

February 21, 2010

Scripture Reflection

In today's readings, God offers new beginnings out of desert experiences. As Lent begins, we are challenged to look for the new beginnings that God provides for us.

In the first reading, Moses, in the desert, teaches the people how to offer thanksgiving to God for the Promised Land. Priest and people both have their roles in offering homage to God for the abundance of food from the land. Moses tells the people to recount the story of Israel's slavery in Egypt and how God "brought us out of Egypt" and gave Israel this gift of the Promised Land.

The Gospel reading recounts Jesus' desert experience. The desert was a powerful image for the ancient Israelites. They had sinned in the desert and failed to meet God's expectations for them. But the desert was also the pathway that led them to the Promised Land. The "good news" of Jesus' desert experience is that unlike his ancestors, Jesus did not fail the test of faith and fidelity to God. Jesus withstood the temptations in the desert that his ancestors failed. A new beginning was unfolding for Israel in the desert experience of Jesus.

We are invited into the desert with the Lord these forty days of Lent. The forty days of Lent lead to the Triduum; the Three Days commemorate the dying and rising of Christ. What in your life needs to die so that you can experience the new life of the Risen Lord? Throughout the Season of Lent, seek the new beginnings needed in your spiritual life.

• **Is there a particular sin (perhaps something self-centered) that keeps me from getting closer to God? Where do you need a new beginning with the Lord?**

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Pictures of Candidates for Easter Sacraments - At the three doors of the Cathedral you will find the names and pictures of all those journeying to the Easter Sacraments. There is a poster of our Candidates for reception into the Catholic Church being fully initiated with Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil; the second poster contains photos of our high school students preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation this Easter Season; and the third poster is of our second graders who will receive the Sacrament of Eucharist this Easter Season. Be sure to look for your "Prayer Partner".

Baptism Congratulations!

Last Sunday, February 14, two children were baptized here in the Cathedral. At 10:00 AM Mass Claire Marie Long, was welcomed into our Cathedral Parish Family. Congratulations to Kent and Erin (McConnell) Long along with siblings Ian Thomas and Grace Christine. At 12:00 Noon Mass, Madison Renee Dodge, daughter of Catherine Dahmen, was also baptized. May the graces of the Sacrament of Baptism strengthen both our children and the adults who care for them.

CATHEDRAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sunday, February 21 - Regular classes for Pre-K through Grade 8, 11:15 AM - 12:30 PM in the school building.

Sunday, February 28 - Lenten Pretzel Retreat in Cathedral Hall for Preschool through Grade 5 Religious Education students. Parents and younger siblings are welcome, open to all Cathedral families with young children. This retreat takes place during Religious Education session 11:15 AM - 12:30 PM. Call Miss Gabrielle at 932-6340 for more information.

Sunday, February 28 - Grades 6 through 8 will have regular classes in the school building from 11:15 AM - 12:30 PM.

ALTOONA CENTRAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Registration - Continues for the 2010-11 school year. Tours are given by appointment. Please call Mr. Maucieri at 944-1250 or 381-7011.

Seventh Grade Parents Meeting - Tuesday, February 23, at 6:30 PM in the Middle School.

ACCS Spelling Bee - Thursday, February 25 at 12:45 PM in Memorial Hall for Grades 4 through 6.

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.

LITURGY OF THE HOURS:

Evening Prayer within Eucharistic Exposition - Advent and Christmas, Lent and Easter Seasons - Sunday 6:30 PM.

DEVOTIONS:

Novena of the Miraculous Medal - Monday 7:45 AM.
Rosary - Wednesday 6:00 PM.
Charismatic Prayer - Monday 7:00 PM.
Eucharistic Day - Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM:

September through April: Pre-Kindergarten thru 12.
Sunday morning 11:15 AM - 12:30 PM
Pre-Kindergarten thru 8.
Sunday evening 6:15 PM - 8:30 PM
Grades 9 thru 12.

