

OCTOBER 1, 2017

Scripture Reflection

Matthew portrays Jesus as a rabbi who interprets the Law in creative and merciful ways and teaches by means of parables. Today's reading is taken from a section of Matthew's Gospel where the chief priests and elders question Jesus' authority. Jesus turns the question back on them. If they can explain the authority of John the Baptist, then Jesus himself will explain his authority. Their response, "We do not know," sets up the parable that follows.

In a parable unique to Matthew's Gospel, Jesus introduces two sons who say one thing and do another. When asked by their father to work in the vineyard, the first son replies, "I will not," but later relents and goes to the field. The second son responds oppositely. Jesus asks his interrogators, which son did the father's will?

The parable of the two sons develops several key themes of Matthew. First is the necessity of doing and not just saying. The first son at first rejects his father's order, but then changes his mind and does it. The second son says he will do what his father wants, but does nothing. Another key theme of Matthew is the need for repentance. Neither son acts as he should, but the first son repents, changes his mind, and fulfills the father's order. Jesus uses the parable to tell the leaders that there is still time for repentance. As with the first son in the parable, they have refused Jesus' invitation, but they can still repent. If they do not, they are warned, "Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you".

Something in us believes that how we live, and how we die does make a difference, even when all that surrounds us is giving way. This is why sinful people reconsider and choose to live by virtue, and why the virtuous rue their sin; why those who hesitate but then commit are well regarded, and why those who once made a commitment but then capitulate are not. And finally, it is why believers tell the story of Jesus again and again, even when we know its twists and turns like the ridges and crevices in the palms of our hands.

● **When have you said no to God's ways but then relented and did what was right?**

Living the Word, World Library Publications, 2007, pg 178-179; 2013, pg 183; 2016, pg182.

Wedding Congratulations!

On Saturday, September 16, Aaron Servello and Courtney Beeler were married here at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. May their love, now established in the Sacrament of Matrimony, grow daily. May the Christian community support this young couple as they begin their lives as husband and wife.

Baptism Congratulations!

On Sunday, September 24, William James Riley was baptized and welcomed into our Cathedral Parish Family at the 10:00 PM Mass. Congratulations to parents Michael and Allison. May the graces of the Sacrament of Baptism strengthen William James and the adults who care for him.

Holy Trinity School News

HTC Basket Bingo

Call to reserve your tickets now for our Basket Bingo, Sunday, November 12 at Father Kelley Hall. Call or stop by any of our 3 campuses for order forms. Middle School (814)942-7835; Altoona (814)381-7011; Hollidaysburg (814)695-6112.

October Rosary

We will be saying the Rosary at each campus during the month of October at 1:30 PM. Please follow the schedule below for each site: Altoona Site: October 3, 17 and 31; Middle School: October 4 and 18; Hollidaysburg: October 5 and 19.

"APL" Night

Our football players and cheerleaders will be recognized at the BG football game. Come see the "Mini Marauders" as they cheer alongside the HS cheerleaders.

"Like" us on our FACEBOOK page!! Holy Trinity Catholic School AND remember to check our school website for important school information. holytrinitycatholic.school

Confirmation Preparation

October 15, 2017

* All Ninth Grade Students will meet in the Cathedral Hall, Sunday Afternoon, 1:15 - 2:30 PM.

* All Tenth Grade Students will meet in the Cathedral Hall, Sunday Afternoon, 3:15 - 4:30 PM.

SHYCON: Senior High Youth Conference

October 22, 2017 at Saint Francis University

Registrations due in Office by October 8th.

