

MAY 29, 2016

Scripture Reflection

On this Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, the readings are connected by themes of blessing, thanksgiving, and memorial, offering insights for Eucharistic reflection. In the First Reading from Genesis, Melchizedek offers a blessing prayer. The interplay of blessing and thanksgiving is at the heart of the Eucharistic liturgy. In the words of institution Paul hands on to us, we receive the words of Jesus, who interprets his own sacrificial death on our behalf and speaks of the real presence when he breaks the bread and says: "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Luke's account of the feeding of the five thousand is rich with imagery and Eucharistic overtones. The miracle of feeding so many with so little sends some searching for a logical explanation. But that exercise distracts us from the heart of the story: an astonishing expression of God's generosity acting through Jesus. Jesus' action is another gesture of compassion in his ministry, and a continuation of the providence of God in the history of God's people.

Today's feast focuses on the Eucharist as "the very sacrifice of the Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus which he instituted to perpetuate the sacrifice of the cross throughout the ages until his return in glory. Thus he entrusted to his Church this memorial of his death and Resurrection. It is a sign of unity, a bond of charity, a paschal banquet, in which Christ is consumed, the mind is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory is given to us" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, No. 282*). The real presence is the central theological dimension of this feast, but the catechism notes numerous other elements of eucharistic theology in the feast, like memorial, sign of unity, bond of charity, paschal banquet and eschatological pledge of future glory.

• **How do you receive the real presence of Christ in the sacrament of the Eucharist? How are you making the presence of Christ known in others? How do you feed others with the gift of the Eucharist?**

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: May 23-30, 2016 Issue, John W. Martens.

FORTNIGHT FOR FREEDOM

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops will once again sponsor a **Fortnight for Freedom** between June 21 and July 4, a time when our liturgical calendar celebrates a series of great martyrs who remained faithful in the face of persecution by political power-- St. Thomas More and St. John Fisher, St. John the Baptist, SS. Peter and Paul, and the First Martyrs of Rome. The theme this year is "**Witnesses to Freedom**". And we will look at the lives of more than 14 women and men of faith, from all over the world, who bear witness to authentic freedom in Christ.

In observance of this fortnight, Bishop Mark Bartchak will preside at a **Holy Hour** on **Thursday, June 23, at 7:00 PM** here in the Altoona Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. The Holy Hour will include; Evening Prayer, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, a Homily by Bishop, and Benediction. Plan to join in our unified prayer for the preservation of religious liberty.

FAITH DAY AT DELGROSSO'S 2016

Come! Join Catholics from across the Diocese to celebrate our faith and enjoy a day of rides and slides!! Or just come and enjoy America's best amusement park food!! **SUNDAY, JUNE 26 - DelGrosso's Amusement Park in Tipton, PA.**

Highlights of the day include: **Liturgy at 3:00 PM** with Bishop Mark; a **Picnic** in the diocesan pavilion at **5:00 PM**; and over 30 different park rides and games. New for 2016 the opening of **LAGUNA SPLASH** with a wave pool, the Lazy River, and a variety of other water features and of course the Tipton Rapids and Waterslides! At the **Parish Office** you may reserve (1) Diocesan Faith Day Vouchers which when presented at the park will allow you to purchase **All-Day Ride & Slide Passes** for a reduced price of \$20 (a \$29.95 value)! Additionally, \$3 for each pass sold will be donated to the Angel Fund for Camp Zaccheaus and Camp Timothy; (2) Tickets for the Picnic after Mass. Please bring a free-will offering for Catholic Charities. For more information, contact Francine Swope the in the Diocesan Youth Ministry Office at 317-2646 or on the web www.dioceseaj.org.

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.

ANOINTING 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

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

**THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST
(CORPUS CHRISTI)**

MAY 29, 2016

Readings: Gn 14: 18-20; 1 Cor 11: 23-26; Lk 9: 11-17

MASS INTENTIONS

May 30, Monday: Memorial Day "For Peace and Justice"

Readings: Is 9:1-6; Jn 14:23-29

9:00 AM Tom Byrne (Terry and Kathy Tomassetti)

May 31, Tuesday: Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Readings: Zep 3:14-18; Lk 1:39-56

6:45 AM Msgr. Thomas Madden (Estate)

8:00 AM Brian and Barry Elmers (Skip Cowan)

12:00 PM Birthday Inten., Nicholas Hockenberry (Family)

June 1, Wednesday: Saint Justin, Martyr

Readings: 2 Tm 1:1-3,6-12; Mk 12:18-27

6:45 AM Myron Yeager (Bruno and Family)

8:00 AM Mike Smith, Anniversary (Family)

12:00 PM Sam Coen (Donna and Kirk Kling)

June 2, Thursday: Saints Marcellinus and Peter, Martyrs

Readings: 2 Tm 2:8-15; Mk 12:28-34

6:45 AM William 'Bill' Crouse, Birthday (Family)

8:00 AM Special Intention (Adelman Family)

12:00 PM Nathan Boslet (Vogel Family)

June 3, Friday: The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Readings: Ez 34:11-16; Rom 5:5-11; Lk 15:3-7

6:45 AM Dick Huber (Thomas and Kathy Jurma)

8:00 AM Pat Rabine (Jim and Steph Kilcoyne)

12:00 PM Lisa A. Belsey Pufka, Bir/Ann. (Janet & Michele)

June 4, Saturday: Immaculate Heart of Blessed Virgin Mary

Readings: 2 Tm 4:1-8; Lk 2:41-51

8:00 AM Paul G. Cassarly (Jennifer and Cliff Plank)

12:00 PM Andrea Crum (Bob and Chris Laraia)

Vigil: Tenth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Readings: 1 Kgs 17:17-24; Gal 1:11-19; Lk 7:11-17

5:00 PM Dec. of Conzo/Jacobs Families (Pat & Pam)

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

First Friday Communion Calls This Week

Our clergy visit the sick and home-bound of the parish each month. Call the Parish Office at 944-4603 to arrange a visit for yourself or a loved one. Please also call, or have a family member call, if you are admitted to the hospital so that Father can visit as soon as possible. The hospital does not provide us with the names and room numbers of Cathedral parishioners.

