

AUGUST 21, 2016

Scripture Reflection

God is good; this is the truth at the heart of the universe. This can seem impossible, betrayed by the daily doses of violence and cruelty. Goodness seems soft and weak, while wickedness is hard and powerful, the true way to get things done. Hard things, like waterboarding, wars and the expulsion of immigrants, are considered real; soft things, like the rhetoric of peace and care for the planet from Pope Francis, are an illusion, just lofty, religious nonsense. The world tempts us to consider evil more real than the good, but it is a lie. God created the universe and all reflects the goodness of our God.

The reality of God's goodness and salvation must be stressed especially in times of chaos, when violence and terrorism seem the true coin of the realm. God's kingdom offers another way, the narrow door. This narrow door does not mean that only a few are offered entrance but only that the narrow path must be chosen. Presumption plays a part in those who believe that they ought to be offered entrance through the narrow door because of who they are and not because of how they have lived their lives.

Being a member of any group--a church or a nation--can lead to good things. Belonging gives us identity and calls us to be selfless and devoted to mission. On the other hand, strong affiliation can leave us insular or haughty, which runs counter to the Kingdom of God. Although the invitation to the Kingdom of God is freely given, our response to such a gift cannot be a smugness that we deserved it and others did not.

Study the Church's position on immigration reform at www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/immigration/church-teachingonimmigrationreform.cfm or call 877-978-0757 to obtain a copy of any of the statements by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The bishops call for family reunification and earned legalization for those who have crossed the border without authorization. Ponder Pope Francis' words that he wants all Catholics and Christians to think of each other first as brother or sister.

- **Whom do you think Christians sometimes exclude from the Kingdom of God? How can the Cathedral Parish be more inclusive?**

AMERICA MAGAZINE: August 15-22, 2016 Issue, John W. Martens.
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HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS

First Day of School is Monday, August 29

Meet The Teacher Day is scheduled for today. **Sunday, August 21.** The Elementary campuses will be open from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM and the Middle School campus from 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM.

Football "Weigh In" - Boys in Grades 3-6 who will be participating in football are reminded there is a "Weigh In" scheduled for **Monday, August 22**, at Central High School, Ebensburg at 6:00 PM.

School Supply list is available on the Holy Trinity Catholic Website (see front cover of bulletin.)

Hoss's Steak and Sea House Fund-Raiser Please consider visiting the Hoss's location in Duncansville on **Wednesday, August 24.** Coupons available at all three campuses.

Opening School Year Liturgy, Thursday, August 25 at 10:00 AM at Saint Rose of Lima Church. Presider: Bishop Mark Bartchak.

CATHEDRAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Registration for new and returning students in grades Pre-K through 11 was held in the Seton Suite before and after all Masses - last weekend! If you were unable to attend, please call Chris Laraia at 312-7317 for students in Pre-K through Grade 8 or Jean Koury at 949-2777 for students in Grade 9 - Grade 11. A Baptismal Certificate is required for all new students. All students Pre-K through 11th Grade **MUST** be registered before the **Start of Religious Education on Sunday, September 11th.** For more information or help obtaining Baptismal Certificates please call the Parish Office: 944-4603

Teachers Needed! We are still searching for two parishioners to volunteer their time and talent with our Fifth and Sixth graders this year. PA State and Diocesan Clearances are required. Substitutes and classroom aids (teens to Grandma's) would be a welcome asset to our growing program as well. Call the Parish Office at 944-4603 or Chris Laraia at 312-7317

FINAL YEAR OF MERCY SUMMER ROAD TRIP

Sunday, August 28 is the last date for pilgrimage through our diocesan designated sites for the **Holy Doors of the Jubilee of Mercy.** A Plenary Indulgence is available beginning at 1:30 PM and closing with prayer at 4:00 PM at those parishes honored to be pastored by Demetrius Gallitzin.

