

Bulletin # 102656

**Our Lady of Fatima
2010 12th Avenue
Altoona, PA 16601**

814-942-0371

Attn: Carol Smith

MESSAGES:

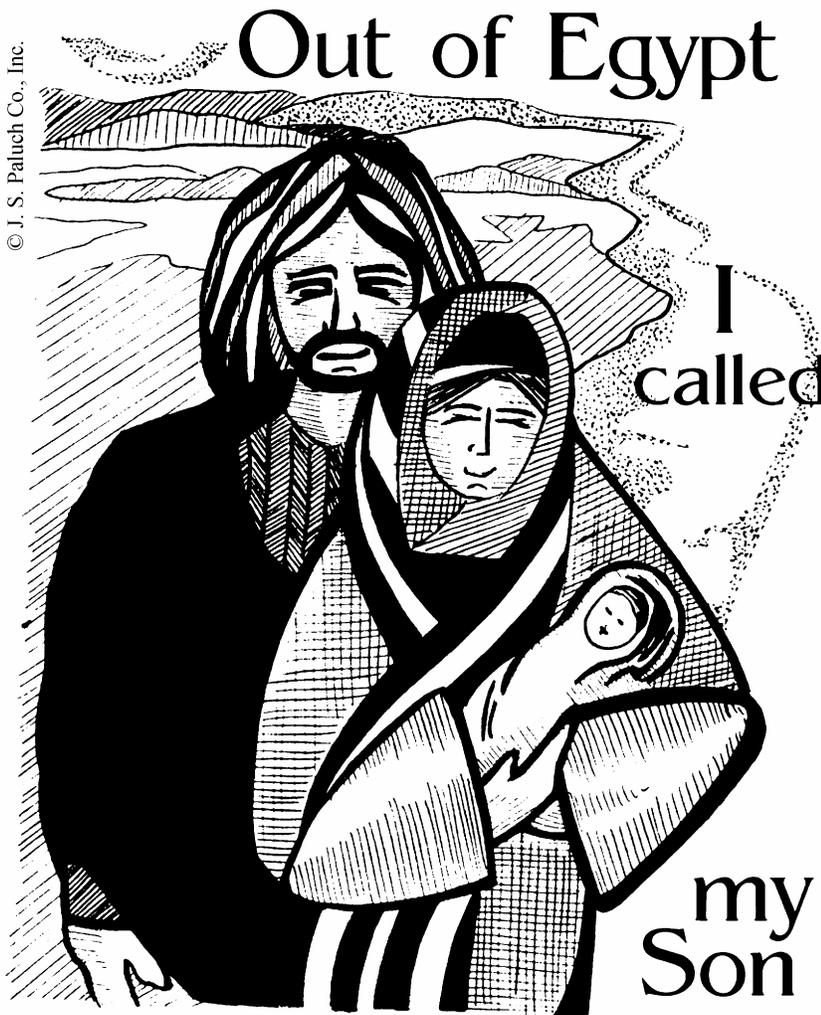
Feast of the Holy Family

December 29-30, 2007

Fatima Mirror

A weekly publication for the education and edification of parishioners and friends of Our Lady of Fatima Parish of the Catholic Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown in Altoona, Pennsylvania. Most Reverend Joseph V. Adamec, D.D. is the diocesan bishop. Father J.D. Zatalava, M.Div. is the pastor. Parishioners worship in the church building named after Saint Leo the Great, 2000 12th Ave. 16601. 814-942-0371.

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**Today
We celebrate
The Feast
of
The Holy Family**

**Tomorrow
We Celebrate
The Feast
Of
THEOTOKOS
(Mary, Mother of God)**

**Masses at O.L.F.
Monday 4:30 PM
Tuesday 10:30 AM**

**Realizing that:
NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD
And desiring to do whatever it takes to:**

SAVE OUR PARISH

**Your fellow parishioners invite you to:
MAKE THE WEEKLY PARISH EUCHARISTIC HOLY HOUR EACH SUNDAY AT 9:50 AM**

Tuesday, January 1, 2008, Holy Day of Obligation
The Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

In You, O Woman, Full of Grace,
the angelic choirs and the human race -
all creation rejoices! All creation rejoices!
O Sanctified Temple, Mystical Paradise and
Glory of Virgins, He, Who is our God, from
before all ages, took flesh from You and became
a child! He made Your womb a throne! A throne
greater than the heavens! In You, O Woman,
Full of Grace, In You, O Woman, Full of Grace,
all creation rejoices, all creation rejoices! All
praise be to You! All praise be to You! All
praise be to you!

