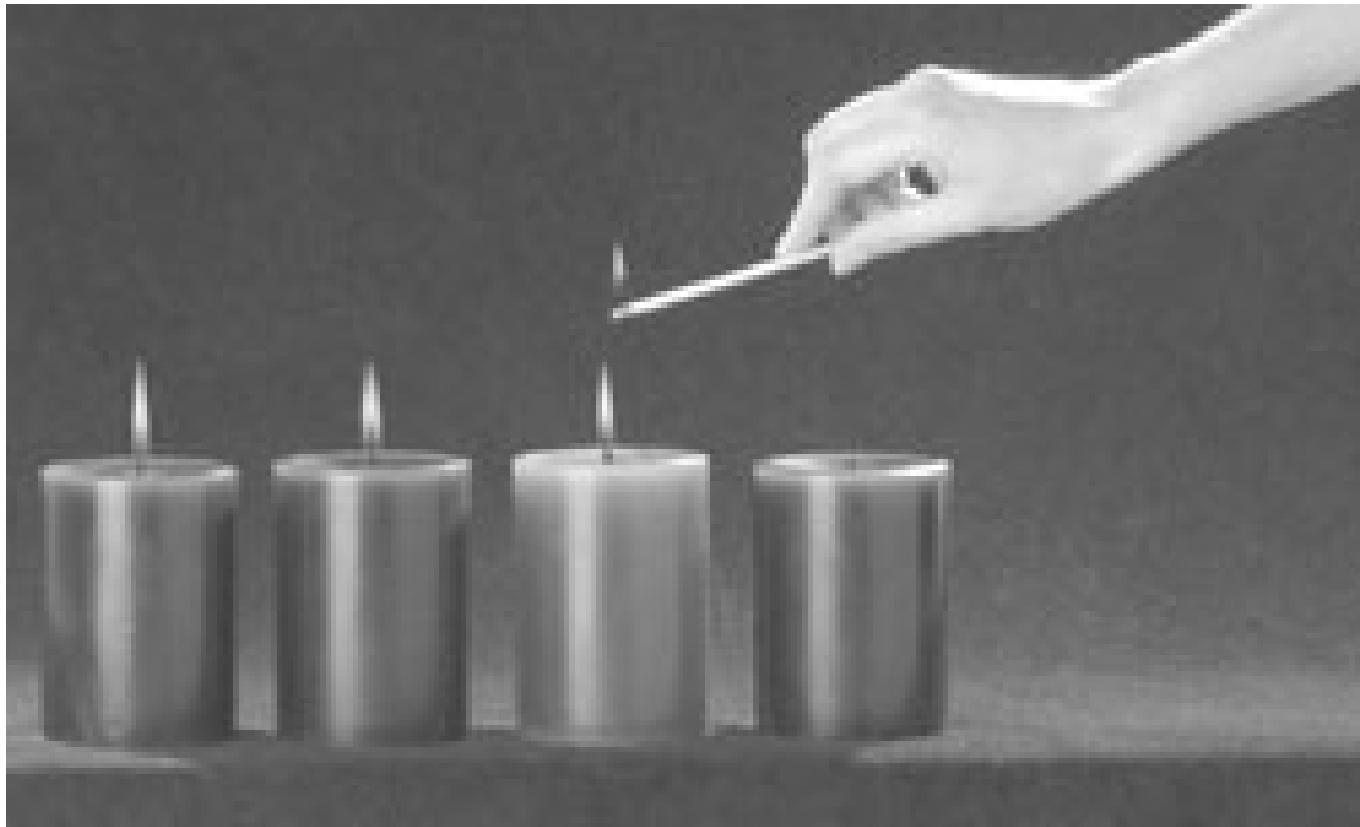


Our Lady of Fatima Bulletin

December 13-14, 2014

Father J.D. Zatalava, Pastor ¶ 2010 12th Avenue ¶ Altoona, PA 16601 ¶ 814-942-0371 ¶ www.ourladyoffatimaaltoona.com



Advent ... helps us to understand fully the value and meaning of the mystery of Christmas. It is not just about commemorating the historical event, which occurred some 2,000 years ago in a little village of Judea. Instead, it is necessary to understand that the whole of our life must be an ♦ advent, ♦ a vigilant awaiting of the final coming of Christ. ♦ To predispose our mind to welcome the Lord who, as we say in the Creed, one day will come to judge the living and the dead, we must learn to recognize him as present in the events of daily life. Therefore Advent is, an intense training that directs us decisively toward him who already came, who will come, and who comes continuously♦ Welcome the Lord at every moment, in every person. "Our Lord, come!"(1 Cor 16:22) *Jesus, savior, you are welcome in my heart and in my whole being. Live in me always!*



Next Sunday, December 21 is five working days before Christmas. It is the only day when we can get a large number of parishioners gathered to decorate the church for the Christmas Season. All teens and adults are invited and encouraged to be in church after the 11:00 A.M. Mass. It has never happened that we didn't have enough work for each participant. The more folks we have the faster the work will get done and the more fun we will have. Make it your Last Sacrificial Advent act! Give your time and talent to bring the Season's Cheer to you fellow parishioners.

