

AUGUST 6, 2017

Scripture Reflection

The story of the transfiguration is a story about faith and the insights faith confers. Jesus' own faith was so perfect that he shared the Father's glory. An act of faith by Peter, James and John allowed them to see this glory and be transformed by it. Just so, when we let faith transform our lives, we can let the world hear the voice of God.

In Matthew's Gospel, the transfiguration is a lesson in faith. Matthew sets the event among episodes that highlight the growing faith of the apostles. Not long before, a group of Pharisees and Sadducees challenged Jesus to produce a sign. Jesus refuses, pointing out that his sign, like the prophet Jonah's, was a ministry of preaching the truth. Matthew relates Peter's confession of faith not long after that confrontation. Peter's faith had grown so strong that he could believe on the strength of Jesus' word alone.

The sign of the transfiguration came only after the act of faith. Peter along with James and John (who presumably shared Peter's faith) saw Jesus as he appears in the Father's eyes. They saw the incarnate Son who fulfilled the prophecy of Daniel we hear in the first reading. Jesus shared the Father's glory and was the Word that inspired Moses and Elijah. Peter's faith in Jesus was confirmed in spectacular fashion. "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Throughout Matthew's Gospel, faith is something that either grows or dies. The word of God had found deep, fertile soil within Peter, James and John.

When Jesus took Peter, James, and John up the mountain to witness his Transfiguration, he planted seeds of transformation in them. The Gospels situate the event on a mountain. In biblical tradition, human beings usually encounter God on mountains. Go to one of the mountain tops in these Allegheny Mountains. Summer is a wonderful time to focus on God's bounty and promise. Take time out this week, and notice the sights, sounds and smells around you. Deepen your faith and give thanks.

● **How can you challenge yourself to deeper faith? What insight has your faith taught you that you can share with others?**

America Magazine, July 14, 2017, "Even Deeper Faith," Michael R. Simone, S.J., pg.52. At Home with the Word. © 2016 Archdiocese of Chicago, Liturgy Training Publications, Chicago, Illinois, pg. 109.

Fasting: A Time Tested Practice

Fasting and abstaining is ancient in Christian life. Refraining from food and drink as an expression of interior penance, in imitation of the fast of Jesus for forty days in the desert, draws one closer to God and can cleanse one of unnecessary distractions in attempting to deepen one's spiritual life. Fasting has its roots in Scripture and the writings of the Church Fathers. One fasts from what one eats, examples would be those snacks during the day. Abstinence is abstaining from something, examples would be like meat at dinner or time spent at the computer or television.

Going without can be countercultural. Fasting makes us aware that our dependence is on God alone. In a land of plenty, where we often super-size our lunches, going with the smaller portion can remind us of the sacrifice of the Lord on Calvary. Sacrifice is at the heart of fasting. We give up something in order to recall God's great love for us. Fasting from certain foods makes us more aware of the poor and hungry among us. All would like to have a close relationship with the Lord. Fasting is a means to this end.

Fasting invites us to go bed feeling hungry. Those minor hunger pangs focus us on the value of a serious life with God. Families could decide to choose a certain day in the week to cut back on the consumption of food at that day's meal. An individual may decide to abstain from a favorite pass time, giving more time to prayer or service. The practice of fasting is done quietly never getting the attention of another. It is a source to growing closer to God and other believers.

Cautions do exist. Fasting must be practical and realistic. One's physical health must not be compromised. Individuals with low blood sugar, persons on serious medications, and those with special diets are never to jeopardize their physical health. Fasting is usually a focus during Lent. Why this talk in August? One can fast at any time and in any way. It is a means of bringing us closer to our Lord and one another. Perhaps you could begin by choosing one day a month (example: the first Friday of the month) and begin a holy fast. Shh! Remember, this is between God and you.

Stewardship of Time - Mailing of Raffle Tickets

Thank you to Janet Belsey, Mary Ann Bell, Rita and Jerry Kibler, Bill and Grace Smith, Linda Nelson, Sally Leiden, Paula Miller and Paula Clemens.

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)	Holyday:	5:30 PM (Vigil)	Weekday:	6:45 AM
	8:00 AM		8:00 AM		8:00 AM
	10:00 AM		12:00 Noon		12:00 Noon
	12:00 Noon		5:30 PM	Saturday:	8:00 AM
	5:00 PM				12:00 Noon

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

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

FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

AUGUST 6, 2017

Readings: Dn 7:9-10,13-14; 2Pt:1:16-19; Mt 17:1-9

MASS INTENTIONS

August 7, Monday: Saint Sixtus, II, Pope, Companions

Readings: Nm 11:4-15; Mt 14:13-21

6:45 AM Joyce McNeal (Carol Makdad)

8:00 AM Barbara Barrett (Mary Repko and Family)

12:00 PM Robert Smithmyer, Ann. (Wife and Family)

August 8, Tuesday: Saint Dominic, Priest

Readings: Nm 12:1-13; Mt 14:22-36

6:45 AM Carol T. Mincin, Anniv. (Anna Miller)

8:00 AM BeBe Milliron (Eddie and Lois Simanski)

12:00 PM Janet Tomlinson (Daniel)

August 9, Wednesday: St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross

Readings: Nm 13:1-2,25-14:1,26-29,34-35; Mt 15:21-28

6:45 AM Verna Bell (Maureen and Dave Hanekamp)

8:00 AM Rita Kantoski (Claire and George Buck)

12:00 PM Joe Conlan (Ron and Jean Sheehan)