Please Note: Weekly Novena Prayers will be prayed at 8:45 AM on Monday, May 30, fifteen minutes before our Memorial Day Mass, "For Peace and Justice".

Custom of Visiting the Cemetery

This Monday is Memorial Day when our country remembers all those who died serving our nation along with all our deceased veterans. This is a day when all are encouraged to make a visit to the cemetery to pray for our dead. As we pray at the grave, we are reminded that death is not the end and new life is promised to all who have been claimed for Jesus Christ.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS PLEASE NOTE:

A new liturgical ministry schedule is being prepared for June 18-19 through July 30-31. Unavailable dates or changes in status are needed by Wednesday, June 1. If you have vacation plans for August or your availability will change when summer ends and school begins it would be good to have that information now also. Remember to provide your email address if you would like to receive assignment reminders. Thank You.

Holy Trinity Catholic School Picnic

There is a **picnic-social** scheduled at **Brush Mountain Sportsmen Club** on **Sunday, June 5** at 12:00 Noon. Bishop Bartchak will celebrate Sunday Mass; food will be provided for participants; and entertainment is planned for our children. This is an opportunity for the new Holy Trinity Catholic School community to come together on the eve of beginning a new era for Catholic education in our area. If interested in joining in this picnic-social, please call the Altoona Central Catholic School at 381-7011.

Father's Day Weekend - Cereal Collection

On the weekend of **June 18-19, 2016** we are encouraged to bring boxes of cereal to help stock the shelves of the St. Vincent dePaul Food Pantry for the summer months. Perhaps we could ask friends and relatives to join in this collection. Throughout the school year students from Catholic and non-Catholic schools in Blair County help with this project but donations drop off dramatically during the summer months. The program is spearheaded by Judy Savine who can be reached at 934-3124 or 931-4919 if you will be away that weekend and would like an early pick-up. Thank you.

PARISH FEAST DAY TODAY!

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ has particular significance in the Diocese and the Parish as our Cathedral is under the title of the Blessed Sacrament. **Bishop Mark Bartchak** will be principal Celebrant at our **10:00 AM Mass**. Following Mass there will be a Parish Social on the portico. Parishioners are encouraged to participate in this Mass and to share in the hospitality that follows. This is our parish feast day and the Most Blessed Sacrament will be in exposition during the afternoon following the Noon Mass until the 5:00 PM Mass. There will be prayer and devotions at **1:00 PM, 2:00 PM, 3:00 PM, and 4:00 PM**. On our Eucharistic Day, each hour begins with scripture and a short reflection. This is followed by a particular devotion which is followed by silent prayer before the Sacrament.

1:00 PM: Scripture/Chaplet of Divine Mercy

2:00 PM: Scripture/Rosary (Mysteries of Light)

3:00 PM: Scripture/Litany of the Holy Eucharist

4:00 PM: Scripture/ Rosary (Glorious Mysteries)

All parishioners are encouraged to be present in the Cathedral sometime during the afternoon.

Plan ahead. The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown is planning a **Pilgrimage to the National Shrine** of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. on **November 12, 2016**. Cathedral Parish will be sharing a bus with others. Check your schedules and keep the date clear!

Parents of First Communicants Please Note:

The pictures taken at First Communion are printed and may be picked up at the Parish Office during our regular business hours of 9:30 AM until 5:30 PM Monday through Friday.

Liturgical Reflection ...

JUBILEE

YEAR OF

MERCY

Today is the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. Throughout the Catholic world, Christians gather to commemorate the great Sacrament of our faith. At Mass bread and wine become the very Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. Our hungers are satisfied and our thirsts quenched with the compassion and mercy of God. And having gathered to participate at Mass, we are sent forth to share the good news of God's great love for us. We leave Mass to share the strength, the love, and the mercy of God. This Jubilee of Mercy, filled with the graces of the Blessed Sacrament, go forth and share God's forgiveness and mercy with others.

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

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, May 22, 2016 - \$8,449.00

Basket Bingo Update

We received an additional \$280.00 gift this week, bringing our total profit to **\$14,062.00**.

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

This year the Cathedral Parish goal was set at **\$43,522.00**. We received four more gifts this week and have now raised **\$54,176.00**. Additionally, our cash gifts and pledge payments now total **\$44,592.00** and we can expect our first check back from the diocese to arrive next month!

Congratulations

Marriage: Michelle Wargo and Daniel Fairish celebrated their marriage surrounded with family and friends here in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament on Saturday, May 21. May they be blessed with many years of love and happiness.

Baptism: Luca Francis Gormish was baptized and welcomed into our Cathedral Parish Family at 10 AM Mass on Sunday, May 22. Congratulations to parents, Francis Gormish and Meghan Ramsey, along with sister, Giavanna Marie; Grandparents Eric and Nina Ramsey; and Godfather, Uncle Daniel. Luca will grow in his Christian identity to the degree that family and friends model the faith.

Next Session of Baptismal Preparation

Monday, June 13 in the Seton Suite at 7:00 PM.

Attendance at Baptismal Prep is required before a baptism is scheduled at Cathedral Parish and class is offered every other month. You do not have to wait until your baby arrives to come to class. Godparents are encouraged to attend as well. Call the Parish Office at 944-4603 to register.