

# JANUARY 15, 2017

## Scripture Reflection

Today begins Ordinary Time in Cycle A of this year's scriptural readings for Sundays. The majority of our first readings are taken from the book of Isaiah and are designed to reflect elements of the Gospel readings. On their own account, these readings portray God's continual care of Israel, despite its failures. The theme of light is woven throughout the readings, as Israel is prophesied to become a light to the nations, a light of hope and restoration. A remnant will remain, a people poor and humble before God, who will become the seed of a new faithful generation.

As Paul begins his letter he identifies the Corinthians as the sanctified, and those called to be holy. The exalted introduction is meant to remind believers of their status as members of the body of Christ, something the various factions have obviously forgotten. The divisions in the Corinthian community arise from their zealous competition over who baptized them and their spiritual gifts. They struggle with appropriate moral behaviors (marry or remain single? eat meat or abstain?) and they defile the Lord's Supper. Paul will offer the most effective antidote to schism: "So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love".

In today's Gospel John identifies Jesus as "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." This phrase is familiar to us from the Mass. During the breaking of the bread we pray to Jesus under this title, asking him to grant us mercy and peace. John's words are used to invite us to Communion, where they are combined with a reference to the "Supper of the Lamb" spoken of in the book of Revelation.

These familiar words remind us that the one who takes away our sins is the servant of God. This is the one who will be a light to the nations and a source of salvation for all people. When we implore mercy and peace from Christ the Lamb at the Eucharist, we call to mind the words that are spoken so often in the liturgy contain the paradoxical mystery at the heart of our faith: saving strength is manifested in the gentle image of a lamb.

• **The symbol of the lamb is central to Christianity. Before the body of Christ was placed on the crucifix, our ancestors placed a lamb at the center of the cross. What images does the Lamb of God conjure in your mind?**

[Living the Word](#), Laurie Brunk and Paul Colloton, World Library Publications, 2016, page 41.

[Living the Word](#), Laurie Brunk and Frederick Bauerschmidt, World Library Publications, 2013, pages 43-44.

## Who Can Receive Communion at Mass?

In 1996 the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops gave a directive on the reception of Holy Communion at Mass. These guidelines are always found on the inside back cover of the seasonal missalette. Catholics fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. We are encouraged to receive the Blessed Sacrament devoutly and frequently. A person who is conscious of grave sin should go to the Sacrament of Penance prior to receiving Holy Communion. And one should normally fast for one hour prior to receiving the Eucharist.

Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to Holy Communion. And as Catholics, acknowledging our differences with other faith traditions, we should normally refrain from receiving when at those churches.

We long for unity within the Body of Christ, the Church. The Eucharist is our ultimate Sacrament of unity and oneness within the Body. Our disunity among the varying traditions is a source of grave sadness. We long for the day when all will be one in the Church. And we pray constantly for that unity. Until that great day, we follow the guidelines outlined by the bishops.

## Gluten Sensitivity

There may be parishioners who have found that they have physical disorders related to gluten intolerance. The spectrum of illnesses includes celiac disorder, wheat allergy, bloating, abdominal discomfort, diarrhea, muscular disturbances, and bone or joint pain. The ordinary hosts distributed at Communion contain gluten. If you have found that you are gluten sensitive, special bread is available that possess a very low gluten content. Please tell the priest before Mass, and he will consecrate the low-gluten host for you to receive at that Mass.

## Charismatic Prayer

The Prayer Group will meet next on Monday, January 23rd, at 7:00 PM in the Cathedral for praise and worship. Brother Vince Yeager T.O.R., campus minister at St. Francis University, will be giving a teaching on Discipleship. All ages are welcome.

# 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](http://WWW.ALTOONACATHEDRAL.ORG)

FAX: 814-942-4337

E-MAIL: [ALTCATHEDRAL@DIOCESEAJ.ORG](mailto: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

**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](http://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](http://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](mailto:kluke@dioceseaj.org)

Administrative Duties and Organist - 944-2044



**SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**JANUARY 15, 2017**

*Is 49:3, 5-6; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34*

**MASS INTENTIONS**

January 16, Monday: Weekday

*Readings: Heb 5:1-10; Mk 2:18-22*

6:45 AM **No Mass**

8:00 AM Edna Vinglas, Birth. (Jennifer & Cliff Plank)

12:00 PM Dr. Fred Petrunak, Birth. Inten. (Family)

January 17, Tuesday: Saint Anthony, Abbot

*Readings: Heb 6:10-20; Mk 2:23-28*

6:45 AM Michael Kling, Anniv./ Bill Crouse, Anniv.

8:00 AM Bob and Pearl Trostle (McNelis All-Stars)

12:00 PM Julia Febbo, Anniv. ( Michael Conroy)

January 18, Wednesday: Weekday

*Readings: Heb 7:1-3, 15-17; Mk 3:1-6*

6:45 AM Rev. Paul E. Turnbull (Hanekamps)

8:00 AM M. Virginia Jones (Christian Mothers)

12:00 PM John Morykan (Bear & Patty McCloskey)

January 19, Thursday: Weekday

*Readings: Heb 7:25--8:6; Mk 3:7-12*

6:45 AM George Dean Barry (OLF Friends/Family)

8:00 AM Derek Behe (Matt Seidel)

12:00 PM Joanna Tetanich (Bernadette Brown)

January 20, Friday: Saint Fabian / Saint Sebastian

*Readings: Heb 8:6-13; Mk 3:13-19*

6:45 AM God's Blessings for Country & Leaders

8:00 AM Esther Dorazio (Family)

12:00 PM John Bauer (Richard Tragon, Jr. Family)

January 21, Saturday: Saint Agnes, Virgin and Martyr

*Readings: Heb 9:2-3, 11-14; Mk 3:20-21*

8:00 AM Irene Kelly Wood, Anniversary (Family)

12:00 PM Billy Geis, Birthday (Family)

Vigil: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Readings: Is 8:23--9:3; 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17; Mt 4:12-23*

5:00 PM Clair Duffy, Anniv. (Toots and Family)

**Note Daily Mass Schedule**

There will be only two daily Masses this Monday, January 16. Please pass the information along to friends from other parishes who pray with us regularly at the 6:45 AM daily Mass. Thank you

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

Every year Christians throughout the world pray for unity within the Christian household. The week begins this Wednesday, January 18 and continues through January 25. Pray for unity among all the baptized.



