

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT—GAUDATE SUNDAY

December 14, 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 14, 2025 Third Sunday of Advent—Gaudete Sunday

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

December 21, 2025 Fourth Sunday of Advent

People at Maybrook Rehab, Seniors there, Albert & self by

Christine Manna

December 25, 2025 Nativity of the Lord—Christmas 11:30A.M.

For Our Parish Family

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
- January 1, 2026 Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God—Mass 6:00PM

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

We make transitions along life's journey, and search for meaning. Watch an infant take those first wobbly steps. Inevitably they are toward the arms of a dear one, and the gleeful smile and wordless laughter let us know that the baby understands that the whole world is renewed in an instant. Parents may see that wide-eyed smile again some years later as they flip car keys in the teenager's direction, and by God's grace at in-between moments of forgiveness and affirmation.

Sacraments open a window to the blessings of everyday life and help us claim their deep meaning. A voice from a fiery bush warned Moses to take off his shoes because he stood on "holy ground." Your first steps, your first word, taking your place at the family table, stirring to new love, forgiving and being forgiven: all of this is holy, laden with meaning, full of possibilities. Sacraments are not escape pods from the realities of the everyday; rather they invest us ever more deeply in life and recruit us for the kingdom inaugurated by Jesus. We take baby steps all our life long. In the world of sacrament, they are always directed toward the arms of a loving God, and always on the common holy ground of a community's life.

—Rev. James Field, J.S. Paluch



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—The barren deserts will rejoice and flower. (Isaiah 34:1-6a, 10).

Psalms—Lord, come and save us (Psalm 146).

Second Reading—Be patient, for the coming of the Lord is as sure as the rain (James 5:7-10).

Gospel—Tell of what you hear and see: The blind regain their vision, the crippled their movement, the deaf their hearing. (Matthew 11:2-11).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: Nm 24:2-7m, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27

Tues: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17

Wed: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1: 18-25

Thurs: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

Fri: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

Sat: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

Sun: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

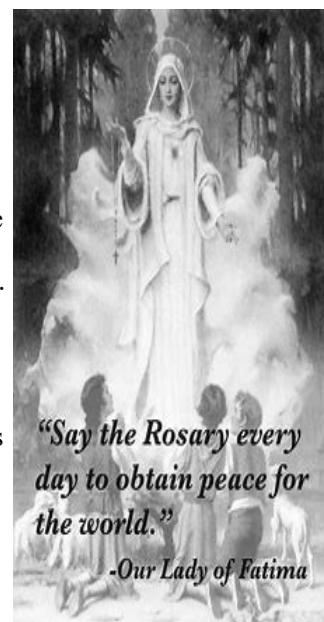
Prayer to Our Lady of Fatima

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 December 7 was \$ 1612.71 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 32 donations amounting to \$6,285.00 has been received or 62% of our goal, \$3,915.00 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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE)-DECEMBER 14, 2025

"Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" (Matthew 11:2-3)

John's question invites us to seek Christ's presence in our lives. If you feel a spark of joy in serving others, God might be calling you to the priesthood or consecrated life, sharing His healing love as a shepherd. Listen closely to His voice. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at 814-317-2681 or via email: vocations@dioceseaj.org

*****PROCLAIM! TO AIR CHRISTMAS SHOW AND**

MASS TV special *Joy to the World: Christmas in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown* will air on Sunday, December 21 at 6:00pm on WWCP Fox 8. The one-hour show will highlight the spirit of Christmas throughout the diocese and include beautiful music from parish and Catholic school choirs, as well as the *Proclaim!* Priests' choir. The *Proclaim!* TV Christmas Mass will air live from Saint John Gualbert Cathedral in Johnstown on Christmas Eve, December 24, at 4:00p.m. on WATM ABC 23 with Bishop Mark as celebrant and homilist.

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.

Diocese Vocations Appeal

This appeal support will directly empower the Vocation Office's mission to guide and nurture our future priests as they embark on their journey of formation.

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.



Jubilee 2025 Pilgrims of Hope

The official closing Mass for the Jubilee will be celebrated at all Cathedrals worldwide on Sunday December 28, 2025 on the Feast Of the Holy Family. In the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

At the 11:00am televised Mass

At St. John Gualbert Cathedral, Bishop Mark L. Bartchak is the Main celebrant.

Also at the 10:00am Mass at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona, Msgr. Stanley C. Carson will be the Main Celebrant leading the Closing Jubilee Year Eucharistic celebration.

All the faithful are encouraged to participate in prayer and if coming in-person to please bring an offering of a non-perishable food item, paper or cleaning products for those in need to Mass in the spirit of charity as envisioned by Pope Francis for the Jubilee Year. We can all be Ambassadors of Hope.

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.

PROMISE FULFILLED

Today's readings address the faithful one, the one who waits on God but may not feel God's presence. Every person who seeks God has at one time or another experienced the absence of God. Jesus himself cried out during his dark night of the soul.

The Epistle of James speaks to this. The author says that we must be as patient as the silent, fallow earth that awaits the slow, soaking rains of winter and the hard, necessary rains of spring. As the farmer is sure of the precious yield of the land, we can be sure of the precious yield of our patient waiting. God is never far away.

The messengers from John the Baptizer asked Jesus if he was the one whose coming John had announced. The messengers wanted to hear the answer that the imprisoned John already knew. Everything that John said was finally happening: because of Jesus, light shines in eyes; words of promise are received; people leap and dance.

The promise of Isaiah is fulfilled in Jesus. Wobbly knees and feeble hands are strong, the desert blooms, the savanna and steppe flower, the darkness is chased away.

