

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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Dec. 13th Feast of St. Lucy



*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 10, 2017

**Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.**

— Mark 1:3

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 for 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

Mail Ministry to Elderly, Homebound, Seriously Sick
and Grieving - 944-4603

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Web: www.holytrinitycatholic.school
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

Director of Music Ministry
Leslie C. Thayer, MM, CAGO
Music Ministry Office - 944-2044
E-Mail: ltayer@dioceseaj.org

Reconciliation @ 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



DECEMBER 10, 2017
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NEWS OF COMFORT

In a time of preparation, much of it having to do with material things, it is good to hear the words of Isaiah, “Comfort, give comfort to my people, / says your God” (Isaiah 40:1). In a time of such stress and rush, when our usual burdens are augmented by piles of Christmas preparations, we can choose to slow down, take some time to heal, and appreciate the enormous gift we are about to receive. Christ, the Son of God, has become one of us, and knows our human limitations. Yet God, even now, is freeing us from the burdens that our inattentiveness to our God and to our deepest inner longings have heaped upon us. The Lord comes, not as a king with mighty armies, but as a shepherd leading the flocks with care and tenderness. Isaiah prophesies good news: our oppression is over, our sins forgiven. The savior we have awaited is coming, not the first time, but in the end times, as our salvation.

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TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Many people think that Saint Francis originated the Christmas crèche, but its origins go far back. The Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome has housed what is said to be relics of the cradle of Jesus since the seventh century. In time, every year during the Christmas season the reliquary (container for relics) was surrounded by an increasingly grand three-dimensional scene of the place of Jesus’ birth. Rocks and trees, houses, streams, figurines of villagers going about their daily tasks were all included. It was a very dramatic presentation. If you’ve ever seen an elaborate model train installation, you get the idea. The proper term for this depiction is presepio, from the Latin word for “surround” or “hedge.”

Over the centuries, the custom spread first to churches, and then to aristocratic homes. In Italy, whole chapels are often set aside for the presepio, and it is not unusual to have hundreds of figures. It can sometimes be a challenge to locate the Holy Family amid the crowd, almost like a Where’s Waldo? children’s book. The oldest surviving presepio is in St. Mary Major and dates from the thirteenth century, although many pieces have been broken or lost. Saint Francis of Assisi took a decidedly creative step in 1233 in the village of Greccio, when he directed his followers to fill a manger with hay and tether an ox and ass nearby. He then invited the villagers to attend Mass outdoors near the crib, the worshipers themselves becoming a living presepio. By the seventeenth century, the tradition was well-established, particularly in Naples, and had a firm hold in Portugal, Spain, and in the Provence region of France. Today, it is not unusual to find presepios with five hundred figures, a vivid reminder of Emmanuel, God-with-us!

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

I AM THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.

—Words of Our Lady to St. Bernadette Soubirous at Lourdes, 1858

2nd Sunday of Advent (Dec 10)

It is through repentance that we acknowledge our sins. In their pastoral letter on stewardship, the U.S. bishops proclaim that “the Spirit of wisdom and courage helps people seek pardon and be mindful that in the face of all their forgetting, the most important work of their lives is to be Jesus’ disciples.” As we prepare to celebrate God’s greatest gift to us in the birth of our Savior, have we reconciled our sins so as to continue along the path to eternal life?

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 10, 2017
10:30 AM

OUR LADY OF FATIMA MASS INTENTIONS

Readings: Is 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

December 10, Second Sunday of Advent

Clementine Kawtoski, Ann., (Family)

Readings: Is 61:1-2, 10-11; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

December 17, Third Sunday of Advent

Chuck Hennigan, (Ceil and Daughters)

CATHEDRAL MASS INTENTIONS

December 11, Monday: Saint Damasus I, Pope

Readings: Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26

6:45 AM Bill Crouse (Dave & Karen Rhoa)

8:00 AM Rose Himmelein (Minnie Yahner)

12:00 PM Patty Geis (Ken & Norma Farabaugh)

December 12, Tuesday: Our Lady of Guadalupe

Readings: Zec 2:4-17; Lk 1:26-38

6:45 AM Gloria & Eric Hockenberry, Wedding Anniv.

