

# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 12, 2021

## MASS INTENTIONS

### December 13, Monday: St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

6:45 AM + Helen Anderson (Mary Lysinger)  
12:00 PM + Paul Rose, Birthday (Family)

### December 14, Tuesday: St. John of the Cross

6:45 AM + Dec. Members Harry Dodson Family  
(Kirk Dodson)  
12:00 PM + Carrie Kibler Detwiler, Birth. (Mom & Dad)

### December 15, Wednesday: Advent Weekday

6:45 AM + Jeremiah Mullane  
(Dr. Dennis & Betsy Flynn)  
12:00 PM + Deceased Family Members  
(McNelis All Stars)

### December 16, Thursday: Advent Weekday

6:45 AM + Suzanne Decker (The Baker Family)  
12:00 PM + Donna Pagliara (Family)

### December 17, Friday: Late Advent Weekday

6:45 AM + More Vocations (Anonymous)  
12:00 PM + Mary Kantoski, Birthday (Family)

### December 18, Saturday: Late Advent Weekday

8:00 AM + Freddie Martynuska (Mom & Dad)  
12:00 PM + Martha Maurer (Jean Koury)

### Vigil: Fourth Sunday In Advent

5:00 PM + Robert Beck (Christine Sandusky)

### December 19, Fourth Sunday in Advent

8:00 AM + Greg Hoover (Linda & Monte Strassburger)  
10:00 AM + Jeannie Yorgy (Marie & Jim Williford)  
5:00 PM + Pro Popolo/For the People



## Readings for the week of December 12, 2021

**Sunday:** Zep 3:14-18a/Is12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/  
Lk 3:10-18

**Monday:** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc,  
8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27

**Tuesday:** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19  
and 23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32

**Wednesday:** Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10,  
11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23

**Thursday:** Is 54:1-10/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a, and  
13b [2a]/Lk 7:24-30

**Friday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/  
Mt 1:1-17

**Saturday:** Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt  
1:18-25

**Next Sunday:** Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/  
Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-4

## Confirmation Christmas Project

Confirmation students in grades 9,10,11 will meet in the Cathedral Hall on Sunday December 12th at 4:00 PM. to wrap items collected for 3 families from Catholic Charities. We would like to thank students, parents, Parish Council and Christian Mothers for their support with this project.

## 1st Reconciliation/ Advent Penance Service

Families should be in their seats by 5:45 PM on Wednesday, December 15th. Please bring your Baptism candle and completed textbook.

## Religious Ed PK/8

We will continue to collect items for our Advent Giving tree project through January 2nd. Hats, scarves, gloves, personal care items, and toys to be donated to Family Services of Blair County Domestic Abuse shelters may be dropped off during Religious Ed hours on Sunday Dec. 12th and 19th or at the Parish Office throughout the week. Thank you for your help.

**Beginning Jan. 2nd**, all religious education children will be dismissed from the ally door (lower level) in anticipation of inclement weather.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION  
Sunday, December 5, 2021 \$10,898.51  
Thank you for your financial and spiritual support.

## 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.

## The Cathedral Adult Choir

Choir 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 this 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.

## Stewardship Reflections

The stewardship way of life is very much a journey. We don't have to have every aspect of our life perfectly nailed down; we are all "works in progress" called simply to take one at a time to Christ. It is God who started this good work in us on the day of our Baptism. He cares deeply about this journey of ours and he will give us strength and grace we need to stay faithful to Him and continue growing in love and imitation of Christ.

This Advent, let's turn away from bad habits or sin that we have crept into our lives and turn our hearts and mind back to Christ. This is what the stewardship way of life is all about, moving closer and closer in relationship with Christ, ready to celebrate His birth, with eyes fixed on eternal life. When we share out time especially with the "least of our brothers and sisters," we are imitating Him. (Stewardship Reflection, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, Inc. 11/9/2021)

## Retirement Fund for Religious

Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others educating the young, comforting the sick, and ministering to the less fortunate. Today many are frail and need assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish medications, nursing care, and more. Please give generously to today's second collection.

## 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 12, 2021**

We've all heard the adage, "Laughter is the best medicine." In many ways, it really is. When was the last time you really laughed? The gift of imagination allows us to see possible things that are yet to be. Imagine a world filled with laughter. We take life too seriously sometimes. Fear, uncertainty, pressure, negativity, disappointment, and myriad other human experiences can rob us of the joy needed for laughter. God never promised us an easy road, and we do have to take the course of our lives seriously. However, there is a balance to be sought and a possible joy that can be brought even to the darkest and most challenging of encounters.

St. Therese of Lisieux reminds us that, "Joy is not found in the material objects surrounding us but in the inner recesses of the soul. One can possess joy in a prison cell as well as in a palace." Falling in love with God, who is present in all of creation, allows us to bring a depth of understanding to everything we do and experience. We can more easily see above and beyond things while pursuing the only One who can truly satisfy our hearts. When we realize that God, the king of Israel, is in our midst and with us, there is no further misfortune to fear. We can celebrate the wonder and beauty of God's gift of joy. It is no wonder that many saints radiate joy and have no reservations expressing laughter. They are happy because they have found a pearl of great price.

We celebrate with joy today with hearts filled with expectation, wonder, awe, and beauty as we ready ourselves, even more excitedly, for the coming of our Savior. Do not fear and do not be discouraged. If you haven't laughed in a while, why? Something is preventing you from expressing the magnificence of your soul and the presence of God who dwells within. God's power and presence within us assures us that we are loved and kept in that presence. What more is really needed? Rejoice and laugh in the presence of God! It really is the best medicine and a most perfect way to convince others that God is really with us. "Go ahead, laugh! Live your life with joy and serve the Lord with laughter! Joy, with peace, is the sister of charity. Serve the Lord with laughter." (St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina) ©LPi



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 donors who contributed \$3,170 online and those donors who contributed \$2,865 by using envelopes. The emergency lighting project is estimated to cost \$37,000.



**Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament:** Eve at 5:00 P.M. Christmas Day at Midnight, 8:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M.

**Our Lady of Fatima Church:** Christmas Day at 11:30 A.M.

# 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.

### ANOIDING 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)  
8:00 AM  
10:00 AM  
5:00 PM

Weekday: 6:45 AM  
12:00 Noon  
Saturday: 8:00 AM  
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)**

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