

# SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 5, 2021

## MASS INTENTIONS

### December 6, Monday: Saint Nicholas, Bishop

6:45 AM Sr. Kevin, Eleanor Breen, Golden Jubilee  
(Janet & Michele Belsey)  
12:00 PM + Madeline Vogel (Tom & Beth Moore)

### December 7, Tuesday: St. Ambrose, Bp & Dr.

6:45 AM + Bob Simanski (Anonymous)  
12:00 PM + Geraldine Kines, Birth. (Sharon Yanchik)  
5:30 PM + Marti Stefanon (Jim & Mary Ellen Kelly)

### December 8, Wednesday: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 AM + Jim Davidson (JoAnn & Tim Bettwy)  
12:00 PM + John Gority (Jim & Elaine Weaver)  
5:30 PM + Paul Sheetz (Mike & Sherry Byrnes)

### December 9, Thursday: St. Juan Diego

6:45 AM + Janet Tomlinson (Greg & Christine McCullough)  
12:00 PM + Barbara Shoemaker (Sam & Janet Ianuzzi)

### December 10, Friday: Advent Weekday

6:45 AM + Nicholas John Moffa (Estate)  
12:00 PM + Deacon John Rys, Birthday (Family)

### December 11, Saturday: Saint Damasus I, Pope

8:00 AM + Marian & Tom Swires (Children)  
12:00 PM + Barb Probst, Anniversary (Family)

### Vigil: Third Sunday In Advent

5:00 PM + Orvitta Knott (Dick & Connie Steinbeiser)

### December 12, Third Sunday in Advent

8:00 AM + Bernard G Plank, Birth./Ann. (Family)  
10:00 AM + Vocations to Religious Life (Rita Kibler)  
5:00 PM + Pro Popolo/For the People

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## Readings for the week of December 5, 2021

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

**Monday:** Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [cf. Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26

**Tuesday:** Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13 [cf. Is 40:10ab]/Mt 18:12-14

**Wednesday:** Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

**Thursday:** Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15

**Friday:** Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19

**Saturday:** Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

**Next Sunday:** Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-1

## 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.

## 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!

## SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Effective next weekend, the 10:30 A.M. Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Parish will be at 11:30 A.M. and there will be no Noon Mass at the Cathedral.

## OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, November 28, 2021 \$8,357.72

**The gas line project delayed the delivery of mail so not all contributions 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.

## 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."

## The Immaculate Conception Mass Schedule

Since the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a holy day of obligation, we have Mass on Tuesday, December 7, at 5:30 P.M. and on Wednesday, December 8, at 8:00 A.M., Noon, and at 5:30 P.M. which will be celebrated by Bishop Mark.

Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Parish will be celebrated on Wednesday at 6:00 P.M.

## 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. Parents don't need to wait till the baby is due. You can pre-register by calling the Parish Office at 814-944-4603.

## Patris corde: With a Father's Heart

The aim of this Apostolic Letter is to increase our love for Saint Joseph, this great saint, to encourage us to implore his intercession and to imitate his virtue and his zeal. Indeed, the proper mission of the saints is not only to obtain miracles and graces, but to intercede for us before God. The saints help all the faithful to "strive for the holiness and the perfection of their particular state of life." Their lives are concrete proof that it is possible to put the Gospel into practice. Jesus told us: "Learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart." (Mt 11:29) By his eloquent silence, Saint Joseph says the same. We need only ask Saint Joseph for the grace of graces: our conversion.

**Let us now make our prayer to him:** Hail Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen. **Given in Rome, at Saint John Lateran, on 8 December, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in the year of 2020, the eighth of my Pontificate. Franciscus.** (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.

## Communal Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Our parish's Advent Communal Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be on Wednesday, December 15, at 6:00 P.M. We are pleased to have some of our children receive that Sacrament for the first time. In preparation for our Lord's Second Coming and in anticipation of our celebration of His birth, it is important for us to be reconciled with God and each other. Because of the pandemic, we have not been able to gather like we have in the past. Our communal experience of God's faithful love and tender mercy will be a welcomed gift.

**December 5, 2021**

St. Ambrose shares some wisdom on our need to prepare the way and open the door for Christ. "You see that when the Word of God knocks hardest on your door, it is when his hair is wet with the dew of the night. In fact, he chooses to visit those who are in tribulation and trial, lest one of them be overwhelmed by distress. So, his head is covered with dew, with drops, when his body is laboring hard. It is important to keep watch so that when the Bridegroom comes, he is not shut out. If you are asleep and your heart is not keeping watch, he will go away without knocking; but if your heart is alert for his coming, he knocks and asks for the door to be opened to him." When life gets overwhelming and difficult and we find ourselves feeling a bit downhearted and miserable, these words can bring great comfort.

We sometimes choose to remain stuck in our uncomfortable darkness and being stuck becomes our norm. In this time of self-focus our hearts are closed to the graces and life God desires to give us. Wrapped in the robe of mourning and misery, we fail to see the mercy, justice, and love the Bridegroom wants to bring. If we take seriously the need to prepare the way for Christ and open our hearts in preparation for his visit, we can hear God's gentle voice calling us deep within. It beckons us to seek out its source and discover the inner calm and peace that can prevail over the darkness of despair. Sometimes our darkness is so dark that it may seem unsurmountable. Trusting in the spiritual friends who journey with us, and God's promise may bring a glimmer of light even when it is most difficult to keep our hearts' doors open. Sometimes, the only light in the darkness is found in trusting the faith of others both past and present.

We have to trust that God has already begun the accomplishment of good work in us and that humanity is on an incredible journey to something wonderful and awesome. God is not done. When we open the doors of our hearts, straighten the paths of our lives, and prepare the way, Jesus can come with God's simple gifts of peace, grace, and joy. Life throws a great deal at us. It is easy to get tired and confused. We have to train our hearts to keep watch, discern what is of value, and forge ahead. Not allowing ourselves to become so weighed down by things and brought out of focus is a tremendous goal to achieve this Advent season. God is knocking. Answer the door. You will see and understand life in ways you never thought possible before.



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.**



If you haven't already done so, you are still able to participate in our efforts to raise funds to install emergency lighting by using one of the "iGIVECATHOLIC envelopes at our entrances or by submitting your own specially marked envelope.

We are very grateful to the 17 donors who contributed \$3,170 online and the 7 donors who contributed \$1,320 by using envelopes. The emergency lighting project is estimated to cost \$37,000.



**We are pleased to welcome Saint Nicholas to our parish this weekend!**

# 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](http://WWW.ALTOONACATHEDRAL.ORG)**

**FAX: 814-942-4337**

**E-MAIL: [ALTCATHEDRAL@DIOCESEAJ.ORG](mailto:ALTCATHEDRAL@DIOCESEAJ.ORG)**

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

Sunday:	5:00 PM (Vigil)	Holiday:	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
	5:00 PM		5:30 PM		12:00 Noon

**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](http://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](http://www.bishopguilfoyle.org) - 944-4014**

**DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

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

**E-mail: [claraia@dioceseaj.org](mailto: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](mailto:lthayer@dioceseaj.org)**