

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

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

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: 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: 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 15, 2024

John Kasun, Sr. (Patricia Byrne Family)

Next Sunday, December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Jane Byrne (Pat Byrne)

Cathedral Mass Intentions

December 15, Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM +Richard McCarthy (Paula miller Family)

10:00 AM +Etta Pastore (Family)

5:00 PM Pro Popolo/For the People

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

December 16, Monday, Advent Weekday

12:00 PM +Deacon John Rys, Birth. (Family)

December 17, Tuesday, Late Advent Weekday

12:00 PM +Mary Kantoski, Birth. (Family)

December 18, Wednesday, Late Advent Weekday

12:00 PM +Deceased Family Members (McNelis All Stars & Friends)

December 19, Thursday, Late Advent Weekday

12:00 PM +Alice Winkler, Birth. (Family)

December 20, Friday, Late Advent Weekday

12:00 PM +John E. Bauer, Birth. (Family)

December 21, Saturday, St. Peter Canisius, Pr. & Dr.

12:00 PM +James Kenawell, Anniv. (Family)

Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Advent

5:00 PM +Mildred Brady, Anniv. (Joe & Dee Shellenberger)

December 22, Fourth Sunday of Advent

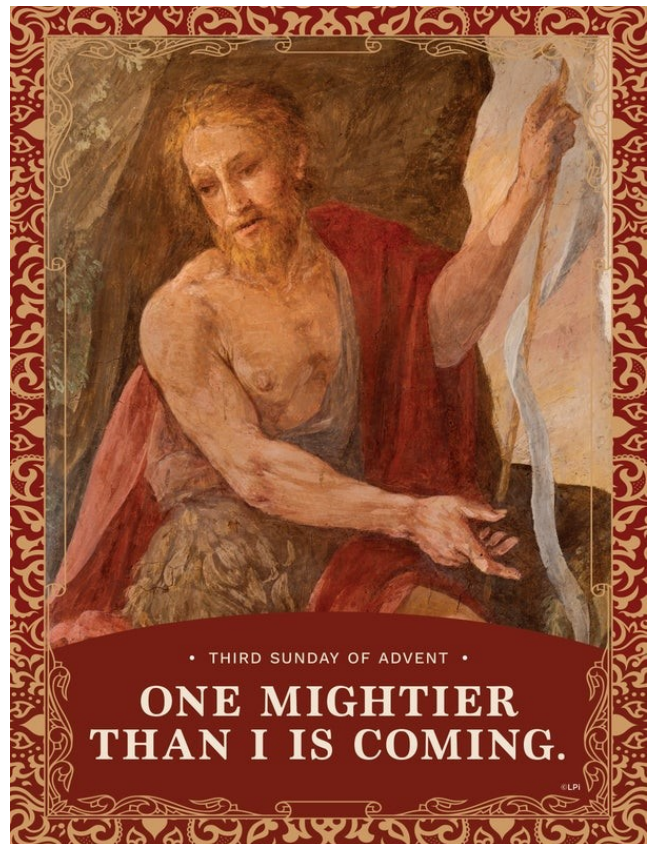
8:00 AM +Hannah Wilkins (Rich & Nanci Hall)

10:00 AM +Ben Delozier, Anniv. (Family)

5:00 PM Pro Popolo/For the People

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

The **Sanctuary Candle** for the month of December is being lit in memory/honor of the Paul & Claire Riggleman Family and the Adolph & Genevieve Link Family by Carol Riggleman.



Msgr. Carson will be available for the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** following today's 11:30 Mass until 1:00 P.M.

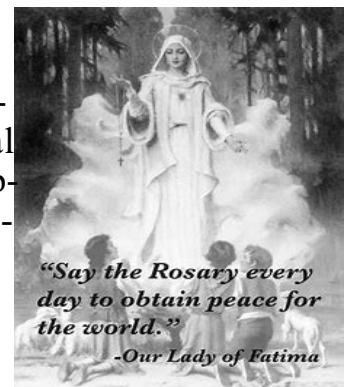


An Advent Penance Service will be held at the Cathedral on Wednesday, 12/18, at 6 P.M. (Confessions at 7:00 P.M. are cancelled.) Sacred Heart Church has a Penance Service on Thursday, 12/19, at 5:30 P.M.

