

FEBRUARY 7, 2016

Scripture Reflection

God's majesty overwhelms the prophet, and Isaiah's descriptions of God by means of physical images--a vision of a high throne and the hem of a garment that fills the Temple--evoke God's universal kingship. In this divine vision, the seraphim minister to God, praising God's holiness and the glory that fills the earth. The seraphim also prepare the prophet for his mission to carry God's message to the people. The call narrative contrasts the majesty of God, holy and glorious and the human ordinariness of Isaiah, who must be prepared to bear God's message.

Most of us do not experience throne visions. Most of us find God in the experiences of daily life, in the ordinary reality of doing our work, talking with friends, in the ups and downs of family life, walking the dog, seeing a movie, riding the subway or kayaking on a lake. God comes to us where we are, as we are. Jesus met his first followers at their work. When Simon, Andrew (unnamed in this account), James and John first meet Jesus in Luke's Gospel, they were not overwhelmed by a vision but were fixed on their work. They were washing their nets after a fruitless night of fishing.

Jesus, however, began to preach from Peter's boat, a powerful image for God's presence in the ordinariness of human life. Not in the Temple or a synagogue, where Jesus could also be found, but in the boat of a few working men is where the encounter with the incarnate God took place. After Jesus finished speaking to the crowds, he turned to the work at hand. The work of fishing. Jesus told Simon to put out into the deep water. Simon was reluctant, especially when they had caught nothing all night, but when he did put the nets back into the water the catch of fish was almost immediate.

It is in response to the overwhelming catch of fish that Simon Peter recognizes the presence of God in his fishing boat in the seemingly ordinary person of Jesus. Like Isaiah in God's Temple, Simon's sense of unworthiness in the presence of God overwhelms him. "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" A profound recognition of God Incarnate took place not while Jesus was transfigured or enthroned in majesty, but in the casting and drawing up of fishing nets.

• **Do you experience the presence of Christ in the ordinary, the everyday? Watch for the Lord this ordinary week ahead.**

AMERICA MAGAZINE: February 1, 2016 Issue, John W. Martens.

Concerts Under the Dome - Today!

Today 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.

CONFIRMATION PREP SCHEDULE:

All Students Catholic School, Religious Ed and Home Schooled: **Ninth Grade** Candidates and Parent/Sponsor **Baptismal Retreat, Saturday, February 13, 2016** at Father Kelley Hall **1:30 PM until 6:00 PM.**

Eucharistic Adoration with Bishop Mark

Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at **6:30 PM** in the Cathedral. All students in Confirmation Prep are encouraged to attend. A social with Bishop will follow in the Parish Hall.

Next FIRE class is Sunday, February 21.

FIRST EUCHARIST PREP - On Wednesday, February 24, the Second of three Parent and Student Sessions for all young parishioners receiving First Eucharist this year will be held from **6:30 PM until 8:00 PM** in Seton Suite.

CATHEDRAL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

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 - February 10,
Friday - February 12, Friday - February 19;
Friday - February 26, Friday - March 4,
Friday - March 11, Friday - March 18
(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.

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

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 7, 2016

Readings: *Is 6:1-2,3-8; 1 Cor 15:1-11; Lk 5:1-11*

MASS INTENTIONS

February 8, Monday: Saint Jerome Emiliani, Priest

Readings: *1 Kgs 8:1-7,9-13; Mk 6:53-56*

6:45 AM In Thanks. & Remem. (Kling/Weaver Family)
8:00 AM Grace Porta, Birth. (Jeannine McCloskey)
12:00 PM Helen Zurilla, Anniversary (Family)

February 9, Tuesday: Weekday

Readings: *1 Kgs 8:22-23,27-30; Mk 7:1-13*

6:45 AM Joan Hirt (Flicks)
8:00 AM Pat Rabine (Tim and Joann Bettwy)
12:00 PM Lois Riley (Ron & Lynn Nagle Family)

February 10, **Ash Wednesday**

Readings: *Jl 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18*

6:45 AM William 'Bill' Crouse (Gerard Fleck)
8:00 AM Cowan Family: Living and Deceased (Skip)
12:00 PM Deacon John Rys (Kathie and Ken Civils)
5:30 PM Birthday Inten. of Teresa Blazewicz (Mom)

Lenten Lunch: 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM

Confessions: 7:00 PM

February 11, Thursday after Ash Wednesday

Readings: *Dt 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25*

6:45 AM Julia Febbo (Carol Jones Makdad)
8:00 AM Clementine Kawtoski (J. and W. Weakland)
12:00 PM Francis Lytle (Joe and Judi Nocito)

February 12, Friday after Ash Wednesday

Readings: *Is 58:1-9; Mt 9:14-15*

6:45 AM Dick Huber (Idy Caporusico)
8:00 AM Henriette Thibault (Cathedral Parish)
12:00 PM Nance Geis, Birthday (Mom and Family)
7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

February 13, Saturday after Ash Wednesday

Readings: *Is 58:9-14; Lk 5:27-32*

8:00 AM Nozzie Calabrese, Birthday (Family)
12:00 PM Bill Geis, Anniversary (Patty and Family)
Vigil: First Sunday of Lent

Readings: *Dt 26:4-10; Rom 10:8-13; Lk 4:1-13*

5:00 PM Esther Benton, Birthday (Janice Mastalski)

Confessions Throughout The Diocese

Observing the Jubilee of Mercy and welcoming the beginning of the Lenten Season, the Local Church will make the Sacrament of Reconciliation, an encounter with the compassionate mercy of God, available throughout our eight counties the day following Ash Wednesday. On **Thursday, February 11th, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM**, the faithful are invited to receive the Sacrament of Penance here in the Cathedral and in most of our neighboring parishes.



