

February 28, 2010

Scripture Reflection

The transfiguration is an important turning point in the Gospel. Jesus has been teaching, preaching, healing, exorcising demons and gathering disciples as he travels Galilee. But soon he will "set his face to go to Jerusalem" (9:51). Something happens on the mountaintop that helps Jesus to know what is his next step in his mission. Luke alone notes that when Jesus goes up the mountain with Peter, James and John, his purpose is to pray.

In this profound encounter with God, Jesus receives surety about his next steps. Notably, Luke does not say that Jesus was transfigured; rather, that "his face changed in appearance." Like Moses, whose face was radiant after being with God on Mount Sinai, and Hannah, whose face was lifted up after her prayer was heard, so Jesus' encounter with God is written on his face. He comes to understand that indeed, he is to go to Jerusalem and that he will be put to death there, but his death will not be the end of his life and mission. Rather, his exit from earthly life will bring the new liberation for God's people.

During this intense prayer of discernment, Jesus is given sure signs that he is guided by God in his choice. A cloud, the sign of God's presence with the Israelites as they went forth from Egypt, overshadows him as at his baptism. Two heavenly messengers embody the divine presence, giving Jesus strength as he leans on God's word in the law and the prophets. The heavenly voice reassures both him and his disciples of Jesus' chosen status and the rightness of his choice. Thus assured of God's love and direction, Jesus turns his transformed face toward Jerusalem.

- **When faced with a difficult decision, do you turn to God in prayer---like Jesus did in today's Gospel?**

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Confirmation Prep Session II - Sunday, February 28, following 6:30 PM Lent Vespers and Benediction, for all 11th Grade Confirmation Candidates at 7:15 PM in the Seton Suite.

First Eucharist - Wednesday, March 3, 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.

CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME

No matter how long you have been away, and for whatever reason, we invite you to consider returning to the Catholic Church. Join us for an informal listening session and an update of our Catholic faith on **Monday, March 8** at 7:00 PM in the Seton Suite. Questions? Call: 946-3769.

Parish in Need of Additional Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

For the past several months, while distributing Holy Communion under the species of Bread alone, the Parish has been able to have four Communion stations at all Masses. Our past practice was to have four Communion stations at the Sunday 10:00 AM Mass and 5:00 PM Masses, and only two stations at the Saturday 5:00 PM and Sunday 8:00 AM and 12 Noon Masses. In order to maintain four stations with the restoration of the chalice at all five Sunday Masses, there is a definite need for additional Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. The Parish is asking any fully initiated Catholic (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) who participates every Sunday at Mass to seriously consider becoming an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. This ministry is open to those who have a deep love of the Eucharist. There will be a practice scheduled later in Lent. Please call the Parish Office, 944-4603. Obviously, to maintain four Communion stations at all Masses, we are in need of at least twenty to thirty new ministers.

Enclosures

Included in today's bulletin are copies of the ACCS *Advantage* Newsletter and also information on a series of Art Classes for Children to be offered this spring by Cory Geishauer in the Cathedral Seton Suite. Families with school age children will want to be sure to take a look at both handouts.

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

Serving the People of God in the City of Altoona Since 1851

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 28, 2010

Readings: Gn 15: 5-12, 17-18; Phil 3: 17--4:1; Lk 9: 28-36

Mass Intentions

March 1, Monday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Dn 9: 4-10; Lk 6: 36-38

6:45 AM Thelma Green (Children)

8:00 AM Jim Conrad (John Kessler)

12:00 PM Lois McGee (Donor)

March 2, Tuesday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Is 1: 10, 16-20; Mt 23: 1-12

6:45 AM Maureen Ann Wolf (Dusty & Sandy Young)

8:00 AM Yolanda Peck (Reva Kristin)

12:00 PM David Horne (Mother)

March 3, Wednesday: Katherine Drexel, virgin

Readings: Jer 18: 18-20; Mt 20: 17-28

6:45 AM Helen Conrad Itle (Family)

8:00 AM Marjorie Evangelisto (M/M Ralph Marasco)

12:00 PM Sr. Donna Marie Leiden, SC (BGCHS)

March 4, Thursday: Casimir

Readings: Jer 17: 5-10; Lk 16: 19-31

6:45 AM Joseph A. Keirn (Mom & Dad)

8:00 AM James & Louise Gill (Children)

12:00 PM Donald G. Rabine (Clara & Joan Tomlinson)

March 5, Friday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

6:45 AM Patrica Keef (Estate)

8:00 AM Joseph Hallinan (Family)

12:00 PM Jean Truby (Esther Burkhart)

March 6, Saturday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Mi 7: 14-15, 18-20; Lk 15: 1-3, 11-32

8:00 AM Peggy Joyce (Madeline Vogel)

12:00 PM Joseph Moran (Mark & Diane Moschella)

Vigil: Third Sunday of Lent

5:00 PM Joseph Hallinan, Sr., Ann. (Wife & Fam.)

