

MARCH 7, 2010

Scripture Reflection

In the Gospel reading from John, Jesus meets a Samaritan woman at a well. His simple request, "Give me a drink," initiates a dialogue that brings her to believe in him. In the gospel according to John, true discipleship involves first and foremost bringing others to Christ. In this regard, the Samaritan woman models the ideal behavior of a disciple, because once she realizes that Jesus is the Christ, she goes immediately to the town and brings others to Jesus. Ironically, the disciples, upon returning from town with no one but themselves, fail in their opportunity to evangelize. Because of the woman's evangelization, the Samaritans came to see the Lord in their midst.

That famous woman at the well does not even have a name, but she sure upsets any notion that only holy people do God's work. Though sinful and unholy, she is unmatched in her excitement for spreading the good news about the Messiah and gaining followers for him. She captures our imagination. Who could have known what a powerhouse she was, and how evangelizing she could be?

The nameless woman from Samaria in the Gospel reading becomes a true witness and evangelizer to Jesus. After sparring verbally with him, she comes to believe that Jesus is the Messiah. She immediately shares her faith with the townspeople, who also come to believe in Jesus. This week we remember Saint Perpetua and Saint Felicity on March 7. They were young mothers who courageously declared themselves Christians during a persecution in the third century in Carthage, North Africa. Make a list of the women who helped bring you to faith. Pray for them this week, and thank them.

• **In what ways do you bring others to Christ?**

AT HOME WITH THE WORD 2010. (C) 2009 ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO, LITURGY TRAINING PUBLICATIONS, 3949 SouthRacine Avenue, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60609. REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION.

YEAR OF THE PRIEST

The Cathedral priests will each take a turn and reflect in the Sunday bulletin on some aspect of priesthood this *Year of the Priest*. Our enclosure today features Monsignor Mazur's insights on **What It Means For Me To Be A Diocesan Priest**.

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.

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.

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE

All members of the Parish are asked to plan ahead and set **Wednesday, March 24, at 6:30 PM** in your calendars. Bishop Joseph along with a dozen priests will be present for the communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Reminder - Daylight Savings Time begins next Sunday, March 14. Be sure to turn your clocks ahead one hour before retiring on Saturday night.

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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THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 7, 2010

Readings: Ex 17: 3-7; Rom 5: 1-2, 5-8; Jn 4: 5-42

Mass Intentions

March 8, Monday: John of God, religious

Readings: 2 Kgs 5: 1-15; Lk 4: 24-30

6:45 AM Souls in Purgatory (Daniel & Judy Monahan)

8:00 AM Peggy Joyce (Jim, Jane & Sally Davidson)

12:00 PM Pamela Wansley (A. & B. Hildebrand)

March 9, Tuesday: Frances of Rome, religious

Readings: Dn 3: 25, 34-43; Mt 18: 21-35

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

8:00 AM Marjorie Evangelisto (Lauren Proserpi)

James & Louise Gill (Children)

12:00 PM In Thanksgiving for Priests & Cathedral Staff

March 10, Wednesday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Dt 4: 1, 5-9; Mt 5: 17-19

6:45 AM Alfred Rutolo, Anniv. (Daughter & Family)

8:00 AM Jean Truby (Cass Wesner Family)

10:00 AM ACCS Lenten Mass

12:00 PM David Shellenberger (Ron & Jean Sheehan)

March 11, Thursday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Jer 7: 23-28; Lk 11: 14-23

6:45 AM Joseph Moffa Family (Estate)

8:00 AM Dorothy McGeary (Cathedral Parish)

Robert Wayne Rickens (Bost & Pozyski)

12:00 PM Jim Conrad (Pat Rhoa)

March 12, Friday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Hos 14: 2-10; Mk 12: 28-34

6:45 AM Yolanda Peck (Reva Kristin)

8:00 AM Thomas Smith (Sister, Dorothy)

Marie Teigler Family (Husband/Children)

12:00 PM Donald G. Rabine (Robert & Rae Simanski)

March 13, Saturday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Hos 6: 1-6; Lk 18: 9-14

8:00 AM Joseph Moran (Jon & Melissa Bang)

12:00 PM Brian McCaulley (Caroline Kelly)

Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Lent

5:00 PM John Tomlinson, Anniv. (Mom & Family)

Prayer Throughout Third 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.

