

SEPTEMBER 11, 2016

Scripture Reflection

Today's readings reflect on the unconditional and astonishing mercy of God. The conversation between God and Moses is especially engaging. Who would blame God for getting angry and disappointed with the Israelites for their incredible acts of brazen infidelity? Moses calls on God to remember the covenant, and in response to the supplication of Moses, God relents.

The set of so-called lost parables in Luke begins with an account of grumbling on the part of the religious experts of Jesus' day because he was eating with tax collectors and sinners. It is in response to these complaints that Jesus tells three stories of a lost sheep, a lost coin and a lost son. God rejoices over us when we are found. Listen to the endings of the three lost parables: "There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents," Jesus says, "than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance"; "There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents"; "But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found."

Regarding the lost son, the younger son makes a deliberate and selfish choice. This makes it all the more remarkable that even though the boy wasted his inheritance, his father waits for him and celebrates his return. The response of the older brother is different, and gives us a chance to reflect on times we may have felt resentment toward sinners who receive mercy. The closing lines of the parable should give all of us the courage to seek the loving mercy of the father, no matter how lost we might feel in our spiritual journey. The embrace of the Father is never withheld.

• **Have you celebrated mercy this Jubilee Year? Have you been to Confession lately?**

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: August 29 - September 6, 2016 Issue, John W. Martens.

Pilgrimage to National Shrine

As the *Jubilee Year of Mercy* comes to an end, the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese will be making pilgrimage to the National Shrine of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. The pilgrimage is scheduled for **Saturday, November 12**. Cathedral Parish will provide a bus for those making pilgrimage - this includes those wishing to sing in the choir and any parishioner planning to attend this day as a pilgrim. The Plenary Indulgence connected to the Jubilee Year will be available. Please call the Parish Office to reserve a seat on the bus. Other parishes invited to join us are: Our Lady of Fatima, Holy Rosary, and Saint Mark.

Official Close of the Jubilee Year of Mercy

Bishop Bartchak will celebrate Mass here at the Cathedral on **Saturday, November 19th** at the 5:00 PM Mass to formally bring to a close the *Jubilee Year of Mercy*. Check your calendars and plan ahead to attend this special Liturgy.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (Pre K-Grade 8)

First day of Class is TODAY, Sunday, **September 11th**. We meet in the Parish Hall from **8:30 AM - 9:45 AM** (Pre K-K in the Music Room). A copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate is required when registering new students. Parents of returning students are asked to update contact information - addresses and phone numbers - in the Religious Education Office; Phone: 943-7424.

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 Reconciliation in Advent.

Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group

A Charismatic Mass with Praise and Worship Music will be held this Monday at 7:00 PM. Father Bob Hilz, TOR, will be the main celebrant. All are welcome.

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

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

Holidaysburg 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

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

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SEPTEMBER 11, 2016

Readings: Ex 32:7-11,3-14; Tm 1:12-17; Lk 15:1-32

MASS INTENTIONS

September 12, Monday: *The Most Holy Name of Mary*

Readings: 1 Cor 11:17-26,33; Lk 7:1-10

6:45 AM Totsie Febbo (Carol Jones Makdad)
8:00 AM Theresa Bruno, Ann. (Husband & Children)
12:00 PM Moose Plutko (Kim and Steve Krawick)

September 13, Tuesday: Saint John Chrysostom

Readings: 1 Cor 12:12-14,27-31; Lk 7:11-17

6:45 AM BeBe Milliron (Children of Paul Annamae)
8:00 AM Jim & Peggy Mullen (Daughter, Skip)
12:00 PM Pat Rabine (Audrey Breslin & Ruth Conley)

September 14, Wednesday: Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Readings: Nm 21:4-9; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17

6:45 AM James Bair (Friends)
8:00 AM Mary Dodson, Ann. (Davidson Family)
12:00 PM Justine Allen, Birth.(Mom, Dad & Brothers)

September 15, Thursday: Our Lady of Sorrows

Readings: 1 Cor 15:1-11; Jn 19:25-27

6:45 AM Bill Crouse (Chris and Dave Behe)
8:00 AM Theresa McCall (Theresa Heasely)
12:00 PM Danyll Rougeux (Kevin Roesch)

September 16, Friday: Saints Cornelius and Cyprian

Readings: 1 Cor 15:12-20; Lk 8:1-3

6:45 AM Eleanor Toth (Cathy Grove)
8:00 AM Sam Coen (Kay and Sandy Bambocci)
12:00 PM Deacon John Rys (Pete and Carol Rodgers)

September 17, Saturday: Saint Robert Bellarmine

Readings: 1 Cor 15:35-37,42-49; Lk 8:4-15

8:00 AM Herbert J. Kutruuff (Dave and Tina Karl)
12:00 PM Joe Tomlinson (Jean Cole)
Vigil: Twenty-Fifth Sunday In Ordinary Time


Readings: Am 8:4-7; 1 Tm 2:1-8; Lk 16:1-13

5:00 PM Jack Nagle (Son, John)

Tour of Cathedral Thursday

The second of our four one hour September tours of this magnificent building will be offered **Thursday, September 15th at 7:00 PM**. If you have never taken a tour or if you want to bring a neighbor or friend this year, you are welcome to join us. Our remaining dates are **Sunday, September 25th** at 1:00 PM; and **Thursday, September 29th** at 7:00 PM

Parish Liturgy Committee Meeting - Thursday, September 29, at 12:45 PM in the Seton Suite.



