

MARCH 26, 2017

Scripture Reflection

Just as, in last Sunday’s Gospel, Jesus relieved the woman’s thirst with living water, today he gives the man born blind his sight---and the light of faith. God works through Jesus to transform the human condition, bringing healing for body and spirit. Many witness his works---the crowds and the religious leaders---but not all come to faith.

The man born blind is one of those strong figures in John’s Gospel. Like the woman at the well, we never learn his name but we come to know his heart. His speech is straightforward, whether speaking to his neighbors, the Pharisees, or Jesus. You can hear the gradual dawning of faith as he responds to those around him, from the simple “He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see” to “He is a prophet,” to his answer to Jesus’ question about having faith in the Son of man standing before him, “I do believe, Lord”.

“Who sinned?” In the ancient world, sickness was believed to be the manifestation of sin. In the case of the man born blind, the likely culprits would be the man’s parents. But Jesus counters that not all sickness derives from sin, and in fact in this case, the man’s blindness will lead not only to physical sight but spiritual vision as well. The sin of the Pharisees remains because they are confident in their own righteousness.

Though we might think of healing physical blindness as a great miracle, the Gospel of John seems to be saying that it is spiritual blindness that truly needs to be overcome, and it is the healing of spiritual blindness that is the greatest miracle. Our union with Christ gives us light to distinguish truth from falsehood, right from wrong, light from darkness. His light helps us see beyond mere appearance and preconceptions into the heart. Are we willing to see as God sees? Turn to the light and ask the Divine Physician to open your eyes.

- **How has seeing with faith made life easier? How has it made life more difficult?**

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, Ralph Kuehner and Joseph Juknialis, World Library Publications, 2007, page 68; Dianne Bergant and James A. Wallace, 2010, page 83; Laurie Brink and Frederick Bauerschmidt, 2013, page 80; Laurie Brink and Paul Colloton, 2016, page 80.

Cathedral Basket Bingo

This annual event is one of our major fund-raisers at the Cathedral. Monies go towards our educational and faith formation programs, supporting Catholic education, religious education sacramental formation, vacation bible school, and adult enrichment opportunities.

Can you help with items to be placed in the baskets for our spring Basket Bingo? Quality gifts for babies, picnics, kitchens, home decor, sports related items, recreational items, car care; really, any theme would be fine. A gift card to a local store would be appreciated along with any monetary donations. These can be dropped off at the Parish Office. Your stewardship is greatly appreciated. If you would like items picked up, call Roberta Burns (515-1614) or Lorraine Beck (942-7774). All items need to be collected by April 15. We are also accepting cartons of soda and bottles of water.

Also, we ask parishioners to please purchase a ticket to play Bingo on this day. **Cathedral Parish’s Basket Bingo** has become known for its singular prizes; all of them donated; some are more expensive (ex., furniture, recliner); all possess distinctive quality. The profit for the day comes with those who play bingo. This spring fund-raiser replaces our summer festival which was for three days; Basket Bingo is a five hour commitment. Please purchase a ticket and invite a friend to join us on Sunday, May 7, 2017, in Father Kelley Hall. 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. We need a full hall of bingo players to make this a successful fund-raiser for the Cathedral Parish. Tickets are now being sold at the Cathedral Square door after all weekend Masses and at the Cathedral Parish Office during regular business hours Monday through Friday. 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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 26, 2017

1 Sm 16:1,6-7,10-13; Eph 4:8-14; Jn 9:1-41

MASS INTENTIONS

March 27, Monday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54

6:45 AM GeorgeDBarry (Green/Taylor/Mary/Barrys)
8:00 AM Lori Crilley (Pam Leasure and Family)
12:00 PM Josephine Hicks, Anniv. (Jacqueline)

March 28, Tuesday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Ez 47:1-9,12; Jn 5:1-16

6:45 AM M. Virginia Jones (Tom and Patricia Forr)
8:00 AM Catherine Fronauer (Davidson Family)
12:00 PM Pat Rabine (Carol Galieto)

March 29, Wednesday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30

6:45 AM Alan Bell (Maureen and Dave Hanekamp)
8:00 AM David Riley (Carol Riley)
12:00 PM Pat Geis (Robert DeRose)

March 30, Thursday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47

6:45 AM Jack Swope, Birthday (Wife, Patty)
8:00 AM Louise Hallinan (Family)
12:00 PM Jim Davidson (Mary Caporuscio)

March 31, Friday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Wis 2:1,12-22; Jn 7:1-2,10,25-30

6:45 AM Isabel Conrad, Birth. (Kathy Oakes)
8:00 AM Barbara Barrett, Birth. (Pat Thalbauser)
12:00 PM Edgar L. Johnston, Ann. (Wife & Family)

Lenten Lunch: 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM

Stations of the Cross: 7:00 PM

April 1, Saturday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53

8:00 AM Bill Seidel (Jim and Elaine Weaver)
12:00 PM Millie Boyle (Rose Family)
Vigil: Fifth Sunday of Lent

Readings: Ez37:12-14; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45

5:00 PM Dolores Snyder, Anniversary (Family)

Lenten Evening Prayer - Every Sunday in Lent the Cathedral Parish gathers at 6:30 PM for Evening Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in exposition. This Liturgy concludes with Benediction. All are invited to participate in this Lenten prayer tonight.

PRAYING THE STATIONS - Stations of the Cross will be prayed this **Friday** evening at **7:00 PM** and every Friday of Lent. Bring the family and, if you wish, walk the Stations as we make the way of the cross our own journey to Calvary and resurrection.

