

**JANUARY 8, 2017**

*Scripture Reflection*

The details of the Magi's visit intrigue us. The visitors' names and occupations, the symbolism of the gifts, and the evil intentions of Herod lend drama and mystery to the story. But we need to focus on the Gospel as an epiphany, a manifestation of God's intervention in the world. These foreigners are a sign of the far-reaching effect of the birth of the Son of God. All peoples of good will find their way to the Lord.

One of Matthew's purposes was to confirm something the early church found a great mystery: that through Christ, God's covenant with Israel was now open to the Gentiles. This is also the mystery Paul explains in today's second reading. Matthew's lessons do not end there, however. The world is full of seekers. Some of these seekers are men and women at the end of their rope, desperate for a liberator, longing for deliverance from poverty, human trafficking, the sex trade, mental illness, war, violence, poverty or injustice. Some are seekers of a different sort, longing not for deliverance but for a life worth living, a life with meaning and depth, with purpose and love.

As Christians, we know that Christ can save every soul and satisfy every longing, and we know where to find him. Christ himself told us to seek him among the poor, to find him where two or more are gathered. We find him in Scripture and in the Sacraments and in the Spirit he gives us at our baptism. It is too easy for us to be like the chief priests and scribes in today's Gospel, indifferent to knowledge that would change the life of another. It is also easy to be like Herod and feel threatened by the presence of Christ, who imperils our ego drawn senses of power, comfort, privilege or security. Today's Gospel challenges us to be both seekers and guides, to be disciples who seek and find Christ, and then to show others the way.

• **The wise still seek the Lord. Where is your journey leading you? How are you helping others on their journey?**

AT HOME WITH THE WORD 2017. (C) 2016 ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO, LITURGY TRAINING PUBLICATIONS, 3949 South Racine Avenue CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60609. REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION.

AMERICA MAGAZINE: January 2, 2017 Issue, Michael Simone, S.J.

**Holy Trinity Catholic School**

The Holy Trinity Catholic School has been established to meet the spiritual, educational, and social needs of our children. Thank you to all who support this important ministry of the Church. The Holy Trinity Catholic School Board was established for the purpose of promoting and advancing the education and formation of students in reaching the fullness of Christian life. Part of the mission statement of our School Board is to collaborate with parents and guardians in raising and forming our children.

Our Catholic School is ready to expand our efforts and is looking for individuals to serve on sub-committees who will report back to the Board. The following is the list of sub-committees: Finance Committee, Personnel Committee, Development Committee, Education Committee, Planning Committee, Facilities Committee, and Catholic Identity Committee.

If you are interested and/or may have a skill that could help promote and advance Holy Trinity Catholic School and our students, please call the Middle School Campus at 943-7835 with your name, contact information, and which committee you would like to be a steward of your time and talent. Thank you.

**CELEBRATING GOD'S GIFT OF LIFE**

Bishop Mark Bartchak will preside over a *Prayer Service Celebrating God's Gift of Life* here in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament on **Thursday, January 26 at 7:00 PM**. All are invited and encouraged to participate in this special Liturgy of the Hours which will include a Blessing for Pilgrims marching in Washington, D.C. on Friday, January 27.

**Collection for the March for Life**

Citizens Concerned for Human Life will be accepting donations at the doors of the Cathedral on **January 21-22** to offset costs for the March to Washington, DC on **Friday, January 27**. Please be generous. Buses will be leaving the Altoona area at 7:00 AM and should return to this area about 9:30 PM. The cost for the bus will be \$15 per person, \$10 for students. Participants are asked to bring their lunch and enough money to cover the cost of their supper. Call Patricia Forr at 946-0681, or Roxann Blazewicz at 695-8008 for more information and registration.

