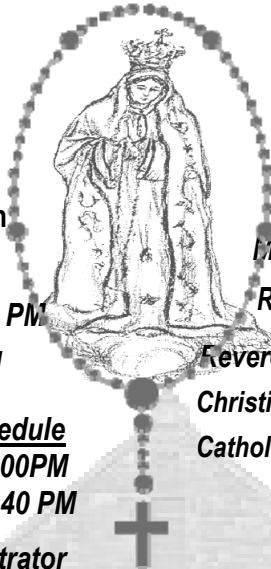


# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

F  
A  
T  
I  
M  
A  
  
T  
O  
W  
E  
R  
S



Our Lady of Fatima  
Pleaded that we pray the Holy Rosary  
before Sunday Mass and  
privately from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm daily.



**Our Lady of Fatima Parish**  
2010 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
[www.ourladyoffatimaaltoona.com](http://www.ourladyoffatimaaltoona.com)

Rectory Office Hours:  
Monday – Friday 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
Parish Office: 814-942-0371

Our Lady of Fatima Mass Schedule  
Sunday: 10:30 AM Holy Days: 6:00 PM  
Rosary: 10:05 AM Rosary: 5:40 PM

Our Lady of Fatima Parish Administrator  
Reverend Monsignor Robert C. Mazur

Parish Secretary  
Carol Z. Smith  
Secretaries Assistant  
Ellen Kelly

Eucharist for the home bound - weekly:  
Natty Flanagan 942-0371 to make arrangements.

Our Lady of Fatima Church is open  
Monday through Friday: 9AM - 6PM  
for visits before the Blessed Sacrament.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals will be held at  
Our Lady of Fatima.

Preparation for Baptism, and Weddings will be held at  
the Cathedral. 944-4603

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick  
Parishioners wishing to receive the sacrament of  
healing may call the Cathedral Parish Office to  
make arrangements. 944-4603

Cathedral Church Office: 814-944-4603  
One Cathedral Square

Most Reverend Mark L. Bartchak Bishop  
Reverend Monsignor Robert C. Mazur, Rector

Reverend Father Dennis M. Kurdziel, Parochial Vicar  
Christian Initiation Team: 944-4603  
Catholics returning Home: 944-4603

Altoona Central Catholic School:  
Pre-K thru Grade 5 381-7011

Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School:  
Web: [www.bishopguilfoyle.org](http://www.bishopguilfoyle.org) – 944-4014

Directors of Religious Education:

Chris Laraia – Pre-K thru 8 - 946-3475

Jean Koury – 9 thru 12 – 949-2777

Religious Education Office: Sundays – 943-7424

Confessions @ Cathedral: 7:00 PM Wednesday  
12:30 PM Saturday

Religious Education @ Cathedral: Pre-K through 11

Sacramental Formation @ Cathedral: First Reconciliation  
First Communion  
Confirmation

Sacramental Formation @ the Cathedral: Baptismal Prep  
Marriage Prep  
Christian Initiation

Hospital Visitation: Call the Cathedral: 944-4603

Cathedral Eucharist:

Sunday: 5:00 PM (Vigil)	Holy Days: 5:30 PM (Vigil)	Weekdays: 6:45 AM
8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM
10:00 AM	12:00 Noon	12:00 Noon
12:00 Noon	5:30 PM	Saturday: 8:00 AM
5:00 PM		12:00 Noon

The Parish Family of Our Lady of Fatima will celebrate Christmas Mass on Christmas Day at 10:30 AM.

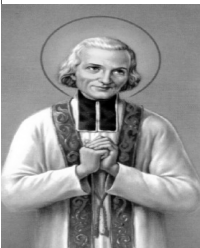
We are asking all members of the Parish to please do whatever they can to join Our Parish Family on Christmas Day. Remember, **“The parish that prays together stays together”**.



**Decorating for Christmas** will take place on December 20th after the 10:30 AM Mass. Enclosed are Christmas flower envelopes. Donation is \$10.00 for each person being memorialized. They may also be found on the heating units and in the back of the church. OLF Christmas's have always been very special. Please help us to make this Christmas Day one that Our Infant Jesus would be extremely proud of.

### **HOLY ROSARY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY .....**

During the Advent Season, the Holy Rosary will be prayed on Sunday Mornings at 10:00 AM for the intention of increasing the number of Diocesan Priests for the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese and especially for Our Lady of Fatima. 1) We will invoke the prayer of St. John Marie Vianney. 2) We will then pray the Holy Rosary.



### **Prayer to St John Marie Vianney**

St. John Marie Vianney, your life was a complete offering to God for the service of all; we pray that through the power of the Holy Spirit we may all respond today, with courage to the challenges of our personal vocation.

