

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 3, 2023
Mass Intentions

December 3, First Sunday of Advent

8:00AM+John Duffy (Madey Family)
 10:00AM+Herbert J. Kutruff (Kutruff Families)
 5:00PM Pro Popolo/For the People

Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church 11:30 AM

December 4, Monday, Saint John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church

12:00PM Special Intention Mrs. Melanie Zeller (Joanne Setecka)

December 5, Tuesday, Advent Weekday

12:00PM+Elizabeth Yauneridge (Family)

December 6, Wednesday, Saint Nicholas, Bishop

12:00PM+Dec. Members of the Ruggery/Pagliara Families (Mae Pagliara)

December 7, Thursday, Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

12:00PM+Geraldine Kines (Sharon Yanchik)

Vigil: The Immaculate Conception of Mary

5:30PM Pro Popolo/For the People

December 8, Friday, The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00AM+Stanley Galant (Greg & Kathy Clemens)
 12:00PM We are One Body Listeners (We are One Body Radio)

December 9, Saturday, Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

12:00PM+Marian & Tom Swires (Children)

Vigil: Second Sunday in Advent

5:00PM+Bob Beck (The Stan Krish Family)

December 10, Second Sunday of Advent

8:00AM+Danyll Rougeux (Mom & Dad)

10:00AM+Bill Anthony (Elaine Weaver)

5:00PM Pro Popolo/For the People

Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church 11:30 AM



WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES - ENGAGE PARISHIONERS IN DAILY MASS AND PRAYER

Readings for the week of December 3, 2023

Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37

Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 (8)/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-



OUR 2024 CALENDAR OF CASH LOTTERY TICKETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE IN THE OFFICE DURING THE WEEK AND FOLLOWING MASSES ON WEEKENDS. THE COST IS \$20.00. BUY ONE FOR YOURSELF AND GIVE A FEW AS GIFTS! SO FAR WE HAVE SOLD 347 CALENDARS.



Since The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary is a holy day of obligation, Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral on Thursday, December 7, at 5:30 P.M. and on Friday, December 8, at 8:00 A.M. and Noon. Bishop Mark will be the celebrant of the 8:00 A.M. Mass. There will be a 5:30 P.M. Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church on Friday, December 8th.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION
Sunday, November 26, 2023, \$
Thank you for your financial and spiritual support.

Inquiry Sessions of Christian Initiation of Adults

Are you interested in the Catholic Church? Do you know someone who might be interested in seeking information about our Catholic faith? The Cathedral Christian Initiation Team will begin weekly meetings in the Church from 11:00 AM until 12:00 Noon (after the 10:00 Mass) for all those seeking information on the Catholic Church. No commitments are made at this time. These are informal Inquiry Sessions to discuss aspects of our faith with anyone who might be thinking of joining the Catholic Church. All are welcome; bring a friend. If you are interested in joining or would like more information, please contact Carol Galioto at (814)327-4841.

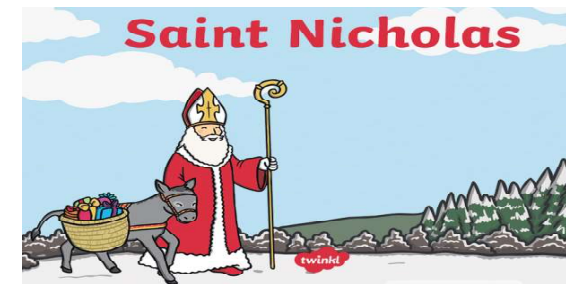


Pilgrimage to Fatima & Lourdes & Discovery of Barcelona

Msgr. Carson will be leading a pilgrimage from September 15-24, 2024.

Pilgrimage information is available in the brochures at our entrances, at our Facebook page, and at

<https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1213040>



Saint Nicholas Visits

Saint Nicholas will be visiting after the 10:00AM Mass at the Cathedral on Sunday, December 10th, and then after the 11:30AM Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church. Children, remember to set your shoes out for St. Nicholas Day on December 6th.



The Cathedral's *I Give Catholic* campaign target was \$10,000. Our goal is to raise money to replace our office computers and upgrade our parish software. You can still give by check or cash in the weekly collection. Special envelopes are available at our entrances. If you're using your own envelope, please mark the envelope for *I Give Catholic* and note whether you wish the gift to be anonymous. Cathedral parish was one of the five top raisers so far with having received \$3,673. Thank you!

