

# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

F  
A  
T  
I  
M  
A  
  
T  
O  
W  
E  
R  
S



ST. PETER CANISIUS - December 21

Our Lady of Fatima  
Pleaded that we pray the Holy Rosary  
before Sunday Mass and  
privately from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm daily.

DECEMBER 17, 2017

Rejoice always. Pray without  
ceasing.

— 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17

**Our Lady of Fatima Parish**  
2010 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
[www.ourladyoffatimaaltoona.com](http://www.ourladyoffatimaaltoona.com)  
Rectory Office Hours:  
Monday – Friday 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
Parish Office: 814-942-0371

Cathedral Church Office: 814-944-4603  
One Cathedral Square

Most Reverend Mark L. Bartchak, Bishop  
Reverend Monsignor Robert C. Mazur, Rector

Rev. Father Dennis M. Kurdziel, Parochial Vicar  
Christian Initiation Team: 944-4603  
Catholics returning Home: 944-4603

Our Lady of Fatima Mass Schedule  
Sunday: 10:30 AM - Holy Days: 6:00 PM  
Rosary: 10:05 AM - Rosary: 5:40 PM

Mail Ministry to Elderly, Homebound, Seriously Sick  
and Grieving - 944-4603

Our Lady of Fatima Parish Administrator  
Reverend Monsignor Robert C. Mazur

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Web: [www.holytrinitycatholic.school](http://www.holytrinitycatholic.school)  
Altoona Campus (Pre-K thru Grade 4) - 381-7011  
Hollidaysburg Campus (Pre-K thru Grade 4) - 695-6112  
Middle School Campus (Grades 5 thru 8) - 942-7835

Parish Secretary  
Carol Z. Smith  
Secretary's Assistant  
Ellen Kelly

Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School:  
Web: [www.bishopguilfoyle.org](http://www.bishopguilfoyle.org) – 944-4014

Eucharist for the home bound - weekly:  
Patty Flanagan 942-0371 for arrangements.

Directors of Religious Education:  
Chris Laraia – Pre-K thru 8 - 312-7317  
Jean Koury – 9 thru 12 – 949-2777

Our Lady of Fatima Church is open  
Monday through Friday: 9AM - 6PM  
for visits before the Blessed Sacrament.

Religious Education Office: Sundays – 943-7424

Director of Music Ministry  
Leslie C. Thayer, MM, CAGO  
Music Ministry Office - 944-2044  
E-Mail: [lthayer@dioceseaj.org](mailto:lthayer@dioceseaj.org)

Reconciliation @ Cathedral: 7:00 PM Wednesday  
12:30 PM Saturday

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals will be held  
at Our Lady of Fatima.

Religious Education @ Cathedral: Pre-K through 11  
Sacramental Formation @ Cathedral: First Reconciliation  
First Communion  
Confirmation

Preparation for Baptism, and Weddings will be held at  
the Cathedral. 944-4603

Sacramental Formation @ the Cathedral: Baptismal Prep  
Marriage Prep  
Christian Initiation

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick  
Parishioners wishing to receive the sacrament of  
healing may call the Cathedral Parish Office to  
make arrangements. 944-4603

Hospital Visitation: Call the Cathedral: 944-4603

Cathedral Eucharist:  
Sunday: 5:00 PM (Vigil) Holy Days: 5:30 PM (Vigil) Weekdays: 6:45 AM  
8:00 AM 8:00 AM 8:00 AM  
10:00 AM 12:00 Noon 12:00 Noon  
12:00 Noon 5:30 PM Saturday: 8:00 AM  
5:00 PM 12:00 Noon

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH IS A RESULT OF THE  
MERGER BETWEEN THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCHES  
OF SS. PETER & PAUL AND ST. LEO THE GREAT IN 1995.

*DECEMBER 17, 2017*  
*THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT*

*“If you have too much to do, with God’s help you will find time to do it all.”*

**Six Things You Didn’t Know About Saint Peter Canisius Jesuit, and Doctor**

No words ring truer than those above spoken by Saint Peter Canisius, who accomplished much for the Church during his 76 years on earth. The enormity of works, writings, and preachings from Peter give us the example and the courage to pray and labor for God with the gifts and talents He has given us. Peter Canisius is one of the lesser known Doctors of the Church, but his contributions to the Church are magnanimous. Here are six things you didn’t know about this saint.

**Peter is the Doctor of Catechetical Studies:** Peter lived during the height of the Protestant Reformation, having been born four years after Luther penned his 95 Theses. In an effort to combat Luther’s catechism Peter published his own Catholic Catechism in 1555, called the Summary of Christian Doctrine. This catechism was essential to the Counter-Reformation, was the standard for centuries, and helped renew and strengthen the Catholic faith in Europe.

