

January 10, 2016

Scripture Reflection

The first thing Jesus did in his public ministry was to align himself with John the Baptist's call to repentance and reconciliation among God's people. Jesus entered into solidarity with Israel, responding to John's call for the baptism of all Israel to prepare for God's coming kingdom. Jesus saw the baptism for the forgiveness of sins as the means by which his own ministry would begin, both at personal and community levels. For Jesus, the baptism was the mysterious start of his mission, and act in unity with fallen humanity but also the point at which the heavens opened, the Holy Spirit descended on him and a voice from heaven spoke, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." Jesus' own mission was now to start.

At the ecclesial level, Jesus was baptized "when all the people were baptized," not only as a sign of solidarity with Israel but also to prepare them for the baptism of the Holy Spirit, which John had told the people the coming Messiah would bring to them. The people were ready, wondering whether John himself might be the Messiah. John's baptism was, therefore, the necessary sign that another baptism of water and spirit was coming with the Messiah. A new people of God was being constituted. Jesus, the servant of God, was not after all alone as a light to the nations. A new Israel would walk with him, baptized with water and the Holy Spirit.

Today ends the Christmas season. We put away the singing of Christmas carols, like "Joy to the World," but not living their words. Because we put on Christ in baptism, we too are beloved daughters and sons of God. The Holy Spirit has been poured out on us. We do more than point the way to Christ like John the Baptizer; we are called to live Jesus. Baptism makes us heralds of glad tidings who announce that God is with us, offering comfort and speaking tenderly. Our lives proclaim "here is your God" in small ways that speak loudly. Be a living carol that sings joy to the world, the Lord is come for all.

• **At baptism you were claimed for Christ. What particular gifts do you have to share with others in the name of the Lord?**

AMERICA MAGAZINE: January 4-11, 2016 Issue, John W. Martens. *Living the Word*, Laurie Brink and Paul Colloton, 2015, page 40.

2016 **LIVE FROM THE** 2016
CATHEDRAL OF THE
BLESSED SACRAMENT
10:00 AM SUNDAY MASS
on radio
WFBG 1290 AM

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

The Altoona Curve Baseball Club
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Warner's Florist, Gifts, Greenhouses
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2016 *Anonymous Donor* 2016

Calendar of Prizes 2016

Thank you to all who supported this annual fundraiser. At this time all calendars have been sold. However, there are 19 calendars not returned: **028, 038, 081, 369, 471, 609, 666, 830, 881, 882, 888, 911, 941, 949, 971, 976, 977, 979 and 983.** If anyone has unsold tickets please return them to the Parish Office as we have several people waiting to purchase tickets. The rectory door has a mail slot accessible at any time. The office is open from 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM Monday through Friday.

Enclosure - Please be sure to take some time to read the beautiful brochure prepared for us by the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown explaining the *Jubilee Year of Mercy* and listing all of the events and prayer opportunities available for us.

Rest In Peace - Please remember in prayer Eileen Humphreys who died and was buried this past week. May she and her family be at peace.

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.

ANOIDING 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

Most Reverend Mark L. Bartchak, Bishop

Reverend Monsignor Robert C. Mazur, Rector

Reverend Father Dennis M. Kurdziel, Parochial Vicar

Deacon Michael A. Anna

Deacon John J. Szwarc, Senior Deacon

CHRISTIAN INITIATION TEAM - 944-4603

CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME - 944-4603

ALTOONA CENTRAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Web: www.altoonacentralcatholic.com

Elementary - Pre-K thru Grade 5 - 381-7011

BISHOP GUILFOYLE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Web: www.bishopguilfoyle.org - 944-4014

DIRECTORS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Chris Laraia - Pre-K thru 8 - 946-3475

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

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

JANUARY 10, 2016

Readings: *Is 42:1-4,6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Lk 3:15-16,21-22*

MASS INTENTIONS

January 11, Monday: Weekday (Week 1 in Ordinary Time)

Readings: *1 Sm 1:1-8; Mk 1:14-20*

6:45 AM Patty Seidel Howard/David Weaver, Anniv.
8:00 AM Patty Guildea & Family (J. & B. Shoemaker)
12:00 PM Sam Coen (Joe and Patty Pufka)

January 12, Tuesday: Weekday

Readings: *1 Sm 1:9-20; Mk 1:21-28*

6:45 AM Alice Martynuska (Family)
8:00 AM Bernadette Weakland (Monica Gimo)
12:00 PM Danyll Rougeux (Roberta & Brian Burns)

January 13, Wednesday: Saint Hilary, Bishop, Doctor

Readings: *1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Mk 1:29-39*

6:45 AM John Batkiewicz (Batkiewicz Family)
8:00 AM Donna Lytle Civils (Skip Cowan & Family)
12:00 PM Paul Rose (Robine Family)

January 14, Thursday: Weekday

Readings: *1 Sm 4: 1-11; Mk 1:40-45*

6:45 AM Merle & Joan Hirt (Children and Families)
8:00 AM Ruby Doyle (Dave Donnelly)
12:00 PM Betty McCabe (Michael and Suzan Kuny)

January 15, Friday: Weekday

Readings: *1 Sm 8:4-7,10-22; Mk 2:1-12*

6:45 AM Eleanor Toth (Dave and Karen Rhoa)
8:00 AM Frank Auerbeck (Tony and Sue Conrad)
12:00 PM Dennis Irwin (Mother)

January 16, Saturday: Weekday

Readings: *1 Sm 9:1-4,17-19; 10:1; Mk 2:13-17*

8:00 AM Herb Kutruff (Kilcoyne Family)
12:00 PM Mildred Burchfield (Jane and Jim Davidson)
Vigil: Second Sunday In Ordinary Time
Readings: *Is 62:1-5; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11*
5:00 PM Dr. Fred Petrunak, Birthday (Family)

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

Gifts to 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.

