

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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*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.*

DECEMBER 11, 2016

Our Lady of Fatima Parish
2010 12th Avenue
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
Secretary's Assistant
Ellen Kelly

Eucharist for the home bound - weekly:
Patty 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

**OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH IS A RESULT OF THE
MERGER BETWEEN THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCHES
OF SS. PETER & PAUL AND ST. LEO THE GREAT IN 1995.**



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

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

Rev. Father Dennis M. Kurdziel, Parochial Vicar

Christian Initiation Team: 944-4603

Catholics returning Home: 944-4603

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Altoona Campus (Pre-K thru Grade 4) - 381-7011
Hollidaysburg Campus (Pre-K thru Grade 4) - 695-6112
Middle School Campus (Grades 5 thru 8) - 942-7835

Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School:

Web: www.bishopguilfoyle.org – 944-4014

Directors of Religious Education:

Chris Laraia – Pre-K thru 8 - 312-7317

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



**2016 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL
DIOCESE OF ALTOONA-JOHNSTOWN**

OLF GOAL FOR 2016 = \$13,948.00

PLEDGED THRU NOV 29 = \$10,515.

NEEDED TO REACH GOAL = \$3,433

OF PLEDGES = 56

56 participants = 36% of our Parish

Our Lady of Fatima is in the last weeks of the ACA appeal for 2016.

We are asking our parishioners to PLEASE consider giving additional monies to the ACA to reduce our balance owing of \$3,433 by December 31. Your check must be dated by December 31, 2016 in order to fulfill the 2016 appeal.

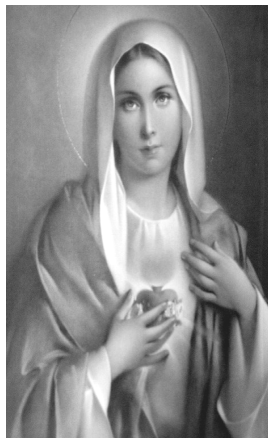
We, as OLF Parishioners could reach our goal if the remaining 98 families that have not pledged would donate \$35.03 between now and Dec. 31st, our parish would meet within a few cents our goal of \$13,948.00

Mrs. Connie Andros	M/M John Corle	M/M Michael Long	M/M David F Smith
Connie Angesk	Mrs. Colleen Douglass	Mr. Joseph Merritt	Mrs. Doris Smith
Mrs. Ruth Barry	**Mrs. Eileen Edwards	Mrs. Genevieve Musto	Mr. Thomas A. Smith
M/M Ronald Biem	Mr. Daniel J Hallinan	M/M John G. Noonan, Jr.	M/M Bryan M Starr
M/M Greg Brannan	Ms Tina Helsel	M/M Michael O'Connor	M/M Thomas Stoltz
Mr. Anthony Bruno	M/M Charles Hennigan	M/M Joseph M. Pufka	Mrs. Jeanne C. Summers
M/M Vincent Burr, Jr.	M/M Thomas Hofer, Sr.	Mrs. Carol Riggleman	Mr. Richard Summers
M/M Michael A. Byrne	M/M James Hosgood	Mr. James R. Riley	M/M Michael Wall
Mrs. Patricia Byrne	M/M Joseph P. Ianniello	Mrs. Geraldine Rose	Mrs. Patricia Wall
MM Wilson Carper, Jr.	M/M Stephen Kasun	Mrs. Lorraine Shuma	Mrs. Helen Watters
Mr. Howard C Colledge	M/M Charles R Kelly	Mr. Robert Simanski	7 Anonymous
Mrs. Frieda Conrad	Mr. Shawn Kelly	Mrs. Carol Smith	
Mrs. Karen Conrad	M/M Joseph Knott	Mr. Daniel E Smith	

Folks that have given additional monies are designated by 2 () preceding their name in the chart above. God blesses parishioners that have given to the ACA this year, especially those that have made additional donations.**



12/15 Ian Brannan
12/16 Carol Smith
12/17 Chuck Hennigan
12/18 Carol Riggleman
12/18 Deborah Wall
12/19 Sean Summers



