

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2019

Those whom the LORD has
ransomed will return
and enter Zion singing,
crowned with everlasting joy.
— Isaiah 35:10a

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

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
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
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: 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	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

Hope For Those Who Have None

The Christopher's

It can be very difficult when life's circumstances are too cold or grim to focus on the beautiful. But the story of the Nativity offers hope for those who have none. Who would have ever thought that the birth of an innocent baby in a stable would bring the most powerful message the World has ever known? "Do not be afraid," the archangel told bewildered shepherds—and Linus told Charlie Brown.

"[I] was in my parents' den, in Rockville, Maryland, watching an 18-inch Philco black and white TV. The person proclaiming the gospel wasn't a priest or deacon or minister. It was a little boy with a blanket. It was "A Charlie Brown Christmas," recalled Deacon Greg Kandra in a Christmas sermon. Though the classic show found immediate popularity, it almost didn't make it on air. Deacon Kandra said, "The executives were nervous about not having a laugh track...nervous about using real children for the voices...and they were REALLY nervous about having that piece of Scripture included...but [creator Charles] Schulz stuck to his guns.

The result is one of television's most beloved and most popular Christmas specials." In fact, that call to courage, to not be afraid, holds true, says the Deacon, no matter who you are or what tragedies have touched your life. "Even in this darkest of nights, there is light. A savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. Here is our hope," said Deacon Kandra. "He didn't come in grandeur or majesty, to intimidate us. He came as the most helpless and dependent creature of all: a baby, in a manger, in Bethlehem. He loves us so much, God came to us as someone we could not help but love."

Christopher News Notes
5 Hanover Square
New York, NY 10004

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

*Hail Mary, full of grace;
all generations call you blessed.
Hail Mother of God; when asked by the angel
to bear the Son of the Most High,
filled with faith, you responded:
"Let it be done unto me."*

*Holy Mother of Jesus, at the wedding feast at Cana,
you prompted your Son to perform his first sign.*

*Be with us as we discern our life's work
and guide us in the way we are called to follow
in the footsteps of your Son.*

*Holy Mother of the Savior, at the foot of the cross
you mourned the death of your only Son.*

*Bless and embrace the loving parents of all priests,
deacons, brothers and sisters.*

*Holy Mother of the Good Shepherd,
turn your motherly care to this nation.*

*Intercede for us to the Lord of the harvest
to send more laborers to the harvest
in this land dedicated to your honor.*

*Queen of Peace, Mirror of Justice, Health of the Sick,
inspire vocations in our time.*

*Let the word of your Son be made flesh anew
in the lives of persons anxious to proclaim
the good news of everlasting life.
Amen.*



**"Sing and shout for joy,
for great in your midst
is the Holy One of Israel"**

Isaiah 12:2

DECEMBER 15, 2019 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 10:30 AM	DECEMBER 15, 2019 Scripture Reflections
OUR LADY OF FATIMA MASS INTENTIONS December 15, 2019 Readings: Is 35:1-6a, 10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11 Intention: Paul G Cassarly December 22, 2019, Fourth Sunday of Advent Readings: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24 Intention: Thomas Stoltz, Jr., (Marcella, Jesse and Lauren Goldberg)	As we approach Christmas, today's readings speak about an active, joyful waiting. With this type of waiting, total trust is placed in God while we do everything to accomplish our task. St. James, in the Second Reading, offers an example of patient waiting. Farmers sow seeds in the ground, then let nature take its course.
Cathedral Mass Intention December 16, Monday: Advent Weekday Readings: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17 Mt 21:23-27; 6:45 AM + Dorothy Berger (Cathy & Joe Koehle) 12:00 PM + Rebecca Hoover (Thomas Scibica) December 17, Tuesday: Late Advent Weekday Readings: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17 6:45 AM + Mary Kantoski (Family) 12:00 PM + Sally Colledge (Pete Colledge & Family) December 18, Wednesday: Late Advent Weekday Readings: Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25 6:45 AM + Deceased Family & Friends (McNelis All Stars) 12:00 PM + Beverly Woodring (Tom & Patricia Forr) December 19, Thursday: Late Advent Weekday Readings: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25; Lk 1 1:5-25 6:45 AM + Richard Anthony (Jim & Steph Kilcoyne) 12:00 PM + John Adams (Children) December 20, Friday: Late Advent Weekday Readings: Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38 6:45 AM + Jane Davidson (Mary Lysinger Family) 12:00 PM + Alice Winkler (Family) December 21, Saturday: St. Peter Canisius, Pr. & Dr. Readings: Sg 1:8-14; Lk 1:9,39-45 8:00 AM + Ben Delozier Anniversary (Family) 12:00 PM + Father Bill Kiel (Friends) Vigil: Fourth Sunday in Advent Readings: Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24 5:00 PM + Mildred Brady, Ann. (M/M Joe Shellenberger)	The Gospel offers the perfect example of waiting in John the Baptist, whose whole life was spent in active waiting for the Messiah who would be a powerful figure who would overthrow the Romans and establish the Kingdom of God. John sends his disciples to inquire of Jesus: "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus quotes from the prophet Isaiah: "The blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them." These words challenge John's idea of the Messiah. Jesus says that the true reading of Scripture looks forward to a messiah who would touch the lives of people where they are. He would heal them spiritually and physically and restore them to a relationship with God. Jesus is saying that his actions show who he is. As Christians, we lead our lives like John the Baptist, waiting patiently while actively striving to prepare a way for Christ into our lives and into the lives of others. • How do you prepare daily for Christ's coming into your life? AT HOME with the WORD 2020, Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, pg. 23
<i>Jesus, Son of the Living Father, Have Mercy on Me a Sinner.</i>	<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>

Weekly Mass at Our Catholic School Holy Trinity Catholic School regularly celebrates Mass with our children each week.

