

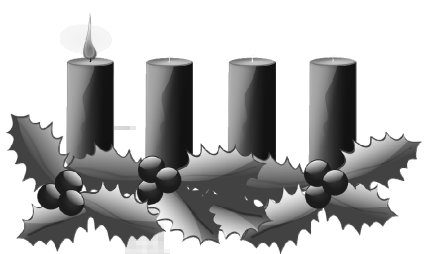
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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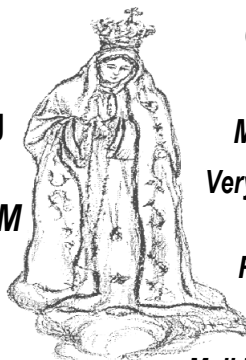
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First Sunday of Advent
December 1, 2019
"You . . . must be prepared,
for at an hour you do not expect,
the Son of Man will come."
— Matthew 24:44

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 12th Avenue
www.ourladyoffatimaaltoona.org
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
Very Rev. Msgr. Stanley B. Carson, Administrator
PH: 814-944-4603
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

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

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

Our Lady of Fatima Parish Administrator
Very Rev. Msgr. Stanley B. Carson

Parish Secretary
Carol Z. Smith

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

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

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 - 5PM
for visits before the Blessed Sacrament.

Religious Education @ Cathedral: Pre-K through 11
Sacramental Formation @ Cathedral: First Reconciliation
First Communion
Confirmation

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

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

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

Hospital Visitation: Call 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 Eucharist:
Sunday: 5:00 PM (Vigil) Holy Days: 5:30 PM (Vigil) Weekdays: 6:45 AM
8:00 AM 8:00 AM 12:00 Noon
10:00 AM 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 1, 2019

First Sunday of Advent

HOPEFUL EXPECTATION

Our liturgical year begins with the season of Advent—a time of hopeful expectation of the coming of the Lord. On the First Sunday of Advent we look forward to the end of time when we will awaken to the dawn of Christ's new day.

Today we hear Isaiah speak of a day when God's power will have brought universal peace and God's Word will have instructed all people, radiating God's "light" (teachings) into all of human society. Only when humanity walks "in the light of the LORD" (Isaiah 2:5), when all people desire to be instructed "in [God's] ways" (Isaiah 2:3), will the world be set aright and our deepest longings fulfilled. The reading from Romans calls us to "awake from sleep" for this final "day is at hand" (Romans 13:11, 12). Together this Sunday's scriptures proclaim our Christian faith that Jesus is the One who will finally come to fulfill God's plan of salvation.

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December 4 - SAINT JOHN OF DAMASCUS (c. 675-749)

From almost 1300 years ago, John's message for the church's spirituality and mission is surprisingly contemporary. Pope Benedict said that in our modern culture of images, sacred images often speak more eloquently than words. This "incarnational theology," the concept that visible, tangible elements can give believers access to divine realities beyond, found an eloquent champion in John of Damascus. He challenged the Iconoclasts (image-breakers), whose misinterpretation of the biblical prohibition of idolatrous images (Exodus 20:4-5) led them to campaign for the destruction of all sacred art. Before this controversy, however, John bore witness to Christ in a way that provides a timely example for Christians in today's pluralistic society. Succeeding his grandfather and father, John served as chief financial officer to the Muslim caliph, professing his Christian faith without compromise, while winning the esteem of his Islamic sovereign by his competence and integrity. No wonder John could eloquently defend icons as "windows into heaven"—he had already learned to see Christ in the living icons of people different from himself yet fashioned in the same divine image!

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

ADVENT

Let's approach Christmas with an expectant hush, rather than a last-minute rush.

—Anonymous

TIME OF PREPARATION

This life is the time of our preparation for our future state. Our souls will continue for ever what we make them in this world.

—John Tillotson, Archbishop of Canterbury

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Loving God, Is it I, Lord?

Speak to me Lord.

Are you calling me to a vocation of ministry in the Church as Priest, Sister, Brother or Deacon?
Or if I am already living out a life's vocation, are you asking me to help call others to the ministry of leadership in the Church?

Plant your Word within me so that whatever you call me to be or do I may say Yes, Here I Am Lord.

Lord here I am!

What would you like me to do with my life?

We do need men and women to help lead us as Church, Lord. We are your people of the valley, prairie and pines, the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. Speak to us Lord.

(Pause to listen to God for a moment)

Teach me to do your will, Lord.

Open the minds and hearts of many men and women to live your Word and build your Kingdom.

And let your Holy Spirit guide me!

