

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 30, 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.

November 30, 2025 First Sunday of Advent

Thomas Byrne [B 11/13] Byrne Family

December 7, 2025 Second Sunday of Advent

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

ATTENTION!! FYI!!

OUR LADY OF FATIMA OFFICE IS NOW LOCATED IN THE CHURCH!!

Since the sale of the Rectory, the Church Office is now located inside the Church in the Reconciliation Room. Hours will remain the same: Tuesdays and Thursdays
11Am-4PM

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

"People in love make signs of love," wrote our bishops in a document guiding the renewal of liturgical music. They were not merely urging us to sing at Mass, but suggesting that the song itself is a sign of the love of Christ. Love never expressed dies, as we know from experience. Flowers for no special reason, a caress, a hug, a turn around the dance floor, a note on the pillow or in the lunchbox, the aroma of fresh bread in the kitchen, all are signs of love's vitality.

A significant treasure in our Catholic tradition is the place of the sacraments as signs of Christ's love. We can trace the sacraments back to scriptural sources, through centuries of history. They are woven through family tradition and our own life story. Sacraments are the way Christ makes signs of love for the Church. For twenty centuries, God has spoken to us in the arena of the sacraments, and we have responded.

For the next year of "Treasure" essays, we will explore the story of sacraments: their sources, their signs and rituals, and the way Christ nurtures and sustains us as we encounter him, the companion on our journey who loves us and faithfully makes signs of that love.

—Rev. James Field, JS Paluch

OUR LADY OF FATIMA TRAVELING STATUE...is available to sign out and take home. Please ask Chris Keagy after mass or contact the office if interested.

During November, the Sanctuary Candle is being lit in memory of the
"Souls in Purgatory" by Karen Querry

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—All the peoples shall stream toward the Lord's house (Isaiah 2:1-5).

Psalm—Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord (Psalm 122).

Second Reading—It is the hour to cast off the dark and clothe ourselves in the light (Romans 12:11-14).

Gospel—Stay awake! Be prepared! The Son of Man will come when you least expect (Matthew 24:37-44).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: Is 4:2-6; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11

Tues: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24

Wed: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37

Thurs: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27

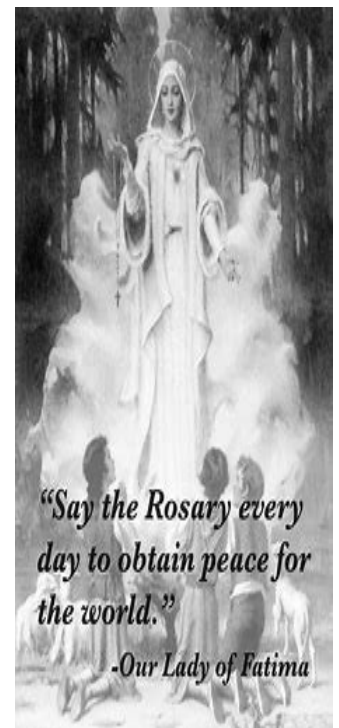
Fri: Is 29:17-24; PS 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31

Sat: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6; Mt 9:35—10:1

Sun: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3: 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 November 23 was \$ 1,234.00 Thank you.

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

Blessed Mother Room Church
6:00pm-7:30pm, December 1, 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.

iGiveCatholic kicks off with advanced giving on November 17 (12:00 AM Advanced Giving Phase) and continues until Giving Tuesday on December 2 (12:00 AM-11:59 PM). Bishop Mark has approved the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown's participation for the 5th year. Over the past 4 years, \$410,000.00 has been raised for our parishes, schools and ministries.

#iGiveCatholic is a giving day event celebrated annually on #GivingTuesday for the faithful from participating dioceses across the nation (and the world!) to unite and donate— both online and offline—to their favorite participating Catholic parishes, schools, and ministries. #GivingTuesday is an annual day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration. Celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving (in the US) and widely recognized shopping events of Black Friday and Cyber Monday, #GivingTuesday kicks off the charitable season, when many focus on their holiday and end-of-the year giving.

CURRENT SPECIAL COLLECTIONS:

****5th Sunday, Society of St. Vincent de Paul Needs**
Office is asking for your support. The collection will help with rent, utilities, medical expenses, or any other urgent cost that arise with those facing difficult times.

