

FEBRUARY 5, 2012

Scripture Reflection

What often makes the difference between experiencing life as endless drudgery and utter misery and being alive with energy and joy is our state of health--physical, emotional or spiritual. Illness and other profound losses color the whole of our perception. When an illness persists, whether one's own or a loved one's, one can empathize with Job's feeling of utter weariness. It sounds familiar.

From such a place of pain we believers, like Job, pour out our hearts to God, knowing that God never sends or wants suffering for anyone. In the Gospels, it is Jesus who embodies the power to repair shattered minds, bodies and spirits. Regardless of what stands in the way of our being able to receive and share the good news, Jesus binds up or casts out, thus releasing the power within us to experience and pass on God's love. That is what happens with Simon's mother-in-law. Ablaze with fever, she lacks her usual energy for service to others. In much the same way that Jesus calls her son-in-law to become a disciple, Jesus approaches her and frees her from all that impedes her from responding to the good news. Just as Simon Peter leaves behind his net so that he can "fish for people", so his mother-in-law, holding on to Jesus' hand as the fever leaves her, takes up her own ministry.

All Jesus' teachings and healings were in the service of the noblest cause of all, the kingdom of God. Jesus did not come to be simply a teacher or healer, however noble those professions are. Rather, he came to teach about and embody God's reign. He places before all who will listen the hope for a new and better future, one that is mainly God's doing, one that surpasses and overcomes the sufferings and trials of the present. While healing was certainly a part of Jesus' public ministry, Jesus saw preaching the good News of the kingdom of God as central to his purpose.

• **Do you find yourself responding more to Jesus' healings or his preaching? How does each affect you?**

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COMING SOON TO THE CATHEDRAL
LENTEN LUNCHES

Ash Wednesday and Fridays of Lent

11:00 AM until 1:00 PM

FISH SANDWICH

with

MACARONI & CHEESE

or

FRENCH FRIES

\$6.00



Ash Wednesday - February 22;

Friday - February 24; Friday - March 2;

Friday - March 9; Friday - March 16

Friday - March 23; Friday - March 30

(NO LUNCH SERVED ON GOOD FRIDAY)

Eat-in or Take-out. No pre-paid orders.

Please call in orders of ten or more.

Collection of Palm - Parishioners are invited to return all blessed palm from last year to be burned and used as ashes for Ash Wednesday, February 22. Baskets will be placed next weekend at the Cathedral doors to collect this blessed palm.

MARDI GRAS PARTY

All parishioners are encouraged to attend this year's Mardi Gras Party, **Saturday, February 18** at **6:00 PM** in the Parish Hall. Dinner will be served followed by entertainment and activities for both adults and children. Beverages will be available. All are invited. **Please call the Parish Office at 944-4603 to reserve your spot for the party.** Your phone call will help us determine amounts needed for food preparation as no tickets are being sold.

Meet Bishop Mark at Theology on Tap

Bishop Mark L. Bartchak will be the featured presenter at the next session of Theology on Tap in Altoona. It will be held on **February 13**, at **7:00 PM**, at Joe's Bar, adjacent to Zach's Sports & Spirits, 5820 Sixth Avenue. The topic of Bishop Mark's presentation will be "Can We Talk About Human Sexuality?" Young adults (ages 18-39) from throughout the Diocese are invited to take advantage of this opportunity to meet the Bishop and engage in discussion with him and their peers on this important topic. Complimentary appetizers will be served. For more information, please contact Father David Rizzo or Tony DeGol at 695-5579.

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 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)
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 John M. Gibbons, Parochial Vicar

Reverend Monsignor Roy F. Kline, Senior Priest

Deacon John E. Rys

Deacon John J. Szwarc

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
Andrew R. Motyka - 944-2044

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

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

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
FEBRUARY 5, 2012

Readings: *Jb 7:1-4, 6-7; 1 Cor 9: 16-19, 22-23; Mk 1: 29-39*

Mass Intentions

February 6, Monday: Saint Paul Miki and companions

Readings: *1 Kgs 8:1-7,9-13; Mk 6: 53-56*

6:45 AM Msgr. Thomas Cawley (Family)

8:00 AM Violet Dickinson (Mary & Dave Lysinger)

12:00 PM Anna M. Hoover, Anniversary (Family)

February 7, Tuesday: Weekday

Readings: *1 Kgs 8: 22-23, 27-30; Mk 7: 1-13*

6:45 AM In Thanks. & Remem. (Kling/Weaver Fam.)

8:00 AM Marjorie Evangelisto (Sister, Vi)

12:00 PM Joseph V. Paterno (Brandt Family)

February 8, Wednesday: Saint Josephine Bakhita

Readings: *1 Kgs 10: 1-10; Mk 7: 14-23*

6:45 AM Joan Donnelly's Good Health (Friend)

8:00 AM John Batkiewicz (Peggy & Bernie Joyce)

12:00 PM Kathryn Martinazzi (Charlie & Nancy Craig)

February 9, Thursday: Weekday

Readings: *1 Kgs 11: 4-13; Mk 7: 24-30*

6:45 AM Fred Martynuska (Helen & Curtis Glynn)

8:00 AM Ben Delozier (Fred & Gloria Kuntz)

12:00 PM Mildred Flick (Daughters)

February 10, Friday: Saint Scholastica, virgin

Readings: *1 Kgs 11: 29-32; 12: 19; Mk 7: 31-37*

6:45 AM Madeline Seidel, Ann. (Jim, Elaine & Family)

8:00 AM Barbara Duffy (Donna Seidel)

12:00 PM Carl J. Fischer (Fred & Alma Reismeier)

February 11, Saturday: Our Lady of Lourdes

Readings: *1 Kgs 12: 26-32; 13: 33-34; Mk 8: 1-10*

8:00 AM Mary Kantoski (Frank Kapfhammer Family)

12:00 PM Stella Gallagher (Mark & Diane Moschella)

Vigil: Sixth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Readings: *Lv 13:1-2,44-46; 1 Cor 10:31--11:1; Mk 1:40-45*

5:00 PM Nancy Geis, Birthday (Patty & Family)

Please remember our sick in your prayers.