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

Liturgical Reflection ...

This **Wednesday, February 10**, is **Ash Wednesday** when the Church begins the forty day journey toward the Triduum (The Three Days) with the annual discipline of fasting, praying and giving alms. Ash Wednesday (February 10) and Good Friday (March 25) are days of fast and abstinence. All Fridays in Lent (February 12, 19, 26; March 4, 11, 18) are days of abstinence. **FASTING** refers to only one full meal, with two small meals and no eating otherwise for the day. **ABSTINENCE** refers to not eating meat at all during the day. The church directs the holy FAST to all those in their 18th year until their 60th year (Canon 1252). The ancient practice of fasting and abstaining can occur throughout other days in Lent. This is not obligatory and can take a variety of forms distinct from food.

Collection of Palm

Parishioners are invited to return all blessed palm from last year to be burned and used as ashes for Ash Wednesday, February 10. Baskets are placed at the Cathedral doors to collect this blessed palm.

Lenten Prayer Partners

Again this year, you are invited to assume the responsibility of a Prayer Partner during Lent. You are asked to intensify your praying, fasting, and alms-giving for those named as your prayer partners. In addition to the name of a parishioner, you will be given the name of a candidate for the Easter Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and/or Eucharist. Return the form provided in the Lent/Easter mailing or complete a form at the Church doors this weekend or next.

PRAYING THE STATIONS

Stations of the Cross will be prayed this **Friday** evening at **7:00 PM** and every Friday of Lent. Bring the family and walk the Stations as we make the way of the cross our own journey to Calvary and resurrection.

Year of Mercy: Bible Study

On Mondays, February 15, March 14, and April 18 from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM in the Seton Suite, you are invited to gather to break open the Word of God and reflect on God's mercy.

Cathedral Christian Mothers Meeting

All ladies of the parish are invited to the Seton Suite on Wednesday, February 10 at 6:30 PM for the monthly meeting of our Christian Mothers. Next meeting, March 9th.

Charismatic Prayer Group

The Charismatic Prayer Group will be meeting this Monday at 7:00 PM in the Cathedral. Come and be blessed. All are welcome.

**THINK SPRING - THINK BASKET BINGO
SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2016**

It's that time of year again for our **2nd 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, 946-0238; Paula Truby, 931-2838; or Lorraine Beck, 942-7774. Tickets are now available at the Parish Office for \$25.00 per person with value pack for an additional \$30. A **meeting** will be held on **Thursday, February 11** at **6:30 PM** in the Seton Suite for those interested in helping with this special event that proved to be a great fundraiser!

STUDENTS TO FEED THE HUNGRY

On **Sunday, February 21**, of the *Jubilee Year of Mercy*, our High School Students will be serving lunch to neighbors in need from 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM in Cathedral Hall. Anyone wishing to help out with this service project in any way is asked to contact Jean Koury at 949-2777.

Liturgical Reflection ...

JUBILEE

YEAR OF

MERCY

In all three readings, each individual is called by God. Isaiah is sent by God as his prophet. Saint Paul is claimed as an apostle, giving witness to the Lord's resurrection. Saint Peter, admitting his own sinfulness, is called to follow the Christ. Each person experienced the personal call from God to follow. By God's mercy we too have been called by Baptism to follow the Lord. Unworthy as we are, we too rely on God's mercy and follow. Our common vocation is to live the call of Jesus Christ and announce his mercy, compassion, reconciliation, and love to all we meet.

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

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, January 31, 2016 - \$8,624.00

Stewardship of Time

Thank you to Mary Ann Bell, Janet Belsey, Barbara Benson, Carol Chelton, Paula Clemens, Patty McCloskey, Sally Leiden, and Bill and Grace Smith who helped prepare our **Lent, Triduum, Easter Letter** for mailing this past Tuesday. If you did not receive this annual correspondence, please call the Parish Office at 944-4603. Friends of Cathedral Parish who would like a listing of all of our Lent and Easter activities are welcome to request a copy also.

CHRISTIAN INITIATION - RITE OF WELCOMING

Last Sunday at the 10:00 AM Mass the following were accepted and welcomed into the Church. Amya Miller was welcomed as a Catechumen, seeking the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Aaron Ebersole, Quintin Hesel, Joshua Settle, Amanda Shoenfelt and Dianna Walter, already one with us in Baptism, were accepted as Candidates, seeking the Sacraments of Confirmation and/or Eucharist. They now join our Catechumens, Cynthia Baum, Misty Hainsey and Rose Settle along with Candidates, Nicole Beck, Julie Criste, Matthew Criste and Lori Stiver in their final eight week journey through Lent to the Easter Sacraments. Keep them in prayer.

Baptism Congratulations

With permission of his pastor from Saint Camillus Parish in the Archdiocese of Boston, Henry Francis Simmons, son of Nathaniel and Monica Steckroth Simmons, was baptized here in the Cathedral, his mother's home parish on January 30. Congratulations also to Grandparents, Rich and Judy, and Godparents, Aunt Meredith and Uncle Nicholas. And on Sunday, January 31, Emersyn Rose Hesel, was also baptized. Congratulations to parents, Jason Hesel and Julie Waite along with sister, Adalyn Grace. May the graces of the Sacrament of Baptism strengthen both our children and the adults who care for them.