

NOVEMBER 20, 2016

Scripture Reflection

Today's Gospel passage from Luke may seem a rather curious choice for this Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. It is from the Passion narrative that is proclaimed on Palm Sunday. Although we think of Christ as our king, he rejected that title throughout his life. The sign on the Cross that proclaimed him King of the Jews, while in fact true, was intended to be ironic. His entire public ministry was in many ways the opposite of the common image of a king. He spent his life not overpowering but empowering. He went about healing and unifying, forgiving and making others whole again--without exceptions.

On the Cross he died the way he lived, extending the gift of forgiveness and eternal life to one more sinner. Forgiveness from a king is a powerful gesture; you don't really know if you deserve it, yet it comes freely and your life is changed. The kingship of Christ that we celebrate today was defined by his integrity; what he preached in life; as he died doing.

The yearlong Jubilee of Mercy ends today. Christ our King embraced with love those qualities we sometimes negate. Christ the King, crucified for love of us, embraced limitation, humility, weakness, powerlessness, sin, and death. God's mercy was evident on the cross. Mercy is the face of God. In our weakness and our powerlessness, we find our God. This year has been a rich opportunity to share humility, compassion, and mercy with others. Judgment placed Christ on the cross. May we refrain from judging, and always see understanding and mercy as the qualities of our Savior King.

- **As the Jubilee of Mercy ends, how has the King of Mercy shown us to be genuine in our mercy and compassion to others?**

AT HOME WITH THE WORD 2016. (C) 2015 ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO, LITURGY TRAINING PUBLICATIONS, 3949 South Racine Avenue CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60609. REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION.

In Thanksgiving

Today ends the great *Jubilee Year of Mercy* in the universal Church. This has been an opportunity to live mercy and compassion in our lives with family, friends, co-workers, community members, and with those we do not like and who did not like us. We are invited to continue living the Corporal Works of mercy: feeding the hungry; giving drink to the thirsty; clothing the naked; sheltering the homeless; caring for the sick; visiting the imprisoned; and burying the dead. We are also invited to live the Spiritual Works of Mercy: converting sinners; instructing the unknowing; advising the doubtful; comforting the sorrowful; bearing wrongs patiently; forgiving injuries; and praying for the living and the dead. This has been a time to reflect on the place of vengeance, resentment, and judgment in our lives. We have been invited to be the face of God's mercy to others. This is sometimes difficult, but never impossible. With God's mercy all things can be. We are to be instruments of the mercy of God to others!

Holy Trinity Fundraiser - Cheese Ball Sale
Cheese balls are available after all Masses at the Cathedral Square door this weekend and next weekend sharing the table where our Calendar of Prizes 2017 continue to be sold. Each Cheese Ball costs \$6.00; they come in a variety of flavors. Please help support our Catholic School.

Liturgical Readers

There will be a thirty minute meeting with all readers this Monday, November 21 at 6:30 PM in the Cathedral. Lectors will review their important ministry of proclaiming God's Word at Mass. Also, this will be the opportunity to pick up your annual workbook containing the scripture reading for the coming liturgical year.

Update on New Building

The new roof is complete. The exterior finishes at roof level will be completed now that the demolition of the elevator tower on the alley side and the removal of the interior staircase on the fourteenth street side of the building has been done. It was decided that there will be nine (9) stained glass windows from the convent chapel throughout the building; there will be eighteen (18) clear glass windows with etchings of Eucharistic symbols of the Blessed Sacrament. Thank you for your support of this major project. And thank you for maintaining your pledge payments.

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

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

**OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,
KING OF THE UNIVERSE**

NOVEMBER 20, 2016

Readings: 2 Sm 5:1-3; Col 1:12-20; Lk 23-35-43

MASS INTENTIONS

November 21, Monday: The Presentation of the BVM

Readings: Rv 1:1-4; 2:1-5; Lk 18:35-43

6:45 AM Keith Irwin (Francis & Christina Dambeck)
8:00 AM Dave Lysinger, Anniv. (Mary and Family)
12:00 PM Moose Plutko (Linda Himes)

November 22, Tuesday: Saint Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr

Readings: Rv 14:1-3,4-5; Lk 21:1-4

6:45 AM David Riley (Carol Riley)
8:00 AM Rita Kantoski (Brandt/Vaughn Family)
12:00 PM Patty Geis (Diane and Bill Blyler)

November 23, Wednesday: Blessed Miguel Agustin Pro

Readings: Rv 15:1-4; Lk 21:12-19

6:45 AM Esther Dorazio (Steve & Therese Pelegrine)
8:00 AM Jerry Smith (Bob Johnson Family)
12:00 PM Jim Davidson (Eugene & Leann Ehredt)

November 24, Thursday: **Thanksgiving Day**

Readings: Sir 50:20-24; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Lk 17:11-19

9:00 AM In Thanksgiving
(Cathedral and Fatima Parishes)

November 25, Friday: Saint Catherine of Alexandria

Readings: Rv 20: 1-4, 11--21:2; Lk 21:29-33

6:45 AM No Mass
8:00 AM Charles McCall, Anniversary (Family)
12:00 PM Mary E. Bradley (Husband and Children)

November 26, Saturday: Weekday

Readings: Rv 22:1-7; Lk 21:34-36

8:00 AM Bud Seidel, Ann. (Jim, Elaine & Fam.) - Crypt
12:00 PM Dan and Miriam Burns (D. & M. Hanekamp)
Vigil: First Sunday of Advent
Readings: Is 2:1-5; Rom 13:11-14; Lk 10:21-24
5:00 PM Mary Patricia Grove

Thanksgiving Day Mass

Our Thanksgiving Day Mass will be on Thursday, November 24, at 9:00 AM. Please remember to bring a non-perishable food item, paper product, or monetary gift to be carried to the altar during the Offertory procession. All donations will be distributed to the needy during the holiday season.

