

NOVEMBER 12, 2017

Scripture Reflection

Only three Sundays remain in the church year. Each of them includes a Gospel about the end times. In his discussion on this theme, Matthew emphasizes a spirit of readiness. His generation was the first to accept that Jesus' return was delayed. Christians took Jesus' delay as a motivation for virtue. Jesus was coming again, but as he warned, no one knew the day or the hour. Christians should live, therefore, like people who are always ready for the final moment.

The wise virgins symbolize such Christians. Taking extra oil was costly and inconvenient, but it meant that they were ready for the feast when the bridegroom came. By contrast, the other virgins were foolish in two ways. They failed to bring extra oil, and they failed to take advantage of the bridegroom's delay to acquire more.

These women illustrate a mystery that occupies Matthew throughout his Gospel. Although Jesus called everyone, not all responded. Of those who responded, even fewer persisted in the faith. In today's Gospel, the oil symbolizes this persistence. The sacrifices and inconveniences of acquiring and carrying extra oil were trivial compared to the joys of the feast to come. Given the nature of the task, the oil could not be shared. Each virgin had to ensure her own supply. Even though they had said yes to the invitation, failure to bring extra oil meant the foolish ones could not attend the feast.

The oil thus symbolizes our readiness for God's grace. The daily tasks necessary to prepare ourselves---prayer, acts of forgiveness and generosity, trust in providence---are comparable to the minor sacrifices and inconveniences of the wise virgins. While we might feel sorry for the foolish virgins who are barred from the celebration, everyone must take responsibility for their own readiness. The more prepared we are, the readier we will be to hold the lamp up to light Christ's face when he comes again.

- **How do you steward your "oil"? What do you do every day to stay ready for Christ?**

AT HOME WITH THE WORD, 2017 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, pg. 139. AMERICA MAGAZINE, "Those Who Are Ready", Michael R. Simone, S.J., October 30, 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.

2017 Catholic Ministries Drive

Thank you for your generous response to the Catholic Ministries Drive this year. To date Cathedral Parish has been pledged \$66,498.00. Our target for 2017 was set at \$55,121.00. The Parish will receive \$11,377.00 because of your stewardship. These monies will go towards the payment of the paving of the upper parking lot which was done this summer.

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:

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-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

NOVEMBER 12, 2017

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

MASS INTENTIONS

November 13: Monday: St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin

Readings: Wis 1:1-7; Lk 17:1-6

6:45 AM No Mass

8:00 AM Norberta Wagner (M & D Hannekamp)

12:00 PM Tom Byrne, Birthday (Wife)

November 14, Tuesday: Weekday

Readings: Wis 2:23-3:9; Lk 17:7-10

6:45 AM Teresa Geishauser (Patty & Bear McCloskey)

8:00 AM No Mass

12:00 PM Don & Marge Della (Ann & Family)

November 15, Wednesday: St. Albert the Great, Bishop

Readings: Wis 6:1-11; Lk 17:11-19

6:45 AM No Mass

8:00 AM Esther M. Dorazio (Joanne Bersinger)

12:00 PM Moose Plutko (Bob & Joan Lozinak)

November 16, Thursday: Sts. Margaret & Gertrude

Readings: Wis 7:22-8:1; Lk 17:20-25

6:45 AM Lavelle Family (Phyllis Sheetz)

8:00 AM No Mass

12:00 PM Lois J. Riley (Helen Force)

November 17, Friday: St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious

Readings: Wis 13:1-9; Lk 17:26-37

6:45 AM Jim Davidson (Ann Jacobs)

8:00 AM Peggy & Bernie Joyce (Family)

12:00 PM Helfrich & Dishart Fam. Dec. (Family)

November 18, Saturday: St. Rose Philippine Duchesne

Readings: Wis 18:14-16, 19:6-9; Lk 18:1-8

8:00 AM Joe Tomlinson (Jim Seymour Fam.) (Crypt)

12:00 PM Prayers & Thanksgiving (Grove Family)

Vigil: Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Prv31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; 1Thes5:1-6; Mt 25:14-30

5:00 PM Walt Beech, Anniversary (Family)

Weekly Mass Schedule

There will be one priest present for daily Mass this week, Monday through Thursday. Please note the Mass schedule as there are only two Masses scheduled each day. There will be no 6:45 AM Mass Monday and Wednesday, no 8:00 AM Mass Tuesday and Thursday, and there will be a Noon Mass each day.

Note: 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.

Holy Trinity School News

Community Service Project

HTCS Altoona 4th Grade will be working with the Blair County Conservation District to plant 500 plants for the Rain garden Project located across from the school.

Community service allows students to recognize the needs in the community and respond by helping others in works of justice, further developing their faith-life and values. We will be doing a food collection for the Sister Paula Soup Kitchen and a Toy Drive at the end of November. Please be watching for more information in your family folder and school website.

Grandparent/Special Friends Masses

Come join us at all three Holy Trinity Catholic School campuses as we celebrate our Grandparents and Special Friends with a school Mass. Mass Schedule follows:

Wednesday, 11/15, Altoona Campus, 9:00 AM

Thursday, 11/16, Hollidaysburg Campus, 8:30 AM

Friday, 11/17, Middle School, 8:30 AM

“Like” us on our FACEBOOK page!! [Holy Trinity Catholic School](#) AND remember to check our school website for important school information. [holytrinitycatholic.school](#)

All Staff Meeting

Cathedral Staff will meet on Tuesday, November 14, at 12:45 P.M. in the Saint John Room to discuss the upcoming seasons of Advent and Christmas.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas

Catholic Daughters of the Americas Prince Gallitzin Court #2625 will meet on Monday, November 13 for a social at 6:30 PM followed by the meeting at 7:00 PM at the Saint Rose of Lima Social Hall. New members welcome!

Rest In Peace

Please remember in prayer, Marion Kenepf Roberts and Jerry Seidel, 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.

Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group

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

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, November 5, 2017 - \$8,490.00

Religious Education

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

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

Religious Education --- Pre-K to 8

Classes will be on **November 12 and 19 from 8:30 - 9:45 AM** in the Education Center. There is **NO class on November 26**. Substitute teachers are needed. State and Diocesan clearances are required. Please call Chris Laraia at 814-312-7317.

Baptismal Preparation Class

There will be a Baptismal Preparation Class on Thursday, November 16 at 7:00 PM in the Seton Suite. Please call the Rectory at 944-4603 if you plan to attend this important Sacrament preparation.

Advent Candles

Families interested in carrying Advent Candles at the Masses in December, please call Chris Laraia at 814-312-7317.

Readers at Mass

There was a short meeting for Readers this past Saturday. If you did not attend, Lector **Workbooks** for 2018 are available in the main sacristy. Each Lector is asked to use this Workbook in preparing the readings for the Sunday proclamation throughout the coming Year of Grace 2018.

Liturgical Reflection ...

ORDER OF CELEBRATING MATRIMONY

The 2016 ritual of the *Order of Celebrating Matrimony* offers the Order of Blessing a Married Couple within Mass on the Anniversary of Marriage. Special readings may be selected and the homily should expound on the mystery and grace of Christian married life. After the homily, there is an address to the couple(s) to pray in silence and renew before God their commitment to live Marriage in holiness. There is a Renewal of Commitment (done quietly or publicly): the husband prays; the wife prays; husband and wife pray together; and the priest prays a prayer of blessing. The Church provides a special Universal Prayer. The rings may be blessed. Following the Our Father, the “Deliver us” is omitted, there is a special prayer of blessing for the anniversary couple.

Order of Celebrating Matrimony, Numbers 237-239, 240, 242-243, 245-246, and 248.

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