

Scripture Reflection

“Be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.” Our heavenly Father is omniscient, omnipotent and omnipresent. God is goodness itself; divine perfection is effortless. Humans, by contrast, are blind, weak and limited. We struggle to judge what is right in any given situation; perfection seems less like an ideal for which to strive and more like an indulgent fantasy that will never be realized.

Jesus does not share these anxieties, because he is drawing on a very specific example of the Father’s perfection. “He makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust.” This is how Jesus understands the perfection to which he calls his followers. The Father pours out his gifts on his creatures regardless of whether or not they deserve it. We must pour out our forgiveness, compassion, honesty, understanding, generosity, effort and love on both the just and the unjust. Doing so makes us so much like the Father that Jesus calls us God’s very children.

In Matthew, we hear a very specific list of behaviors expected of a disciple, behaviors that exceed the Old Testament commandments. They are to offer no resistance when threatened, even to the extent of offering the other cheek when struck. If someone sues over a trivial matter---one’s shirt---avoid the conflict and give the coat as well. Roman soldiers traveling through an unfamiliar region could impress a civilian to guide them for one mile. Jesus recognizes this unpopular practice and proposes that the disciple should go an additional mile. Each of these situations builds in difficulty: offer no resistance, turn the other cheek, give up one’s covering, provide service to the imperial occupier. The final action is the most shocking: “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’” Jesus doesn’t deny that loving one’s neighbor is desirable. But he upsets biblical, cultural, and societal expectations. “But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” By our extravagant behavior that goes beyond the limits of the law, we demonstrate that we are true children of the Father.

- **What has retaliation really gained for you? Are you able to love as God loves?**

AMERICA MAGAZINE: February13, 2017 Issue, Michael Simone, S.J.
Living the Word, Laurie Brink and Frederick Bauerschmidt, World Library Publications, 2013, page 61.
Living the Word, Dianne Bergant and James Wallace, World Library Publications, 2010, page 59.

His Eminence Cardinal Timothy Dolan To Visit Saint Francis University, Loretto
Saint Francis University is pleased to announce his Eminence Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York, will be our guest on Thursday, March 20, 2017. While in Loretto, the Cardinal will celebrate an on-campus, public Mass at 4:00 PM in the Maurice Stokes Athletics Center. The University is pleased to offer a limited number of Mass tickets on a first-come, first served basis. Following Mass, a black-tie optional Dinner with the Cardinal will begin a 6:00 PM on campus in the John F. Kennedy Student Center. Tickets are \$250 each (\$1,750 for table of eight). Proceeds will benefit *The Rev. Gabriel J. Zeis, T.O.R. Endowment in Franciscan Studies and Roman Catholic Theology*. You can visit the website: www.francis.edu/Cardinal-Dolan-Mass to reserve Mass and dinner tickets. The Mass will also be live-streamed for those who cannot attend by visiting the same website. Please call (814) 472-3021 for more information.

COMING SOON TO THE CATHEDRAL

LENTEN LUNCHESES

Ash Wednesday and Fridays of Lent

11:00 AM until 1:30 PM

FISH SANDWICH
with
MACARONI & CHEESE
or
FRENCH FRIES

\$6.50

**Ash Wednesday - March 1,
Friday - March 3, Friday - March 10;
Friday - March 17, Friday - March 24,
Friday - March 31, Friday - April 7**
(No Lunch Served on Good Friday)
Eat-in or Take-out. No pre-paid orders.
Please call in orders of ten or more.

Volunteers are needed to help with food preparation and serving! Please call 944-4603.



HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL
GUARDIAN NEWS

- **Winter Break:** No School - February 17 and 20.
- Holy Trinity Catholic School is now selling **Gardner’s Candy for Easter**. Please see any Holy Trinity student if you would like to place an order or visit any of our campuses to pick up an order form.

COMING SOON - REGISTRATION FOR HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL 2017-2018!