The above hymn known variously as ALL OF CREATION REJOICES IN YOU, O FULL OF GRACE or IN YOU, O WOMAN FULL OF GRACE in English, as O TEBYE RADUYETSYA in Slavonic, and as EPI SOI HAIRI in Greek, is sung by all Eastern Christians of the Byzantine liturgical tradition throughout Great Lent during the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great following the consecration of the Holy Gifts. This liturgy is celebrated on Sunday in Great Lent and several other feasts throughout the year. Its authorship is attributed to the 8th century Saint John Damascene. It reached central and eastern Europeans and Middle Easterners who follow the Byzantine rite through the Greek Irmologion (hymnal). The hymn is one of the great tributes of the Eastern Church to the Virgin Mary, Mother of God.

The veneration of the Eastern Church for the Mother of God did not spring full grown from the New Testament scripture, nor is it readily apparent in the writings of the early Church Fathers. The Eastern Church, however, does rely heavily upon the non-canonical Proto-evangelion of St. James for some information about the Holy Virgin. The Church's veneration for the Virgin evolved primarily from the growing awareness among early theologians that the role of the Virgin Mary in the economy of salvation was a logical and necessary consequence of the developing Christology of the Early Church. This notion did not pass unchallenged. In the 5th century AD the unity of the Universal or Catholic Church came under attack in the form of the Nestorian heresy.

During the late 4th and early 5th centuries the theological debates in the Church shifted from Trinitarian concerns to the very nature of Christ. Eventually the dispute over the nature of Christ was brought to a head by Nestorius, Archbishop of Constantinople, who championed the cause of those who claimed that the two natures of Christ, human and divine, were separate, distinct and independent.

(Continued from Page Two) Nestorius declared that there existed between the two natures only a moral union, i.e. the two natures were united in love but separated in essence. This meant, of course, that there was no room for the divine maternity of Mary. If there are two distinct persons in Jesus Christ, Mary would be the mother of the human person only. Thus the reference to Mary as Mother of God (Theotokos) was anathema to the Nestorians who preferred to refer to Her as "Christotokos" (Mother of Christ).

The orthodox party led by St. Cyril, Patriarch of Alexandria, moved quickly to resolve the issue. Unable to convince Nestorius of his errors, St. Cyril appealed to Pope Celestine I who condemned the teachings of Nestorius at a Roman Council held in August, 430. Nestorius remain adamant, whereupon the Emperor Theodosius II summoned an ecumenical council of the Universal Church which met in Ephesus in Asia Minor in 431. The Council of Ephesus, the Third Ecumenical Council of the Church was not a happy event; it was rife with real controversy and chicanery, but orthodoxy eventually triumphed with the Edict of Union in 433. This rested upon the principle that there is in Christ a union of two natures in one Lord and that the Holy Virgin is the Mother of God (Theotokos).

Following the Council, Nestorianism was condemned throughout the Empire, but took refuge in Persia where a heretical church was organized. Little remains of the Nestorian heresy today in the East. It remains, however, alive and flourishing in the West where it is an essential part of various Protestant and other deconstructionist theologies which reject the role of the Virgin Mary in the scheme of salvation. Following the Council, Nestorianism was condemned throughout the Empire, but took refuge in Persia where a heretical church was organized. Little remains of the Nestorian heresy today in the East. It remains, however, alive and flourishing in the West where it is an essential part of various Protestant and other deconstructionist theologies which reject the role of the Virgin Mary in the scheme of salvation.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR December 31, 2007 to January 6, 2008

Monday	12/31	08:00 AM	Robert Moses , Anv. Wife & Children	<i>7th day in Octave of Christmas</i>
Monday	12/31	04:30 PM	Raymond McCall , Children	<i>Sol. Of the BVM, Mother of God</i>
Tuesday	01/01	10:00 AM	City of Altoona	<i>Sol. Of the BVM, Mother of God</i>
Wednesday	01/02	08:00 AM	Walter Bieniek , Theresa McCall	<i>Basil the Great, bp and doctor</i>
Thursday	01/03	08:00 AM	Ronald Keagy , Shannon Jones	<i>Holy Name of Jesus</i>
Friday	01/04	08:00 AM	Leona Helen Vasa , Shannon Jones	<i>Elizabeth Ann Seton, religious</i>
Saturday	01/05	04:30 PM	L/D of Our Lady of Fatima Parishioners	<i>Epiphany</i>
Sunday	01/06	09:00 AM	Elton "Al" Albright , M/M Stanley Krish Fam	<i>Epiphany</i>
Sunday	01/06	11:00 AM	M/M Edward Douglass , Jack & Colleen	<i>Epiphany</i>

MONEY MATTERS

Third Sunday in Advent (December 16)

270 people Celebrated Liturgy at O.L.F. Contributing \$2,869.00
\$178.00 of which accounted for "loose" cash \ checks (no envelope)