CHRISTIAN INITIATION

Today our Candidates (Baptized Christians to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil) celebrate the First Rite of Scrutiny. The Gospel tells of the woman at the well. The Candidates also receive the Creed from the assembly at the 10:00 AM Mass. Next week the Second Rite of Scrutiny will be celebrated with the gospel proclamation of the man born blind. There are three scrutinies celebrated annually. The Candidates and all in the community are asked to uncover what is sinful in our lives and seek healing, to strengthen what is good and to be grounded in God. **Reminder**: On this Third Sunday of Lent, March 7, the Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 14, and the Fifth Sunday of Lent, March 21, the scripture readings at all Masses will be from Cycle A.

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.

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.

ALTOONA CENTRAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

All-School Lenten Liturgy - Wednesday, March 10, at 10:00 AM in the Cathedral. All are welcome to participate in this Mass.

LENTEN SCRIPTURE STUDY

On **Thursday, March 11**, you are invited to join Msgr. Mazur and those individuals wishing to break open the Scripture readings for the Fourth 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.

Please remember our sick in your Lenten prayer.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, February 28, 2010 - \$8,387.00

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.

Care For Families In Need

As part of our Lenten discipline of almsgiving, parishioners are especially encouraged to bring donations of non-perishable food items, paper or cleaning products for the needy. Please place your donations in the bins provided at the entrances of the Cathedral. Thank you for your generosity to our brothers and sisters in need.

Parish Liturgy Committee Meeting

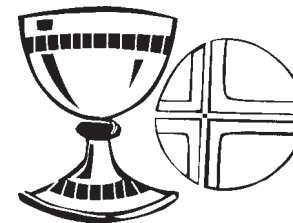
Thursday, March 18, in the Seton Suite at 12:30 PM.

BLOOD DRIVE - BGCHS Student Council will sponsor a Blood Drive on **Thursday, March 18** from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM in the BG Gymnasium. Donors are asked to make appointments with the Red Cross at 941-8385, but walk-ins are welcome.

Lenten Evening Prayer

Every Sunday in Lent the Cathedral Parish gathers at 6:30 PM for Evening Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in exposition. This liturgy concludes with benediction. All are invited to participate in this Lenten prayer.

Charismatic Prayer - Monday evenings, in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of the Cathedral Church from 7:00 PM - 8:15 PM. Father Brad Baldwin, TOR will speak on the theme of "Conversion" at the March 8th Prayer Meeting. All are welcome.



Liturgical Reflection ...

The Second Vatican Council gave renewed consideration to Communion under both kinds. Aware of the doctrinal principles on the complete efficacy of Eucharistic Communion under the species of bread alone, the Council gave permission for Communion under both kinds. This is a clearer form of the Sacrament, offering a particular opportunity of deepening the understanding of the mystery in which the faithful take part. On the night before He died, the Lord took bread and said, "Eat," then he took the chalice and said, "Drink." The faithful are encouraged to partake of both consecrated Bread and consecrated Wine, the Body and Blood of Christ.

General Instruction of the Roman Missal, 2002, Number 14.

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

HOLY HOUR for Your Priests

All Parishioners are asked to be present for a Holy Hour scheduled for **Sunday, March 21st** from **6:30 PM to 7:30 PM**. This Holy Hour marks the *Year of the Priest*. The Blessed Sacrament will be in exposition, there will be scripture and prayer, along with a reading from Saint John Vianney, Patron of Priests, and prayer will end with Benediction. Also, all will be invited to come forward to venerate a first class relic of Father John Vianney at the conclusion of the Holy Hour. Plan ahead to attend. Your participation supports your priests and invites prayer for vocations to our diocesan priesthood.

MARCH F.I.R.E. SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 14 - Regular Session 6:15 PM - 8:15 PM in the Seton Suite. All High School Students.
Sunday, March 21 - Year of the Priest Holy Hour 6:30 PM in the Cathedral. All High School Students.
Sunday, March 28 - Regular Session 6:15 PM - 8:15 PM in the Seton Suite. All High School Students.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

Catholic Relief Services, the official relief and development agency of the Catholic Community, provides an important opportunity to express Christian compassion and generosity. The **collection** is scheduled for **next weekend**, March 13 and 14. This collection reminds us that Christ is present in every one of our brothers and sisters in need. Catholic Relief Services creates occasions for faith communities to live our faith in solidarity with people in need by providing financial support and addresses the root causes of poverty. A special envelope is included in your March packet for this collection or you may mark any envelope "Catholic Relief Services".

