

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JEUSU, MARY, AND JOSEPH

December 28, 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 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

6:00pm For Our Parish Family

January 4, 2026-The Epiphany of the Lord

"In Thanksgiving" by Barbara & Ken Smithmyer

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

We are in the season of the Incarnation, the mystery of God's love poured out in Christ's birth. The word derives from the Latin *carnis* meaning "flesh." Throughout history, some Christians have distrusted the "flesh," and stressed a hatred of this world and its pleasures. Perhaps they have not paid enough attention to how "embodied" the sacraments are. One third-century author put it plainly in an image that may alarm diet-conscious Americans, explaining that we wash the body so the soul can be cleansed, that we anoint the body so the soul can be strengthened, and that we eat the body and blood of Christ so that "the soul can fatten on God."

Catholics "get" that God is revealed in this world. The sacraments use the "stuff" of creation; water and oil; the senses of the body, touch and taste and smell. We use the things of this world rightly. After all, God's love poured out into human flesh means the world has eternal value. Why else would Jesus describe the kingdom to come as a teeming city or a marriage banquet? Catholics are realists, and nowhere is that more evident than when we gather for a sacrament.

—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.

During January, the Sanctuary Candle is Being lit in memory of Denise Keagy by Chris, Kelly and the Keagy Family



*****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—Those who honor and comfort their parents shall never be forgotten (Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14).

Psalms—Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways (Psalm 128).

Second Reading—You are called into one body. Bear with one another; forgive one another; let Christ's peace control you (Colossians 3:12-21 [12-17]).

Gospel—Joseph rose, took the child and his mother, and fled to Egypt (Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40

Tues: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18

Wed: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5,6,8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

Thurs: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28

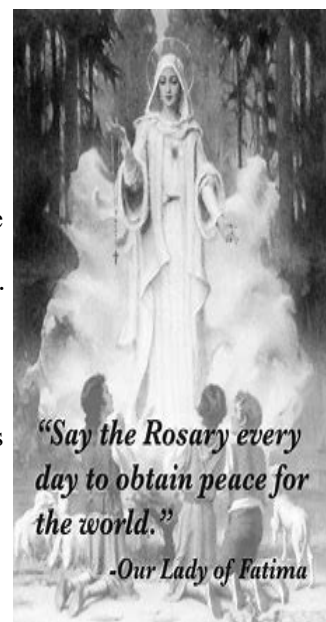
Fri: 1 Jn 2:29—3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34

Sat: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42

Sun: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 21:1-12

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 21 was \$ 4,169.80 Thank you.



The Catholic Ministries Drive target for Our Lady of Fatima Parish is \$10,200. So far 33 donations amounting to \$6,385.00 has been received or 62% of our goal, \$3,815.00 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.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY-DECEMBER 28, 2025

"Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel." (Matthew 2:20).

Joseph's obedience to God protected the Holy Family. In marriage, spouses are called to protect and nurture each other in faith. Reflect on how God might be guiding you to build a family rooted in His love. Pray and ask God how you can better serve and protect your family this week.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God-January 1, 2026

"Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." (Luke 2:19)

Mary's quiet discernment shows us how to listen to God's will. Retreat and take time to reflect what God has placed in your heart. Talk with your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at (814-317-2681) or by email

vocations@dioceseaj.org

WINTER WILD

It was winter wild
While the Heav'n-born child
All meanly wrapt in the rude manger lies.

—John Milton, On the Morning of Christ's Nativity

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.

LOVE

For generations, various cultures regarded family life merely as a utilitarian necessity. Sirach introduces honor and respect. For Jews and Christians alike, the value of family goes even further. The family is seen as the indispensable school where love is learned. Paul addresses the Colossians and offers a list of virtues that make a solid and happy church. These values also make for a happy family at ease with itself and its members: mercy, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, forgiveness. As a capstone, Paul urges love, which brings all of these domestic virtues to perfection.

Paul seems to be on a roll as he lauds the virtues of the church at Colossae. With such heartfelt virtues, it is no wonder Paul bursts into song. Who wouldn't? It's clear that the center of the church is love. It is clear that no matter how far from home the members travel, the heart remains and all members are connected by the gravitational pull of mutual love, a love first learned in family life.

J.S.Paluch Co



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 28, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Today, as we continue our celebration of the Christmas season, we focus our attention in a special way on the Holy Family. This is a great time to thank God for the gift of family life. The Catechism of the Catholic Church refers to the family as the “domestic church”, so today’s feast is also a fitting time to consider the importance of the virtue of hospitality—a fundamental aspect of the stewardship way of life—within the context of our domestic churches.

