

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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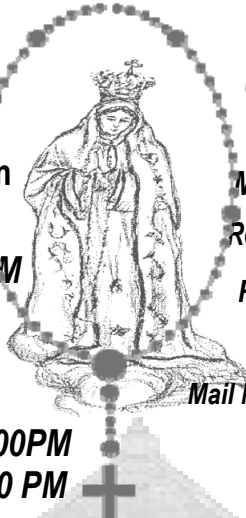


Our Lady of Fatima
Pleaded that we pray the Holy Rosary
before Sunday Mass and
privately from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm daily.

DECEMBER 24, 2017
The child to be born will be
called holy,
the Son of God.
—Luke 1:35

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

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



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

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

Our Lady of Fatima Parish Administrator
Reverend Monsignor Robert C. Mazur
Parish Secretary
Carol Z. Smith
Secretary's Assistant
Ellen Kelly

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

Eucharist for the home bound - weekly:
Patty Flanagan 942-0371 for arrangements.

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: lthayer@dioceseaj.org
Reconciliation @ Cathedral: 7:00 PM Wednesday
12:30 PM Saturday

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.

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

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

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

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.

DECEMBER 24, 2017
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GOD'S PROMISE

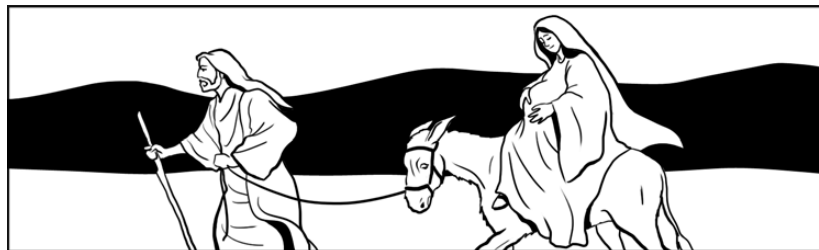
The lengthy passage from Samuel is a wonderful exposition of God's promise to the house of David: that his throne would forever be gloriously occupied by his descendants. Hidden in the mystery of the prophecy is the promise of the Savior, the Messiah, Son of God and Son of David. The prophet Nathan, speaking in God's name, poetically turns around David's plan to build a house for God, and announces God's plan to build a "house," that is, a dynasty for David. From this house of David will come the Messiah, the Christ, not in kingly splendor as David ruled, but as a humble man, destined to rule forever and over all. When God gives a gift, it's amazing what we are given—so different from what we ever could have imagined.

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TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Children of the parish are somewhat focused on Santa Claus these days, who is keeping an eye on who's naughty and who's nice. Santa Claus, with his heavenly patron Saint Nicholas, has been more or less in charge of gift-giving to American children for a hundred years or so. In other places, perhaps more attentive to our Christian tradition, there are different gift-bearers. In Greece, Saint Basil delivers the presents on his feast day, December 31, and makes sure everyone is sprinkled with holy water. The Baby Jesus is in charge elsewhere, called the Christkind in Austria and Belgium, El Niño Jesús in Columbia, and Le Petit Jesus in France, where he shares his duties with Père Noël. In the Czech Republic almost everyone is atheist, but Ježíšek, the infant Jesus, brings gifts to one and all. In Poland the "Star Man" is said to bring the gifts, although often he turns out to be the village priest in disguise. Saint Nicholas, not his Americanized cousin, is the giver in Holland, where he wears a bishop's miter, and in Russia, where he wears a bishop's crown. Soviet Russia tried to dethrone Saint Nicholas and promote Grandfather Frost, but no one was much fooled by this attempt to squeeze religion out of Christ's birth. One country has a saintly woman in charge of the gifts, Saint Lucy, honored in Sweden on December 13, when children serve their parents breakfast in bed, and others awake to news that they have been nominated for a Nobel Prize. Some children have a second round of gifts on Epiphany, when the magi assume the gift-giving duties. In general, the gifts of Christmas are simple pleasures, not great heaps of treasures. Once upon a time, a new pair of socks or an orange was enough for us. No matter what gifts we receive, all of them are to point us to the true gift, and the true giver.

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



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4th Sunday of Advent (Dec 24)

"After Jesus it is the Blessed Virgin Mary who by her example teaches most perfectly the meaning of discipleship and stewardship in their fullest sense. All of their essential elements are found in her life: she was called and gifted by God; she responded generously, creatively, and prudently; she understood her divinely assigned role as 'handmaid' in terms of service and fidelity."

(Stewardship: A Disciple's Response, USCCB, 1992.)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 24, 2017
10:30 AM

OUR LADY OF FATIMA MASS INTENTIONS

Readings: Is 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

Today's Intention - M. Charlotte McCall

Readings: Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18

December 25, Monday, Nativity of the Lord (Holy Day)

***Our Lady of Fatima Parishioners**

Readings: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21; Lk 2:22-40

December 31, 2017, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Eugene Wojcik, Barbara Wozniak

CATHEDRAL MASS INTENTIONS

December 25, Monday: NATIVITY OF THE LORD Sunday - 5:00 PM - Vigil

Midnight Mass

8:00 AM , 10:00 AM, 12:00 Noon

NO 5:00 PM MASS

December 26, Tuesday: St. Stephen, First Martyr

Readings: Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22

6:45 AM No Mass

8:00 AM Leroy & Irmina Helfrich (Estate)

12:00 PM Rose & Mike Ciavarella (Jennifer Plutko)

December 27, Wednesday: St. John, Apostle & Evan.

