

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

December 25, 2022

MASS INTENTIONS

December 26, Monday: St. Stephen, The First Martyr
12:00AM+ Don & Dorothy Hanekamp (Mr. & Mrs. Dave Hanekamp)

December 27, Tuesday: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
12:00PM+ Danyll Rougeux (Mom & Dad)

December 28, Wednesday: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
12:00PM+ James Kenawell Sr, Birthday (Family)

December 29, Thursday: Fifth Day within the Octave, of the Nativity of the Lord
12:00PM+ Memory of Bill Pfeffer (Bonnie Pfeffer)

December 30, Friday: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
12:00PM Mass of Thanksgiving (Barbara Dixon)

December 31, Saturday: Seventh Day within the Octave
12:00PM+ Elizabeth Smith, Birthday (Mary Lysinger)

Vigil: The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God, The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord
5:00PM+ Ann Rhodes , Birthday (Daughter Carol)

January 1, Sunday: The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God, The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord

8:00AM +John Duffy (Patricia Byrne Family)
10:00AM +Amelia Seiler (Jim & Steph Kilkoyn)
5:00 PM Pro Popolo/ For the People

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

Office Closed

The Cathedral Office will be closed Monday January 2 for New Year's.



Readings for the week of December 25, 2022

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, 9-14

Monday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

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

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

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

Friday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18

Next Sunday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-2

Religious Education PK-8

Beginning after Christmas break we will be admitting and dismissing all students from the lower alley door. Drop offs can still be done in our upper lot on 14th Street if the lot is clear and not icy, but **ALL** students will exit thru the alley door.

We have been asked not to block the alley during pick up time.

Snow cancellations will be sent to you thru emails from the teachers on Flocknotes.com. before 8:00AM.



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 18, 2022 \$ 8,809.12
Thank you for your financial and spiritual support.



It is not uncommon for some churches to have candlelight services at Christmas. The Catholic Church's big "candlelight service" is during the Easter Vigil when we all carry a candle lit from the newly blessed Paschal Candle which symbolizes Jesus' victory over the darkness of sin and death.

In a certain sense, every celebration of the Eucharist is a "candlelight service" since candles are lit near or on the altar. According to the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, "candles are used to express both reverence and festivity."

Candles and lights are used extensively and beautifully at Christmas as the world celebrates the birth of Jesus, the Light of the World. With "reverence and festivity," we rejoice that God is with us spiritually and sacramentally in a world still too often preferring violence, disrespect, and indifference.

Our lives, enlightened by Christ, can help brighten the lives of others. Expressions of gratitude, gentle acts of kindness, and sacrificial moments of compassion have the power to help others believe that God is good, that life is worth living, and that we can help make the world a better place.

Thank you for sharing your life with our Cathedral parish.

You and your family will be remembered in my prayer. I hope you have a healthy, holy, and happy Christmas and New Year.

Msgr. Stan Carson



Liturgical celebrations require a good bit of preparation: maintenance staff and volunteers clean and decorate; musicians, cantors, and the choir rehearse; liturgical ministers prayerfully assist; and ministers of hospitality and ushers help people feel welcome.

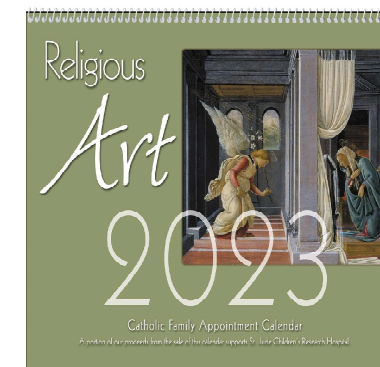
Gratitude is extended to those who are helping us celebrate the Nativity of our Lord and the Christmas season.

