

**SEPTEMBER 3, 2017**

*Scripture Reflection*

Last week we read of the greatness of Peter's confession of faith and Jesus's declaration that he is the rock on which the church is built. Today, in a scene that immediately follows upon last week's, Peter's faith wavers in the face of Jesus' prediction of his imminent suffering, death, and resurrection. Peter the rock goes from being a sure foundation for the church to being an obstacle, a stumbling block. He has not yet learned the events of Good Friday and Easter: the only way to gain your life is to lose it for the sake of Jesus.

Peter and most of his contemporaries were expecting a powerful messiah who would free Israel from Rome. When Peter insists that Jesus should not suffer, he responds by calling Peter Satan. In the temptations at the beginning of his ministry Satan encourages Jesus to be unfaithful to his role as the Suffering Servant of Isaiah (Matthew 4:1-11). Peter, too, is tempting Jesus to abandon his proper role; the Rock is becoming a stumbling block, an obstacle. Jesus insists that his followers must be willing to accept the cross. Their lives must be Christ-centered, not self-centered. But today's Gospel ends with the promise of reward at the Last Judgment for those who are faithful.

Why do bad things happen. . . to me, to those I love, to good people? We prefer life without suffering, sadness, or hardship, an ultra-gentle baby-shampoo, a no-tears life. However, life does include hardship. "It is what it is," as some say. Jesus proclaims that suffering, pain, evil, and death do not have the last word: the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father's glory and repay all according to their conduct. How do we conduct ourselves to share in this promise? We take up our cross. We accept life's mortifications, afflictions, contradictions, and troubles and find God right there. To find life we need to be willing to lose it as we know it. There is no way around that reality. Peter, firm rock and stumbling stone, learned this only after he failed and even denied Jesus.

● **What cross or crosses have I taken up in my life? How have I found God to be present by embracing them?**

● **How do I serve as a rock or a stumbling stone in the lives of others?**

Living The Word, World Library Publications, 2007, pg. 166; 2013, pg. 171; 2016, pg. 169-170. Hearing The Word, Liturgical Press, 2004, pg. 105.

**Two Opportunities  
for Prayer and Giving**

**Survivors of  
Hurricane/Tropical Storm Harvey**

Bishop has requested prayers for the **victims of Hurricane/Tropical Storm Harvey** endangered and displaced by the flooding. Next weekend, **September 9th and 10th**, there will be a **special second collection** taken at all Masses here at the Cathedral to offer financial support to the victims of this natural disaster in the Gulf coast region. All monies will go through our Diocese to Catholic Charities USA; Catholic Charities are already assisting in the areas affected by the storm.

All dioceses throughout the country are participating in this special collection. Please be as generous as possible as the need is very great. There have been deaths, displacement of families, and loss of possessions and homes. The estimates are that over twelve million people are affected by this storm. As stewards of God's gifts, we respond in generosity with prayers and financial support. Thank you.

**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. We continue to pray for the families, adults and youth, of this extremely poor town. All the pastors of parishes with schools have requested assistance from their partnered parishes. Certain school supplies have been identified on their needs list:

**Pencils - Pens - Rulers - Rubber Erasers -  
Small Boxes of Crayola Crayons - Markers -  
Blackboard Chalk - Child School Scissors -  
Educational Flash Cards.**

Please note, the following are NOT needed or transportable: lined paper, notebooks, glue or acrylic paints. If you are able to help the students at the Basic School in Lioneltown, please bring these items to Mass or drop off at the Parish Office no later than Wednesday, September 13th. This is an opportunity to help the children of our partnered parish. Know of the dire and visible poverty in this Diocese and town. Thank you for your generous response in prayer and treasure.

**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

**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](http://www.holytrinitycatholic.school)

Altoona Campus (Pre-K thru Grade 4) - 381-7011

Holidaysburg 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](http://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](mailto:lthayer@dioceseaj.org)

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

**TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
SEPTEMBER 3, 2017**

Readings: Jer 20:7-9; Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16:21-27

**MASS INTENTIONS**

September 4, Monday: Weekday - Labor Day

Readings: 1 Thes 4:13-18; Lk 4:16-30

9:00 AM Alice Ann Martynuska, Birthday (Family)

September 5, Tuesday: Weekday

Readings: 1 Thes 5:1-6,9-11; Lk 4:31-37

6:45 AM Catherine Mincin (John & Pam Rice)

8:00 AM Wanda Watkins (Marnetta Carlson Fam.)

12:00 PM Alma Reismeier (Ron & Jean Sheehan)

September 6, Wednesday: Weekday

Readings: Col 1:1-8; Lk 4:38-44

6:45 AM Tim Nagle (Cathedral Parish)

8:00 AM Billie Baker (John & Anita Jubas)

12:00 PM Msgr. George Flinn, Ann. (Sheila & Flinn Fam)

September 7, Thursday: Anniv. Dedication Cathedral

Readings: Is 56:1,6-7; 1 Cor 3:9-11,16-17; Jn 4:19-24

6:45 AM Bea Mannion (Tom & Patricia Forr)

8:00 AM Joyce McNeal (Kathy & Bob Ford)

12:00 PM Janet Tomlinson (Bill & Jen Crawford)

September 8, Friday: Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Readings: Mi 5:1-4; Mt 1:1-16,18-23

6:45 AM Dan & Miriam Burns (M & D Hannekamp)

8:00 AM George Dean Barry (Nikki Synder)

12:00 PM Paul Tetanch, Anniv. (Paula, John, & Johnny)

September 9, Saturday: Saint Peter Claver, Priest

Readings: Col 1:21-23; Lk 6:1-5

8:00 AM Audrey Krause (Phyllis Sheetz)

12:00 PM Hannah Dively (Jean Koury)

Vigil: Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Ez 33:7-9; Rom 13:8-10; Mt 18:15-20

5:00 PM Jennnie Calabrese, Birth. (Nancy, Pat & Fam)

Weekly Novena to Miraculous Medal at 8:45 AM this Monday.

