

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 23, 2018

Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your  
womb.

— Luke 1:42

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 28 † The Holy Innocents



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

**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**

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

**Our Lady of Fatima Church is open**  
**Monday through Friday: 9AM - 5PM Winter**  
**9AM - 6PM Summer**

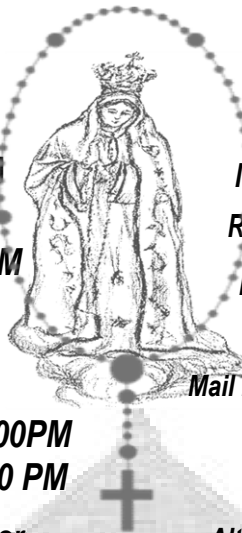
**for visits before the Blessed Sacrament.**

**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**

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**MERGER BETWEEN THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCHES**  
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**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**

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**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](http://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](mailto: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**

**Feast of The Holy Innocents**  
**December 28, 2018**

**Holy Innocents** – also known as **Childermas**, **Innocents' Day** and **Feast of the Holy Innocents** – is a holiday which falls on different days in the Western and Eastern Christian churches. In Western churches, it is celebrated on December 28th and in Eastern churches, it is celebrated on December 29th. The purpose of this holiday is to commemorate the massacre of children by King Herod as he was attempting to kill baby Jesus. These children have been regarded as the first martyrs of the early church and has been celebrated way before the fifth century when it was celebrated as a part of Epiphany. However, by the fifth century, it had become a separate festival and eventually became a saint's day.

**The Massacre of the Innocents**

The story of Herod is told in the Book of Matthew Chapter 2, verses 1 through 18. In this story, Herod was a king of Judea that was very unliked by his people because he was indifferent to religion and had connections with the Roman Empire. This unpopularity caused him to be extremely fearful that someone was going to kill him and seize his throne, so he took every opportunity to eliminate his rivals and make sure that he had no enemies.

Then one day, Eastern astrologers came to him and asked him about the whereabouts of the “newborn king of the Jews.” They were told that Jewish Scriptures named Bethlehem as the place in which the next Messiah would be born, and having seen this king's star, decided to pay him homage. Herod told them they should report back to him when they found him, so he too could pay homage to the newborn king. These astrologers found Jesus, the newborn king, and offered up their gifts to him. However, they received a warning from an angel that told him to avoid Herod, which they did. Jesus was then able to escape to Egypt. Unable to find Jesus, Herod became enraged and ordered all of the boys under the age of two in Bethlehem to be put to death.

**History of Holy Innocents**

Holy Innocents as a holiday can be traced back to the year 485 A.D when it was celebrated as a feast day in the Western Church, or more specifically in the Leonine Sacramentary. However, it wasn't celebrated as its own feast day but was instead a part of the Feast of the Epiphany and was celebrated in January. Eventually, sometime after the 5th century, it became decoupled from Epiphany and became its own feast day. In modern times, it has been known as Holy Innocent's Day, Childermas, Children's Mass and Innocents' Day.

It is celebrated on December 27th in the Maronite Church, Syriac Orthodox Church, and the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church; on December 28th in the Church of England, the Lutheran Church and the Roman Catholic Church; and on January 10th in the Syro-Malabar Catholic 12.

**Celebrating Holy Innocents**

This holiday has been practiced in different ways by different people all throughout history. Prior to the 17th century, it was customary to spank your children at sunrise on Holy Innocents to remind them of the suffering the innocents of Bethlehem had to endure. Today, however, that practice has fortunately died out for the most part. Up until 1962, priests in the Roman Catholic church would wear violet vestments for this holiday. However, it was changed to red vestments during that year.

Nowadays, people often attend churches in which the priest say a prayer called the Blessing of the Children; in Mexico, it is celebrated with pranks – much in the same way that April Fools Day is celebrated.

DECEMBER 23, 2018  
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
10:30 AM

**OUR LADY OF FATIMA MASS INTENTIONS**

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

**Today's Intention-Ronald Geis**

Readings: Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

**Tuesday, Christmas Day, December 25, 10:30 AM**  
**Kerr Kreation Family & Business, (In Thanksgiving, OLOF)**

Readings: 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52  
**Sunday, Dec 30th, Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**  
**Rev. Fr. James D. Zatalava, (Connie & Cassidy McKnight)**

**Cathedral Mass Intentions**

**December 24, Monday: Late Advent Weekday**

Readings: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; Lk 1:67-79  
6:45 AM NO MASS  
8:00 AM Billy & Patty Geis, Wedding Ann.(Geis Family)  
12:00 PM NO MASS