**Patron Saint of Germany:** Because of Peter’s long labors in Germany to fight the tide of Protestantism, Peter is often called the “Second Apostle to Germany” after Saint Boniface. Peter started schools and universities, reformed parishes, converted Protestants, and served the infirmed and imprisoned.

**Peter was a Jesuit:** Soon after receiving a Masters Degree from Cologne at the age of 19, Peter met Blessed Peter Faber, one of the original Jesuits with Saint Ignatius. He was so impressed with Faber that Peter Canisius became a Jesuit himself in 1543. He was the first Dutchman to join the Jesuits.

**Helped with the Council of Trent:** Some sources cite Peter as the papal theologian during the Council of Trent. It is known that he at least attended many of the sessions. But more importantly, he was chosen as the secret Nuncio in 1565 to get the Council’s decrees throughout Europe, which was a hotbed of Protestantism at that time. As the story goes, the first messenger was caught, and thus Peter was called upon to help with this arduous task. Though he was ardently Catholic, he was respected by the Protestants because of the kindness and charity with which he treated them, and therefore would have been above suspicion of carrying the official documents.

**Added a line to the “Hail Mary:** As we know, the line “Holy Mary Mother of God pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death” is not found in Scripture the way the rest of the Hail Mary is. Tradition holds that Peter Canisius, who was also known for his Marian theology, began adding the sentence added to the Hail Mary, and it was officially accepted and included in the Catechism of the Council of Trent in 1566.

**Creator and Patron of Catholic Press:** Though the printing press was developed in the 1400s, Catholics had not made much use of it until Peter Canisius. The Protestants were busy developing their own catechisms in the vernacular and Peter responded with his own, thereby marking the beginning of the Catholic Press. His catechism was so popular that it was printed in at least twelve languages in Peter’s lifetime, and eventually produced hundreds of editions in 26 languages. Peter wrote catechisms, a breviary, and works on Mary. Even after a stroke a few years before his death kept him from writing, he dictated his teachings to his faithful secretary, who made known the words of Saint Peter Canisius.

**Prayer:**

O God, who for the defense of the Catholic faith made the Priest Saint Peter Canisius strong in virtue and in learning, grant, through his intercession, that those who seek the truth may joyfully find you, their God, and that your faithful people may persevere in confessing you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. +Amen.

***3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent (Dec 17)***

***How do we respond to St. Paul’s challenge to give thanks to God in all circumstances? With an attitude of gratitude Christian stewards give their time, talents, and treasure in response to an internal need to give in thanks for God’s blessings, and not because someone has a need to receive. Like the rose candle of the Advent Wreath may we “shine on” as we share our blessings in cheerfulness and joy.***

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 17, 2017  
10:30 AM

**OUR LADY OF FATIMA MASS INTENTIONS**

Readings: Is 61:1-2,10-11; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8,19-28

**Today's Intention - Charles Hennigan**

Readings: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

**December 24, Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**\*M. Charlotte McCall, (Karen and Greg Querry)**

Readings: Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18

**December 25, Monday, Christmas Day (Holy Day)**

**\*Our Lady of Fatima Parishioners**

**CATHEDRAL MASS INTENTIONS**

**December 18, Monday: Late Advent Weekday**

Readings: Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25

6:45 AM Florence Moffa Brook (Estate)

8:00 AM Dick & Martha Tragon (Rose Marie Fedeli)

12:00 PM Loretta Batkiewicz (Paul, Janice Viola)

**December 19, Tuesday: Late Advent Weekday**

Readings: Jgs 13:2-7,24-25; Lk 1:5

6:45 AM Monsignor Paul D. Panza (Axinn Family)

8:00 AM Family & Friends (McNelis All-Stars)

12:00 PM David Greiner (Mary Gene Vogel)

**December 20, Wednesday: Late Advent Weekday**

Readings: Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38

6:45 AM Susie Elmers (Duane & Nancy Elmers)

**\*8:00 AM Bernadette Weakland (Mary Ann Hofer)**

12:00 PM Lori Crilley (Fred & Becky Buckreis)

**December 21, Thursday: St. Peter Canisius, Pr. & Dr.**

Readings: Sg 2:8-14; Lk 1:39-45

**\*6:45 AM George Dean Barry (The Gouliosnis)**

8:00 AM Poor Souls

12:00 PM Danyll Rougeux (Jeanne & Bob Kelley)

**December 22, Friday: Late Advent Weekday**

Readings: 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56

6:45 AM Marian Clemens (Emma Watchey)