**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:**

<b>Sunday:</b>	<b>5:00 PM (Vigil)</b>	<b>Holyday:</b>	<b>5:30 PM (Vigil)</b>	<b>Weekday:</b>	<b>6:45 AM</b>
	<b>8:00 AM</b>		<b>8:00 AM</b>		<b>8:00 AM</b>
	<b>10:00 AM</b>		<b>12:00 Noon</b>		<b>12:00 Noon</b>
	<b>12:00 Noon</b>		<b>5:30 PM</b>	<b>Saturday:</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>
	<b>5:00 PM</b>				<b>12:00 Noon</b>

***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**

**MAIL MINISTRY TO ELDERLY, HOMEBOUND, SERIOUSLY SICK, AND GRIEVING - 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**

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD  
JANUARY 8, 2017**

Readings: *Is60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12*

**MASS INTENTIONS**

January 9, Monday: The Baptism of the Lord

Readings: *Is 43:1-4,6-7; Mt 3:13-17*

6:45 AM No Mass  
8:00 AM Herbert J. Kutruff, Birthday (M/M Pat Riley)  
12:00 PM Patty Wiedemer, Anniv. (Joe & Family)

January 10, Tuesday: Weekday

Readings: *Heb 2:5-12; Mk 1:21-28*

6:45 AM Patty Seidel Howard, Anniv. (Weavers)  
8:00 AM No Mass  
12:00 PM Deceased Members of McGreal Family

January 11, Wednesday: Weekday

Readings: *Heb 2:14-18; Mk 1:29-39*

6:45 AM David Weaver, Ann. (Jim, Elaine & Fam.)  
8:00 AM No Mass  
12:00 PM Pat Rabine (M/M Ken Oyler)

January 12, Thursday: Weekday

Readings: *Heb 3:7-14; Mk 1:40-45*

6:45 AM No Mass  
8:00 AM Jerry Smith (John Proseri)  
12:00 PM Jim Davidson (MaryAnn & Linda Wharton)

January 13, Friday: Saint Hilary, Bishop, Doctor

Readings: *Heb 4:1-5, 11; Mk 2:1-12*

6:45 AM No Mass  
8:00 AM Bebe Milliron (Pat Byrne and Family)  
12:00 PM Danyll Rougeux (Peggy Bieniek)

January 14, Saturday: Weekday

Readings: *Heb 4:12-16; Mk 2:13-17*

8:00 AM Paul Cassarly (Jean Fornwalt)  
12:00 PM Joe Tomlinson (Kevin and Jane Byrne)  
Vigil: Second Sunday In Ordinary Time  
Readings: *Is 49:3,5-6; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34*  
5:00 PM Poor Souls

**Note Daily Mass Schedule**

One of our priests will be away. Therefore, there will be only two daily Masses this week and next Monday. Please check the bulletin for the daily Mass schedule. And please pass the information along to friends from other parishes who pray with us regularly at daily Mass. Thank you.

**Rest In Peace** - Please remember in prayer our parishioner, Paul Weible, who died and was buried this past week. May he and his family be at peace.

**Unique Christmas Season**

This year, with the Solemnity of Christmas and the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, being on Sunday, the Christmas Season ends on Monday, January 9th with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Christmas Season officially concludes this Monday.

Following the Noon Mass on Monday, January 9, poinsettias will be available to all who wish to take some home and care for them. At this time, all Christmas decorations will begin to be taken down.

**Christmas Evening Prayer with Exposition and Benediction**

Tonight we will gather at 6:30 PM to pray the Hours of the Church on this final Sunday of the Christmas Season. Families are encouraged to attend and all those with a deep love of the Eucharist are invited to be present before the Blessed Sacrament in exposition on the altar as we are the Parish Family of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. Evening Prayer and Benediction go about forty minutes.

**New and Expectant Parents Please Note:**

Our next session of **Baptismal Preparation** is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 10 at 7:00 PM** in the Seton Suite. This required class is offered every other month and is necessary before a Baptism is scheduled at Cathedral. 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. Please also note that Baptisms are not scheduled during Lent which this year begins on March 1. Easter Sunday is April 16th. Next class will be offered in mid-March.

