

**JULY 9, 2017**

*Scripture Reflection*

The Gospel turns upside down all our common conceptions of God and his Son. This gracious God, Jesus says, hides his wisdom from those who claim to be wise and reveals it to the little ones. They are the ones who are invited to bring their burdens and rest in Jesus. How? By joining themselves to his yoke - wooden bar placed over the shoulders so two can pull together - and learning what it means to be meek and humble. This is the Good News of today's Gospel.

During his active ministry, Jesus lived his life utterly dependent on divine providence. He emphasized this dependence to his disciples before he sent them out to preach in his name. A person completely dependent on God becomes sensitive to the subtle rhythms of divine action in the world. Jesus recognized a similar sensitivity among the poor and simple of his day. They knew their dependence on providence, and it sharpened their awareness of God's action in the world. These "little ones" recognized Jesus before anyone else did so. They saw in Jesus a source of the same grace they had relied on all their lives.

The wise and the learned had forgotten the lessons of dependence. Jesus' actions perplexed and troubled them. Something in their education caused them to lose sight of their dependence on God. Perhaps it was because they had attained social status and comfort. Perhaps they came to believe that in their learning they had every answer they would need to make their own way through life.

The first part of today's Gospel also appears in Luke, but the second part, Mt 11:28-30, is unique to Matthew. The statement is a paradox: The yoke symbolizes the burden of servitude, yet Jesus promises a "yoke of rest." Matthew understands a life dependent on God to be a life of freedom. Jesus offers the same yoke that he bears, the saving mission he receives from the Father. Like most yokes, it has two collars to distribute the load. As the disciples discovered, to take up Jesus' yoke means to give up fantasies of control and self-importance. At the same time, they learned that Jesus did all the heavy lifting. His is a yoke of rest.

- **What experiences remind you of your dependence on God? What experiences hide God from you?**

**Planning a Funeral**

Christians gather to pray for our departed loved ones and find comfort and strength in our faith. The Church formally meets for prayer three times at the time of death. We first gather for the *Vigil for the Deceased*. This prayer is grounded in scripture and reassures believers of our faith in eternal life. The *Funeral Mass* is the central focus of prayer for a Catholic who has died. At Mass we seek God's mercy through the death and resurrection of Christ for the eternal rest of the deceased. The third time of formal prayer is the *Committal*. Believers gather graveside to place the body of the deceased in the grave until the Lord comes again to call us to risen life.

There are various options to choose at the *Funeral Mass*. The white pall is a baptismal symbol recalling the deceased person's identity as a child of God who has been claimed for Jesus Christ. Family members or friends may place the pall on the casket. The family may wish to place a Christian symbol on the casket. This is a symbol of the Christian life, something that spoke of the deceased as a good Christian person. Perhaps at home there is particular crucifix or Bible or a holy image or something of spiritual significance that speaks of the faith of the deceased. Family members or friends may place this symbol on the casket.

The family is encouraged to choose the scripture readings for Mass. The Church provides a selection of appropriate readings. There are choices from a book of the Old Testament, a Psalm, a New Testament letter, and a Gospel reading. While the Psalm is normally sung, the family may choose two people (family or friends) to proclaim the Old Testament and New Testament readings. When there is Mass, the readers should be Catholic, qualified, and comfortable enough to proclaim Scripture through their grief.

In the absence of a deacon, the family may choose someone to pray the Universal Prayer, the general intercessions. Also, the bread and wine may be carried up in the offertory procession. At the end of Mass, the Church offers the option of a family member or friend to speak in remembrance of the deceased. Suggestions for preparation would include focusing on the faith, the family, and Scripture. The family may also choose songs to sing at the *Funeral Mass*, songs that the gathered assembly can sing with the family.

