

MARCH 12, 2017

Scripture Reflection

In Scripture, the desert is the place to discover the limits of the human spirit and the mountain is the place to encounter the spirit of God. During Lent we visit both: last week the desert, today the mountain.

In the First Reading, God directs Abram to leave his homeland for a new land. An encounter with God often leads to a journey. This journey represents a new spiritual discovery in the relationship with God. When we speak of our Lenten journey, we don't actually take a trip, but rather embark on a spiritual journey, an exercise of self-examination. Whenever God asks us to move into the future and deepen our relationship with him, we are accompanied by blessings only God can provide.

Our Jewish/Christian tradition holds the belief that mountain peaks lie on the border of heaven and earth. On high mountains, God can reveal in visions what the world looks like from a heavenly perspective. Today's Gospel records such a vision. Several motifs reveal that although Jesus and the apostles had not left the ground they had entered a place more like the heavens. They saw a light as brilliant as the sun, they were covered by a cloud, and they encountered two men, Moses and Elijah, who many believed had been transported directly to the divine realm at the end of their lives. On this mountain God showed Peter, James and John what Jesus looks like in heaven: the Son bears the Father's divine glory.

All Christians are called to reflect Christ's transfigured glory. The rite of baptism celebrated at the Easter vigil, for which Lent is preparing us, alludes to this: "You have been enlightened by Christ. Walk always as children of the light." The light we pray for is the same as the love we learn in discipleship. All Christians are called to reveal a love like Christ's that gives up everything in service to our brothers and sisters, no matter the consequences. Glory in heaven might look like sacrifice on earth, but behind it all is the love that God offers us and dreams for us to share with each other.

• **Have you ever seen a love so pure that you caught a glimpse of God's glory?**

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AMERICA MAGAZINE: March 6, 2017 Issue

UPDATE on Progress

The new stairwell between the ground floor and second floor is completed. The new stairwell (replacing the former) at the back of the building between all three floors is presently being installed. There had been a delay due to structural questions. Plumbing, electrical, and heating/air-conditioning work continues on schedule. The city has approved plans for the lower parking lot where the school and convent once stood. This project will begin in the spring.

Thank you for your continued support to the Capital Campaign. Your monthly payments to your pledge make this project possible. We are indebted to you for your generosity. Thank You.

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.

Looking Ahead - Ways To Help

Holy Thursday - Families are needed for the various Mass ministries on Holy Thursday, April 13, at 7:30 PM following the Parish Dinner at 6:00 PM as banner carriers, offertory gift bearers and altar dressers....please call Chris Laraia at 312-7317.

Vacation Bible School June 19-23

Help is needed each day from 8:00 AM - Noon for group leaders, game leaders, craft helpers, and actors. Children ages 4 through 10 will participate from 8:30 AM until 11:30 AM. Students in grades 6-11 could receive 4 service hours each day. Call Chris Laraia 312-7317 or Jean Koury 949-2777.

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.
- **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.

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
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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

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

**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 12, 2017**

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

MASS INTENTIONS

March 13, Monday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Dn 9:4-10; Lk 6:36-38

6:45 AM Deceased Relatives of IHM
8:00 AM Rose Ann Himmelein (Carol Makdad)
12:00 PM John Tomlinson, Anniversary (Family)

March 14, Tuesday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Is 1:10,16-20; Mt 23:1-12

6:45 AM Thomas Stoltz, Jr. (Rose Keranen)
8:00 AM Kathy Cowan/Robbie Lutz (Aunt Skip)
12:00 PM B-day Inten. Eric Hockenberry, Sr.(Wife)

March 15, Wednesday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Jer 18:18-20; Mt 20:17-28

6:45 AM McGough Family (M/M James Brannen)
8:00 AM Anna Mercer (Paul and Family)
12:00 PM Bea Mannion (Cathedral Parish)

March 16, Thursday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Jer 17: 5-10; Lk 16:19-31

6:45 AM Jack Douglas (M/M Joseph Knott)
8:00 AM Esther Dorazio (Family)
12:00 PM Jim Davidson (Susan Kapfhammer)

March 17, Friday: Saint Patrick, Bishop

Readings: Gn 37:3-4,12-13,17-28; Mt 21:33-43,45-46

6:45 AM Msgr. Thomas Madden (Estate)
8:00 AM Jerry Smith (Kevin and Jane Byrne)
12:00 PM Garth A. Freet, Jr. (Joe Dzurenko)

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

March 18, Saturday: St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bish., Doc.

Readings: Mi 7:14-15,18-20; Lk 15:1-3,11-32

8:00 AM Herb Kutruff (Maloney Family)
12:00 PM Thomas and Mary Irwin (Children)
Vigil: Third Sunday of Lent

Readings: Ex17:3-7; Rom 5:1-2,5-8; Jn 4: 5-42

5:00 PM Joanna Tetanich (Bunnie Kyle)

PRAYING THE STATIONS

Stations of the Cross will be prayed this **Friday** evening at **7:00 PM** and every Friday of Lent. Bring the family and, if you wish, walk the Stations as we make the way of the cross our own journey to Calvary and resurrection.

Rest In Peace

Please remember in prayer our beloved parishioner, Bea Mannion, who died and on March 3, the day after her 103rd birthday. May she rest in peace.

