

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 17, 2023
Mass Intentions

December 17, Third Sunday of Advent

8:00AM+Mary Kantoski Birthday (Family)
 10:00AM+Patrick Duffy (Michael Malligan)
 5:00PM Pro Popolo/For the People

Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church 11:30 AM

December 18, Monday, Late Advent Weekday

12:00PM+Ernest Callisto, Ann. (Daughters Karen & Renee)

December 19, Tuesday, Late Advent Weekday

12:00PM+Deceased Friends & Families (McNelis All Stars and Friends)

December 20, Wednesday, Late Advent Weekday

12:00PM+Carrie Kibler Detwiler (Mom & Dad)

December 21, Thursday, Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

12:00PM+Don & Dorothy Hanekamp (Dave & Maureen Hanekamp)

December 22, Friday, Late Advent Weekday

12:00PM+Mildred Brady, Anniversary (Joe & Dee Shellenberger)

December 23, Saturday, Saint John of Kanty, Priest

12:00PM+Frank A Goss, Anniversary (Wife & Family)
Vigil: Fourth Sunday in Advent
 5:00PM+Kathleen Bollinger, Birth. (Husband Ken & Family)

December 24, Sunday, Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00AM+Michael Ratzesberger (Family)
 10:00AM+Skip, Richard Cowan, and Karen Cowan Dougherty (Family)
 Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church is at 11:30 A.M.

Vigil: Christmas Eve

5:00PM Pro Popolo/For the People

December 25, Monday, The Nativity of the Lord

Midnight-12 AM For Peace in the World
 8:00 AM Parishioners and Benefactors
 10:00 AM Parishioners and Benefactors
5:00 PM No Mass on Christmas Day

There is Mass at 11:30 AM at Our Lady of Fatima Church on Christmas Day.

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

Readings for the week of December 17, 2023

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Is 61:10b)/ 1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Monday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25

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

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

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

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

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

Next Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 (2a)/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-3

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

Tuesday, 12/19, 6 PM, Holy Rosary, Alt.

Wednesday, 12/20, 6 PM, Cathedral, Alt

Thursday, 12/21, 5:30 PM, Sacred Heart, Alt.



We sometimes give and receive many gifts at Christmas. This is the time, however, to think above all of the gracious gift God gives to us of God's own self in Jesus. It is important for us to worship God at Christmas.

There will be a Christmas Eve Mass on Sunday, December 24, at 5:00 P.M. There will also be Masses at the Cathedral at Midnight (preceded by a Prelude beginning at 11:30), 8:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M. on Christmas Day. (There is no 5:00 P.M. Mass on Christmas Day.)

Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church will be on Monday, December 25, at 11:30 A.M.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION
 Sunday, December 10, 2023, \$ 11,987.75
 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 Galieto 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>



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 636 CALENDARS.



The Cathedral's *I Give Catholic* campaign target was \$10,000. Our goal was to raise money to replace our office computers and upgrade our parish software. \$10,595 has been received. Thank you!



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

Packets of Oplatki, Christmas Wafers, are available at the Cathedral near the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. There are four wafers in each packet. There is a Polish/Slavic tradition of breaking and sharing the host-like bread at the Christmas meal. The wafers are quite fragile, so be gentle with the packets.

FIRST RECONCILIATION

First Reconciliation will be celebrated on Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at the Parish Advent Penance Service in the Cathedral.

Please bring your child's Baptism candle with you. If you have any questions please contact Chris Laraia, at 814-312-7317 or email her at claraia@dioceseaj.org.

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

December 17, 2023
3rd Sunday of Advent

Why do we believe in Jesus and the Catholic Church? Why should we continue to do so? We've never seen him face-to-face (at least not most of us, I assume). Most of us have never had mystical visions of angels or saints. We live in the same world as our atheist and secularists friends. Why do we believe in Christ if we've never seen him?

The simple, symbolic answer the Gospel presents to us this week might surprise us: we believe because of John the Baptist. Early in John's Gospel we hear: "There was a man sent from God, his name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him." The Baptist powerfully announces Jesus. This is a historical fact, and it is also now a pattern at work in our lives.

John the Baptist stands for the entirety of the old covenant, everything entrusted to the Jewish people. And yet he prophetically opens the door to something entirely new in Jesus, to the revival and fulfillment of God's promises. In every generation, and in every human life, God continues to do this. He has done it through people named Augustine, Francis, Catherine, Theresa, and countless others. In my life, the Baptist's spirit has come through persons named Eric, Paul, Mary, and Ron. I challenge you to name at least three people through whom God has announced the coming of Jesus in your life. Consciously thank God for their testimony. And let's commit ourselves to listening to the spirit of John the Baptist testify again this week so that we might more strongly believe in the light. Father John Muir ©LPi



We expect to have the Christmas flowers delivered on Friday, December 22, at 10:00 A.M. We'll need volunteers to help decorate. Lunch will be served.




Cathedral parish's float tied for 1st place with two other floats (Altoona Bible Church and Blair County Game, Fish, and Forestry Association) in this year's Christmas parade. Congratulations! We are so grateful for the leadership of Dave Kimmel, the design, engineering, and carpentry work of Randy Isenberg, and the dedicated work of Gabrielle Cronin, John Fischer, Carol Galioto, Cory Geishausser, Matt Isenberg, Bob Jones, Paige Hammond, Tony Kibelbek, Paul Luke, Katie Mangiacarne, Bob Martino, Paula Miller, Dick Moran, and Bill and Grace Smith. We are also grateful to Butch Winkler, Mary Ann Bell, and Linda Yaskow for providing a lunch. Thanks is extended to The Christian Mothers (Mary Boslet, Jennifer Long, Paula Miller, Patty McCloskey, Mary Gene Vogel, and Carol Galioto) for providing cookies.

WHAT IS GAUDETE SUNDAY?

GAUDETE SUNDAY IS THE NAME GIVEN TO THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, THE ROUGHLY FOUR-WEEK SEASON LEADING UP TO CHRISTMAS.

THE NAME "GAUDETE SUNDAY" IS TAKEN FROM THE WORDS OF THE INTROIT, GAUDETE IN DOMINO SEMPER, "REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS."



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

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 17, 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