

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 7, 2025

Our Lady of Fatima Parish
2000 12th Avenue
Altoona, PA 16601
www.ourladyoffatimaaltoona.org

Office Hours:
Tuesdays and Thursdays
11:00AM to 4:00 PM
Parish Office located inside the church
814-942-0371

Rev. Mariusz Gorazd, Administrator
Residing at St. Mary's Rectory, Altoona
Emergency Phone Number 814-942-2416

Administrative Assistant
Paula Hall

Eucharist: Sunday: 11:30 AM
Holy Days: 6:00PM
Confession-Sunday 11:00AM to
11:25AM
Holy Communion for the home bound-
weekly: Patty Flanagan
Religious Education-Contact St. Mary's
814-942-2416

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals will
be held at Our Lady of Fatima.

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick
will be scheduled by calling the office.

Our Lady of Fatima Church is open dai-
ly from 7:30AM-5PM for visits before
the Blessed Sacrament.

**OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH IS A
RESULT OF THE MERGER BE-
TWEEN THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
CHURCHES OF SS. PETER & PAUL
AND ST. LEO THE GREAT IN 1995.**

*****IF YOU HAVE A GLUTEN ALLERGY,
PLEASE RECEIVE COMMUNION FROM
FR. MARIUSZ GORAZD'S LINE*****

THE FATIMA TOWERS

OUR LADY OF FATIMA MASS INTENTIONS

11:30 A.M.

December 7, 2025 Second Sunday of Advent

John Kasun, Sr [B-12/9] Lou & Matthew Haines

December 8, 2025 6:00 P.M. Immaculate Conception

Jo Anne Miller by Colleen Sheehan

December 14, 2025 Third Sunday of Advent

Shirley Siedlarczyk [A-12/9] Linda & Steve Almeter

ATTENTION:

- *2026 Contribution Envelopes for Adults and Children are on the back table to the right as you enter the church
- *2026 OLOF calendars are available on the back tables courtesy of Stanley J. Krish Funeral Home, Inc
- *The Little Blue Book for Advent and Christmas Season 2025-26 is also available on the tables

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

"Outward signs instituted by Christ to give grace" is the often-memorized definition of sacrament, but through five decades of reform we have rediscovered the power of sacrament to bestow grace by reshaping our lives as individuals and communities. Not so long ago, most people were not attentive to the nature of sacrament as an act of the church, a power that flows from the Body of Christ. Sixty years ago, we were inclined to see a sacrament as an encounter between Christ and an individual.

Today, we see that definition does not go far enough. God's grace is not a trickle, but a gushing torrent washing over the whole Church. Like a photographer pulling back the camera for a broader picture, today we are not only interested in the person who is being baptized, reconciled, or anointed. We think about how celebrating a sacrament transforms a community. We think about the grace given by Christ to the community that baptizes or marries or ordains or confirms. Sacraments are for the good of the community. Even when it appears to be a private, hidden moment, as in individual confession, a sacrament is always for the sake of the whole body, always more that "meets the eye."

—Rev. James Field, JS Paluch

OUR LADY OF FATIMA TRAVELING STAT- UE...

is available to sign out and take home. Please ask Chris Keagy after mass or contact the office if interested.



During December, the Sanctuary Candle is being lit in memory of the Tom Byrne by the Byrne Family
Thank you.

*****Please Update Information*****

Parishioners are asked to please update their contact information with the parish office. If you have had a change of address, discontinued a land line phone number, or have a new cell phone number, inform the office or put a note in your envelope. Thank-you!

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading—He shall bring justice for the afflicted; the earth shall overflow with the knowledge of the LORD (Isaiah 11:1-10).

Psalms—Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever (Psalm 72).

Second Reading—Glorify God by living in harmony with one another, welcoming each other as Christ welcomed you (Romans 15:4-9)

Gospel—Produce good fruit worthy of your baptism; repent, for the reign of God is near (Matthew 3:1-12).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

Tues: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14

Wed: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30

Thurs: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Fri: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19

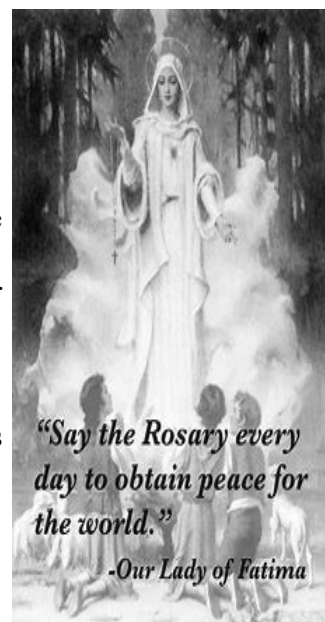
Sat: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17, 91, 10-13

Sun: Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

Prayer to Our Lady of Fatima

O Most Holy Virgin Mary,
Queen of the most holy

Rosary, you were pleased to appear to the children of Fatima and reveal a glorious message. We implore you, inspire in our hearts a fervent love for the recitation of the rosary. By meditating on the mysteries of the redemption that are recalled therein may we obtain the graces and virtues that we ask, through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer.
Amen.



