

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 28, 2021

MASS INTENTIONS

November 29, Monday: Advent Weekday

6:45 AM + Kate Klisiewicz (Chip & Bob)
12:00 PM + Adrian Thomas (Anonymous)

November 30, Tuesday: Saint Andrew, Apostle

6:45 AM + John Capouellez Sr., Ann. (Family)
12:00 PM + Deb Capotosti, Birthday (Mother/Children)

December 1, Wednesday: Advent Weekday

6:45 AM + Jane Davidson (Donna & Ken Wojcik)
12:00 PM + Eleanor Fischer (Helen Tomassetti)

December 2, Thursday: Advent Weekday

6:45 AM + M. Virginia Jones (Jan Stoehr)
12:00 PM + John Duffy (Mitch & Gina Cooper)

December 3, Friday: Saint Francis Xavier

6:45 AM + Bobby Homan (Mary Conrad)
12:00 PM + Dick Nelson, Ann. (Gibson Family)

December 4, Saturday: St. John Damascene

8:00 AM + Dave Berger Sr. (William Berger)
12:00 PM + Jeldo Evangelisto (Joe & Laurie Hogan)

Vigil: Second Sunday In Advent

5:00 PM + Betsy Cote (Kirk Dodson)

December 5, Second Sunday in Advent

8:00 AM + Walter Beckel Jr. (Donna Lechner & Barry McGeary)
10:00 AM + Genevieve Kibler (Ed & Lois Simanski)
12:00 PM + Rita Beck (HTCS Altoona Campus Faculty and Staff)
5:00 PM + Pro Popolo/For the People

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Readings for the week of November 28, 2021

Sunday: Jer 33:14-16/1 Thes 3:12—4:2/Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 [1b]/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10]/Mt 4:18-22

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. Is 30:18d]/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

Next Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-

1st Reconciliation Sessions

Tuesday, November 30th 6-8 PM, Cathedral hall, parents and students.

Confirmation Prep

Students will be sponsoring three families from the Catholic Charities this Advent season.

Religious Ed PK/8

Students will be collecting hats, scarves, mittens, toys and personal care items again this Advent season for Family Services of Blair County Abuse Shelters.

The Cathedral Adult Choir

The choir has begun to meet. Rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings 7:00-8:30 in the Cathedral Church in front of Mary's Shrine. Use the Cathedral Square side door. All voice parts are welcomed and needed.

Eucharistic Adoration

On Wednesday, December 1, Cathedral Parish will have Eucharistic Adoration from 12:30 P.M. until the end of Confessions. A sign-up sheet is located on the cross aisle table to mark your time for visitation before the Blessed Sacrament. The Church asks that at least two people be present at all times when there is Exposition of the Sacrament.

Nocturnal Adoration

The next Nocturnal Adoration will take place at Our Lady of Lourdes, 2716- Broad Avenue, Altoona, on Friday, December 3rd, from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. All are welcome to spend an hour or as long as you would like.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, November 21, 2021 \$4,818.81

The gas line project delayed the delivery of mail so not all contributed have been recorded.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults "Inquiry"

Anyone interested in learning more about the Catholic Church, or just seeking information, you are welcome to join us for "Inquiry" which will begin Sunday, October 17th from 11:00-12:00 in the Seton Suite. Please contact Carol Galimoto at (814) 327-4841, if you are interested in joining.

Calendar of Prizes 2021 Are Here!

Calendar of prizes 2021 are being sold at the Cathedral Square Door after all masses starting this weekend. Each calendar costs \$20.00. There is a \$20.00 daily prize; an additional \$1,000.00 in special monthly prizes awarded throughout the year; and a grand prize of \$1,000.00. Due to the state's regulations for small games of chance, it is necessary that we sell all one thousand tickets are sold. If you have a favorite three digit number, call the Parish Office at 814-944-4603 weekdays between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM to check for availability or stop by the Cathedral door after Mass on the weekends. These make great Christmas gifts and stocking stuffers.

