

FEBRUARY 28, 2016

Scripture Reflection

The story of Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman is the first in a trilogy of readings from John on the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent. Jesus' revelation "I am he, the one speaking with you" is one of several "I am" statements found in John's Gospel account. The entire story is rich with images of Baptism, Eucharist, and Reconciliation. In this intimate dialogue, Jesus reveals himself as the Messiah who comes from the Father to give water to all who thirst for eternal life.

Perhaps the metaphor of thirst, even more than the metaphor of hunger, conveys the desperation of the soul's need for God. We might pass a day or two or even more without food and experience only mild discomfort. But cut off from water, we are quickly afflicted with thirst; we experience it as an immediate threat to our life and health. The Samaritan woman must already feel the pangs of spiritual thirst. Though initially disconcerted by being addressed by a Jewish man, she engages him in conversation, yearning for the living water that he offers, bringing relief to her life of spiritual longing. Lent is an opportunity to let ourselves feel our spiritual thirst and to welcome the living water that Jesus offers.

The key image in today's readings is living water. Christians first experience this living water through Baptism. During Lent the elect are preparing for Baptism, and the rest of us accompany them as we prepare to renew our baptismal vows at Easter. Rediscover the powerful reality of your Baptism. Focus your prayer this week on our baptismal promises so that you will be ready to renew them at Easter. Baptism is central to Lenten spirituality.

• **What am I spiritually thirsting for? Acceptance? Wisdom? Forgiveness? Mercy? Something else?**

AT HOME WITH THE WORD 2016. (C) 2015 ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO, LITURGY TRAINING PUBLICATIONS, 3949 South Racine Avenue CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60609. REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION.

Living the Word, Year A, Laurie Brink and Frederick Bauerschmidt, World Library Publications, 2013, page 78.

Moving Forward In Faith

Our Capital Campaign

Gifts continue to be made to the Parish Capital Campaign. Our total in pledges to date is: **\$1,336,857.25**. Last fall the Cathedral Parish was gifted with the Homer Poulos Estate. The Parish received \$46,644.25; these monies have been added to the capital campaign as we needed initial funds. 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.

LONGABERGER/VERA BRADLEY BASKET BINGO - Sunday April 3, 2016

Proceeds will assist our children in Catholic Schools, our Religious Education Program and Youth Activities. Want to help? The Committee is in need of theme items (baby items, picnic items, tea time, bath time, play time, car care, etc.) The committee will put together the baskets; we need the fillers. Items can be dropped off at the Parish Office during the week. Gift cards or monetary donations may be placed in the collection basket with envelopes marked Basket Bingo. If you would like items picked up call Paula Truby at 931-2838 or Roberta Burns at 946-0238. Items need to be collected by March 15. **Tickets will be sold after all weekend Masses in March.**

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 28, 2016

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

MASS INTENTIONS

February 29, Monday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: 2 Kgs 5:1-15; Lk 4:24-30

6:45 AM Eric Hockenberry, Jr., Birthday Int. (Family)
8:00 AM Betsy Keating Meehan, Anniv. (Kilcoynes)
12:00 PM Kim (Friend)

March 1, Tuesday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Dn 3:25, 24-43; Mt 18:21-35

6:45 AM Eleanor Toth (Janet and Michele Belsey)
8:00 AM Mary McCall, Anniversary (Family)
12:00 PM Joe Tomlinson (Greg and Kathy Clemens)

March 2, Wednesday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Dt 4: 2, 5-9; Mt r:17-19

6:45 AM Coy R. Smith, Birthday (Wife)
8:00 AM Trudy Kane (Carol Smith)
12:00 PM Kenneth Riggelman, Birth. (R. & E. Kelly)

March 3, Thursday: Saint Katharine Drexel, Virgin

Readings: Jer 7:23-28; Lk 11:14-23

6:45 AM Joan Hirt (Children, Grandchildren & Families)
8:00 AM Sam Coen (Kevin Roesch Family)
12:00 PM Danyll Rougeux (Rose and Hank Martin)

March 4, Friday: Saint Casimir

Readings: Hos 14:2-10; Mk 12:28-34

6:45 AM Deceased of McGreal Family
8:00 AM Deacon John Rys (Bauer Family)
12:00 PM Ruby Doyle (Kevin and Jane Byrne)

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

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

March 5, Saturday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Hos 6:1-6; Lk 18:9-14

8:00 AM Argenia Sposeto (Kathleen Grove)
12:00 PM Herb Kutruff (Tom and Marlene Liszka)
Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Lent

Readings: 1 Sm 16:1,6-7,10-13; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41

5:00 PM Rose Ann Himmelein (Carol Makdad)

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.

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.

SCRUTINIES

Beginning this 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.

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".

Enclosure

Included in this week's bulletin is a copy of Bishop Bartchak's letter to the Parish regarding the Annual Catholic Appeal 2016. On the other side is information on **Holy Trinity Catholic School** now accepting registrations for 2016-2017.

Annual Catholic Appeal 2016

Late this week every parishioner was mailed a letter from Monsignor Mazur regarding the Annual Catholic Appeal 2016. If you do not receive this correspondence please call the Parish Office. Our Pastor spoke at each Mass last weekend about this year's appeal, and this weekend Maryann Joyce Bistline, Chair of the Parish Finance Council, will address us at Mass.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, February 21, 2016 - \$8,312.00

Note of Appreciation

Fred Reismeier has faithfully served on the Parish Finance Council over the past years. Due to family health issues he has asked to step down from his membership. It is with regret that we accept his resignation. We are grateful for his positive and insightful presence over the years.

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.

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.

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.

Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group

The Charismatic Prayer Group will not meet on Monday, February 29, but will meet next on Monday, March 7, at 7:00 PM in the Cathedral. Father David Rizzo will be giving a spiritual talk. All are welcome.

Liturgical Reflection ...

JUBILEE

YEAR OF

MERCY

On the third week of Lent the Diocese cites the Corporal Work of Mercy to **clothe the naked**. Few people are literally naked, but millions of people own no more clothing than what they wear each day. Search your closet and your heart, you may discover that you have more than you need. Rather than having a yard sale, are there some items of clothing that can be given to the local St. Vincent DePaul Society? Perhaps these Lenten days you can refrain from unnecessary purchases and give the money to Catholic Charities to help those in need of necessary clothing such as diapers, blankets, scarves, hats, and gloves. God's mercy shines forth when we forget ourselves and care for the needs of others.

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

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.

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.

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. Please note: there will be no Lunch served on Good Friday.

New and Expectant Parents Please Note:

Our next Session of **Baptismal Preparation** is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 8** at **7:00 PM** in the Seton Suite. This required class is offered every other month. Call the Parish Office at 944-4603 to register. Next date, Tuesday, May 10.

Feeding Our Neighbors - Thank you to Butch Winkler, Janet Hammond, Mary Ann Bell, and Jeanine McCloskey for helping to feed the hungry. A big Thank You to our high school students and their parents who also helped make this day so successful. Your help was greatly appreciated.

F.I.R.E. CLASSES for March

March 6 - 6:15 PM - 8:30 PM in Cathedral Hall.

March 20 - 6:15 PM - 8:30 PM in Cathedral Hall.