

JULY 24, 2016

Scripture Reflection

Today's readings explore the dynamics of prayer. When the disciples ask Jesus to teach them to pray as he prays, they want to know what comes from his heart when he goes off by himself to pray. They know the traditional Jewish prayers, like the psalms, but they want to learn the prayer that comes from his heart as he prays before the Father.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* outlines five different forms of prayer: prayer of blessing and adoration, prayer of petition, prayer of thanksgiving, prayer of praise, and prayer of intercession (No. 2625-2643). These forms of prayer, in the Bible and in our lives, often intermingle more than one form of prayer, so that one sees together, for example, prayer of praise and petition, thanksgiving and blessing, intercession and petition. And this is what we find in Luke's Gospel. Chapter 11 offers forms of petitionary prayer, but there are also aspects of intercession, praise and thanksgiving.

Humility in prayer need not lead us to hold back with reserved and measured requests. The parable encourages us; if we have something to ask of God, we need to ask boldly. The friend in the gospel is persistent, unrelenting, annoying, demanding, forceful, overeager, and a little harassing. The prayer of the brazen friend is a prayer of petition, and it is indeed unrelenting. This is what Jesus' parable proposes as the sort of prayer we ought to offer: ceaseless, demanding, forceful.

We are not friends who annoy God, but persistence in prayer must become our practice. Persistence in prayer indicates that we know to petition God without ceasing because only God can meet our deepest needs. Prayer places us in the presence of God. Persistent prayer helps us discern God's will in our lives. We are to pray often.

• **Examine your prayer. Does anything need to change? Does your prayer bring you closer to God?**

AMERICA MAGAZINE: July 18-26, 2016 Issue, John W. Martens.

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YEAR OF MERCY SUMMER ROAD TRIPS

Spend a afternoon as a "pilgrim" visiting churches founded by our own saint-in-progress, Servant of God, Reverend Demetrius Gallitzin, celebrating their 200th Anniversaries. Plan to take a drive to Holy Name, Ebensburg; St. Patrick, Newry and St. Thomas the Apostle, Bedford, our diocesan designated sites for the **Holy Doors of the Jubilee of Mercy**. Prayer times have been scheduled at all three churches Today, **July 24, August 14 and August 28**. Prayers will be led in half hour intervals beginning at 1:30 PM and closing with prayer at 4:00 PM at each site. A Plenary Indulgence is available; see pamphlets provided when you visit. (Please note: St. Thomas the Apostle, Bedford will not be receiving pilgrims today)

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

This year the Cathedral Parish goal was set at **\$43,522.00**. We have raised **\$54,226.00**. Our cash gifts and pledge payments now total **\$47,962.26**. We received our first check (\$1,300.00) back from the diocese in June, and since then we have made an additional **\$3,140.26** in pledge payments. It is not too late to participate. New gifts will come directly back to the Cathedral.

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOOTBALL EXTRAVAGANZA

Holy Trinity Catholic School is selling tickets for the NFL Football Extravaganza. The cost of the ticket is \$20. Each week of the regular NFL season, tickets will be assigned a combination of three NFL teams. The final score for each team is then added up and the ticket with the highest score wins \$500, 2nd highest \$250, 3rd highest \$100, and the lowest score \$50. Ticket scores are also cumulatively tracked for the entire season with the highest scoring ticket receiving \$3,000, 2nd highest \$2,000, 3rd highest \$1,000 and the lowest score \$500. If a team does not play, for any reason, the score for the last game played will be used for the week the team does not play. All ties split the prize money. Results will be posted on Facebook under the title Holy Trinity Catholic School Altoona PA or at (holytrinitycatholic.school). To purchase these tickets please contact in the morning, Monday through Thursday, Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School Campus at 942-7835 or Holy Trinity Catholic School Altoona Campus at 381-7011.