Basket Bingo Report

We had our final Basket Bingo committee meeting and we are pleased to announce that after all the bills were paid the profit from the bingo was \$15,762.00. We would like to thank our committee for a job well done: Mary Ann Bell, Maryann Joyce Bistline, Paula Clemens, Paulette Farabaugh, Mary Lumadue, Paula Miller, Peggy McLucas, Lori Eberwein, Dallas Luke, also a BIG thank you to Lorraine Beck and Roberta Burns for their long hours that they put into this. We are looking forward to our next basket bingo, so mark your calendars for Sunday, September 25th, 2022, hope, to see you there!

Baptismal Prep Class Scheduled

There is a Baptismal Prep class scheduled for Tuesday, December 7th, at 6:30 PM in the Cathedral Parish Center Education Room on 14th Street entrance. Need not wait till the baby is due. You can pre-register by calling the Parish Office at 814-944-4603.

Saint Joseph Closing Mass

All are invited to join Bishop Mark for 5:30 pm Mass at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona, on Wednesday December 8, 2021. This Mass is in celebration of the closing of the Year of St. Joseph declared by Pope Francis and the one year anniversary of his exhortation Patris corde, "With a Father's Heart."

Patris corde, 7. A Father in the Shadows

Every child is the bearer of a unique mystery that can only be brought to light with the help of a father who respects that child's freedom. A father who realizes that he is most a father and educator at the point when he becomes "useless", when he sees that his child has become independent and can walk the paths of life unaccompanied. When he becomes like Joseph, who always knew that the child was not his own but had merely been entrusted to his care. In the end, this is what Jesus would have us understand when he says: "Call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father who is in heaven," (Mt. 23:9) In every exercise of our fatherhood, we should always keep in mind that it has nothing to do with possession, but is rather a "sign" pointing to a greater fatherhood. In a way, we are like Joseph: a shadow of the heavenly Father, who "makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (Mt 5:45). And a shadow that follows his Son. **St. Joseph, A Father in the Shadows, Respector of Freedom, pray for us.** (Pope Francis *Apostolic Letter Patris corde, 2020, 7. Dec. 8, 2020; 2021*), *Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Liturgy Committee, Liturgy Office, Mary, Mother of the Church Pastoral Center, 2713 W. Chestnut Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601.*

A NOTE OF THANKS

Gratitude is extended to our parish's Social Committee for conducting a Stuffed Cabbage Dinner on Wednesday, November 10th. The volunteers were Butch Winkler, Mary Ann Bell, Janet Hammond, Ronald Helfrich, Jim Dixon, Paul Luke, Lee Truby, John Fischer, Tony Eckenrode, Matt Koeck, and Chris and Dave McCullough. John Murphy, Mike Kuny, Bill Smith, Steph Kilcoyne, Jean Koury, Linda Yaskow.

EVENING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

You are invited to participate in Evening Prayer at 6:30 P.M. during the Sundays of Advent. Praying in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament and receiving a blessing with the Sacrament, are a peaceful and prayerful way to conclude the weekend and begin another week. Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us!

NOVEMBER 28, 2021

Staying awake can often be a challenge, especially when we are exhausted. Life's demands have a way of zapping every last bit of energy out of us. When we are tired it affects us not only physically, but psychologically and spiritually as well. All of our senses are dulled and diminished. We can overlook details, become disinterested, lethargic and apathetic, and detached. Getting sufficient physical rest only helps so much. We need to be rejuvenated, refreshed, and reenergized in other ways. If we are psychologically exhausted, we need to understand what is draining our emotions and taxing our relationships. If we are spiritually tired, we need to find the necessary "shot in the arm" to put us back in touch with God. Unfortunately, exhaustion is seldom limited to just one part of who we are. When we lack energy and zeal it is usually the case that everything suffers. We not only are affected physically, but psychologically and spiritually as well. In short, when we run out of gas the engine stops.

