

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023

Our Lady of Fatima Parish
2010 12th Avenue
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

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

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 24, 2023, Fourth Sunday of Advent

Cathy Starr (Tom Byrne)

Next Sunday, December 31, 2023, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

John Kasun, Sr. (Dave Rito)

Cathedral Mass Intentions

December 24, Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM +Michael Ratzesberger (Family)

10:00 AM +Skip, Richard Cowan, Karen Cowan Dougherty Family)

There is an 11:30 AM Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church.

Vigil: Christmas Eve

5:00 PM +Pro Popolo/For the People

December 25, Monday, The Nativity of the Lord

Midnight-12 AM For Peace in the World

8:00 AM Parishioners and Benefactors

10:00 AM Parishioners and Benefactors

There is an 11:30 AM Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church.

December 26, Tuesday, St. Stephen, The First Martyr

12:00 PM +Judy Ianzzi Goldblum (Tom & Becky DeHaven)

December 27, Wednesday, St. John, Apostle & Evangelist

12:00 PM +Barry Bidelsbach (Family)

December 28, Thursday, The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

12:00 PM +Paul Caracciolo, Birth. (Wife, Denise)

December 29, Friday, Fifth Day within the Octave

12:00 PM +Raymond & Olive Miller (M.L. Ball)

December 30, Saturday, Sixth Day within the Octave

12:00 PM +Elizabeth Smith, Birth. (Mary Lysinger)

Vigil: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

5:00 PM +Charles Moore, Anniv. (Donna/Bill Ellerman)

December 31, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:00 AM +Geraldine Petrunak, Birth. (Family)

10:00 AM +Ann Rhodes, Birth. (Family)

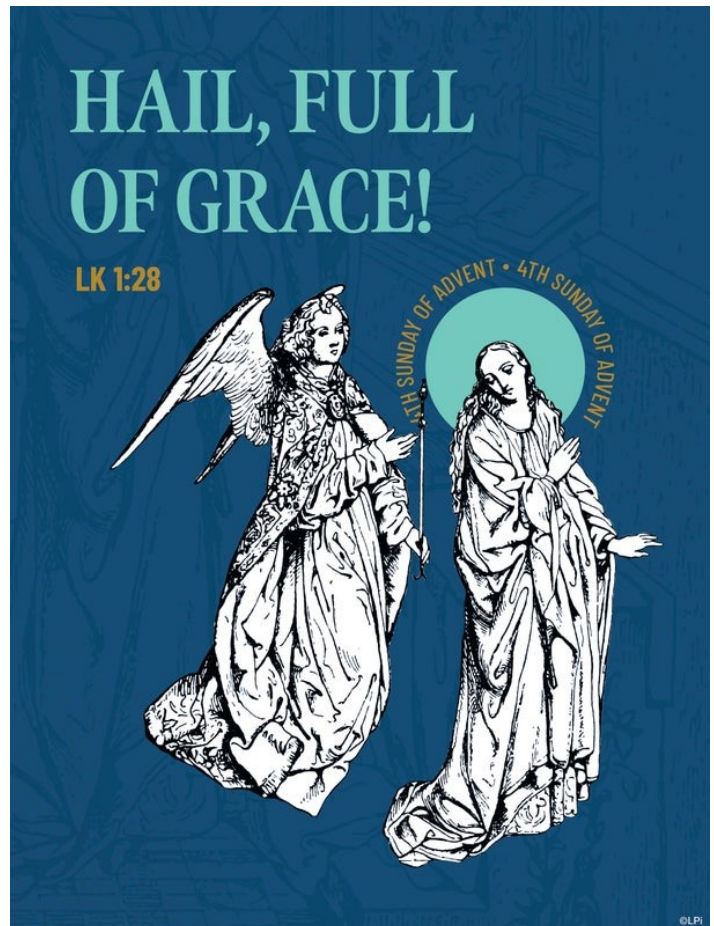
5:00 PM Pro Popolo/For the People

There is Mass at 11:30 A.M. at Our Lady of Fatima Parish.