Please remember our sick in your Lenten prayer.

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!

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".

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.

LENTEN SCRIPTURE STUDY

On **Thursday, March 4**, you are invited to join Msgr. Mazur and those individuals wishing to break open the Scripture readings for the Third Sunday of Lent. The Study Group will meet in the Seton Suite at 6:30 PM. Make this a special Lent of intensified prayer. Join us and bring a friend.

CONFIRMATION Session for Adults

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 on **Tuesday, March 9th** at 7:00 PM in the Seton Suite with adult men and women who have not been confirmed. Call the Parish Office at 944-4603 if interested.

First Friday Communion Calls This Week

Our clergy will visit the sick and home-bound of the parish each month. To arrange a visit for yourself or a loved one, call the Parish Office: 944-4603.

Nocturnal Adoration - The monthly Vigil of Prayer scheduled by the Nocturnal Adoration Society for **Friday, March 5**, will be held at Saint Mark's Church, Altoona from 8:00 PM until 11:00 PM.

Rest In Peace - Please remember in prayer, Peggy Joyce, who died and was buried this past week. May she rest in the peace of Christ. May her family be comforted in the faith.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, February 21, 2010 - \$9,290.00

Daily Lenten Collection

A basket is located at the cross aisle table for your donations for the poor at 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.

STEWARDS of Time

Thank you to Father Aron Maghsoudi, Tom and Maureen Hoyne, Bob and Chris Laraia, and Joe and Dana Tomlinson for their commitment to the three-week Marriage Preparation Program held here at the Cathedral Parish. We are grateful for their service to the couples approaching marriage.

Cathedral Meetings For March

Parish Council - Monday, March 1, in the Saint John Room at 7:00 PM.

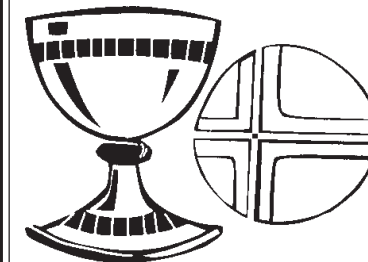
Parish Liturgy Committee - Thursday, March 18, in the Seton Suite at 12:30 PM.

Restoration of the Chalice at Mass

Bishop Joseph has directed that the Diocesan Church will return to the practice of offering the chalice of the Lord's Precious Blood at Mass beginning with the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday Masses - April 3rd and 4th. The liturgical inserts reflect the Church's teaching regarding the custom of receiving Holy Communion under both species of bread and wine.

YEAR OF THE PRIEST

The Cathedral priests will each take a turn and reflect on some aspect of priesthood this *Year of the Priest*. These reflections will appear in the Sunday bulletin. Next week Monsignor Mazur will reflect on **What It Means For Me To Be A Diocesan Priest**.



Liturgical Reflection ...

The Christian Faithful are to be instructed that the Catholic faith teaches that Christ, whole and divine, and the true Sacrament, is received even under only one species, and consequently that as far as the effects are concerned, those who receive under only one species are not deprived of any of the grace that is necessary for salvation. While Holy Communion under both kinds has a fuller sign, any of the Faithful who wish to receive Holy Communion under the species of bread alone are to be granted their wish.

General Instruction of the Roman Missal, 2002, Number 282.

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

CHRISTIAN INITIATION

Last Sunday evening on behalf of the universal Church, Bishop Joseph with his greeting at the Rite of Election, called our candidates; Melissa Barnes, Ronald Chisko, Ray Kennedy, Tony Kibelbek, Paul Mummert, Jr., Carol Ruggery and Mike Warmoth to "Continuing Conversion". Please pray especially for these men and women continuing their journey to the Easter Sacraments during this Lenten Season of purification and enlightenment.

SCRUTINIES

Beginning next Sunday at the 10:00 AM Mass, the Church will be celebrating the three scrutinies with our Elect and Candidates; Third Sunday of Lent, March 7; Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 14; and Fifth Sunday of Lent, March 21. The scripture readings at all Masses will be from Cycle A. On March 7, the Gospel will tell the familiar story of the woman at the well; on March 14, the Gospel will tell of the man born blind who regained his sight; and on March 21, the Gospel will proclaim the story of Lazarus being called from his grave into life. The scrutinies are not only for our Candidates, but also for us, the fully initiated. We are to look deeply and seriously at our lives these Lenten days and see what needs to be cleansed of sin and what calls us closer to our God. Please enter the next three weeks with open hearts as we prepare to die and rise with Christ after the forty days of Lent.

Prayer Throughout Second Week of Lent

In Addition to **Daily Mass**---

Evening Prayer/Benediction: Sunday, at 6:30 PM.

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

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

Confessions: Wednesday, 7:00 PM; Saturday, 12:30 PM.

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