

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 11, 2022

MASS INTENTIONS

December 12, Monday: Our Lady of Guadalupe
12:00AM+ Bernard G. Plank,, Birth/Ann. (Family)

December 13, Tuesday: Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr
12:00PM Special Int. Pete & +Sally Colledge (Children)

December 14, Wednesday: St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church
12:00PM+ Helen Anderson (Mary Lysinger)

December 15, Thursday: Advent Weekday
12:00PM+ James P. Kilcoyne (Jim & Steph Kilcoyne)

December 16, Friday: Advent Weekday
12:00PM+ Dorethea Allman, Birthday (Shamba Elijah)

December 17, Saturday: Late Advent Weekday
12:00PM+ Charles Barnard, Birthday (Daughter)
Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Advent
5:00PM+ Mary Kantoski, Birthday (Family)

December 18, Fourth Sunday of Advent
8:00AM+ Walter Beckel Jr. (Wife and Family)
10:00AM+ Patrick Duffy (Jean Koury & Donnie Rabine)
5:00PM Pro Popolo/ For the People
Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Parish is at 11:30 A.M.

Effective the first week of Advent, the noon Mass will normally be our only daily Mass from Monday through Saturday. There will not be a 6:45 A.M. or a 8:00 A.M. Mass. In addition to the Noon Mass on Saturday, there will still be a 5:00 P.M. Vigil Mass. Our Masses on Sunday will be at 8:00 AM, 10:00AM and 5:00PM
Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church will be at 11:30 A.M. on Sunday.



You are invited to join us in praying sung evening prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament on the Sundays of Advent at 6:30 P.M. The liturgy ends with Benediction.

Readings for the week of December 11, 2022

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

Monday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

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

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

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

Friday: Is 56:1-3a, 6-8/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8/Jn 5:33-36

Saturday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17

Next Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c, 10b]/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-2

Religious Ed PK-8

Advent Service Project

Hats, scarves, mittens, small toys and personal care items to be donated to the Blair County Domestic Abuse Shelters. Donations maybe brought in to Religious Ed Sunday classes or dropped off at the Parish Office. Thank You!

Religious Ed 9-11 and Confirmation Prep

Advent Service Project

New board games and puzzles, ages PK-8, to be donated to the Gloria Gates Foundation sites.

Also, warm socks for the Hollidaysburg Veterans Home. Items may be dropped off at Religious Ed Classes or at the Parish Office, Thank You!

Church Cleaning

The cleaning crew will be meeting Wednesday, December 14th at 9:00 AM. They normally meet on the second Wednesday of the month. If there is a funeral, they will meet on Thursday.



We have a bus going to visit Lights on the Lake, on Tuesday, December 13. Meet in our parking lot at 5:30 P.M. for the trip to Lakemont.

It will be a fun experience for adults and for families with children. Parishioners from the Cathedral and Our Lady of Fatima parishes, as well as friends and guests are welcome to come along. Please call the rectory (814-944-4603) to reserve seats. There is no charge.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION
Sunday, December 4, 2022 \$7,750.79
Thank you for your financial and spiritual support.



We plan to decorate the Cathedral beginning at 1:00 P.M. on Thursday, December 22.

Our Christmas Mass schedule is: Mass on Saturday, Christmas Eve at 5:00 P.M. and Masses at Midnight, 8:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M. on Sunday, Christmas Day. There will be a Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Parish on Christmas morning at 11:30 o'clock.



Feast Day: December 13

O St Lucy, you preferred to let your eyes be torn out instead of denying the faith and defiling your soul; and God, through an extraordinary miracle, replaced them with another pair of sound and perfect eyes to reward your virtue and faith, appointing you as the protector against eye diseases. I come to you for you to protect my eyesight and to heal the illness in my eyes.

O St Lucy, preserve the light of my eyes so that I may see the beauties of creation, the glow of the sun, the colour of the flowers and the smile of children.

Preserve also the eyes of my soul, the faith, through which I can know my God, understand His teachings, recognise His love for me and never miss the road that leads me to where you, St Lucy, can be found in the company of the angels and saints. St Lucy, protect my eyes and preserve my faith! St. Lucy, pray for us!

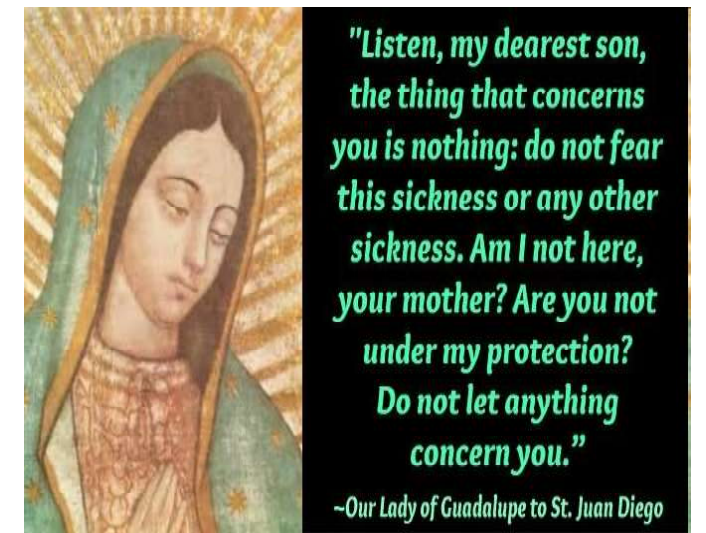
Stewardship Reflections

We are gaining ground on our Advent mountain climb and this is a time to take a moment to rejoice in the Good News that our Savior will come again in triumph one day. On this Gaudete ("Rejoice") Sunday we are filled with reminders of God's final victory over suffering and justice, and are given encouragement to remain steadfast in our mission to live as faith-filled disciples. St. James, in our second reading, offers wise counsel. "Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. Make your hearts firm. Do not complain, brothers and sisters about one another, that you may not be judged."

