

FEBRUARY 14, 2016

Scripture Reflection

Lent is the time when the church once again looks to the model of Jesus Christ as we turn with renewed vigor from the subtle snares of sin. If we are to align ourselves spiritually in solidarity with Jesus, conversion is vital, for conversion is the lifeblood of repentance and the heartbeat of holiness. This requires our own personal spiritual acts of penance, but also actions with and on behalf of others, in the church and outside of the church, such as prayer for all those in need of conversion from sin. Jesus' own battle with evil was not just a personal battle but a battle for the salvation of all humankind.

Jesus thwarts temptation by relying on the word of God. When the evil one says to Jesus, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread," Jesus answers by citing Dt. 8:3: "One does not live by bread alone." When the devil offers Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if only he would worship him, Jesus rebuffs him with Dt. 6:13: "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him." Finally, when the devil challenges Jesus to show his dependence upon God by testing his faith that God would save him, Jesus cites Dt. 6:16: "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

Scripture is a bulwark against evil and essential for spiritual growth and conversion during Lent, but the devil also cites God's word to Jesus in Luke's temptation narrative. This is why the corporate element of Lent is so essential, that we come together as a church to support one another in our spiritual practices, like Bible study and fasting, by worshipping together, by praying for one another and by turning our hearts to the perfect model, Jesus Christ. Even the best of spiritual practices can become temptations to support our own desires or needs, or to turn us away from God. For true conversion, we must allow holiness to be a support for us as we turn toward God together.

• **Reflect on Jesus' time in the desert and temptation. Which temptations are troubling you at this time? Which sins do you need to turn away from? How can you help others in their times of temptation? What help do you need as you turn from sin and temptation to true conversion?**

AMERICA MAGAZINE: February 8, 2016 Issue, John W. Martens.

Moving Forward In Faith

Our Capital Campaign

Gifts continue to be made to the Parish Capital Campaign. Our total in pledges to date is: **\$1,272,213.00** The goal was set at 1,200,000; and we have met the goal for the renovation of the interior and exterior of the newly purchased building on Thirteenth Avenue, the demolition of the two buildings, and the creation of a new parking lot. Additional monies help with costs associated with the campaign company and the engineering firm drawing up the specifications for the three-floor building to be submitted to the city's Code Office. Parishioners are encouraged to be part of this historic moment in our history. If you have not yet made your pledge (possible over five years), please consider your gift and submit your pledge either in the mail, the Sunday collection, or at the Parish Office. Thank you!!

Catholic Daughters of the Americas

Court Prince Gallitzin #2625 is hosting **Stations of the Cross for Youth (K-8)** and their family members at Saint Therese of the Child Jesus Parish on Saturday, February 20 at 9:30 AM.

CATHEDRAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Next FIRE class is Sunday, February 21.

Seder Meal Class on Palm Sunday

Religious Ed. class for Sunday, March 20th will be held AFTER the 10:00 AM Mass in the Church Hall. We will be celebrating the traditional Seder Meal instead of our regular class. ***This is a class and attendance will be taken.*** All family members are invited to attend this prayerful experience.

FIRST EUCHARIST PREPARATION

On **Wednesday, February 24**, the Second of three Parent and Student Sessions required for all young parishioners receiving First Eucharist this year will be held at 6:30 PM in the Seton Suite.

LONGABERGER/VERA BRADLEY BINGO

Sunday April 3, 2016

Father Kelley Hall, 429 25th Avenue, 1:00 PM
Doors open at noon. **Tickets are available now at Cathedral Parish Office!** \$25.00 for regular games. \$30 additional for Value pack (108 door prize tickets, 6 walk-around tickets, 4 raffle tickets, dabber and three Special Games). To reserve tables call Roberta Burns @946-0238.

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 14, 2016

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

MASS INTENTIONS

February 15, Monday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46

6:45 AM Pauline Barry (Grandson, Tom Huber)
8:00 AM Lois Riley (Mary Litzinger)
12:00 PM Erla Strombaugh, Anniv. (Geraldine Rose)

February 16, Tuesday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15

6:45 AM Sandy Calabrese, Birthday (Family)
8:00 AM Erik C. Strobert (McNelis All-Stars)
12:00 PM Peace for Joe Tomlinson (Mom & Family)

February 17, Wednesday: Founders of the Servite Order

Readings: Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32

6:45 AM Eleanor Toth (Debbie Katowski)
8:00 AM Julia Febbo, Wed. Anniv. (Joan Conroy)
12:00 PM Kenneth Riggelman, Bir. (Ray & Ellen Kelly)

February 18, Thursday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Mt 7:7-12

6:45 AM Margaret McConnell (Charlene Frank)
8:00 AM Ruby Doyle (C. & P. Hauser/S. Conlon)
12:00 PM Danyll Rougeux (Annie Musser)

February 19, Friday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26

6:45 AM Merle and Joan Hirt (Children & Families)
8:00 AM Peggy Joyce (Family)
12:00 PM Fr. Louis Mulvehill (Tom, Pat, Marita Forr)

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

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

February 20, Saturday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48

8:00 AM George Porta, Birth. (Jeannine McCloskey)
12:00 PM Mildred Burchfield (Doris Daniels Family)
Vigil: Second Sunday of Lent

Readings: Gn 15:5-12, 17-18; Phil 3:17-4:1; Lk 9:28-36

5:00 PM Chuck Roberts (Wife, Marian)

Please remember the sick of the Parish in your Lenten prayers. May they receive comfort and healing from Christ, the Divine Physician.