August 10, Thursday: Saint Lawrence, Deacon, Martyr

Readings: 2 Cor 9:6-10; Jn 12:24-26

6:45 AM George Dean Barry (Green, Tyler, Mary, Barry)

8:00 AM Joe & Frances Pagliaro (M/M Van Compagni)

12:00 PM James Mike Smith, Birth. (Terry Smith)

August 11, Friday: Saint Clare, Virgin

Readings: Dt 4:32-40; Mt 16:24-28

6:45 AM Esther Dorazio (Family)

8:00 AM Rose Marie Simanski, Birth. (Husband, Robert)

12:00 PM Billy Geis, Birthday (Family)

August 12, Saturday: Saint Jane Frances de Chantal, Relig

Readings: Dt 6:4-13; Mt 17:14-20

8:00 AM Herb Kutruff (Tom and Beth Moore)

12:00 PM Joe Tomlinson (Tony & Anna Rose Eckenrode)

Vigil: Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: 1 Kgs 19: 9,11-13; Rom 9: 1-5; Mt 14:22-33

5:00 PM Jack Leiden, Birthday (Family)

Rest In Peace

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

Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group

The Cathedral Prayer Group will meet on Monday, August 14th, at 7:00 PM, here at the Cathedral. Praise and worship music will be followed by a Witness Talk by Karen Wood, "Miracles Still Happen." All are welcome!

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 8:00 PM. 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. **We will begin once a month starting Wednesday, September 6th.** Following the Noon Mass, the Sacrament will be placed in Exposition, and the Sacrament will be reposed at 8:00 PM. Please come and pray before the Blessed Sacrament.

Annual September Tours

Again this year the Cathedral will offer one-hour tours on four separate dates in September of the magnificent Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. September 7 will mark the 86th anniversary of the formal dedication of the Cathedral. The tour dates are: Sunday, September 3 at 1:00 P.M.; Tuesday, September 12 at 7:00 P.M.; Sunday, September 17 at 1:00 P.M.; and Tuesday, September 26 at 7:00 P.M. Light refreshments will be provided.

Raffle Tickets Available

The Annual Cathedral Raffle is now underway. There are twenty cash awards totaling \$5,000.00. Each ticket costs \$5.00; you need not be present to win. The prizes include: first prize: \$2,000; second prize: \$1,000; third prize: \$500; fourth and fifth prizes: \$200; sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth prizes: \$100; fourteenth, fifteenth, sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth prizes: \$50; nineteenth and twentieth prizes: \$25. The drawing will be Saturday, October 28 at 7:30 P.M. in the Cathedral Hall at the Family Night Social. Each family or individual is asked to purchase four (4) tickets. Parishioners were mailed their letter with tickets this past week. If you did not receive your mailing, please call the Parish Office (944-4603), and both letter and tickets will be forwarded. This fund-raiser replaces the annual festival. Please do your best to sell your tickets and, perhaps, sell additional tickets to family, friends and neighbors. There are great chances to win \$5,000.00 in prizes for just a \$5.00 ticket.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, July 30, 2017 - \$8,636.00

Annual Wedding Anniversary Liturgy

Bishop Mark and the Family Life Office cordially invite couples celebrating their 1st, 5th, 10th, 25th, 40th 50th, 55th and 60th+ Wedding Anniversary in 2017 (and their families) to attend the **Annual Wedding Anniversary Liturgy** to be held **Sunday, September 10th** here in the **Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament**. The Liturgy begins at 2:00 PM and light refreshments will follow. Parishioners are encouraged to call the Parish Office at 944-4603 to register by Tuesday, August 22.

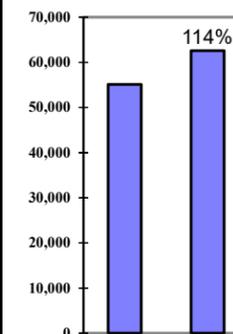
HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOOTBALL EXTRAVAGANZA

Holy Trinity Catholic School is selling tickets for the NFL Football Extravaganza. The cost of the ticket is \$20. Each week of the regular NFL season, tickets will be assigned a combination of three NFL teams. The final score for each team is then added up and the ticket with the highest score wins \$500, 2nd highest \$250, 3rd highest \$100, and the lowest score \$50. Ticket scores are also cumulatively tracked for the entire season with the highest scoring ticket receiving \$3,000, 2nd highest \$2,000, 3rd highest \$1,000 and the lowest score \$500. If a team does not play, for any reason, the score for the last game played will be used for the week the team does not play. All ties split the prize money. Results will be posted on Facebook under the title Holy Trinity Catholic School Altoona PA or at (holyltrinitycatholic.school). To purchase these tickets please see a Holy Trinity parent.

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

There is a Bulletin insert regarding job openings at Holy Trinity Catholic School.

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 207 households and are at 114% of goal having raised **\$62,575.00**. All monies now received will come directly to the Cathedral Parish. We are **\$7,454.00** 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.

Liturgical Reflection ...

ORDER OF CELEBRATING MATRIMONY

The Consent of the couple follows the three questions on freedom, fidelity, and acceptance of children. The priest or deacon invites the couple to publicly declare their consent to one another. The groom is first; the bride is second. There are two different formulae for the consent; the couple chooses which option of consent they wish for their wedding. There is also the option to repeat after the priest/deacon or to simply say "I do." The bridegroom and the bride are the true ministers of this Sacrament in their public Consent to each other. This Consent should be audible to all in the assembly.

(Order of Celebrating Matrimony, Numbers 61-63, 95-97, and 126-128.)