— 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 14, Third Sunday of Advent

Good news, Christian stewards— we are gaining ground on our Advent mountain climb and it is time to take a moment to rejoice in the Good News that our Savior will come again in triumph one day. Today's readings on this Gaudete ('Rejoice') Sunday are filled with reminders of God's final victory over suffering and injustice, and encouragement to remain steadfast in our mission to live as faith-filled disciples.

Our Gospel passage, from Matthew, connects the prophecy of Isaiah to the arrival of Jesus almost word for word. In this passage we find the imprisoned John the Baptist sending his disciples to ask Jesus if he is indeed the long-awaited Messiah. Jesus' reply is almost identical to Isaiah's prophetic words. He says, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, and the dead are raised..." The Savior really has arrived just as promised? Yet that arrival was 700 years after Isaiah's prediction, God always fulfills his promises, but patience and firmness of heart are required as we await his perfect timing.

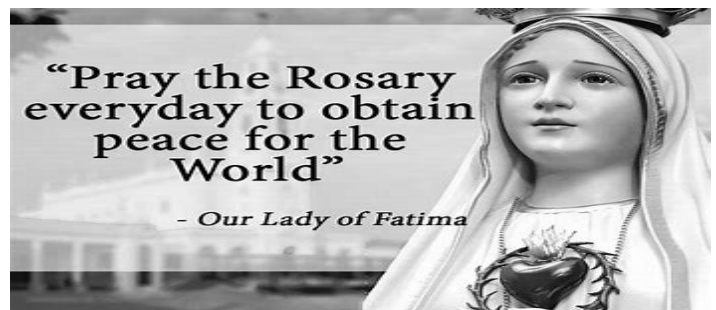
Let us rejoice in the knowledge that God has called us to enter this kingdom. Let us keep our hearts firmly fixed on this eternal goal and strive with all our might to give God and others the very best of ourselves in gratitude for such a privilege.

PERSPECTIVE

A mountain shames a molehill until they both are humbled by the stars.—Old adage

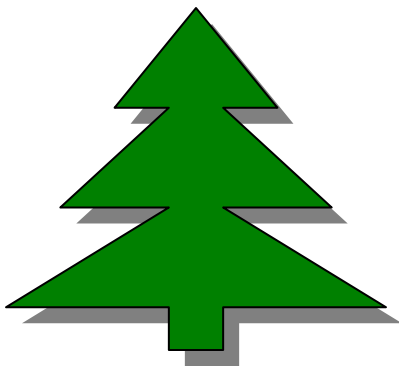
Holy Rosary Church

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



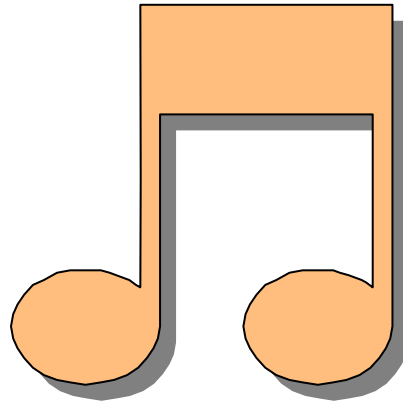
2025 Christmas Flower Offering

The Byrne and Hollern Family by Mark Byrne
The Eckenrode Family
Ronald Geis, Jr, Ron & Zed Geis, Cheryl Hosgood
By the Hosgood Family
Wally Jorkasky by wife Janice
John Kasun, Jr by Kathy Kasun
John Kasun, Sr, Frances Kasun & John Kasun, Jr
By Steve & Robyn Kasun
Denise & Tucker Keagy, Bernie & Jane Shea,
Charles & Viola Keagy by the Keagy Family
Helena (Kowalski) Frederick, William & Maria
Wesley by Paul & Emma Kowalski
The McKnight Families and Snellbaugh Families
By Connie & Jim McKnight
Carol Smith Family by Carol Smith
Victor & Charlotte Wlazlowski, Robert & Madeline
Smith by Dave & Josie Smith
Ken & Barb Smithmyer
In memory of Kathy Starr, Duane Eichenlaub,
Nate Boslet, Mitch Brooks, Randy Richardson, Ed Barstow by Bryan & Eileen Starr
Cathy Starr, Michael Starzinsky & Julia (Strauss)
Starzinsky, Stephen & Mary Starr by Peter
Starr & Family
Grandma Katie by Nicholas & Jayden Starr
Grandma Katie (Starr) by Abbie, Alexis, Emmie &
Joshua
Cathy Starr by Kristina Starr
Dorothy Kurash by David Stein
Paul K Watters, Helen M. Watters by Jill Watters



*****Polish Christmas Carols (known as Koledy or Pastoralki)**

Will be held at All Saints Parish in Boswell (Somerset County) on Sunday, January 4, 2026 at 2:00p.m. at their church (325 Quemahoning Street, Boswell). The carols will be sung by the parish Polish choir. Following the singing of the hymns there will be benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and refreshments. While the singing of koledy was once a very common practice in the Polish-American community, in recent times church choirs that continue the tradition of singing koledy have become increasingly rare. These hymns help to capture some of the finest sentiments, values, and emotions of the Polish religious, national, and artistic heritage. Polish Christmas customs are very rich; whether you are Polish or not, please come and experience these time-honored hymns celebrating the birth of Christ. For more information, please call the parish office at 814-629-5551.



THE LOOK OF LOVE

What does love look like?
It has feet to go to the poor and needy.
It has eyes to see misery and want.
It has ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of others.

—St. Augustine