Readings: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1, 2-8

6:45 AM Marcella Glowgowski (M & D Hanekamp)

8:00 AM Anna Mercer (Paul & Family)

12:00 PM Billy & Patty Geis, Christmas (Family)

December 28, Thursday: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Readings: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Mt 2:13-18

6:45 AM Monsignor Thomas Madden (Estate)

8:00 AM Frances Pagliaro (M/M Joe Boito)

12:00 PM David Arnott (Larry & Stephanie Tonello)

December 29, Friday: St. Thomas Becket, Bp. & Martyr

Readings: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35

6:45 AM Dec. Michael & Ella Gibbons Fam. (Irwin Fam.)

8:00 AM Phyllis DiTosti (Joseph Dzurenko)

12:00 PM Todd Craig (Cathedral Parish)

December 30, Saturday: 6th Day Octave of the Nativity

Readings: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40

8:00 AM Elizabeth Smith, Birth. (Mary Lysinger Fam.)

12:00 PM Joe Tomlinson (Randy & Jean Koury)

Vigil: Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Readings: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21; Lk 2:22-40

5:00 PM Nozzie & Jenny Calabrese, Christmas (Fam)

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

DECEMBER 24, 2017
Scripture Reflection

Not until 2023 will Christmas Eve again fall on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. The proximity of these two solemnities highlights the theme of today's readings--the revelation of God's mystery. The biblical word "mystery" is not about a puzzle to be solved or something impossible to understand. Rather it concerns a magnificent thing that will now be revealed in the last days to those who have faith.

In the First Reading, David desires to build a house for God, but through the prophet Nathan, God tells David that he never asked for a house and planned always to dwell among the people as he did during their desert wanderings. God promises to build a house (or a dynasty) for David and to give him a son who will be an everlasting king and whom God will treat like his own son. What astonishing favor David receives from God!

The Gospel builds upon the imagery of this David story. The angel Gabriel tells Mary that she is God's favored one and that she will give birth to a son who "will be called Son of the Most High" and who will be given "the throne of David his father" (Luke 1:32).

Mary recognized intuitively that God's longed-for salvation was beginning and that she would have a mission in its fulfillment. Her famous question, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" is more about clarity than confidence: How exactly is God going to get this done? At some point in this dialogue, Mary realized that Gabriel's message was what she had been praying for all her life. At that moment, divine grace led her mind to understand that a mysterious pregnancy was the fulfillment of her prayers. We too must be ready for an answer to our prayers. Whether we pray for ourselves or for others, all of us have longings we bring to Christ. As we complete our journey to his crib, let us trust the same grace that enlightened Mary so that we can recognize the fulfillment of those prayers.

- God showed favor to David and to Mary.
- Can you name God's favor to you?

AT HOME with the WORD 2018, Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, pg. 25. AMERICA MAGAZINE, "How Long, O Lord?" Michael R. Simone, S.J., December 1, 2017.

VOLUNTEERING AT OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH...

Some of our Sunday Morning Collection Counters are asking to be retired. Would you have an hour to count the collection after Mass on Sunday? It entails 1 to 1-1/2 hours of your time after Sunday Mass, once a month. This volunteer effort does not need to go through the clearances listed below. You just need to be a member of the parish and know how to balance your checkbook. Call Carol @ rectory 942-0371 if interested.

We can always use additional folks to help us out around the Church and Rectory. We can help you to obtain the mandatory state and diocesan clearances! Every Employee and Volunteer must fulfill all clearances needed from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown to participate in parish activities. Every parish and church-associated activity are required to meet these standards as we uphold our commitment to protecting God's children and youth. Cathedral parish is offering assistance to fulfill all clearances at the Altoona Public Library on Saturday, January 13 from 9:00 AM through 1:00 PM. Free help to fill in the forms and to view the training films will be provided. Our Lady of Fatima Parish will cover any costs needed for these required clearances. For more information, please call the Cathedral Parish Office at 944-4603 or Chris Laraia at 312-7317.

2018 Envelopes...

If you did not find your envelopes in the back of the church. Please call Carol at the rectory. 942-0371

2018 Calendars... If there are any left on the tables you may take another next Sunday, Dec. 31st.

Co-op tickets are available for sale on the back table for the month of January. February will be the winners month.

LIVING THE WORD THIS WEEK...

How can I make my life a gift for others in charity?

In the bustle of holiday celebrations, take some time to sit quietly in the presence of the Lord and reflect on the gift of Jesus.

****Day of Prayer for World Peace and Justice**

Monday, January 1, 2018 - NOT A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION in 2018.

