

JULY 16, 2017

Scripture Reflection

People often encounter the same experience in different ways. Discussions on social media illustrated this starkly in the spring of 2015, when millions argued over "The Dress." Many saw a two-tone dress of indigo and black material. Almost as many saw instead a dress that was white and gold. Because the photo was poor, the viewer's brain had to supply important information about light and shadow. So deeply do we rely on our brain's ability to supply information in this way that those who saw the dress one way found it very difficult to perceive it in the other.

Such disparities of perception are a human reality. Matthew plays on this reality in today's Gospel. Although he calls this the parable of the sower, in Matthew's hands it is not a story about a sower at all. It is not even primarily a story about soil and seed, as it is in Mark and Luke. Instead, Matthew uses this parable to introduce a reflection on faith. Matthew's community struggles to understand why so few believed in Jesus. How was it possible, they wondered, that friends and loved ones heard the same message but did not grasp its implications? In today's Gospel, Matthew suggests that some people were simply ready to believe and therefore found in Jesus' words the mysteries of the kingdom.

This parable, and the expanded interpretation of it, help Matthew explain how people encountering the same Jesus came away with such different perceptions. "Knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven has been granted to you, but to them it has not been granted." Matthew suggests that Jesus preached a difficult parable to seek out any who were able to hear him. Whether their readiness came from spiritual desperation or simple open-mindedness, they recognized a deeper truth that others missed.

Without this readiness, one could listen all day to Jesus but make no sense of his message. By contrast, for those who were open to the deeper truth of Jesus' words, the mysteries of the kingdom were revealed. The barest movement of faith produced an effect that was entirely transformative. Just so, we need to be ready to hear God's truth even in the words that challenge us the most.

● **Is your faith open and ready to receive a new and unexpected revelation about belief in the Lord?**

America Magazine, July 16, 2017, "Whoever has ears ought to hear!," Michael R. Simone, S.J., pg.50.

What the Church Teaches about Cremation

Cremation is permitted in the Catholic Church. The Church officially prefers that the body of the deceased be buried. Why the preference for the body's burial? The body of the deceased Catholic is the same body once washed in baptism, anointed with the oil of salvation, and fed the Body and Blood of Life. It was this baptized body that reached out in service to the needs of others. As a temple of the Holy Spirit, the body is sacred, made in the image of God. Jesus' own body was buried in the tomb where he rose on the third day.

When cremation is chosen because of sanitary, economic or social considerations, the Church asks that the body be present in Church for the Funeral Mass. After the Mass, then, the body would be cremated. Following cremation, the Church would formally gather graveside for the committal prayers placing the cremans in the grave.

The ashes of the deceased, like the body, must be laid to rest in a sacred place such as a cemetery or in a church. From the earliest times, the tombs of Christians have become places of prayer, remembrance and reflection. The faithful departed remain part of the Church, made up of the living and the dead. Burial of ashes in a cemetery prevents the deceased from being forgotten or their remains from being shown a lack of respect once the immediate subsequent generation have too passed away.

The keeping of ashes of the departed in a domestic residence is not permitted. Nor are the ashes to be divided among various family members. It is not permitted to scatter the ashes of the faithful departed in the air, or land, at sea or in some other way, nor may they be preserved in mementos, pieces of jewelry or other objects.

Burial of the body or the ashes in a cemetery corresponds to the piety and respect owed to the bodies of the faithful departed. The Church wishes that our dead be buried in a cemetery, this includes the cremated ashes of our sisters and brothers. Because of Christ, Christian death has a positive meaning. By death the soul is separated from the body, but when the Lord comes in all his glory, he will give incorruptible life to our body, transformed by reunion with our soul. The baptized are promised this new life as witnessed in the resurrected body of the Lord Jesus, and followed by the assumed body of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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

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

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

Leslie C. Thayer, MM, CAGO

Music Ministry Office - 944-2044

E-mail: lthayer@dioceseaj.org

**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

JULY 16, 2017

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

MASS INTENTIONS

July 17, Monday: Weekday

Readings: Ex 1:8-14,22; Mt 10:34-11:1

6:45 AM No Mass

8:00 AM Stan Halzerz (McNelis All-Stars)

12:00 PM JemmaAndrews,Birth.(Grandma&Grandpap)

July 18, Tuesday: Saint Camillus de Lellis, Priest

Readings: Ex 2:1-15; Mt 11:20-24

6:45 AM Bill Crouse (Kevin & Jane Byrne)

8:00 AM No Mass

12:00 PM Fred Petrunak, Sr., Birth. (Family)