# 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: ALTICATHEDRAL@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

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  
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

## FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JULY 9, 2017

Readings: Zec 9:9-10; Rom 8:9,11-13; Mt 11:25-30

### MASS INTENTIONS

July 10, Monday: Weekday

Readings: Gn 28:10-22; Mt 9:18-26

6:45 AM Msgr. Thomas Madden (Estate)

8:00 AM Jeanne Smith, Birthday (Family)

12:00 PM Lois Riley (Vicki & Don Riley)

July 11, Tuesday: Saint Benedict, Abbot

Readings: Gn 32:23-33; Mt 9:32-38

6:45 AM M/M Chuck Olmes (F. & C. Dambeck)

8:00 AM Michael Febbo (Kirk, Donna, Maddie Kling)

12:00 PM Betty McCabe (Heather & Archie)

July 12, Wednesday: Weekday

Readings: Gn 41:55-57, 42:5-7, 17-24; Mt 10:1-7

6:45 AM Rita Kantoski (Judy & Ray Wilkinson)

8:00 AM Christopher Woods (Patty & Bear McCloskey)

12:00 PM John Vogel (Family)

July 13, Thursday: Weekday

Readings: Gn 44:18-21, 23-29, 45:1-5; Mt 10:7-15

6:45 AM George Weamer (Kathy, Judy & Family)

8:00 AM Jerry Smith (M/M Larry Benton)

12:00 PM Nancy Genesi (Janet & Michele Belsey)

July 14, Friday: Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin

Readings: Gn 46:1-7, 28-30; Mt 10:16-23

6:45 AM Msgr. Paul Panza (Kathy Grove)

8:00 AM Janet Tomlinson, Birthday (Family)

12:00 PM Moose Plutko (Shawna, Joe, & Gracie)

July 15, Saturday: Saint Bonaventure, Bishop & Doctor

Readings: Gn 49:29-32, 50:15-26; Mt 10:24-33

8:00 AM Ed & Jeannine McCloskey, 50th Wed. Anniv.

12:00 PM Denis Burns (Maureen & Dave Hanekamp)

Vigil: Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 55:10-11; Rom 8:18-23; Mt 13:1-23

5:00 PM Diane M. Johnston, Anniversary (Mother)

### Rest In Peace

Please remember in prayer, John Flinn, who died and was buried from the Cathedral this past week. May John rest in the peace and love of the risen Christ.

### Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group

The Cathedral Prayer Group will meet this Monday, July 10th, at 7:00 PM, here at the Cathedral. Praise and worship music will be followed by Bob Sutton, teaching "Eucharist and the Holy Spirit." All are welcome!

### Infant Baptismal Preparation

There will be a baptismal preparation session for infant baptism on **Thursday, July 20, at 7:00P.M.** in the Seton Suite. You need not wait until the baby is born to attend this sacramental preparation class. All parents are expected to attend this informative meeting regarding your baby's baptism. Baptism is a serious decision made by the parents. When your child is claimed for Christ, you assume the responsibility to raise your child in the Catholic faith.

### Fatima Devotions

The Franciscan Friars, T.O.R., from Loretto, invite you to participate with them in celebrating the Fatima Devotions on **Thursday, July 14th, at 6:30 P.M.** in the gardens at Mount Assisi (in case of inclement weather, devotions will be at the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel). The singing will be led by the choir from Holy Name in Ebensburg and the sermon will be delivered by Deacon Rick Golden. We would like to extend a cordial welcome to all.

### Gluten Sensitivity

There may be parishioners who have found that they have physical disorders related to gluten intolerance. The spectrum of illnesses includes celiac disorder, wheat allergy, bloating, abdominal discomfort, diarrhea, muscular disturbances, and bone or joint pain. The ordinary hosts distributed at Communion contain gluten. If you have found that you are gluten sensitive, special bread is available that possess a very low gluten content. Please tell the priest before Mass, and he will consecrate the low-gluten host for you to receive at that Mass.

