

JUNE 5, 2016

Scripture Reflection

The account of Jesus raising from the dead the only son of a mother, a widow, recalls a similar story of the prophet Elijah healing the only son of a mother, a widow, in the First Book of Kings. The fact that the women are widowed is an important piece of information for understanding their situations, especially since they are without any children. A widow in antiquity could suffer terrible economic hardship if she did not have an extended family network or personal resources; for those without economic resources or male family members, a life of poverty could be expected. The mercy of God in these stories includes alleviating dire poverty and social marginalization, but we should not reduce mercy merely to economic suffering; God's mercy reaches out to heal the ravages of broken hearts and human suffering.

This is the real, human loss, for even if these widows were woman of means, they have lost their families. It is not money they mourn but the love of their children and all the joys that come with family life. This sorrow is what Jesus sees when he gazes upon this scene, for "when the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, 'Do not weep.'" Jesus heals her great loss, demonstrating God's mercy when he speaks the words, "Young man, I say to you, rise!" and the boy is alive. When Elijah's voice is heard by God, the widow of Zarephath's son arises. Elijah brings the child down to his mother and says, "See, your son is alive." Both of these cases indicate that mercy is at the heart of God's dealing with humanity.

These readings are a sign of what we can do for those who are in emotional, spiritual, psychological and physical need. All of us at one time or another face loss, stress, crisis and distress, even if we are not alone or are not suffering poverty. When we recognize our own need for compassion and how friends, family, neighbors and strangers have cared for us in those times, the actions of Elijah and Jesus point us to do what we can do. We can care and comfort people in distress, offering mercy and helping them find the aid they need. God's actions in these miraculous events is intended to demonstrate God's mercy in concrete instances, the same mercy and compassion that God has for each of us. So, too, we are called to show mercy to all in need.

Reflect on the suffering of the widowed mothers and God's compassion for them and their sons. How has God shown compassion to you in the past? How can you show mercy to those in need?

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

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF GOD IN THE CITY OF ALTOONA SINCE 1851

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

TENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
JUNE 5, 2016

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

MASS INTENTIONS

June 6, Monday: Saint Norbert, Bishop

Readings: 1 Kgs 17:1-6; Mt 5:1-12

6:45 AM No Mass
8:00 AM Deacon John Rys, Wed. Ann. (Wife, Linda)
12:00 PM Andrea Crum (Shirley Voltz Family)

June 7, Tuesday: Weekday

Readings: 1 Kgs 17:7-16; Mt 5:13-16

6:45 AM Anna Reagan (Ed and Paulette Farabaugh)
8:00 AM No Mass
12:00 PM Rick Cowan/Karen Cowen Dougherty (Mom)

June 8, Wednesday: Weekday

Readings: 1 Kgs 18:20-29; Mt 5:17-19

6:45 AM No Mass
8:00 AM Henriette Thibault (Butch/Alice Winkler)
12:00 PM Pat Rabine (Audrey Breslin/Ruth Conley)

June 9, Thursday: Saint Ephrem, Deacon, Doctor

Readings: 1 Kgs 18:41-46; Mt 5:20-26

6:45 AM George Dean Barry (Green/Tyler/Maryl/Barrys)
8:00 AM No Mass
12:00 PM Danyll Rougeux (Cathedral Ushers)

June 10, Friday: Weekday

Readings: 1 Kgs 19:9, 11-16; Mt 5:27-32

6:45 AM M. Virginia Jones (John & Stephanie Supps)
8:00 AM Jerry Smith (Tom Riggelman)
12:00 PM Bishop Richard Guilfoyle, Anniv. (Cathedral)

June 11, Saturday: Saint Barnabas, Apostle

Readings: Acts 11:21-26; 13:1-3; Mt 5:33-37

8:00 AM Doris Green & Family (Bridget McCloskey)
12:00 PM Zerelda Geis (Ron and Jean Sheehan)
Vigil: Eleventh Sunday In Ordinary Time
Readings: 2 Sm 12:7-10, 13; Gal 2:16, 19-21; Lk 7:36-8:3
5:00 PM Brian McCaullley, Birthday (Wife & Sons)

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

Please note this week's Mass Schedule:

This week and next, your priests will be on their annual retreat. Note the curtailed daily Mass schedule. The schedule will be the same for both weeks. Please continue to pray for your priests as we will remember the parish and the diocese during our week of serious prayer and reflection. Bishop-Emeritus Donald Trautman of the Diocese of Erie will be the retreat master.

