

# AUGUST 20, 2017

## *Scripture Reflection*

Two Gospel narratives reveal that Jesus' ministry extended even to Gentiles. One is today's story of the Canaanite woman and the other is the healing of the centurion's slave. The woman in today's story is a pagan. She came from the nation that had produced a number of Israel's enemies and whose deity, Baal, had nearly replaced the Lord's role as national God. Because of her nationality, her narrative departs from the story of the centurion. This is not a pious, high-status foreigner asking for a one-time favor. This is a needy and potentially hostile outsider whose desperate faith inspires her to claim a place, however lowly, in the inheritance of Israel.

The wider implication of the dialogue, then, is that Gentile membership in the community of faith was not a restricted favor to a few elite individuals. It was the common inheritance of all people. Although it took the early church a long time to sort out the details, Matthew establishes that anyone with a tenacious faith in the grace offered through Jesus had a place among the followers of Christ. Even though these questions of inclusion have been long settled for Christians, the woman's perseverance is still ours to emulate. A key Christian inheritance from Israelite faith is that persistent prayer for an impossible goal yields surprising grace. Remaining steadfast in prayer, even in the face of impossibility, reveals a true person of faith.

Our prayer must be equally resolute, remaining open to God's surprising grace. When we receive no answer, we must persevere. When others tell us to stop, we must persevere. As long as we need God's grace and help, even when we cannot imagine how it will come, we must persevere. The resolute faith of one woman delivered a child from evil. The bold, persistent prayer of a church can transform a world.

- **Who are the foreigners in our midst and what small step can you take this week to make them feel welcome?**
- **Which of your prayers demand perseverance?**

America Magazine, July 28, 2017, "Tune Out the Noise," Michael R. Simone, S.J.

## **Update and Important Information Parish Project**

The past three weeks have seen much progress with the Parish's capital project. The lower parking lot is temporarily available for parking. There will be a final paving in the weeks ahead. The prescribed landscaping (city codes) has begun. The upper parking lot is to be repaved and receive now lighting. The far end of the lot has been squared to allow for additional parking. A guard rail will be placed on the upper parking lot overlooking the lower parking lot.

Work on the new building is progressing swiftly. The second floor will be for our Religious Education Program and has been painted and carpeted. We are assured that occupancy will be in time for Sunday, September 10, the first day for religious education 2017-2018. The top floor continues to progress with offices and classrooms. The walls are now being painted; carpeting is to be installed within two weeks. The stained glass from the convent has been installed in several of the windows. The exterior of the building continues to be completed. The bell tower to hold the 1870 bell (from the original convent) is being finished. Work is to be completed by the end of the month.

The lower floor (off the alley) will remain unfinished for the time being. This will be an activity center named Charity Hall (with an image of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton). Plumbing, electrical, and heating/air-conditioning have been installed. The smaller kitchen and bathrooms are not completed at this time.

Last year parishioners were asked to give suggestions for the name of the new building. It is now time to make a final decision on what the building will be called. The Building Committee reviewed the dozen suggestions and felt these two titles captured those ideas. We are polling the Parish to invite your choice. Please circle the name of your preference; detach from the bulletin; and place in next week's collection basket or drop off at the Parish Office.

Circle your choice; detach and return:

**CATHEDRAL PARISH CENTER**  
**CORPUS CHRISTI CENTER**

# **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](mailto:ALTCATHEDRAL@DIOCESEAJ.ORG)**

### **EUCHARIST:**

|                |                        |                 |                        |                  |                   |
|----------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Sunday:</b> | <b>5:00 PM (Vigil)</b> | <b>Holyday:</b> | <b>5:30 PM (Vigil)</b> | <b>Weekday:</b>  | <b>6:45 AM</b>    |
|                | <b>8:00 AM</b>         |                 | <b>8:00 AM</b>         |                  | <b>8:00 AM</b>    |
|                | <b>10:00 AM</b>        |                 | <b>12:00 Noon</b>      |                  | <b>12:00 Noon</b> |
|                | <b>12:00 Noon</b>      |                 | <b>5:30 PM</b>         | <b>Saturday:</b> | <b>8:00 AM</b>    |
|                | <b>5:00 PM</b>         |                 |                        |                  | <b>12:00 Noon</b> |

***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](http://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](http://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](mailto:lthayer@dioceseaj.org)**

## TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 20, 2017

Readings: *Is 56:1,6-7; Rom 11:13-15,29-32; Mt 15:21-28*

### MASS INTENTIONS

- August 21, Monday: Saint Pius X, Pope  
Readings: *Jgs 2:11-19; Mt 19:16-22*  
6:45 AM Ben Jenkins (Francis & Christina Dambeck)  
8:00 AM Barbara Barrett (Larry & Barb Savino)  
12:00 PM Rita Kantoski (Robert & Donna Hall)
- August 22, Tuesday: The Queenship of the BVM  
Readings: *Jgs 6:11-24; Mt 19:23-30*  
6:45 AM Bill Crouse (Frank & Dawn Steinbugl)  
8:00 AM Margaret McConnell, Anniversary (Family)  
12:00 PM Patrick McNulty (Ellen Ann & Ray Kelly)
- August 23, Wednesday: Saint Rose of Lima, Virgin  
Readings: *Jgs 9: 6-15; Mt 20:1-16*  
6:45 AM Sally Heck (Eddie & Lois Simanski)  
8:00 AM Teresa G. Mincin, Anniversary (Anna Miller)  
12:00 PM Nancy Geis, Anniversary (Family)
- August 24, Thursday: Saint Bartholomew, Apostle  
Readings: *Rv 21: 9-14; Jn 1:45-51*  
6:45 AM BeBe Milliron (Kevin & Jane Byrne)  
8:00 AM John Bauer (Dennis & Connie Navarro)  
12:00 PM Madeline Vogel, Birthday Blessings (Family)
- August 25, Friday: St. Louis, St. Joseph Calasanz  
Readings: *Ru 1:1,3-6,14-16,22; Mt 22:34-40*  
6:45 AM Msgr. Thomas Madden (Estate)  
8:00 AM Joan Hirt (Barb & Steve Gerhart)  
12:00 PM Julia Febbo (Pete Russo & Erica)
- August 26, Saturday: Weekday  
Readings: *Ru 2:1-3,8-11;4:13-17; Mt 23: 1-12*  
8:00 AM Rose Ann Himmelein (Sam & Judy Kokolis)  
12:00 PM Pat Geis (Alice & Butch Winkler)  
Vigil: Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Readings: *Is 22: 19-23; Rom 11:33-36; Mt 16:13-20*  
5:00 PM Edgar L. Johnston, Birth (Amelia & Family)

### Rest In Peace

Please remember in prayer, Wanda Watkins and Alma Reismeier, who died and were buried this past week. May they rest in the peace and love of the risen Christ and may their families be comforted in the faith.

### Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group

The Cathedral Prayer Group will meet on Monday, August 28th, at 7:00 PM, here at the Cathedral for a Charismatic Mass celebrated by Father Bob Hilz, TOR. This is the 50th anniversary of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

### 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.

### Eucharistic Adoration

Thank you to all who called to make a commitment of time to spend before the Blessed Sacrament on the first Wednesday of September. On September 6th there will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at **12:30 P.M.** following the noon Mass. The Blessed Sacrament will be reposed at **8:00 P.M.** following Confessions that evening. The Sacrament will be located in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel (where the tabernacle is fixed). Everyone in the Parish is asked to make time to pray before the Sacrament in exposition. The Church directs that at least two people be present at all times while the Sacrament is in exposition. We will begin this devotion monthly; Wednesday, October 4th will be the next day for Eucharistic Adoration.

### 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 last 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.

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

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, August 13, 2017 - \$8,853.00

### 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.**

### Infant Baptismal Preparation

There will be a baptismal preparation session for infant baptism on **Wednesday, September 13th, at 7:00 P.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.

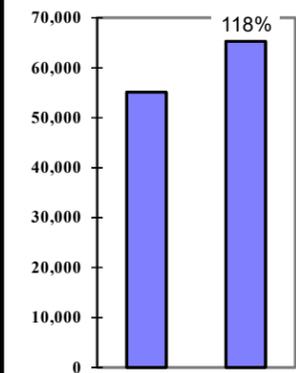
### Holy Trinity School News

Back to School - Classes will begin at all sites on Thursday, August 24th. The Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4 programs are full-day five days a week. Please call Holy Trinity Catholic Elementary Altoona Campus at 814-381-7011, or Hollidaysburg Campus at 814-695-6112 for more information. School Supply lists can be found on the Holy Trinity website under each teacher's web page.

### Family Intergenerational Religious Education

F.I.R.E. Class begins on Sunday, September 10, 2017, from 6:15 PM until 8:15 PM. Students in grades 9 thru 11 will meet in the Cathedral Hall at 6:15 PM. Please invite a parent or your sponsor to join us! The next class is scheduled for September 24, 2017.

### CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE



The target for the Cathedral Parish for the 2017 Catholic Ministries Drive is **\$55,121.00**. Our donations 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 the Cathedral Parish are touched by these caring ministries. To date we have received gifts from 215 households and are at 118% of goal having raised **\$65,293.00**. We are **\$10,172.00** over the target amount set by the Diocese. All additional monies will go to begin payment on the cost of repaving the upper parking lot which is scheduled for this summer. Please consider giving a gift to this annual drive. 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. Your gift will directly help the Parish with its parking lot project. Thank you for your stewardship with this important annual drive.

**Confirmation Preparation** sessions for all 9th and 10th grade students will start Sunday, September 10 following 10:00 AM Mass in the Cathedral Hall.

### Cathedral Religious Education

Classes will begin on Sunday, September 10th for grades Pre-K thru 8 in our newly completed space. Be sure to use the Fourteenth Street side entrance (double doors). If you have not pre-registered your children please arrive early. Teacher Substitutes are needed! Please call Chris Laraia at 312-7317.

## ORDER OF CELEBRATING MATRIMONY

### Liturgical Reflection ...

The acclamation of praise accompanying the reception of the Consent is followed by the Blessing and Giving of Rings. The priest or deacon blesses the rings (three options), sprinkling them with baptismal water, and gives them to the bride and bridegroom. The husband then places his wife's ring on her finger, praying the designated prayer. Likewise, the wife places her husband's ring on the ring finger while saying the prayer. These prayers should be audible to all in the assembly gathered for the Sacrament of Matrimony.

*(Order of Celebrating Matrimony, Numbers 66, 67A, 100-101, 131-132, and 194-195.)*

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