

# **SEPTEMBER 24, 2017**

## *Scripture Reflection*

Perhaps you have heard the saying "God's ways are not our ways," in response to an unexplainable tragedy or a strange event. It originates in today's reading from Isaiah. The phrase "seek the Lord" is not about going to the Temple, but about seeing God's abundant mercy in the events and world surrounding us, and recognizing that God, though utterly transcendent, desires always to be among us in the most intimate ways.

Biblical passages describe the grape harvest as a time of celebration. A vineyard at harvest bespeaks security, abundance and the expectation of joy. Jesus plays on this in today's Gospel. The vineyard owner, feeling the spirit of the season, shows unexpected generosity to his late-coming workers, giving them a full day's wage. Although many had struggled to keep the faith during times of persecution, others had failed to do so. Now, as the end of time approached, Christ had drawn the lost back and promised them an equal place in the kingdom.

God's ways are not our ways, as Isaiah reminds us. Even among today's Christians, there are many who have struggled to live their faith, and some express resentment toward those who have not, but such emphases resemble the complaint of the labors who bore "the day's burden and the heat." They indeed bear such burdens, but that is not what earned them their reward. The grape harvest is a time of joy. Our labor alongside Christ is its own reward. By contrast, a person who has spent even one hour laboring alongside Christ has received a matchless gift of grace.

In the Gospel, when it comes time to pay the workers, everyone gets the same full day's wage, and some of the workers complain vehemently. Really, who does that sort of thing! Their human understanding of fairness cannot fathom God's radical generosity. Here's one of those times when we should say, "God's ways are not our ways."

- **Can you think of a time when you heard yourself say, "God's ways are not our ways"?**
- **When have you received great, undeserved generosity?**

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## **Eucharistic Adoration**

There will be adoration before the Blessed Sacrament in exposition on **Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>** from 12:30PM until 8:00PM. The Monstrance is located in front of the tabernacle in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. All are invited to make time in our schedules to spend quality prayer time before the Blessed Sacrament. Eucharistic Adoration has seemed to enhance vocations to the priesthood and religious life. As you pray before the Sacrament, remember to ask God to bless our Diocese with vocations.

## **Weekly Mass at Our Catholic School**

Holy Trinity Catholic School regularly celebrates Mass with our children each week. At the Altoona Campus, Mass is celebrated on Wednesday at 9:00AM at St. Therese Church. At the Hollidaysburg Campus, Mass is celebrated on Thursday at 8:30AM at St. Michael Church. And at the Middle School Campus, Mass is celebrated on Friday at 8:30AM at St. Rose Church. All are welcome to join our children at Mass. This is a central and essential time that our Catholic School provides for our children each week.

## **Missionary Cooperative**

Father Mathieu Mboudou thanks the Cathedral Parish Family for our warm welcome and kind hospitality last weekend. Father spoke on behalf of his Archdiocese of Yaounde in the country of Cameroon. There are many parishes in need of water projects, education, faith formation, and the archdiocese hopes to build a hospital. Please return your envelope (attached to last week's bulletin) in the regular collection. Thank you for your generous response.

## **Memorial Brick from Cathedral School**

At all Masses this weekend, orders are being taken at the side table by the Cathedral Square door for a memorial brick from the Cathedral School. The brick comes from the school, possesses a picture of the school along with the significant names from 1881 through 2016, and will have felt cloth placed on the bottom of the brick. Bricks will be available Thanksgiving weekend, November 23-26, 2017. This would make a beautiful memento for all alumni and parishioners. Why not purchase a brick (\$25.00) and give it as a Christmas gift?

# **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: ALTICATHEDRAL@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-FIFTH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2017**

Readings: *Is 55:6-9; Phil 1:20-24, 27; Mt 20:1-6*

**MASS INTENTIONS**

September 25, Monday: Weekday

Readings: *Ezr 1:1-6; Lk 8:16-18*

6:45 AM Marian Clemens (Pat Rhoa)

8:00 AM David Petrak (8:00 AM Mass Friends)

12:00 PM Jim & Mary Ellen Kelly (Alice & Butch Winkler)

September 26, Tuesday: Saints Cosmas & Damian, Martyrs

Readings: *Ezr 6:7-8, 12, 14-20; Lk 8:19-21*

6:45 AM Joanna Tetanich (Russ & MaryAnn Pleva Family)

8:00 AM Alfred Rutolo, Birthday (Family)

12:00 PM Betty Capouellez, Birthday (Family)

September 27, Wednesday: Saint Vincent dePaul, Priest

Readings: *Ezr 9:5-9; Lk 9:1-6*

6:45 AM Jim Davidson (Gary & Janet Roesch)

8:00 AM George Zsifkov (Bob & Joan Lozinak)

12:00 PM Betty McCabe (Tim & JoAnn Bettwy)

September 28, Thursday: St. Wenceslaus, Martyr,  
St. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions, Martyrs

Readings: *Hg 1:1-8; Lk 9:7-9*

6:45 AM George D. Barry (Green, Tyler, Maryl, Barry Family)

8:00 AM Bernadette Weakland (M/M Thomas Heasely, Jr.)

12:00 PM M. Virginia Jones (Pat Byrne)

September 29, Friday: Archangels Michael, Gabriel & Raphael

Readings: *Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; Jn 1:47-51*

6:45 AM Marci Kaplonski (Friends)

8:00 AM Rose Ann Himmelein (Mary Ann Bell)

12:00 PM Linda Blackie, Birthday (Friend)

September 30, Saturday: Saint Jerome, Priest & Doctor

Readings: *Zec 2:5-9, 14-15; Lk 9:43-45*

8:00 AM Joe Maltet, Birthday (Family)

12:00 PM John Vogel, Birthday (Family)

Vigil: Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

5:00 PM Frances Pagliaro (Stanley J. Krish Family)

**Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group**

The Cathedral Prayer Group will meet this Monday, September 25th, at 7:00 PM, here at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. Andre McCarville, Penn State Altoona Catholic Campus Ministry, will give a presentation entitled "Evangelization: Beyond Setting a Good Example." All are welcome!

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

**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.

**Annual September Tours**

Again this year the Cathedral is offering four one-hour tours of the magnificent Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. The final tour will be offered this **Tuesday, September 26, 7:00 P.M.**

**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!

**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.

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION**

**Sunday, September 17, 2017 - \$8,461.00**

**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.

**Family Intergenerational Religious Education**

**F.I.R.E. Class** Students in grades 9 thru 11 will meet in the Cathedral Hall from 6:15 PM until 8:15 PM on **Sunday, September 24**. A parent or sponsor should accompany each student.

**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 **\$66,213.00**. We are to receive \$11,092.00 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. Your responsible stewardship helps both the Diocese and the Cathedral Parish.

**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. 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 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 this Parish. We and future generations will make good use of this practical space. Thank You.

**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.

**Liturgical Reflection ...**

**ORDER OF  
CELEBRATING  
MATRIMONY**

After the Our Father at the Mass celebrating Matrimony, the prayer "Deliver us" is omitted and the couple receives the Nuptial Blessing. The priest, standing and facing the bride and bridegroom, invokes upon them God's blessings. The Nuptial Blessing is never omitted at Mass. There are three different blessings to choose. The engaged couple in planning the celebration of Matrimony is invited to select one of the three Nuptial Blessings. This is an ancient prayer for the newly married bride and bridegroom in the Christian tradition.

Order of Celebrating Matrimony, Numbers, 72-73, 206-207, 208-209.

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