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 Joseph V. Adamec, Bishop

Reverend Monsignor Robert C. Mazur, Rector

Reverend Aron M. Maghsoudi, Parochial Vicar

Reverend Chinemere R. Onyeocha, Parochial Vicar

Reverend Monsignor Roy F. Kline, Senior Priest

Deacon John E. Rys

Deacon James F. Leap, Senior Deacon

CHRISTIAN INITIATION TEAM - 944-4603

CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME - 944-4603

ALTOONA CENTRAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL
Web: www.altoonacentralcatholic.com
Elementary - 381-7011 Middle - 944-1250

BISHOPGUILFOYLE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
Web: www.bishopguilfoyle.org - 944-4014

DIRECTORS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Chris Laraia - Pre-K thru 8 - 946-3475
Jean Koury - 9 thru 12 - 949-2777
Religious Education Office: Sundays - 943-7423

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
Nicholas J. Will - 944-2044

Web: www.altoonacathedral.org
Fax: 814-942-4337
E-MAIL: altcathedral@dioceseaj.org

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FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 21, 2010

Readings: Dt 26:4-10; Rom 10: 8-13; Lk 4: 1-13

Mass Intentions

February 22, Monday: The Chair of Peter, Apostle

Readings: 1 Pt 5: 1-4; Mt 16: 13-19

6:45 AM Leona Mulhern (Peggy Coder)
8:00 AM James D. Hrzic (Joseph Dzurenko)
12:00 PM Paula Houseman (Husband, Jack)

February 23, Tuesday: Polycarp, bishop, martyr

Readings: Is 55: 10-11; Mt 6: 7-15

6:45 AM Mary Geraldine Weakland (Cathedral)
8:00 AM Jim Conrad (McDermott Sisters)
12:00 PM Pauline Weyandt (Jean & Ron Sheehan)

February 24, Wednesday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Jon 3: 1-10; Lk 11: 29-32

6:45 AM Maureen Ann Wolf (Sr. Marie Patrick)
8:00 AM Marjorie Evangelisto (George Clapper)
12:00 PM People of Haiti (Patty & Joe Wiedemer)

February 25, Thursday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Est C: 12, 14-16, 23-25; Mt 7: 7-12

6:45 AM Joseph A. Keirn (Mom & Dad)
8:00 AM John Dunio (Judy & Butch Damico)
12:00 PM Joseph Moran (Kim & Chris McCab)

February 26, Friday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Ez 18: 21-28; Mt 5: 20-26

6:45 AM Yolanda Peck (Mark & Angela Barron Fam.)
8:00 AM Terry J. Joyce (Family)
12:00 PM Erla Stombaugh (Cathedral Parish)

February 27, Saturday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Dt 26: 16-19; Mt 5:43-48

8:00 AM Mike Ciavarella (Clara Kristifco Family)
12:00 PM Brian McCaully (Justina & Family)

Vigil: Second Sunday of Lent

5:00 PM Donald G. Rabine, Wed. Ann. (Wife & Fam.)

Parish Council Meeting

Monday, March 1st, in the Seton Suite at 7:00 PM.

LENT HAS BEGUN

The forty days of Lent prepare us for Easter. Our ashes this past Wednesday reminded us that like Jesus who died on the cross, we too will die. The blessed ashes also called us to repentance. We must turn away from sin. Through *Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving*, we prepare to commemorate the Three Days - Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter. The quality of our Lent will reflect the quality of our Easter. The serious, penitential days of Lent have arrived. The Cathedral is simply decorated - no flowers, no plants. The Cross is placed next to the baptismal font; the purple hangings are displayed; and only two candles stand on each side of the altar. There are no *Alleluias* and no *Glory to God*. As we pray the *I Confess* at the beginning of Mass, the Church asks that we strike our chest with our hand at the words "through my own fault". Sinfulness and the need for God's mercy are before us. Intensify prayer, fasting and giving alms to the poor. Baskets are placed at the church doors for your donations of non-perishable food items or cleaning and paper products throughout the Lent and Easter seasons. Plan to go to Confession during these Lenten days. The parish communal Penance Service is scheduled for Wednesday, March 24, at 6:30 PM.

The CROSS - Our beautiful eight foot CROSS has been placed at the baptismal font for the seasons of Lent and Easter. This is the cross that will be used on Good Friday for veneration. This custom-made cross contains the relic of the True Cross. Special respect is to be shown to this sacred object. As you enter and leave the Cathedral by way of the front doors, take time to show reverence to this Cross. A genuflection would be proper; one may kiss the sacred relic; one may touch the relic of the True Cross. Please make the conscious effort to show some form of respect to this very sacred symbol of the faith. During the forty days, take more time and thought when crossing yourself with the sign of our salvation.