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

***12:00 PM Charles McCall, Birth/Anniv (Family)**

December 13, Wednesday: St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

Readings: Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30

6:45 AM Thomas & Mary Irwin (Irwin Family)

8:00 AM Helen Anderson (Mary Lysinger)

12:00 PM Paul R. Rose, Birthday (Rose Family)

December 14, Thursday: St. John of the Cross, Pr & Dr

Readings: Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15

***6:45 AM David Riley (Carol Riley)**

8:00 AM Health of Carrie Detwiler (Rita & Jerry Kibler)

***12:00 PM Jerry Smith (Mary Ann Carroll)**

December 15, Friday: Advent Weekday

Readings: Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19

6:45 AM Fred J. Martynuska (Family)

8:00 AM Leroy & Irmira Helfrich (Estate)

12:00 PM David Axinn (Family)

December 16, Saturday: Advent Weekday

Readings: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9, 10-13

8:00 AM Marian & Thomas Swires (Children)

***12:00 PM Carol Z. Smith, Birthday (Family)**

Vigil: Third Sunday of Advent

Readings: Is 61:1-2, 10-11; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

5:00 PM Mary Kathryn Kantoski, Birthday (Family)

Please Remember Our Sick and our Shut-ins in your Daily prayers.

DECEMBER 10, 2017
Scripture Reflection

Perhaps you can recall making preparations for a big event, a wedding or anniversary. There were invitations to send, menus to prepare, decorations to make, and party clothes to purchase. Today's readings are about preparing for an even bigger event, the coming of God's Chosen One. The Gospel begins with a proclamation of the "good news" about Jesus Christ. Mark apparently believes that his community already received a "Save the Date" notice for this celebration in the words of the prophet Isaiah, words which are part of our First Reading.

Mark emphasizes throughout his Gospel that Jesus is God's Son. With this title, he affirms that Jesus Christ is God's agent who will restore divine kingship. Mark emphasizes Jesus' power. John the Baptist proclaims, "One mightier than I is coming after me!" Throughout his Gospel, Mark reminds his audience that, no matter how chaotic the world had become, Jesus bore the power of God and could defeat even the fiercest opponents. John's baptism was an act of resistance. Those who received it left death and chaos behind and publicly identified themselves as subjects of God's authority. God's response to these declarations, John promises, will be a second baptism "with the Holy Spirit," in which believers will receive a share of the Son's power to defeat the forces of disruption.

Mark reminds us that we bear the power of Christ. We who have received the Holy Spirit in our baptism carry on Christ's struggle against chaos and death. God's kingdom is not yet fully restored. John began the work; we continue it today in the power of the Spirit. We bear Christ's power to unlock centuries old chains of fear, hate, alienation and mistrust. We bear Christ's power to forgive those who wrong us and beg forgiveness for ourselves. We bear Christ's power to heal scars of mind and soul, to dismiss demons of loneliness, despair and self-loathing and to restore those dead in spirit to life. To prepare for Christ's arrival, let us recommit ourselves to Christ's mission and challenge chaos and death wherever we find them.

- Where has chaos gained a foothold in your life?
- How can Christ's power help you overcome it?

AT HOME with the WORD 2018, Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, pg. 21. AMERICA MAGAZINE, "Thy Kingdom Come", Michael R. Simone, S.J., November 17, 2017.

Sacramental Prep Confirmation...

All 9th Grade High School Students - **Baptismal Retreat**
Saturday, December 16, 2017 - 1:30 - 4:30 Cathedral Hall
Followed by 5:00 PM Mass.

CLASS SACRAMENTS

The class Sacraments will be offered at two locations this January. Msgr. Robert Mazur will be teaching a 6 week course (2 ½ hour classes) beginning Monday January 8 from 6:30-9:00 PM at Cathedral, Seton Suite, Altoona and Fr. Timothy Grimme will be teaching an 8 week course (2 hour classes) from 6:30-8:30 PM beginning Tuesday January 9 at St. Michael Church Hall, St. Michael. The cost of the course which includes registration and all materials is \$65. Participants will explore the history of the sacraments and the post Vatican II Theology of the Sacraments within the context of Christology, Ecclesiology and Ministry. For further information and registration forms visit www.dioceseaj.org/lay-ecclesial-ministry or contact the Office of Adult Enrichment at 814-361-2000. All are welcome!

