

SEPTEMBER 10, 2017

Scripture Reflection

Today's readings remind us of our shared responsibility in humanity's journey to holiness. In the First Reading, God appoints Ezekiel to be a sentry or lookout for Israel. Ezekiel is told that his destiny depends on the energy he puts into convincing people to change their wicked ways, whether or not they repent. Of course, conversion is only possible if our we are open to hear God's voice.

The term *church* describes a group of God's people who share a common purpose, history, set of values and sense of family. In teaching his disciples to bring their disputes to such a community, Jesus drew on well-developed traditions of Second Temple Judaism. Examples of these traditions also appear in the Dead Sea Scrolls. Throughout Israel's war-torn history, internal strife threatened national cohesion. Techniques of conflict resolution formed a significant part of Israel's religious inheritance. Those who bound their life to Israel's law knew that ties of affection in the local assembly could sort out nearly any dispute. Among their fellow people of God, aggrieved parties had their best chance of sympathy; among people they trusted, they could be vulnerable and open to correction.

Trust in God's love grounds Jesus' assurance that God grants the request of any two Christians who agree. In the context of divine love, any Christian who joins with another to continue Christ's mission will find a rich supply of grace. God is at work, enabling the church to reconcile the estranged, to restore ties of affection among people and to pray for the realization of God's dreams.

All of today's readings speak of the importance of right relationship and personal responsibility. Saint Catherine of Siena said, "Speak the truth in love." That's how God treats us, even when we turn away from God. Speak from the desire that the other will change, not to destroy them. It requires being caring rather than judgmental---again, like God treats us. Speak in the way that you would want someone to speak to you. Love your neighbor as yourself.

● **When has speaking the truth in love led to change or healing?**

[America Magazine](#), Power of the Church at Work, 8/25/17. [At Home With The Word](#), Liturgy Training Publications, 2016, pg. 121. [Living The Word](#), World Library Publications, 2016, pgs. 172-173.

**Two Opportunities
for Prayer and Giving**

**Survivors of
Hurricane/Tropical Storm Harvey**

Bishop has requested prayers for the **victims of Hurricane/Tropical Storm Harvey** endangered and displaced by the flooding. This weekend, **September 9th and 10th**, there is a **special second collection** taken at all Masses here at the Cathedral to offer financial support to the victims of this natural disaster in the Gulf coast region. All monies will go through our Diocese to Catholic Charities USA; Catholic Charities are already assisting in the areas affected by the storm.

All dioceses throughout the country are participating in this special collection. Please be as generous as possible as the need is very great. There have been deaths, displacement of families, and loss of possessions and homes. The estimates are that over twelve million people are affected by this storm. As stewards of God's gifts, we respond in generosity with prayers and financial support. Thank you.

**Basic School at Saint Margaret Mary Parish
Lioneltown, Jamaica**

The Cathedral Parish is partnered with Saint Margaret Mary Parish in the Diocese of Mandeville, Jamaica. We continue to pray for the families, adults and youth, of this extremely poor town. All the pastors of parishes with schools have requested assistance from their partnered parishes. Certain school supplies have been identified on their needs list:

**Pencils - Pens - Rulers - Rubber Erasers -
Small Boxes of Crayola Crayons - Markers -
Blackboard Chalk - Child School Scissors -
Educational Flash Cards.**

Please note, the following are NOT needed or transportable: lined paper, notebooks, glue or acrylic paints. If you are able to help the students at the Basic School in Lioneltown, please bring these items to Mass or drop off at the Parish Office no later than Wednesday, September 13th. This is an opportunity to help the children of our partnered parish. Know of the dire and visible poverty in this Diocese and town. Thank you for your generous response in prayer and treasure.

**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

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

**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME
SEPTEMBER 10, 2017**

Readings: Ez 33:7-9; Rom 13:8-10; Mt 18:15-20

MASS INTENTIONS

- September 11, Monday: Weekday
Readings: Col 1:24-2:3; Lk 6:6-11
6:45 AM Nancy Sassana Mignogna (Estate)
8:00 AM Bernie Frederick (Mary Lysinger)
12:00 PM Denise Kessler (Patty & Bear McCloskey)
- September 12, Tuesday: The Most Holy Name of Mary
Readings: Col 2:6-15; Lk 6:12-19
6:45 AM Bill Crouse (Frank & Dawn Steinbugl)
8:00 AM Rose Himmelein (Tillie Harris)
12:00 PM Betty McCabe (Debra Machak)
- September 13, Wednesday: St. John Chrysostom, Bp.&Dr.
Readings: Col 3:1-11; Lk 6:20-26
6:45 AM M/M/Wm. Moyer (Francis & Christina Dambeck)
8:00 AM Kay A. Seidel-Lint (Annie Plutko)
12:00 PM Tom Byrne (Lorraine Shuma)
- September 14, Thursday: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Readings: Nm 21:4-9; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17
6:45 AM Msgr. Paul Panza, Anniv. (Cathedral Parish)
8:00 AM Jerry Smith (Joe & Patty Pufka)
12:00 PM M. Virginia Jones (Randy & Jean Koury)
- September 15, Friday: Our Lady of Sorrows
Readings: 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14; Jn 19:25-27
6:45 AM Marian Clemens (Joe Wiedemer)
8:00 AM Barbara Barrett (Larry & Barb Savino)
12:00 PM Poor Souls
- September 16, Saturday: Saints Cornelius & Cyprian
Readings: 1 Tm 1:15-17; Lk 6:43-49
8:00 AM Joe Tomlinson (Bob Martcho)
12:00 PM Herbert Kutruff (Joe Eckels)
Vigil: Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Readings: Sir 27:30-28:7; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35
5:00 PM James J. Adams, Anniv. (Family)

Name of New Building

With over one hundred responses and two-thirds of those responses in favor of, the name given our new multi-purpose building is:

CATHEDRAL PARISH CENTER.

