

**Bulletin # 102656**

**Our Lady of Fatima  
2010 12th Avenue  
Altoona, PA 16601**

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# SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

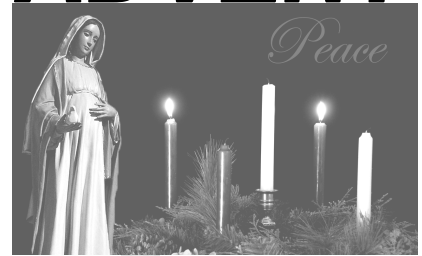
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Second Sunday of Advent  
December 8, 2019

The earth shall be filled with  
knowledge of the LORD, as  
water covers the sea.

— Isaiah 11:9

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 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: 6:00PM**

**Rosary: 10:05 AM - Rosary: 5:40 PM**

**Our Lady of Fatima Parish Administrator**

**Rev. Msgr. Stanley B. Carson**

**Parish Secretary**  
**Carol Z. Smith**

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

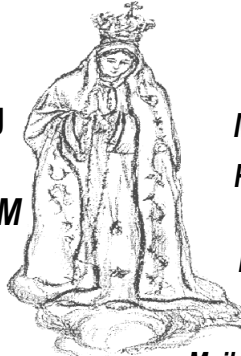
**Our Lady of Fatima Church is open**  
**Monday through Friday: 9AM - 5PM**  
**for visits before the Blessed Sacrament.**

**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**

**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**

**HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

**Web: [www.holytrinitycatholic.school](http://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**

**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](mailto:lthayer@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**

**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**

December 8, 2019

Second Sunday of Advent

### THE LONG-AWAITED ONE

*As the Sundays of Advent unfold the scriptures shift focus from the final coming of the Lord to his historical birth. Today's scriptures blend the two. Isaiah's disillusionment with the kings of his own day led him to envision an ideal king who would rule with divine approval and be led by divine wisdom. For centuries the Jewish people anticipated the arrival of that Messiah, who would usher in a blessed age when the whole world would finally dwell in justice and peace.*

*After centuries of such growing expectation, the preaching of John the Baptist about the imminent arrival of the Messiah could not help but provoke intense interest. The Baptist's message about preparation for "the one who is coming" (Matthew 3:11) makes clear that Jesus is, in fact, the long-awaited one who is ushering in the new age foretold by Isaiah and all the prophets.*

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### SAINT JUAN DIEGO (1474-1548)

December 9

*How well Mary's own words describe Juan Diego: "God has cast down the mighty from their thrones and lifted up the lowly" (Luke 1:52). Through him, for the diverse peoples of the Americas, indigenous and immigrant, the Mother of God became known as their Mother, too. Cuauhtlatzin, his given name, means "One Who Speaks Like an Eagle," and Juan Diego faithfully delivered the Virgin's request that a church be built at Tepeyac where she had appeared to him. To the skeptical bishop's request for a sign, Our Lady showed Juan Diego roses blooming through stony ground, despite winter's cold. When he unfolded his tilma to present them to the bishop, imprinted there was Mary's image! Her blue sash and the flower over her womb were traditional Aztec symbols of pregnancy and new life. But her features were those of a mestiza, indicating mixed Aztec-European heritage. Thus to peoples too easily prone to a "clash of cultures," Our Lady of Guadalupe remains the enduring icon of unity-in-diversity, the fruit of our one baptism into Jesus, her Son.*

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

### JUSTICE AND OBEDIENCE

*Justice is the insurance we have on our lives, and obedience is the premium we pay for it.*

-William Penn, English Quaker

### POSSIBILITIES

*Nothing is impossible for God and his Blessed Mother.*

—Don Bosco

### PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

*Loving and Generous God, it is You who call us by name and ask us to follow You. Help us to grow in the Love and Service of our Church as we experience it today. Give us the energy and courage of Your Spirit to shape its future Grant us faith-filled leaders who will embrace Christ's Mission of love and justice.*

*Bless the Church of OUR LADY OF FATIMA by raising up dedicated and generous leaders from our families and friends who will serve Your people as Sisters, Priests, Brothers, Deacons and Lay Ministers.*