**Cathedral Christian Mothers**

Cathedral Christian Mothers meet on the second Wednesday of each month. All ladies of the parish are invited to come to the Seton Suite on January 11 at 6:30 PM. Bring a friend!

**Catholic Daughters of the Americas**

CD of A Court Prince Gallitzin #2625 will meet at 6:30 PM for a social followed by a meeting at 7:00 PM on Monday, January 9 at St. Rose of Lima social hall. New members are welcome.

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

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION**

**Sunday, January 1, 2017 - \$8,241.00**

**Christmas Collection Report next week.**

**Additional Christmas Flower Memorials**

Paul and Dawn Scaramozzino

Benjamin J. Tomchick

**Contribution Reports** for Income Tax purposes may be obtained by calling the Parish Office: 944-4603.

**Calendar of Prizes 2017**

A gracious **thank you** to all who participated in one of our annual fund-raisers - all one thousand calendars have been sold. This project will give out \$10,000.00 in prizes and the Parish will profit \$10,000.00. Your support is greatly appreciated!

**Baptism Congratulations!**

On Sunday, January 1, Javier Sandre Gutierrez and Patricia Kochara presented their sons, Antonio Miguel and Juan Pablo, for Baptism here in the Cathedral at the 8:00 AM Mass. May the graces of the Sacrament of Baptism strengthen both our children and the adults who care for them.

**Marriage Preparation**

Our Cathedral Parish Marriage Prep Team is currently offering a series of Diocesan Marriage Preparation Classes for 2017. The sessions began on Saturday, January 7, in Cathedral Hall from 9:30 AM to 12:00 Noon, and will continue on Saturdays: January 14, and 21 (\* *Snow date: January 28*). All Cathedral couples planning to marry in 2017 need to be in attendance.

**Catholics Returning Home**

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



**Liturgical Reflection ...**

Today is the Epiphany of the Lord and the last Sunday of Christmas time. Tomorrow, Monday, January 9, is the feast of the Baptism of the Lord and the formal ending of the Christmas season. Today the Church celebrates with the wise visitors from the east that the Word Made Flesh has arrived for all peoples and all nations. Jesus, born in Bethlehem, raised in Nazareth, and crucified in Jerusalem, is Lord of all races and nations. May the Christian Gospel be proclaimed throughout the world to all inhabitants.

2017, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 South Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648.

**ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL 2016**

The final posting for this past year's annual appeal shows the Cathedral Parish receiving \$64,856.66 in cash gifts. Because of the capital campaign underway here in the Parish, our goal was decreased (only for 2016) to \$43,522.00. We exceeded goal by over \$21,000.00. Thank you for your kind and generous response.

**CATHEDRAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**Classes Resume today, January 8.**

**Pre-Kindergarten - Grade 8, 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM.**

**F.I.R.E.** will also be held this **Sunday evening, January 8** from 6:15 PM - 8:30 PM in Cathedral Hall.

There will be **No FIRE Session** on Sunday, January 22. The **Tenth Grade Confirmation Prep Retreat** on Saturday, January 21, is postponed and will be rescheduled at a later date.

**HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

**GUARDIAN NEWS**

**St. Vincent DePaul Cereal Drive** (*Kids Helping Kids*): Holy Trinity Catholic School will be having Cereal Drive from **January 9th - January 30** to benefit St. Vincent DePaul. Students can bring in a box of cereal or oatmeal.

**Catholic Schools Week** will be celebrated the week of **January 28th - February 5th**. The theme will be "*Catholic Schools, Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service*".

**Save the Date:** Fund-raising Event: "**Cash Bash**" **March 11, 2017**. Please call the school office for ticket information; \$100.00 ticket admits two.

**Holy Trinity welcomes** Mr. Alex Schwind and Mrs. Nicole Barrick to our school family. They will be teaching Music at the various sites.

**HELP WANTED: Holy Trinity Catholic School Altoona Campus** is looking for 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM **Full-time Custodian/Maintenance Person**. For an interview, please call: 814 943-7835.