You were an assiduous adorer of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. Help us to approach the Holy Eucharist with faith and reverence, so that we may enjoy his abiding presence in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

You were a friend of sinners. You always reminded them: “Your sins are just like grains of sand in front of the great mountain of the mercy of God.” Loosen the bonds of fear that prevents us to approach the mercy of God; help us to be truly sorrow for our sins. Help us to discover the true face of God who always waits for the return of the prodigal son.

You were always a help to the poor: “My secret is simple; it is to give all and to keep nothing for myself.” Teach us to share with those who are in need, help us to be free from our attachments to money and to all false riches.

You were a loving child of the Blessed Mother, “your most lasting affection.” Teach us to turn to her with simplicity and the confidence of a child. You are now the example of pastors of the world. Let your pastoral charity lead the pastors of our times to discover the bond that unites all without discrimination of persons; give them the love for the Church, the passion for the apostolate, and the strength in the face of many difficulties.

Inspire our young people to understand the grandeur of the priestly ministry and the joy to embrace the call of the Good Shepherd.

Holy Cure of Ars, intercede for us. Obtain for us what we ask for in faith, especially the fruitfulness for the Priests (**we ask for a holy priest to be assigned to Our Lady of Fatima parish**), you are the humble and faithful pastor, ever faithful in the service of God and all. Amen.

2) Pray the Holy Rosary.

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**10:30 AM**

INTENTION: Fr. Zatalava



**ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL  
Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown**

Assessed = \$15,100 Amount Paid Pledges to date = \$14,425  
Shortfall (at present) = \$675. December 31st is the deadline for this years goal.

***Family Ritual***

*A question to ponder about Christmas lights: How we love to see lights everywhere this Christmas Season! Do we light our homes as a symbol to the world that we believe that the "True Light of the World" has come? Or are you decorating for purely aesthetic or secular reasons? Something to think about!!!*

**December 13 Lk 3:10-18**

*When the crowds in today's gospel asked, "What shall we do?" The Baptist was very clear: SHARE. Resist giving token obligatory Christmas gifts. Instead give necessities to the poor. If those who have nothing or very little are not on your Christmas list, you missed the point of Christmas.*

Concert Under the Dome at the Cathedral:  
Advent of Christmas Concert Sunday,  
December 13, 2015 at 7:00 PM



**Happy Birthday:**

12/15	Ian Brennan	12/18	Carol Riggleman, Deborah Wall
12/16	Carol Smith	12/19	Sean Summers
12/17	Chuck Hennigan	12/21	Margo Eckenrode

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

***Liturgical Reflection...***

**JUBILEE**

**YEAR**

**MERCY**

*In today's Gospel of Luke, John the Baptist gives clear advice on ways to show mercy. To the crowds John says, "Share your clothes and your food." To the tax collectors, he advises, "Care for those people." And to the Roman soldiers, he warns, "Be fair. Don't abuse your power." Good advice to us. When people share with each other; when they care that all are justly treated; and when they see that all have what is necessary to live a life with dignity, then God's mercy is made evident.*

2015, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 South Logan , Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648

**MONEY MATTERS**

First Sunday in Advent Nov. 29, 2015: Attendance: 122 Collection: \$2,127.00 Loose = \$ 96.00  
Sec. Sunday in Advent Dec. 6, 2015: Attendance: 110 " \$3,055.96 " = \$ 78.00  
Immaculate Conception Dec. 8, 2015: Attendance: 50 " \$ 207.00 " = \$ 38.00

**Pierogi Sale: 315 dz. Sold / Profit = \$843.00**

**Collections:** Christmas Flowers to date = \$ 195.00  
ACCS School to date = \$ 65.00  
Catholic Charities to date = \$ 3.00  
Catholic Univ of Am to date = \$ 10.00  
Retired Priest's Med. To date \$ 215.00

**CONTRIBUTIONS 1 YEAR AGO :**

1st Sun in Advent \$ 1,988.75  
2nd Sun in Advent \$ 2,753.65  
Imm. Conception \$ 211.00

**Thriving Through the Holidays**  
**By Jim Rohn**

**Jubilee Year of Mercy**

This past Tuesday, December 8th, the Church officially opened the JUBILEE OF MERCY. The year of grace will close on November 20, 2016. At all Masses on the Holy Day of the Immaculate Conception, we prayed prayers to welcome in the Holy Year. The focus of the year will be the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. The Parish is gifting each family with a magnet to hang in your homes that contains the Corporal Works of Mercy and the Spiritual Works of Mercy. A suggestion is to choose one of these works for a week or a month, and be engaged at bringing the mercy of God to others by enfleshing that particular work of mercy.