At the Altoona Campus, Mass is celebrated on Wednesday at 9:00AM at St. Therese Church.

At the Hollidaysburg Campus, Mass is celebrated on Thursday at 8:30AM at St. Michael Church.

And at the Middle School Campus, Mass is celebrated on Friday at 8:30AM at St. Rose

Church. All are welcome to join our children at Mass. This is a central and essential time that our Catholic School provides for our children each week.

December 15 **Matthew 11:2-11**

The question put to Jesus in today's gospel is also put to us today: "Are you the one?" Are you the one who will give guidance to the children in your life or must they look to TV sitcoms, films, videos and music lyrics for direction? Are you the one? Will you be the one?

Stewardship Reflections

May our spiritual blindness and deafness give way to seeing and hearing Jesus' presence in our lives especially when we allow him to serve others through us.

The call to stewardship is personal and with a purpose in mind for each individual. The call is never made in isolation, with the community assisting in the discernment process. We are asked to respond to the call, knowing that the cost may not be small. Are you willing to serve Jesus in a big way even if the outcome may not be what you expect?

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

Catholic Ministry Drive Goal = \$9,271.00

Report for EOM Nov. 2019. - We received \$6,255.00 in one time gifts and pledges. Still owing -\$3,016.00

Campaign ends Dec 31, 2019.

Please donate via Internet www.dioceseaj.org, OLOF Parish, or direct mail to Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, CMD office, 2713 W. Chestnut Ave., Altoona, PA, 16601

Weekly Collection - December 8, 2019 -\$2051.00

BIRTHDAYS: 12/27, Michael Long;

Sacrament of Reconciliation

You are encouraged to participate in one of the following Advent opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sunday, December 15, 4:00 P.M. St. Mary Parish, Hollidaysburg; Monday, December 16, 7:00 P.M. St. Rose of Lima Parish, Altoona; Wednesday December 18, 6:30 P.M. Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament Parish, Altoona; and Thursday, December 19, 5:30 P.M. Sacred Heart Parish, Altoona.

Christmas Concert

The Cathedral Choir, guest singers, and members of the Altoona Symphony will present What Sweeter Music, a concert of Advent and Christmas music in the "Lessons and Carols" format, composed and arranged by John Leavitt, on Sunday, December 15, at 3:00 PM in the Cathedral Nave. The audience will be invited to participate in singing familiar carols. Dr. Cathy Herrera, flute professor and friends from Juniata College will add to the festivities. Free-will offering. All are welcome!

OOPS!

The ARISE Christmas carolers and friends will meet at Altoona Center for Nursing Care downtown at 1:30 pm. today and not 1:15 pm as I stated in last weeks bulletin. We will gather in the community room to get organized.

Don't Forget!

Next Sunday, December 22nd, Our Lady of Fatima's famous Christmas decorators will get into action and turn our already beautiful Church into a masterpiece for the coming of Jesus on Christmas Day.

ALSO, we would like everyone to stay and enjoy some coffee, tea or hot chocolate and home baked cookies while we enjoy each others company for 15 minutes or so sponsored by our ARISE group.





Family Services
2022 Broad Ave
Altoona, Pennsylvania 16601
814-944-3583

MSGR. STANLEY B. CARSON
Our Lady of Fatima
2010 12th Ave
Altoona, PA 16601-2414

Dear MSGR. CARSON,
Thank you for thinking of us by donating:

Date	Fund
11/25/2019	RK Agarwal M.D. & Family Teen Center and Shelter

In Kind Description

Cleaning supplies, personal care items, paper products, clothes, and a \$25 gift certificate to Weis

We recognize that there are many organizations that you could choose to give to and we truly appreciate your generosity. Looking back over the 90 years that Family Services, Inc. has had a presence in the community, it is clear that any success we have achieved is due to the kindness of our supporters. Our earliest records from newspaper clippings in 1892 show a church that gave \$7.92, a public school that gave \$200 and a private individual who gave \$5.00. Every donation came together to meet the needs of families who had fallen upon hard times and the names of the donors have become part of our history. Your donation makes you part of our history, a legacy of caring that will continue through generations to come!

With much gratitude,

Lisa Hann
Executive Director

Family Services Incorporated is a 501C3 non profit organization, EIN # 23-1533374. Your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. No goods or services were provided in exchange for your generous donation(s).

REASON TO REJOICE

Dark violet is used throughout Advent to express its character as a season of spiritual preparation for Christmas and "the coming of the Lord." But on the Third Sunday of Advent, formerly known as Gaudete (Latin for "rejoice") Sunday, rose may be added to the liturgical environment. The entire liturgy is infused with a spirit of rejoicing.

Today's first reading and Gospel proclaim the reality of God's saving work in our midst. Isaiah exuberantly describes the idyllic transformation of all creation as a result of God's presence in the midst of the people. In the Gospel, Jesus connects Isaiah's prophecy with what is happening in his own ministry. In addition to the list of healings from Isaiah (the blind, the lame, lepers, and the deaf), Jesus' presence brings two other reasons for rejoicing: "The dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them" (Matthew).11:5

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THE LOOK OF LOVE

What does love look like? It has feet to go to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of others.

St. Augustine

PERSPECTIVE

A mountain shames a molehill until they both are humbled by the stars.

—Old adage

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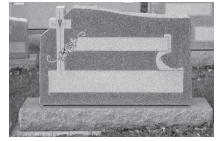
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