

JANUARY 29, 2017

Scripture Reflection

The beatitudes are promises that God has made to humanity. Some of these promises are fulfilled in every age; mourners are comforted each day. Others will only find fulfillment in the fullness of God's kingdom: "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land." The beatitudes describe life in God's kingdom. There will be no mourning, no want, no lack of mercy; grace will abound; and God's own peace will bring injustice to an end.

This was a message of hope for Jesus' first disciples. They lived in uncertain times, haunted by economic insecurity and threats of violence. This was also a message of hope for Matthew's audience. They were probably wealthier than Jesus' first disciples, but they likely suffered greater social and political persecution as a result. The beatitudes promise that present suffering in God's service will lead to future joy for oneself and for Christians yet to come.

Naming the poor, the weak, the mourning and the hungry "blessed" was deliberately shocking. Such language requires a firm belief that God's kingdom is on its way. Without this, the beatitudes are airy platitudes, or worse, condescending justifications of human misery. Belief in the coming kingdom makes each of these statements a promise of salvation.

Jesus believed he lived in the time of fulfillment. His words are urgent: "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land---soon! Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy---soon!" Matthew the Evangelist understood that, in spite of Jesus' delay, God's kingdom has already begun. When Christ's disciples reveal it through word and example, they start to realize the promise of the beatitudes: they obtain mercy, they find God among the poor, they live under God's reign.

• **Which beatitude best describes your life and which is least descriptive of your life? Which beatitudes do you find comforting, and which do you find to be a challenge?**

AMERICA MAGAZINE: January 23, 2017 Issue, Michael Simone, S.J.

CHRISTIAN INITIATION

Following the Universal Prayer at 10:00 AM Mass each Sunday, our Catechumens and Candidates are dismissed to reflect on the Scriptures proclaimed and to learn more about our Catholic faith and tradition. Please remember these individuals in your daily prayers.

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 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.

**THINK SPRING
THINK BASKET BINGO
MAY 7, 2017**

Mount Aloysius College Events Admissions Presentation

Saturday, February 18 @ 10:00 AM - Hear from admissions and Financial Aid Counselors and tour campus with one of our current students.

Open House

Monday, February 20 @ 9:00 AM - Come and tour campus with a group of prospective students and their families. While you're here, you'll hear from Admissions and Financial Aid and have an opportunity to speak individually with a professor from the academic division of your choice.

RSVP: Admissions - 814 886-6383

Encourage Student Offertory Giving

All Cathedral student parishioners in parochial schools and religious education classes were given envelopes for gifting the Parish during 2017. Parents are asked to provide good example and to encourage regular giving from our young parishioners. Please have the children write their names on the envelopes these first few months.

Nocturnal Adoration - Friday, February 3rd, at Saint Mary Parish, Altoona. Cathedral hour is 9:00 PM - 10:00 PM. New members are welcome.

Enclosure - Be sure to see the flyer of Holy Trinity Catholic School coupons for our Barnes & Noble Bookfair, Texas Roadhouse, Five Below and Sweet Frog, too! **Happy Catholic School's Week!**

**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: ALTCATHEDRAL@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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
JANUARY 29, 2017

Zep 2:3; 3:12-13; 1 Cor 1:26-31; Mt 5:1-12

MASS INTENTIONS

January 30, Monday: Weekday

Readings: Heb 11:32-40; Mk 5:1-20

6:45 AM George Weamer (Eileen Rohm)
8:00 AM Walter Mazur, Anniversary (Family)
12:00 PM Betty McCabe (Pat Rhoa)

January 31, Tuesday: Saint John Bosco, Priest

Readings: Heb 12:1-4; Mk 5:21-43

6:45 AM Deceased Sisters of IHM
8:00 AM Herb Kutruff (Randy and Jean Koury)
12:00 PM Paul Rose (Burr Family)

February 1, Wednesday: Weekday

Readings: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15; Mk 6:1-6

6:45 AM Carl Drexler (Cathedral Parish)
8:00 AM Kay A. Seidel Lint (Rita & Kathy C. Sonka)
12:00 PM Robert Smithmyer, Birth. (Wife & Family)

February 2, Thursday: The Presentation of the Lord

Readings: Mal 3:1-4; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40

6:45 AM Bernard Weaver, Ann. (Jim, Elaine & Fam.)
8:00 AM Theresa Bruno (Husband and Family)
12:00 PM Sally Conrad (Mary Alexander)

February 3, Friday: Saint Blaise, Bishop & Martyr

Readings: Heb 13:1-8; Mk 6:14-29

6:45 AM Lavelle Family (Phyllis Sheetz)
8:00 AM Bill Mangiacarne-Special Inten. (Family)
9:30 AM Holy Trinity Catholic School
12:00 PM Samuel & Carole Mento (Adelman Family)

February 4, Saturday: Weekday

Readings: Heb 13:15-17, 20-21; Mk 6:30-34

8:00 AM M. Virginia Jones (Rosemary Barcaro)
12:00 PM Janet Pufka (Kirk, Donna, Maggie Kling)
Vigil: Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Is 58:7-10; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16

5:00 PM Mary Patricia Grove

First Friday Communion Calls

Our clergy visit the sick and home-bound of the parish each month. Call the Parish Office at 944-4603 to arrange a visit for yourself or a loved one. Please call, also, if admitted to the hospital, so our clergy may visit as soon as possible.