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

**Liturgical Reflection ...**

On Monday, January 23, all dioceses in the United States of America are observing a Day of Prayer for the **Legal Protection of Unborn Children**. January 22 is the day of the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision, *Roe vs. Wade* (1973), the Church in America prays for the violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion, and for the full restoration of the legal guarantee to the right to life. Members of the Diocese are encouraged to go to Mass on this day, pray the rosary, the chaplet of Divine Mercy, fast and abstain, and join the Altoona-Johnstown family in praying the following:

*O, God, who adorn creation with splendor and beauty, and fashion human lives in your image and likeness, awaken in every heart reverence for the work of your hands, and renew among your people a readiness to nurture and sustain your precious gift of human life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

**ECUMENICAL SERVICE**

Next **Sunday, January 22 at 3:00 PM** here in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, mid-way through the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Bishop Mark Bartchak will host the first of two ecumenical services with our friends in the Lutheran and Orthodox traditions. A social will follow in the Cathedral Hall. The second will be held on Sunday, January 29 at 3:00 PM in Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Johnstown. All are invited to attend.

**CELEBRATING GOD'S GIFT OF LIFE**

Bishop Mark Bartchak will preside over a *Prayer Service Celebrating God's Gift of Life* here in the Cathedral on **Thursday, January 26 at 7:00 PM**. All are encouraged to participate in this special Liturgy of the Hours which will include a Blessing for Pilgrims marching in D.C. on Friday, January 27.

**Collection for the March for Life**

Citizens Concerned for Human Life will be accepting donations at the doors of the Cathedral next weekend **January 21-22** to offset costs for the March to Washington, DC on **Friday, January 27**. Please be generous. Buses will be leaving the Altoona area at 7:00 AM and should return to this area about 9:30 PM. The cost for the bus will be \$15 per person, \$10 for students. Participants are asked to bring their lunch and enough money to cover the cost of their supper. Call Patricia Forr at 946-0681, or Roxann Blazewicz at 695-8008 for more information and registration.

**Baptism Congratulations**

Aviana Belle Marino was baptized on Sunday, January 8, in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. Congratulations to parents Sam IV and Janelle, along with Godparents, Uncle Alex and Jennifer, Grandparents, Sam III and Deb, Uncle Shawn and other friends and relatives who will help her grow in her Christian faith by their loving care and example.

**BGCHS Raffle** - Our Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School students are selling their 25th Annual Raffle tickets after Masses this weekend, January 14 and 15. Each ticket costs \$5.00. Cash prizes are: first- \$10,000; second- \$1,500; third- \$1,000, and fourth-five prizes of \$100 each. The drawing will be held February 9th at halftime during the Girls Basketball game, but you do not need to be present to win.

**Eternal Peace** - Please remember in prayer Rosemary Seymour, who died and was buried this past week. May she rest in peace.

**Liturgical Reflection ...**

**ORDER OF  
CELEBRATING  
MATRIMONY**

The Church has revised the **Order of Celebrating Matrimony** (2016). In the introduction to the rite of marriage, the Church states that a Marriage is established by the conjugal covenant, that is the irrevocable consent of both spouses, by which they freely give themselves to each other and accept one another. Moreover, this singular union of a man and a woman requires, and the good of the children demands, the complete fidelity of the spouses and the indissoluble unity of the bond. The Church is graced with the love and commitment of our married couples.

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

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION**

Sunday, January 8, 2017 - \$8,789.00

Christmas Collection 2016 - \$21,153.02

Christmas Flower Memorials 2016 - \$2,619.00

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

**CATHEDRAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**Sundays, January 15, 22, 29 - Regular Classes**

for **Pre-K - Grade 8, 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM.**

**No F.I.R.E. Session** on Sunday, January 22.

**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION**

The **Tenth Grade Confirmation Prep Retreat** on Saturday, January 21, is postponed and has been rescheduled for **Saturday, February 18**. Please put this date on your calendar. The day will end with the **"Rite of Commitment"** at **5:00 PM Mass.**

**HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

**GUARDIAN NEWS**

**St. Vincent DePaul Cereal Drive** (*Kids Helping Kids*): Holy Trinity Catholic School will continue the Cereal Drive through **January 30** to benefit St. Vincent DePaul.

**Catholic Schools Week** will be celebrated the week of **January 28th - February 5th**. The theme will be *"Catholic Schools, Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service"*.

**Save the Date:** Fund-raising Event: **"Cash Bash" March 11, 2017**. Please call the school office for ticket information; \$100.00 ticket admits two.

**Holy Trinity welcomes** Mr. Alex Schwind and Mrs. Nicole Barrick to our school family. They will be teaching Music at the various sites.

**HELP WANTED: Holy Trinity Catholic School Altoona Campus** is looking for 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM **Full-time Custodian/Maintenance Person**. For an interview, please call: 814 942-7835.