

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD THE OCTAVE DAY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

January 1, 2023

MASS INTENTIONS

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 Kilkoyne)
5:00 PM Pro Popolo/ For the People

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

January 2, Monday: Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen

12:00AM+ Raymond and Olive Miller (Mary Louise)

January 3, Tuesday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus

12:00PM+ Ron Sheehan (Wife and Family)

January 4, Wednesday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

12:00PM+ James Kenawell Sr, Birthday (Son Jim)

January 5, Thursday: Saint John Neumann, Bishop

12:00PM+ David Seidel, Birthday (Joanne Beringer)

January 6, Friday: Saint Andre' Bessette

12:00PM+ Deb Capotosti, Ann. (Mother & Children)

January 7, Saturday: Saint Raymond of Penafort

12:00PM+ Paul Weible, Anniversary (Wife Edith)

Vigil: The Epiphany of the Lord

5:00PM+ Barbara Noel (Marge and Don McMullen)

January 8, The Epiphany of the Lord

8:00AM+ Bernie Joyce (Family)

10:00AM+ Carrie Kibler Detwiler (Mom & Dad)

5:00 PM Pro Popolo/ For the People

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

Church Cleaning

The cleaning crew will be meeting Wednesday, January 11th at 9:00 AM. They normally meet on the second Wednesday of the month. If there is a funeral, they will meet on Thursday.

Readings for the week of January 1, 2023

Sunday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/
Lk 2:16-21

Monday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34

Wednesday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42

Thursday: 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 1:43-51

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-28 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a, and 9b/Jn 2:1-11

Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-1

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.

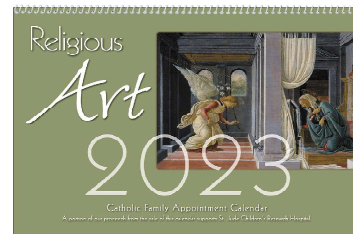
We have been asked not to block the alley during pick up time.

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

Thank you!

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.



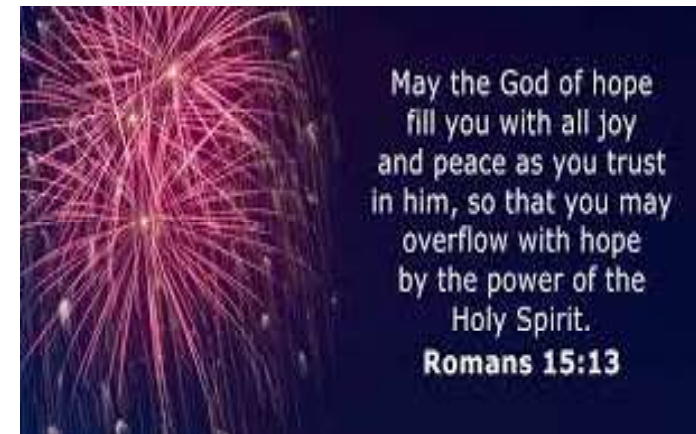
The very attractive 2023 Religious Art Catholic Family Calendar has been made available to us thanks to the generosity of Robert M. Jones, Jr. and the Jones Funeral Home. We are grateful for his support. Bob also sponsors the broadcast of our Midnight Mass on the radio WFBG AM 1290.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, December 25, 2022 \$10,019.01
Christmas, December 25, 2022 \$11,352.00
Thank you for your financial and spiritual support.

Additional Christmas Flowers

Memory of Lucy



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 season and New Year.

Msgr. Stan Carson

Stewardship Reflections

The blessing included in the First Reading is very familiar. "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord let His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you." In the Jewish culture this has been known for centuries as the Aaronic blessing. It was dictated by God Himself to Aaron. Very importantly it begins with "The Lord bless you." All blessings come from God. Blessings do not always mean happiness or security or prosperity. To be "kept" by the Lord is to turn our lives over to Him, to know that He is with us and that He loves us, blesses us, and does indeed "keep" us even in His care. We must keep all these things in our heart as Mary did in her amazement.