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 of the Blessed Sacrament on Thursday, January 21 at 7:00 PM. All are invited and encouraged to participate in this special Liturgy of the Hours which will include a Blessing for the Pilgrims marching in Washington, D.C. on Friday, January 22.

Collection for the March for Life

Citizens Concerned for Human Life will be accepting donations at the doors of the Cathedral next weekend January 16-17 to offset the costs for the March to Washington, DC on Friday, January 22. Please be generous. Buses will be leaving the Altoona area at 7:00 AM and should return to the area at about 9:30 PM. Cost will be kept at \$15 per person, \$10 for students. Call Patricia Forr at 946-0681 for more information/registration.

Cathedral Christian Mothers

Cathedral Christian Mothers meet on the second Wednesday of each month. All ladies of the parish are invited to come to the Seton Suite on January 13 at 6:30 PM. Bring a friend!

Christmas Evening Prayer

This evening at 6:30 PM we conclude the Christmas Season with Evening Prayer and Benediction. Come back and join the People of God in our Prayer of the Hours.

Poinsettias Available - Any persons wishing to take the beautiful poinsettias home with you may do so after Evening Prayer tonight as our celebration of the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord concludes the Christmas Season. (The ferns must be returned to the florist.)

Encourage Student Offertory Giving

All Cathedral student parishioners in parochial schools and religious education classes were assigned envelopes for gifting the Parish during 2016. 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 for the first few months so we can be sure to apply their gifts to the correct families' donation record. Thank you.

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

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, January 3 - \$9,872.00

Solemnity of Mary, January 1 - \$3,298.00

Christmas Collection Report next week!

Additional Christmas Flower Memorials

Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Kimmel

Catherine Tremmel

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

Capital Campaign Note: When making a payment on your pledge, please clearly mark your check memo line, Capital Campaign or Moving Forward in Faith, our Sunday morning money counters would really appreciate it! Also, if you want your gift to be kept private, place it in a separate envelope from your regular offertory gift marked as above, and it will go directly to Monsignor Mazur.

Parish Liturgy Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 20 at 12:45 PM in the Seton Suite. Lunch will be provided and we will discuss Lent/Easter and *Jubilee of Mercy* Holy Year plans for our Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament Parish.

Concerts Under the Dome

On Sunday, February 7th at two o'clock in the afternoon the *Concerts Under The Dome* series will present the **Indiana Brass Band**. This concert will feature the earlier rendition of the band featuring music before the American Civil War. You will also have an opportunity to hear and see the keyed brass instruments: keyed bugles, quinticlave, ophicleide, as well as a variety of early valved instruments to perform the diverse concert repertoire. Hope to see you there. A free will offering will be taken.

Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group

The Charismatic Prayer Group will meet this Monday, January 11th at 7:00 PM in the Cathedral. Mary Beth Schmidhamer will be giving a spiritual talk. Please come and be blessed! All are welcome!

Liturgical Reflection ...

JUBILEE

YEAR OF

MERCY

Today concludes the Christmas Season. The Church prays at Mass, "...we humbly entreat your mercy, O Lord, that, faithfully listening to your Only Begotten Son, we may be your children in name and in truth." On this celebration of the baptism of the Lord, we recall our baptismal identity in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. By God's mercy and love we have been claimed for Jesus Christ. We are children of light and seek to live this new life of faith through God's mercy.

2016, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 South Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648.

More On Moving Forward In Faith

Our Capital Campaign

I am pleased to provide an update on the progress of our *Moving Forward In Faith* campaign. On Monday, January 4, the campaign office reported a new pledge total of **\$1,157,388**. This represents **97%** of our \$1.2 million goal and this total has been generated through the sacrificial generosity of approximately 260 parishioners and families. Once again, we are most grateful to our donors for their commitment and sacrifice to the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament Parish and ask that the remainder of our Parish Family join them in this important project.

If you have not had the opportunity to make your gift previously because you were not at home when our volunteers called - or for other reasons - you may do so today. For the convenience of those who may have misplaced their pledge card or confidential return envelope, there is a supply of extra brochures and other material on the table at the Cathedral Square entrance. If you need a pledge envelope or any information about our campaign please take a brochure from the table.

Please remember that every contribution, from the smallest to the largest, is necessary since we are doing this together as a parish family. After determining what you can afford each month, simply multiply it out over 60 months to determine your total pledge amount. Thanks to your sacrifice, we will show that as a parish family we came together in our time of need.

As we can see, the equipment is on site for the demolition of the two buildings.

Catholics Returning Home

Have you thought about coming home to the Catholic Church? Call the Parish Office at 944-4603 for information on the date and time of the next *Catholics Returning Home* informal listening session.