

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 19, 2021

MASS INTENTIONS

December 20, Monday: Late Advent Weekday

6:45 AM + Danyll Rougeux (Mom & Dad)
12:00 PM + Alice Winkler, Birthday (Family)

December 21, Tuesday: St. Peter Canisius Priest

6:45 AM + Lori Keirn (Jessica Bennett Family)
12:00 PM + Ben Delozier, Anniversary (Family)

December 22, Wednesday: Late Advent Weekday

6:45 AM + Francis Goss, Anniversary (Wife & Family)
12:00 PM + Mildred Brady, Anniversary (Joe & Dee Shellenberger)

December 23, Thursday: St. John Kanty, Priest

6:45 AM + Don & Dorothy Hanekamp (Dave & Maureen Hanekamp)
12:00 PM + Mary Alice Plummer (Barbara A. Francis)

December 24, Friday: Late Advent Weekday

6:45 AM + Barry Bidelsbach (Farrell Family)
Noon No Mass

Vigil: Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

5:00 PM People of the Parish

December 25, Saturday: THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Midnight Parishioners and Benefactors
8:00 AM Parishioners and Benefactors
10:00 AM Parishioners and Benefactors
5:00 PM No Mass

December 26, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

8:00 AM + Sandra Pool (Debbie Ball /Family)
10:00 AM + Carrie Kibler Detwiler (Mom & Dad)
5:00 PM + Pro Popolo/For the People

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

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.

Readings for the week of December 19, 2021

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

Monday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45

Wednesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56

Thursday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66

Friday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79

Saturday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-5

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.

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Effective the weekend of December 12, the 10:30 A.M.

Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Parish will be at 11:30 A.M. and there will be no Sunday Noon Mass at the Cathedral.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION
Sunday, December 12, 2021 \$9,377.60
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.

Retirement Fund for Religious

A sister writes, "Our prayers belong most of all to the generous benefactors whose donations have made this financial assistance possible." Thank you for supporting last week's Retirement Fund for Religious collection. Visit retiredreligious.org to learn how your gift supports elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.

Office Closed

The Cathedral Office will be closed from Thursday, December 23 to Sunday, December 26. The office will be opened on Monday, December 27. Have a Blessed Christmas.



Stewardship Reflections

Our Blessed Mother takes center stage on this Fourth Sunday of Advent as we draw near to the celebration of her Son's birth. After our Lord Himself, Mary is our model and guide to a stewardship way of life. She "immediately set out and traveled to the hill country in haste," to assist her cousin Elizabeth.

Mary, in her grace, thought of others before herself, modeling two of the pillars of stewardship; Hospitality and Service. Her example is one that we can follow in our lives today. There is always a way to glorify God! You may want to, make that phone call to a relative, neighbor or a single parent family, and invite them to join you for Mass and a Christmas meal. Maybe your family could plan to help a church or community kitchen prepare and serve a lunch or dinner. We can spread the Good News of the Gospel in the world with the same heart as the Blessed Mother, with humility and generosity. (Stewardship Reflection, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, Inc. 12/20/2018)

St. Peter Canisius | Feast Day December 21

Born in Holland, St. Peter Canisius (May 8, 1521 – December 21, 1597) was a preacher, teacher, and writer throughout his whole life. At the age of 19, he received a master's degree from the university at Cologne. Soon afterwards, St. Peter met Peter Faber, the first disciple of Ignatius of Loyola, who influenced him so much that he eventually joined the Society of Jesus.

St. Peter Canisius founded colleges and seminaries, served as a missionary, cared for the sick or imprisoned, and wrote close to eight volumes of letters — many about St. Cyril of Alexandria and St. Leo the Great.

A man blessed with many talents, St. Peter Canisius is a wonderful example of a man who developed his talents to further God's work here on earth CLPi

Worried about a loved one?

Saint Leonard's Personal Care Home in Hollidaysburg provides medication management, personal hygiene assistance, socialization, meals, housekeeping and a 24 hour staff in a home-like environment. We serve men and women 62+ for whom it is no longer safe to live alone. To tour our beautiful Victorian mansion or for more information, call Mrs. Connie Cretin, at 814-695-9581 ex. 107 during weekday business hours. We are a faith based facility but accept all eligible applicants, and will assist with financial aid applications where applicable.

December 19, 2021

St. Augustine tells us that a “Christian is a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks and a hand through which Christ helps.” As we look around and out at the world, we do not have to search too far before we come face to face with inequity and injustice. There is so much unfairness, prejudice, anger, hatred, violence, and want. The stories of human heartache, people being hurt, deprived of life’s necessities, loneliness, and sickness are far too commonplace. For many of the world’s ills, the vices of greed, lust, pride, gluttony, and jealousy are clearly among the more significant root causes.

Why doesn’t God just step in and fix this mess? After all, God created this world, and one would hope that he would step up and take some measure of responsibility for it! Once we sit with this thinking for a while, we can begin to realize just how flawed it really is. God did take responsibility and God did fix the problem! God sent us Jesus Christ as the divine solution to the world’s ills. It is not God who has shirked responsibility, we have. We are the ones who continually fail to set our own personal needs, wants, and securities aside so that One more powerful than us can use us.

Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of God to come into the world. Put simply, Mary listened and believed. Having opened herself to being an instrument of the Divine, God could use her as his mind, heart, voice, and hand. She became God’s vessel so that God’s greatness could reach the ends of the earth and peace could come upon the world. God’s fix for the world’s difficulties is you and me. We are the ones who confess that Jesus Christ came into the world as the Son of God, the Prince of Peace, and herald of justice. All we have to do is believe, as did Mary, that what has been spoken to us by the Lord will be fulfilled. Then, we can step aside and be the Christians we claim to be. What a difference it would make if every person who professed to be Christian truly understood that their one and only vocation is to be God’s instrument. What a beautiful, equitable, and just world it would be. ©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.

EMERGENCY LIGHTING

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.

The emergency lighting project is estimated to cost \$37,000.

THE FIRST WEEKEND OF THE NEW YEAR

Since January 1, the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God falls on a Saturday, it is not a holy day of obligation. Masses at the Cathedral will be at 8:00 A.M. and Noon. There will be no 5:00 P.M.

Mass on January 1, New Year’s Day.

For the Solemnity of the Epiphany, January 2, we will have Masses at the 8:00 A.M., 10:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.

Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Parish will be 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.

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

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

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

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