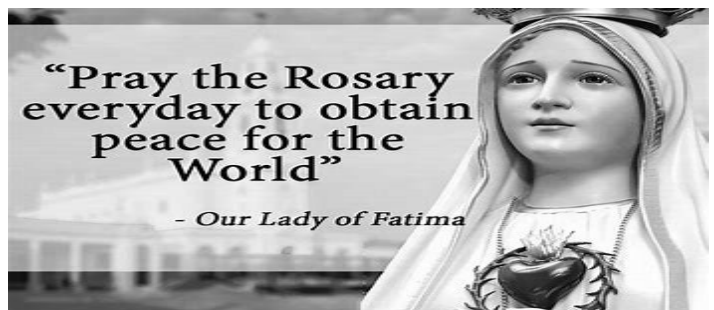
Why is hospitality so important to a stewardship way of life, beginning with family life? Well, we can hardly expect our family members to pray together, study their faith, and serve others if we have a home where we are disconnected from each other or the atmosphere is stressful and tense. Of course there will be moments like this. But we must be intentional in creating homes where everyone feels cherished, accepted and important. We want our homes to be the place where we can get recharged and filled up to go out and bring love to everyone we encounter outside our home.

Lest we think that the Holy Family is somehow unable to sympathize with our struggles, we see in our Gospel passage from Matthew that this Family was certainly not free from trials and stress, quite the contrary. The very life of the newborn Jesus was threatened by Herod’s extreme jealousy such that the family had to flee suddenly into a foreign land for protection until Herod’s death. Yet Mary and Joseph remained united and ever obedient to the leading of the Holy Spirit for direction. Who better to turn to for help and inspiration for our own families?! Happy feast day to all families living a stewardship way of life!

NEW YEAR

The object of a new year is not that we should have a new year, but rather that we should have a new soul.

—G. K. Chesterton



2025 Christmas Flower Offering

Mr. & Mrs. John Angeski from children
Joe & Marcella Ianniello from sisters
Joseph & Theresa Angeski from sisters
Genevieve Musto from nieces

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

Michael Long, William & Edna Long, William &
Patrick Geis by Bonnie Long

The McKnight Families and Snellbaugh Families
By Connie & Jim McKnight

John Noonan by wife Jean and Family

O'Connor & Faust Family by Mike & Deb
O'Connor

Adolph & Genevieve Link Family, Paul & Claire
Rigglesman Family, Tom & Bill Rigglesman
By Carol Rigglesman & 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 Richard-
son, 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

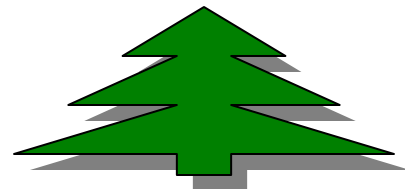
Grandma Katie (Starr) by Abbie, Alexis, Emmie &
Joshua

Cathy Starr by Kristina Starr

Dorothy Kurash by David Stein

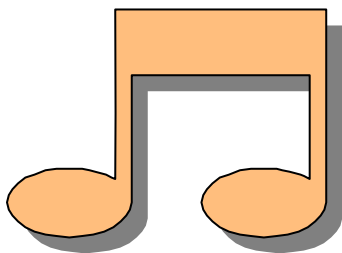
Paul K Watters, Helen M. Watters by Jill Watters

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON**



*****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.



THIRTY-NINETH ANNUAL RESPECT LIFE MARCH...

Sunday January 18, 2026

12:00 Noon

We begin at 12:00 noon with a Prayer Service in St. Matthew Church in Tyrone. We then walk the 1.25 miles to Oak Grove Cemetery to the grave of Baby Agnes Doe, for another short prayer service. A hot luncheon will be served in the parish hall after the march.

You are cordially invited to spend a couple hours as we publicly show our love for all of God's most defenseless children, both born and unborn. You will enjoy the fellowship as we draw upon the strengths of each other as we continue to battle the lack of respect of life at all stages, from the unborn child to the terminally ill. Please join us as we walk prayerfully and meditate upon the atrocities. You are encouraged to bring a sign, if you are unable to walk this distance, please feel free to join in by driving at the end of the procession.

Sponsored by the St. Gregory Council #1218
Knights of Columbus

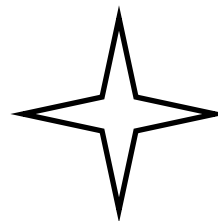
If you need any further information call: Jack Wagner at 814-632-6719 or e-mail: jjwagner2121@gmail.com

NOCTURNAL ADORATION SOCIETY

January 2, 2026

Host Church: St. Rose of Lima

Group 1 (which includes OLOF) 8:00pm-9:00pm



HOLY SPIRIT MINISTRY AND FR. BRIAN NORRIS

Invite you to a very special Night of Worship with Eucharistic Adoration for Vocations. It will be held on Tuesday, January 6th, 7-8pm, at St. Michael Church, Hollidaysburg. The evening will include a special talk from Fr. Norris on how all the faithful can help promote and pray for vocations. The evening of prayer will also include Eucharistic Adoration with beautiful praise & worship music, followed by prayer ministry. All are most welcome!

