

MARCH 13, 2016

Scripture Reflection

The Gospel story of the death and raising of Lazarus is a prelude to the events of Jesus' own death and Resurrection. It includes another of the "I am" statements by Jesus. In speaking with Martha he proclaims, "I am the resurrection and the life." Those who believe in him will not be separated from him, even in death. In the midst of the story some bystanders taunt him, asking, "could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something?" In a similar way he will be mocked when he is on the cross: "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself."

The Gospel presents a striking picture of Jesus, who, despite his love for Lazarus, delays his return until Lazarus has died, in order that his disciples might come to greater belief. Sandwiched between Lazarus' death and Jesus' raising him from the dead is Jesus' encounter with Martha, Lazarus' sister. In conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman, Jesus had identified himself as the Messiah. Here in another theological discussion with Martha he declares; "I am the resurrection and the life." Martha responds affirmatively. "I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God." And yet this Messiah is not beyond human emotion. Jesus begins to weep at the tomb of Lazarus.

Today's Gospel from John has great baptismal symbolism. One particular example is found in the words of Jesus, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die" (John 11:25-26). That concept means that when one is baptized, the presence of Christ is already realized in that person. Christ's words stress that the spiritual life of the Christian, which begins at baptism, will never die. Lent leads us to professing a faith that is life-giving. Do you believe in God the Father almighty? Do you believe in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord? Do you believe in the Holy Spirit? Are you ready to answer? The good thing is that we answer as a community, as a body, supporting each other in faith.

• **Disciples of Jesus believe not that life ends in death but that death ends in life. God offers us new life. Let us invite Jesus to heal us and bring us to life by leaving our tombs, becoming unbound, and letting each other go free.**

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*, Laurie Brink and Paul Colloton, World Library Publications, 2015, page 87-88. *Living the Word*, Ralph Kuehner and Joseph Jakinialis, World Library Publications, 2006, page 96-97. *Living the Word*, Dianne Bergant and James Wallace, World Library Publications, 2012, page 84.

Moving Forward In Faith

Our Capital Campaign

Gifts continue to be made to the Parish Capital Campaign. Our total in pledges to date is: **\$1,342,857.25**. 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 for the engineering firm drawing up the specifications for the three-floor building to be submitted to the city's Code Office. Two additional pledges were received this week. 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!

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. Thus far we have collected almost \$4,000.00. 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.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas

Court Prince Gallitzin #2625 will meet on Monday, March 14, in the St. Rose of Lima Social Hall at 6:30 PM for a social followed by a 7:00 PM meeting. New members are welcome!

FIRE Rally Retreat:

There will be a FIRE Rally on Saturday, April 16, 2016 from 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM, at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. Exciting talks and prayer experiences to ignite the flame of the Holy Spirit in your life. Speakers include: Fr. Jonathan St. Andre, TOR; Bob and Marci Sutton, Sr. Linda LaMagna, CCW; Msgr. Robert Mazur and Bishop Mark Bartchak. Music will be led by the Cathedral and St. Joan Charismatic Prayer Groups. Cost is \$18. Students are free. Pre-registration is required as lunch will be provided. To register e-mail tonycond@aol.com or call 941-3832. All ages are welcome. See the brochure enclosed in this bulletin for more information.

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 13, 2016

Readings: Ez 37:12-14; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45:1-41

MASS INTENTIONS

March 14, Monday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Dn 13:1-9,15-17,19-30,33-62; Jn 8:1-11

6:45 AM Dick Huber (Mike and Sherry Byrne)
8:00 AM Mary Wozniak (Children)
12:00 PM Birthday Int. of Eric Hockenberry, Sr. (Family)

March 15, Tuesday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Nm 21:4-9; Jn 8:21-30

6:45 AM Eleanor Toth (Anthony and Patty Tazza)
8:00 AM Rick Cowan & Karen Cowan Dougherty (Mom)
12:00 PM Lois J. Riley (Cathedral Staff)

March 16, Wednesday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Dn 3:14-20,91-92,95; Jn 8:31-42

6:45 AM Bill Crouse (Anna M. Jacobs)
8:00 AM Joe Moran (McNelis All-Stars)
12:00 PM Danyll Rougeux (Rose and Hank Martin)
6:30 PM Communal Penance Service

March 17, Thursday: Saint Patrick, Bishop

Readings: Gn 17:3-9; Jn 8:51-59

6:45 AM Beatrice Crisman (Spinazzola Family)
8:00 AM Deceased Kilgeever Abbey (Kilcoyne Fam.)
12:00 PM Annie Hanlin (Pat Rhoa)

March 18, Friday: Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop, Doc.