**5:00 PM - Vigil, NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

Readings: Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14  
Dec'd of Conzo and Jacob Fam. (Pat and Pam)

**December 25, Tuesday: NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

Midnight Mass  
8:00 AM , 10:00 AM, 12:00 Noon  
NO 5:00 PM MASS

**December 26, Wednesday: St. Stephen, First Martyr**

Readings: Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22  
6:45 AM NO MASS  
8:00 AM Millie Bilski (Lois and Ed Simanski)  
12:00 PM Francis Goss, Anniversary (Wife and Family)

**December 27, Thursday: St. John, Apostle & Evangelist**

Readings: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1,2-8  
6:45 AM Don & Dorothy Hanekamp, (Dave & Maureen Hankamp)  
8:00 AM Dave Baronner (Jim & Steph Kilcoyne)  
12:00 PM Benita Jorkasky (Cathedral Christian Mothers)

**December 28, Friday: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

Readings: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Mt 2:13-18  
6:45 AM Msgr. George B. Flinn (Sheila Stone)  
8:00 AM Derek Behe (Mom and Dad)  
12:00 PM Madeline Vogel (Greg and Kathy Clemens)

**December 29, Saturday: St. Thomas Beckert, Bishop & Martyr**

Readings: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35  
8:00 AM Thomas Joseph Reighard, (Tina Reighard Foltyniewicz)  
12:00 PM Kevin Sheets (Dick and Bernice Cellini)

**Vigil: THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**

Readings: 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; 1Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52  
5:00 PM Edgar Anna (Jim and Mary Ellen Kelly)

*Please pray for all of our parishioners, especially for those who have illnesses great and small and our seniors who are lonely and need comfort and care.*

**December 23, 2018**  
**Scripture Reflection**

Today's Scripture readings are filled with joyful expectation in the face of incredible odds. In the First Reading, the prophet issues an oracle of hope to a people whom he had been railing against for their failure to act justly. Though they must pay the price for their sins now, in God's time, a messiah-king will be raised up from among the least of them. This messiah-king will act in peace and be peace! Bethlehem was David's hometown. Hence, the messiah-king will be of the lineage of David. The woman of whom he speaks is the mother of this long-awaited messiah-king, but she remains nameless.

In the Gospel, we are privileged to imagine the tender and private encounter of two seemingly insignificant women. Both would have been the target of much gossip---one because she was pregnant before her marriage was finalized and the other because she had been denied children for all the years of her marriage. The former would become the mother of the messiah-king and the latter the mother of John the Baptist, whom God chose to announce the long-awaited reign of God.

It is one thing to find grace in dramatic events; it is quite another to catch sight of God in the everyday. In this Sunday's Gospel reading, a poor traveler arrives, and an unborn baby stirs in the womb as his mother greets the traveler with joy. This account contains little drama, but in Luke's recounting, grace saturates the scene. Luke wrote to remind his audience never to stop seeking the divine presence. Even the simplest moment has in it a world-changing significance for anyone who is ready to find the work of God.

More than any other New Testament writer, Luke draws his readers to Christ's three arrivals among humanity. The first arrival was the nativity, the second occurs daily among his disciples in the Spirit, and the final appearance will usher in the end of time. It is that second, daily, arrival that Luke highlights in this Gospel passage. We are to be attentive and alert, like Mary and Elizabeth. Christ continues to arrive each day in our lives. We must make sure not to miss these opportunities of grace.

- **How has grace come to you in everyday events?**

AT HOME with the WORD 2019, Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, pg. 25. AMERICA MAGAZINE, "How do you find joy in everyday life?" Michael R. Simone, S.J., November 30, 2018.

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

## OUR LADY OF FATIMA ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

**CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25TH 10:30 AM**

**MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD, MONDAY, DECEMBER 31ST (Vigil) 6:00 PM**

(PLEASE NOTE ABOVE VIGIL IS DEC. 31ST NOT DEC 30TH)

**MARY MOTHER OF GOD, JANUARY 1ST, NO MASS at OUR LADY OF FATIMA**

(See the Cathedral Mass Schedule in today's bulletin)



### *Liturgical Reflection...*

*On this final Sunday of Advent, with only hours away from the great celebration of Christmas, Mary is placed in her rightful position in the divine plan of salvation. With Elizabeth, we say (as we do every time we pray the Hail Mary), "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."*

*The Incarnate Word is so close that Elizabeth's baby leaps for joy in her womb. We too are filled with holy joy.*

