

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

December 31, 2023

Mass Intentions

December 31, Sunday, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:00AM+Geraldine Petrunak, Birthday (Family)
10:00AM+Ann Rhodes, Birthday (Family)
5:00PM Pro Popolo/For the People

Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church 11:30 AM



January 1, The Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God

This year, since the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God falls on a Monday, January 1, it is not a holy day of obligation. Mass on that day will be only at 9:00 A.M.

The intention is for Peace in the World.

January 2, Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bps. and Drs.

12:00PM+Gail Sloan (Family)

January 3, Wednesday, The Most Holy Name of Jesus

12:00PM+David Seidel, Birthday (Wife)

January 4, Thursday, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

12:00PM+Alberta Weaver, Ann. (Weaver Families)

January 5, Friday, Saint John Neumann

12:00PM+Mark Burns (Maureen & Dave Hanekamp)

January 6, Saturday, Saint Andre Bessette

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

Vigil: The Epiphany of the Lord

5:00PM+John Conti, Birthday (Family)

January 7, Sunday, The Epiphany of the Lord

8:00AM+Sandy Cuomo (Patty & Bear McCloskey)

10:00AM+Fred Reismeier (Dick and Becky Moran)

5:00PM Pro Popolo/For the People

Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church 11:30 AM

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.

Amen!

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

Readings for the week of December 31, 2023

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/ Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Gratitude is extended to Garrett L. Anderson, the president and funeral director of Jones Funeral Home, for sponsoring this year's religious calendar.

As you know, Bob Jones has been generously sponsoring the calendar for decades.

Mr. Anderson also sponsored the radio broadcast of our Midnight Mass.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

The collection amounts for Sunday, December 24, and Christmas will be available in next weekend's bulletin.

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>



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 844 CALENDARS.



The Cathedral's *Give Catholic* campaign target was \$10,000. Our goal was to raise money to replace our office computers and upgrade our parish software. \$11,265 has been received. Thank you!



As we enter a new year, we need to do so with the conviction that God is worthy of our trust. Seeking to do His will, relying upon the grace He will provide, and deeply aware of His love and mercy, it is important for us to appreciate the gift of life God has given to us. Each of our lives has value and a purpose.

While we don't know what the New Year holds in store for us, God will provide sufficient grace. The awareness of God's presence is also a source of consolation.

Be assured of a remembrance in my prayer on January 1st. May Mary, the Mother of God, accompany us this year with her maternal and protective care.

Msgr. Stan Carson

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

December 31, 2023

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

I remember the first time my older sister asked me if I wanted to hold her newborn son. Terrified, I told her I didn't think it was a good idea. My résumé had nothing to suggest I would be a qualified baby holder. But she warmly told me, "I'll help you hold him." It struck me that she is baby's mother. She is the one who decides who is qualified to hold him. I took him in my arms and soon I began to feel comfortable with that tiny little warm cooing creature in my arms, and soon I no longer feared holding him. Now, twenty-seven nieces and nephews later, holding a newborn child is one of the great joys of my life.

Do we sometimes think that Jesus is given only to the highly qualified, special religious people? In the Gospel of Luke today we hear about the presentation of the Lord in the temple. The newborn son of God is passed around like a baton in a relay race, not guarded like a precious jewel or a breakable china dish. We can see him going from the arms of Mary to Joseph, then to the priest performing the ceremony, then to Simeon the old man, then to Anna the old widow. Each one receiving him and then handing him to the next. A tidal wave of joy and thanksgiving follows wherever he is placed.

Believe me, you are qualified to hold Jesus in your arms. How can I say that with such confidence? Because the mother decides who is qualified. The Blessed Virgin, embodied in the Church, holds him out to you and me. She rejoices to place him in our arms to hold, and to hand him on, too. Father John Muir ©LPi

Eucharistic Adoration

On Wednesday, January 3, 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.

Thank You

A word of thanks is extended to the volunteers who decorated the cathedral's interior and exterior. They did a fine and beautiful job!

Gratitude is also extended to the gracious volunteers who prepared a lunch. A list of names will appear in next week's bulletin.

Stewardship Reflections

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. They are the models of all families! And just as the Holy Family is holy, our families too are called to be holy. This may seem like a daunting task at times! Yet, as Christian stewards we know that this holiness is achievable by living as disciples of Christ.

Our Gospel today says a great deal about trust and surrender to the Lord—two trademark words of the steward. As the Holy Family brought the infant Jesus to the temple, they encountered two key individuals, Simeon and Anna. Upon seeing the Infant, both praised the Lord, rejoiced in the coming of their Savior and prophesized about what was to come. It says, "the child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him." We can imagine that two parents would be taken aback by these words! Yet thru all of this, the Holy Family surrendered their lives to God and had unwavering faith and trust in His plan. Thankfully, they did because the fulfillment of this plan meant the salvation for man!

Believe it or not, God has a plan for our lives too. Oftentimes, we get in the way of what He has in store for us. Although our plan might be "good", God's plan is great and will fulfill our hearts more than we could ever imagine. Like the Holy Family, we just need to trust, surrender and be attentive to God's voice.

As we celebrate this Christmas season with joy and gladness for our Savior, let us deepen our commitment to Him through the love and service we give our family members, and the trust and surrender we place in God to take care of us each day.

Healing Mass

Holy Spirit Ministry will hold a special Healing Mass on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 7:00PM, at St. Michael Church, Hollidaysburg. This powerful night of hope and healing is for all who are suffering physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Fr. Brad Baldwin TOR will be the main celebrant. Praise and worship will precede the Mass at 6:30PM and prayer ministry follow the Mass. If you are suffering physically, or from and addiction, or hurting or struggling in any way, come and experience the healing power of Jesus and be set free! All are welcome!



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

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

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH DECEMBER 31, 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