

First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

Our Lady of Fatima Parish
2010 12th Avenue
www.ourladyoffatimaaltoona.org
Rectory Office Hours:
Tuesdays and Thursdays
11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
Parish Office: 814-942-0371
or call the Cathedral Office at 944-4603.

Our Lady of Fatima Parish
Rev. Msgr. Stanley B. Carson, Administrator

Parish Secretary
Paula Hall

Director of Music Ministry
Cathy McFee

Eucharist: Sunday: 11:30 AM
Holy Days: 5:30 PM
Holy Communion for the home bound - weekly:
Patty Flanagan 942-0371 for arrangements.

Our Lady of Fatima Church is open Sunday through Saturday: 7:30 AM - 5PM for visits before the Blessed Sacrament.

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

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

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick
Parishioners wishing to receive the sacrament of healing may call the Cathedral Parish Office to make arrangements. 814-944-4603

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

Most Reverend Mark L. Bartchak, Bishop
Rev. Msgr. Stanley B. Carson, Administrator
Paula Clemens, Secretary
PH: 814-944-4603

Christian Initiation Team: 944-4603
Catholics returning Home: 944-4603
Mail Ministry to Elderly, Homebound, Seriously Sick and Grieving - 944-4603

Director of Religious Education:
Chris Laraia – Pre-K thru 8 - 312-7317

Religious Education Office: Sundays – 943-7424
Director of Music Ministry

Leslie C. Thayer, MM, CAGO
Music Ministry Office - 944-2044
E-Mail: ltthayer@dioceseaj.org

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

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

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

Hospital Visitation: Call the Cathedral: 944-4603

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

THE FATIMA TOWERS

OUR LADY OF FATIMA MASS INTENTIONS

11:30 A.M.

Today, December 1, 2024

Robert Simanski (Frank & Chris Papuga)

Next Sunday, December 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

All of God's People (Altoona Catholic Daughters)

Cathedral Mass Intentions

December 1, First Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM +Terry Smith (Randy & Paula Clemens)
10:00 AM +Herbert Kutruff, Anniv. (Family)
5:00 PM Pro Popolo/For the People
There is Mass at 11:30 A.M. at Our Lady of Fatima Church.

December 2, Monday, Advent Weekday

12:00 PM +Edith & Bernard McLucas (Family)

December 3, Tuesday, St. Francis Xavier, Priest & Dr.

12:00 PM +Ella & Ralph Miller (Karen)

December 4, Wednesday, St. John Damascene, Priest & Dr.

12:00 PM +Paul Luke (Therese Frischkorn)

December 5, Thursday, Advent Weekday

12:00 PM +Robbie Frederick (Toots & Mike Duffy)

December 6, Friday, St. Nicholas, Bp.

12:00 PM +John E. Bauer, Birth. (Family)

December 7, Saturday, St. Ambrose, Bp. & Dr.

12:00 PM +Geraldine Kines, Birth. (Sharon Yanchik)

Vigil: Second Sunday of Advent

5:00 PM +Ruthie McConnell (John & Mary Jo McConnell)

December 8, Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM +Terrance Ferry, Birth. (Michele Luciano)
10:00 AM +Ray Kelly, Birth. (Emma & Paul Kowalski)
5:00 PM Pro Popolo/For the People
There is Mass at 11:30 A.M. at Our Lady of Fatima Church

December 9, The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary-A Holy Day of Obligation

8:00 AM (C) For the People
12:00 PM (C) Thomas & Patricia Byrne, Wed. Anniv. (Family)
5:30 PM (OLOF) For the People

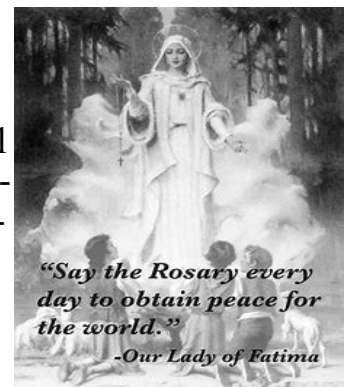


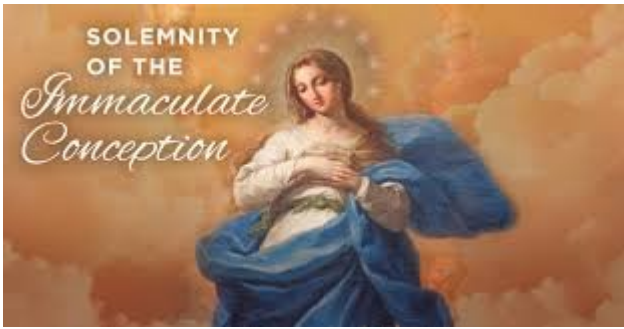
**Come quickly, Lord Jesus,
we long to see You,
to see Your Kingdom come.
Come quickly, Lord Jesus,
our hearts long for You,
come quickly, Lord Jesus, come.**

The **Sanctuary Candle** for the month of December is being lit in memory/honor of the Paul & Claire Rigglesman Family and the Adolph & Genevieve Link Family by Carol Rigglesman.

Thank You Very Much

Your prayers, volunteerism, and financial support are deeply appreciated. The contributions for Sunday, November 24, were \$1,545.
Thank you.





This year, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (our national patronal feast day) is transferred from Sunday, December 8, to Monday, December 9, and is a holy day of obligation.

