

# SEPTEMBER 17, 2017

## Scripture Reflection

God's mercy is infinite, but we can limit how much we receive. Israelite wisdom literature had long encouraged acts of forgiveness and mercy. Consider Psalm 37:8, which warns of the danger of rage: "Refrain from anger; abandon wrath; do not be provoked; it brings only harm." Sirach affirms the benefits of mercy: "Could anyone nourish anger against another and expect healing from the Lord?" In today's Gospel, Jesus reveals that our capacity to receive God's mercy is proportionate to the generosity we show with our own.

A careful study of today's parable yields lessons for discipleship. One is that forgiveness requires transformation. The king expected his mercy to change the future behavior of his servant. Specifically, the king expected his servant to do in the future as he himself had done. Second, forgiveness does not mean the restoration of some past state, even were that possible. The world is constantly changing. The king did not forgive his servant in an effort to get his money back. He simply accepted his loss and moved on (though one suspects that he did not continue to entrust this particular servant with any more of his money).

A third lesson comes from the size of the king's write-off. In the Greek, the phrase "huge amount" reads "10,000 talents," roughly 60 million days' wages. This was close to a third of the yearly expenditure on the Roman army. And yet the king felt he could be compassionate. He trusted that his other resources could help him rebuild his treasury. Just so, we must have similar confidence that divine grace will heal whatever damage we have suffered.

Such confidence will help us avoid the servant's fate. Unlike the king, who trusted that he could recover from his loss, the servant feared his own poverty. This fear drove him to violence against another over a trivial amount. The difference between the servant and the king, then, is one of trust. God's mercy is infinite. We who trust in God's grace will discover no limits to our own mercy. The converse is true as well: We who cultivate mercy will find an infinite store waiting for us when we meet God.

### ● How have you experienced mercy from God? From another person?

America Magazine, August 25, 2017, Forgive and Be Forgiven, Michael R. Simone, S.J.

## Calendar of Prizes

Our Grand Prize winner on September 7, the Anniversary of the Dedication of the Cathedral, was Michele Belsey, daughter of Janet Belsey. Michele was awarded \$5,000.00. Congratulations!

## Annual Wedding Anniversary Liturgy

On Sunday, September 10, Bishop Mark and the Family Life Office celebrated a special liturgy with couples celebrating their 1st, 5th, 10th, 25th, 40th 50th, 55th and 60th+ Wedding Anniversary in 2017 (and their families). Attending from Cathedral Parish were: Gerald and Rita Kibler, 65 years; Joseph and Shirley Keirn, 60 years; Alfred and Sandra Cuomo, 55 years; and celebrating 50 years were William and Deborah Anthony and, also, Patrick and Nancy Jones. Congratulations to all.

## Basic School at Saint Margaret Mary Parish Lioneltown, Jamaica

The Cathedral Parish is partnered with Saint Margaret Mary Parish in the Diocese of Mandeville, Jamaica. On September 10, we invited you to help the children of our partnered parish. The following is an inventory of the school supplies we received and forwarded through our Propagation of the Faith Office to the Basic School at Saint Margaret Mary Parish in Jamaica:

White Chalk - 53 Boxes; Rulers - 241;  
Erasers - Regular: 62 Packs, Pencil Top:  
26 Packs; Child's Scissors - 154 pairs;  
Flash Cards - 42 Packs; Crayola Crayons -  
117 Boxes; Magic Markers - 65 Packs;  
Pencils - Regular: 96 Packs, Small: 618;  
Colored: 4 Packs; Jumbo Bulletin Letters -  
4 Packs; *God's Living Children* Bag

### MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Toothbrushes - 2 Packs; Batteries, (8Pack),  
Pencil Sharpeners - 4; Mini-Sharpeners - 1 (12  
Pack); Highlighters - 6 Packs, Sharpies Pens -  
8 Packs; Mini-USB-AC Charger - 1; Tape - 6  
Rolls; Elmers Glue - 2 Bottles; Pencil Grips.

## Missionary Cooperative

Father Mathieu Mboudou joins us this weekend. Father will preach on the needs of the Archdiocese of Yaounde in the African country of Cameroon. Father will speak about Water Projects, Education, Faith Formation, and building a Hospital. A special envelope has been attached to this bulletin. Please be generous and place the envelope in next week's regular collection. 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: ALT-CATHEDRAL@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-FOURTH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2017**

Readings: Sir 27:30--28:7; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35