**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)	Holyday:	5:30 PM (Vigil)	Weekday:	6:45 AM
	8:00 AM		8:00 AM		8:00 AM
	10:00 AM		12:00 Noon		12:00 Noon
	12:00 Noon		5:30 PM	Saturday:	8:00 AM
	5:00 PM				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 GULFOYLE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Web: www.bishopguilfoyle.org - 944-4014

DIRECTORS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Chris Laraia - Pre-K thru 8 - 312-7317

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

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JULY 24, 2016

Readings: Gn 18:20-32; Col 2:12-14; Lk 11:1-13

MASS INTENTIONS

July 25, Monday: Saint James, Apostle
Readings: 2 Cor 4:7-15; Mt 20:20-28
6:45 AM No Mass
8:00 AM Angela Cronin Chadwick (G. & K. Clemens)
12:00 PM Lois Riley (Maureen and Michael Schroch)

July 26, Tuesday: Saints Joachim and Anne
Readings: Jer 14:17-22; Mt 13:36-43
6:45 AM Genevieve Hallinan (Family)
8:00 AM No Mass
12:00 PM Paul Rose, Anniversary (Rose Family)

July 27, Wednesday: Weekday
Readings: Jer 15:10,16-21; Mt 13:44-46
6:45 AM No Mass
8:00 AM Brian and Barry Elmers (Skip Cowan)
12:00 PM Betty McCabe (Brooks and Karen Smith)

July 28, Thursday: Weekday
Readings: Jer 18:1-6; Mt 13:47-53
6:45 AM George Dean Barry (The Goulionis)
8:00 AM No Mass
12:00 PM Pat Rabine (Bob and Chris Laraia)

July 29, Friday: Saint Martha
Readings: Jer 26:1-9; Jn 11:19-27
6:45 AM No Mass
8:00 AM Dave Lysinger, Sr., Birthday (Mary & Family)
12:00 PM Michael Zurilla, Birthday (Family)

July 30, Saturday: Saint Peter Chrysologus, Bishop
Readings: Jer 26:11-16,24; Mt 14:1-12
8:00 AM Andrea Crum (Connie Novak)
12:00 PM Deacon John Rys (Deacon/Mrs. J. Janosik)
Vigil: Eighteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time
Readings: Eccl 1:2; 2:21-23; Col 3:1-5,9-11; Lk12:13-21
5:00 PM Fred Martynuska, Anniversary (Family)

Weekly Mass Schedule

Please note the summer schedule for daily Masses this week. There will only be one priest present, so only two Masses are scheduled daily.

Building Committee Meeting

An important meeting is scheduled to review the completed specs for the Parish Offices and Religious Education Center and, also, to review the contract for the lower parking lot. The meeting is this Tuesday, July 26, at 4:30 PM in the Saint John Room.

Year of Mercy Reflection Group

The monthly gathering to discuss the topic of Mercy will be this Thursday, July 28, at 6:30 PM in the Seton Suite. All are welcome as we informally share our thoughts on mercy as spoken in Scripture. If you have not been able to participate yet this year, perhaps you are able to attend this Thursday. The discussion lasts one hour. All are welcome!

HOLY HOUR for TEENS and YOUNG ADULTS

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy Pope Francis is calling Teens and Young Adults to return to their Faith and embrace the Catholic Church once again. Bishop Mark and Sister Linda LaMagna, CCW are inviting Teens and Young Adults to join with them on Thursday, August 18, 2016, at Saint Terese of the Child Jesus Parish, Altoona from 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM. A social time will follow. Indexed invitations are available at the Cathedral Parish Office for parishioners to (gently) give to any Teen or Young Adult whom you feel will be open to this event or who may benefit from it. For more information, contact Sr. Linda at 814-674-3712.

ANNUAL SUMMER RAFFLE - CATHEDRAL
All parishioners were sent four (4) raffle tickets late this past week. If you did not receive this letter, please call the Parish Office (944-4603) and this mailing will be forwarded to you. This fund-raiser substitutes the annual Cathedral festival; the profit replaces the profit of the festival. Everyone is asked to participate in this summer event. Additional tickets will be available at the Cathedral Square door after Masses and at the Parish Office.
There will be twenty cash prizes: (1) \$2,000.00; (2) \$1,000.00 (3) \$500.00; (4) \$250.00; (5) \$100.00; (6) \$100.00; (7) \$100.00; (8) \$100.00; (9) \$100.00; (10) \$100.00; (11) \$50.00; (12) \$50.00; (13) \$50.00; (14) \$50.00; (15) \$50.00;(16) \$50.00; (17) \$25.00; (18) \$25.00; (19) \$25.00; (20) \$25.00. One ticket will cost \$5.00. Each family is asked to purchase four tickets. The drawing will be Sunday, October 7, 2016, after the 10:00 AM Mass on the Cathedral Portico.