Thank You Very Much

Your prayers, volunteerism, and financial support are deeply appreciated. The contributions for November 30 was \$ 1,684.00 Thank you.

St. Mary's News:
Group Sessions on "The Chosen"

Blessed Mother Room Church
6:00pm-7:30pm, December 15
Facilitator: Fr. Mariusz

If interested in attending call the rectory office.



The Catholic Ministries Drive target for Our Lady of Fatima Parish is \$10,200. So far 29 donations amounting to \$5,675.00 has been received or 56% of our goal, \$4,525.00 of the goal remains. Please prayerfully consider making a gift to the CMD. Every dollar stays within our diocese and directly supports the ministries that touch lives every day. Together, we can build a stronger, more vibrant Church rooted in faith, hope and love.

Thank you in advance for your donation.

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE 2025 WILL END AT THE END OF THE YEAR. IF YOU HAVE NOT CONTRIBUTED TO THIS DRIVE AND ARE ABLE TO, PLEASE SEND IN YOUR DONATION PRIOR TO DECEMBER 31 TO BE COUNTED FOR 2025. ANY DONATION WILL HELP OUR LADY OF FATIMA REACH IT'S GOAL. THANK YOU IN ADVANCE.

2025 Christmas Flower Offering

Ronald Geis, Jr, Ron & Zed Geis, Cherly Hosgood
By the Hosgood Family

Denise & Tucker Keagy, Bernie & Jane Shea,
Charles & Viola Keagy by the Keagy Family

Wally Jorkasky by wife Janice

Carol Smith Family by Carol Smith

"For the Special Intentions of the Stan & Rita Sral
Family" by Stan & Rita Sral

Paul K. Watters, Helen M. Watters by Jill Watters

CURRENT SPECIAL COLLECTIONS:

iGiveCatholic donations can still be made by using the envelopes available in the church. Current projects are:
shed to store salt in the parking lot estimated cost \$3000
Replace outside lights on the church estimated cost \$2000

Christmas Flowers

Envelopes are available in the church on the back tables.

Catholic Charities

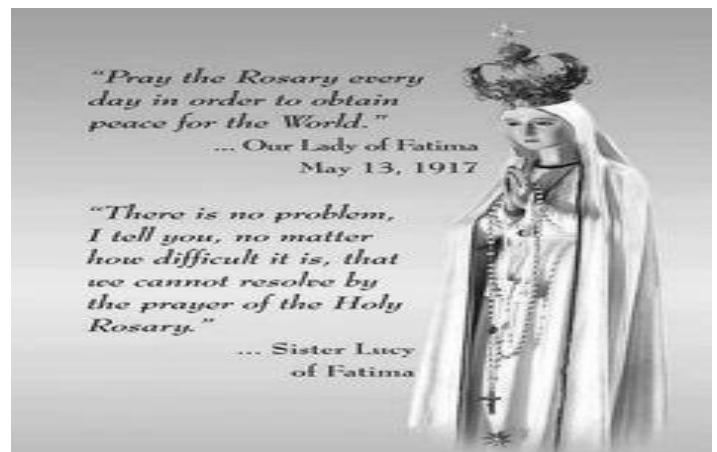
Collection started November 16.

Retirement Fund for Religious

Collection starts December 14.

Your parish support helps our religious and their communities lovingly care for especially their aging and infirmed religious. Your generous assistance helps our religious enjoy safety, health and vitality as they age. Your assistance helps transform their lives. Thank you and God bless you!

**PLEASE BE AS GENEROUS AS POSSIBLE
WITH THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS.**



The Immaculate conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary— December 8, 2025

"Behold, you will conceive and bear a son..."
(Luke 1:31)

Mary's openness to God's plan shows how saying 'Yes' can change the world. All vocations, priesthood, consecrated life, or sacramental marriage, begin with a generous response to God's call. Pray for guidance and courage to follow where He leads. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at (814)317-2681 or via email: vocations@dioceseaj.org

THE GABRIEL PROJECT

The Altoona Gabriel Project is a Catholic Pro-Life ministry dedicated to helping moms and babies with supplies, as well as providing spiritual and emotional support. Cathedral parish is a part of a group effort of several Altoona area parishes.