A Prayer of Praise to the Blessed Virgin Mary

O pure and immaculate and likewise blessed Virgin, who art the sinless Mother of thy Son, the mighty Lord of the universe, thou who art inviolate and altogether holy, the hope of the hopeless and sinful, we sing thy praises. We bless thee, as full of every grace, thou who didst bear the God-Man: we all bow low before thee; we invoke thee and implore thine aid. Rescue us, O holy and inviolate Virgin, from every necessity that presses upon us and from all the temptations of the devil. Be our intercessor and advocate at the hour of death and judgement; deliver us from the fire that is not extinguished and from the outer darkness; make us worthy of the glory of thy Son, O dearest and most clement Virgin Mother. Thou indeed art our only hope, most sure and sacred in God's sight, to whom be honor and glory, majesty and dominion, forever and ever, world without end. Amen.

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 11, 2016
10:30 AM**

Our Lady of Fatima Mass Intentions

Readings: Is 35 1-6,10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

Today's Intention = Genevieve Musto

December 18, Fourth Sunday of Advent

Readings: Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

***10:30 AM F. Joseph Boslet, Birth. Ann., (Wife & Family)**

Cathedral Mass Intentions

December 12 Monday: Our Lady of Guadalupe

Readings: Zec 2:14-17; Lk 1:26-38

6:45AM Hockenberry Wed. Anniv, (Eric/Gloria)

8:00AM Bernard G. Plank, Birth/Ann. (Family)

12:00PM Danyll Rougeux (Sandy & Stu Trotter)

December 13, Tuesday: Saint Lucy, Virgin, Martyr

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

***6:45AM Charles McCall, Birthday (Family)**

8:00AM Helen Anderson, Anniv, (Mary Lysinger)

***12:00PM Paul Rose, Birthday (Family)**

December 14, Wednesday: Saint John of the Cross

Readings: Is 45:6-8, 12, 12-25; Lk 7:18-23

6:45AM Eleanor Toth (Auerbeck Family)

8:00AM Mary Dodson (Michael Davidson)

12:00PM Moose Plutko (Theresa Vaughn Family)

December 15, Thursday: Advent Weekday

Readings: Is 54:1-10; Lk 7:24-40

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

8:00AM Pat Rabine (Widow Friends)

***12:00PM Lois Riley (Helen Force)**

December 16, Friday: Advent Weekday

Readings: Is 56:1-3,6-8; Jn 5:33-36

6:45AM Marianna Mignogna Moffa (Estate)

***8:00AM Carol Z. Smith, Birthday Remembrance**

12:00PM Betty McCabe, Ann. (Mike & Deb Finocchio)

December 17, Saturday: Late Advent Weekday

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

8:00AM Rosemary Greiner (Stayer Family)

12:00PM Mary Kathryn Kantoski, Bir. (Mom & Dad)

Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Readings: Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

5:00PM Amelia Hofbauer, Anniv. (Daughters)

*Jesus, Son of the Living Father Have
Mercy on Me, A Sinner*

**DECEMBER 11, 2016
SCRIPTURAL REFLECTIONS**

The prophet Isaiah is bursting with good news for the nations. As the spokesperson of God, Isaiah announces that a promise of renewal is taking place. First, the earth will be transformed: the parched land will bloom with new life. Even more amazing, those broken in their bodies will be transformed as well: the deaf will hear, the lame will leap, the blind will see, and the mute will speak. The power of God brings rejoicing. The graciousness of God knows no bounds; the most vulnerable, the widows and orphans, are raised up. Even the stranger is not overlooked.

The Gospel moves to the end of John the Baptist's life and to his inquiry about whether Jesus is the expected one, the one he foretold. Jesus' response is twofold. He frames his answer by describing what he has done, echoing the prophetic words of Isaiah in the First Reading. Then he asks the disciples a question and responds himself by describing the important role of John as prophet and messenger. As John's role comes to an end, the role of the one he announced is unfolding. John offers us a model of waiting, and also of being committed to our own ministry of announcing Jesus to a waiting world.

We are encouraged to be patient with ourselves and the waiting world. St. Francis de Sales says to be patient with everyone, and most of all with ourselves. Patience means accepting suffering and delay without becoming angry or upset. Easier said than done. Praying for this virtue each day, sometimes often throughout the day, does help.