And yet, our Lord's directive is clear, "Be vigilant at all times." Even Jesus knew what "the anxieties of daily life" can do to us. One day pours into another and time quickly flies by. Any one of us can take a moment and reflect on how many wonderful, creative opportunities we miss because there is always so much "stuff" to do and so little time to do it. Usually these are missed moments of love, and if we are missing love encounters we are also missing God. Sleepwalking through life, we check the boxes next to our list of "must and have to dos" and justify it all by convincing ourselves that tomorrow is another day and there'll be more time. It may surprise us, but tomorrow is here, and time is running out. While we may like to believe that we have an "eternity" of time to do all those things that require the focus, energy, and desire we do not currently have, we don't. We're on a limited ride and time is short.

Jesus is also clear on another point. "That day [will] catch you by surprise like a trap." If we are going to be judged on love and so easily justify not having all that much time to do so, then it seems we must shift focus a bit. St. Teresa of Calcutta tells us, "We desire to be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas-time, not in a cold manger of our heart, but in a heart full of love and humility, a heart so pure, so immaculate, so warm with love for one another." Getting to this place doesn't "just happen." It requires vigilance and discipline both with a knowledge of what is really of importance and what really needs to be the focus of our energy and time. Pray, starting now and not tomorrow, that we can stay alert, be strengthened in our faith, and prepared for whatever will come. Don't miss another opportunity to love.

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Did you know that text messages have a 99% open rate? It's true! In addition to emails, text messaging is the most effective way to reach parishioners— more effective than an app, a paper bulletin, or a Facebook page. With Flocknote, a parish can text all members, just a specific group or ministry, or an individual, and capture replies and respond. Flocknote's church texting makes it simple.

Cathedral parish has slowly begun to use Flocknotes. Soon, we will be asking parishioners to participate by either texting or registering online. It's fast and easy.

To keep you in touch with what's going on in our parish in a more timely fashion, please sign up to receive emails and texts at <https://altoonacathedral.flocknote.com> Your participation will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.



Cathedral Parish will be participating in #iGiveCatholic, a Giving Day for the faithful across the nation to come together and raise charitable dollars for Catholic parishes, schools, and ministries, on Tuesday, November 30.

We hope to install an emergency lighting system for the cathedral. A link is available at our parish's website, on our facebook page, and here at <https://aj.igivecatholic.org/organizatons/cathedral-of-the-blessed-sacrament>. You may also use one of the envelopes available at the entrances.

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

A Book of Remembrance is available at the Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel. You are invited to include the names of your deceased loved ones in the book. The chapel also contains a list of those for whom funerals have been celebrated since last November 2. Be sure to pray for the souls in purgatory. May they soon enter the joy and peace of heaven.

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:

Upon Request and Communal celebration

MARRIAGE:

Arrange nine months in advance. Couples expected to participate in pre-marriage preparation program.

DEVOTIONS:

Charismatic Prayer - Normally 3rd Monday of the Month

Eucharistic Adoration - First Wednesday - 12:30 PM - 8:00 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 - 8:15 PM

Grades 9 thru 12.

WEB: WWW.ALTOONACATHEDRAL.ORG

FAX: 814-942-4337

E-MAIL: ALTCATHEDRAL@DIOCESEAJ.ORG

<https://www.facebook.com/cathedralofaltoona>

Sunday:	5:00 PM (Vigil)	Holyday:	5:30 PM (Vigil)	Weekday:	6:45 AM
	8:00 AM		8:00 AM		12:00 Noon
	10:00 AM		12:00 Noon	Saturday:	8:00 AM
	12:00 Noon		5:30 PM		12:00 Noon
	5:00 PM				

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF GOD IN THE CITY OF ALTOONA SINCE 1851

Most Reverend Mark L. Bartchak, J.C.D., Bishop

Reverend Monsignor Stanley Carson, Administrator

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

Holidaysburg 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

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Chris Laraia - Pre-K thru 12 - 312-7317

E-mail: claraia@dioceseaj.org

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