



Advent ... helps us to understand fully the value and meaning of the mystery of Christmas. It is not just about commemorating the historical event, which occurred some 2,000 years ago in a little village of Judea. Instead, it is necessary to understand that the whole of our life must be an *◆* advent, *◆* a vigilant awaiting of the final coming of Christ. *◆* To predispose our mind to welcome the Lord who, as we say in the Creed, one day will come to judge the living and the dead, we must learn to recognize him as present in the events of daily life. Therefore Advent is, an intense training that directs us decisively toward him who already came, who will come, and who comes continuously *◆* Welcome the Lord at every moment, in every person. "Our Lord, come!" (1 Cor 16:22) *Jesus, savior, you are welcome in my heart and in my whole being. Live in me always!*



Next Sunday, December 21 is five working days before Christmas. It is the only day when we can get a large number of parishioners gathered to decorate the church for the Christmas Season. All teens and adults are invited and encouraged to be in church after the 11:00 A.M. Mass. It has never happened that we didn't have enough work for each participant. The more folks we have the faster the work will get done and the more fun we will have. Make it your Last Sacrificial Advent act! Give your time and talent to bring the Season's Cheer to you fellow parishioners.

Mon. 12/15 **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Cancer**
 Feast Advent Weekday
 8:00 AM Mass Susan Anterio, *Miriam Stitt*

Tues. 12/16 **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Heart Diseases**
 Feast Advent Weekday
 8:00 AM Mass Chester Kowalski, *Paul & Emma Kowalski*

Wed. 12/17 **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Arthritis**
 Feast Advent Weekday
 8:00 AM Mass Janet Pufka, *Family & Friends*

Thur. 12/18 **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Nervous Disorders**
 Feast Late Advent Weekday
 8:00 AM Mass David Conrad, *Paul & Gerri Rose*

Fri. 1/19 **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Emotional Disorders**
 Feast Late Advent Weekday
 8:00 AM Mass Austin Hallinan, *John Bauer Family*

Sat. 12/20 **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Diabetes**
 Feast Fourth Sunday of Advent
 4:30 PM Mass Francis Branic, *Mary Ann Branic*

Sun. 12/21 **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Addictions**
 Feast Fourth Sunday of Advent
 9:00 AM Mass Lois J. Riley, *Connie, Jim & Cassidy McKnight*
 11:00 AM Mass Tom Byrne, *Chuck & Ceil Hennigan*

*Lord
 Jesus
 Christ
 Son
 Of
 God
 Have
 Mercy
 On
 Me
 A
 Sinner*

Happy Birthday:

- 12/16 Carol Z. Smith
- 12/17 Chuck Hennigan
- 12/18 Carol Riggelman, Deborah Wall
- 12/19 Sean Summers
- 12/21 Margo Eckenrode

*Our Lady of Fatima Pleaded That we pray
 the Holy Rosary Daily
 At O.L.F. before each Mass and privately
 from 8:30am to 7:00pm*

Practice for the Christmas Vigil Choir will occur Tuesdays between 6.00 to 7:00 P.M.

Four people showed up on Nov. 18th for practice. Is that the best we can do to honor The KING who gave up his life for our salvation?

MONEY MATTERS
(Second Sunday of Advent, December 7, 2014)
 179 people Celebrated Liturgy at O.L.F. contributing \$ 2,752.65 of which \$ 168.00 accounted for non-envelope contributions.

# Envelopes In Circulation	185	# Used	77	# Unused	108
----------------------------	-----	--------	----	----------	-----

Collection One Year Ago = \$ 2,113.65

Christmas Memorial Donations to date = \$240.00	Catholic Charities = \$100.00
Offertory Collection for Nov 24th = \$2,253.60	

Religious issues

A 1931 edition of the Soviet magazine *Bezbozhnik*, distributed by the League of Militant Atheists, depicting an Orthodox Christian priest being forbidden to cut down a tree for Christmas

The Christmas tree was first used by German Lutherans in the 16th Century, with records indicating that a Christmas tree was placed in the Cathedral of Strassburg in 1539, under the leadership of the Protestant Reformer, Martin Bucer. In the United States, these "German Lutherans brought the decorated Christmas tree with them; the Moravians put lighted candles on those trees. When decorating the Christmas tree, many individuals place a star at the top of the tree symbolizing the Star of Bethlehem, a fact recorded by *The School Journal* in 1897 Professor David Albert Jones of Oxford University writes that in the 19th century, it became popular for people to also use an angel to top the Christmas tree in order to symbolize the angels mentioned in the accounts of the Nativity of Jesus.

