

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 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 22, 2024

Jane Byrne (Pat Byrne)

Wednesday, Christmas Day, December 25, 2024

For Our Parishioners and Benefactors

Next Sunday, December 29, 2024

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Paul & Geraldine Rose (Family)

Cathedral Mass Intentions

December 22, Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM +Hannah Wilkins (Rich & Nancy 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.

December 23, Monday, St. John of Kanty, Priest

12:00 PM +Kathleen Bollinger (Husband, Ken, & Family)

December 24, Tuesday, Late Advent Weekday

8:00 AM Vocations to the Priesthood (Anonymous)

Vigil: Christmas Eve

5:00 PM For the People

December 25, Wednesday, Christmas Day

12:00 AM Peace in the World

8:00 AM Parishioners & Benefactors

10:00 AM Parishioners & Benefactors

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

December 26, Thursday, St. Stephen, First Martyr

12:00 PM +Jim DeStefano (Randy & Karen Isenberg)

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

12:00 PM +Don & Dorothy Hanekamp (Mr. & Mrs. Dave Hanekamp)

December 28, Saturday, The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

12:00 PM +Souls in Purgatory (Anonymous)

Vigil: The Most Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, And Joseph

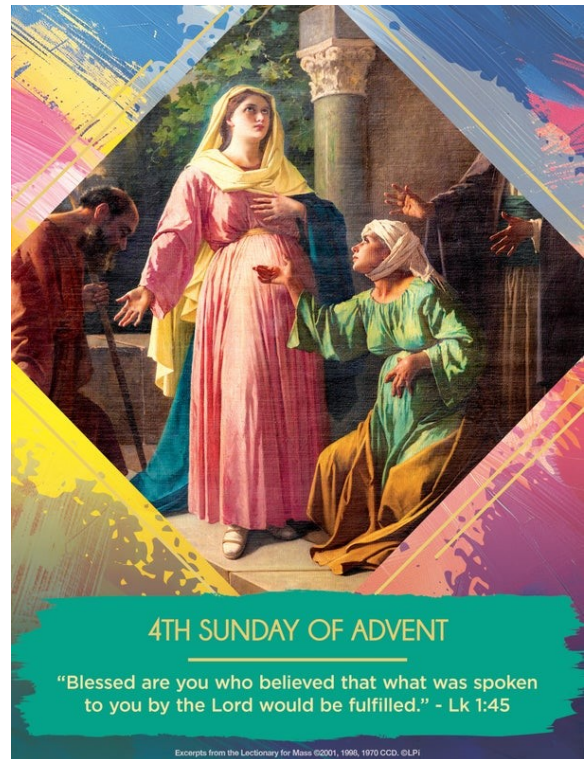
5:00 PM +Sr. Rose Tomlinson (Kathleen Davies)

December 29. The Most Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

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

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

5:00 PM Pro Popolo/For the People



Readings for the week of December 22, 2024

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

Monday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

Tuesday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79

Wednesday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/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 (Lk 2:11)/

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/Heb 1:1-6/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

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

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

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

Next Sunday: 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 (see 5a)/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

Thank You Very Much

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

The contributions for Sunday, December 15,

were

\$1,419.

Thank you.





Christmas church decorating will be completed today, 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.



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 Mid-
night, 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*

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Every 25 years the Church celebrates a special Holy Year called the Jubilee Year. The next Jubilee Year will begin with the opening of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome on Christmas Eve 2024.

On Sunday, December 29, Bishop Mark will open the Jubilee in our diocese with a special Mass at 2:00 P.M. in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. All parishes are to have representatives present.

The upcoming Holy Year offers opportunities for pilgrimage, the gaining of indulgences, special events, and communal liturgies. Parishioners are to be "ambassadors of hope" through loving service.

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

December 22, 2024

4th Sunday of Advent

The Blessed Virgin teaches us the secret to being blessed, happy, and full of joy. When Elizabeth, her cousin, greets her, she calls Mary “blessed” for two reasons, her motherhood of Jesus, and Our Lady’s belief that “there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord” (Luke 1:45). Mary is “blessed” entirely because of her relationship to the Incarnation of God in Jesus, and for no other. This of course makes perfect sense, because as the Lord, as God-in-the-flesh, her son is the source of all blessedness, life, and joy. Mary is blessed because of her contact with Jesus, and by her faith in him.

So, it is with us, too. We become blessed by our “motherly” contact with Christ in our souls through baptism. He lives in us and grows to maturity within us. We bear him to the world. This requires unshakeable faith that his promises to us will be fulfilled, despite all the problems and difficulties that plague us. We become blessed, happy, and joyful in the measure that we are in contact with Jesus and trust in him.

Advent challenges: 1.) This week go to someone who has borne the love of Jesus to you and tell her or him how they have been a blessing to you. 2.) Name someone in your life now to whom God has sent you to bring Jesus’ presence. Pray: “Lord, thank you for the blessing of sending me to bring your presence to this person. Help me bear you faithfully to him/her.”

— Father John Muir

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EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Baby Jesus’ Wish List

Odds are you’ve got a Christmas list going by now — gift ideas for everyone from your nephew to your goddaughter to your mailman. But what about the birthday boy? What’s the gift Jesus gets from you this Christmas?

If you’ve ever read the Book of Leviticus, you know all about the sacrifices God asks of the Israelites, referred to in the reading from Hebrews today. Leviticus can be a chore to read — a little repetitive, a little intimidating. There’s a lot of very specific actions that God asks His Chosen People to complete to make up for whatever they have done wrong. In essence, it’s a bit of a wish list for gifts.

But it’s a wish list that can really confuse you. What’s God going to do with a cereal offering? The kidneys of an animal? If you look closely, what God is doing here is beautiful. He’s customized his wish list to only those things He knows the Israelites can give. It’s God saying, in what amounts to theological baby-talk for folks who barely know of Him and His ways, exactly how they could be stewards. “Do this, but don’t do that. If you do that, do this and you will find My mercy.”

Our guide to stewardship — the Gospels of Christ — is less precise because by the time of Christ, God’s people have grown in understanding of love and mercy and relationship with the divine. Through Christ, we find out that God’s real wish list didn’t really consist of cereal offerings and the kidneys of various animals. It’s far simpler, but luckily, it’s something we still have on-hand. All He wants is our whole heart.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi