

FEBRUARY 23, 2020

Scripture Reflection

“Be holy, for I, the Lord, your God, am holy.” These words challenge us to imitate God in our actions. The word “holy” embraces the concept of wholeness, as opposed to being divided. Leviticus illustrates this meaning: “You shall not bear hatred for your brother in your heart.” Instead, follow the command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

In Matthew’s account of the Gospel, Jesus clearly builds on his passage from Leviticus. “Be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.” To “be perfect” is the same as to “be holy.” Such holiness would mean that the individual is undivided in their interior and exterior lives. Jesus offers three succinct scenarios of humiliation that reflects Mediterranean culture: being struck on the right cheek by a back handed slap is an insult; being sued in court where one is humiliated by losing property or dignity; and being forced to carry something by Roman soldiers (see Simon of Cyrene carrying Jesus’ Cross [Matthew 27:32]). All of these cultural situations required action to defend one’s honor. Instead Jesus advises a different approach: Find another way to respond that avoids violence. Rise above these insults. Jesus is abrogating a basic law of the Middle East, enduring to the present, known as the Law of Talion, the law of retaliation: “An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.” Jesus invites his followers to find a third way that rises above humiliation and avoids retaliating in the same way. Use your imagination to discover how best to overcome the insult in ways that rise above it and beyond violence.

• **How is the word “holy” explained by the concept of “wholeness” in each of today’s readings?**

AT HOME with the WORD 2020, Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, pg. 47

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.

Junior High Youth Day

Junior High Youth Day is scheduled for Sunday, March 15th, at Bishop Carroll High School, in Ebensburg. Our theme for this year is, “**Building up the Kingdom of God: GOD’S work, OUR hands!**”

The day will conclude with Mass with Bishop Mark at 4:00 PM. All pastors are invited to celebrate.

Religious Ed

Junior High Youth Day registrations **MUST** be returned before March 2nd.

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.

Charismatic Prayer Group

2020 Winter/Spring Schedule

Location: Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament

Monday March 16th - 7PM Healing Mass

Very Rev. Fr. Alan Thomas- Celebrant

Monday, April 13th - 7PM

Monday, May 18th - 7PM

Prayer Ministry to follow all meetings

The Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group and The Bishop Guilfoyle Alive in the Spirit Student Group

Location: Bishop Guilfoyle

Sunday, March 29th - 6PM

Sunday, April 5th - 6PM

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

EUCHARIST:

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

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 23, 2020

Readings: Lv 19:1-2, 17-18; 1 Cor 3:16-23; Mt 5:38-48

MASS INTENTIONS

February 24, Monday: Weekday

Readings: Jas 3:13-18; Mk 14:29

6:45 AM + Fred T Lumadue (Todd & Sandy Sanders)
12:00 PM + Skip Cole (George & Bernie Shumac)

February 25, Tuesday: Weekday

Readings: Jas 4:1-10; Mk 9:30-37

6:45 AM + Angeline Mangiacame (Cathedral Parish)
12:00 PM + Lori Keirn (Kovelski Family)

February 26 Wednesday: Ash Wednesday

Readings: Jl 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

6:45 AM + Terry J. Joyce (Family)
8:00 AM Rosemarie Fideli (Family)
12:00 PM + Patricia Koeck (Dan, Sue & Michael Speck)
5:30 PM + Special Intention (Randy & Terriann Grove)

February 27, Thursday: Thursday after Ash Wednesday

Readings: Dt 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25

6:45 AM + Souls in Purgatory
12:00 PM + Rose Heart (Rosemarie Fideli)

February 28, Friday: Friday after Ash Wednesday

Readings: Is 58:1-9; Mt 9:14-15

6:45 AM + John McCloskey (JoAnn & Debbie Kyper)
12:00 PM + Helen Hildebrand (Kathy Grove & Butch Winkler)

February 29, Saturday: Saturday after Ash Wednesday

Readings: Is 58:9-14; Lk 5:27-32

8:00 AM + Nancy McCaulley (Jennifer Plank)
12:00 PM + Beverly Woodring (Tom & Patricia Forr)
Vigil: FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
Readings: Gn 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Rom 5:12-19; Mt 4:1-11
5:00 PM + Susan Bauer (Friend)

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

Stewardship Reflections

The way of life of stewardship means that we choose to use our resources to reach out to others and build God's kingdom of love, justice, and peace. Christian stewards serve God daily through their neighbors and are themselves motivated by profound love, gratitude and justice.