Please note: There will be no 6:45 AM Mass on Friday, November 25. The Parish Office will be closed on Thursday and Friday this week.

Liturgical Reflection ...

This Thursday, November 24, is Thanksgiving Day and a special day of prayer in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. The theme of the prayer is the **Harvest and Fruits of the Earth**. As our country gives thanks to God for our many blessings, Catholics are encouraged to participate at Mass and give thanks to God for all the gifts we have received. Please join in praying the following:



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

**Father all-powerful,
your gifts of love are countless
and your goodness infinite;
as we come before you on Thanksgiving Day
with gratitude for your kindness,
open our hearts to have concern for every man, woman, and child
so that we may share your gifts in loving service.
Through Christ, our Lord. Amen**

CHRISTIAN INITIATION

Rite of Welcoming and Acceptance

Those planning to join the Catholic Church celebrate the *Rite of Welcoming and Acceptance* this weekend at our 10:00 AM Mass. Beginning next weekend, they will be with us at 10:00 AM Mass each week and will be dismissed after the Universal Prayer to more closely reflect on God's word proclaimed in Holy Scripture. The Parish Family gathers to support and pray for these men and women on journey to the Easter Sacraments.

Collection for Catholic Charities

For over 75 years, Catholic Charities has helped our neighbors throughout Central Pennsylvania regardless of faith or background. 100% of contributions received this weekend will directly help your neighbors in need. If you forgot the special envelope provided you may return it or any other envelope marked 'Catholic Charities' along with your regular offertory gift next weekend. Thank you for helping Catholic Charities of Altoona-Johnstown reduce poverty in communities throughout the Diocese.

Charismatic Prayer - The Charismatic Prayer Group will not meet this Monday but will meet again on **Monday, November 28** for a *Eucharistic Festival of Praise* at 7:00 PM in the Cathedral. Deacon Kevin Nester will be preaching. All are welcome!

Parents of Reconciliation Class Please Note:

Our third and final Session of Preparation is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 29**, in the Seton Suite from **6:30 PM - 8:00 PM**. All students **MUST** be accompanied by an adult. * First Reconciliation will be held at the **Advent Penance Service** on **Wednesday, December 14 at 6:30 PM**. A light reception will follow in the Cathedral Hall.

Calendars of Prizes 2017 Are Here!

Calendars of Prizes 2017 are being sold at the Cathedral Square door after all Masses. Each calendar costs \$20.00. There is a \$10.00 daily prize; an additional \$1,000.00 in special monthly prizes awarded throughout the year; and a grand prize of \$5,000.00 Family Trip or Cash Option. Due to the state regulations for small games of chance, it is necessary that all one thousand tickets be sold. Otherwise, the parish will lose money on unsold tickets. If you have a favorite three digit number, call the Parish Office (944-4603) weekdays between 9:30 AM and 5:30 PM to check on availability or stop at the Cathedral Square door after Mass. These make great Christmas gifts that last all year!

Vendors of Religious Articles To Visit Cathedral

On the weekend of December 3 and 4, *Land of Peace* representatives will offer articles from the Holy Land for sale in the Vestibule of the Cathedral. And the Sisters of St. Elizabeth Convent, Minsk, Belaus, will be with us on December 17 and 18 to display their assortment of religious items for your late Advent Christmas shopping.

Liturgical Reflection ...

**JUBILEE
YEAR OF
MERCY**

Throughout this liturgical year the Diocese has focused on the Jubilee of Mercy in the weekly Sunday insert. Today we voice the request of one of the criminals crucified with the Lord, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." We rely on the absolute mercy of God for our redemption. This year has been an invitation to go out and share God's mercy with others. The mercy we so desperately need from God is the gift we share with others. Vengeance, resentment, and anger make mercy impossible. We are called to compassion, forgiveness, love, understanding, and kindness in the name of the Lord. May we show others the face of God in our acts of mercy.

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

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, November 13, 2016 - \$9,701.50

Advent/Christmas Mailing

All registered members of the Cathedral Parish Family should have received the annual Advent/Christmas mailing this past week. If you did not receive this important mailing, please call the Parish Office. Thank you to Mary Ann Bell, Janet Belsey, Carole Chelton, Paula Clemens, Rita and Jerry Kibler, Sally Leiden, Ruthie McConnell, Bill Smith, Mary Gene and Madeline Vogel who helped prepare the mailing. Friends of Cathedral may also request a copy of this seasonal mailing.

Baptism Congratulations!

Kinsley Grace Sheeder was baptized and welcomed into our Cathedral Parish Family on Sunday, November 13, at the 10:00 AM. Mass. Congratulations to parents, Skyler and Kasey Sheeder. May the graces of the Sacrament of Baptism strengthen both our children and the adults who care for them.

Expectant Parents Please Note:

Our next Session of **Baptismal Preparation** is scheduled for **Monday, December 5** at **7:00 PM** in the Seton Suite. This required class is offered every other month and you don't have to wait until your child is born to attend class. Godparents are encouraged to attend as well. Call the Parish Office at 944-4603 to register.

F.I.R.E. Sessions

Students in Grades 9 -11 with parent or guardian, meet in the Seton Suite from 6:15PM until 8:30 PM on **December 4** and **18**.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

ELEVENTH GRADE: Session is scheduled for **Sunday, December 11**, following the 5:00 PM Mass, in Cathedral Hall. Please note: your paper about the Sponsor you choose is due at this time.