Readings: Jer 20:10-13; Jn 10:31-42

6:45 AM Jordan Over (Cathedral Parish)
8:00 AM Pat Rabine (Dave and Karen Rhoa)
12:00 PM Erin Luciano (Rita Adams Family)

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

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

March 19, Saturday: Saint Joseph, Husband of B.V. Mary

Readings: Rom 4:13,16-18,22; Lk 2:41-51

8:00 AM Michael F. Zaczek, Anniv, (Carol Smith)
12:00 PM Henriette Thibault (Tom & Mary Boslet)
Vigil: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
Readings: Lk 19: 28-40 (Blessing of Palm/Procession)
Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Lk 22:14-23:56
5:00 PM Pat Geis (Alice and Butch Winkler)

Mass Schedule Note:

Due to the **Chrism Mass, Monday, March 21** celebrated at **11:00 AM**, there will be no Noon Mass on Monday of Holy Week. All are invited to participate in the Chrism Mass where Bishop Mark will bless the sacred oils to be distributed to all diocesan parishes. This annual Liturgy celebrates the unity of the Church as Bishop gathers with his college of presbyters, assisted by his deacons, with all the faithful.

THIRD SCRUTINY

Today we celebrate the third and final Rite of Scrutiny at 10:00 AM Mass. The Gospel of John proclaims the raising of Lazarus from the dead. Please pray with our Elect and Candidates as they reflect on areas in their lives that are still bound by sin. Elect, Candidates, Sponsors and Team will attend a **Palm Sunday Retreat** at Saint Catherine of Siena Church, Duncansville, next Sunday, March 20. Please keep them in your prayers.

PENANCE SERVICE WEDNESDAY!

You are invited to join our Bishop with a dozen of his priests in the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Lent is the Church's season to remind the faithful of our need to turn from sin and seek God's mercy. We seek reconciliation with God and our neighbor. Gather with all who identify themselves as sinners joyfully proclaiming the love and forgiveness of God. A Lenten Communal Penance Service will be celebrated this **Wednesday, March 16** at **6:30 PM** here in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. This public gathering of believers is a great preparation for the celebration of the Easter mysteries. Plan to gather for this hour of prayer celebrating God's mercy.

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.

Year of Mercy: Bible Study This Tuesday

You are invited to join the group of parishioners meeting this **Tuesday, 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.

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.

Living Stations - Our parochial school students will present the *Living Stations* on **Wednesday, March 23** at **10:00 AM** here in the Cathedral. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, March 6, 2016 - \$9,112.00

Easter Flower Memorials - If you have not deposited your special envelope in memory of a loved one this weekend (or any envelope marked clearly with your intention), please make these returns to the Parish Office by Palm Sunday, March 20, for publication in the Easter bulletin.

CATHEDRAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sunday, March 20 - Palm Sunday Seder Meal Class will begin at 11:00 AM in the Church Hall. All family members are encouraged to join in this prayerful experience. Parents are asked to donate individually wrapped candies to be used for Easter treats for our children. Please drop off donations by March 20th.

Second F.I.R.E. CLASS for March

March 20 - Class will be held in Cathedral Hall 6:15 PM -8:30 PM.

LONGABERGER/VERA BRADLEY

BASKET BINGO - Sunday April 24, 2016

Father Kelley Hall, 429 25th Avenue, 1:00 PM

Tickets are available now! The \$25.00 entry ticket includes 15 games of Basket Bingo (featuring Longaberger baskets and Vera Bradley bags) with complimentary food and beverages. For \$30.00 more you can purchase the additional Value Pack which includes: 108 door prize tickets, 6 walk-around tickets, a dobber and Bingo cards for 5 Special Games. **Tickets are being sold after all weekend Masses at the Cathedral Square Door.** You may also purchase tickets at the Parish Office weekdays between 9:30 AM and 5:30 PM. To reserve tables please call Roberta Burns at 946-0238. Donations are still being accepted to fill baskets. Call Paula Truby: 931-2838 or Roberta Burns: 946-0238 for pick-up by April 5.

Liturgical Reflection ...

JUBILEE

YEAR OF

MERCY

The fifth week of Lent the Diocese affirms the Corporal Work of Mercy to **visit the imprisoned**. Get in touch with prison chaplains who can tell how to reach out to inmates. Sometimes it is possible to send cards especially during the holidays; this would require a parent's permission obviously. We cannot overlook the mode of visiting anonymously by prayer. You might ask God to send some special strength or comfort to the prisoners who feel most despairing at that moment, to a prisoner whose health or life is in danger, to a prisoner who has been unjustly sentenced or abandoned by his family. Followers of the condemned Christ are challenged to reach out to those condemned and sentenced in our day. God's mercy is evident in our actions.

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

PALM SUNDAY NEXT WEEK

All Masses will begin next week on the front portico of the Cathedral. Palm branches will be blessed at the beginning of each Mass at the front door of the Cathedral. We will enter the Cathedral holding our blessed palm, singing our entrance song, and remembering how our Lord entered the holy city of Jerusalem to meet his agony and death, and his glorious resurrection.

HOLY THURSDAY DINNER - PLEASE CALL

At the end of Lent and as we enter *The Three Days*, the Parish will gather for **Dinner** at **6:00 PM** on **March 24** in the church hall before our 7:30 PM Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper. There will be a basket placed on the serving table to receive donations (if able) for this catered meal.

Last 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.

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. With this historic project happening at this time, parishioners are asked to be as generous as possible with this year's Annual Catholic Appeal.