Also, the Parish is gifting each family with a prayer card containing the official logo of the Year of Mercy and the official prayer of mercy for the Jubilee. The official logo shows the God of mercy carrying us on his back. Jesus is the Shepherd who seeks us out and showers his mercy upon us. Please keep this prayer card handy at home and pray the prayer regularly throughout the year.

And throughout the Jubilee Year of Mercy, the Universal Prayer (General Intercessions) at Sunday Mass will end with everyone praying the prayer for mercy, found on the card in your Missalette.



The holidays are upon us; a time of celebration and joy. The magic of the season is something that I anticipate and enjoy each and every year.

For some though, the holidays have lost the joy and excitement they once had. The pace of life has grown so fast that some people don't enjoy the times they get to spend with their family and friends during what is supposed to be days filled with joy and peace. Why is that?

I believe our holiday time should be wonderful and filled with lasting and enjoyable moments and memories. So how can we ensure that we come out of the holidays in January with great memories of the past month? Here are some thoughts.

1. Be Temperate. Too much food, too many cookies, too much chocolate, a schedule that is too busy. Be disciplined enough to know when to hold. Lower Your Expectations. People expect presents to be perfect and when they aren't, they get frustrated or disappointed. Instead of having huge expectations this holiday season, just take it as it comes and enjoy what you can.

2. Enjoy What you Can and Ignore the Rest. If things don't go perfectly—which they won't— then enjoy what you can and let the rest slide.

You will feel a lot better about life if you can take all things a little easier.

3. Stay Out of Debt. Debt is a killer. It will steal your enjoyment of life. Know where you are financially and stay within those limits. You don't have to impress anyone. Buy gifts that you can afford and express your heartfelt feeling in the giving of the gift.

4. Take Time for Yourself. Take time to read, take a long bath if that relaxes you, take a walk, or spend some time of quiet in front of a fire. Your mind and body need to be reenergized, so be sure to take time to do so.

5. Focus on Your Spiritual Life. The holidays are historically days in which we focus on the spiritual. Be sure to place an emphasis on building your spiritual life and growing in that area.

Excerpted and Reprinted with permission from: "Apple Seeds"  
Fr. Brian Cavanaugh, T.O.R.



## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 13, 2015

Zep 3:14-18; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

### Cathedral Mass Intentions

#### December 14, Monday: Saint John of the Cross

Readings: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17; Mt 21:23-27

6:45 AM Dick Huber (Toots)

8:00 AM Freddy Fedeli (Wife, Rosemarie)

12:00 PM Jack Houseman (Maureen Wood)

#### December 15, Tuesday: Advent Weekday

Readings: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32

6:45 AM Bob Weaver, Ann. (Jim, Elaine & Family)

8:00 AM Health of Bill Crouse (McNelis All-Stars)

12:00 PM Ronald Stock (Eleanor Fischer & Family)

#### December 16, Wednesday: Advent Weekday

Readings: Is 45:6-8, 18, 21-25; Lk 7:18-23

##### **\*6:45 AM Beverly Fabian (Trotter Family)**

8:00 AM Henriette Thibault (David /Jeanne Thompson)

12:00 PM Sam Coen (Mary Lou Moffitt)

#### December 17, Thursday: Late Advent Weekday

Readings: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17

6:45 AM Msgr. Thomas Madden (Estate)

##### **\*8:00 AM Bernadette Weakland, Paul/Emma Kowalski**

12:00 PM Mary Kathryn Kantoski, Birthday (Mom/Dad)

#### December 18, Friday: Late Advent Weekday

Readings: Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25

##### **\*6:45 AM Joan Hirt (Carl & Ann Bennett)**

8:00 AM Deceased Members of Kilcoyne Family

12:00 PM Amelia Hofbauer, Anniversary (Daughter)

#### December 19, Saturday: Late Advent Weekday

Readings: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25; Lk 1:5-25

8:00 AM Rick Fornwalt (Jim & Steph Kilcoyne)

12:00 PM Paul Rose (Jean Koury)

#### Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Readings: Mi 5:1-4; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

5:00 PM Nozzie, Jennie, Sandy Calabrese (Family)

### Our Lady of Fatima Mass Intention

#### December 20, Sunday: Fourth Sunday Of Advent

Readings: Mi 5:1-4; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

**\*10:30 AM Karen Del Biondo (Maria Spayd)**

DECEMBER 13, 2015

### Scripture Reflections

There can be no mistaking the message of the prophet Zephaniah to the people of Israel. The phrases, "shout for joy," "sing joyfully," and "be glad and exult" are delivered as commands to the people because "the king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst." This Third Sunday of Advent, once referred to as "Gaudete Sunday," is the Sunday to rejoice. Zephaniah makes it clear that the reason for rejoicing rests in the action of God on behalf of God's own people. Their enemies have been defeated and there will be no more "misfortune to fear." This same message brings us comfort. Paul from his prison cell wrote to the Philippians telling them to "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice." Not because Paul had the things of this world but because God was with him in his prison cell as he wrote to the Philippian church. Paul, in light of his encounter and life with the risen Lord, asked that joy be placed at the center of the Christian life, encouraging the Philippians to live their lives in gentleness, without worry or fear, because the Lord, who had come, was coming again.