The Cathedral has a collection crib at the alley entrance of the Cathedral for non-perishable baby items (diapers, wipes, clothing, bibs, towels, blankets, etc.)

The Cathedral will also be a site for the distribution to moms and babies in our section of the city. Items will be distributed on Thursdays from 1:30-2:30 P.M. If you would know of someone in need of support, or would like to volunteers, please call 814-440-1021.

WONDERS

The normal response to a surprise of amazement, gratitude, and delight. By definition, we don't anticipate surprises. Their occurrence reminds us that we cannot always guess or shape the future. Granted, we do what we can do; we attend to the daily tasks, as we must. For grace is surely here in the mundane, and God is in the details. But God is in the happy surprises, too.

Today's readings are filled with startling developments. We hear the clarion cry of one of those rare prophets announcing the coming of the Lord. Isaiah proclaims startling, surprising images of the nearly impossible reconciliation of opposites: calf and lion, leopard and young goat, child and serpent. Isaiah's vision sees all of these creatures living in harmony. This is Eden again; this is paradise. It is God's surprise and promise.

JS Paluch



Loving and Generous God, it is You who call us by name and ask us to follow You. Help us to grow in the Love and Service of our Church as we experience it today.

Give us the energy and courage of Your Spirit to shape its future. Grant us faith-filled leaders who will embrace Christ's Mission of love and justice.

Bless the Church of Altoona-Johnstown by raising up dedicated and generous leaders from our families and friends who will serve Your people as Sisters, Priests, Brothers, Deacons and Lay Ministers.

Inspire us to know You better and open our hearts to hear Your call. We ask this through our Lord. Amen

DECEMBER 7, Second Sunday of Advent

As we begin the second week of Advent, let us recall our motto for this season: we are climbing God's holy mountain. Our readings inspire us and help us focus on this journey toward holiness.

Our first reading from the prophet Isaiah continues the theme of a journey towards the holy mountain, the Kingdom of God. The prophet gives us a beautiful glimpse of this mountain, where Christ will reign forever. It will be a place of peace, justice, and harmony among all God's creatures. "There shall be no harm or ruin in all my holy mountain...(This) dwelling shall be glorious."

As we straighten the paths of our own hearts and minds, we become more hospitable people, better stewards of God's grace and mercy, and far more open and ready to invite others into our lives, homes and parishes. We climb farther up God's holy mountain and attract others to join us on the path toward holiness. This is preparation fitting for our merciful Savior.

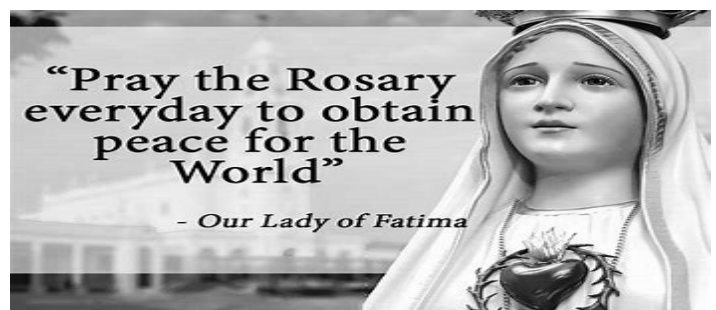
Second Sunday of Advent-December 7, 2025

"The kingdom of heaven is at hand!" (Matthew 3:2)

John's call to prepare for Christ echoes in every family. In holy matrimony, love and faith creates the foundation where God's kingdom flourishes. Is God calling you to build a holy family? Ask Him to show you His way by praying for your (future) spouse and children.

Holy Rosary Church

Is celebrating their 125th Anniversary on December 2, 2026. They are looking for old photos and thoughtful memories of years gone by. Once a month, beginning in January 2026, they will be posting photos and thoughtful memories in their bulletin as well as on Facebook. Please email photos to hol-yrosaryaltoona@dioceseaj.org and put "125th Memories" in the subject line. For your convenience, there will also be envelopes in the back of Holy Rosary and St. Mark's Churches for your photos and/or memories. If you would like the photos returned, be sure to have your name and address on the back. Please identify as many people in the photos as possible. Thank you, The 125th Anniversary Committee



2025 Christmas Flower Offering

Ronald Geis, Jr, Ron & Zed Geis, Cheryl Hosgood
By the Hosgood Family
Denise & Tucker Keagy, Bernie & Jane Shea,
Charles & Viola Keagy by the Keagy Family
Wally Jorkasky by wife Janice
Carol Smith Family by Carol Smith
“For the Special Intentions of the Stan & Rita Sral
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Paul K Watters, Helen M. Watters by Jill Watters