Under the Marxist-Leninist doctrine of state atheism in the Soviet Union, after its foundation in 1917, Christmas celebrations--along with other religious holidays--were prohibited as a result of the Soviet antireligious campaign.[The League of Militant Atheists encouraged school pupils to campaign against Christmas traditions, among them being the Christmas tree, as well as other Christian holidays, including Easter; the League established an antireligious holiday to be the 31st of each month as a replacement. With the Christmas tree being prohibited in accordance with Soviet anti-religious legislation, people supplanted the former Christmas custom with New Year's trees.

Pope John Paul II introduced the Christmas tree custom to the Vatican in 1982. Although at first disapproved of by some as out of place at the centre of the Roman Catholic Church, the Vatican Christmas Tree has become an integral part of the Vatican Christmas celebrations and in 2005 Pope Benedict XVI spoke of it as part of the normal Christmas decorations in Catholic homes. In 2004, Pope John Paul called the Christmas tree a symbol of Christ. This very ancient custom, he said, exalts the value of life, as in winter what is evergreen becomes a sign of undying life, and it reminds Christians of the "tree of life" of Genesis 2:9, an image of Christ, the supreme gift of God to humanity. In the previous year he said: "Beside the crib, the Christmas tree, with its twinkling lights, reminds us that with the birth of Jesus the tree of life has blossomed anew in the desert of humanity. The crib and the tree: precious symbols, which hand down in time the true meaning of Christmas. The Catholic Church's official Book of Blessings has a service for the blessing of the Christmas tree in a home

In 2006, the Seattle–Tacoma International Airport removed all of its Christmas trees in the middle of the night rather than allow a rabbi to put up a menorah near the largest tree display. Officials feared that one display would open the door for other religious displays, and, in 2007, they opted to display a grove of birches in polyethylene terephthalate snow rather than religious symbols or Christmas trees. In 2005, the city of Boston renamed the spruce tree used to decorate the Boston Common a "Holiday Tree" rather than a "Christmas Tree". The name change drew a poor response from the public and it was reversed after the city was threatened with several lawsuits.

Gaeto Construction Co.

Builders & Remodelers

Call us for all Your Remodeling Needs

Kitchens • Bathrooms • Garages • Windows • Doors

"Area's Leading Addition Specialist"

"Adding to your family" * Call us to add to your house"

(814) 944-9233

Fully Insured HIC #PA002981 In Our 30th Year

Owner: Joseph E. Gaeto

J. Kirk Kling

ATTORNEY AT LAW

Criminal Law • DUI

Social Security • Wills • Estates

941-6699

630 PLEASANT VALLEY BLVD., STE. B

www.kerrland.com
814-949-8834
1816 Sixth Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602



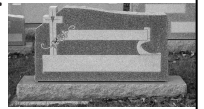
When Only The Best Will Do

814-942-0101

1006 Pleasant Valley Blvd.

Altoona, PA 16602

Corner of 10th & Pleasant Valley Blvd.



RILEY INC.

Since 1933

PLUMBING & HEATING CONTRACTOR

814-942-6772

What if you are *Alone* and have an *Emergency*?

Just One Push of a Button can Protect You from **Emergencies at Home and Away!**

- ✓ Medical
- ✓ Falls
- ✓ Fire
- ✓ Burglary

AS LOW AS
\$1 A DAY!



800.998.5837

www.lifewatch-usa.com



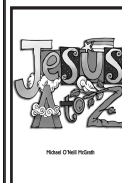
"I'm never alone with LIFEWatch."
-Dick Van Patten

You're never alone with LifeWatch!



Come Sail Away on a 7-night Catholic Exotic Cruise starting as low as \$1175 per couple. Daily Mass and Rosary offered. Deposit of only \$100 per person will reserve your cabin.

Space is limited. Thanks and God Bless,
Brian or Sally, coordinators 860.399.1785



Jesus
A to Z

Michael O'Neill McGrath, OSFS

A colorful Catholic ABC book for kids and families! Includes a glossary of questions to help adults pass on their Catholic faith.

007199 9 x 12 Hardcover
\$16.99 each • Special Offer — 2 for \$25.00!

800-566-6150 www.wlpmusic.com

ISB

It's
SIMPLY
BETTER



Investment Savings Bank

1201 8th Ave.
Altoona, PA 16602

200 Patchway Road
Duncansville, PA 16635
• New Location •



JOE MERRITT REMODELING

Roofing • Siding • Soffit & Facia
Interior & Exterior • Window Installation

Fully Insured • Over 20 Yrs. Experience

(814) 942-6784

Are you ever alone?

You're never alone when you have a medical alert!

"I feel more independent, safe, and secure with my medical alert."

Less than \$1 per day

- No Long-Term Contracts • Price Guarantee
- A+ Rating with BBB • Made and Monitored in the USA

Call Today to learn more about our Special Offer.

1.877.801.8608 Toll Free



Consider
Remembering
Your Parish in
Your Will.

For further information,
please call the Parish Office.