

# First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

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

**Rectory Office Hours:**  
Tuesdays and Thursdays  
11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

**Parish Office:** 814-942-0371  
or call the Cathedral Office at 944-4603.

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

**Parish Secretary**  
Paula Hall

**Director of Music Ministry**  
Cathy McFee

**Eucharist: Sunday: 11:30 AM**

**Holy Days: 5:30 PM**

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

Our Lady of Fatima Church is open Sunday through Saturday: 7:30 AM - 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. 814-944-4603

**Cathedral Church Office: 814-944-4603**

**One Cathedral Square**

**Most Reverend Mark L. Bartchak, Bishop**

**Rev. Msgr. Stanley B. Carson, Administrator**

**Paula Clemens, Secretary**

**PH: 814-944-4603**

**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)**

**Holy Trinity Eldorado (Pre-K thru Grade 5) 814-942-7835**

**Holy Trinity Fairview (Pre-K thru Grade 5) 814-381-7011**

**Director of Religious Education:**

**Chris Laraia – Pre-K thru 8 - 312-7317**

**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: 12:00 PM**

**8:00 AM**

**8:00 AM**

**Saturday: 12:00 PM**

**10:00 AM**

**12:00 Noon**

**5:00 PM**

THE FATIMA TOWERS

**OUR LADY OF FATIMA MASS INTENTIONS**

**11:30 A.M.**

**Today, December 3, 2023, First Sunday of Advent**

Edward Raichle, 50th Anniv. of Death (Barbara Smithmyer)

**Next Sunday, December 10, 2023, Second Sunday of Advent**

All of God's People (Altoona Catholic Daughters)

**Cathedral Mass Intentions**

***December 3, First Sunday of Advent***

8:00 AM +John Duffy (Madey Family)

10:00 AM +Herbert J. Kutruff (Kutruff Families)

5:00 PM Pro Popolo/For the People

***December 4, Monday, St. John Damascene, Priest & Dr.***

12:00 PM Special Intentions of Mrs. Melanie Zeller (Joanne Setecka)

***December 5, Tuesday, Advent Weekday***

12:00 PM +Elizabeth Yauneridge (Family)

***December 6, Wednesday, St. Nicholas, Bishop***

12:00 PM +Deceased Members of the Ruggery & Pagliara Families (Mae Paglajara)

***December 7, Thursday, St. Ambrose, Bp. & Dr.***

12:00 PM +Geraldine Kines, Birth. (Sharon Yanchik)

***Vigil: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary***

5:30 PM Pro Popolo/For the People

***December 8, Friday, The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary***

8:00 PM +Stanley Galant (Greg & Kathy Clemens)

12:00 PM +We Are One Body Radio Listeners (We Are One Body)

***December 9, Saturday, St. Juan Diego***

12:00 PM +Marian & Thomas Swires (Children)

***Vigil: Second Sunday of Advent***

5:00 PM +Robert Beck (Stan Krish Family)

***December 10, Second Sunday of Advent***

8:00 AM +Danyll Rougeux (Mom & Dad)

10:00 AM +Bill Anthony (Elaine Weaver)

5:00 PM +Pro Popolo/For the People



**TABERNACLE  
CANDLE**

During the month of December, the sanctuary candle is being lit in memory of John Kasun, Sr. from The Kasun Boys.



**Readings for the week of December 3, 2023**

Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37

Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 (8)/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

**Thank You Very Much**

Your prayers, volunteerism, and financial support are deeply appreciated.

The contributions for Sunday, November 26, were \$1,400. Thank you.





**Pilgrimage to Fatima and Lourdes & Discovery of Barcelona**

Msgr. Carson will be leading a pilgrimage from September 15-24, 2024.