8:00 AM Susan Bauer, Birth. (Skip Cowan, Spc. Friend)

12:00 PM Herb Kuttruff (Cathedral Parish)

**December 23, Saturday: Saint John of Kanty, Priest**

Readings: Mal 3:1-4,23-24; Lk 1:57-66

8:00 AM Billy & Patty Geis, Wed. Anniv. (Family)

12:00 PM David Donnelly (Cathedral Parish)

**Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Readings: 2 Sm 7:1-5,8-12,14,16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

5:00 PM Francis A. Goss, Anniv. (Family)

*Please Remember Our Sick and our Shut-ins in  
your Daily prayers.*

*DECEMBER 17, 2017*  
*Scripture Reflection*

Today's readings continue the preparation theme we heard in the previous two weeks of Advent. But now the focus shifts somewhat to the joy that awaits us in God's coming Kingdom. This Sunday is Gaudete (Latin, "rejoice") Sunday or, as Pope Francis calls it, the Sunday of Joy.

On the theme of joy, the Church has wisely paired these readings from Isaiah and Mark with a reading from Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians. Paul admonishes us to always live in joy, praying and giving thanks, because this is God's will for us. Everything we do and say should be inspired by the Spirit as we await the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Advent readings offer Christians a twofold preparation. They help to prepare the hearts of believers for a new encounter with the mystery of the Nativity. They also teach Christ's disciples how to prepare others for a first arrival of Christ in their lives. Just as John the Baptist prepared the world for Christ's light, so we today must reflect the light we see in Christ and be beacons of hope for the world.

John the Baptist walked a path illumined by a divine light. The Gospel says that John came to testify to the light "so that all might believe through him." Everything John said or did refracted divine brilliance onto those around him. People eventually came to see the light of Christ because they had already seen it shine through John. Writing around the year A.D. 200, the early Christian scholar Origen said, God sends the stars to guide us until we are ready to look at the sun. In the era before modern navigation, the stars guided lost sailors home. If we let Christ's light shine through us, we can be a similar beacon for so many who wander. This is how we can testify to the light today. If we let Christ's light shine through us, we can be the stars they follow.

- Can you allow the surrounding darkness to be swallowed up in the light of Christ?
- Name areas of darkness and areas of light these Advent days.

## CLASS SACRAMENTS

The class Sacraments will be offered at two locations this January. Msgr. Robert Mazur will be teaching a 6 week course (2 ½ hour classes) beginning Monday January 8 from 6:30-9:00 PM at Cathedral, Seton Suite, Altoona and Fr. Timothy Grimme will be teaching an 8 week course (2 hour classes) from 6:30-8:30 PM beginning Tuesday January 9 at St. Michael Church Hall, St. Michael. The cost of the course which includes registration and all materials is \$65. Participants will explore the history of the sacraments and the post Vatican II Theology of the Sacraments within the context of Christology, Ecclesiology and Ministry. For further information and registration forms visit [www.dioceseaj.org/lay-ecclesial-ministry](http://www.dioceseaj.org/lay-ecclesial-ministry) or contact the Office of Adult Enrichment at 814-361-2000. All are welcome!

## VOLUNTEERING AT OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH...

Do you have a few hours a week that you HAVE to find an outlet for your Time and Talent, but not sure what to do?

We can always use additional folks to help us out around the Church and Rectory. We can help you to obtain the mandatory state and diocesan clearances! Every Employee and Volunteer must fulfill all clearances needed from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown to participate in parish activities. Every parish and church-associated activity are required to meet these standards as we uphold our commitment to protecting God's children and youth. Cathedral parish is offering assistance to fulfill all clearances at the Altoona Public Library on Saturday, January 13 from 9:00 AM through 1:00 PM. Free help to fill in the forms and to view the training films will be provided. Our Lady of Fatima Parish will cover any costs needed for these required clearances. For more information, please call the Cathedral Parish Office at 944-4603 or Chris Laraia at 312-7317.

## FREE HOLIDAY CONCERT

The Altoona Community Band will be performing a FREE concert at the Altoona First Baptist Church (1209 17th St.- across from the Krish funeral home) on Wednesday, Dec. 20 at 7:00 p.m. The all volunteer band is comprised of musicians from the Altoona and Hollidaysburg community. The concert will feature some of your favorite Christmas music. Plenty of free parking, amazing acoustics and wonderful music. Come and hear for yourself!

December 17 John 1:6-8, 19-28

Today's gospel reports "there is one among you whom you do not recognize." It is hard to believe Christ is present in a family with crazy schedules, suppers that start too late and end too early, cars that don't start, misunderstandings, frustrations, piles of laundry, unmatched socks and stretched food budgets. The list is endless. The words spoken at mass, "The Lord is with you," are not a hope, they are a fact.