God knows what blessings we need. The key to us is to be grateful for whatever blessings we may have. That mind set is at the hub of stewardship. The truth is that to be blessed by God is one of the greatest gifts we can receive. It is available to all of us without exception. (Stewardship Reflection, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, Inc. 2022/11/29)

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.

Praise and Worship and Healing Mass

Come and join us on First Friday, January 6, 2023 at Saint Aloysius Church, 7811- Admiral Peary Highway, Cresson, for Praise and Worship at 6:00 PM with Deacon Rick Golden and Healing Mass with Father Julio Rivero TOR at 7:00 PM.

January 1, 2023

We hide ourselves and our secrets from God because we are afraid. Even Mary can seem too perfect to approach. The shepherds find the strength to speak to Mary and Joseph at the moment they see the child in the manger. They open their hearts and share what they've experienced. Saint Luke writes of the shepherds, "When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child."

When I was a college student, I visited Rome. Beggars often approached and said, "Mangia? Mangia?" I didn't speak Italian and thought, "Why are they speaking about the Christmas nativity scene?" My friend said, "Mangia means eat. They're hungry." That's when I realized more deeply than ever before that Mary puts her baby in a place designed for hungry animals to eat.

See that baby in the manger in your heart. Imagine Mary kneeling nearby looking at you with love. She doesn't cling to God for herself. In that cave, from the beginning, she quietly offers her son to hungry souls. The manger means vulnerable self-offering love. That's the sign. This week that same manger opens our hearts to tell Mary about our lives, too.

— Father John Muir

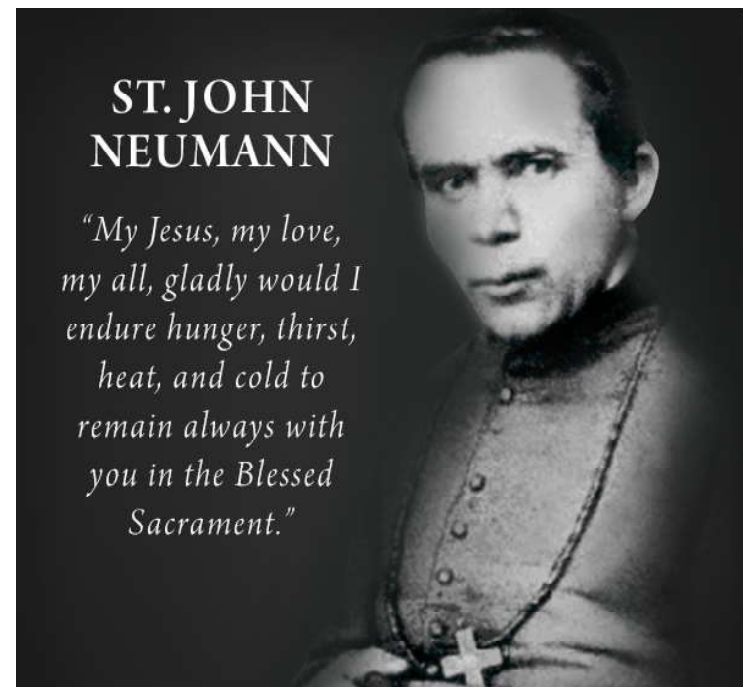
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Msgr. Carson has a list of homebound parishioners he normally visits during the first week of the month with Holy Communion. If you would like to be added to the list, please call rectory. The parishioner is called in advance of the visit to arrange an appropriate time, generally on the first Thursday or Friday of the month.



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.



We have adoration of the Blessed Sacrament this Wednesday, January 4, from after the noon Mass until the end of 7:00 P.M. Confessions. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the cross-aisle. It is essential that there is someone in the cathedral during the whole time of adoration.

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: 12:00 Noon
Saturday: 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