

FEBRUARY 21, 2016

Scripture Reflection

In today's First Reading we listen in on God's intimate conversation with Abram (who will become Abraham, our father in faith). God promises descendants and Abram trusts the promise, yet he also asks for confirmation. God then instructs Abram in preparing a ritual to seal their covenant--an elaborate animal sacrifice in which God appears as a "smoking fire pot and a flaming torch." To the promise of descendants, the Lord then adds an expanse of land.

On hearing that Jesus takes his companions up the mountain, we should expect something extraordinary, since in the Scriptures mountaintops are the setting for divine encounter. Jesus' Transfiguration is a theophany, a visible manifestation of his future glory. The appearance of Moses and Elijah places Jesus in the lineage of the Law and the Prophets, which he fulfills through his own mission. That mission will culminate in his suffering, death, and Resurrection. Despite Peter's plea that they stay on the mountain, Jesus sets out for Jerusalem.

We all have work to finish here on earth and we do not know the time of its completion, which is why it is important for us to be faithful and attentive to each of our tasks at all times, however dull they appear. The glory awaits us, as Peter, John and James experienced during the transfiguration of Jesus. It is the glorious reality at the heart of our divine call and our divine future. The path to this future, however, passes through the experience of life, whether boring, exciting or suffused with suffering, as Jesus knew. For in the transfiguration, Moses and Elijah were talking to Jesus about "his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem" The glory passes through the paschal mystery, Jesus' departure paving the way for our journey home.

• **Meditate on Jesus' glory and the glory promised to us. When is daily life most difficult or dreary for you? How does the reality of glory enliven you or give you hope?**

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: February 15, 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: **\$1,290,213.00** 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!!

Do You Have A Suggestion?

Our new building has been referred to as the Parish Activity Center. It will house parish offices, religious education classrooms, and a hall for parish gatherings (educational and social). The Parish Pastoral Council, the Parish Finance Council, and the Building Committee would like to seek suggestions from parishioners for the naming of the new building. Do you have an idea on what name to give our new site? Please place your suggestion on a piece of paper and drop in the collection or at the Parish Office.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS PLEASE NOTE:

A new liturgical ministry schedule for March and early April is being prepared. Unavailable dates or changes are needed as soon as possible.

BASKET BINGO PLANNING MEETING

Thursday, February 25, in the Parish Hall at 6:30 PM. All those who helped last year and anyone willing to lend a hand for this special event on April 3, 2016 are encouraged to attend.

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. The menu includes a fish sandwich with macaroni & cheese or french fries for \$6.50.

Year of Mercy: Bible Study - You are invited to gather on Tuesdays, March 15 and April 19, from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM in the Seton Suite, to break open the Word of God and reflect on God's mercy.

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

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

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 21, 2016

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

MASS INTENTIONS

February 22, Monday: Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle

Readings: 1 Pt 5:1-4; Mt 16:13-19

6:45 AM M. Virginia Jones (Sue & Toni Wesner)
8:00 AM William Bettwy, Anniv. (Tim and Joann)
12:00 PM Anna Marie Mullen, Anniv. (Aunt Louise)

February 23, Tuesday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Is 1:10, 16-20; Mt 23:1-12

6:45 AM John Luddy (Batkiewicz Family)
8:00 AM Barbara Barrett (Tim and Rita Haluska)
12:00 PM Betty McCabe (Brooks and Karen Smith)

February 24, Wednesday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Jer 18:18-20; Mt 20:17-28

6:45 AM Bill Crouse (Anna M. Jacobs)
8:00 AM Daniel Spinazzola, Sr., Anniv. (Family)
12:00 PM Paul Rose (Jim Riley)

February 25, Thursday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Jer 17:5-10; Lk 16:19-31

6:45 AM Joan Hirt (Flicks)
8:00 AM Kevin Elvey (Janie and Jim Davidson)
12:00 PM Rose Ann Himmelein (J. & S. Cuzzolina Fam.)

February 26, Friday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

6:45 AM Betty Ann Schoch (F. & C. Dambeck)
8:00 AM Terry J. Joyce (Family)
12:00 PM James Moschella (Mark & Diane Moschella)

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

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

February 27, Saturday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

8:00 AM Joe Tomlinson (Cathedral Parish)
12:00 PM Tom Byrne (Cecelia Hollern)

Vigil: Third Sunday of Lent

Readings: Ex 17:3-7; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42

5:00 PM Ralph Conroy, Wed. Anniv. (Wife, Joan)

Rest In Peace

Please remember in prayer Joe Tomlinson, Cathedral Usher and past Parish Council Chair, and Erin Conrad Luciano, who died and were buried from the Cathedral this past week. May they rest in peace and may their families be comforted in the faith.