**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 24,
2023**

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Monday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/ Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8/Mt 2:13-18

Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-



We sometimes give and receive many gifts at Christmas. This is the time, however, to think above all of the gracious gift God gives to us of God's own self in Jesus. It is important for us to worship God at Christmas.

There will be a Christmas Eve Mass on Sunday, December 24, at 5:00 P.M. There will also be Masses at the Cathedral at Midnight, 8:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M. on Christmas Day. (There is no 5:00 P.M. Mass on Christmas Day.)

Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church will be on Monday, December 25, at 11:30 A.M.



CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS!

On behalf of Bishop Mark, myself, and the staff of Our Lady of Fatima Parish, I want to extend to you our hope and prayer that the Christmas season is filled with peace and comfort for you and your family.

The preparations and celebrations can be rather exhausting for some, and so, it is important to take time to rest and relax.

Gratitude is extended to the volunteers, benefactors, and liturgical ministers who help make our liturgies such a prayerful and beautiful experience. The nativity of Jesus is such a powerful and humble expression of God's love for us. What a gift!

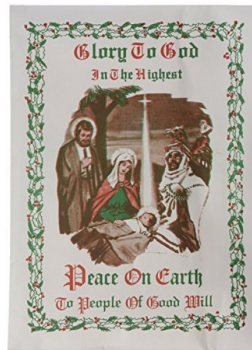
Msgr. Stan Carson



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>.



Packets of Oplatki, Christmas Wafers, are available at Our Lady of Fatima Church. The suggested donation is \$2.00.

Thank You Very Much

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

The contributions for Sunday, December 17, were \$1,532. Thank you.



Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God

Since the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God, January 1, falls on a Monday this year, it is not a holy day of obligation. There will be a Mass at the Cathedral at 9:00 A.M.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

The Journey

Advent comes along every year and will continue to do so until Jesus returns. As this season draws to a close, we can each ask ourselves, “Am I now any better a disciple of Jesus Christ and more of a steward of all my gifts than before the Advent season started?” I have been on this earth for 40+ years. I have had 40+ Advents to draw closer to God and to work on taking more seriously my baptismal call. Some have gone better than others, but I would like to think my spiritual life progressed at least a small amount during each of them.

Conversion is a process. Stewardship is about a way of living and it is about more than simply being generous when a situation calls for it. Stewardship and conversion go hand-in-hand and we are always moving closer to holiness in Jesus Christ. Living in this way takes practice and commitment. If this Advent didn’t go as you had hoped, remember is not really an end. It is just another step along your journey.

This Christmas, while you are giving and receiving gifts and hopefully spending time with those you love, may you take the time to cherish the true gift that came to us over 2000 years ago and continues to call us to this day: Jesus. Let us be grateful beyond measure for this gift above all gifts, let us continue on our journey, and let our lives give testimony to the one who leads us.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman **What Is Your Fiat?**

Are you an anxious people-pleaser prone to overcommitting yourself? Welcome to the club! We have slogans, and for your convenience I’ve listed them here: “Sounds great!” “No worries!” “Absolutely, I can do that, not a problem!”

These are your go-to responses for when someone requests a favor that is a huge inconvenience, but you would rather die than disappoint. It’s not exactly disingenuous — it’s just a little neurotic. Again, welcome to the club.

You know who doesn’t belong to this club? The Blessed Mother. For many reasons, I’m sure, but the biggest one is that she’s always completely up-front. Take her response to the Angel Gabriel: “Let it be done.”

If there are more powerful words than these, I can’t think of them now. And yet, as responses go, this certainly isn’t an enthusiastic one. There was never a human creature more willing to obey God than Mary, full of grace, so it makes it all the more striking that her response to Gabriel is this reserved — and it makes it all the more certain that she means exactly what she says.

Let it be done. Not: Yes, this is exactly that I asked for! Not: Nope. This sounds awful. Count me out. But precisely this: If God is asking, my answer is yes.

The Angel Gabriel visits us all, in a way, at some point or another, bearing news we did not expect. When we can say, in the face of that uncertainty, “Let it be done,” we are embracing our calling as disciples. We are becoming like Mary.

“Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.” — Luke 1:38 ©LPi