The text from Luke's Gospel is one of the longer passages not centered on a teaching of Jesus, but of John the Baptist. Three different groups--the crowds, the tax collectors, and the soldiers--are responding to John's warning in the previous verse that any tree not producing good fruit will be thrown into the fire. In today's readings we hear only their questions and John's answers, group by group. Note that John does not tell them to change their vocation or profession; instead he tells them that they need to change the way they act as soldiers, or tax collectors, or members of their community. They are to express their repentance by being more compassionate, considerate, and honest in all they do. Now willing to do these things, they are filled with great expectation; they are ready to welcome the one that John announces. This is good news, a promise of joy to the people who will hear God's call and await the Messiah's coming. We are the people being prepared to rejoice always.

**• Would you describe yourself as a joyful person? Do others see you as someone filled with joy? This third week of Advent share some joy with others.**

AT HOME WITH THE WORD 2015. (C) 2014 ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO, LITURGY TRAINING PUBLICATIONS, 3949 South Racine Avenue CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60609. REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION. AMERICA MAGAZINE: December 7-14, 2015 Issue, John W. Martens.



# Gaeto Construction Co.

*Builders & Remodelers*

Call us for all Your Remodeling Needs

Kitchens • Bathrooms • Garages • Windows • Doors

"Area's Leading Addition Specialist"

"Adding to your family" \* Call us to add to your house"

**(814) 944-9233**

Fully Insured HIC #PA002981 In Our 30th Year

Owner: Joseph E. Gaeto

When Only The Best Will Do

**814-942-0101**

1006 Pleasant Valley Blvd.

Altoona, PA 16602

Corner of 10th & Pleasant Valley Blvd.

# J. Kirk Kling

**ATTORNEY AT LAW**

**Criminal Law • DUI**

**Social Security • Wills • Estates**

**941-6699**

**630 PLEASANT VALLEY BLVD., STE. B**

Jesus  
A to Z

Michael O'Neill McGrath, OSFS

A colorful Catholic ABC

book for kids and families! Includes a glossary of questions to help adults pass on their Catholic faith.

007199 9 x 12 Hardcover

\$16.99 each • Special Offer — 2 for \$25.00!

800-566-6150 [www.wlpmusic.com](http://www.wlpmusic.com)

Since 1933  
**PLUMBING & HEATING  
CONTRACTOR**

**814-942-6772**

Saint Margaret  
Sunday Missal

An ideal companion  
for personal prayer.

In Stock & Ready to Order Today.  
CALL OR ORDER ONLINE. \$39.95

Come Sail Away on a 7-night Catholic Exotic Cruise starting as low as \$1045 per couple. Daily Mass and Rosary offered. Deposit of only \$100 per person will reserve your cabin.

Space is limited. Thanks and God Bless,  
Brian or Sally, coordinators 860.399.1785

an Official  
Travel Agency  
of AOS-USA

800-566-6150 • [www.wlpmusic.com](http://www.wlpmusic.com)

**It's  
SIMPLY  
BETTER**

Member **FDIC** Investment Savings Bank  
1201 8th Ave. 200 Patchway Road  
Altoona, PA 16602 Duncansville, PA 16635  
• New Location •

**JOE MERRITT REMODELING**

Roofing • Siding • Soffit & Facia  
Interior & Exterior • Window Installation  
Fully Insured • Over 20 Yrs. Experience  
**(814) 942-6784**

**PROTECTING SENIORS NATIONWIDE**

PUSH TALK 24/7 HELP

**\$19.95\*/Mo. + 1 FREE MONTH**

No Long-Term Contracts

Price Guarantee

American Made

**TOLL FREE: 1-877-801-8608**

\*First Three Months

Please Cut Out This "Thank You Ad"  
and Present It The Next Time You  
Patronize One of Our Advertisers

Thank you for advertising in  
our church bulletin.  
I am patronizing your business  
because of it!

**Consider  
Remembering  
Your Parish in  
Your Will.**

For further information,  
please call the Parish Office.