**Annual Anniversary of Dedication**

This Thursday, September 7th, is an important day in the life of the Cathedral. On this date in 1931 this singular structure was dedicated and blessed as the Cathedral Church of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. We will have our regular three daily Masses at 6:45AM, 8:00AM, and Noon. Bishop will preside at the Noon Mass with a prepared liturgical program. All are invited to participate at Mass on this day.

**Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group**

The Cathedral Prayer Group will meet next Monday, September 11th, at 7:00 PM, here at the Cathedral. Wally Zapotoczny will give a witness talk.

**Annual September Tours**

Again this year the Cathedral will offer one-hour tours on four separate dates in September of the magnificent Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. September 7 will mark the 86th anniversary of the formal dedication of the Cathedral. The tour dates are: **today, September 3 at 1:00 P.M.**; Tuesday, September 12 at 7:00 P.M.; Sunday, September 17 at 1:00 P.M.; and Tuesday, September 26 at 7:00 P.M. Light refreshments will be provided.

**Eucharistic Adoration**

This Wednesday, September 6, we begin adoration before the Blessed Sacrament here in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. Adoration begins at 12:30 PM and closes at 8:00 PM. Parishioners are encouraged to come to the Reservation Chapel where the Tabernacle is located. Wednesday, October 4th, will be the next day for Eucharistic Adoration.

**Raffle Tickets Available**

The Annual Cathedral Raffle is now underway. 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.

**Labor Day** - Monday, September 4, is a Day of Prayer in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. On Labor Day the local church will observe the intention for Human Rights and Equality. Please pray the following for all who seek just and rewarding work.

*God, full of compassion and love, watch over our brothers and sisters who seek work to meet the needs of their families. Provide labor that offers just wages and dignity of life so all may live comfortably in our day. We pray for employers and employees. On this Labor Day we ask your blessings through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**Adult Faith Formation**

Faith formation is a life-long endeavor. The Office of Adult Enrichment and Lay Ecclesial Ministry offer the following classes for the 2017 fall schedule: **Heart of Faith, Old Testament, New Testament, Wisdom Literature and Psalms, The Writings of John, and Ecclesiology**. For a description of classes, locations, times, registration visit: [www.dioceseaj.org/lay-ecclesial-ministry/](http://www.dioceseaj.org/lay-ecclesial-ministry/) or contact Marybeth at (814) 361-2000. **All are welcome!**

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION**

Sunday, August 27, 2017 - \$7,406.00

**Cathedral Religious Education**

Classes will begin on Sunday, September 10th for grades 1 thru 8 in our newly completed space. Be sure to use the Fourteenth Street side entrance (double doors). Pre-K and K will meet in the Music Room temporarily until the top floor is completed. If you have not pre-registered your children, please arrive early. Substitute teachers are needed! Please call Chris Laraia at 312-7317.

**Family Intergenerational Religious Education**

**F.I.R.E. Class** begins on Sunday, September 10, 2017, from 6:15 PM until 8:15 PM. Students in grades 9 thru 11 will meet in the Cathedral Hall at 6:15 PM. Please invite a parent or your sponsor to join us! The next class is scheduled for September 24, 2017.

**Confirmation Preparation** There will be a brief meeting for parents of all 9th and 10th grade students preparing for Confirmation on Sunday, September 10, following 10:00 AM Mass in the Cathedral Hall.

**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.**

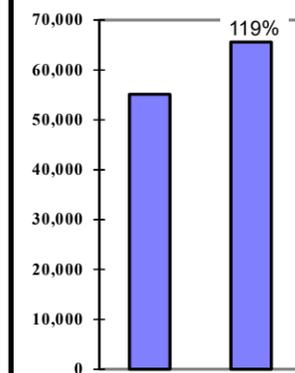
**Infant Baptismal Preparation**

There will be a baptismal preparation session for infant baptism on **Wednesday, September 13th**, at **7:00 P.M.** in the Seton Suite. You need not wait until your baby is born to attend this sacramental preparation class. All parents are expected to attend this informative meeting regarding your baby's baptism.

**Our Lady of Fatima - Hoagie Sale**

There will be a hoagie sale on September 27, 2017. Orders must be in by September 20, at Noon. Pick up at the Parish Office between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM, and 4:00 PM until 6:00 PM. All hoagies \$7.25. Choices are All American, All cheese, Italian, Ham & Cheese, Turkey, and Turkey & Ham. Call 942-0371 for more info.

**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 218 households and are at 119% of goal having raised **\$65,588.00**. We are **\$10,567.00** 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 which is scheduled for this summer. 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 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](mailto:lthayer@dioceseaj.org).

**ORDER OF  
CELEBRATING  
MATRIMONY**

**Liturgical Reflection ...**

The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony* offers three distinct rituals for celebrating the Sacrament of Matrimony. First, there is the order of celebrating Matrimony with Mass; second, there is the order of celebrating Matrimony without Mass; and the Church presents a third ritual for celebrating Matrimony between a Catholic and a Catechumen or a Non-Christian. All three orders contain: scripture and homily, questions of intent addressed to the bride and groom, consent between the man and woman, blessing and giving of rings, universal prayer, Our Father, and Nuptial Blessing. It is the usual custom to have two Catholics married within Mass. (*Order of Celebrating Matrimony*, Chapters I, II, and III, 2016.)

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