

APRIL 23, 2017

Scripture Reflection

The joyful news of the Resurrection of Jesus continues to radiate from the readings for today. The experiences of the first believers, the exhortations of the first disciples, and the post-Resurrection Gospel stories provide rich fare for our celebration of the Paschal Mystery.

The doubt of Thomas and his subsequent profession of faith form the spiritual bookends of today's Gospel. We surely have some empathy for Thomas. How could anyone believe that Jesus was now alive? The presence of the risen Christ in the midst of the disciples is part of the mystery of the Resurrection, and we, like Thomas, have become believers through the word of others. Likewise, others are invited to become believers on our words of faith.

Thomas is the hinge that connects the two Resurrection appearances in the Gospel. Absent for the first event, he is the central character of the second. Thomas represents the second generation of Christians who are called to believe on the testimony of others. The faith required of him is, in a way, more demanding than that required of those who actually encountered the risen Lord. Jesus states that Thomas' ultimate faith does not compare with the faith of those who do not enjoy any sensible experience of the Lord. Thomas should be remembered, not because he was absent or because he doubted, but because like us he was called to believe on the word of others.

Everyone since that select group in the beginning has come to believe on the strength of another's word. Perhaps it was a parent or friend or teacher or some religious figure. Perhaps it was a book, a movie, or even a television show. Sometimes the invitation to believe comes out of the blue---a soul-shattering event, an unexpected experience; sometimes, from within---an inner restlessness, a seeking after answers to life's questions. But when the invitation to believe comes, it calls for a leap. It comes down to an act of trust in the word of another, ultimately in the word of God.

Who or what called you to faith in Jesus as your Lord and God? How have you called others to faith?

AT HOME WITH THE WORD 2017. (C) 2016 ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO, LITURGY TRAINING PUBLICATIONS, 3949 South Racine Avenue CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60609. REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION. *Living the Word*, Diane Bergant and James Wallace, World Library Publications, 2010, page 104.

Additional Easter Flower Memorials
Camille and Philip McMullen / Dick and Becky Moran/
Sarah and Eugene McCauley / Tom and Diane Taylor/
Shannon Hoyne / Nhut and Tam Le Nguyen

RITE OF SENDING

Our Eleventh Grade Confirmation Class will celebrate the Rite of Sending Forth on **Saturday, May 6** at the 5:00 PM Mass. With a special blessing Msgr. Mazur will send our students off to be Confirmed by Bishop Bartchak on **Thursday, May 11** at 7:00 PM.

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● **LONGABERGER/VERA BRADLEY**
● **BASKET BINGO - Sunday May 7, 2017**
● **Father Kelley Hall at Saint Therese Parish**
● **Doors open at 12:00 Noon**
● **Games begin at 1:00 PM**
● Ticket prices are **\$25 for an Entry Ticket** that includes: 15 games of Basket Bingo, food and beverages. You may also upgrade with an **additional \$30 Value Pack** that includes: 108 Door Prize tickets, 6 Walk-Around Prize tickets, 1 dobber and 5 Special Games. In addition to all the games, there will be plenty of delicious food. We need parishioners to support this event by coming to play bingo. Proceeds will assist our children in Catholic Schools, our Religious Education Program and Youth Activities. We are still in need of soda, water, gift cards, lottery tickets, etc. Teen help would be appreciated for Set-up and Clean-up. (Please call Jean Koury to give your contact information.) Anyone wishing to donate items for Basket Bingo who needs these items picked up, please contact Lorraine Beck at 942-7774 or Roberta Burns at 515-1614. Items need to be collected by April 28. **Tickets are being sold after Mass this weekend and they will be available at the Parish Office during the week.**
●

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Cathedral Social Hall "Rome"
'Paul and the Underground Church'
June 19-23, 2017, 8:45 - 11:30 AM Ages 4-10
Adult and teen helpers are needed. Those over 18 must have Diocesan and PA State Child Protection Clearances. Please call Chris Laraia at 312-7317 for more information.