Lord
Jesus
Christ
Son
Of
God
Have
Mercy
On
Me
A
Sinner

Mon. 12/15	<u>A Day of Prayer for Victims of Cancer</u>
Feast	Advent Weekday
8:00 AM Mass	Susan Anterio, Miriam Stitt
Tues. 12/16	<u>A Day of Prayer for Victims of Heart Diseases</u>
Feast	Advent Weekday
8:00 AM Mass	Chester Kowalski, Paul & Emma Kowalski
Wed. 12/17	<u>A Day of Prayer for Victims of Arthritis</u>
Feast	Advent Weekday
8:00 AM Mass	Janet Pufka, Family & Friends
Thur. 12/18	<u>A Day of Prayer for Victims of Nervous Disorders</u>
Feast	Late Advent Weekday
8:00 AM Mass	David Conrad, Paul & Gerri Rose
Fri. 1/19	<u>A Day of Prayer for Victims of Emotional Disorders</u>
Feast	Late Advent Weekday
8:00 AM Mass	Austin Hallinan, John Bauer Family
Sat. 12/20	<u>A Day of Prayer for Victims of Diabetes</u>
Feast	Fourth Sunday of Advent
4:30 PM Mass	Francis Branic, Mary Ann Branic
Sun. 12/21	<u>A Day of Prayer for Victims of Addictions</u>
Feast	Fourth Sunday of Advent
9:00 AM Mass	Lois J. Riley, Connie, Jim & Cassidy McKnight
11:00 AM Mass	Tom Byrne, Chuck & Ceil Hennigan

Happy Birthday:

12/16	Carol Z. Smith
12/17	Chuck Hennigan
12/18	Carol Riggleman, Deborah Wall
12/19	Sean Summers
12/21	Margo Eckenrode

*Our Lady of Fatima Pleaded That we pray
the Holy Rosary Daily
At O.L.F. before each Mass and privately
from 8:30am to 7:00pm*

Practice for the Christmas Vigil Choir will occur Tuesdays between 6:00 to 7:00 P.M.

Four people showed up on Nov. 18th for practice. Is that the best we can do to honor The KING who gave up his life for our salvation?

MONEY MATTERS

(Second Sunday of Advent, December 7, 2014)

179 people Celebrated Liturgy at O.L.F. contributing \$ 2,752.65 of which \$ 168.00 accounted for non-envelope contributions.

# Envelopes In Circulation	185	# Used	77	# Unused	108
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Collection One Year Ago = \$ 2,113.65

Christmas Memorial Donations to date = \$240.00
Offertory Collection for Nov 24th = \$2,253.60

Catholic Charities = \$100.00

Religious issues

A 1931 edition of the Soviet magazine Bezbozhnik, distributed by the League of Militant Atheists, depicting an Orthodox Christian priest being forbidden to cut down a tree for Christmas

The Christmas tree was first used by German Lutherans in the 16th Century, with records indicating that a Christmas tree was placed in the Cathedral of Strassburg in 1539, under the leadership of the Protestant Reformer, Martin Bucer. In the United States, these "German Lutherans brought the decorated Christmas tree with them; the Moravians put lighted candles on those trees. When decorating the Christmas tree, many individuals place a star at the top of the tree symbolizing the Star of Bethlehem, a fact recorded by The School Journal in 1897 Professor David Albert Jones of Oxford University writes that in the 19th century, it became popular for people to also use an angel to top the Christmas tree in order to symbolize the angels mentioned in the accounts of the Nativity of Jesus.

Under the Marxist-Leninist doctrine of state atheism in the Soviet Union, after its foundation in 1917, Christmas celebrations--along with other religious holidays--were prohibited as a result of the Soviet antireligious campaign.[The League of Militant Atheists encouraged school pupils to campaign against Christmas traditions, among them being the Christmas tree, as well as other Christian holidays, including Easter; the League established an antireligious holiday to be the 31st of each month as a replacement. With the Christmas tree being prohibited in accordance with Soviet anti-religious legislation, people supplanted the former Christmas custom with New Year's trees.

Pope John Paul II introduced the Christmas tree custom to the Vatican in 1982. Although at first disapproved of by some as out of place at the centre of the Roman Catholic Church, the Vatican Christmas Tree has become an integral part of the Vatican Christmas celebrations and in 2005 Pope Benedict XVI spoke of it as part of the normal Christmas decorations in Catholic homes. In 2004, Pope John Paul called the Christmas tree a symbol of Christ. This very ancient custom, he said, exalts the value of life, as in winter what is evergreen becomes a sign of undying life, and it reminds Christians of the "tree of life" of Genesis 2:9, an image of Christ, the supreme gift of God to humanity. In the previous year he said: "Beside the crib, the Christmas tree, with its twinkling lights, reminds us that with the birth of Jesus the tree of life has blossomed anew in the desert of humanity. The crib and the tree: precious symbols, which hand down in time the true meaning of Christmas. The Catholic Church's official Book of Blessings has a service for the blessing of the Christmas tree in a home

In 2006, the Seattle–Tacoma International Airport removed all of its Christmas trees in the middle of the night rather than allow a rabbi to put up a menorah near the largest tree display. Officials feared that one display would open the door for other religious displays, and, in 2007, they opted to display a grove of birches in polyethylene terephthalate snow rather than religious symbols or Christmas trees. In 2005, the city of Boston renamed the spruce tree used to decorate the Boston Common a "Holiday Tree" rather than a "Christmas Tree". The name change drew a poor response from the public and it was reversed after the city was threatened with several lawsuits.

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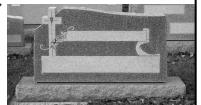
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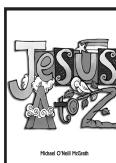


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