ECHOES OF A POLISH CHRISTMAS

All Saints Parish in Boswell will host their annual singing on Polish Christmas Carols known as Kolendy) on Sunday, January 8, at 2:00 P.M. in Boswell (325 Quemahoning Street). Following the singing of the hymns by the parish's Polish choir, there will be Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament as well as refreshments. Polish Christmas customs are very rich, whether you are Polish or not, come and experience these time-honored hymns celebrating the birth of Christ.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES GREAT NEIL WALKER

Pittsburgh Pirates great Neil Walker will be visiting Holy Name Parish in Ebensburg on Saturday, February 4, 2023, from Noon until 2:00 P.M. He will be giving a talk about his Catholic Faith and will be available to meet and greet. There is no registration or tickets to be purchased. No cost to attend, though donations will be accepted to support Holy Name School. All are welcome to attend.



The very attractive 2023 Religious Art Catholic Family Calendar has been made available to us thanks to the generosity of Robert M. Jones, Jr. and the Jones Funeral Home. We are grateful for his support. Bob also sponsors the broadcast of our Midnight Mass on the radio WFBG AM 1290.

December 25, 2022

As we age, time seems to pass more quickly. Years seemingly fly by as one holiday flows into the next, January quickly becomes December and life maintains its hectic pace. What do we accomplish in all of that busyness? Perhaps technology is responsible for some of the frenzy, keeping us isolated in our social media worlds, communicating through texts rather than in person, and always connected to world events. We're over stimulated in many ways by information, noise, opinions, and ideologies. Yet, we still find the time to decorate our homes, purchase gifts, and plan Christmas gatherings. We know, however, that the true meaning of Christmas is not found in twinkling lights, beautifully adorned trees, perfectly set tables or exchanged gifts. We are being called to something deeper and more authentic.

Christmas reminds us to look for God along the way of our lives and not get distracted by the illusions around us. Our world's complexity can leave us feeling displaced, desperate, alone, neglected, and unimportant. Joseph and Mary felt that way too. In the midst of all that captures and intrigues us in our self-created virtual worlds, is this longing for the anchor of faith to keep us grounded and make sense of it all. Only faith can give us the perspective to see what truly matters in life. We discover our divinely blessed humanity. The uncertain and challenging journey to Bethlehem gives way to the tender moments of birth and its embrace. Christmas softens us and slows us down a bit. It shows us Jesus as the light who enlightens everyone. It shows us the truth.

The faith that comes from Christmas calms our fears and allows us to go into the nighttime of our lives courageously. We are never lost or alone. We need to stop and savor more of life's moments before they slip away in time. God is with us, loving us, and leading us where we need to be. God is born again and again in every soul willing to give birth to His presence. God connects us and provides us with a place where we feel safe and welcome: home. Merry Christmas! ©LPI



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 Galimoto, 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.



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.

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

FAX: 814-942-4337

E-MAIL: ALTICATHEDRAL@DIOCESEAJ.ORG

<https://www.facebook.com/cathedralofaltoona>

Sunday: 5:00 PM (Vigil)
8:00 AM
10:00 AM
5:00 PM

Weekday: 12:00 Noon
Saturday: 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

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

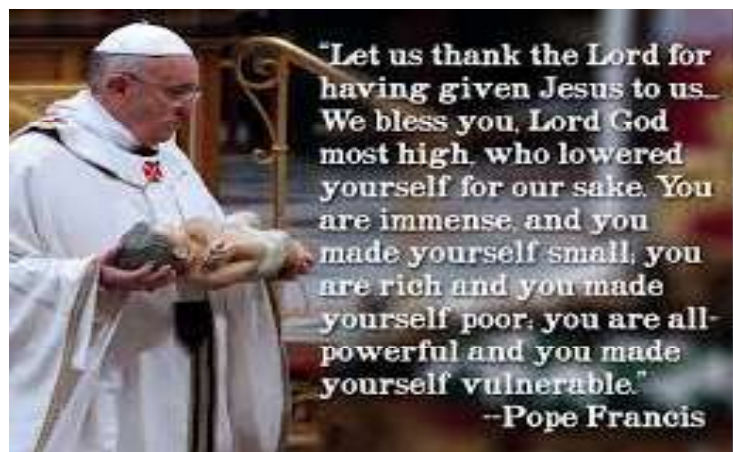
Altoona Campus (Pre-K thru Grade 4) - 381-7011

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