WHAT IT MEANS FOR ME TO BE A DIOCESAN PRIEST

Monsignor Robert C. Mazur – Ordained May 8, 1976

Very early as I pursued a priestly vocation, there was no doubt in my mind that I would become a diocesan priest. A diocesan priest is a man who works in a parish with God's people along with his brother priests in union with the Diocesan Bishop – unlike a religious priest (Franciscan, Benedictine, etc.) who lives in community in the monastery with his brother friars or monks. I stand in a long line of dedicated men who have served in these Allegheny Mountains. Servant of God Demetrius Gallitzin is the first among us who served the Church in diocesan priesthood.

As a diocesan priest, I have been invited into the lives of the people of God. This is sacred ground filled with holy encounters. At births and deaths, at weddings and anniversaries, at family tables and at bedsides, a diocesan priest is invited into the ordinary lives of people attempting to live out their Christian faith. I have found our Lord so many times in the everyday living of simple, good persons. I have been humbled by the love, affirmation, and welcome of God's people as they bring their parish priest along with them on their journey of life.

A diocesan priest is on call 24/7 – called to the hospital, the nursing facility or someone's home any hour of the day or night. The parish priest has so many opportunities to bring Christ into the lives of others. For the Christian, the pilgrimage of life is a journey of faith to the kingdom of God. The community is grounded in the dying and rising of Christ. We experience the weight of the cross in our suffering and hurt, and we experience the new life of the resurrection in our joy and happiness. My priesthood has invited me to share the journey of both dyings and risings with my brothers and sisters in the Church.

There have been occasions when a parishioner will see me after Mass, call on the phone or send for me, and share the crushing news that the tests are positive and the diagnosis is cancer. Many times tears are shared and then, I have the great privilege to anoint this sister or brother with the Oil of the Sick. As the parish priest I speak in the name of the Church and offer the seriously ill person the love and support of the Christian family, praying for good health and strength in the midst of sickness. What a sacred encounter for the parish priest as he shares such a vulnerable moment on the pilgrimage of life.

I cannot count the number of times I have been the Church's official representative of God's reconciling mercy. "Bless me, Father, for I have sinned." This is a most humbling part of our lives as ordained ministers. Sinful ourselves, we offer the forgiveness of God to those seeking reconciliation for sins committed. Tears and laughter, silence and conversation, compassion and challenge have marked the many encounters celebrating God's mercy and love. The struggles of the baptized are met directly as the penitent confesses and the parish priest offers God's forgiveness.

What I hold most dear in my priesthood is the weekly encounter with God's holy people at the Eucharist. In word and sacrament, Jesus Christ nourishes our hungers and quenches our thirsts on the journey of life. I look out into the body of the Cathedral and I see a newly married couple, a recently widowed spouse, a freshly baptized infant, a young, searching collegian, someone in the midst of a broken relationship, a mother who buried her enlisted son, an unemployed husband and father, children with a parent in the early stages of Alzheimer's, and countless other familiar and not so familiar faces of those who have gathered to receive nourishment and strength for the challenges of life.

I am in awe at the mystery of faith; that simple bread and wine, coming from our wheat fields and vineyards, become the very Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. Where else would you find pilgrims on the journey of life to God's kingdom? On the Day of the Lord, we gather for the Breaking of the Bread. As your priest I am enlivened and affirmed in the celebration of the Mass. Here we gather week after week, month after month, year after year. In the joys and sorrows, the surprises and disappointments, the ordinary and extraordinary moments of living, your parish priest leads you in the sacred encounter with heaven and earth.

I am well into my third decade of diocesan priesthood. Having made mistakes, pray God I have learned from them. If I had to repeat my worst day as a diocesan priest, I would still renew my commitment to serve God's people as a parish priest without hesitation. I thank the Church for the gift of priesthood and the innumerable opportunities to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to individuals and families. In this *Year of the Priest* I celebrate my call to serve. Thank you for inviting me, your parish priest, into your lives.

The Year for Priests - 2009-2010