Charismatic Prayer - The Charismatic Prayer Group will meet on Monday, July 25th at 7:00 PM in the Cathedral. Kathie Spargo will be giving a witness talk. All are welcome!

Stewardship Reflection

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

May we devote ourselves to fulfilling God's will on earth by prudent use of our resources.

Congratulations!

Marriage: Katie Pfister and Dan Dengate celebrated their marriage surrounded with family and friends here in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament on Saturday, July 16. May they be blessed with many years of love and happiness.

Next Session of Baptismal Preparation

Monday, August 8 at 7:00 PM in the Seton Suite. Attendance at Baptismal Prep is required before a baptism is scheduled at Cathedral Parish. You do not need to wait until after your child is born to attend class. Godparents are encouraged to attend also. Classes are offered every other month. Call the Parish Office at 944-4603 to register. Our next session is scheduled for Monday, October 10.

Annual Wedding Anniversary Liturgies

Bishop Mark and the Family Life Office of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown invite couples marking their 1st, 5th, 10th, 25th, 40th 50th, 55th and 60th+ wedding anniversary in 2016 (and their families) to attend the Annual Wedding Anniversary Liturgy. Couples may attend Sunday, September 11th at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona or Sunday, September 18th at Saint John Gualbert Cathedral, in Johnstown. Liturgies in each location begin at 2:00 PM. Punch and cookies will be available after the Mass for anniversary couples and their families. Please Note: Reservations must be made through your Parish for either celebration by Tuesday, August 23.

Pray For Our Sick - Remember our sisters and brothers who are weakened by illness. Prayers are sometimes the best prescribed medicine.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, July 17, 2016 - \$7,562.50

Stewardship of Time

Thank you to Mary Louise Ball, Janet Belsey, Carol Chelton, Paula Clemens, Gerry and Rita Kibler, Bill and Grace Smith, and Theresa Vaughn who helped with the parish mailing of our Annual Summer Raffle tickets this past week. We will also need volunteers to sell tickets after each weekend Mass beginning next week. Extra tickets are available at the Parish Office. Pick up some to sell at work, in neighborhoods, or at family gatherings. Prizes will be awarded on Sunday, October 7th, after 10:00 AM Mass.

Christian Initiation

Are you interested in the Catholic Church? Do you know someone who might be interested in seeking information about our Catholic faith? Beginning in September, the Cathedral Christian Initiation Team will hold Sunday morning Inquiry Sessions in the Seton Suite with all those seeking information on the Catholic Church. No commitments are made at this time. Please call the Parish Office at 944-4603 with any questions or to register; walk-ins are welcome. If you attend Mass with a friend or relative, bring them along. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is also for those baptized Catholics who have not been connected to the Church or who have not received the sacraments of Reconciliation or Eucharist or Confirmation.

UPMC Pastoral Care - Weekend Help Needed

The Pastoral Care Department at UPMC Altoona is in need of several Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to serve on weekends. Times are flexible. Those who are interested may contact Tony Conrad, Director of Pastoral Care, at 814-889-4323.

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY Liturgical Reflection ... Ask and you will receive. Seek and your will find. Knock and the door will be opened to you. Know that the Father in heaven gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask him. Jesus urges his disciples to persist in prayer. We pray that God's will be done. The advice of the Lord is to be persistent in prayer. His encouragement is to remember that God is a Father who loves his children. God shows mercy and kindness to all. When we persist in prayer, we become enveloped in the Lord's kindness, understanding, and mercy. Grounded in prayer, we are grounded in the mercy of God. 2016, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 South Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648.