

## **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**December 21, 2025**

**Our Lady of Fatima Parish**  
2000 12th Avenue  
Altoona, PA 16601  
[www.ourladyoffatimaaltoona.org](http://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 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

December 28, 2025 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Josephine Moloney by Deborah Ball

January 1, 2026 The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord,

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

## 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 table.

## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

How many languages do you know? Most Americans might say they have a primary language, can follow the basics of another encountered in school or in the workplace, and maybe know the barest elements of a third. Yet nearly everyone is fluent in languages of symbol and ritual, languages that transcend the spoken word and may perhaps communicate more clearly. A dance, the delights of the table, the thrill of sport, the power of a painting, a shared silence on a surf-washed beach or under a desert sky, a burst of delighted applause, all communicate without a single word.

Sacrament empowers fluency in these languages. A little girl returning from Mass where a baby had been baptized was asked to summarize her day thus far, "I went to church, and some little baby became my brother." That's far more accurate than the adult's remark. "There was a baptism at Mass today." When we celebrate sacrament, Christ is always calling us into deeper fluency with the languages beyond speech. Sacraments open our senses to the presence of God precisely so we can respond to the depth of that love more fully.

Paluch

—Rev. James Field, J.S.



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—You will be given this sign: the virgin shall conceive and bear a son (Isaiah 7:10-14).

Psalms—Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory (Psalm 24).

Second Reading—God has called us to belong to Jesus Christ (Romans 1:1-7).

Gospel—The son born of Mary shall be called Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins (Matthew 1:18-24).

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66

Tues: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29;  
Lk 1:67-79

Wed: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29;  
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]

Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; 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

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

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

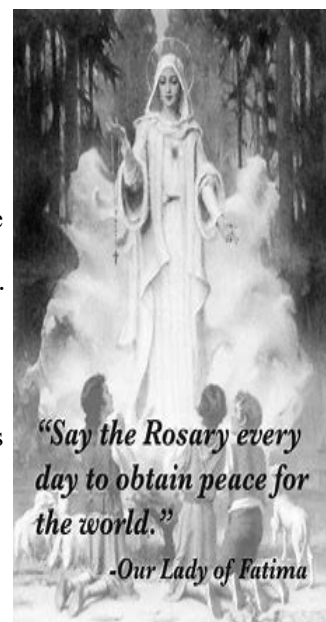
Sat: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Ps 124:1-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18

Sun: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-5; Col 3:12-21 [12-17];  
Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

## 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 14 was \$ 757.00 Thank you.



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.**

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#### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT -DECEMBER 21, 2025

*"They shall name him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us.'"* (Matthew 1:23)

Mary's trust in god's plan is a model for all vocations. Could God be inviting you to priesthood, consecrated life, or holy matrimony, living fully for Him to bring His presence to others? Embrace His call with courage. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at 814-317-2681 or via email: [vocations@dioceseaj.org](mailto: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.

#### **LORD OF ALL**

Jesus Christ will be Lord of all, or he will not be Lord at all. —St. Augustine

#### **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.

### EMMANUEL

To name someone or something means that we have a relationship with that entity. Family names identify us with our heritage; nicknames denote familiarity or a special bond. In the Old Testament, the meaning of a name ran deep. It identified one's mission, even one's very being.

The amazing name "Emmanuel" was first uttered by Isaiah as he described to the frightened King Ahaz the promised one who would come to redeem the people. Emmanuel is not a frightening philosophical name, such as Omnipotent, Omniscient, Almighty. It does not connote distance and transcendence. It does not generate reverential fear. The name Emmanuel implies closeness and intimacy and compassion. Emmanuel is the name given to the one who is coming. It means "God is with us." God is entrusted to the care of a virgin, who will bear this child. Only God would be so compassionate to draw so near, to be so available and vulnerable. Only God could love this well. —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 21, Fourth Sunday of Advent

As our Advent preparations draw to a close and Christmas fast approaches, it is fitting that today's readings demonstrate the intensity of the Father's perfect and passionate love for each of us, culminating in the gift of His own Son, Jesus Christ, on Christmas Day. As we reflect on the enormity of this gift, let us ask ourselves what we can offer in return.

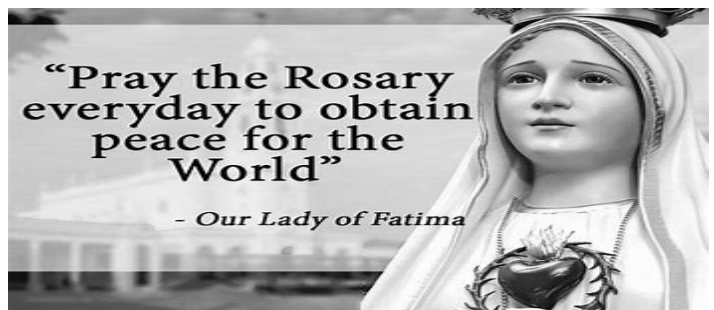
In our Gospel passage from Matthew, we find an unparalleled example of one who embraced the stewardship way of life in St. Joseph, as he responds to God's call to him through the message of an angel. St. Joseph immediately and humbly obeys the instruction from the angel: "Don not be afraid to take Mary your wife into you home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Open to this extraordinary role, he did as the angel commanded and 'takes Mary into his home.'

Let us imitate St. Joseph, then, as good stewards, giving our very lives to those around us in love and gratitude to God who has given us everything we have, especially His own Son, Jesus Christ. We will no doubt find that the more we give ourselves away, the more our generous Father will fill us with His grace and peace—these are truly the best Christmas gift we could receive.

### CHRISTMAS

A young mother, her eyes shining with fatigue, who is arranging her hair; a father who finds himself alone with his pretty wife and baby, straightening the stable to make himself useful in some way; shepherds who bring cheese and perhaps also some curdled milk; sheep who look at their shepherds while bleating; a donkey who is eyeing his manger changed into a cradle; an adorable swaddled baby whom one calls Savior, Christ and Lord: This is the manifestation of the goodness and the tenderness of God. This is the most fantastic birth in the history of humanity, the one which changed the face of the world! This is how far God humbled and compromised himself with us! This is Emmanuel!

—From God's Word Is Our Joy, Vol. 1 by Lucien Deiss, World Library Publications



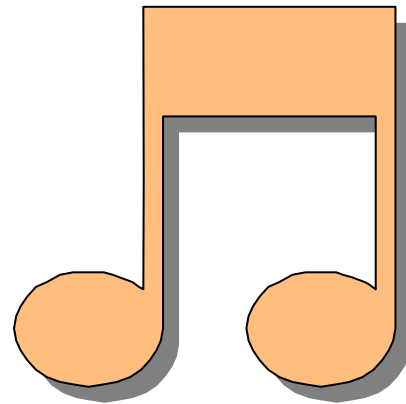


## **2025 Christmas Flower Offering**

Brannan Family, Hrzic Family, & Zajac Family by  
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Brannan  
The Byrne and Hollern Family by Mark Byrne  
Noreen DeCriscio  
The Eckenrode Family  
Steve & Christina Flanagan by Patty Flanagan  
Frucella and DelBiondo Families by Frank and  
Janice Frucella  
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  
John Noonan by wife Jean and Family  
Carol Smith Family by Carol Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Smith, Mr. & Mrs Ralph Martin,  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Smith, K. C. Smith  
By Dan 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.



**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND  
HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON**

