

JANUARY 1, 2017

Scripture Reflection

Scripture scholars speculate that the blessing in today's reading from Numbers may be the oldest piece of poetry in the Bible. This threefold blessing pronounced over the people asks for the same thing using different phrases: that God's favor bring peace and well being upon God's beloved. It is a beautiful invocation at any time, but especially appropriate on the first day of a New Year.

The Gospel weaves together the twofold nature of Jesus' identity. The shepherds relate what their vision announced, that the child is a savior and Christ the Lord. While others are merely amazed by the news, Mary contemplates what the future holds for her son. In the wake of that revelation, Mary and Joseph take the child for the customary rite of circumcision and naming. He is named Jesus, as the angelic messenger of God had instructed Mary. Jesus, as son of God and son of Mary, is now ready to accept the mission of the Father. We, of course, know from the Gospel accounts how his life unfolded. But on this solemnity we stay with Mary, contemplating what this means for us who follow him in faith.

The world first received Jesus through Mary, but the task is not yet complete. The fullness of God's kingdom that Jesus preached has not yet become a reality. His disciples in the church are charged to bear him into the world. We have now become the point of continuity that Mary was in Luke's Gospel. When we give ourselves over to Christ's mission in big ways and small, we bring Christ into the world in new ways. Part of our discipleship is continuing to seek out Christ as he is already at work in the world, to let him surprise us with all the unexpected twists and turns of salvation history as it continues to unfold. If we seek him in the signs of the times, we can make his presence known to all whose slavery will end when his love appears. This is what Mary proclaimed when she became the mother of God, and this is the mission his disciples continue today following her example.

• **With Mary as model and the beginning of a new year, who in your world needs Christ's love? How can you bring Christ to them this new year?**

AT HOME WITH THE WORD 2016. (C) 2015 ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO, LITURGY TRAINING PUBLICATIONS, 3949 South Racine Avenue CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60609. REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION.

AMERICA MAGAZINE: December 19-26, 2016 Issue, Michael Simone, S.J.

Renovation Work in Progress

Work continues to proceed on the building immediately next to the Cathedral Rectory located at Thirteenth Avenue and Fourteenth Street. This renovated building will house parish offices, religious education facilities, and an activity center.

The new roof has been completed and is water-tight. At a later date, the bell tower will be installed with a roof access hatch.

Exterior demolition on the stairwell on the Fourteenth Street side is complete, along with the removal of the exterior elevator and loading dock at the alley side. The interior stairwell at the alley side between the three floors has been removed. Some interior demolition at this location is being carried out before there is progress with construction on a new stairwell.

The window rough-in for the new windows is in progress on the upper and middle floors. This work is proceeding well considering the harsh weather and temperatures. Both stained glass windows from the convent and new clear glass windows possessing etchings of symbols of the Blessed Sacrament will be placed in these openings. The floor cutting and removal on the middle level floor is underway. This is necessary for the new staircase. All of this interior work is aided by temporary heating units supplied by the Heating, Ventilation, and Air-Conditioning Contractor.

Plumbing, floor cutting, and excavation are now complete at the lower level. Plumbing with underground piping at this location will soon be installed.

Materials for the Heating, Ventilation, and Air-Conditioning Contractor and materials for the Electrical Contractor are being received and stored at the lower level.

The new, lower parking lot, containing 34 parking spaces, will begin in the spring of the coming year.

Thank you to all who have pledged and committed to this capital project here at the Cathedral Parish. This is an historic time in our 165 years of life in center city Altoona. Thank you for your regular payments toward your pledges. We are seeing this project unfold and move towards completion. God bless you for your generous and prayerful response.

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

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

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

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

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

JANUARY 1, 2017

Readings: Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

MASS INTENTIONS

January 2, Monday: Ss Basil and Gregory, Bish., Doc.

Readings: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28

6:45 AM Msgr. Paul D. Panza and Family
8:00 AM Mary Jean Dodson (M. A. & L. Wharton)
12:00 PM Danyll Rougeux (Linda and Frank Lang)

January 3, Tuesday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus

Readings: 1 Jn 2:29--3:6; Jn 1:29-34

6:45 AM Bill Crouse (Cathedral Parish)
8:00 AM David Conrad (Patricia Gressler)
12:00 PM Pat Rabine (Danette Lee)

January 4, Wednesday: Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

Readings: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Jn 1:35-42

6:45 AM Alberta Weaver, Ann. (Jim, Elaine & Fam.)
8:00 AM Dale & Virginia Pheasant (Nancy & Skip)
12:00 PM Kathleen Walcutt (Sibold Family)

January 5, Thursday: Saint John Neumann, Bishop

Readings: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Jn 1:43-51

6:45 AM Joseph A. Moffa (Estate)
8:00 AM David Riley (Carol and Children)
12:00 PM Andrea Crum (Jim and Lee McFee)

January 6, Friday: Saint Andre Bessette, Religious

Readings: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Mk 1:7-11

6:45 AM Eleanor Toth (M. & D. Moschella Fam.)
8:00 AM Michael Febbo (Cathedral Parish)
12:00 PM Tom Byrne (Thomas and Patricia Forr)

January 7, Saturday: Saint Raymond of Penyafort, Priest

Readings: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 2:1-11

8:00 AM Rose Ann Himmelein (Rita Adams Family)
12:00 PM Bernard J. Joyce (Family)
Vigil: Mary, The Epiphany Of The Lord

Readings: Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3,5-6; Mt 2:1-12

5:00 PM Mary Patricia Grove

First Friday Communion Calls This Week

Our priests will be visiting our shut-ins on Friday, **January 6**. Call the Parish Office at 944-4603 to arrange a visit for yourself or a loved one. Please also call to let us know if you are admitted to the hospital so Father can visit as soon as possible.