SECOND SCRUTINY

Continuing this Sunday at the 10:00 AM Mass, the Church will celebrate the second of the three scrutinies with our Elect and Candidates. On the Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 26, the Gospel tells of the man born blind who received his sight; and on the Fifth Sunday of Lent, April 2, the Gospel will proclaim the story of Lazarus called from his grave into life. The scrutinies are not only for our Elect and Candidates, but also for us, the fully initiated. We are to look deeply and seriously at our lives these Lenten days and see what needs to be cleansed of sin and what calls us closer to our God. We are to name our blindness. Sometimes God is right in front of us, and we miss his presence. Sometimes we are so focused on the daily routine that we miss the Lord as our companion on the journey of life. We pray to be healed of any spiritual blindness.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is known as *Laetare* Sunday. We *Rejoice* in the joyful anticipation of Easter. Rose- colored vestments are worn and the bulletin possesses a rose trim.

ALPHA Program of Lenten Renewal Continues

On **Monday, March 29**, Cathedral Parish will offer the third session of a ten week process of renewal in our Christian faith. The session begins with a meal at 6:00 PM followed by a talk and discussion and will conclude at 8:30 PM sharp. Over one hundred twenty individuals of all ages, are participating in this spiritual journey during the Lent and Easter seasons. Keep them in prayer.

CATHEDRAL MEETINGS

PARISH COUNCIL - **Tuesday, March 28** in the Saint John Room at 7:00 PM.

ALL STAFF - **Wednesday, March 29** at 12:45 PM in the Saint John Room.

LITURGY COMMITTEE - **Wednesday, April 5** in the Seton Suite at 12:45 PM.

CATHEDRAL MUSIC MINISTRY

The **Cathedral Choir** meets for weekly rehearsal on **Thursday** evenings: 6:30 PM for **Cantors** and 7:00 PM **Full Choir** in the Music Room until 9:00 PM. New and returning members are welcome at any rehearsal. For more information please contact Leslie Thayer, Director at the Cathedral Music Ministry Office: 944-2044.

Please remember the sick of the Parish in your Lenten prayers. May they receive comfort and healing from Christ, the Divine Physician.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, March 19, 2017 - \$8,892.50

Daily Lenten Collection

A basket is located on the table at the cross aisle for daily collections at the 6:45 AM and 8:00 AM daily Masses. A collection will be taken up at the Noon Mass throughout Lent. All monies will go to help the needy of our community and our partner parish, Saint Margaret Mary in Lioneltown, Jamaica.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS PLEASE NOTE:

As we are returning to the offering of both species of the Holy Eucharist on Palm Sunday, we will need additional Eucharistic Ministers at each Mass. Those assigned will remain and additional names will be added. The new schedule will also cover Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper, the Easter Vigil, Easter Sunday and the Easter Season through Pentecost, Sunday, June 4. Unavailable dates and contact changes are needed by Tuesday, March 28. Call 932-6340, text or email Gabrielle Cronin. Thank You.

“Apple Dumpling Sale”

Our Lady of Fatima Parish is offering your choice of Regular or No Sugar Added Apple Dumplings @\$4.00 each for pick up at the OLF Parish Office, 2010 12th Avenue, Altoona, on Wednesday, April 5, between 11AM - 1:00 PM or between 3:00 PM - 5:30 PM. Call 942-0371 or e-mail olf10@hotmail.com to place your order by Wednesday, March 29 at 12:00 PM. Thank you.

Lenten Lunch This Friday At Cathedral

Cathedral Social Committee is serving Lenten Lunches on the Fridays of Lent from 11:00 AM until 1:30 PM or until sold out. The menu includes a fish sandwich with your choice of macaroni & cheese or french fries for \$6.50. Please note: there will be no Lunch served on Good Friday, April 14.

Restoration of Offering the Chalice at Mass

With the flu season behind us the chalice will again be offered to the faithful starting on Palm Sunday of the the Passion of the Lord, the weekend of April 8th and 9th, the begining of Holy Week. On the night before he died, the Lord took bread and invited all to eat, he then took wine and invited all to drink. The fullness of the sign of the Eucharist is eating and drinking the Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus. All Catholics are given the option to take the chalice receiving the consecrated Blood of the Lord. Also, we will then return to the regular manner of exchanging the sign of peace.

Bishop's Night For Vocations

The Serra Club of Cambria County invites you to the Bishop's Night for Vocations dinner on **Friday, April 21, 2017** at Bishop Carroll Catholic High School, Ebensburg. A social hour begins at 5:30 PM and dinner follows at 6:30 PM. The event is sponsored jointly by the Serra Club and the Diocesan Vocation Office. The theme for the event is: **“Led by the Spirit for Mission”**. Guest speaker is Reverend Stephen P. Delacy, Vocation Direstor, Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Tickets can be purchased by calling: Marjorie Lechene at 814-255-9797 or 814-255-6563.

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

GUARDIAN NEWS

- **Iowa Testing** will be March 27-32 for grades 2-8.
- **Holy Trinity Snow Make-up Day** - Friday, June 2.
- **Scholastic Book Fair** - April 2, 3 and 4 at the Hollidaysburg campus. Please come support us!
- **Holy Trinity Athletics** will hold an informational meeting about **Tackle Football** for current 4th and 5th grade students. The meeting will be held in the Middle School Cafeteria, Monday, March 27 at 7:00 PM.

Did Your Remember to bring a non-perishable food item or paper product for the needy?

Liturgical Reflection ...

ORDER OF CELEBRATING MATRIMONY

The Church believes in the indissolubility of the marriage bond. Jesus Christ restored the original order of creation that was disturbed by sin. Christ himself gives the strength and grace to live marriage in the new dimension of the Reign of God. It is by following Christ, renouncing themselves, and taking up their crosses that spouses will be able to live the original meaning of marriage and live it with the help of Christ. This grace of Christian marriage is a fruit of Christ's cross, the source of all Christian life (Catechism of the Catholic Church Number 1615).

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