

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 18, 2022

## MASS INTENTIONS

**December 19, Monday: Late Advent Weekday**  
12:00AM+ Alice Winkler, Birthday (Family)

**December 20, Tuesday: Late Advent Weekday**  
12:00PM+ Elizabeth Shea Allen, Anniversary (Mother)

**December 21, Wednesday: St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church**  
12:00PM+ Dec. Family & Friends (McNelis All Stars)

**December 22, Thursday: Advent Weekday**  
12:00PM+ Mildred Brady, Ann. (Joe and Dee Shellenberger)

**December 23, Friday: Saint John of Kanty, Priest**  
12:00PM+ Vera Hauck, Birth. (Corky, Dee and Maury Confer)

**December 24, Saturday: Late Advent Weekday**  
8:00 AM+ Freddie Martynuska (Mom and Dad)



### Vigil: The Nativity of the Lord

5:00PM Pro Popolo/People of the Parish  
Midnight World Peace & an end to the war in Ukraine

### December 25, The Nativity of the Lord

8:00AM Parishioners and Benefactors  
10:00AM Parishioners and Benefactors  
THERE WILL BE NO 5:00 PM MASS

**Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Parish is at 11:30 A.M.**



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 18, 2022

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

**Monday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

**Tuesday:** Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

**Wednesday:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45

**Thursday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56

**Friday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

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

**Next Sunday: 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/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 [3]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-1

### 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!

### Office Closed

The Cathedral Office will be closed Friday December 23rd to Monday December 26th for Christmas. Have a Blessed and Merry Christmas. We will reopen on Tuesday, December 27th at 8:30 AM.

### Collection Envelopes

We had a lot of phone calls about people not receiving their monthly envelope. The company has been notified. If you have not received your envelopes for December, please put your offerings in a plain envelope and place your name on it and drop in the collection. If you would like to donate Christmas Flowers please put your money in an envelope and place your name and any names that you would like to have placed in the bulletin for Christmas Day.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION  
Sunday, December 11, 2022 \$ 13,846.35  
Thank you for your financial and spiritual support.



We plan to decorate the Cathedral beginning at 1:00 P.M. on Thursday, December 22. A light lunch will be available in the cathedral hall.



Our Christmas Mass schedule is: Mass on Saturday, Christmas Eve, at 5:00 P.M. and Masses at Midnight (preceded by a Prelude at 11:30 P.M.), 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.

There is no 5:00 P.M. Mass on Christmas evening.



We are collecting slightly-used winter coats during the Advent Season for those who are in need. You may place your donated coats on the rack in the former baptistry area. Folks in need may take one. If there is an abundance of coats, we will take them to the St. Vincent dePaul Society. It is important that we share our extra coats to those who have none.



### And then there was true Christmas spirit and fellowship

When the call went out to parish members to volunteer help create and build a float for the Annual Altoona Christmas Parade, an enthusiastic and dedicated group of parishioners stepped up. No job was too big or too small as everyone came together for over three weeks that involved numerous hours of not only work, but fun and fellowship- and their efforts were recognized by receiving the parade's **FIRST PLACE TROPHY** for The Polar Express entry!

Sincere appreciation and thanks to the following parade committee members and others for their successful efforts, contributions, and special talents: Roberta Burns, Tim Bettwy, Gabrielle Cronin, Cory Geishauer, John Fischer, Matt Isenberg, Randy Isenberg, Carol Galioto, Bob Jones, Tony Kibelbek, Dave Kimmel, Katie Mangiacarne, Bob Martino, Paula Miller, Dick Moran, and Bill and Grace Smith.

The committee members wish to extend a very special thank you to our designer, builder, and chief engineer Randy Isenberg for making The Polar Express a reality.

In addition, the following participated in the parade by walking with the float and handing out candy along the way: Mark and Janine Golden, Neil Heverly, Karen Isenberg, Dave Kimmel, Katie Mangiacarne, and Maria Strohm. The children serving as passengers on The Polar Express included: Mikayla and Morgan Geishauer, Nathan Golden, Sophie Heverly, Carson and Connor Mangiacarne, and Cora Strohm. The hobo on top of the train was Cory Geishauer.



### NATIVITY FESTIVAL

St. Michael Parish and St. Mary Parish in Hollidaysburg are having a display of nativity sets this Sunday, December 18, in St. Mary Hall from 8:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. The Altoona Community Band will have a concert in St. Mary Church at 3:00 P.M.



**December 18, 2022**

An entire town is wiped out by fire, a tornado rips through several neighborhoods, a bomb claims a maternity hospital and a sudden heart attack takes the life of a soul mate. Life is unpredictable and dramatic. Many buy into the sad illusion that the securities and familiarities we see around us today will remain forever: our homes, our friends, our spouses, our churches, and even our health. We are stunned and shaken by a sudden change, finding ourselves bewildered, mortified, and even embittered. We do not like change, especially change driven by sources beyond our control. Are there any guarantees in life? We often live as if our lives come with lifetime warranties. When they break, they can be fixed or replaced. Such is not the case. Many things are irreplaceable and unable to be fixed. During life's inevitable chaos, God says: "Do not be afraid." Seriously? How can one not be afraid when things are falling apart?

Fear is normal and it has a purpose. It is unrealistic, and somewhat unhealthy, to strive to live without any fear. Fear teaches us lessons and can be a catalyst to discovering more profound things. What we do with fear and how we understand it is critical. Fear can either cripple us or move us forward. God does not want fear to cripple us. If we look around at all that can change in our lives and consider what we might have to do, we can easily wallow in the mire of self-misery. Or we can step up to the challenge, as Mary did, and do what needs doing! We can stand tall, as did Joseph, and do the right and just thing! What gives us this courage? Faith.

God is with us. This is the focus of our Advent preparations. We need to be reminded that we are not in this alone. God not only made us and loves us, but God keeps us! In the person of Jesus Christ, God is the sign we need to persevere! Do not be afraid and do not be unbelieving! Hold fast to what God has done in giving us His only begotten Son. We do not have to anxiously attempt to control life's unpredictability. God has blessed us with the birth of His Son. Trust that He is with us and will not abandon us, even in death. ©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.

**Here is a list of remaining services:**

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**

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 this week 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.

**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:**

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**

**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](mailto:claraia@dioceseaj.org)

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY**

Leslie C. Thayer, MM, CAGO

Music Ministry Office - 814-944-2044

E-mail: [lthayer@dioceseaj.org](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.bishopguilfoyle.org) - 814-944-4014

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