

Bulletin # 102656

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

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 22, 2019

They shall name him
Emmanuel,
which means "God is with
us."

— Matthew 1:23

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.**

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.*



A D V E N T



○ come • ○ come • Emmanuel

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: 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 22, 2019

Fourth Sunday of Advent

TRUST IN GOD

On this final Sunday of Advent our scriptures focus on the historical birth of Jesus, who is son of David and Son of God, child and king, Jesus and Emmanuel.

Isaiah the prophet begs Ahaz to ask for a sign, to allow God to offer him reassurance of the survival of the Davidic dynasty. The king hypocritically refuses to “tempt the LORD” in that way (Isaiah 7:12), but the prophet foretells the birth of a son, an heir to the throne, who will prove the Lord’s enduring protection of God’s chosen lineage on the throne of David. The child will be called Emmanuel.

Matthew’s reference to this history in his description of the birth of Jesus highlights the contrast between the faithless refusal of trust shown by Ahaz, and the complete trust in God shown by Mary and Joseph in bringing about the birth of Jesus Christ.

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SAINT STEPHEN (first century) December 26

“A man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit” (Acts 6:5): thus Luke introduces Stephen, first of seven deacons chosen by the community for its ministry of charity, first to lay down his life in witness to Christ. As the church’s first martyr, Stephen’s life and death mirror the preaching and passion of Jesus, “the faithful witness” (Greek, martyr) (Revelation 1:5). Like Jesus, Stephen works “great signs and wonders among the people” (Acts 6:8). Like Jesus, when falsely accused, Stephen’s face radiates angelic serenity (Acts 6:15), though his tongue, like Jesus’, is a two-edged sword. As the dying Jesus forgave his executioners, even making excuses for them, then commended his spirit into his Father’s hands (Luke 23:34, 46), so Stephen intercedes for his murderers and begs Jesus to receive his spirit (Acts 7:60, 59). How fruitful both passions! The penitent thief inherits Paradise; Saul, who consented to Stephen’s killing, is transformed into the fearless preacher Paul. Thus Stephen challenges us to bear witness not in words only, but by Christ-like forgiveness toward all.

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

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Creator of the Universe, God of the Nations, Your people are longing to hear your word. Send laborers into your harvest - women and men on fire with your love:

Dedicated single people - who incarnate your presence in their daily lives, whose availability enables them to respond to a diversity of needs.

Married couples - whose relationships serve as a sign of your fidelity to your people, whose love overflows to their children and neighbors.

Ordained Ministers - who gather the prayers and longing of your people who serve as a channel of your presence through the sacraments.

Religious sisters, brothers, and priests - whose life in community foreshadows our eternal unity in Christ, whose service brings your life to the world.

May each of us respond with courage and generosity to our particular vocations, and may the Church recognize the Spirit's call to men and women of good will, trusting in your abundance to answer all our needs. Amen.

Top TWELVE fun facts about the first CHRISTMAS

- 1 The 'Three Wise Men' are not mentioned by name in the Bible. They are now commonly known as Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar as these names were detailed in an early 6th century Greek manuscript.
- 2 The Three Wise Men of the East, are also called the Magi, are featured in the Bible story of the Nativity. The story of the Three Wise Men are detailed in the Bible in Matthew 2, 1-5; 7-15; 19-23.
- 3 Bethlehem means "house of meat or bread" famous as the birthplace of Jesus, means in Arabic "House of Meat" (Bayt Lahm) and in Hebrew "House of Bread" (Bet Lehem).
- 4 The Three Wise Men presented the infant Jesus with three gifts which were fit for a king. GOLD as a symbol of kingship on earth, symbolizing virtue.
- 5 Myrrh (an embalming oil) was used as an anointing oil and as a symbol of suffering.
- 6 Frankincense was used as a perfume, symbolizing prayer and the priesthood.
- 7 Herod was the King of Judaea and sent the three wise men to Bethlehem.
- 8 Caesar Augustus (Gaius Octavius, great-nephew Julius Caesar) was the name of the Roman Emperor who sent out a decree that all the world should be taxed.
- 9 The name of Joseph's city was Nazareth. Population between 500—2,000 citizens MAX!
- 10 The baby Jesus was wrapped in Swaddling clothes. This was a practice in Roman times when clothing and strips of fabric were wrapped about a baby to hold its arms and legs immobile, straightening and strengthening the body.
- 11 Joseph and Mary went to Egypt to flee from Herod.
- 12 The Star of Bethlehem was reported by Matthew, but at the same time Chinese astronomers recorded it, too. "What Kind of Astronomical Marvel was the Star of Bethlehem".

Christianity Today, 23 November 2015.

COMPILED by the Family Life Office, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

CHRISTMAS

(cont'd from pg.2)

A young mother, her eyes shining with fatigue, who is arranging her hair; a father who finds himself alone with his pretty wife and baby, straightening the stable to make himself useful in some way; shepherds who bring cheese and perhaps also some curdled milk; sheep who look at their shepherds while bleating; a donkey who is eyeing his manger changed into a cradle; an adorable swaddled baby whom one calls Savior, Christ and Lord: This is the manifestation of the goodness and the tenderness of God. This is the most fantastic birth in the history of humanity, the one which changed the face of the world! This is how far God humbled and compromised himself with us! This is Emmanuel!