

March 5, 2017

Scripture Reflection

During Lent the Church “goes on retreat.” Many find it a good time for self-reflection and spiritual exercises that lead to a change of heart. One traditional path to transformation is through acts of penitence with prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Scripture emphasizes the mercy of God, the grace of God that changes hearts. Acts of penitence do not persuade God to be merciful; God’s mercy leads us to be penitent.

The fasting of Lent made practical sense in the past, when food supplies were limited. In the springtime especially, when winter stores were depleted but new crops had not matured, fasting was necessary. Springtime hunger was part of the natural order of life, and many concluded that it was God’s will. Modern farming practices ensure that people in the developed world have an uninterrupted supply of food. We might have good intentions--trying to give up vices like smoking or excessive online entertainment--but the deeper meaning of Lenten fasting, to follow the will of God, is sometimes lost.

In Scripture, the desert is a place of testing and isolation; there Jesus encounters the devil. Like all temptation, this one appeals to Jesus’ self-identity. The devil begins with the phrase, “If you are. . .” He’s inviting Jesus to flaunt his identity and his mission, perhaps even challenging its genuineness. Matthew places this event right after Jesus’ baptism, when he was called “beloved” by the heavenly voice and from there began his ministry. Lent becomes for us a time to remember who we are: baptized in the Lord for the work of the Lord.

Lent asks, “Have we put our trust in what only appears to be good, pleasing, and desirable, or in the One who alone can satisfy our hungry hearts?” Open your eyes to see who we are, children of God who belong to Jesus Christ. May our Lenten journey renew our identity so that we can discover what it really good, desirable, and life giving.

• **What penitential acts have you chosen for Lent?**

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: February 20, 2017 Issue, Michael Simone, S.J. *Living the Word*, Laurie Brink and Paul Colloton, World Library Publications, 2016, page 69.

ALPHA Program of Lenten Renewal

Beginning on **Monday, March 13**, Cathedral Parish is offering a ten week process of renewal in our Christian faith. Each session begins with a meal at 6:00 PM followed by a talk and discussion and will conclude at 8:30 PM sharp. Registration continues this weekend at the table by the Cathedral Square door after Mass. Everyone, all ages, are invited to become part of this spiritual journey during the Lent and Easter seasons. You may also call the Parish Office to register during regular business hours - 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Lenten Lunch This Friday At Cathedral

Cathedral Social Committee is serving Lenten Lunches on the Fridays of Lent from 11:00 AM until 1:30 PM or until sold out. The menu includes a fish sandwich with your choice of macaroni & cheese or french fries for \$6.50. Please note: there will be no Lunch served on Good Friday, April 14.

**HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL
GUARDIAN NEWS**

- **Stations of the Cross on Fridays of Lent:**
Altoona Campus - 1:00 PM, Middle School Campus - 1:30 PM, Hollidaysburg Campus- 1:45 PM.
- **Registration for 2017-1018** is currently underway. If interested in a tour or being a “Guardian for a Day”, see the front of this Bulletin for contact information of each Office.
- **CASH BASH, Saturday, March 11 at 5:30 PM** in the Maria Parish Center. This wonderful event benefits our Catholic school. A \$100 ticket admits 2 adults and includes dinner and chances to win cash prizes. Tickets are also on sale for an Emerald Isle Vacation Getaway (\$20.00). Contact the School Office to order your tickets: 943-7835.
- **Guys Night Out...March Madness Saturday, March 25 at 6:00 PM** in Father Kelley Hall. The \$25 entry fee includes great food - all you can eat! Adult Beverages! Prizes and Gifts!! Proceeds benefit Holy Trinity Catholic Athletics. Tickets are available at all campuses.

Charismatic Prayer

Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group will meet this **Monday, March 6** at 7:30 PM. Please note the time change. The group will meet for intercessory prayer for the parish, the success of its ministries, and for our Lenten programs of almsgiving and personal enrichment.

Insert - Diocesan plans for the Centennial of Fatima Observance - an opportunity for a plenary indulgence. And on reverse, information on CONTACT Altoona.

