

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

December 26, 2021

MASS INTENTIONS

December 27, Monday: St John, Apostle & Evangelist

6:45 AM + Derek Behe (Mom & Dad)
12:00 PM + Jim DeStefano, Birth. (Randy & Karen Isenberg)

December 28, Tuesday: The Holy Innocents

6:45 AM + Dec. Family Members E.T. Smith
(George & Dot Smith)
12:00 PM + William Lumadue (Bro. Richard Lumadue)

December 29, Wednesday: Fifth Day Within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

6:45 AM + Anna Mercer (Children)
12:00 PM + Rose Marie Keefe (Anonymous)

December 30, Thursday: Sixth Day Within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

6:45 AM + All Poor Souls (Anonymous)
12:00 PM + Amelia Seiler (Butch Winkler)

December 31, Friday: Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

6:45 AM + Msgr. Roy Kline (Anonymous)
Noon + Elizabeth Smith (Lysinger Family)

January 1, Saturday: THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

8:00 AM + James Riley Sr. (Joe & Anne Jaronieski)
12:00 PM + Eleanor Fischer (Bill & Grace Smith)
5:00 PM + No Mass

January 2, Sunday: EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

8:00 AM + Mary Jeanette Marlett (Kathy & Greg Clemens)
10:00 AM + Rebecca Longwill, Birth. (Tim & Anne Marie Longwill)
5:00 PM + Pro Popolo/For the People

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.

Readings for the week of December 26, 2021

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 2:41-52

Monday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40

Friday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18

Saturday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

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.

Office Closed

The Cathedral Office will be closed Friday, December 31, and will reopen Monday, January 3. Have a Blessed and Safe New Year.

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.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, December 26, 2021 \$6,674.76
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, January 2nd, 2022 from 11:00-12:00 in the Seton Suite. Please contact Carol Galimoto at (814) 327-4841, if you are interested in joining.

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.

Christmas Creche

Take time and kneel before the nativity scene in the Cathedral. Reflect on the miracle of the new born infant who is the Eternal Word of God. See Mary's loving watch over her baby. Notice Joseph's protective presence. See how the shepherds focus on the Christ Child. And observe the precious gifts the Three Wise Men present to the Child. Reflect and pray on the wonder of Christmas.

A NOTE OF THANKS

Gratitude is extended to the fine volunteers who cleaned the cathedral on Wednesday, December 15. Since such a nice number of people showed up, it only took one and a half hours. They were: Ed & Paulette Farabaugh, Patty McCloskey, Paula Miller, Bill & Grace Smith, Grace Szwarc, Herb Tomlinson, Mary Gene Vogel.

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

Gratitude is extended to the volunteers who decorated the cathedral so beautifully for Christmas.

A word of thanks is also extended to those who sent a variety of gifts to the rectory. Your thoughtful kindnesses are deeply appreciated.

Our liturgical ministers, particularly our choir members and music ministers, support and enrich our Eucharistic worship in a wonderful way. Their talent, dedication, and time are a blessing to the cathedral parish.

As you know, the Eucharist is the high point of our lives as Catholics. At Eucharist, we encounter the Incarnate One, Jesus the Christ.

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.

Gifting the Cathedral Parish

As wills and insurance policies are established with your attorney, or financial advisor, remember the Cathedral Parish as a beneficiary of your estate. Perhaps you would like to direct your gift to a particular ministry or project at the Parish. Please realize that Mass Stipends go directly to fulfilling that canonical wish and do not aid the financial life of the Parish.

Christmas

Christmas marks the end of the Advent season and the beginning of the Christmas season. In the Christmas season we are called to be Christ in the flesh to our world. Let us pray...

God,
you became human through the obedience of a simple young woman named Mary. Mary is our model of faith. May we be faithful to your word as Mary was. Give us the courage to face each day with the yes that Mary gave to you. We ask this through the incarnate God, who comes to us again during this Christmas season. Amen.

2022 CALENDARS

Since they were ordered later than usual, the calendars are expected to be arriving soon. We are grateful to Bob Jones for once again being our generous calendar sponsor.

December 26, 2021

Families can be very difficult things to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family as well. Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes as well as painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe.

In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of any family with which we are associated. Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness.

Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and leading? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able to understand what it really means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the "light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families." While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in God's continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too.



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 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

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