45 AM + Helen Zurilla, Anniversary (Family)

12:00 PM + Mary Dodson, Birthday (Family)

February 6, Thursday: Sts. Paul, Miki and Companions

Readings: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12; Mk 6:7-13

6:45 AM + Kerri Lou Detwiler(Jim & Steph Kilcoyne)

12:00 PM + David Baronner(Jim Byrne)

February 7, Friday: Weekday

Readings: Sir 47:2-11; Mk 6:14-29

6:45 AM Thanksgiving /Remembrance(Weaver&Kling)

12:00 PM + John Bauer (Wife)

February 8, Saturday: Saints Emiliani, and Bakhita

Readings: 1 Kgs 3:4-13; Mk 6:30-34

8:00 AM + Carrie Detwiler (Mom & Dad)

12:00 PM + Mary Letrich (Family)

Vigil: FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Readings: Is 58:7-10; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16

5:00 PM + Michael Dionis Ann. (Mom & Dad)

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 held on

Wednesday, February 5th at 7:00 PM in the Seton

Suite.

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 Dattris, Director of RCIA at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. We look forward to you joining us!

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

This 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 this 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!

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OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, January 19, 2020 - \$5,002.00

Contribution Reports

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

February 9th and 23rd

F.I.R.E. class 6:15-8:15 PM in the Cathedral Church Basement.

Confirmation Prep

11th Grade Christian Retreat Saturday February 22nd from 9:00 AM -4:30 PM.

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
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**

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St. Blase and the Blessing of Throats

Since Monday, February 3rd, is the Feast of Saint Blase, throats will be blessed following Masses on that day. Throats will also be on the Feast of our Lord's Presentation (this weekend's Saturday evening and Sunday Masses.) The blessing may be given to all the assembly following the general intercessions or as the final blessing of the Mass. The blessing will also be given following Masses for those who want an individual blessing.

Saint Blase was a bishop in Armenia during the 4th century. According to various accounts he was a physician before he became a bishop. His cult spread throughout the entire Church in the Middle Ages because he was reputed to have miraculously cured a little boy who nearly died because of a fishbone in his throat. From the eighth century he has been invoked on behalf of the sick especially those afflicted with illnesses of the throat.

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.

Soda Please!

With the upcoming **Mardi Gras Party** (February 22) and the Fish Luncheons throughout Lent, parishioners are asked to donate soda-cans or bottles. This will deter the cost. You can bring the soda and place it in the bins at all the Cathedral doors, or you can drop it off at the Cathedral Parish Center between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM. Thank you.

Mardi Gras Celebration

The Parish will gather for our annual Mardi Gras Party on **February 22 at 6:00 PM** in the Cathedral Hall. All parishioners are invited to join in the celebration prior to our forty day Lenten journey. The event promises great food for all and there will be games for the children. Clear your calendars and plan to join the parish family for a great evening of socializing, eating, and games and fun.

Helpers Needed

Volunteers meet every Wednesday at 9:00 AM, to tidy up the Cathedral. Please bring buckets and rags and join us.