This name will appear on the exterior upper side of the building on the Fourteenth Street side. Each of the three floors will also have identification at each level. The front of the building on Thirteenth Avenue will have **OFFICES** above the door; the Fourteenth Street entrance will have **EDUCATION** above the door; and the alley way entrance will have **CHARITY HALL** above the door.

Date of Blessing and Dedication

Bishop Mark Bartchak will officially bless and dedicate the Cathedral Parish Center on **Sunday, October 29**. Bishop will celebrate the 10:00 AM Mass. We will all gather at Cathedral Parish Center following Mass for the official prayers of dedication, followed by a short ceremony of recognition. A social will follow in the gathering space of the Religious Education second floor. There will be an Open House to see the new building following the dedication, and the Open House will continue until 4:00PM on October 29.

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. The drawing will be Saturday, October 28 at 7:30 P.M. in the Cathedral Hall at the Family Night Social. Please do your best to sell your tickets and, perhaps, sell additional tickets to family, friends and neighbors. Thank you.

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. The next two tour dates are: **Tuesday, September 12 at 7:00 P.M.**; Sunday, September 17 at 1:00 P.M.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, September 3, 2017 - \$10,303.00

Cathedral Religious Education

Classes will begin on Sunday, September 10th for grades 1 thru 8 in our newly completed space. Be sure to use the Fourteenth Street side entrance (double doors). Pre-K and K will meet in the Music Room temporarily until the top floor is completed. If you have not pre-registered your children, please arrive early. Substitute teachers are needed! Please call Chris Laraia at 312-7317.

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.

Confirmation Preparation There will be a brief meeting for parents of all 9th and 10th grade students preparing for Confirmation on Sunday, September 10, following 10:00 AM Mass in the Cathedral Hall.

Sunday, September 17 - All 11th Grade Candidates for Confirmation will meet in Cathedral Hall from 6:15 -7:30 PM along with their sponsor or a parent.

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 your baby is born to attend this sacramental preparation class. All parents are expected to attend this informative meeting regarding your baby's baptism.

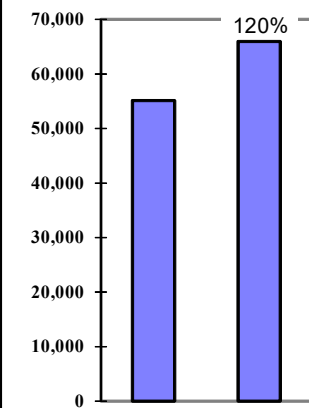
Inquiry

Are you interested in the Catholic faith? Have you ever thought of becoming Catholic? Inquiry sessions have begun on Sunday mornings in the Seton Suite from 11 AM to Noon. All are welcome!

Cathedral Charismatic Prayer Group

The Cathedral Prayer Group will meet this Monday, September 11th, at 7:00 PM, here at the Cathedral. Wally Zapotoczny will give a witness talk.

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 221 households and are at 120% of goal having raised **\$65,953.00**. We are **\$10,832.00** 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. Thank you for your stewardship with this important annual drive.

The **Cathedral Choir** is currently seeking new members for the 2017-2018 liturgical seasons. Choir membership open to men and women high school age and above. Youth needing verified service hours for Confirmation or various school or college requirements are especially welcome. The Choir sings regularly at the 10:00 AM Sunday Mass. Rehearsals are held Thursday evenings, 7:00-9:00 PM. Feel free to contact Leslie Thayer, Director of Cathedral Music Ministry with questions or for further information: 944-2044 or lthayer@dioceseaj.org.



Liturgical Reflection ...

Tomorrow marks the sixteenth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on American soil. Many lives were lost, many were injured, and still many continue to mourn that painful September day. Take time for special prayer: participate at Mass, pray the rosary, read scripture, take time before the Blessed Sacrament and silently reflect on God's love. Ask the Blessed Mother, patroness of our country, to intercede that peace prevail among the nations and for an end to terrorism and violence. God bless our country and all the peoples of the world.

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

Liturgical Reflection ...

**ORDER OF
CELEBRATING
MATRIMONY**

When celebrating the Sacrament of Matrimony with Mass, the order of the rite is: Liturgy of the Word, the Celebration of Matrimony, and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Once the celebration of Matrimony is completed, the preparation of the altar and gifts follows. The rite suggests that the bride and bridegroom may bring the bread and wine to the altar. Other possibilities would be family or friends. The couple can ask their godparents to bring up the gifts. Once all is ready on the altar, Mass proceeds in the usual manner.

(Order of Celebrating Matrimony, Number 70.)

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