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

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
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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

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Web: www.holytrinitycatholic.school
Altoona Campus (Pre-K thru Grade 4) - 381-7011
Hollidaysburg Campus (Pre-K thru Grade 4) - 695-6112
Middle School Campus (Grades 5 thru 8) - 942-7835

BISHOP GUILFOYLE 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

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 21, 2016

Readings: *Is 66:18-21; Heb 12:5-7, 11-13; Lk 13:22-30*

MASS INTENTIONS

August 22, Monday: Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Readings: *2 Thes 1:1-5, 11-12; Mt 23:13-22*

6:45 AM Roberta Lamont (Maureen Hanekamp)
8:00 AM Margaret and Melvin McConnell (Family)
12:00 PM Patty Geis (Victor & Carol Ruggery)

August 23, Tuesday: Saint Rose of Lima, Virgin

Readings: *2 Thes 2:1-3, 14-17; Mt 23:23-26*

6:45 AM Nance Geis, Anniversary (Mom & Family)
8:00 AM Madeline Vogel, Birthday (Family)
12:00 PM Betty McCabe (Jim and Paula Riley)

August 24, Wednesday: Saint Bartholomew, Apostle

Readings: *Rv 21:9-14; Jn 1:45-51*

6:45 AM Msgr. Thomas Madden (Estate)
8:00 AM Chester Kowalski (Jeremy Koeck & Family)
12:00 PM Sr. Caroline Caritas, Birthday Inten. (Family)

August 25, Thursday: Saint Louis

Readings: *1 Cor 1:1-9; Mt 24:42-51*

6:45 AM Joan Heverly (Frances & Kathleen Krug)
8:00 AM Jim and Peggy Mullen (Daughter, Skip)
12:00 PM Paul Rose (Sylvia Teirney)

August 26, Friday: Weekday

Readings: *1 Cor 1:17-25; Mt 25:1-13*

6:45 AM Nozzie, Jennie & Sandy Calabrese (Family)
8:00 AM Catherine Burr (Ray and Barb Trybus)
12:00 PM Danyll Rougeux (Rick and Cindy Lytle)

August 27, Saturday: Saint Monica

Readings: *1 Cor 1:26-31; Mt 25:14-30*

8:00 AM Herbert J. Kuttruff (Susan Kapfhammer)
12:00 PM Joseph Tomlinson (Stayer Family)
Vigil: Twenty-Second Sunday In Ordinary Time
Readings: *Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29; Heb 12:18-19, 22-24; Lk 14:1, 7-14*
5:00 PM Joseph Pagliaro, Birth. (Daughter, Lorraine)

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

Cathedral Choir Notes

Rehearsals will resume after our summer break on **Thursday, September 1**, in the Music Room from **7:00 PM - 9:00 PM**. Cantors and Psalmists are asked to gather at **6:30 PM**. New members are welcome. Call 944-2044 for more information or to arrange an informal audition. No experience is necessary, come if you simply love to sing.

Annual Wedding Anniversary Liturgy

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** here at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament on **September 11th** at 2:00 PM. Please call the Parish Office and we will make your reservation for you. The **deadline is this Tuesday, August 23**.

Annual September Tours of Cathedral

September is the month our Cathedral celebrates its anniversary of dedication. Again this September the Cathedral will offer four tours of this singular structure. The schedule for the one hour tours is as follows: **Sunday, September 4th** at 1:00 PM; **Thursday, September 15th** at 7:00 PM; **Sunday, September 25th** at 1:00 PM; and **Thursday, September 29th** at 7:00 PM. Plan to attend one of the four dates. Invite relatives, friends, and neighbors who may have never been inside this beautiful Cathedral to join you!