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

EUCHARIST:

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

MUSIC MINISTRY
Nina M. Tedeschi
Choir Director and Head Organist - 944-2044
Kevin J. Luke - E-mail: kluke@dioceseaj.org
Administrative Duties and Organist - 944-2044

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
FEBRUARY 19, 2017

Lv 19:1-2,17-18; 1 Cor 3:16-23; Mt 5:38-48

MASS INTENTIONS

February 20, Monday: Weekday
Readings: Sir 1:1-10; Mk 9:14-29
6:45 AM No Mass
8:00 AM David Conrad (Gloria Dunio)
12:00 PM Gail Willie (Jack and Barb Shoemaker)

February 21, Tuesday: Saint Peter Damian, Bishop
Readings: Sir 2:1-11; Mk 9:30-37
6:45 AM Leroy Burkholder, Birth. (Kathy Oakes)
8:00 AM Health/Bev Woodring (McNelis All-Stars)
12:00 PM Pat Geis (Victor and Carol Ruggery)

February 22, Wednesday: The Chair of Saint Peter
Readings: 1 Pt 5:1-4; Mt 16:13-19
6:45 AM Monsignor Paul D. Panza (Ron Skupien)
8:00 AM William V. Bettwy, Ann. (Tim and JoAnn)
12:00 PM Paul Rose (Janet Tomlinson)

February 23, Thursday: Saint Polycarp, Bishop, Martyr
Readings: Sir 5:1-8; Mk 9:41-50
6:45 AM Nozzie, Jennie, Sandy Calabrese (Family)
8:00 AM Esther Dorazio (Family)
12:00 PM Pat Rabine (Gaye Boyer)

February 24 Friday: Weekday
Readings: Sir 6:5-17; Mk 10:1-12
6:45 AM Robert L. Cowan (Dick Cowan Family)
8:00 AM Jerry Smith (Mr. and Mrs. Ken Louder)
12:00 PM Danyll Rougeux (Henry Family)

February 25, Saturday: Weekday
Readings: Sir 17:1-15; Mk 10:13-16
8:00 AM Stella Baril (Betsy Cote)
12:00 PM Terry J. Joyce (Family)
Vigil: Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Readings: Is 49:14-15;1 Cor 4:1-5; Mt 6:24-34
5:00 PM Anna Marie Mullen, Birth (Aunt Louise)

Collection For Food Pantry
This weekend, **February 18 - 19**, the St. Vincent DePaul Society is collecting monetary donations at the Cathedral doors to help support the Food Pantry. Help feed the needy; please be generous.

Charismatic Prayer
The Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group will meet this Monday, February 20 at 7:00 PM in the Cathedral. The meeting will begin with Praise and Worship music. Ray Becker will be giving a spiritual talk. All are welcome!

CHRISTIAN INITIATION
Today at the 10:00 AM Mass we will celebrate the **“Rite of Welcoming”** with Angela Blough and Lindsey Bonsell, two additional candidates for the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation at this year’s Easter Vigil.

Baptism Congratulations
Paxon Wade Stevens, son of Mason Stevens and Stephanie Sierra, was baptized and welcomed into our Cathedral Parish Family at the10:00 AM Mass on February 12; and Brittney Hughes later that day presented Kennedy Grace Hughes for baptism. Congratulations also to Godparents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. Paxon and Kennedy will grow in their Christian identity as family and friends model the faith. May the graces of the Sacrament of Baptism strengthen both our children and the adults who care for them.

THINK SPRING - THINK BASKET BINGO
SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2017
It's that time of year again for our **3rd Annual Basket Bingo**. We're asking for your support. We are in need of Gift Cards, new items such as home decor, non-perishables, theme baskets, household items, and monetary donations. Items can be dropped off at the Parish Office during the week between 9:30 AM and 5:30 PM, or may be picked up by calling: Roberta Burns, 515-1614;or Lorraine Beck, 942-7774. Tickets will be available soon at the Parish Office at \$25.00 per person with value pack for an additional \$30.