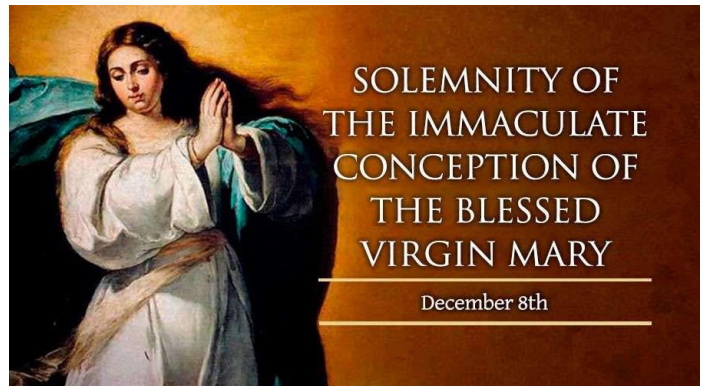
Pilgrimage information is available in the brochures available in the vestibule, at the Cathedral’s Facebook page, and at <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1213040>.



The #iGiveCatholic Giving Day campaign was on Tuesday, November 28th. You can still be a part of the campaign by using the specially marked envelopes in the back of the church. We hope to raise \$10,000 to cover the costs of replacing a sacristy door, installing a safety door to the church boiler room, repoint the rectory flue, and replace the bathroom floor and add a handicap bar. Last year, donations were used to help pay for the paving of our parking lot.



Next Sunday, St. Nicholas will be visiting the Cathedral following the 10:00 A.M. Mass and then he’ll visit Our Lady of Fatima Church following our 11:30 A.M. Mass.



Since the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary is a holy day of obligation, Mass will be celebrated at Our Lady of Fatima Church on Friday, December 8, at 5:30 P.M. Masses at the Cathedral will be on Thursday, December 7, at 5:30 P.M. and on Friday, December 8, at 8:00 A.M. and Noon. Bishop Mark will be celebrating the 8:00 A.M. Mass.

**Confession & Absolution**

Children will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time during the **Advent Penance Service at the Cathedral on Wednesday, December 20, at 6 P.M.**

**Confessions will be heard at our Lady of Fatima Church on Sunday, December 10, at 2:00 P.M.**

**Oplatki Christmas Tradition**

A limited number of packets of Oplatki, Christmas Wafers, will be available at Our Lady of Fatima Church and at the Cathedral next weekend.

## **(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS**

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

### Memento Mori

Just this week, my husband and I signed our wills, and the lawyer was careful to couch our transaction in gentle, abstract language: “When we lose you” she kept saying, instead of “When you die.”

It’s very uncomfortable to dwell on our death. But the Christian life does not just encourage us to do so: it demands that we do.

I once came upon a prayer consecrating the last two hours of life to the Blessed Mother. I have since found variations of the prayer online with different phrasing, but the sentiment of them all is the same: let me not be caught sleeping. Let me be ready.

“You can’t do all your homework at the end,” a deacon who ministers to the dying once told me. “Good Friday is waiting in the wings for all of us.”

I think of that a lot when I don’t particularly feel like praying, when I think I’m too busy to go to confession or when feelings of resentment fester inside me on Sunday mornings as I pack my family off to church. All our good deeds are like polluted rags, says the prophet. We have all withered like leaves.

You can’t do all your homework at the end. God is faithful. Are we?

“May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: ‘Watch!’” — Mark 13:36

©LPi

## **GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE**

December 3, 2023, 1st Sunday of Advent

Lately I’ve been listening to a science-based podcast on healthy daily living. The host frequently discusses the wide range of health benefits of sleep. So, each night I’m trying to get more, and better, slumber, and it’s helping me feel energized. So, why in the world should we follow Christ’s advice this week? “Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house will come ... lest he find you asleep.” Isn’t sleep, especially at midnight and cockcrow, a good thing?

Of course, it is. But the wakefulness the Lord calls us to is a deep, personal orientation to Him. A nightly vigil is therefore a metaphor for this, but it’s not just that. We should give up real sleep in order to pray, too. This difficult practice is a time-tested way to foster wakefulness of heart. When we give up sleep to pray, it focuses us. We learn that life is not an endless series of days. You and I belong to the Lord — awake or asleep, in life and in death. Sooner or later, even our need for our physical sleep will pass away. And our attentiveness to God — that is, whether we are awaiting Him to meet us — will be all that matters.

May I challenge us this week and this Advent to intentionally give up at least one hour of sleep each week for prayer? Stay up later, wake up in the middle of the night, or an hour earlier, and pray. Will we be a bit more tired the next day? Yes. But we’ll be amazed at the spiritual wakefulness that results, too.

— Father John Muir

LPi