Congratulations!

Paula Clemens received the Gallitzin Cross last evening from Bishop Bartchak. Paula has given of her time, talent, and treasure over the years. In the spirit of Servant of God Demetrius Gallitzin, Paula has stepped forward in various roles to evangelize in the name of the Lord Jesus. Paula has firmly established the Funeral Dinners offered here at the Cathedral when a loved one dies. This ministry brings comfort to the sorrowful. Paula also launders the Mass linens each week. She was a great help in the Parish Office especially during Sue Cronin's absences attending to her daughter's illness. Paula is present at Parish socials and readily volunteers where needed. The Cathedral Parish is appreciative and extends congratulations to Paula and to husband, Randy, and children, Renee and Wesley. Paula joins these recipients of the Gallitzin Cross: James Davidson, Jeanne Thompson, Sister Beverly, Timothy Bettwy, Butch Winkler, and Monsignor Mazur.

**Knights Of Columbus Council 551
Joseph D. Tomlinson Memorial Golf Tournament**

This event will be held **Saturday, June 18** at **King Valley Golf Course**, Imler, PA. Registration begins at 7:15 AM, with tee-off at 8:00 AM. The cost is \$75 per player and includes 18 holes of golf, riding cart, goody bags, lunch, snacks, beverages, prizes and awards. For more information/registration contact Terry Anderson at Topsail5@atlanticbb.net. Proceeds will fund two Council 551 scholarships in Joe's name - one \$500 scholarship to a student entering Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School, and one \$500 scholarship to a Bishop Guilfoyle graduating Senior to attend Saint Francis University; as well as donations to Catholic Charities and the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry.

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.

Holy Trinity Catholic School Picnic Today!

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.

Annual Vacation Bible School This Week!

Cave Quest is being held **June 6-10, 2016**, from **8:45 AM - 11:30 AM** in Cathedral Hall, for children ages 3 - 10. May our children grow in their love of Jesus this week. We have a full-house and want to thank all who have donated their time and talent to provide this program for our young parishioners.

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.

CATHEDRAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Newly registered Cathedral families and those established families with children ready to enter our Religious Education Program in the fall for the first time are asked to contact Chris Laraia at 312-7317 as soon as possible to pre-register for 2016-2017.

Parents of First Communicants Please Note:

Four sets of photos have yet to be picked up! The Parish Office hours are 9:30 AM until 5:30 PM Monday through Friday.

Did Your Remember to bring a non-perishable food item or paper product for the needy?

OFFERTORY COLLECTION
Sunday, May 29, 2016 - \$8,356.00

Gifts to Cathedral Parish

The Cathedral recently received a \$100 gift "*In Memory of Stephen Himer*," cousin of Mary Ann Bell. A memorial gift fund has also been set up "*In Honor of Angela Cronin Chadwick*" earmarked to help cover the cost of furnishing Miss Gabi's Pre-K/Kn classroom in our new Religious Education Center. We are most appreciative of these gifts.

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

This year the Cathedral Parish goal was set at **\$43,522.00**. We continue to receive new gifts and have now raised **\$54,226.00**. Additionally, our cash gifts and pledge payments now total **\$44,822.00** and we can expect our first check (**\$1,300.00**) back from the diocese to arrive soon!

Catholics Returning Home - Have you thought about coming home to the Catholic Church? Call the Parish Office at 944-4603 for information on the date and time of the next *Catholics Returning Home* informal listening session

Charismatic Prayer - The Charismatic Prayer Group will not meet this Monday, June 6. We will meet again on Monday, June 13 at 7:00 PM in the Cathedral for a Eucharistic Festival of Praise, Father Christopher Panagoplos, TOR will be preaching. All are welcome!

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!

Liturgical Reflection ...

**JUBILEE
YEAR OF
MERCY**

Only in the Gospel of Luke do we find the story of Jesus raising the son of the widow of Nain. Her dead son was being carried out for burial as Jesus journeyed into the city. When Jesus saw the widowed mother, his heart was moved with pity and he said to her, "Do not weep." Jesus stepped forward and touched the coffin and said, "Young man, I tell you, arise!" The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. What a story of mercy!! Jesus, our Master and Lord, has shown us how to be compassionate and merciful. We pray to be moved with pity and to show mercy to our sisters and brothers.

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