****NOTE:** While the Mass For the Preservation of Peace and Justice may not be used on the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, The Local Church will still observe this as a Day of Prayer for world peace. Please make the following prayer available to all on this day:

0 God, who have revealed that peacemakers are to be called your children, grant, we pray, that we may work without ceasing to establish that justice which alone ensures true and lasting peace. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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.)

A Merry & Blessed Christmas & a Healthy New Year
The Most Reverend Bishop Mark L. Bartchak, Reverend Msgr. Robert Mazur, Reverend Dennis Kurdziel and OLF staff would like to thank all Parishioners of Our Lady of Fatima for keeping our parish alive and well with their Time, Talent and Treasure for 2017 .

Hoss's Dinner Kit Sale is on! New Feature's available. See order page in the pews. Deadline for orders is January 17, 2018 and pickup will be on January 24, 2018,--12-3 and 4-6 PM. Items available for sale: Desert Cobblers, 5 # of Hoss's Mashed Potatoes; Dinner Kits feed 4 and include Chicken Alfredo, Chicken Soup Kit, Rotisserie Chicken Haluski, Pizza, Pierogis, Beef tips & Mashed Potatoes, Wings, Burgundy Steaks, Steak and Chicken Combo.

Fund Raising Coupon Tab Booklet—\$5.00 with 46 coupons... The \$5.00 stays in the parish! We have quite a few booklets to sell. 21 Years Same Great Value, Same Great Price. Choose the Tab Coupon Booklet. A way of getting the best values in your community and supporting your local area groups at the same time. And here is how they work: Simply go to any of the participating merchants, tell them you have a Buy One Get One Free Coupon . Buy any offer listed and receive your FREE ITEM of equal or lesser value. One coupon per visit. You must present coupon book with purchase. Not valid with any other offer or discount.

<i>Happy Birthday!</i>		Dec 17, 2017	Env used	67/147
12/27	Michael Long	Weekly		1656.15
12/29	John Wall	Christmas Day		20.00
12/30	Mike O'Connor	Cmas Flowers		225.00
12/30	Mark Schimminger	Imm. Conc.		65.00
12/31	Gary Keagy, Jr.	Votives		52.00
		Children's		7.00
		<u>Retirement Rel.</u>		<u>178.00</u>
		Dep. For Week		2203.15



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

The Fourth Week of Advent is rarely a full seven days. Christmas can come as soon as the day after the Fourth Sunday in Advent, or as late as the next Sunday.

The uncertain length of the final week of Advent is the reason the Church provides special Scripture readings for December 17 through December 24. That way, She can ensure that the most important prophecies from the book of Isaiah are read in the days leading up to our celebration of the birth of Christ. No matter how long or how short the Fourth Week of Advent might be, all of the days in this final week fall after December 17.

Foreshadowing the Savior

The special Scripture readings begin with Isaiah's description of Cyrus the Great, king of the Persians, who is a foreshadowing of Christ. The works ascribed to Cyrus in the Scripture Reading for December 17 will later be performed by Christ.

This reading contains one of the most beautiful passages in Isaiah, a passage which plays an important role in the Church's daily prayer, the Liturgy of the Hours, because it is a prophecy of Christ:

Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain the just: let the earth be opened, and bud forth a saviour . . .

Abandoning Idols

As the week goes on, Isaiah calls upon the Israelites to abandon all idols, in the Scripture Reading for December 18 and the Scripture Reading for December 20; and announces new prophecies concerning Christ, familiar to us from Handel's Messiah, in the Scripture Reading for December 21. With each passing day, the prophecies become more clear, until, with the Scripture Reading for December 24, Isaiah calls us to "arise," "shake thyself from the dust," and "rejoice and give praise together," because "all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God."

Reflecting on the Coming of Christ

What remarkable passages, and what wonderful riches are to be found in the words of the Prophet Isaiah! As we try this week to draw back (at least in reflection) from the secular feasting that precedes and all too often overshadows the true Christian celebration of Christmas, there is no better guide than Isaiah. Through his words, the mysteries of Bethlehem are not only foreshadowed but explained.

**ORDER OF
CHRISTIAN
FUNERALS**

Liturgical Reflection...

The word of God at the time of death reminds believers of the promise of life. The biblical readings proclaim to those gathered the paschal mystery, teach remembrance of the dead, convey the hope of being gathered together again in God's kingdom, and encourage the living to give witness to the Christian life. The living word of God provides those mourning the opportunity to hear God speak to them in their needs, sorrows, fears, and hopes.

Order of Christian Funerals, 1998 1989, General Introduction, Number 22.

2017, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 South Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648

December 24

Luke 1:26-38

Q: What do you call a family which began with an unmarried pregnant teen and had a twelve year old son who ran away from them and was eventually executed as a criminal?

**A: HOLY! Two lessons: (1) No matter what is happening in your family, "The Lord is with You."
(2) "Do not be afraid" for "nothing is impossible with God."**

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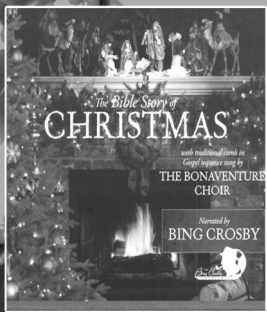
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