A Great Christmas Gift: The Trip of a Lifetime

From October 1-10, 2018 join us on a journey to the heart of our Catholic faith in Rome and Assisi. Visit the seven churches of Rome central to our pilgrimage to the city as well as the Vatican. In Assisi, visit the places central to the ministry of Saint Francis and Saint Claire. We will celebrate Mass each day at one of the holy sites on our tour. Since our patron saint is St. Benedict, we have added a special stop at two of the monasteries he founded: Subiaco and Monte Cassino. The tour includes all inclusive pricing, entrance and program fees, gratuities, breakfast and dinner each day, first class hotels, guided tours, deluxe air conditioned motor coaches, fuel surcharges and government taxes, and international airfare from New York. Transportation to and from New York is extra and will leave and return from St. Benedict's upper parking lot. Cost of the pilgrimage is \$3,548. Space is limited!!! Only 14 spaces left!

FREE HOLIDAY CONCERT

The Altoona Community Band will be performing a FREE concert at the Altoona First Baptist Church (1209 17th St.- across from the Krish funeral home) on Wednesday, Dec. 20 at 7:00 p.m. The all volunteer band is comprised of musicians from the Altoona and Hollidaysburg community. The concert will feature some of your favorite Christmas music. Plenty of free parking, amazing acoustics and wonderful music. Come and hear for yourself!

HOLY TRINITY CHRISTMAS PLAY is coming up!

Join us for a festive evening while watching the children perform various Christmas songs and readings. Hollidaysburg Campus is December 10th at 4:00 PM. Altoona Campus is December 11th at 7:00 PM, and the Middle School Campus is December 14th at 7:00 PM. All plays will be held at the St. Rose of Lima-Maria (gym).

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL RAFFLE TICKETS are being sold. Tickets are \$2.00 per ticket. Cash prizes are \$1,000.00, \$750.00, and \$500.00. Please purchase tickets from a Holy Trinity Student or by calling 814-942-7835. Prizes will be drawn on December 14, 2017 at the Middle School Christmas show.

2018 CALENDARS are available on the back tables.

PLEASE ONLY ONE PER FAMILY.

SUNDAY, DEC. 17TH AFTER THE 10:30 AM MASS WE WILL BE DECORATING OUR CHURCH FOR THE ARRIVAL OF BABY JESUS. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE FOR OLF is as follows:

- Sunday, Dec 24th (4th Sunday of Advent) 10:30 AM
- Monday, Dec 25th (Christmas Day) 10:30 AM
- Sunday, Dec. 31st (Feast of the Holy Family) 10:30 AM
- Monday, January 1st, (No Mass at OLF.)

Christmas Flower Memorial Offering is \$10.00 per individual family, (M/M), (Siblings, Grandparents, Aunts, etc.,) should have a separate Cmas Flower envelope with a \$10.00 donation. Envelopes are on heating units.

The Friar's Nook Gift Shop – Christmas Happenings

Celebrate the Christmas season by receiving 20% off your entire purchase at The Friar's Nook Gift Shop December 11th- 23rd! The Friar's Nook is located across from St. Bernardine Monastery at 793 Monastery Road, Hollidaysburg. Open 10-4 Monday - Saturday.

Take the stress out of your Christmas cookie prep work by stopping at The Friar's Nook Gift Shop on Wednesday, December 20th to purchase homemade Christmas cookie trays! There will be a variety of both traditional and ethnic cookies, so stop out early!

<i>Happy Birthday!</i>		Dec 3, 2017	Env used 64 /147
12/15	Ian Brannan	Weekly	1562.50
12/16	Carol Smith	Cmas Club	73.00
12/18	Carol Riggelman	Christmas	30.00
12/18	Deborah Wall	Cmas Flowers	60.00
		Imm. Conc.	12.50
		Votives	84.00
		Children's	7.00
		Shrine	45.00
		Music	30.00
		<u>Catholic Char.</u>	<u>80.00</u>
		Total Dep	\$1984.00
		<u>Pierogi Sale net</u>	<u>\$1135.40</u>