Religious Education

F.I.R.E. CLASS - October 8 and 29, 2017,

6:15 - 8:15 PM, Cathedral Hall

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

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF GOD IN THE CITY OF ALTOONA SINCE 1851

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

**TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME
OCTOBER 1, 2017**

Readings: Ez 18:25-28; Phil 2:1-11; Mt 21-28-32

MASS INTENTIONS

- October 2: The Holy Guardian Angels
Readings: Zec 8:1-8; Mt 18:1-5, 10
6:45 AM Deceased Sisters IHM
8:00 AM Colleen Sheehan, Birthday (Carol Smith)
12:00 PM Pat Geis (Tillie Harris)
- October 3, Tuesday: Weekday
Readings: Zec 8:20-23; Lk 9:51-56
6:45 AM Bill Crouse (Steve & Theresa Pelligrine)
8:00 AM David Riley (Carol & Children)
12:00 PM Adita Geriak (Stayer Family)
- October 4, Wednesday: Saint Francis of Assisi
Readings: Neh 2:1-8; Lk 9:57-62
6:45 AM BeBe Milliron (John & Lisa Karl)
8:00 AM Andrew Kurdziel (Family)
12:00 PM 65th Wedding Anniv. (Rita & Gerry Kibler)
- October 5, Thursday: Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos
Readings: Neh 8:1-4, 5-6, 7-12; Lk 10:1-12
6:45 AM Michael V. Bell (Maureen & Dave Hanekamp)
8:00 AM Joseph Pagliaro, Anniversary (Family)
12:00 PM Delphina Rutolo, Anniversary (Family)
- October 6, Friday: Saint Bruno, Priest; Blessed Marie Rose
Readings: Bar 1:15-22; Lk 10:13-16
6:45 AM Msgr. Paul Panza & Family
8:00 AM Patricia Marla (Patty & Bear McCloskey)
12:00 PM Joe Tomlinson (Gerri Rose)
- October 7, Saturday: Our Lady of the Rosary
Readings: Bar 4:5-12, 27-29; Lk 10:17-24
8:00 AM Joyce Rourke McNeal (Paul & Barb Caraciola)
12:00 PM Rose Ciavarella (Cathedral Parish)
Vigil: Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Readings: Is 5:1-7; Phil 4:6-9; Mt 21:33-43
5:00 PM Edgar A. Johnston, Anniv. (Mother, Family)

Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group

The Cathedral Prayer Group will meet next Monday, October 9th, at 7:00 PM, here at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. Karen Wood will give a presentation entitled "Prayer Ministry: How to Pray for Others." All are welcome!

Life Chain - Citizens Concerned for Human Life will once again be sponsoring the Life Chain here in Altoona. On Sunday, October 1, the chain will form along 17th Street and 9th Avenue. Come pray with us for an end to abortion from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM.

Date of Blessing and Dedication Scheduled

Bishop Mark Barchak will officially bless and dedicate the Cathedral Parish Center on **Sunday, October 29**. Bishop will celebrate the 10:00 AM Mass. We will all gather at Cathedral Parish Center following Mass for the official prayers of dedication, followed by a short ceremony of recognition. A social will follow in the gathering space of the Religious Education second floor. There will be an Open House to see the new building following the dedication, and the Open House will continue until 4:00PM on October 29.

Cathedral Tour Guides - Thank You!

Again this year the Cathedral offered four one-hour tours. We thank Jean Koury, Bill Smith, Stephanie Kilcoyne, Mary Gene Vogel and Marlene Sheets for their time and talent conducting the tours. We also thank Grace Smith who took care of snacks and drinks for those in attendance. Close to seventy-five guests came to tour our beautiful Cathedral during the anniversary month.

Raffle Tickets Available

The Annual Cathedral Raffle is now underway and we are into making a profit so please buy or sell a few more tickets! There are twenty cash awards totaling \$5,000.00. Each ticket costs \$5.00; you need not be present to win. The prizes include: first prize: \$2,000; second prize: \$1,000; third prize: \$500. The drawing will be Saturday, October 28 at 7:30 P.M. in the Cathedral Hall at the Family Night Social. Please do your best to sell your tickets and, perhaps, sell additional tickets to family, friends and neighbors. Thank you.