Concerts Under The Dome
Composer Timothy Milbinger 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, 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! Your will not want to miss this one!

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

OFFERTORY COLLECTION
Sunday, February 12, 2017 - \$7,863.35

Stewardship of Time
Help is needed on Tuesday morning, February 21, to prepare the Parish Lent/Easter mailing. If you are available to help, please drop by the Seton Suite between 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM. Thank you.

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● **MARDI GRAS PARTY** - All parishioners are ●
● invited to the Mardi Gras Party this coming, ●
● **Saturday, February 25** at 6:00 PM in the Parish ●
● Hall. Dinner will be followed by entertainment ●
● and activities for both adults and children. ●
● Beverages will be available. All are invited. ●
● **Please call the Parish Office at 944-4603 to** ●
● **reserve your spot for the party.** Your phone call ●
● will help us determine amounts needed for food ●
● preparation as no tickets are required. ●
●

Looking Ahead - Ways To Help
Mardi Gras - Help is needed in the Children's Crafts and Games...Students in grades 6-11 needing service hours, please call Chris Laraia 312-7317, or Jean Koury 949-2777.
Holy Thursday - Families needed for the various Mass ministries for the Holy Thursday Mass. Banner carriers, Offertory gifts bearers, Altar dressers...please call Chris Laraia at 312-7317.
Vacation Bible School in June - Help is needed as group leaders, game leaders, craft helpers, and actors. Students in grades 6-11 needing service hours, please call Chris Laraia 312, or Jean Koury 949-2777.

“Seven Deadly Sins and the Lively Virtues”
Bishop Robert Barron’s DVD series will offered on the Tuesday evenings of March at Saint Mary’s Church Hall on 5th Avenue from 6:30 - 7:30 PM. Call Sr. Theresa at 942-5747 if you can attend.

Collection of Palm
Parishioners are invited to return all blessed palm from last year to be burned and used as ashes for Ash Wednesday, March 1. Baskets are placed at the Cathedral doors to collect this blessed palm.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS
Schedules will be sent out this Wednesday covering all of Lent (March 1 through April 12). Call 932-6340, text or e-mail any last minute needs to Gabrielle by Noon on Tuesday. Once the schedule is set you are responsible to get substitutes when needed. Call the Parish Office if you need a list of phone numbers for your particular ministry. Thank you.

CATHEDRAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Sundays, February 19 and March 5 - Regular Classes for **Pre-K - Grade 8, 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM.**
No Class on **February 26** - Mardi Gras, February 25!

F.I.R.E. Tonight!
(High School Religious Education) Family Intergenerational Religious Education for Students in Grades 9 -11 with parent or guardian, will meet in Cathedral Hall from 6:15PM until 8:30 PM today, **Sunday, February 19.**

Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School Drama Club to Perform Guys & Dolls
The Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School award-winning Drama Club will perform Guys & Dolls on Friday and Saturday evenings, **March 3** and **March 4, 2017** at the historic **Mishler Theatre**. Tickets to this spring musical are on sale now at mishlertheatre.org or by calling the box office at 814 944-9434. For more information about the show, contact Mr. Brett Kieth, bkieth@guilfoyle.org.

Contribution Reports for Income Tax purposes may be obtained by calling the Parish Office: 944-4603.

ORDER OF
CELEBRATING
MATRIMONY

Liturgical Reflection ...
In the revised **Order of Celebrating Matrimony** (2016), the Church states that God has raised the indissoluble conjugal contract between husband and wife to the dignity of a Sacrament so that it might signify more clearly and represent more easily the model of Christ’s own nuptial covenant with the Church. Christ is the Bridegroom and we, the Church, are his Bride. By the Sacrifice on Calvary, this covenant can never be broken. Man and woman in the Sacrament of Matrimony enflesh the divine relationship between Christ and the people of God.

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