Stations of the Cross

There will be Stations of the Cross starting Friday February 28th, at 5:30PM.

Baptismal Prep

The next Baptismal Prep class will be held here at the Cathedral on March 3rd, at 6:30 PM. You need not wait until the baby is here, to take this class.

Rite of Welcoming

The Rite of Welcoming of Candidates into Continuing Conversion will be celebrated today, Sunday, February 23rd at the 10:00 AM Mass. We welcome the following: Kaylie Nelson, Mary Moore and Dee Lawson.

Altar Servers

Our Parish is in need of altar servers adults, teenagers, and children. They will be training on Saturday March 14th at 12:30 PM at the Cathedral Church.

Think Spring, Think Basket Bingo!

Our next Basket Bingo meeting will be held Thursday **March 5th at 6:00 PM** in the Cathedral Basement. **We are now accepting Gift Cards, Lottery Tickets, or any other 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.

Basket Bingo Tickets Are Here

Basket Bingo tickets are here and are being sold at the Cathedral Square door after all Masses starting this weekend. They are \$25.00, includes 15 games of Basket Bingo, complimentary Food and Beverage. \$30.00 Additional Value Pack includes: 104 Door Prize Tickets, 6 Walk Arounds, 1 Dobber, and 5 Special Games.

HTCS Summer Camp

Holy Trinity Catholic School Camp will be offering a nurturing environment where 3 to 7 years old's are challenged to learn, discover, and socialize with weekly themed activities. The program begins on June 15th from 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM with a flexible schedule that works with your family! The Summer Camp will be offered in Altoona and Hollidaysburg. For more information contact any of the Holy Trinity School campuses.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, February 16, 2020 - \$6,748.00

Contribution Reports

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

February 23rd

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

First Communion Sessions - 2020

First Communion Prep session #2 is scheduled for Tuesday, March 10th, 6:30-8:00 in the Cathedral Hall. All students must be accompanied by an adult, and if unable to attend please contact Chris Laraia at 312-7317.

Shoes for Water

The Religious Ed Program is collecting new and slightly worn shoes, especially athletic shoes to be sent to WaterStep, a non-profit organization. Shoes will be recycled and resold and the monies received will be used to bring safe drinking water to children and families in water-scarce areas all over the world. Shoes may be placed in the white bins located in the former baptistery, Religious Ed floor and Parish Office. Please help us to help others during this Lenten season.

Vocation Prayer

Thanks to the kindness of Rita Kibler, a Vocation Prayer will be distributed after this weekend's Masses.

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.

Pray For Our Sick - Remember our sisters and brothers who are weakened by illness in your prayers. Prayers are sometimes the best prescribed medicine.

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 132 left. Still a chance to win the BIG MONEY!

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, and your choice of macaroni and cheese, pierogie, french fries, or haluski for \$8.00 (includes drink). They will be serving this from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM or till sold out. Please call in take-out orders, of ten or more so we can have them ready for you the number is 814-944-4603. 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!

Soda And Water Please!

With the upcoming Fish Luncheons throughout Lent, parishioners are asked to donate soda-cans or bottles and also water. 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.

Helpers Needed

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

Catholic Ministry Drive

Our Catholic Ministries, Drive, Ignite Your Faith for Christ's Mission, launches today throughout the Diocese.

During Lent and throughout the year, we are challenged to renew our spiritual devotions and duties, and one of those duties is to support the Church.

This drive focuses on a select group of ministries with emphasis on the poor, families, youth, seminarians and leadership development of clergy and laity. Please accept Bishop Mark's invitation to contribute when it arrives this week and return your pledge card in the next weekend's offertory collection. There will also be a pledge card in the Diocese's new magazine, *PROCLAIM Christ in Your Life*.

Our Parish's assigned target for this year is \$51,796. Thank you for supporting several ministries that are so vitally important with your sacrificial gifts of prayers and treasure. 100% of your gift goes exclusively to these ministries.