CATHEDRAL SUMMER RAFFLE

All parishioners were sent four (4) raffle tickets. 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 for 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. **The cost per ticket is \$5.00.** Each family is asked to purchase four tickets. The drawing will be **Sunday, October 2, 2016**, after the 10:00 AM Mass, on the Cathedral Portico. **Please note the corrected date for the awarding of our prizes.** It was just brought to my attention that October 7 is a Friday - not a Sunday! How embarrassing. The tickets and all our advertising is wrong. Please pass the word along that Silly-Susie strikes again! Thank you to all who have already turned in their tickets.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, August 14, 2016 - \$7,785.00

Missionary Co-Op This Weekend

Today we welcome Sister Letizia LoRe and Sister Vivian Ndum, SSA to the Cathedral. One of them will address each of our Masses this weekend on behalf of the **Sisters of Saint Ann**, our assigned mission group in this year's Missionary Co-operative Plan. The Sisters of Saint Ann is an international missionary community serving the poor in eleven countries and as close as Ebensburg. This appeal is to remind the faithful to be in solidarity with the missionaries around the world making God's kingdom visible here on earth as Jesus commanded, and to be merciful with our brothers and sisters in need. To help the cause for their mission, an envelope is attached to the bulletin this weekend. Please prayerfully consider your gift and return it to the parish by mail, drop it through the Parish Office mail slot or deposit into the regular Offertory collection by the end of the month. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated. (There will not be a second collection.) Thank You.

Capital Campaign

Demolition is under way on the newly purchased building on Thirteenth Avenue. Any parishioner interested in submitting a bid for the work on the new building is asked to have their offer into the Parish Office (944-4603) by Friday, August 26th. Thank you for your continued support of this historic project for the oldest Catholic parish in the City of Altoona. Your regular pledge payments are most appreciated.

Saint Vincent dePaul Diocesan Council

The annual Mass and Dinner will be held on Sunday, September 25 at Saint Francis University in Loretto. Mass will be celebrated at 4:00 PM in the College Chapel. A reception, silent auction, and dinner will follow at the JFK Center.

Liturgical Reflection ...

JUBILEE

YEAR OF

MERCY

We are reminded that some who are last will be first, and some who are first will be last. Do we give lip service or authentic service to following Jesus and living the kingdom of God? In other words, do our actions confirm our words? We strive to enter the narrow gate by doing our best to live the values of God's kingdom that Jesus showed us. The Catholic Church is observing a *Jubilee Year of Mercy*. Would you describe yourself as a merciful person? Would those closest to you describe you as a merciful person? Pope Francis tells us that mercy is fundamental to the Christian life and the proclamation of the gospel. We pray to be instruments of God's mercy.

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

Christian Initiation

Are you interested in the Catholic Church? Do you know someone who might be interested in seeking information about our Catholic faith? This **Sunday, August 21 at 11:00 AM**, the Cathedral Christian Initiation Team will meet in the Seton Suite with all those seeking information on the Catholic Church. No commitments are made at this time. This the first **Inquiry Session** to discuss aspects of our faith with anyone who might be thinking of joining the Catholic Church. Bring a friend.

Baptism Congratulations

On Sunday, August 14, Tanner Ryan Donelson was baptized and welcomed into our Cathedral Parish Family. Congratulations to parents, Ryan and Kristin, along with big brother, Lucas. May the graces of the Sacrament of Baptism strengthen both our children and the adults who care for them.

First Reconciliation

All Parents of children in Cathedral Parish and Our Lady of Fatima attending Holy Trinity Catholic School, our Religious Education program, or Home Schooling who will be celebrating the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion this year, please take note. Our first meeting will be held in the *Seton Suite* on **Tuesday, September 27th** from **6:30 PM - 8:00 PM**. Every student **must** be accompanied by a parent or adult who will present the child's Baptismal Certificate. (If you cannot locate the certificate, please call the **Parish of Baptism** to obtain a copy before this meeting.) This is the first of three sessions of preparation required before the reception of each sacrament, Reconciliation in Advent and Eucharist during the Easter Season.

The **Charismatic Prayer Group** will not meet this Monday, but will meet again on August 29th. Witness talk: Cathy Merovich, CPG Music Ministry.