**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) 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

**MAIL MINISTRY TO ELDERLY, HOMEBOUND,
SERIOUSLY SICK, AND GRIEVING - 944-4603**

**HOLYTRINITY 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**

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY
Leslie C. Thayer, MM, CAGO
Music Ministry Office - 944-2044
E-mail: lthayer@dioceseaj.org**

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 5, 2017

Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Rom 5:12-19; Mt 4:1-11

MASS INTENTIONS

March 6, Monday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46

6:45 AM Poor Souls in Purgatory
8:00 AM Sherry Madden, Anniv. (Kathy Oakes)
12:00 PM Inten. of Burgoon Family (MME. Simanski)

March 7, Tuesday: Sts. Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs

Readings: Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15

6:45 AM Helen Burkholder, Birth. (Kathy Oakes)
8:00 AM Marian Clemens (Daughter, Carol)
12:00 PM Hilda Donahue (J. Mark & Debbie Bover)

March 8, Wednesday: Saint John of God, Religious

Readings: Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32

6:45 AM Jack Douglas (Margaret Misitano Family)
8:00 AM Margaret Dolores Glass (Elizabeth Shea)
12:00 PM Lawrence Andrews, Birth. (Grandparents)

March 9, Thursday: Saint Frances of Rome, Religious

Readings: Est C:12,14-16,23-25; Mt 7:7-12

6:45 AM Nozzie, Jennie, Sandy Calabrese (Family)
8:00 AM John Bauer (M/M Richard Tragon, Jr.)
12:00 PM Moose Plutko (M/M Ken Louder)

March 10, Friday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26

6:45 AM Alfred Rutolo, Anniversary (Family)
8:00 AM Margie Smith (Michael & Suzan Kuny)
12:00 PM Tom Byrne (Dr. & Mrs. Peter Starr)

Lenten Lunch: 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM

March 11, Saturday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Dt 26:16-19; 5:43-48

8:00 AM Joseph A. Moffa, Anniversary (Estate)
12:00 PM Michael Febbo (Ed Stoltz)
Vigil: Second Sunday of Lent

Readings: Gn 12 1-4; 2 Tm 1:8-10; Mt 17: 1-9

5:00 PM M. Virginia Jones (Christian Mothers)

PRAYING THE STATIONS

Stations of the Cross will be prayed this **Friday** evening at **7:00 PM** and every Friday of Lent.

Prayer Partners for Lent

Forms are available at the church doors. Everyone is invited to participate in the Prayer Partner activity this Lent. You will receive by mail the name of a parishioner along with the name of someone preparing to receive Baptism, Confirmation or Eucharist during the Easter Season.

LENT HAS BEGUN

The forty days of Lent prepare us for the Three Days. Our ashes this past Wednesday reminded us that like Jesus who died on the cross, we too will die. The blessed ashes also called us to repentance. We must turn away from sin. Through *Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving*, we prepare to commemorate the Three Days - Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter. The spiritual quality of our Lent will reflect the spiritual quality of our Easter. The serious, penitential days of Lent have arrived. The Cathedral is simply decorated - no flowers, no plants. The Cross is placed next to the baptismal font; the purple hangings are displayed, and only two candles stand on each side of the altar. There are no *Alleluias* and no *Glory to God*. As we pray the *I Confess* at the beginning of Mass, the Church asks that we strike our chest once with our hand at the words "through my most grievous fault". Sinfulness and the need for God's mercy are before us. Intensify prayer, fasting, and giving alms to the poor. Baskets are placed at the church doors for your donations of non-perishable food items or cleaning and paper products throughout the Lent and Easter seasons. Plan to go to Confession during these Lenten days. The parish Communal Penance Service is scheduled for Wednesday, April 5 at 6:30 PM.