Breathe in the Spirit of God and say, "Give me patience, Lord." Then exhale anger, upset, and impatience. Be patient. Rejoice always. See and be the signs of God's beauty and bounty in our world today.

- Advent fills us with joy.
- With so much happening, am I a patient person?
- Would my family and friends describe me as a patient person?

Out and About...

ORDER OF CELEBRATING MATRIMONY

Liturgical Reflection...

Advent prepares us for Christmas. In the Order of Celebrating Matrimony, the couple is directed to diligently prepare for the celebration of their marriage. The couple participates in diocesan sponsored marriage preparation programs. Couples take the FOCCUS (Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding and Study) inventory; this is reviewed with the priest or deacon celebrating the marriage. Couples meet with the priest or deacon to discuss the theology of matrimony. And a time is scheduled to prepare the marriage celebration itself. Marriage is a serious life vocation and invites serious preparation.

2016, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 South Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648.

DRESSING THE SANCTUARY FOR THE COMING OF BABY JESUS!

Next Sunday, December 18th, after the 10:30AM Mass, we will be decorating the Sanctuary and the main part of the Church for Christmas. We will need many volunteers to help Chris. (After all he is getting older!). Children that need service hours may help also. Bring your papers and Chris or Carol will sign them. If you recall the statues etc. are stored in the lofts and will need to be carried to the front. Refreshments will be available.

CHRISTMAS WAFERS - "Oplatki" are available in back of the church for \$2.00 per packet. They are also available at the rectory from 9-2 daily.

2017 SAV-A-ROUND COUPON BOOKS ARE HERE...

THE BOOKS ARE \$25.00 THIS YEAR WITH QUITE A FEW NEW COMPANIES PARTICIPATING. NATIONAL ALSO! Some of the coupons are valid immediately. The book has a value of \$5,000. So much shopping to do! Take your Sav-A-Round coupon book with you. Loads of Savings on Christmas Gifts and for yourself. Altoona, State college and Johnstown.

JANUARY 2017 CO-OP TICKETS AVAILABLE...

Mondays in January (2, 9, 16, 23 & 30th) the prizes are \$100.00. Watch the PA "Pick 3" evening drawing to see if you've won! They make great stocking stuffers or inserts for Christmas Cards. The rest of the days of January win \$50.00. Happy 2017!

OLF WINTER SOUP SALE - LAST DAY TO ORDER IS WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14TH BY NOON.

You may also call your order in to the Rectory 942-0371 BY NOON.

There are sign up sheets on the clipboards in the pews. Chicken Noodle Soup Kit and Beef Noodle Soup kits are on sale for \$15.00 each. We are also having a dessert sale (New Items) Hoss's is trying. Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough .67 ounce Pre-portioned Bake & Serve Cookies and Cinnabon Family Pack Goopy Bites 17oz. pack. Cost of each is \$10.00.

Like Mexican? Mojito Marinade Steak Griller Kit 4/6oz. Steaks for \$20.00.

Steaks are also a new item. You may order any item we had sold at our previous Hoss's Sales. Pickup is December 21st, (First day of Winter), at the Rectory from 11 AM-1 PM and 3 PM-5:30 PM. Afternoon time is negotiable.

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (DEC 11)

John the Baptist's role in the divine plan was to prepare others of the coming of the Lord. Each of us whether single or married, lay or religious, has a unique role in God's plan. How are you fulfilling your personal vocation?

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION...

F.I.R.E. SESSIONS-6:15 PM-8:30 PM Students Grades 9-11 with parent or guardian, meet in the Seton Suite on Dec. 18th.

8 Gifts That Don't Cost A Cent

The Gift of Listening: But you must really listen. No interrupting, no daydreaming, no planning your response. Just listening.

The Gift of Affection: Be generous with appropriate hugs, kisses, pats on the back and handholds. Let these small actions demonstrate the love you have for family and friends.

The Gift of Laughter: Clip cartoons. Share articles and funny stories. Your gift will say, "I love to laugh with you."

The Gift of a Written Note: It can be a simple "Thanks for the help" note or a full sonnet. A brief, handwritten note may be remembered for a lifetime, and may even change a life.

The Gift of a Compliment: A simple and sincere "You look great", "You did a super job" or "That was a wonderful meal" can make someone's day.