EASTER EVENING PRAYER - Sunday - 6:30 PM

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)	Holyday:	5:30 PM (Vigil)	Weekday:	6:45 AM
	8:00 AM		8:00 AM		8:00 AM
	10:00 AM		12:00 Noon		12:00 Noon
	12:00 Noon		5:30 PM	Saturday:	8:00 AM
	5:00 PM				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

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 23, 2017

Readings: Acts 2:42-47; 1 Pt 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31

MASS INTENTIONS

April 24, Monday: Saint Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Martyr

Readings: Acts 4:23-31; Jn 3:1-8

6:45 AM Alan Bell (Maureen and Dave Hanekamp)
8:00 AM Health of Shirley Williams (Sister, Sandra)
12:00 PM Health of Jeff Thomas (Marcia Podplesky)

April 25, Tuesday: Saint Mark, Evangelist

Readings: 1 Pt 5:5-14; Mk 16:15-20

6:45 AM Joseph A. Moffa, Birthday (Estate)
8:00 AM Helen Itle, Anniversary (Mildred Mazur)
12:00 PM Pat Rabine (Danette Lee)
7:00 PM Confirmation

April 26, Wednesday: Easter Weekday

Readings: Acts 5:17-26; Jn 3:16-21

6:45 AM Prayers and Thanksgiving (Grove Family)
8:00 AM Anna Reagen (Bob and Patricia Smith)
12:00 PM Janet Pufka (Ron and Jean Sheehan)

April 27, Thursday: Easter Weekday

Readings: Acts 5:27-33; Jn 3:31-36

6:45 AM Donald Dominic Della (Bob & Joan Lozinak)
8:00 AM Chuck Hennigan (Wife and Daughters)
12:00 PM Jack Leiden, Wedding Anniv. (Wife, Sally)
7:00 PM Confirmation

April 28, Friday: Saint Peter Chanel, Priest, Martyr

Readings: Acts 5:34-42; Jn 6:1-15

6:45 AM Bebe Milliron (Tom and Patricia Forr)
8:00 AM Leroy and Irmira Helfrich (Estate)
12:00 PM John Moloney, Anniversary (Family)

April 29, Saturday: Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin, Doc.

Readings: Acts 6:1-7; Jn 6:16-21; Mt 11:25-30

8:00 AM Herb Kutruff (David and Georgia Corso)
12:00 PM Joseph Tomlinson (Bill and Jen Crawford)
Vigil: Third Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 2:14,22-23; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-33

5:00 PM Frances Pagliaro (M/M Steve Stefanon)

Neophyte Gathering

On **Saturday, April 29**, at 5:00 PM those who were received into the Church at Easter throughout our Diocese will gather with Bishop Mark Bartchak here in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament to celebrate their new faith. The term *neophyte* identifies that person who was just baptized and welcomed into the Church at Easter. The neophytes are the newest members of the Body of Christ. We celebrate their young, fresh faith in Jesus Christ as Roman Catholics.

Congratulations to Our Newest Members

At the Easter Vigil the Sacraments of Initiation were celebrated with the following: Courtney Becker, Jason Burkle, Madison Runk, Angela Blough, Lindsey Bonsell, Mickey Fields, Kelsey Henry, Brandon Leeper, Carlee McCaulley, and Heather Ritchey. As full members of the Church, these sisters and brothers are now welcome to come to the holy table to receive the Body and Blood of Christ, the source and summit of Catholic life.

Congratulations to Our Newest Members

At the Easter Vigil the Sacraments of Initiation the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament during this second week of the Easter Season. On Tuesday, April 25 the first of these celebrations includes the following parishes: Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, Altoona; Immaculate Conception, Dudley; Saint John the Evangelist, Everett; Most Holy Trinity, Huntingdon; Saint Catherine of Siena, Duncansville; Saint Joseph, Williamsburg; Saint Patrick, Newry; Saint Mary, Hollidaysburg; Saint Thomas More, Roaring Spring and Saint Michael, Hollidaysburg; and on Thursday, April 27, members of Saint Benedict, Carrolltown; Saint Bernard, Hastings; Saint Thomas Aquinas, Ashville; Saint Demetrius, Gallitzin; Saint Francis Xavier, Cresson; Queen of Peace, Patton; Saint Nicholas, Nicktown; and Saint Aloysius, Cresson will gather with Bishop Bartchak to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and complete their reception of the Sacraments of Initiation. We welcome them to the Cathedral and offer our congratulations and prayers for their active participation in the life of the Church.

Concert Under The Dome - Friday!