**MASS INTENTIONS**

- September 18, Monday: Weekday  
Readings: 1 Tm 2:1-8; Lk 7:1-10  
6:45 AM Thomas and Mary Irwin (Children)  
8:00 AM Angela Cronin Chadwick (Koury Family)  
12:00 PM Anna Ruth Thomas (Brian & Teresa Stayer)
- September 19, Tuesday: Saint Junarius, Bish., Martyr  
Readings: 1 Tm 3:1-13; Lk 7:11-17  
6:45 AM Patrick Eberle (Jim and Mary Farrell)  
8:00 AM Victims of Flight 93 (McNelis All-Stars)  
12:00 PM Lois Riley (Helen Force)
- September 20, Wednesday: Korean Martyrs  
Readings: 1 Tm 3:14-16; Lk 7:31-35  
6:45 AM Nicholas J. Moffa (Estate)  
8:00 AM Lou Bettwy (Bob and Joan Lozinak)  
12:00 PM Bernie McLucas (Family)
- September 21, Thursday: Saint Matthew, Apostle, Evang.  
Readings: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Mt 9:9-13  
6:45 AM Denver C. Schenk, Jr. (Peter & Barb Rossi)  
8:00 AM Esther Dorazio (Family)  
12:00 PM Julia Febbo (Cathedral Parish)
- September 22, Friday: Weekday  
Readings: 1 Tm 6:2-12; Lk 8:1-3  
6:45 AM Bill Crouse (Joe and Kathy Koehle)  
8:00 AM John Bauer (M/M Richard Tragon, Jr. Family)  
12:00 PM Raymond Smith (Ruth and Family)
- September 23, Saturday: Saint Pius of Pietrelcina  
Readings: 1 Tm 1:15-17; Lk 6:43-49  
8:00 AM Ventura Mincin, Birth (Daughter, Susan)  
12:00 PM Herbert Kuttruff (Bryce & Sue Cossitor Fam.)  
Vigil: Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Readings: Is 55:6-9; Phil 1:20-24, 27; Mt 20:1-6  
5:00 PM Edgar L. Johnston, Birth (Amelia and Family)

**Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group**

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

**Rest In Peace**

Please remember in prayer, Rose Ciavarella, who died and was buried this past week. May she rest in the peace and love of the risen Christ, and may her family be comforted in the faith.

**Catechetical Sunday**

All parishes in the country today observe Catechetical Sunday. All Catechists at the Cathedral Parish will be commissioned and blessed at the 10:00 AM Mass. We are grateful to all who share their time and talent here in our faith community. We pray that our Catholic faith is passed on to all our youth and adults.

**Name of New Building**

With over one hundred responses and two-thirds of those responses in favor of, the name given our new multi-purpose building is:

**CATHEDRAL PARISH CENTER.**

**Date of Blessing and Dedication**

Bishop Mark Bartchak 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.

**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.

**Annual September Tours**

Again this year the Cathedral is offering four one-hour tours in of the magnificent Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. The remaining two tour dates are: today, Sunday, September 17 at 1:00 P.M., and Tuesday, September 26 at 7:00 P.M.

**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 at 9th Avenue. Come pray with us for an end to abortion from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM.

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION**

**Sunday, September 10, 2017 - \$8,105.00**

**Hurricane Harvey Relief Collection - \$7,395.00**

**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 meet in the Music Room this week. Next week they will gather in the Parish Center. If you have not pre-registered your children, please arrive early. Substitute teachers are needed! Please call Chris Laraia at 312-7317.

**Confirmation Preparation**

**Sunday, September 17 - All 11th Grade Candidates for Confirmation will meet in Cathedral Hall from 6:15 -7:30 PM along with their sponsor or a parent.**

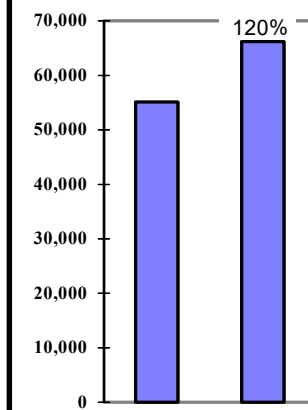
**Family Intergenerational Religious Education**

**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.

**Insert in Today's Bulletin**

Form to order **memorial brick** from the Cathedral School and news from Holy Trinity Catholic School. Next weekend at all Masses, you may order a memorial brick at the table by the side door at Cathedral Square; there will be a sample brick for you to see.

**CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE**



The target for the Cathedral Parish for the 2017 Catholic Ministries Drive is **\$55,121.00**. Our donations go directly to supporting three areas of ministry: (1) strengthening families and caring for the poor; (2) nurturing our youth; and (3) forming clergy and laity. Many members of the Cathedral Parish are touched by these caring ministries. To date we have received gifts from 223 households and are at 120% of goal having raised **\$66,203.00**. We are **\$11,082.00** over the target amount set by the Diocese. All additional monies will go to begin payment on the cost of repaving the upper parking lot. Please consider giving a gift to this annual drive. You may return your gift to the Diocesan Development Office by mail in the envelope provided, return it to the Parish Office during the week, or drop it in the Sunday collection. Thank you for your stewardship with this important annual drive.

The **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 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.

**ORDER OF  
CELEBRATING  
MATRIMONY**

**Liturgical Reflection ...**

During the Liturgy of the Eucharist at the celebration of Marriage, a commemoration of the husband and wife is provided in Eucharistic Prayers I, II, and III. The Church encourages the use of these special prayers that specifically name the newly married man and woman. All three follow the consecration and precede the Great Amen. The couple is invited to choose which commemoration they would like prayed at Mass. The Church gathers at the altar asking God to bless this bride and bridegroom. The whole Church celebrates their married love and commitment.

Order of Celebrating Matrimony, Numbers 71A, 202, 203, and 204.

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