The Gift of a Favor: Every day, go out of your way to do something kind.

The Gift of Solitude: There are times we want nothing better than to be left alone. Be sensitive to those times and give the gift of solitude to others.

The Gift of a Cheerful Disposition: The easiest way to feel good is to make others feel good.

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

List of the Deanery Penance Services:

Mon., December 12 - Our Lady of Mount Carmel - 7 PM
Tue., December 13 - Holy Rosary - 6:30 PM
Wed., December 14 - Cathedral - 6:30 PM
Thu., December 15 - Our Lady of Lourdes - 5:30 PM
Thu., December 15 - Sacred Heart - 5:30 PM
Mon., December 19 - Saint Rose of Lima - 7 PM

Third Sunday of Advent or Gaudete Sunday

Gaudete Sunday (/ɡauˈdɛtɪ/ gow-DAY-tay) is the third Sunday of Advent in the liturgical calendar of the Western Church, including the Roman Catholic Church, the Anglican Communion, many Lutheran Churches, and other mainline Protestant churches. It can fall on any date from 11 December to 17 December.

"Gaudete"

The day takes its common name from the Latin word *Gaudete* ("Rejoice"), the first word of the introit of this day's Mass:
[1]

Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, gaudete. Modestia vestra nota sit omnibus hominibus: Dominus enim prope est. Nihil solliciti sitis: sed in omni oratione et obsecratione cum gratiarum actione petitiones vestrae innotescant apud Deum. Benedixisti Domine terram tuam: avertisti captivitatem Jacob.

This may be translated as: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Let your forbearance be known to all, for the Lord is near at hand; have no anxiety about anything, but in all things, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God. Lord, you have blessed your land; you have turned away the captivity of Jacob." *Philippians 4:4–6; Psalm 85 (84):1*

Background

The season of Advent originated as a fast of forty days in preparation for Christmas, commencing on the day after the feast of St. Martin (11 November), whence it was often called "St. Martin's Lent"—a name by which it was known as early as the fifth century. In the ninth century, the duration of Advent was reduced to four weeks, and Advent preserved most of the characteristics of a penitential season which made it a kind of counterpart to Lent. Gaudete Sunday is a counterpart to Laetare Sunday, and provides a similar break about midway through a season which is otherwise of a penitential character, and signifies the nearness of the Lord's coming.[1]

Theme

The spirit of the Liturgy all through Advent is one of expectation and preparation for the feast of Christmas as well as for the second coming of Christ, and the penitential exercises suitable to that spirit are thus on Gaudete Sunday suspended, as were, for a while in order to symbolize that joy and gladness in the promised Redemption.[1]

While the theme of Advent is a focus on the coming of Jesus in three ways: His first, His present and His final Advent,[1] the readings for Gaudete Sunday deal with rejoicing in the Lord — Christian joy — as well as the mission of St. John the Baptist and his connection with Advent. Theologian Henri Nouwen described the difference between joy and happiness. While happiness is dependent on external conditions, joy is "the experience of knowing that you are unconditionally loved and that nothing -- sickness, failure, emotional distress, oppression, war, or even death -- can take that love away." [2] Thus joy can be present even in the midst of sadness.

In his 2014 Gaudete Sunday homily, Pope Francis said that Gaudete Sunday is known as the "Sunday of joy," and that instead of fretting about "all they still haven't" done to prepare for Christmas, people should "think of all the good things life has given you." [3]

Liturgical colour

On Gaudete Sunday rose-coloured vestments may be worn instead of violet (or instead of Sarum blue, in the Anglican and some Lutheran and other Protestant traditions), which is otherwise prescribed for every day in the season of Advent. Gaudete Sunday was also known as "Rose Sunday". [1]

In churches that have an Advent wreath, the rose coloured candle is lit in addition to two of the violet (or blue) coloured candles, which represent the first two Sundays of Advent. Despite the otherwise somber readings of the season of Advent, which has as a secondary theme the need for penitence, the readings on the third Sunday emphasize the joyous anticipation of the Lord's coming.

In the Anglican Church, the use of rose-pink, previously informally observed, was formally noted as an option in the Church of England in the Common Worship liturgical renewal.[2]

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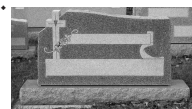
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