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Liturgical Reflection ...</i></p> <p>Advent is a time of hopeful anticipation as we prepare to celebrate the remembrance of the Lord's first coming and, also, recalling his final coming in glory at the end of time. As we celebrate our funeral rites, the goal is to bring hope to the living. We turn to the Lord of life at the time of death to find assurance in our faith. We turn to the God of mercy in time of crisis and pain. To those who mourn and grieve, there is reason to have hope. In God is our hope and our salvation.</p> <p>Order of Christian Funerals, 1998/1989, General Introduction, Number 7.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>2017, Diocese of Altoona Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 South Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648</small></p>
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December 10

Mark 1:1-8

Why is it so hard to forgive, yet so easy to get even? Listen to John the Baptist in today's gospel and repent of the anger and ugly feelings which block your ability to forgive. This Christmas give a gift which makes a difference. Give forgiveness.

Christ on Christmas: Jesus tells all

For a story with such humble beginnings - a young couple, a newborn, and a stable - we sure have piled on the glitz. Seemingly unsatisfied with the sparkles brought to the Christ child by the angels and kings we've added Santa, reindeer, presents, elves, trees stockings, cookies, candy, spectacularly lit houses and streetscapes, carols, and hot buttered rum. It's a lot for one babe's birthday celebration.

How should we approach all the trimmings of the holidays in a way that honors Jesus? Maybe we can ask Him to give us his perspective on this!

What are your thoughts on Santa? Santa's got guts. Sneaking into strangers' houses to give them gifts - what an example of brave Christianity. This Christmas, sneak into someone's life and leave a gift without waiting for one in return. Think what our world would be like if everyone were as generous as Santa.

What do you have to say about the 12 Days of Christmas? 12 Days? The reason I was born was so that we would have 365 days of Christmas. 365 days of LOVE, PEACE, JOY. Twelve is not enough. Can you comment on the elves? Elves set a great example for the rest of humanity. Work hard. It doesn't matter if you're short, have ears that are too big, or if your feet are too long. Work hard at everything you do. And while you work, sing! What about the Grinch? The Grinch reminds me of a lot of the leaders I knew back in my days of teaching. The Grinch could not stop Christmas from coming. He took presents, decorations, even the roast beast, but it came anyway. Let the Grinch be a reminder to all that nothing can stop me from entering the world. For I am love.

Decorations? Make sure you spend as much time getting your soul ready for Christmas as you spend getting your house ready. Make sure the light inside your heart is as bright as the lights on your bushes.

"Happy Holidays" or "Merry Christmas"? Does it matter? I gave you the jobs to do I made it clear. Feed the hungry. Give drink to the thirsty. Clothe the naked. Welcome the stranger. Visit the sick and imprisoned. Worry less about what you say and more about what you do. Let your life's work show your beliefs. St. Francis of Assisi said it well: "Preach the gospel at all times. If necessary, use words."

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November 30, 2017

Dear Monsignor,

As you know, Garvey Manor is the only Catholic senior living facility in our Diocese. We have been providing care for the elderly since 1965. As a Continuing Care Community, we offer skilled nursing care for short term rehabilitation, long term nursing care to meet ongoing care needs, special dementia care, and more residential living arrangements in Our Lady of the Alleghenies Residence, our Personal Care Home, for persons who have a higher degree of independence, but need supportive services.

Over the years we have served thousands of elderly people in need of various levels of care and their families. Though we serve people of all faiths, the majority of our residents are Catholic, having been parishioners of various parishes throughout the Diocese. As we look to the future with the uncertainty of government reimbursement for care provided to the elderly, we want to be wise steward of our legacy and assure a strong financial future to meet the needs of our Diocese's elders now and for generation to come.

We hope that members of our faith community, who are looking to make charitable donations, would consider Garvey Manor and Our Lady of the Alleghenies Residence as a recipient of their charitable giving. We know that there are many worthy charities that compete for charitable giving, but keeping donations close to home and within our faith community is an option that may not come to mind. As a not-for-profit organization, donations to Garvey Manor are tax deductible within the guidelines of IRS regulations.

I am asking that, if possible, could you make the enclosed brochures available to your parishioner in the back of your church or in a place where you have other information available.