Since all Masses on Sunday, December 8, must be of the Second Sunday of Advent, there can be no Vigil Mass for the Solemnity.

On Monday, December 9, we will have Masses at the Cathedral at 8:00 A.M. and Noon. There will be a 5:30 P.M. Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church.

**THANK
YOU!**

**7th GRADE RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION
SERVICE PROJECT**

On behalf of the Gwen Gabriel and Sophia Riggleman Families, the 7th grade students thank the Cathedral and Our Lady of Fatima Parishes for their overwhelmingly generous response to our collection and lollipop sale. At this time, \$9,000 was received in donations! That amount includes \$720 in gift cards. Household products, baby supplies, and pet supplies were also received. Both families deeply appreciate your kindness and Christian giving. They ask us to continue to pray for the girls.

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

December 1, 2024

1st Sunday of Advent

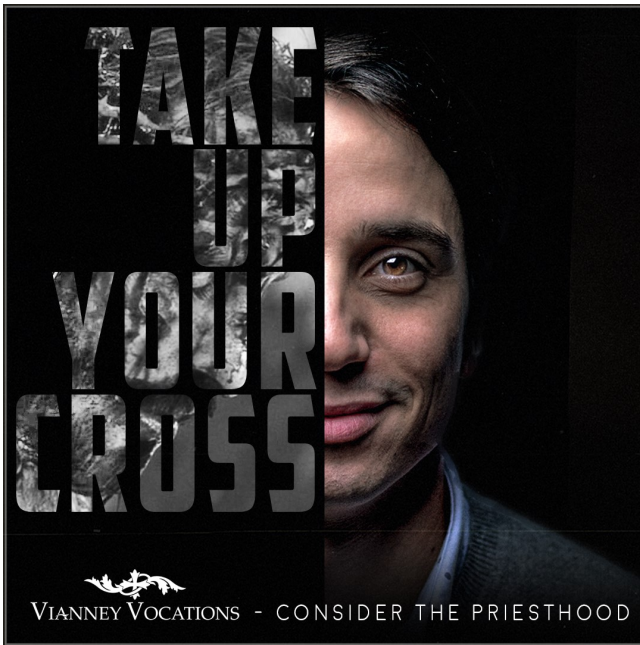
When I was a young priest, about one year after ordination, I was called to the hospital to anoint a dying mother of three young children. She had a painful, terminal cancer. After celebrating Last Rites with her, I said, "Don't be afraid." She looked me square in the eye from her hospital bed and said, "Oh Father, I am in a lot of pain, but I am not afraid. Something wonderful is about to happen." A few days later she died.

Christians face the ending of our personal various "worlds" in a totally unique way. This first Sunday of Advent, Jesus says that when people see their world falling apart, they find themselves "fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world" (Luke 21:26). In our fear, our natural response is to check out, to hide our heads in drunkenness, distraction, and false securities. But Jesus commands us to "look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." He then compares what's coming to a lovely summer in full bloom. That's what the cross and resurrection empower us to do, as strange as it may seem.

Advent challenge: What world in your life is collapsing? A relationship, a dream, a work opportunity? Maybe you're troubled by a crumbling world in the political or economic sphere. Or maybe someone you love is seriously ill or dying. Name that world or worlds. Then pray: "Lord, help me to not faint with fear. Help me to raise my head and see your redemption coming."

— Father John Muir

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Please pray that young people in today's culture will hear and respond to God's call. It is crucial that when God moves the heart of a young man to explore the priesthood, parishioners need to be supportive. We all need to do our part to encourage young people to consider the priesthood or consecrated life.

Eileen and Bryan Starr will help promote vocations at Our Lady of Fatima Parish. Eileen recently attended a diocesan sponsored workshop about a parish-based effort to encourage vocations.



Thirty-six pledges have been made to this year's Catholic Ministries Drive. Our parish's target is \$9,813.00. Since \$9,989 has been given or pledged, we are \$176 over goal. \$400 remains in unpaid pledges. Thank you for participating.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Preparing the Manger

Where do you fall in the "Christmas-songs-in-November" debate — do you like them, tolerate them, or outright hate them? There's no theological problem with Christmas songs in November outside of worship, even if it's not everyone's cup of tea. But there is a problem with getting so caught up in the baggage of the season — the trimmings, the gifts, the celebrations, all of which are marvelous in their own way — that you forget to prepare the manger.

Every good Catholic knows that Lent is a penitential season. It's hard to miss that point — Lent doesn't even have any fun songs you can groove to on the radio. We are pretty good at recognizing that Lent calls us to examine ourselves. To deny ourselves. To give of ourselves. And most of all, Lent calls us to prepare, as a good steward does, for the return of our master.

It's harder for us to remember that with Advent, but Advent is just as much of an opportunity for penance, preparation, and reconciliation to God — and just as much reason, too. The very name of the season — "advent" — encourages us to focus on what is coming, not what is already here. Be on guard, the readings tell us today, "so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and (the coming of the Lord) catch you unexpectedly, like a trap."

So let us not forget — our master's advent is upon us. And let us ask ourselves: how can we prepare the manger?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi



St. Nicholas will be visiting Cathedral Parish on December 8 following their 10 A.M. Mass. He will be visiting Our Lady of Fatima Parish after our 11:30 A.M. Mass.