CHRISTIAN INITIATION

Last Sunday at the Diocesan **Rite of Election** our Catechumens: Courtney Becker, Jason Burkle and Madisyn Runk were presented to Bishop Mark and invited to sign their names in the Book of the Elect, enrolling in the final steps of preparation for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist in the Catholic Church. And with his greeting, on behalf of the universal Church, Bishop Mark called our Candidates: Angela Blough, Lindsey Bonsell, Mickey Fields, Kelsey Henry, Brandon Leeper, Carlee McCaulley and Heather Ritchey who seek Confirmation and Eucharist, to Continuing Conversion. Please pray for these men and women continuing their journey to the Easter Sacraments during this Lenten Season of purification and enlightenment.

Lenten Evening Prayer

Every Sunday in Lent the Cathedral Parish gathers at 6:30 PM for Evening Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in exposition. This Liturgy concludes with Benediction. All are invited to participate in this Lenten prayer this evening.

SCRUTINIES

Beginning next Sunday at the 10:00 AM Mass, the Church will celebrate the three scrutinies with our Elect and Candidates. On the Third Sunday of Lent, March 19, the Gospel will tell the story of the woman at the well; on the Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 26, the Gospel will tell of the man born blind who regained his sight; and on the Fifth Sunday of Lent, April 2, the Gospel will proclaim the story of Lazarus being called from his grave into life. The scrutinies are not only for our Elect and Candidates, but also for us, the fully initiated. We are to look deeply and seriously at our lives these Lenten days and see what needs to be cleansed of sin and what calls us closer to our God. Please enter the next three weeks with open hearts as we prepare to die and rise with Christ after the forty days of Lent. At the conclusion of the First Scrutiny, our Elect and Candidates receive the gift of the Creed from the assembled at Mass. Those preparing for the Easter Sacraments will stand throughout the body of the Cathedral Church to receive the Profession of Faith from those gathered at the 10:00 AM Mass.

Cathedral Christian Mothers

All ladies of the parish are invited to come to the Seton Suite this **Wednesday, March 15** at **6:30 PM** for our Christian Mothers meeting. Bring a friend!

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, March 5, 2017 - \$10,233.50

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. During our first week we received \$808.25. All monies will go to help the needy of our community and our partner parish, Saint Margaret Mary in Lioneltown, Jamaica.

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. Over one hundred twenty individuals of all ages, will participate in this spiritual journey during the Lent and Easter seasons. Keep them in your prayers.

Finance Council Meeting

There will be a meeting of the Parish Finance Council this **Thursday, March 16**, at **4:30 PM** in the Saint John Room.

Baptismal Prep Class - Please note: there are no Baptisms scheduled during Lent. Our next Baptismal Preparation Class will be held on **Tuesday, April 4** at **7:00 PM** in the Seton Suite.

MUSIC MINISTRY

The **Cathedral Choir** meets for weekly rehearsal on **Thursday** evenings: **6:30 PM** for **Cantors** and **7:00 PM Full Choir** in the Music Room until 9:00 PM. New and returning members are welcome at any rehearsal. For more information or to schedule an informal audition, please contact Leslie Thayer at the Cathedral Music Ministry Office: 944-2044.

MARDI GRAS THANK YOU

A special "Thanks" to the following who helped make the Mardi Gras Party a great success: Phyllis Baker, Mary Ann Bell, Tim Bettwy, Roberta Burns, Dwight and Fred Drexler, Pat Duffy, Anna Rose and Tony Eckenrode, Janet Hammond, Kathy Hughes, Jean and Randy Koury, Chris and Bob Laraia, Don Martino, Beth Moore, Rick Tomlinson, Linda and Steve Yaskow. Also, to the students who helped with the children games and crafts.

**THINK SPRING - THINK BASKET BINGO
SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2017**

It's that time of year again for our **3rd Annual Basket Bingo**. We're asking for your support. We are in need of Gift Cards, new items such as home decor, non-perishables, theme baskets, household items, and monetary donations. Items can be dropped off at the Parish Office during the week between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM, or may be picked up by calling: Roberta Burns, 515-1614; or Lorraine Beck, 942-7774. Tickets are available now at the Parish Office and will be available after Masses beginning next weekend \$25.00 per person with value pack for an additional \$30.

Bishop's Night For Vocations

The Serra Club of Cambria County invites you to the Bishop's Night for Vocations dinner on **Friday, April 21, 2017** at Bishop Carroll Catholic High School, Ebensburg. A social hour begins at **5:30 PM** and dinner follows at **6:30 PM**. The event is sponsored jointly by the Serra Club and the Diocesan Vocation Office. The theme for the event is: "**Led by the Spirit for Mission**". Guest speaker is Reverend Stephen P. Delacy, Vocation Director, Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Tickets can be purchased by calling: Marjorie Lechene at 814-255-9797 or 814-255-6563.

Liturgical Reflection ...

**ORDER OF
CELEBRATING
MATRIMONY**

Every person experiences evil around and within himself. This experience of sin makes itself felt in the relationship between man and woman (husband and wife). Their union has always been threatened by discord, a spirit of domination, infidelity, jealousy, and conflicts that can escalate into hatred and separation (Catechism of the Catholic Church Number 1606). To heal these wounds of sin, man and woman need the help of the grace that God provides in the Sacrament of Marriage. God's infinite mercy is always available and readily given to the spouses.

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