Liturgical Reflection ...

Today marks the fifteenth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on American soil. Many lives were lost, many were injured, and still many continue to mourn that painful day. May the innocent victims know the peace that only Christ can give. May those who survived be consoled with the knowledge of God's love. May nations work together for an end of terrorism and a birth of peace among the nations and among all religions. Bishop Bartchak will gather here in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament on Saturday, September 17 at 5:00 PM for the **Blue and White Mass** to honor the military fire-fighters, police officers, doctors, nurses, and emergency medical technicians who serve our communities. All are welcome.

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

Wedding Anniversary Liturgy Today!

Bishop Mark and the Family Life Office of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown have invited couples marking their first, 5th, 10th, 25th, 40th 50th, 55th, and 60th+ wedding anniversary this calendar year to attend the annual Wedding Anniversary Liturgy at 2:00 PM this afternoon here in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. Five Cathedral couples will be in attendance. A light reception will follow in Cathedral Hall after Mass for all the Jubilarians and their families. Next Sunday, September 18, Bishop will celebrate with couples in the Johnstown area at Saint John Gualbert Cathedral. These annual Liturgies are sponsored by the Diocesan Family Life Office.

CATHEDRAL CHRISTIAN MOTHERS

The regular meeting of Cathedral Christian Mothers will be held in the Seton Suite on **Wednesday, September 14**, at 6:30 PM. All ladies of the Parish are warmly encouraged to attend.

CATHEDRAL SUMMER RAFFLE

Everyone is asked to participate in this summer event. Additional tickets are available at the Cathedral Square door after Masses and at the Parish Office during the week.

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.

Inquiry Sessions Begin!

Are you interested in the Catholic Church? Do you know someone who might be interested in seeking information about our Catholic faith? Today, the Cathedral Christian Initiation Team begins weekly meetings in the Seton Suite from 11:00 AM until 12:00 Noon with all those seeking information on the Catholic Church. No commitments are made at this time. This is an informal Inquiry Session to discuss aspects of our faith with anyone who might be thinking of joining the Catholic Church. All are welcome; bring a friend.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Prince Gallitzin #2625, will meet on **Monday, September 12** at 6:30 PM for a social followed by a meeting at 7:00 PM in the St. Rose of Lima Social Hall. New members welcome!

MUSIC MINISTRY NOTE:

Choir Practice: Thursday evenings; Cantors and Psalmists at 6:30 PM and All Choir Members 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM. New members are welcome. For more information, call 944-2044.

Liturgical Reflection ...

**JUBILEE
YEAR OF
MERCY**

The younger son came home and told his father of his sins and his sorrow. His father showed him mercy. The older son stood outside and judged both his brother and father. His father showed him mercy. Do we celebrate God's mercy in our lives? Or are our hearts so full of resentment and judgment that we cannot experience forgiveness? The father shows compassion and love to both sons. A heart full of mercy has no other option than to rejoice and celebrate when a sinner has come home. Has your heart led you to celebrate with someone who has hurt you? Have you forgiven the trespasses of another? Today is the anniversary when trespassers took many innocent lives on American soil. Is there forgiveness in our hearts?

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

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, September 4, 2016 - \$8,830.00

Winner of Calendar of Prizes 2016

The grand prize of \$5,000.00 has gone to Orvita Knott, mother of parishioner, Connie Steinbeiser, who along with her husband Dick, purchased ticket #915 as a 2015 Christmas gift. Congratulations!

Christian Initiation

Anyone interested in learning more about the process of entering into the life of the Church through the Sacraments of Initiation, Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist, and anyone interested in becoming a member of the Cathedral Christian Initiation Team, can sign up for a four part course (September through May) through the Lay Ecclesial Ministry Office. Classes begin on September 22 at the Administrative Center in Hollidaysburg. For more information contact Marybeth Heinze at mheinze@dioceseaj.org, 814-361-2000 or Jeanne Thompson at jthompson@dioceseaj.org, 814-317-2672.

Baptism Congratulations

Blaire Maxine Henry, daughter of Aaron and Kelsey Henry, was baptized and welcomed into our Cathedral Parish Family at our Saturday evening Mass on September 3; and on Sunday, September 4, Jeremy and Abby Bickel presented their daughter, Audrey Rose Bickel, for baptism Congratulations also to Godparents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins of Blaire and Audrey. May the graces of the Sacrament of Baptism strengthen both our children and the adults who care for them.

Next Session of Baptismal Preparation

Monday, October 10 at **7:00 PM** in the Seton Suite. Attendance at Baptismal Prep is required before a baptism is scheduled at Cathedral Parish. Call the Parish Office at 944-4603 to register.