Charismatic Prayer Group

The Charismatic Prayer Group will NOT meet until Monday, January 9 at 7:00 PM when Mary Jo McConnell will be giving a witness talk. All are welcome.

Additional Christmas Flower Memorials

Annika Rose Steinbeiser

Gene and Patty Datriis, John S. Byers,
Ed and Ruth Weiland, John Moryken
Francis and Eileen Lytle, Wilma Morning
John Moloney, Deceased of Zeughardt Family
Deceased of Capouillez Family and Duclo Family

**Christmas Evening Prayer
with Exposition and Benediction**

On the Sundays of Christmas, January 1 and 8, we will gather at 6:30 PM to pray the Hours of the Church. Families are encouraged to make this a part of their Christmas prayer. We are the Parish Family of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, and all those with a deep love of the Eucharist are invited to be present before the Blessed Sacrament in exposition on the altar. Evening Prayer and Benediction go about forty minutes.

Calendars of Prizes 2017

Calendars of Prizes 2017 are being sold at the Cathedral Square door after all Masses. Each calendar costs \$20.00. There is a \$10.00 daily prize; an additional \$1,000.00 in special monthly prizes awarded throughout the year; and a grand prize of \$5,000.00 Family Trip or Cash Option. Due to the state regulations for small games of chance, it is necessary that all one thousand tickets be sold. Otherwise, the parish will lose money on unsold tickets. **We are almost there!!** We have less than **50** calendars to sell. This makes a **great gift that lasts all year!** The remaining tickets will be available at the Parish Office (944-4603) weekdays between 9:30 AM and 5:30 PM and at the Cathedral Square door after weekend Masses.

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 **January 4** session.

Marriage Preparation Begins!

Cathedral Parish Marriage Prep Team will offer one of the diocesan series of Marriage Preparation 2017 beginning this **Saturday, January 7**. Sessions continue on **Saturdays: January 14**, and **21** in Cathedral Hall from 9:30 AM to 12:00 Noon.* *Snow date: January 28*. Registration is through the Diocesan Family Life Office at familylife@dioceseaj.org or 886-5551. All Cathedral couples planning to wed in 2017 are welcome and should be in attendance.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, December 25, 2016 - \$16,086.00

The Christmas Season concludes with the Baptism of the Lord on Sunday, January 9th. Christmas totals - Christmas Collection and Christmas Flower Memorials - will be provided in the January 15th bulletin as the Cathedral continues to receive your generous gifts.

Liturgical Ministry Schedules Out This Week!

Our schedule for Winter Ordinary Time (January 14-15 through February 25-26) will be mailed by mid-week. Thank you to those who are regularly e-mailing requests for days off. Please remind other Eucharistic Ministers, Readers, and Altar Servers to call or text Gabrielle at 932-6340 with any contact changes or Mass preferences. Provide e-mail addresses also if you would like to receive reminders of weekly assignments. Call the Parish Office if you have misplaced your copy of phone numbers of other ministers for obtaining a sub or switching assignments in case of illness.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Classes Resume January 8 for Pre-K - Grade 8 FIRE Classes for January are on the **8th and 22nd**.

New and Expectant Parents Please Note:

Our next Session of **Baptismal Preparation** is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 10** at 7:00 PM in the Seton Suite. This required class is offered every other month and is necessary before a Baptism is scheduled at Cathedral. You do not have to wait until your baby arrives to come to class. Godparents are encouraged to attend as well. Call the Parish Office at 944-4603 to register. Please also note that no Baptisms are scheduled during Lent which this year begins on March 1. Easter Sunday is April 16th. Next class will be offered sometime in mid-March.

**ORDER OF
CELEBRATING
MATRIMONY**

Liturgical Reflection ...

This Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother. Today the Church acclaims Mary with her most ancient title, Mother of God. Mary showers her maternal love on her Son, The Order of Celebrating Matrimony (Number 3) states that the institution of Marriage itself and conjugal love are ordered to the procreation and formation of children. Children are thus truly the supreme gift of Marriage and contribute greatly to the good of the parents themselves. Motherhood and fatherhood are integral to married love.

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

2017

**LIVE FROM THE
CATHEDRAL OF THE
BLESSED SACRAMENT
10:00 AM SUNDAY MASS
on radio
WFBG 1290 AM**

2017

Please support the following sponsors of this weekly broadcast for those unable to attend Sunday Mass

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2017

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Gifting the Cathedral Parish

As wills and insurance policies are established with your attorney, remember the Cathedral Parish as a beneficiary of your estate. Perhaps you would like to direct your gift to a particular ministry or project at the Parish. Please realize that Mass Stipends go directly to fulfilling that canonical wish and do not aid the financial life of the Parish.