

NOVEMBER 5, 2017

Scripture Reflection

Today's readings are difficult to hear, because they push us to examine our failures and wrongdoings. They also offer us models of humility. In the section of Malachi that precedes the First Reading, the prophet rails against the priests of the Jerusalem Temple who cheat God by deliberately offering inferior sacrifices and thereby dishonoring his name. The priests think God will not notice, and God is completely exasperated.

Today's Gospel follows the same theme as the First Reading. Jesus, addressing both the crowds and his disciples, is depicted as denouncing the scribes and Pharisees because they want people to follow what they teach but they do not do it themselves. They like to think of themselves as important, but they fail to recognize that true greatness depends on one's willingness to serve.

Matthew teaches us today about Jesus' own life of faith. The Father was the only rabbi Jesus needed. Jesus trusted the Father's Spirit to interpret the Scriptures and to guide him in their application. The Spirit led Jesus to those places he was needed most. And in the compassion he felt for the people he served, he was pouring out his Father's love.

Just so today, God is the primary teacher and guide of every Christian. Jesus established a community, and individual Christians live out their search for God within a vast and complex church. One fundamental task of this community is to reveal Christ; equally important is its duty to support all who struggle to follow his teachings. Christians can find all sorts of ways to distract themselves with the trappings of religion. In the end, though, it is when we humbly walk with God and extend God's love to our sisters and brothers that we fully enfold our Christian life.

- **The Gospel is a challenge to avoid distractions and to make Jesus Christ the center of our words and actions. How are you doing?**

AT HOME WITH THE WORD, 2017 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, pg. 137. AMERICA MAGAZINE, "The Relationship That Matters", Michael R. Simone, S.J., October 20, 2017.

Ignatian Prayer Experience

You are invited to an Advent program on Ignatian Prayer Experience at Saint Demetrius Parish in Gallitzin, to be held in the basement chapel of the rectory. Each of four sessions offers participants prayer experiences in patterns drawn from The Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius Loyola. Praying the Ignatian way helps us grow in awareness of God at work in the ordinary experiences of our lives. The program director is Dr. Carrie Nickerson. We will meet on the following Sundays: November 26, December 3, 10, and 17, from 6:30-8:30 PM. Preregistration is required by Friday, November 10 - enrollment is limited. To register, contact Carrie at 814-935-6890 or carolyn.j.nickerson@gmail.com. There is no charge for this program; free will offerings welcome. Proceeds will cover program costs; surplus funds will be donated to St. Demetrius Conference of the St. Vincent DePaul Society.

Carmelite Community of the Word

An **Overnight Retreat-Living the Christmas Story, Then and Now** will be held December 1-2, 2017; 7:00 PM Friday to 3:00 PM Saturday. Meet and engage in prayerful reflections with the people of the original advent. Discover these powerful figures as they respond to God's plan and allow oneself to recognize something of oneself in each character. Retreat includes presentations, time for reflection and prayer and conversation. Meals and housing included. Retreat fee: \$40.00 per person, \$55.00 for married couples. Pre-registration is required by November 27 with a non-refundable deposit of \$15.00 per person. Reservations are limited to 10 participants with private rooms. Sessions and retreats will be held at Carmelite Community of the Word Incarnation Center, 394 Bem Road, Gallitzin, PA. To register, get directions, or for more information, call 814-886-4098.

Readers at Mass

All those who assume the **ministry of reader** at Mass here at the Cathedral are invited to a short meeting on Saturday, November 11, at 10:30 A.M. in the Cathedral sanctuary. At that time you will receive your annual **Workbook** to review the readings of the Sunday for the new liturgical year. It will also be an opportunity to have a brief review of this particular ministry. Please plan on attending this thirty minute meeting. Thank you.

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:

Communal celebration Easter Season.

MARRIAGE:

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

DEVOTIONS:

Novena of the Miraculous Medal - Monday 7:45 AM.

Rosary - Wednesday 6:00 PM.

Charismatic Prayer - Monday 7:00 PM.