July 19, Wednesday: Weekday

Readings: Ex 3:1-6,9-12; Mt 11:25-27

6:45 AM No Mass

8:00 AM Fred Fedeli (Wife, Rose Marie)

12:00 PM Patty Geis (Marge Moschella)

July 20, Thursday: Saint Apollinaris, Bishop & Martyr

Readings: Ex 3:13-20; Mt 11:28-30

6:45 AM David Riley (Carol Riley)

8:00 AM No Mass

12:00 PM Betty McCabe (Bob & Chris Laraia)

July 21, Friday: Saint Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest & Doctor

Readings: Ex 11:10-12:14; Mt 12:1-8

6:45 AM No Mass

8:00 AM Bemadette Weakland (MMRobert Laughlan)

12:00 PM Julia Febbo (Elizabeth Torso)

July 22, Saturday: Saint Mary Magdalene

Readings: Ex 12:37-42; Jn 20:1-2,11-18

8:00 AM Herb Kutruff (Ed & Lois Simanski)

12:00 PM Joe Tomlinson (Margaret Misitano Family)

Vigil: Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Wis 12:13,16-19; Rom 8:26-27; Mt 13:24-43

5:00 PM Fred Martynuska, Birthday (Family)

Daily Mass Schedule Next Two Weeks

Please note that there are only two (2) Masses scheduled Monday through Saturday. Please note the days for the 6:45AM and 8:00AM Masses; there is always a Noon Mass. The schedule reflects the presence of only one priest.

Rest In Peace

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

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.

An Invitation

Have you ever considered joining the Catholic Church? Perhaps you pray regularly with us with your Catholic spouse. Maybe you have felt a leaning toward the Catholic faith. Perhaps you have some questions that need to be discussed. Know that you are invited to join others this September to enter into inquiry into the Catholic faith. We will begin gathering on Sunday, September 10 at 11:00AM, following the 10:00AM Mass, in the Seton Suite which is located beneath the rectory on Fourteenth Street. All are invited. No commitments are made at this initial stage of inquiry into the Catholic Church.

Are You Interested?

This is an attempt to see if there is interest in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament here in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament on **Wednesdays following the Noon Mass until the conclusion of Confessions at 8:00PM.** The Sacrament would be in exposition in the Reservation Chapel, placed in the monstrance in front of the tabernacle. In order for this to happen, there must be a commitment on the part of individuals to be present before the Sacrament throughout these hours. The Sacrament is placed in exposition with the understanding that at least two people are present at all times. When there is no one present, the Sacrament is to be reposed into the tabernacle. If you are interested, please call the Parish Office at 944-4603 with your name and hours you think you would be able to be present in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. The Parish is gathering information on the possibility of this devotion. Your participation is essential for this adoration to take place either weekly or monthly.

Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group

The Cathedral Prayer Group will meet Monday, July 24th, at 7:00 PM, here at the Cathedral. Praise and worship music will be followed by Father Mark Begley, teaching "The New Evangelization." All are welcome!

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, July 9, 2017 - \$9,004.00

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.

Liturgical Ministers Please Note:

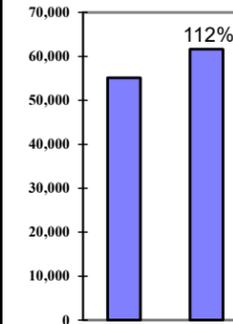
We will be preparing a new Liturgical Minister schedule which will start on Sunday, August 6. Unavailable dates and contact changes are needed by July 17. Call 932-6340, text or email Gabrielle Cronin. If you prefer, call 944-4603, or drop-off your availability schedule at the Rectory.

Religious Education News

Registration for all NEW and RETURNING students in grades PreK-11 will be held before and after all Masses on August 12 and 13 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.

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 200 households and are at 112% of goal having raised **\$61,655.00**. All monies now received will come directly to the Cathedral Parish. We are **\$6,534.00** 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 ...

When the Sacrament of Matrimony is celebrated, the Church always proclaims sacred scripture. The couple is encouraged to choose readings from the Church's selections for Marriage when the ritual Mass for Marriage is celebrated. The Church offers nine options from the books of the Old Testament (*Lectionary* Number 801), seven options of psalms (*Lectionary* Number 803), fourteen selections of New Testament readings; this second reading is optional (*Lectionary* Number 802), and ten options of Gospels (*Lectionary* Number 805). When Marriage is celebrated within Mass, the Church wishes both readers to be Catholic. When Marriage is celebrated without Mass or celebrated between a Catholic and a Catechumen or a Non-Christian, the Church wishes the readers to be baptized. (*Order of Celebrating Matrimony*, Numbers 144-187.)

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