Charismatic Prayer Group - The Charismatic Prayer Group will not meet this Monday, January 30 but will meet again on February 6th for Praise and Worship at 7:00 PM in the Cathedral.

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL
Is Celebrating Catholic Schools Week!

January 28th - February 5th. This year's theme is "Catholic Schools, Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service". HTCS Families began the week's activities by participating at 5:00 PM Saturday evening Mass here at the Cathedral this weekend; special activities are planned for each day of the week. All HTCS families and friends are invited to join us for our special **All-School Catholic Schools Week Mass - Friday, February 3rd** at **9:30 AM** in the Cathedral the Blessed Sacrament.

Presentation of the Lord, Thursday

Blessing of Candles - Every year the Church blesses candles to be used at Liturgy, devotions, and in our homes on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, February 2nd. Forty days have passed since the celebration of Christmas. This is the blessed day when Jesus was presented in the Temple. The candles blessed are symbols of Christ as the light of the nations. You may wish to purchase blessed candles to take home and use throughout the year on special occasions such as holidays, anniversaries, birthdays, and other special days for you and your family. A box of two blessed candles is \$5.00; a six day glass votive candle is also \$5.00.

Blessing of Throats

Friday, February 3rd, is the memorial of Saint Blaise, bishop and martyr. This is traditionally the time for Catholics to have their throats blessed. The schedule for the blessing of throats here at Cathedral is as follows: during Mass at **6:45 AM, 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM** and **12:00 Noon** and, also, at **3:00 PM** and **6:00 PM** within Scripture and Prayer.

MUSIC MINISTRY NOTE:

Concerts Under the Dome Presents **Mya Bartkowiak** next **Sunday, February 5th** at **2:00 PM**. Mya is one of our assistant organists at the Cathedral. The recital will include both piano and organ selections. Works by Rachmaninoff, Frank, and others will be performed. If you have not had the pleasure of attending her last recital, you will be impressed and proud that she's one of our own! A free will offering will be taken.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

A Bereavement Support Group meets on the first Wednesday of every month at Catholic Charities, next to the Cathedral, from **6:00 PM - 7:00 PM**. Call 944-9388 to register for the **February 1** session.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, January 22, 2017 - \$7,085.00

Generosity for the Right to Life

Thank you for your generous gift of **\$1,166.10** collected at the Cathedral doors last weekend. These monies helped with the cost for buses for the March For Life in Washington, D.C. on January 27.

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

Directives With Regard to the Flu Season

The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown has received an advisory from public health officials that the reported cases of "the flu" and similar contagious viruses remains a serious concern at this time. Therefore, Bishop Bartchak has asked that the Precious Blood of the Lord not be offered at Mass temporarily. It is the belief of the Catholic Church that the whole Body of Christ is present under either form of consecrated bread and wine. Also, the exchange of the sign of peace should avoid bodily contact. A reverent nod with eye contact and a smile will be the temporary practice. Reception of Holy Communion on the hand is encouraged; however, reception on the tongue may not be denied. These norms are in effect through the winter months or until the flu season is over.

Eucharistic Ministers

Please note the revised schedule posted weekly in the Sacristy as you arrive for Mass to check on your assignments. If you would like a copy, email, call or text Gabrielle at 814 932-6340. If you are ill and unable to take an assignment call the Parish Office as soon as possible at 944-4603.

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

**ORDER OF
CELEBRATING
MATRIMONY**

Liturgical Reflection ...

In the revised **Order of Celebrating Matrimony** (2016), the Church states that children are the supreme gift of Marriage and contribute greatly to the good of the parents themselves. The ultimate crown of Marriage is procreation and the formation of children in the faith. The love of husband and wife is a creative love and, with God's presence, new life is born of the love of the married couple. The intimate community of life and love between the spouses is holy and divine. Married love is communal and results in the creation of the human family.

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

Cathedral Parish Meetings For February
Liturgy Committee - Wednesday, February 8 at **12:45 PM** in the Seton Suite. Lunch will be provided and we will discuss Lent/Easter plans for Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament Parish.

All-Staff - Wednesday, February 15 at **12:45 PM** in the Saint John Room.

CATHEDRAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Sundays, January 29 and February 5 - Regular Classes for Pre-K - Grade 8, 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM.
F.I.R.E. Sessions for February - Sundays, February 5 and 19, 6:15 - 8:30 PM in Cathedral Hall.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

CONFIRMATION - Eleventh Grade Session for all students to be confirmed this spring **Tonight, Sunday, January 29** at **6:15 PM** in Cathedral Hall. Photos will be taken! Saint Papers are due! The **Tenth Grade Confirmation Prep Retreat** is scheduled for **Saturday, February 18**. Please put this date on your calendar. The day will conclude with the **"Rite of Commitment"** being celebrated at our **5:00 PM Mass**. All should attend with Parish Family.

FIRST EUCHARIST - Our first of three sessions of preparation for students and parents is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 8**, from **6:30-8:00 PM** in the Seton Suite. Please note our additional meeting dates: Wednesday, March 8 and Wednesday, April 5.

Marriage Preparation Sessions Conclude

On Saturday, January 21, our third and final session of Diocesan Marriage Prep was held in the Parish Hall. Thank you to Father Dennis Kurdziel, Clark and Kim Adelman, Brian and Jennifer Isenberg, Bob and Chris Laraia, and Dana Tomlinson for sharing their time, values and experiences with these couples preparing for Christian marriage. May God's blessings be with all.