<p style="text-align: center;">December 1, 2019 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 10:30 AM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DECEMBER 1, 2019 <i>Scripture Reflections</i></p>
<p>OUR LADY OF FATIMA MASS INTENTIONS December 1, 2019, First Sunday of Advent Readings: Is 2:1-5; Rom 13:11-14; Mt 24:37-44 Today's Intention - Chuck Henningan</p> <p>December 8, 2019, Second Sunday of Advent Readings: 2 Sm 5:1-3; Col 1:12-20; Lk 23:35-43 Intention: For All Gods People (Altoona Catholic Daughters)</p>	<p>As we enter a new liturgical year, we prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ. We learn again how God comes into our world and into our individual lives to set us free.</p> <p>Our readings call us to embrace God's transforming presence in our lives. The First Reading from Isaiah comes from a popular song the Israelites sang in captivity. It lifted their spirits as they reflected on God's promises to lead them back to their homeland. This song tells of the new age when God will reveal himself so that not only the Israelites but "all nations shall stream toward" the house of the Lord, the Temple of Jerusalem where God will bring peace among all humanity: "They shall beat their swords into plowshares." St. Paul continues this theme of transformation by reminding us that our salvation is closer now than when we first believed! Our minds and actions need to embrace the necessary changes. True transformation can occur only through the power of Christ's grace: "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ." Like a new set of clothes, Christ embraces us totally and transforms the essence of our being.</p> <p>The Gospel reiterates the urgency to stay awake and prepare for the Lord's coming at the end of our lives or at the end of the world. We do not approach this encounter in fear and trepidation but, in the spirit of our first two readings, with a joyous expectation of God's fulfillment of the longings in our hearts for true happiness, peace, and rest, as St. Augustine addressed God, "For you have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you."</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Cathedral Mass Intention</p> <p>December 2, Monday: Advent Weekday Readings: Is 4:2-6; Mt 8:5-11 6:45 AM + Dorothy Conrad (Dan Bauer) 12:00 PM + Joe Wiedemer (Homer & Marilyn Krug)</p> <p>December 3, Tuesday: St. Francis Xavier, Priest Readings: Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24 6:45 AM + Joe Maltet, Anniversary (Family) 12:00 PM + Sister Beverly Hmel IHM (Walt & Pat Beckel)</p> <p>December 4, Wednesday: St. John Damascene Readings: Is 25:6-10; Mt 15:29-37 6:45 AM + Lori Keirn (Koehle Family) 12:00 PM + Joseph Knott (Mother, Orvita)</p> <p>December 5, Thursday: Advent Weekday Readings: Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27 6:45 AM + Dorothy Stephens (Ron & Kim Palmer) 12:00 PM + Mary Costlow, Birthday (Family)</p> <p>December 6, Friday: Saint Nicholas, Bishop Readings: Is 29:17-24; M 9:27-31 6:45 AM + Jean Herbert (Cathedral Parish) 12:00 PM + Rose Stefanon (Dr. & Mrs. Richard Gonsman)</p> <p>December 7 Saturday: St. Ambrose, Bp. & Dr. of Church Readings: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35-10:1, 5, 6-8 8:00 AM + Jim & Peggy Mullan (Nancy & Skip) 12:00 PM + Msgr. Roy Kline (Randy & Jean Koury)</p> <p>Vigil: Second Sunday in Advent Readings: Is 11:1-10; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12 5:00 PM + Michael Dionis (Mom & Dad)</p>	<p>• <i>In what way does Isaiah's song proclaim that God's salvation is intended for all humanity?</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><small>AT HOME with the WORD 2020, Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, pg. 19</small></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Jesus, Son of the Living Father, Have Mercy on Me a Sinner.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>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.</i></p>

Sacrament of Reconciliation

You are encouraged to participate in one of the following Advent opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sunday, Dec 1, 4:00 P.M., St. John the Evangelist Parish, Altoona; Monday, Dec 9, 7:00 P.M., Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Altoona; Thursday, Dec. 12, 5:30 P.M., Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Altoona; Saturday, Dec. 14, 10:00 A.M., St. Therese of the Child Jesus Parish, Altoona; Sunday, Dec. 15, 4:00 P.M., St. Mary Parish, Hollidaysburg; Monday, Dec. 16, 7:00 P.M., St. Rose of Lima Parish, Altoona; Wednesday Dec.18, 6:30 P.M., Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament Parish, Altoona; and Thursday, Dec. 19, 5:30 P.M., Sacred Heart Parish, Altoona.

4 left of the \$aveAround coupon books at \$20.00 each. They would make great Christmas gifts. Call the rectory to save yours. 942-0371.

Confirmation Prep

December 7th Saturday 12:45-6:00 10th Grade Gifts of the Holy Spirit & Parable Retreat.

Religious Education

December 8th FIRE class 6:15-8:15 PM December 15th FIRE class 6:15-8:15 PM

First Reconciliation Prep

Tuesday Dec. 3rd their will be a 1st Reconciliation Prep class from 6:30-8:00 PM in the Cathedral Hall.

Baptismal Prep Class

The next Baptismal Prep Class will be on December 10th at 7:00 PM in the Seton Suite.

Stewardship Reflections

Stay awake for all opportunities to share your time, talent and treasures! Good stewards know they are accountable and use their gifts to do God's will. Safeguarding material and human resources and using them responsibly are answers to the question, "What identifies a steward?" But so is generous giving of time, talent and treasure.

As Christian stewards we receive God's gift gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them lovingly in justice with others, and return them with an increase to the Lord.

Our Lady of Fatima "ARISE TEAM" are Christmas Caroling at the Altoona Center for Nursing Care on Sunday, Dec. 15th.