Thank You Very Much

Your prayers, volunteerism, and financial support are deeply appreciated. The contributions for Sunday, December 8, were \$1,899.

Thank you.





Christmas church decorating will take place on Friday, December 20, at 6:00 P.M. and on Sunday, December 22, after Mass. Adults and families are welcome to come and help.



Specially marked envelopes are available in the back of the church for those who would like to donate flowers in memory of or in honor of relatives and friends.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

The Well That Never Dries Up

Depending on how your mood is today, the words of Paul will hit you differently. "Rejoice always," he tells us. Well, if your football team is poised to win this weekend or next, maybe you're really feeling this vibe. But if you've got a long slog at work ahead of you this week and a to-do list that only seems to grow and never shrink, it may make you grumble. "Rejoice always? Always? When I'm tired? Cranky? When I'm sick of doing and giving? Thanks, Paul. I'll be sure to scribble that phrase on a Post-It and stick it to my dashboard for when some entitled punk inevitably cuts me off on tomorrow's morning commute."

When we feel this way, we know it's time to head back to the well. Think of all the places in Scripture where God compares His love, His mercy, His salvation to water. And not just any water — living water, water that moves. God's strength is not a stagnant puddle sure to evaporate and disappear. It's water you can keep coming back to. It's water that never dries up.

Which is good news for us, because we never stop failing to do what we should, never stop failing to feel the joy and the compassion and the selflessness we are called to. We need a source of living water if we are going to 'rejoice always.' To be everyday stewards, we need a well that never empties.

The fountain of salvation never dries up. There is always more there for us to draw from. It's a sign of His commitment — so let us, in turn, be committed to Him.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi



Mass will be celebrated at Our Lady of Fatima Church on Christmas Day, December 25, at 11:30 in the morning.

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

*O come
let us
adore Him
Christ the Lord*



GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

December 15, 2024

3rd Sunday of Advent

On a bright Spring morning, a passerby once saw St. Francis of Assisi hoeing a row of beans and asked him, “What would you be doing right now if you knew this was the last day of your earthly life?” The Saint responded, “I’d keep hoeing this row of beans.” Preparing for this world to end — whether by our death or by Jesus’ glorious coming — invites us to live not in the past or the present, but deeply in the present moment.

This same point is on display in the simple advice given by the wild and eccentric John the Baptist. He speaks of the one who is to come who will baptize “with the Holy Spirit and fire” (Luke 3:16). Despite the bizarre awesomeness of this announcement, he tells his listeners to engage in the present moment with simple acts of justice and love as their preparation for Jesus’ coming, sharing their clothes and food, eliminating greedy and underhanded practices, being content with their wages. It’s so undramatic. But how many actually did it? We don’t know. How many of us will commit ourselves to these types of humble and demanding practices in our lives? That’s what we should be doing now in our present moment, not worrying about the future.

Advent challenge: Name one way you are doing the bare minimum towards others in your daily life. Or name something you are doing because you are not content with your financial situation. Pray: “Jesus, if it is your will, help me to stop doing these things this week. Help me prepare for your coming.” Then make the appropriate changes.

— Father John Muir

©LPi

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Asking the Question

I have found in my life that if I am certain of the answer to a big and complicated question — right away, no doubts or hesitations — there is a high likelihood that the answer is actually the wrong one.

Because most of the time the truth is buried beneath a thicket of pride, prejudice, and ignorance. To find our answers, we have to be ready to put the gardening gloves on and pick through the thorns. We have to pray. We have to reflect. We have to question ourselves and others. We have to examine our feelings. And then we have to pray some more.

See, I would be willing to bet that the tax collectors and soldiers knew. Deep in their hearts, they knew.

They knew when they approached John the Baptist and asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” that his reply was not going to be: “Keep doing exactly what you’re doing.”

They had heard this guy preach. They knew what he was about: repentance. They might not have known exactly what John the Baptist was going to tell them to do, but they knew whatever it was, it was going to be a challenge. It was going to turn their lives upside down.

I give them credit for asking the question. That’s a hard thing to do, and I don’t do it enough. Too often, I’m afraid to ask the question.

How do I love this person? How do I live out my baptismal call in this particular situation? How do I draw water from the fountain of salvation — and how do I do it with joy, as we are commanded by the Psalms?

Christmas is ten days away. Are we asking the question?

©LPi