

MARCH 1, 2020

Scripture Reflection

The season of Lent offers a time to grow in the life of Christ. The reading from the Book of Genesis reminds us of our solidarity with all humanity: we are born into a situation of alienation from God. In the beginning, God created humanity as good. God's will was not forced upon us. Instead, God gave us the gift of free will. In this narrative of our first parents, the gift of freedom was used to reject God's will. Within our being, we too experience the same desire to do things our way, relying on ourselves and turning away from God's grace and guidance.

In our reading from the letter to the Romans, Paul celebrates Jesus Christ's victory over sin and death through his Resurrection. Christ's grace empowers us to overcome this alienation from God and restores us to the relationship God intended from the beginning: "For just as through the disobedience of the one man [Adam], the many were made sinners, so, through the obedience of the one [Jesus Christ], the many will be made righteous" (Romans 5:19).

Today's Gospel contains an account of Jesus' temptations in the desert. Like the people of Israel who spent forty years in the desert, Jesus, the new Israel, spends forty days in the desert where he is also tempted. Unlike the people of Israel, Jesus remains faithful to his Father's will and mission: "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15).

● **Have you experienced times in your life when God's grace enabled you to overcome temptation?**

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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: ALTACATHEDRAL@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

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

March 1, 2020

Readings: Gn 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Rom 5:12-19; Mt 4:1-11

MASS INTENTIONS

March 2, Monday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46

6:45 AM + Fred Fedeli (Rosemarie Fedeli)
12:00 PM + Regis Noel (Daughter Sandra)

March 3, Tuesday: St. Katherine Drexel, Virgin

Readings: Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15

6:45 AM + Dorothy Stephens (Ron & Kim Palmer)
12:00 PM + Rose Stefanon (Tony & Anna Eckenrode)

March 4 Wednesday: Saint Casimir

Readings: Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32

6:45 AM + Joseph Knott (Mother Orvita)
12:00 PM + Debbie Capotosti (Linda Himes)

March 5, Thursday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Mt 7:7-12

6:45 AM + Poor Souls
12:00 PM + Msgr. Roy Kline (Diane Fanale)

March 6, Friday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26

6:45 AM +Carrie Moffa (Estate)
12:00 PM +M/M Ludwig Schoch(M/M Fran Dambeck)

March 7, Saturday: Sts Perpetua Felicity, Martyrs

Readings: Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48

8:00 AM + Janet Tomlinson (Skip Cowan)
12:00 PM + Bishop Joseph Adamec (M/M Tom Forr)
Vigil: SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
Readings: Gn 12:1-4; 2 Tm 1:8-10; Mt 17:1-9
5:00 PM + John Duffy (Mountain View Eye Staff)

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

Baptismal Prep Class

The next Baptismal Prep Class will be on March 3rd at 6:30 PM in the Seton Suite.

Stations of the Cross

There will be Stations of the Cross every Friday at 5:30PM.

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. The Basket Bingo will be held on April 26th at the Father Kelly Hall, tickets 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. They are also available at the Cathedral Parish Center Office from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

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 maybe 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.

F.I.R.E.

March 8th - Fire class 6:15-8:15 PM

March 22nd- Fire Class 6:15-8:15 PM

Reminder:

March 1st 9th Grade session has been moved to **May 3rd.**

High School Students will be serving a meal to those less fortunate in our community on Sunday March 15th, from 1:15-2:30 PM.

March 15th, 6:15-7:30 PM, Confirmation Prep Spring Session 10th grade.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION Sunday, February 23, 2020 - \$6,185.25

Contibution Reports

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

The CROSS

Our beautiful ten foot CROSS has been placed at the baptismal font for the seasons of Lent and Easter. This is the cross that will be used on Good Friday for veneration. This custom-made cross holds the relic of the True Cross. Special respect is to be shown to this sacred object. As you enter and leave the Cathedral by way of the front doors, take time to show reverence to this Cross. A genuflection would be proper; one may kiss the sacred relic; one may touch the relic of the True Cross. Please make the conscious effort to show some form of respect to this very holy symbol of the faith. During the forty days, take more time and thought when signing yourself with the sign of the cross.

LENT HAS BEGUN

The forty days of Lent prepare us for the Three Days. Our ashes this past Wednesday reminded us that like Jesus who died on the cross, we too will die. The blessed ashes also called us to repentance. We must turn away from sin Through *Prayer, Fasting* and *Almsgiving*, we prepare to commemorate the Three Days - Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter. The spiritual quality of our Lent will reflect the spiritual quality of our Easter. The serious, penitential days of Lent have arrived. The Cathedral is simply decorated - no flowers, no plants. The Cross is placed next to the baptismal font; the purple hangings are displayed, and only two candles stand on each side of the altar. There are no *Alleluias* and no *Glory to God*. As we pray the *I Confess* at the beginning of Mass, the Church asks that we strike our chest once with our hand at the words "through my most grievous fault". Sinfulness and the need for God's mercy are before us. Intensify prayer, fasting, and giving alms to the poor. Baskets are placed at the church doors for your donations of non-perishable food items or cleaning and paper products throughout the Lent and Easter seasons. Plan to go to Confession during these Lenten days. The parish Communal Penance Service is scheduled for Wednesday, April 1 at 6:30 PM.

Lenten Fish Lunches

Cathedral Parish Social Committee will again offer the delicious Fish Lunches on 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!

Abstinence and Fasting

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are the days of abstinence and fasting. All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence. Abstinence means that people 14 years of age and older are not to eat meat at all on the designated days. Fasting means eating only one full meal, with two small meals and no eating between meals. People who have reached their 18th birthday and up to their 59th birthday are obligated to fast. Additional forms of abstinence and fasting may also be undertaken voluntarily on a personal basis.

Eucharistic Adoration

Eucharistic adoration will be the first Wednesday of next month, **March 4th** 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.