Cathedral Parish Meetings Scheduled

All Staff - Thursday, February 9, at 12:45 PM in the Saint John Room.

Parish Liturgy Committee - Friday, February 10, at 12:30 PM in the Seton Suite.

Parish Council - Monday, March 5, at 7:00 PM in the Saint John Room.

A Special Message from Bishop Mark L. Bartchak

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recently announced that almost all employers - including Catholic employers - will be forced to offer their employees health coverage that includes sterilization, abortion-inducing drugs, and contraception. If the rule is not overturned, we will be compelled to either violate our consciences or to drop health coverage for our employees. I, along with my brother Bishops in the United States, have vowed to fight this unjust law. In the next edition of *The Catholic Register*, I will outline my concerns about this issue in greater detail and explain what you can do to help end this threat to our religious freedom. In the meantime, I ask for your prayers that wisdom and justice prevail and religious liberty may be restored. Thank you.

Mandeville Service Committee Project

We are excited to team up with **Hoss's Steak & Sea House** to raise money for our Sister Parish, St. Margaret Mary, Lionel Town, Jamaica. Please consider visiting the Hoss's location in Altoona or Duncansville on **Sunday, February 12**, and Hoss's will then donate 20% of your total check to our Service Committee. **You will need to present the flyer enclosed in this bulletin when placing your order.** If we raise \$1,200 or more in sales, Hoss's will donate 25%, so let's all plan to take the family out to dinner on February 12.

Baptism Congratulations

The Irwin family celebrated the baptism of Erika Farrell, daughter of Eric and Meghan, on Sunday, January 29th. Congratulations also to sisters, Courtney and Skylar. May the graces of the Sacrament of Baptism strengthen both our children and the adults who care for them.

CONFIRMATION Session for Adults

Is there any man or woman over the age of twenty who has not yet received the Sacrament of Confirmation? Cathedral Parish will begin sessions in preparation for Confirmation during the season of Lent. 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. Call the Parish Office at 944-4603 if you would like to join the adult group preparing for the reception of Confirmation.

Charismatic Prayer

The Charismatic Prayer Group will have a Night of Adoration with praise and worship this Monday evening, February 6, at 7:00 PM in the Cathedral. Father John Gibbons will be giving a short spiritual talk. All are most welcome!

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, January 29, 2012 - \$10,092.50

Contribution Reports for Income Tax purposes may be obtained by calling the Parish Office: 944-4603.

Citizens Concerned For Human Life

Thank you for your assistance with the funding of four buses to the March For Life on January 23 from the Altoona area. \$1,046.67 was collected at the Cathedral doors January 14 and 15!

CHRISTIAN INITIATION

Following the Prayer of the Faithful at 10:00 AM Mass each Sunday, our Candidates are dismissed to reflect on the Scriptures proclaimed and to learn more about our Catholic faith and tradition. Please remember all of these individuals in your prayer.

BLESSED CANDLES

On Thursday, February 2nd, the Church celebrated the Presentation of the Lord. At this Mass candles were blessed for use in church throughout the liturgical year. Blessed candles are available for you to take home and use throughout the year on special occasions such as anniversaries (death/wedding), birthdays, and holidays (Christmas and Easter). These blessed candles are located at the front of the Blessed Mother Chapel. A box of two (2) candles is \$5.00; and a six-day glass votive candle is \$5.00.

Liturgical Reflection ...

**Roman
Missal**

With *Mediator Dei* in 1947, Pope Pius XII gave a new impetus to liturgical renewal, laying a path toward Vatican II. He moved from a juridical notion of Church as an institution to a more biblical and dynamic understanding of the Church as the Body of Christ. He reminded us that the Eucharist is at the heart of the Church, and Pope Pius XII placed a renewed emphasis on the intelligible participation of the laity. It is this idea of more active participation of the laity that has prompted the Church to publish a new Missal and its vernacular translation.

2012, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 S. Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648.

ALTOONA CENTRAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Thanks to everyone who made our Catholic Schools Week Celebration special. Special thanks to Wolf Furniture for their donation of \$500.00.

Open House - Elementary School, Monday, February 6, from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM. Come and see for yourself the ACCS Advantage. We are now taking registrations for the 2012-13 school year!

Dance - Grades 6, 7, 8 in Father Kelley Hall on Friday, February 10, from 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM.

CATHEDRAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sunday, February 5 - Regular classes for Pre-K - Grade 8 from 11:15 AM - 12:30 PM in the school.

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

Note: February FIRE sessions: 12th and 26th.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

First Eucharist - Wednesday, February 8 at 6:30 PM. Second of three sessions for parents/students.

Marriage Preparation Concludes Saturday, February 11 from 9:30 AM-12:00 Noon in Cathedral Hall. This Series is presented by the Cathedral Parish Marriage Prep Team with Father John Gibbons.

Baptism - The next Baptismal Prep Session is scheduled for Monday, February 13 at 7:00 PM in the Seton Suite. This required class is offered every other month. Call the Parish Office at 944-4603 to register. **Please note:** Baptisms are not normally scheduled during the season of Lent.

YOUTH GROUP PARENTS MEETING

Cathedral Parish's Youth Group will be hosting a Parent Information Meeting on Sunday, February 12th, from 12:30 PM- 2:00 PM in Cathedral School. We will distribute Sheetz coupon books for our fundraiser and we welcome the input of all Cathedral families. Childcare and a snack will be provided.