Prayer Partners for Lent - Forms are available at the church doors. Everyone is invited to participate in the Prayer Partner activity this Lent. You will receive by mail the name of another parishioner and also that of someone preparing to receive Baptism, Confirmation or Eucharist during the Easter Season.

CHRISTIAN INITIATION

Today at the **10:00 AM Mass** our Candidates for the Easter Sacraments will celebrate the **Rite of Sending Forth**. We affirm these seven men and women as they continue their journey of preparation for Confirmation and Holy Eucharist to be celebrated at the Easter Vigil. We continue to pray with them as they are sent to Bishop Joseph for the **Rite of Election** to take place this evening, **February 21 at 7:00 PM** here in the Cathedral.

CONFIRMATION Session for Adults

Is there any man or woman who has not yet received the Sacrament of Confirmation? Confirmation concludes the Christian's initiation into the Church. In Catholic life, it is necessary to be confirmed in order to be a godparent or sponsor for a Confirmation candidate. Monsignor Mazur will meet with interested individuals on Tuesday, February 23rd, at 7:00 PM in the Seton Suite. Call the Parish Office at 944-4603 if interested.

LENTEN SCRIPTURE STUDY

On **Thursday, February 25th**, you are invited to join those wishing to break open the Scripture readings for the Second Sunday of Lent. The Study Group will meet in the Seton Suite at 6:30 PM with Monsignor Mazur. This is a relaxed, open, spiritual exercise in reflecting on the Sunday readings, sharing their meaning and asking questions that impact our daily lives. Your insights and thoughts are valued and all gather to listen with open hearts. Make this a special Lent of intensified prayer. Join us and bring a friend.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, February 14, 2010 - \$8,404.00

Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2010 - \$2,022.75

Daily Lenten Collection

Throughout the Season of Lent monies will be collected at the three daily Masses for the poor. Lent is a time for prayer, fasting, and ALMSGIVING. We will gather alms for the poor throughout the forty days of Lent. A basket will be located at the cross aisle table for the 6:45 AM and 8:00 AM Masses, and ushers will take up a collection at the Noon Mass. Thank you for your generous almsgiving.

Cathedral Music Ministry - Thank you to Joe and Betsie Cote, Joshua, Jacob and Josiah Huber, Janet Evans, and various members of the Cathedral Choir for helping to prepare the worship aids for Lent. Your help was very much appreciated!

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

First Eucharist - On **Wednesday, February 24**, a Parent and Student Session for all young parishioners receiving First Eucharist this year will be held from 6:30 PM until 8:00 PM in the Seton Suite.

Confirmation - On **Sunday, February 28**, all Cathedral Eleventh Grade Confirmation Candidates (BGCHS, F.I.R.E., R.C.I.A.) and their sponsors are encouraged to attend Lent Vespers and Benediction at **6:30 PM** in the Cathedral. **Confirmation Session II** will follow in the Seton Suite from **7:15 PM - 8:15 PM**.

Prayer Throughout First Week of Lent

Rite of Election: Sunday, February 21, at 7:00 PM.

Novena of the Miraculous Medal: Monday at 7:45 AM.

Public Recitation of Rosary: Wednesday at 6:00 PM.

Stations of the Cross: Friday at 7:00 PM.

Liturgical Reflection ...

Holy Communion has a fuller form as a sign when it is distributed under both kinds. From the first days of the Church's celebration of the Eucharist, Holy Communion consisted of the reception of both species in fulfillment of the Lord's command to "take and eat...take and drink." The distribution of Communion to the faithful under both kinds was the norm for more than a millennium of Catholic liturgical practice. For in this form the sign of the Eucharistic banquet is more clearly evident and expression is given to the divine will by which the new and eternal Covenant is ratified in the Blood of the Lord.

General Instruction of the Roman Missal, 2002, Number 281. **Norms for the Distribution and Reception of Holy Communion under Both Kinds in the Diocese of the United States of America**, 2002, Number 17.



2010, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 124 Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648.

LENTEN LUNCHEON SPECIAL

Cathedral Social Committee will sponsor a Lenten Luncheon on **Friday, March 5th** from **11:00 AM to 1:00 PM**. Fish sandwich and fries at \$5.00 in the Cathedral Hall. Spread the news and purchase your Friday Lenten lunch at the beginning of March here at the Cathedral. Get lunch for you and your co-workers!