*Inspire us to know You better and open our hearts to hear Your call. We ask this through our Lord.*

December 8, 2019

*And the angel ... said... : 'Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women'.* (Luke 1:28)

1. **Mary's Immaculate Conception is an infallible doctrine of the Catholic Church promulgated by Pope Pius IX, ex cathedra (from the chair of St. Peter) on December 8, 1854. The Papal Bull reads:**

**"We declare, pronounce and define that the doctrine which asserts that the Blessed Virgin Mary, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God, and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, was preserved free from every stain of original sin is a doctrine revealed by God and, for this reason, must be firmly and constantly believed by all the faithful."**

**"With these words in 1854, Pope Pius IX in the Papal Bull *Ineffabilis Deus*, declared Mary's Immaculate Conception to be dogma. Pius was simply affirming a long-held belief of many Christians East and West before him, that Mary was conceived free of the stain of original sin, on account of Christ's work, in order to bear God-made-flesh." (From Saint John Cantius Parish web-site)**

2. **The dogma is confirmed four years later (in 1858) by the Blessed Virgin Mary herself in the most famous of her apparitions at Lourdes. At Lourdes, when asked her name by St. Bernadette, Mary responded in an extraordinary fashion, saying, "I am the Immaculate Conception." Since then, Lourdes has been the situs of countless miracles.**

3. **Some of the early Reformers, such as Martin Luther, at least initially stood firmly behind this doctrine in that they saw that Mary would have to be a pure and sinless vessel in order to communicate to Jesus his sacred and holy body. The following quote from Martin Luther is illustrative:**

**"It is a sweet and pious belief that the infusion of Mary's soul was effected without original sin; so that in the very infusion of her soul she was also purified from original sin and adorned with God's gifts, receiving a pure soul infused by God; thus from the first moment she began to live she was free from all sin." Martin Luther, (Sermon: "On the Day of the Conception of the Mother of God," 1527).**

4. **Contrary to popular belief, the doctrine has strong scriptural support in that:**

**A. Gabriel announces that Mary is "full of grace" (Luke 1:28). If Mary is full of grace it follows that she is without sin (note how the angel does not call Mary by her name, but rather by a title, saying: "Hail, full of grace" – and the angel is God's messenger). The Ignatius Catholic Study Bible defends the traditional translation, "Hail, full of grace," as against some modern translations, stating: "[The Greek word used by Luke], *kecharitomene*, indicates that God has already graced Mary previous to this point, making her a vessel who 'has been' and 'is now' filled with divine life. Alternative translations like 'favored one'... are possible but inadequate."**

**B. Saint Luke (in his Gospel) and Saint John (in the Book of Revelation) identify Mary as the Ark of the New Covenant, thus comparing her to the all-holy Ark of the Covenant in the Old Testament. See "Topical Essay: Mary Ark of the Covenant" in *The Ignatius Catholic Bible Study* or click the following on-line article from *This Rock: Mary, the Ark of the New Covenant* | Catholic Answers**

**C. Mary's Immaculate Conception is internally consistent with the doctrine of Original Sin (which flows from a number of Old and New Testament passages, especially at Romans 5:12-21). Since original sin is transmitted by physical generation, it follows logically that Jesus, who was born without sin, would have to be born from a spotless womb. Mary is that pure and spotless vessel: the woman who overflows with God's grace; and**

**D. John the Baptist was sanctified in his mother's womb. At Luke 1:15 it states that John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth. The passage, in context, reads as follows:**

**Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth. Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." (Luke 1:11-17)**

**The angel then identifies himself as Gabriel, the same angel of Mary's annunciation a few lines later at Luke 1:26, who addresses Mary, not by a name, but by a title, "Hail, Full of grace." The point is obvious (I think its obvious): if John was filled with the Holy Spirit from birth, what was done in God's providence to prepare Mary to be the mother of God? Luke then, as you know, makes a direct comparison between Mary and the Ark of the Covenant, implying the incredible magnitude of her sanctity and holiness. All of this fits in very nicely with the Church's proclamation of her Immaculate Conception.**