Pray For Our Sick - Remember in your Lenten prayers our sisters and brothers who are weakened by illness. Prayer is sometimes the best prescribed medicine.

CHRISTIAN INITIATION

Last Sunday at the Diocesan *Rite of Election* our Catechumens: Cynthia Baum, Misty Hainsey, Amya Miller and Rose Settle were presented to Bishop Mark and invited to sign their names in the Book of the Elect, enrolling in the final steps of preparation for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist in the Catholic Church. And with his greeting, on behalf of the universal Church, Bishop Mark called our Candidates: Nicole Beck, Julie Criste, Matthew Criste, Aaron Ebersole, Quintin Helsel, Joshua Settle, Amanda Shoenfelt, Lori Stiver, and Dianna Walter who seek Confirmation and Eucharist, to Continuing Conversion. Please pray especially for these men and women continuing their journey to the Easter Sacraments during this Lenten Season of purification and enlightenment.

SCRUTINIES

Beginning next Sunday at the 10:00 AM Mass, the Church will celebrate the three scrutinies with our Elect and Candidates. On the Third Sunday of Lent, February 28, the Gospel will tell the story of the woman at the well; on the Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 6, the Gospel will tell of the man born blind who regained his sight; and on the Fifth Sunday of Lent, March 13, the Gospel will proclaim the story of Lazarus being called from his grave into life. The scrutinies are not only for our Elect and Candidates, but also for us, the fully initiated. We are to look deeply and seriously at our lives these Lenten days and see what needs to be cleansed of sin and what calls us closer to our God. Please enter the next three weeks with open hearts as we prepare to die and rise with Christ after the forty days of Lent. At the conclusion of the First Scrutiny, our Elect and Candidates receive the gift of the Creed from the assembled at Mass. Those preparing for the Easter Sacraments will stand throughout the body of the Cathedral Church and receive the Profession of Faith from parishioners gathered at the 10:00 AM Mass.

NOTE: For the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of Lent, the scriptural readings will be from Cycle A.

Lenten Evening Prayer

Every Sunday in Lent the Cathedral Parish gathers at 6:30 PM for Evening Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in exposition. This Liturgy concludes with Benediction. All are invited to participate in this Lenten prayer this evening.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, February 14, 2016 - \$9,343.00

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 is taken up at the Noon Mass throughout Lent. All monies will go to help the needy of our community and our partner parish, St. Margaret Mary in Lionel Town, Jamaica. The bright yellow envelope that appears in our March packet is also for our sister parish.

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".

STUDENTS TO FEED THE HUNGRY TODAY!

On this Second Sunday of Lent in 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 is welcome.

F.I.R.E. TONIGHT - Sunday, February 21, 2016 in the Parish Hall from 6:15 PM - 8:30 PM.

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.

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.

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL 2016

Many parishioners have received their letter for this year's Annual Appeal. As discussed at our meetings in the midst of our Capital Campaign, it was stated that the Diocese will take off 30% of the usual goal for one year. So the 2016 goal for the Cathedral Parish is **\$43,522.00** (this reflects a one-third reduction of \$21,728.00 from the original goal of \$65,250.00). It is important that our Parish participate and meet our 2016 goal.

Monsignor Mazur will speak at all Masses this weekend on the Annual Catholic Appeal. Next week (February 27 and 28) Maryann Joyce Bistline, Chair of the Parish Finance Council, will speak at Masses.

A sincere word of appreciation for our impressive and generous response to the Capital Campaign must be stated. With this historic project happening at this time, parishioners are asked to be as generous as possible with this year's Annual Catholic Appeal.

Enclosure

Please review the flyer enclosed regarding the Annual Catholic Appeal 2016 which is about to begin here in our Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown.

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.

Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group

The Charismatic Prayer Group will meet *Tuesday* February 23 this week instead of Monday, as we will be leading the music for Eucharistic Adoration with Bishop Mark and area students preparing for Confirmation at 6:30 PM in the Cathedral.

Liturgical Reflection ...

This second week of Lent the Local Church observes the Corporal Work of Mercy to **shelter the homeless**. The media bombards us with information on the flight of immigrants seeking a homeland. The Lord would have us welcome the stranger in our midst. Catholic Relief Services aids orphans, refugees, and victims of natural disasters and wars. Do you know someone from the parish or wider community who needs some home repairs or yard work? Housing is a primary concern for many families; some of them live right around us. Catholic Charities ministers to the homeless. Being a follower of Christ means we may have to leave our comfort zone and become involved in the community. God's mercy shines through our involvement.

JUBILEE

YEAR OF

MERCY

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