2017 Altoona Public Square Rosary Rally

Join in the praying of the Rosary on the 100th Anniversary of the "Miracle of the Sun" at Fatima on Saturday, October 14th, 2017 at Noon at the Heritage Plaza, 11th Avenue and 14th Street, Altoona. This event is celebrated in over 20,000 cities around the world on this same day. Invite a friend. We will be praying for our nation, veterans and troops.

Pet Blessing and Pastry Sale

The Franciscan Friars, TOR will be holding a pet blessing and pastry sale honoring the feast of St. Francis, Saturday, October 7, 2017. The event will be held at The Friar's Nook Gift Shop, 793 Monastery Road, Hollidaysburg, and will begin at 10:00 AM. Event will be held rain or shine!

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

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION
Sunday, September 24, 2017 - \$7,119.00**

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.

Cathedral Religious Education

Classes began on Sunday, September 10th for grades 1 thru 8 in Cathedral Parish Center. Be sure to use the Fourteenth Street entrance (double doors). Pre-K and K will also meet in their new classroom beginning this Sunday. Substitute teachers are needed! Please call Chris Laraia at 312-7317.

Cathedral Choir

Cathedral Choir is currently seeking new members for the 2017-2018 liturgical seasons. Choir membership open to men and women high school age and above. Youth needing verified service hours for Confirmation or various school or college requirements are especially welcome. The purpose of Cathedral Choir is to assist the assembly to participate fully, consciously, and actively at Mass and other prayer services, performing choral music related to the season or celebration of the day. The Choir sings regularly at the 10:00 AM Sunday Mass. Rehearsals are held Thursday evenings, 7:00-9:00 PM. Feel free to contact Leslie Thayer, Director of Cathedral Music Ministry with questions or for further information: 944-2044 or lthayer@dioceseaj.org.

Update on Capital Project

Almost all work is complete on the top and middle floors of Cathedral Parish Center. We are presently waiting on the installation of telephones and computers (which need connections between the Cathedral Parish Center, the Rectory, and the Cathedral Hall). Once these are complete, the parish offices will formally move to the Parish Center. The official name of the building - Cathedral Parish Center - and the identification of each level - Offices, Education, and Charity Hall - still need to be placed on the building. The new lower parking lot is finished. We would like to place a permanent plaque by the flag pole identifying the location of the former Cathedral School. The guardrail has been installed on the upper parking lot overlooking the lower parking lot. The paving of the upper parking lot is still under review. There is an area of patch work causing concern. The General Contractor is in discussion with the company about this matter.

We are grateful to all for your continued support to this Capital Project. Thank you for your consistent attention to your pledge payment. Your stewardship of treasure has made this dream a reality. You are part of the history of Cathedral Parish. We and future generations will make good use of this space in our week-to-week life here at the Parish. Thank You.

2017 Catholic Ministries Drive

The Cathedral Parish was targeted the amount of **\$55,121.00** for this year's Catholic Ministries Drive. To date we have raised **\$66,263.00**. We are to receive \$11,142.00 towards the paving of the upper parking lot (covering one-fourth of the cost). 223 Cathedral households have been part of this drive. If you have yet to participate, you can place your gift in the regular collection marked "2017 Catholic Ministries Drive". Thank you for your generous response to this year's annual drive.

Liturgical Reflection ...

**ORDER OF
CELEBRATING
MATRIMONY**

The sign of peace follows the Nuptial Blessing. This sign expresses peace and charity; the exchange should be confined as it is not a reception line. The Church encourages the reception of Holy Communion under both kinds at Mass celebrating Matrimony. Both the consecrated Bread and Wine can be offered to the bride and bridegroom, their parents, witnesses, relatives and friends who have gathered at this Mass. Formally commissioned Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion can help with the distribution of the Body and Blood of Christ in the absence of priests and deacons, perhaps family members who assist with the distribution of Holy Communion at their home parish.

Order of Celebrating Matrimony, Numbers 75 and 76.

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