Prayer Partners for Lent - Forms are available at the church doors. Everyone is invited to participate in the Prayer Partner activity this Lent. You will receive by mail the name of a parishioner along with the name of someone preparing to receive Baptism, Confirmation or Eucharist during the Easter Season.

LENT HAS BEGUN

The forty days of Lent prepare us for the Three Days. Our ashes this past Wednesday reminded us that like Jesus who died on the cross, we too will die. The blessed ashes also called us to repentance. We must turn away from sin. Through *Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving*, we prepare to commemorate the Three Days - Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter. The spiritual quality of our Lent will reflect the spiritual quality of our Easter. The serious, penitential days of Lent have arrived. The Cathedral is simply decorated - no flowers, no plants. The Cross is placed next to the baptismal font; the purple hangings are displayed, and only two candles stand on each side of the altar. There are no *Alleluias* and no *Glory to God*. As we pray the *I Confess* at the beginning of Mass, the Church asks that we strike our chest once with our hand at the words "through my most grievous fault". Sinfulness and the need for God's mercy are before us. Intensify prayer, fasting, and giving alms to the poor. Baskets are placed at the church doors for your donations of non-perishable food items or cleaning and paper products throughout the Lent and Easter seasons. Plan to go to Confession during these Lenten days. The parish Communal Penance Service is scheduled for Wednesday, March 16.

The CROSS - Our beautiful eight foot CROSS has been placed at the baptismal font for the seasons of Lent and Easter. This is the cross that will be used on Good Friday for veneration. This custom-made cross holds the relic of the True Cross. Special respect is to be shown to this sacred object. As you enter and leave the Cathedral by way of the front doors, take time to show reverence to this Cross. A genuflection would be proper; one may kiss the sacred relic; one may touch the relic of the True Cross. Please make the conscious effort to show some form of respect to this very holy symbol of the faith. During the forty days, take more time and thought when signing yourself with the sign of the cross.

Charismatic Prayer Group

The Charismatic Prayer Group does not meet this Monday but will meet again on Tuesday, February 23rd for Eucharistic Adoration with Bishop Mark and area Confirmation students.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, February 7, 2016 - \$10,859.88

CHRISTIAN INITIATION

Today at the **10:00 AM Mass** our Catechumens and Candidates for the Easter Sacraments will celebrate the **Rite of Sending Forth**. We affirm these individuals as they continue their journey of preparation for Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist to be celebrated at the Easter Vigil, Saturday, March 26 at 8:30 PM. We continue to pray with them as they are sent to Bishop Bartchak for the **Rite of Election** to take place here in the Cathedral at **7:00 PM** this evening.

Pictures of Candidates for Easter Sacraments

At the three doors of the Cathedral you will find the names and pictures of those journeying to the Easter Sacraments: our Catechumens and Candidates; our children receiving First Eucharist; and our high school students to receive Confirmation. Be sure to look for your "Prayer Partner".

Year of Mercy: Bible Study

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

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, if you wish, walk the Stations as we make the way of the cross our own journey to Calvary and resurrection. Mark your calendar also for Wednesday, March 23, at 10:00 AM when our parochial school students will present the *Living Stations* here in the Cathedral.

Liturgical Reflection ...

Throughout the weeks of Lent in this Jubilee of Mercy, the Diocese will reflect on the Corporal Works of Mercy. These are seven ways to do almsgiving the forty days of Lent. This first week the works to **feed the hungry** and **give drink to the thirsty** are highlighted. We share our own resources with others. Have you ever made lunch or dinner for the family -- or picked dinner up for someone at the drive-through? Ever made a peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwich for a younger sister or brother? Ever poured a glass of milk or water for someone? Is there a place in your community that collects food for the hungry? Maybe a monetary donation can be given to aid the starving and thirsty beyond our borders. To do this we may have to go without something we like to have, but don't actually need. God's mercy shines through our acts.

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

MARDI GRAS THANK YOU

A special thanks to the following who helped make the Mardi Gras a great success: Tim Bettwy, Bill and Jen Crawford, Fred and Dwight Drexler, Tony Eckenrode, Janet Hammond, Patty Hite, Chris Laraia, Jean Koury, Don Martino, Rick Tomlinson, Paula and Lee Truby, and Linda and Steve Yaskow.

Daily Lenten Collection

A basket is located on the table at the cross aisle for daily collections at the 6:45 AM and 8:00 AM daily Masses. A collection will be taken up at the Noon Mass throughout Lent. All monies will go to help the needy of our community and our partnered parish, St. Margaret Mary in Jamaica.

Lenten Lunch This Friday At Cathedral

Cathedral Social Committee is serving Lenten Lunches on the Fridays of Lent from 11:00 AM until 1:30 PM or until sold out. The menu includes a fish sandwich with your choice of macaroni & cheese or french fries for \$6.50. Please note: there will be no Lunch served on Good Friday, March 25th.

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.

CONFIRMATION PREP SCHEDULE

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.