Evening Prayer within Eucharistic Exposition -Advent and

Christmas, Lent and Easter Seasons - Sunday 6:30 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 - 8:30 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
8:00 AM
12:00 Noon
Saturday: 8:00 AM
12:00 Noon

Most Reverend Mark L. Bartchak, Bishop

Reverend Monsignor Robert C. Mazur, Rector

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

**THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

NOVEMBER 5, 2017

Readings: Mal 1:14-2:2,8-10; 1 Thes 2:7-9,13; Mt 23:1-12

MASS INTENTIONS

November 6: Monday: Weekday

Readings: Rom 11:29-36; Lk 14:12-14

6:45 AM Adelaide Kipple (Maureen & Dave Hanekamp)

8:00 AM Dorothy Maucieri, Birthday (Daughter)

12:00 PM Joe Milliron (Family)

November 7, Tuesday: Weekday

Readings: Rom 12:5-16; Lk 14:15-24

6:45 AM Billie Baker (John & Anita Jubas)

8:00 AM Dan Goddish, Anniv. (Mary Lysinger)

12:00 PM Alma Reismeier (Husband, Fred)

November 8, Wednesday: Weekday

Readings: Rom 13:8-10; Lk 14:25-33

6:45 AM James Davidson (Janet Tomlinson)

8:00 AM Vocations for Religious Life (Rita & Jerry Kibler)

12:00 PM Millie Boyle (Joe & Anna Marie Rodkey)

November 9, Thursday: Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

Readings: Ex47:1-2,8-9,12;1Cor 3:9-11,16-17;Jn 2:13-22

6:45 AM Chester Kowalski (June Rossman)

8:00 AM David Conrad (Bob & Joanne Kasun)

12:00 PM Employees of Hite Dist. Ctr. (MM Bernard Behe)

November 10, Friday: Saint Leo the Great, Pope & Dr.

Readings: Rom 15:14-21;Lk 16:1-8

6:45 AM Wanda Watkins (Cathedral Parish)

8:00 AM Dorothy Synk, Health (Family)

12:00 PM Phillip Petrunak, Birthday (Family)

November 11, Saturday: Saint Martin of Tours, Bishop

Readings: Rom 16:3-9,16,22-27;Lk 16:9-15

8:00 AM Mim Pufka Billman (R & B Trybus) (Crypt)

12:00 PM Lori Crilley (Kathie Civils)

Vigil: Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Wis 6:12-16; 1 Thes 4:13-18; Mt 25:1-13

5:00 PM John Bauer (Rosemarie Fedeli)

Rest In Peace

Please remember in prayer, Mary Lou Frank and Catherine Nagle, who died and were buried this past week. May they rest in the peace and the love of the risen Christ; may their families be comforted in the faith.

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday, December 6th, will be next month's date for Adoration from 12:30 PM to 8:00 PM. A sign-up sheet will be placed on the cross aisle table in the coming weeks.

Blessing of Cathedral Parish Center

Last Sunday, October 29, was a beautiful Parish celebration! The rain could not keep us from lifting up joyful hearts and voices. Bishop celebrated and was the homilist at the 10:00 A.M. Mass. Following Mass, we processed to the new Parish Center for the formal dedication. An Open House followed throughout the afternoon. Commemorative booklets were published for this historic moment in our parish life. Anyone who was unable to participate, and especially those who pledged to this project, please stop by the Parish Office to receive a copy of the program created for October 29th.

Appreciation

Thank you to the many parishioners who continue to fulfill your five-year pledge towards the Cathedral Parish Center. Your generosity has made the vision of this parish space a reality. The Parish continues to pay our bills and return payment to the Diocese for the loan towards this project. We hope that our participation will help us meet the payments necessitated by taking on this capital program. Thank you!

When Offices Will Move

We are still working to have the telephone system connected to all three buildings – Cathedral Parish Center, the Rectory, and the Cathedral (Music Room and Cathedral Hall Kitchen). Once we have telephone service, a date will be set to move the offices to the Parish Center. Furniture for the Conference Room is scheduled to arrive in several weeks. At that time, the top floor and middle floor of the Center will be in full use.