The CROSS - Our beautiful eight foot CROSS has been placed at the baptismal font for the seasons of Lent and Easter. This is the cross that will be used on Good Friday for veneration. This custom-made cross holds the relic of the True Cross. Special respect is to be shown to this sacred object. As you enter and leave the Cathedral by way of the front doors, take time to show reverence to this Cross. A genuflection would be proper; one may kiss the sacred relic; one may touch the relic of the True Cross. Please make the conscious effort to show some form of respect to this very holy symbol of the faith. During the forty days, take more time and thought when signing yourself with the sign of the cross.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

FIRST EUCHARIST - Our second session of preparation for students and parents is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 8**, from **6:30-8:00 PM** in the Seton Suite. Please note our third meeting date has been changed to Wednesday, April 26.

WELCOME!

Cathedral Parish welcomes our new Director of Cathedral Music Ministry, Leslie C. Thayer. Leslie started in her position with us this past Monday. She received her undergraduate degree in music at American University and received a graduate degree in organ from Duquesne University. She has had previous employment as Director of Music with the Catholic Church in the mid-west. Originally from Altoona, Leslie has returned home. And we welcome her as she oversees the music ministry of the Cathedral Parish - our liturgical music program, our choral program, and those who serve in liturgical ministries of music.

Appreciation

Cathedral Parish expresses our gratitude to Kevin Luke and Nina Tedeschi who have overseen music ministry at the Cathedral. Kevin Luke oversaw the administrative duties for our music program - choosing weekly music, scheduling cantors/psalmists, and planning the *Concerts Under the Dome* series. Nina Tedeschi oversaw the choral program at Cathedral and was head organist. The duties of the Music Director, originally under one person, had become split between the two of them. We are grateful to Kevin and Nina for their time with us.

CHRISTIAN INITIATION

Today at the **10:00 AM Mass** our Catechumens and Candidates for the Easter Sacraments will celebrate the **Rite of Sending Forth**. We affirm these individuals as they continue their journey of preparation for Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist to be celebrated at the Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 15 at 8:30 PM. We continue to pray with them as they are sent to Bishop Bartchak for the **Rite of Election** to take place here in the Cathedral at **2:00 PM** this afternoon.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, February 26, 2017 - \$8,607.00

Daily Lenten Collection

A basket is located on the table at the cross aisle for daily collections at the 6:45 AM and 8:00 AM daily Masses. A collection will be taken up at the Noon Mass throughout Lent. All monies will go to help the needy of our community and our partner parish, St. Margaret Mary in Lionelton, Jamaica.

Pictures of Candidates for Easter Sacraments

At the three doors of the Cathedral you will find the names and pictures of those journeying to the Easter Sacraments: our Catechumens and Candidates; our children receiving First Eucharist; and our high school students to receive Confirmation. Be sure to look for your "Prayer Partner".

F.I.R.E. Tonight - Sunday, March 5, 6:15 PM in Cathedral Hall.

BASKET BINGO Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 9, at **6:00 PM** in Cathedral Hall. Anyone interested in helping with this major fundraiser for Cathedral Parish is invited to attend. Call Lorraine Beck at 942-7774.

Cathedral Christian Mothers Meeting
Wednesday, March 15 at **6:30 PM** in the Seton Suite. All ladies of the parish are welcome.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas

C.D. of A. Court Prince Gallitzin #2625 is hosting the **Stations of the Cross** for **Altoona Youth** and their family members on **Saturday, March 25**, from **10:30 AM - 11:30 AM** at St Therese of the Child Jesus Parish, Altoona. All families welcome.

Please remember the sick of the Parish in your Lenten prayers. May they receive comfort and healing from Christ, the Divine Physician.

**ORDER OF
CELEBRATING
MATRIMONY**

Liturgical Reflection ...

The Church has revised the **Order of Celebrating Matrimony** (2016). This is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the beauty and meaning of the Sacrament of Marriage. Lent is our time to turn from sin and return to God. In the Catechism of the Catholic Church (Number 1609) it is stated that marriage helps to overcome self-absorption, egoism, pursuit of one's own pleasures, and to open oneself to the other, to mutual aid and to self-giving. Husbands and wives model Christian living in the Church. The love of man and woman models the love of Christ for his Church.

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