Thank you for your service to the people of the Diocese. If we can ever be of any help to you or people of your parish, please do not hesitate to call. With the large number of elderly people in our Diocese, I know the need for long term care services is great, and sometimes we cannot meet the immediate needs of individuals at the time that admission might be necessary. We try to address concerns and act as quickly as possible when applicant make a request for admission. Sometimes, future planning makes the transition easier and you may be aware of people who might be getting close to benefiting from our ministry. We appreciate any referrals.

I wish you and your parishioners a very blessed Advent and Christmas Season. If you have any questions please feel free to call me. Thank you again for making the enclosed brochures available. If more are needed we would be happy to supply them.

Sincerely yours,

Sister Joachim Anne, O.Carm.
Administrator



**OUR LADY URGES US TO PRAY THE HOLY ROSARY FOR
PEACE AND OFFER
SACRIFICES BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!**

St. Lucy

Feast Day Dec.13

Lucy's history has been lost and all we really know for certain is that this brave woman who lived in Syracuse lost her life during the persecution of Christians in the early fourth century. Her veneration spread to Rome so that by the sixth century the whole Church recognized her courage in defense of the faith.

Because people wanted to shed light on Lucy's bravery, legends began to crop up. The one that has passed the test of time tells the story of a young Christian woman who vowed to live her life in service of Christ. Her mother tried to arrange a marriage for her with a pagan and Lucy knew her mother could not be swayed by a young girl's vow, so she devised a plan to convince her mother that Christ was the better partner for life.

After several prayers at the tomb of Saint Agatha, Lucy saw the saint in a dream. St. Agatha told Lucy her mother's illness would be cured through faith, which Lucy used to persuade her mother to give the dowry money to the poor and allow her to commit her life to God.

While Lucy and her mother were grateful to God, the rejected bridegroom was deeply angered and betrayed Lucy's faith to the governor Paschasius. The governor attempted to force her into defilement at a brothel, but the guards who came to take her away were unable to move her, even after hitching her to a team of oxen. The guards heaped bundles of wood around her but it wouldn't burn so they finally resorted to their swords, and Lucy met her death.

Though details of her life remain unknown, it is widely known that during her lifetime Christians were persecuted for their faith. They were forced to endure horrific torture and often met painful ends during Diocletian's reign. Though the details surrounding her death remain only as legends, it is all modern-day Christians can rely on.

Lucy's legend did not end with her death. According to later accounts, Lucy warned Paschasius he would be punished. When the governor heard this he ordered the guards to gouge out her eyes; however, in another telling, it was Lucy who removed her eyes in an attempt to discourage a persistent suitor who greatly admired them.

When her body was being prepared for burial, they discovered her eyes had been restored. Sigebert (1030-1112), a monk of Gembloux, wrote sermo de Sancta Lucia, in which he described Lucy's body as remaining undisturbed in Sicily for 400 years until Faroald II, Duke of Spoleto, seized the island and transferred Lucy's remains to Abruzzo, Italy. It was later removed by Emperor Otho I in 972 to Metz and left in the church of St. Vincent. There is much confusion about what happened to her body after its stay at St. Vincent's, but it is believed that several pieces of her body can be found in Rome, Naples, Verona, Lisbon, Milan, Germany, France and Sweden.

In 1981, thieves stole all but her head but police were able to recover them on her feast day. Lucy, whose name can mean "light" or "lucid," is the patron saint of the blind. She is often seen with the emblem of eyes on a cup or plate. In paintings, she is often depicted with a golden plate holding her eyes and often holds a palm branch, which is a symbol of victory over evil.

Saint Lucy's Prayer:

Saint Lucy, you did not hide your light under a basket, but let it shine for the whole world, for all the centuries to see. We may not suffer torture in our lives the way you did, but we are still called to let the light of our Christianity illumine our daily lives. Please help us to have the courage to bring our Christianity into our work, our recreation, our relationships, our conversation -- every corner of our day. Amen

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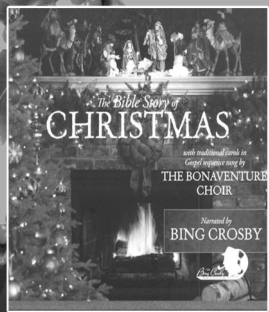
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