This is excellent advice for us Christian stewards as we face the challenges of everyday life in our broken world, especially in the hectic days that precede Christmas. We can be good stewards of our attitude, "making our hearts firm" by practicing patience with others and refusing to give into temptation to complain. We can choose to see and rejoice in God's presence with us, no matter the circumstances surrounding us. (Stewardship Reflections, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, 2022/11/08)



Our neighbors at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church will be having a holiday sale of Greek pastries on Saturday, December 17, from 12:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. Seasonal hand-crafted items will also be on sale.



December 11, 2022

Life can leave us feeling dark and desolate. Sandy was just twenty-eight when her husband, Rob, died, leaving her to raise their two young children. She was without paid employment. Rob went to work one morning and never returned home. Sandy, though, had faith and trusted that somehow God would help her through, even though most days brought deafening, piercing loneliness. She persevered, and the darkness gave way to light. Remarking one day to a friend hesitant to commit to a relationship, Sandy shared her wisdom. Even if she knew the outcome would be the same, she would marry Rob again. She assured her friend that she would even do this if eight years could only be eight minutes. We are being led by God and God transforms the darkness into light.

"Be strong, fear not!" Those are easy words to say. Putting them into practice is the challenge. When our paths are dark and life's roads become treacherous, we can easily complain about life's unfinished nature. When will the pain go away? Will the loneliness ever cease? Will I experience happiness again? As the farmer needs to exercise patience with the soil, we need to do the same with our lives. We have to wait for the early and late rains to come, properly tend to our gardens, and ensure that the rich nutrients of God's merciful and tender presence continue to enrich us. God is not done. God has only just begun his work in us.

We cannot allow life to hold us captive. The systems, agendas, protocols, regulations, expectations, and unfinished business can distract us from what it means to be God's child. Life can leave us feeling cheated, negative, and parched. All times and seasons of our spiritual and liturgical lives lead us to three virtues: faith, hope and love. Stop complaining about what is wrong and look to what God can make right! Joy that flows from the Baptist's message: in Jesus, the one mightier than he, are found healing, reconciliation, and freedom. Christ will save us from life's distortions, illusions, and disappointments. Do you believe this? ©LPI



**OUR 2023 CALENDAR OF CASH
LOTTERY TICKETS ARE NOW
AVAILABLE IN THE OFFICE DURING THE
WEEK AND FOLLOWING MASSES ON
WEEKENDS. THE COST IS \$20.00.**



Advent is the season to prepare for the second coming of Christ and to prepare to celebrate His birth at Christmas. Since Jesus came to reconcile us to God, it is important for us to experience the Sacrament of Reconciliation during this time of year. **The Cathedral's Advent Penance Service is this Wednesday, December 14, at 6:00 P.M.**

Here is a list of other services:

Sunday, December 11, 4:00 P.M., St. Mary Church, Hollidaysburg

Monday, December 12, 7:00 P.M., Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Altoona and St. Rose of Lima Church at 7:00 P.M., Altoona

Sunday, December 18, 4:00 P.M. St. John Church, Lakemont

Thursday, December 22, 5:30 P.M., Sacred Heart Church, Altoona

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUAL
CONFESSIONS**

Saturday, December 17, at 12:30 P.M. (Cathedral)

Sunday, December 18, at 12:30 P.M. (O.L.O.F.)

Wednesday, December 21 at 7:00 P.M. (Cathedral)
(Confessions are not scheduled at 12:30 P.M. on Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24.)



People of Polish heritage, and from other Central European countries, have the custom of breaking a host-like wafer at the meal on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day and sharing it with family members and friends gathered at table.

It is a symbol of unity, love, and solidarity. It is often accompanied by a Christmas greeting. It is also sometimes dipped in honey to symbolize the sweetness of God's love. A limited number of 4-wafer packets will be available next weekend near the Blessed Sacrament chapel.

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:

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

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

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

Reverend Monsignor Stanley Carson, Administrator

Paula Clemens, Parish Secretary

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Chris Laraia - Pre-K thru 12 - 814-312-7317

Religious Education Office: Sundays - 814-943-7424

E-mail: claraia@dioceseaj.org

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

Leslie C. Thayer, MM, CAGO

Music Ministry Office - 814-944-2044

E-mail: lthayer@dioceseaj.org

CHRISTIAN INITIATION TEAM - 814-944-4603

CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME - 814-944-4603

**MAIL MINISTRY TO ELDERLY, HOMEBOUND,
SERIOUSLY SICK, AND GRIEVING - 814-944-4603**

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Web: www.holytrinitycatholic.school

Altoona Campus (Pre-K thru Grade 4) - 381-7011

Hollidaysburg 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 - 814-944-4014

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