2018 CALENDARS are available on the back tables.

PLEASE ONLY ONE PER FAMILY.

TODAY AFTER THE 10:30 AM MASS WE WILL BE DECORATING THE CHURCH.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE FOR OLF is as follows:

Sunday, Dec 24th (4th Sunday of Advent) 10:30 AM

Monday, Dec 25th (Christmas Day) 10:30 AM

Sunday, Dec. 31st (Feast of the Holy Family) 10:30 AM

Monday, January 1st, (No Mass at OLF.)

Christmas Flower Memorial Offering is \$10.00 per individual family. Envelopes are on heating units AND MUST BE IN BY DEC 20TH to be published in the Christmas Bulletin.

Hoss's Dinner Kit Sale is on! New Feature's available. See order page in the pews. Deadline for orders is January 17, 2018 and pickup will be on January 24, 2018,--12-3 and 4-6 PM.

The Friar's Nook Gift Shop – Christmas Happenings

Celebrate the Christmas season by receiving 20% off your entire purchase at The Friar's Nook Gift Shop December 11th- 23rd! The Friar's Nook is located across from St. Bernardine Monastery at 793 Monastery Road, Hollidaysburg. Open 10-4 Monday - Saturday. Take the stress out of your Christmas cookie prep work by stopping at The Friar's Nook Gift Shop on Wednesday, December 20th to purchase homemade Christmas cookie trays! There will be a variety of both traditional and ethnic cookies, so stop out early!

<i>Happy Birthday!</i>		Dec 8-10, 2017	Env used 41-44 /147
		Weekly	1236.15
		Cmas Club	51.00
		Christmas Day	50.00
		Cmas Flowers	230.00
		Imm. Conc.	380.00
		Votives	64.00
		Children's	4.00
		Shrine	10.00
		Music	10.00
12/19	Sean Summers	Im.Con&Sun Dep	\$2035.15
12/22	Tim O'Connor	Pierogi Sale net	\$1135.40
12/24	Darlene Panek	Ministries. Ret'd	\$397.00
12/27	Michael Long	Musto Bequest	\$5,000.00
12/29	John Wall		
12/30	Mike O'Connor		
12/30	Mark Schimminger		
12/31	Gary Keagy, Jr.	Dep. For Week	\$8,567.55

## FREE HOLIDAY CONCERT

The Altoona Community Band will be performing a FREE concert at the Altoona First Baptist Church (1209 17th St.- across from the Krish funeral home) on Wednesday, Dec. 20 at 7:00 p.m. The all volunteer band is comprised of musicians from the Altoona and Hollidaysburg community. The concert will feature some of your favorite Christmas music. Plenty of free parking, amazing acoustics and wonderful music. Come and hear for yourself!

December 17 John 1:6-8, 19-28

Today's gospel reports "there is one among you whom you do not recognize." It is hard to believe Christ is present in a family with crazy schedules, suppers that start too late and end too early, cars that don't start, misunderstandings, frustrations, piles of laundry, unmatched socks and stretched food budgets. The list is endless. The words spoken at mass, "The Lord is with you," are not a hope, they are a fact.



**OUR LADY URGES US TO PRAY THE HOLY ROSARY FOR  
PEACE AND OFFER  
SACRIFICES BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!**

## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

*Last week, we looked at a form of nativity scene called a **presipio**, characterized by framing the crèche of Jesus with a vast array of personalities and a rich geographical context. The tradition was carried to the New World, and finds very rich expression in Latin America today. While in Europe the presepio was reserved mostly to the homes of wealthy nobles and great churches, in Latin America it was claimed by the poor and expressed the skills of native artisans. In Mexico, you can still find clay figures in every village market. In a way, the native people took the religion of Spanish rule and baptized it with their Indian culture by surrounding the crib of Jesus with local geography and people. In Brazil, where Christmas falls in summer, the figure of the baby Jesus is wrapped in gold and gems, and set on a hillside surrounded by flowers and animals of all kinds. Sometimes there is a double presepio, presenting both Nativity and Crucifixion.*

*In some places in Latin America, even non-religious people take care to have a presepio in the home, sometimes dedicating one whole room in the house or apartment to the scene. Some cities have markets where people from the countryside sell plants and figurines. In Cuzco, churches and families provide hot chocolate for the children of the poor who come down to help create the nativity scenes. In Paraguay, the baby Jesus grows—the small infant who arrives on Christmas Eve is replaced at New Year with a toddler Jesus who holds in one hand the globe and in the other a cross. Few Christmas traditions have the vitality and variety of presepios and crèches honoring the Nativity.*