Hurricane Relief

Collection is wrapping up, if you plan to donate, please do so as soon as possible.

Archdiocese for Military Services

Collection started November 9 and needs to be completed as soon as possible. If you plan to donate, please do so as soon as possible.

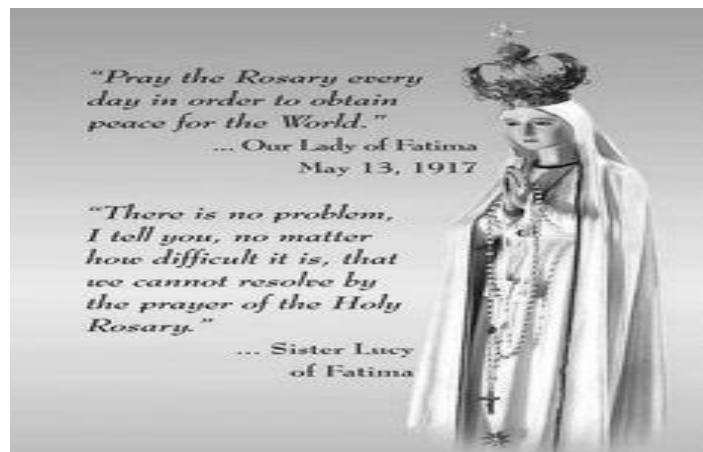
Christmas Flowers

Envelopes are available in the church on the back tables.

Catholic Charities

Collection started November 16.

PLEASE BE AS GENEROUS AS POSSIBLE WITH THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS.



iGiveCatholic donations can be offline donations of cash or check and can be mailed to Our Lady of Fatima or dropped in the collection basket or office. iGiveCatholic envelopes are available on the back tables in the church.

Credit card or ACH donations for the #iGiveCatholic campaign are given through the donation button on the profile page for each participating organization.

CURRENT PROJECTS:

New shed on the parking lot to store salt

Approximately \$3000

Replace outside lights of the church and convert to LED

Approximately \$2000

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.

GETTING READY

Today marks the beginning of another liturgical year. The tone of today's readings casts us in the role of students learning solemn lessons. The reading from Isaiah sets the stage, calling us up a mountain to receive the Lord's instruction. In this passage we study peace.

Then Paul steps forth with sober admonitions. We have to wake up; the day is almost here. Live honorably in the light. Paul reminds us that we really do know the time in which we are living.

Finally, Matthew presents Jesus the storyteller. Just imagine, Jesus tells us, what it was like in Noah's time. He paints a vivid picture of ordinary people living ordinary lives and ignoring the warnings that Noah heeded. Totally unconcerned, they were destroyed. How will it be any different for us? No one knows when the Lord will come. But we have been warned.

Perhaps we find such sobering scriptures unappealing and threatening. But within them there is promise. We are to live in the light with nothing to hide. We are to be ready.



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

NOVEMBER 30. First Sunday of Advent

Today we begin the beautiful season of Advent. It is a season meant for preparation—but for what exactly are we preparing? Two things actually—the celebration of our Savior's birth and the anticipation of His second coming. These are weighty tasks that have eternal consequences. So, let us Christian stewards make the words of the Prophet Isaiah our motto for the season: "Come, let us climb the Lord's mountain to the house of the God of Jacob, that He may instruct us in His ways and we may walk in His paths."

How can we Christian stewards prepare ourselves and our families for a holy celebration of Jesus' birth on December 25 and for his certain second coming at a date we do not know? We can push back against the world's pressure to have the 'perfect Christmas.' Scale back on the material kind of gift-giving, the complicated menus, and the unessential trappings of the season so that we have more time for spiritual preparation: confession, weekday Mass, adoration, family prayer time, lighting the Advent wreath, and performing acts of kindness.

It may feel lie a mountain to climb, but in the end, we will be prepared to celebrate a truly meaningful Christmas, we will have become more like our Savior, and we will be ready for Him to come again. Let's go climb the Lord's mountain.

ADVENT

Let's approach Christmas with an expectant hush, rather than a last-minute rush.

—Anonymous

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