Composer Timothy Melbinger will present premieres of five works on **Friday** night, **April 28th** at **7:30 PM** here in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. A member of the Penn State Altoona music faculty since 2009, Mr. Melbinger has written diverse music for a variety of instruments for this program that will incorporate the Cathedral space within his compositions. The Juniata College Wind Symphony and the Keyboard Percussion Ensemble will perform two works, and Penn State Altoona's Ivyside Pride Choir will sing. Mark your calendar now! You will not want to miss this one! There are no tickets required for *Concerts Under the Dome*, however, your free-will offering is appreciated.

Wednesday Confessions - As Confirmation practice takes place towards the front of the Cathedral this Wednesday, Confessions will be heard in the Reconciliation Room near the front doors of the Cathedral.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

FIRST EUCHARIST

Practice - **Thursday, April 27**, at **4:00 PM** in the Cathedral. Confession will be available to both children and adults. Families should be present on **Sunday, April 30** by **9:30 AM** to prepare for the Opening Procession of the 10:00 AM Mass.

CONFIRMATION

On **Sunday, April 30** at **6:15 PM** all **11th Grade** Candidates will meet in Cathedral hall for a final session of preparation for Confirmation on Thursday, May 11. Practice is **Wednesday, May 10** at **6:00 PM**.

All **Ninth and Tenth Grade Students** in Bishop Guilfoyle, Religious Ed, and those home schooled are to attend Confirmation Prep Sessions on **Sunday, May 21** in the Cathedral Hall. Please mark your calendars.

10th Grade Spring Session II Time: **1:15 - 2:30 PM**

9th Grade Spring Session II Time: **3:00 - 4:15 PM**

Confirmation Preparation for Adults

Are you an adult over the age of 21? Have you never been confirmed? Confirmation completes our sacramental initiation into the Church. In order to be a godparent at Baptism or a sponsor at Confirmation, a Catholic needs to be confirmed. If you would like to seek reception of this beautiful Sacrament of Confirmation, a celebration of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, please call the Cathedral Office, as classes are about to begin.

ALPHA Program of Faith Renewal Resumes

On **Monday, May 1**, Cathedral Parish will offer the fifth session of a ten week process of renewal in our Christian faith. The session begins with a light meal at **6:00 PM** followed by a talk and discussion and will conclude at **8:30 PM** sharp. The **Retreat** is scheduled for **Friday** evening, **May 5** and **Saturday, May 6**.

ORDER OF CELEBRATING MATRIMONY

Liturgical Reflection ...

The Roman Catholic celebration of marriage between two Catholic faithful normally takes place during holy Mass, because of the connection of all the sacraments with the dying and rising of Christ. In the Eucharist the memorial of the New Covenant is realized, the New Covenant in which Christ has united himself for ever to the Church, his beloved bride for whom he gave himself up to death. It is therefore fitting that the spouses should seal their consent to each other through uniting their love to the love of Christ. The newly married man and woman also receive Eucharist so that, communicating in the same Body and the same Blood of Christ, they may form one body in Christ (Catechism of the Catholic Church Number 1621).

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

EASTER SCHEDULE FOR THE PARISH

First Eucharist, Sunday, April 30, 10:00 AM.

Communal Anointing of the Sick, Sunday, May 7 at the 10:00 AM Mass.

Confirmation, Thursday, May 11, 7:00 PM.

Neophyte Mass, Saturday, April 29, 5:00 PM.

May Crowning, Sunday, May 21, 6:30 PM.

Ice Cream Social follows in the Parish Hall.

Ascension Thursday, Holy Day, May 25.

Ordinations, Saturday, May 27, 10:00 AM.

ANOINTING OF SICK AT EASTER MASS

On **Sunday, May 7**, at the **10:00 AM Mass**, Cathedral Parish will celebrate the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. This is the Parish's annual celebration of Christ's sacramental healing. Catholics of any age (having reached the age of reason - seven years old) who are suffering from serious illness are encouraged to participate in this healing Sacrament of the Church. Only those whose health is seriously impaired by sickness or old age are proper subjects for this Sacrament. Physical illness, addictions such as alcohol and drug abuse, along with psychological illness are reasons to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. If you have questions as to whether you are a proper candidate for this Sacrament, please call the Parish Office (944-4603) and ask to speak to one of the priests. Health care professionals will be in attendance for this healing rite. Cathedral Parish has many brothers and sisters in need of this beautiful Sacrament, please take the opportunity to receive it this Easter Season. Call the Parish Office to register to receive this important Sacrament and to arrange transportation if needed. Also, Prayer Shawls will be blessed and distributed at this annual Easter Liturgy.