Saturday Masses during November

The 8:00 AM Saturday morning Mass throughout the month of November will be celebrated in the Crypt Chapel. You may enter through the Cathedral Square door (steep steps) or through the alley entrance to the Church Hall.

Christian Mothers Meeting

The Cathedral Christian Mothers will hold a meeting on Wednesday, November 8, at 6:30 PM in the Seton Suite. Please plan to attend this important meeting. The annual Christmas Collection for the poor and needy in the community will be held at the three doors of the Cathedral on November 11 and 12 after all Masses.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, October 29, 2017 - \$10,074.00

The Names of Our Dead

Throughout November the names of all those who have died and were buried from the Cathedral Parish this past liturgical year will appear in the front of the Cathedral. The month of November is the traditional time we Catholics remember our dead with special prayer. Throughout this month take time to pray for our deceased brothers and sisters. Visit the cemetery and pray for those who have gone before us. May all the faithful departed know a place of light, peace and happiness. Thank you to Jean Koury who created this year's board.

Christian Initiation - Inquiry Sessions

Are you interested in the Catholic Church? Do you know someone who might be interested in seeking information about our Catholic faith? Today the Cathedral Christian Initiation Team will meet in the Seton Suite at 11:00 AM with all those seeking information on the Catholic Church. No commitments are made at this time. Inquiry Sessions discuss aspects of our faith with anyone who might be thinking of joining the Catholic Church.

Religious Education

F.I.R.E. CLASSES, 6:15 - 8:15 PM

November 5, 2017, Cathedral Hall

November 19, 2017, Cathedral Hall

Confirmation Preparation

Eleventh Grade Candidate/Sponsor Session

Sunday, November 12, 2017

Cathedral Hall from 6:15 PM - 7:30 PM

Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group

The Cathedral Prayer Group will meet on Monday, November 13th, at 7:00 PM, here at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome to this Festival of Praise!

Family Night - 2017

Following are the Raffle Ticket winners:

#20.	Robert Fulmer	\$25.00
#19.	Michael Irwin	\$25.00
#18.	Mike Savino	\$50.00
#17.	Janie Wilson	\$50.00
#16.	Cory Geishauser	\$50.00
#15.	Joe Koegler	\$50.00
#14.	Betty Freidenberger	\$50.00
#13.	Rita Nagle & Cathy Wilt	\$100.00
#12.	Jeannine McCloskey	\$100.00
#11.	Anthony Rossman	\$100.00
#10.	Rebecca Wrightusso	\$100.00
# 9.	Ann Plutko	\$100.00
# 8.	Emily Davis	\$100.00
# 7.	Sharon Murawsky	\$100.00
# 6.	Randy & Karen Isenberg	\$100.00
# 5.	Jim Consalvo	\$200.00
# 4.	Beth Thomas	\$200.00
# 3.	John Murphy	\$500.00
# 2.	Joe & Nicole Beck	\$1,000.00
# 1.	Gift to Cathedral Parish	\$2,000.00

Silver Coin Collection - Isaac Clapper

50/50 - \$116.00 - Mike Piemonte

Candy & 4-piece Glass Set - Paula Sherry

Acknowledgement

Randy and Karen Isenberg won the top prize of the annual Cathedral Raffle of \$2,000.00. They have gifted that prize to the Parish to begin savings for the completion of Charity Hall, the lower level of the Cathedral Parish Center. We are grateful for their gift and for planning for the future needs of our Parish.

**ORDER OF
CELEBRATING
MATRIMONY**

Liturgical Reflection ...

In the 2016 ritual *Order of Celebrating Matrimony*, the Church offers the Order of Blessing an Engaged Couple. The honorable betrothal of Christians is a special occasion for two families to observe with some ceremony and with common prayer the joyful beginning of the couples' engagement. A selection of scripture readings are provided along with appropriate prayers. A priest or deacon would preside when possible. Otherwise, one of the parents may appropriately preside at this blessing. A betrothal or a special blessing of an engaged couple is never to be combined with the celebration of Mass. *Order of Celebrating Matrimony*, Number 218, 219, and 221.

2017, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 South Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648.