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## PROPER UNDERTAKING

*Never undertake anything for which you wouldn't have the courage to ask the blessings of heaven.*

—Georg C. Lichtenberg

<p><b>ORDER OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS</b></p>	<p><i>Liturgical Reflection...</i></p> <p><i>We await the coming of the eternal Word of God. When a believer dies we find comfort and consolation in the word of God, the Holy Scriptures. Death may fill the Christian with fears and questions. Scripture firmly grounds us in the faith that death is not the end, that the promise made at baptism assures us that we who have died with Christ in the waters of baptism remain with the Lord into eternal life. The word of God assures us that death, a result of sin, does not have power over one claimed for Christ.</i></p> <p><b>Order of Christian Funerals, 1998/1989, General Introduction, Numbers 2 and 4.</b></p> <p><small>2017, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 South Logan Boulevard, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648</small></p>
---	---

***This Year of Grace 2018 the Liturgy Office will review the funeral rites and, also, spend time on the Church's call for the proper disposition of cremated remains. Placing these inserts in the weekly bulletin will offer proper catechesis to our faithful on the funeral rites (Vigil for the Deceased, Funeral Mass, and Committal), and the practice of cremation along with the proper burial of the cremains.***



# 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 38th Year

**Owner: Joseph E. Gaeto**

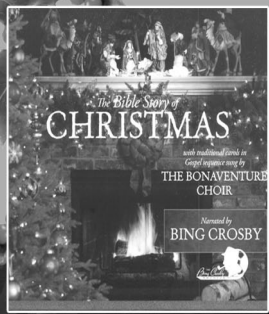
When Only The Best Will Do

**814-942-0101**

1006 Pleasant Valley Blvd.

Altoona, PA 16602

Corner of 10th & Pleasant Valley Blvd.



From the WLP Vault comes the Bible Story of Christmas featuring 8 Classic Christmas Carols and a reading of the Gospel of Luke 2: 4-20 by Bing Crosby! Also available on vinyl.



Photo Courtesy of Bing Crosby Enterprises

**800-566-6150**

Visit [WLPmusic.com](http://WLPmusic.com) to purchase your copy - CD \$10.00

Since 1933  
**PLUMBING & HEATING**

**CONTRACTOR**

**814-942-6772**

Promote Your Business  
365 Days a Year With  
Custom Promotional  
Calendars!

Makes a Great Gift For Clients  
Call for brochure and pricing!  
**800.566.6170**  
[customer-care@jpsaluch.com](mailto:customer-care@jpsaluch.com)

Download Our Free App or Visit  
[MY.ONEPARISH.COM](http://MY.ONEPARISH.COM)

Grow in your faith,  
find a Mass, and  
connect with your  
Catholic Community  
with OneParish!

Please Cut Out This "Thank You Ad"  
and Present It The Next Time You  
*Patronize One of Our Advertisers*

**FINDaPARISH.com**

Check It Out Today!

The Most Complete  
Online National  
Directory of  
Catholic Parishes

Thank you for advertising in  
our church bulletin.  
I am patronizing your business  
because of it!

**It's  
SIMPLY  
BETTER**

**Member FDIC** Investment Savings Bank  
1201 8th Ave. 200 Patchway Road  
Altoona, PA 16602 Duncansville, PA 16635  
• New Location •

Brian or Sally, coordinators

**860.399.1785** an Official Travel  
Agency of Apostleship  
of the Sea-USA  
CST 2117990-70  
[www.CatholicCruisesAndTours.com](http://www.CatholicCruisesAndTours.com)

**JOE MERRITT REMODELING**

Roofing • Siding • Soffit & Facia  
Interior & Exterior • Window Installation  
Fully Insured • Over 20 Yrs. Experience  
**(814) 942-6784**

Live Alone **LIFEWATCH!**

24 Hour Protection at HOME and AWAY!

Ambulance Solutions as Low as  
Police **\$19.<sup>95</sup> a month**  
Fire

Friends/Family FREE Shipping  
FREE Activation  
NO Long Term Contracts

CALL **800.809.3352**  
NOW!

No Landline? No Problem!  
\* Real Time GPS Tracking  
\* Fall Detection

**Saint Margaret  
Sunday Missal**

An ideal companion  
for personal prayer.

In Stock & Ready to Order Today.  
CALL OR ORDER ONLINE. \$39.95

800-566-6150 • [www.wlpmusic.com](http://www.wlpmusic.com)

**Consider  
Remembering  
Your Parish in  
Your Will.**

For further information,  
please call the Parish Office.