### Holy Trinity Catholic School

The Church offers a quality Catholic education for our children at Holy Trinity Catholic School. Are you concerned that your son and daughter receive a faith-based education where individualized attention is given to each student? Holy Trinity Catholic School has three campuses, two elementary sites, in Altoona and Hollidaysburg, and the Middle School campus in Altoona. Your child receives a stellar education, joins in competitive athletics, participates in various extracurricular activities, and has Jesus Christ at the center of their school life. Enroll your child in this gem of Catholic ministry. For more information call Elaine Spencer, the school principal, at 942-7835.

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION Sunday, July 2, 2017 - \$9,328.00

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

**Registration** for all NEW and RETURNING students in grades PreK-11 will be held before and after all Masses on August 13 and 14 in the Seton Suite. Parents of all new students are asked to bring a copy of their child's Baptism certificate. Students MUST be registered before the start of Religious Ed on Sunday, September 10. For more information please call Chris Laraia at 312-7317.

**Substitute Teachers Needed** - The Religious Education Program is searching for parishioners to volunteer their time and talent as substitute teachers this year. Pennsylvania State and Diocesan clearances are required.

### Liturgical Ministers Please Note:

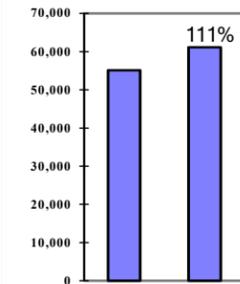
We will be preparing a new Liturgical Minister schedule which will start on Sunday, August 6. Unavailable dates and contact changes are needed by July 17. Call 932-6340, text or email Gabrielle Cronin. If you prefer, call 944-4603, or drop-off your availability schedule at the Rectory.

### Free Bishop Guilfoyle Youth Football Clinic

There will be a FREE youth football clinic at Bishop Guilfoyle on Thursday, July 13, 2017, from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. It will be at the Tom Irwin Field at Bishop Guilfoyle High School. The camp is run by BG's head varsity football coach, Justin Wheeler, along with his staff and the three-time State Championship winning players! There will be awards and prizes. There will also be FREE hot dogs and ice cream! Any and all students entering grades 1-8 are welcome! Registration forms are available at the Cathedral's entrances.

**Please remember our sick in your prayers.**

### CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE



Our Cathedral Parish Target for the Diocesan 2017 Catholic Ministries Drive is **\$55,121.00**. All Parishioners, whether you can give a lot or just a little, are encouraged to be part of this drive which will support the vital ministries offered throughout our eight county diocese. Our donations will go directly to supporting three areas of ministry: (1) strengthening families and caring for the poor; (2) nurturing our youth; and (3) forming clergy and laity. Many members of our Cathedral Parish Family are touched by these caring ministries. Funds over goal return to the Parish and will help us with our Cathedral project of repaving the upper parking lot. Thus far we have received gifts from 197 households and are at 111% of goal having raised **\$61,155.00**. All monies now received will come directly to the Cathedral Parish. We are **\$6,034.00** over the target amount set by the Diocese. Please prayerfully consider making your gift within the next few weeks. You may return your gift to the Diocesan Development Office by mail in the envelope provided, return it to the Parish Office during the week or drop it in the Sunday collection. All additional monies will help the cost of repaving the upper parking lot which is scheduled for this summer. Thank you for your continued generosity to parish and community.

## ORDER OF CELEBRATING MATRIMONY

### Liturgical Reflection ...

Within Mass and without Mass, the priest or deacon begins with the sign of the cross and greeting. The revised ritual provides two options ("in these or similar words") to address the couple and those present to dispose them inwardly for the celebration of Marriage. When celebrating Matrimony within Mass, the Church directs there is no Penitential Rite. There is to be the *Glory to God* (preferably sung) at the Mass celebrating Matrimony. This hymn of praise to the glory of God is directed even in the seasons of Advent and Lent when the ritual Mass for Marriage is celebrated. All in the assembly, gathered for the Sacrament of Matrimony, are encouraged to take part in this beautiful prayer of praise. The collect (six options) concludes the introductory rites.

(*Order of Celebrating Matrimony*, Numbers 51-53, 86-89, and 188-192.)

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