We are meeting at the Nursing home at 1:15 PM. Anyone is welcome to join us. Approximately 30 patients will gather in their community room for an hour's worth of gaiety.

December 2

Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

At this time of the year we are very conscious of our family as we make preparations for Christmas.

Today's gospel warns us not to be consumed by all the consumer activity. This Advent appreciate the gift of people in your life. The best gift this season might be your appreciation of others.

Catholic Ministry Drive Goal = \$9,271.00

Report for EOM Oct. 2019. - We received \$6,255.00 in one time gifts and pledges. Still owing - \$2996.00

Weekly Collection - November 24, 2019, \$1,807.00

BIRTHDAYS: 12/8-Connie Andros; 12/9-John Kasun, Sr.; 12/10, Diana Hencherick;

ANNIVERSARIES: 12/6, Denise and Dan Stitt;

FAMILY RITUAL

This Advent, instead of trying to get all the presents on a child's Christmas list, get them one or two, and then allow your presence in their life to be their present. Spend time with your children baking cookies for others instead of running from store to store. Help them to think of someone in the neighborhood that they can be a 'Santa' for, so that the focus isn't on the receiving, but the giving. Make sure to tell the story of Jesus' birth to your kids, as this is what the Season really is all about.

What is a Gift?

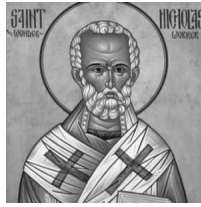
How does a gift come to us? In what might it be wrapped? In the blankets of a tiny baby...in the artwork of a child...in the creativity of a friend...in the ancient message of a small picture...in the contemporary competition of foils, ribbons and papers?

Should we be looking for God's gift to us in every place, in every life experience? Should our eyes be open to what God is giving us in our relationships, in the messages shouted across all media, in the emotions of celebration, longing and love?

A gift is more than an object. A gift is a carrier of meaning, values, esteem and is a symbol of our faith. So that, any gifts we think of giving reflect God's giving and truly participates in the giving to which God calls us, ask first: What meaning can this gift carry? What values can this convey? How can this gift reflect my feelings for the receiver? What can this gift symbolize about my faith?

Excerpted from: ALTERNATIVES for Simple Living, P.O. Box 2787, Sioux City, IA (800-821-6153) www.SimpleLiving.org Alterna-

December 6



Feast Day of St. Nicholas

Saint Nicholas was a Christian bishop who provided for the poor and sick and is the basis for the popular character of Santa Claus.

Who Was Saint Nicholas?

Saint Nicholas was a Christian bishop who helped the needy. After his death, the legend of his gift-giving grew. Saint Nicholas transformed into the legendary character called Santa Claus, who brings Christmas presents to children around the world.

Early Life

Saint Nicholas was born circa 280 in Patara, Lycia, an area that is part of present-day Turkey. He lost both of his parents as a young man and reportedly used his inheritance to help the poor and sick. A devout Christian, he later served as bishop of Myra, a city that is now called Demre.

Reputation

There are many legends about Saint Nicholas of Myra. One story tells how he helped three poor sisters. Their father did not have enough money to pay their dowries and thought of selling them into servitude. Three times, Saint Nicholas secretly went to their house at night and put a bag of money inside. The man used the money so that one of his daughters could marry. On the third visit, the man saw Saint Nicholas and thanked him for his kindness. He also reportedly saved three men who were falsely imprisoned and sentenced to death.

Death and Legacy

Several sources state Saint Nicholas is believed to have died on December 6, 343. Over the years, stories of his miracles and work for the poor spread to other parts of the world. He became known as the protector of children and sailors and was associated with gift-giving. He was a popular saint in Europe until the time of the Reformation in the 1500s, a religious movement that led to the creation of Protestantism, which turned away from the practice of honoring saints. Saint Nicholas, however, remained an important figure in Holland.

The Dutch continued to celebrate the feast day of Saint Nicholas, December 6. It was a common practice for children to put out their shoes the night before. In the morning, they would discover the gifts that Saint Nicholas had left there for them. Dutch immigrants brought the legend of Saint Nicholas, known to them as Sint Nikolaas or by his nickname, Sinterklaas, to America in the 1700s.

Saint Nicholas went through many transformations in America: Sinterklaas became Santa Claus, and instead of giving gifts on December 6, he became a part of the Christmas holiday. In the 1820 poem "An Account of a Visit from Saint Nicholas" by Clement Clarke Moore, he is described as a jolly, heavy man who comes down the chimney to leave presents for deserving children and drives a sleigh pulled by flying reindeer. The cartoonist Thomas Nast added to the Saint Nicholas legend with an 1881 drawing of Santa as wearing a red suit with white fur trim. Once a kind, charitable bishop, Saint Nicholas had become the Santa Claus we know today.

In 2017, a team from the University of Oxford radiocarbon tested a fragment of a pelvic bone said to be from Saint Nicholas. The test confirmed that the bone fragment, owned by an American priest, dated from the saint's era.

Archaeologists then hoped to match the bone to others purportedly belonging to Saint Nicholas, including those housed in a crypt in Bari, Italy, since the 11th century.

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