Eucharistic Adoration

On Wednesday, December 6, Cathedral Parish will have Eucharistic Adoration from after the noon Mass until the end of Confessions. A sign-up sheet is located on the cross aisle table to mark your time for visitation before the Blessed Sacrament. It is essential that there be at least two people in the Lord's presence during exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.



You are invited to participate in Evening Prayer and Benediction on the first three Sundays of Advent at 6:30 P.M.

Oplatki Christmas Tradition

Next weekend, a limited number of packets of Oplatki, Christmas Wafers, will be available at the Cathedral near the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. There are four wafers in each packet. Packets will also be available at Our Lady of Fatima Church. There is a Polish/Slavic tradition of breaking and sharing the host-like bread at the Christmas meal.

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

December 3, 2023
1st Sunday of Advent

Lately I've been listening to a science-based podcast on healthy daily living. The host frequently discusses the wide range of health benefits of sleep. So, each night I'm trying to get more, and better, slumber, and it's helping me feel energized. So, why in the world should we follow Christ's advice this week? "Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house will come ... lest he find you asleep." Isn't sleep, especially at midnight and cockcrow, a good thing?

Of course, it is. But the wakefulness the Lord calls us to is a deep, personal orientation to Him. A nightly vigil is therefore a metaphor for this, but it's not just that. We should give up real sleep in order to pray, too. This difficult practice is a time-tested way to foster wakefulness of heart. When we give up sleep to pray, it focuses us. We learn that life is not an endless series of days. You and I belong to the Lord — awake or asleep, in life and in death. Sooner or later, even our need for our physical sleep will pass away. And our attentiveness to God — that is, whether we are awaiting Him to meet us — will be all that matters.

May I challenge us this week and this Advent to intentionally give up at least one hour of sleep each week for prayer? Stay up later, wake up in the middle of the night, or an hour earlier, and pray. Will we be a bit more tired the next day? Yes. But we'll be amazed at the spiritual wakefulness that results, too. Father John Muir ©LPi

A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS WITH CHRISTMAS SPIRIT!

Gratitude is extended to the volunteers who accepted the call to create the wonderful float, Christmas at the Cathedral, for the 17th Annual Altoona Spirit of Christmas Parade. A more detailed note of thanks will appear in next week's bulletin. Thanks is also extended to the Christian Mothers for hosting a post-parade social.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC -
RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR
ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Memento Mori

Just this week, my husband and I signed our wills, and the lawyer was careful to couch our transaction in gentle, abstract language: "When we lose you" she kept saying, instead of "When you die."

It's very uncomfortable to dwell on our death. But the Christian life does not just encourage us to do so: it demands that we do.

I once came upon a prayer consecrating the last two hours of life to the Blessed Mother. I have since found variations of the prayer online with different phrasing, but the sentiment of them all is the same: let me not be caught sleeping. Let me be ready.

"You can't do all your homework at the end," a deacon who ministers to the dying once told me. "Good Friday is waiting in the wings for all of us."

I think of that a lot when I don't particularly feel like praying, when I think I'm too busy to go to confession or when feelings of resentment fester inside me on Sunday mornings as I pack my family off to church. *All our good deeds are like polluted rags*, says the prophet. *We have all withered like leaves*. You can't do all your homework at the end. God is faithful. Are we?

"May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'" — Mark 13:36 ©LPi

We will have a bus going to Holiday Lights on the Lake on Friday, December 15th. The bus will leave our parking lot at 5:30 P.M. Call the office (814-944-4603) to reserve your seat/s.

**THE CHURCH OF ALTOONA-JOHNSTOWN
THE CATHEDRAL
OF THE**

BLESSED SACRAMENT

**ONE CATHEDRAL SQUARE, ALTOONA, PENNSYLVANIA 16601-3315
CHURCH OFFICE: 814-944-4603**

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 3, 2023

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. 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

Eldorado Campus (Pre-K thru Grade 5) - (814)942-7835

Fairview Campus (Pre-K thru Grade 5) - (814)381-7011

BISHOP GUILFOYLE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Web: www.bishopguilfoyle.org - 814-944-4014



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