

MARCH 8, 2020

Scripture Reflection

Our readings today fortify our Lenten journey with the accounts of two journeys. In the First Reading, God commands Abraham to set out on a journey to a "land that I will show you." Trusting in God, Abraham leaves behind his family, friends, and homeland.

The Gospel account of Jesus' Transfiguration occurs in the context of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem, the place of his suffering and death. Jesus had revealed to his disciples that he was the Messiah who would bring spiritual liberation through suffering, death, and resurrection. Now Jesus takes his three closest disciples, Peter, James, and John, up a mountain where he appears in his risen glory, conversing with Moses and Elijah, who signify the Law and the prophets. This vision points symbolically to Jesus as the fulfilment of the entire Old Testament.

A further symbol emerges when "a bright light casts a shadow over them." The cloud symbolizes God's presence, and the Father identifies Jesus as he did at Jesus' baptism: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." These disciples are privileged witnesses to Jesus' glory as God's Son who fulfills the plan as foretold in the Old Testament. This vision fortifies the Apostles for what lies ahead. As they descend the mountain, Jesus tells Peter, James, and John a second time that he is destined to suffer, die, and be raised from the dead. The vision of the transfigured Jesus offers them strength.

This experience of the disciples offers us courage as well: "Listen to him." The message is clear:

• **How does Jesus' Transfiguration reveal his identity to his disciples?**

AT HOME with the WORD 2020, Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, pg. 55

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

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.

Annual Fish Dinner

St. Vincent DePaul Society of St. Joseph's Church, in Williamsburg. March 20th, 3:30-6:30 pm. \$12.00 per meal,

Meal #1- Baked Fish, Baked Potato, Mixed Vegetable, Coleslaw, Roll and Dessert.

Meal #2- Baked Fish, Mac & Cheese, Stewed Tomatoes, Coleslaw, Roll, Dessert.

Meal #3- Fried Beer Battered Fish, Baked Potato, Mixed Vegetable, Coleslaw, Roll, Dessert.

Meal #4- Fried, Beer Battered Fish, Mac & Cheese, Stewed Tomatoes, Coleslaw, Roll, Dessert

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

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:

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

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

March 8, 2020

Readings: Gn 12:1-4; 2 Tm 1:8-10; Mt 17:1-9

MASS INTENTIONS

March 9, Monday: Saint Francis of Rome

Readings: Dn 9:4-10; Lk 6:36-38

6:45 AM + David Petrak (Connie Novak)
12:00 PM + Joe Tomlinson (Joe Resig)

March 10, Tuesday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Is 1:10, 16-20; Mt 23:1-12

6:45 AM + Carrie Moffa (Estate)
12:00 PM + Alfred Rutolo, Ann. (Family)

March 11, Wednesday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Jer 18:18-20; Mt 20:17-28

6:45 AM + James Anthony Moffa (Estate)
12:00 PM + Msgr. Thomas Madden (M/M Terry Tomasetti)

March 12, Thursday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Jer 17:5-10; Lk 16:19-31

6:45 AM + Msgr. Paul Panza (Bell Family)
12:00 PM + Joseph A. Knott (Alan & Mary Dodson)

March 13, Friday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

6:45 AM + Joe Wiedemer, Ann. (Family)
12:00 PM + Karl Burgmeier (Daughter Carol)

March 14, Saturday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

8:00 AM + Sr. Beverly Hmel, Birth. (M/M Sam Kokolis)
12:00 PM + Dick Woods (Bear & Patty McCloskey)
Vigil: THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
Readings: Ex 17:3-7; Rom 5:8-1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42
5:00 PM + Fred Lumadue (George Koeck)

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

Stations of the Cross

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

Lenten Mailing

Thank you to the following people who had helped with the Lenten mailing, Bill & Grace Smith, Cheryl Williams, Paulette Farabaugh, Jean Koury, and Paula Clemens.

Think Spring, Think Basket Bingo!

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. **If you purchase your ticket before April 8th, you will get an extra game packet.**

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.

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.

Altar Servers

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

Helpers Needed

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

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, March 1, 2020 - \$8,201.00

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.

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.

Basket Social

Basket Social, The Youth Ministry of Holy Name Parish in Ebensburg will hold a Basket Social on Sunday March 22nd, 2020. Tickets are \$5.00 for 25 chances. Complimentary desserts provided. Doors open at 12 noon with the raffle starting promptly at 1:30 pm.

Calendar of Prizes 2020

We still have some of the Calendars still available in the Parish Office from 9:00 AM-5:00PM.