2018, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 S. Logan Blvd., Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648

**December 23 Lk 1:39-45**

*Mary was excited about her first pregnancy and rushed to tell her cousin. Sadly children are often seen as a liability, "another mouth to feed" or an "obstacle to my career." It is said "Christmas is for children." It is more accurate to say "Christmas is for adults to appreciate the gift of children!"*



**12/27 Michael Long**

**12/30 Mike O'Connor**

### **4th Sunday of Advent (December 23)**

*Mary expressed her trust in God by proclaiming "May it be done to me according to your word" (Lk 1:38). May her "yes" serve to remind us of our unique roles in God's divine plan. The course of history may very well be changed if we choose to reply "no" to His invitation.*

### **DEC. COLLECTIONS 2018**

December 16, 2018	Env used	62 /139
Weekly		1692.00
Christmas Club		20.00
Christmas		125.00
Cmas Dec./Flowers		401.00
Votives		85.00
Children's		8.00
Shrine		12.00
Music		5.00
Fuel		25.00
Register		8.00
Immaculate Conc.		92.00
<u>Dep. For Week</u>		<u>2473.00</u>

### **First Reconciliation ...**

*This past Wednesday, December 19, Our Lady of Fatima Parish children celebrated their First Confession at the Advent Penance Service.*

*Congratulations to: Kendall Durgin, Piper Durgin and Henrik Hosgood.*

### **OUR LADY OF FATIMA TRAVELING STATUE...**

*Is waiting to be invited to some ones home who will honor and praise her for a week or two. Please do not hesitate to call Carol at the rectory if you wish to make a reservation. Call 942-0371.*

**2018 Catholic Ministries Drive.. Our goal of \$9602 has been met! Thank You to all who have participated!**

*All gifts will now come back to Our Lady of Fatima!*

**Our first gift returned to the parish for Sept-Nov is \$203.00**



**OUR LADY URGES US TO PRAY THE HOLY ROSARY**

**FOR**

**PEACE AND OFFER**

**SACRIFICES BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 23, 2018**

**MEMORIES AND DREAMS**

*Throughout our lives, we retain the language and habits of our native region and family of origin. Should we return to our home after a long absence, we quickly revert to its familiar speech and practices. Our deep memory is reflected in old stories and words and speech patterns. This familiarity runs like an underground river and accompanies us wherever we go.*

*Not only do we remember, we are incorporated into and made part of a greater memory. In remembering and recollecting, we are in turn gathered up and re-collected.*

*Today we remember Mary, a small figure travelling the country roads to visit Elizabeth. All the great pronouncements and dreams of the prophets point to this time when the Lord's words to Mary would be gathered and fulfilled. The memories of her people are alive in her, and memories of her nourish our own living faith.*

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**TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION**

*In ancient pagan Rome, these days in mid-December were a time for general slacking off at work and far too much rejoicing. The period of leisure after the harvest and a whole cluster of pagan festivals were a force for the church to reckon with. The Saturnalia, breaking out on December 17, was a time of high living and loose morals. Christians were advised by their bishops to drop out of the mayhem and do some serious fasting. A famous church council at Saragossa in Spain made a season of fasting mandatory from December 17 to December 23, exactly coinciding with the Saturnalia. The bishops at that time were perhaps less concerned with preparing for Christmas than with resisting the kind of loose living going on.*

*Modern times have restored a bit of the Saturnalia spirit to our culture, so that a general period of partying with a vague connection to religion is now upon us. How does a Christian keep balance? The practice of charity by remembering the poor in our gift-giving, of hospitality in finding a place at our holiday tables for the poor and lonely, and of daily prayer in the home and at church are great helps. Although Advent is not a penitential season like Lent, it is a time for making room in our lives for what matters most.*

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

**O COME, LONG FORETOLD**  
*O come, Desired of nations,  
Whom priest and prophet long foretold  
Will break the captive fetters,  
Redeem the long-lost fold.  
Dear Savior, haste; come, come to earth,  
Dispel the night and show your face,  
And bid us hail the dawn of grace.*

—Simon J. Pellegrin (1663-1745), Tr. by Mary of St. Philip (1825-1904)



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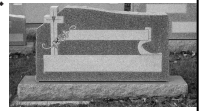
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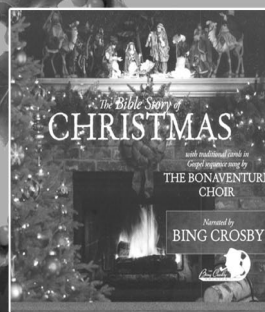


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