

FATIMA-100TH ANNIVERSARY - MIRACLE OF THE SUN — A SIGN IGNORED...



On Oct. 13, 1917, alerted to the prophesied miracle, 70,000 people gathered at Fatima.

At noon, exactly as foretold by Our Lady months earlier, and despite a drenching rain, those gathered earlier, and despite a drenching rain, those gathered saw the sun "dance" and "spin" in the sky. The opaque disc began rapidly spinning, radiating scarlet, yellow, and deep purple hues. It did this three times, faster each time, before appearing to break loose from the sky. It zigzagged toward earth, then returned to its normal position and appearance.

Despite this dazzling display, the world ignored Mary's warnings.

Twenty-two years later, World War II began. By war's end in 1945, 60 million people had been killed, more than half of them civilians. Our Lady's prediction had come true with deadly accuracy. Her predictions of hunger, persecution of the Church, destruction of nations, and great suffering of the Holy Father were also fulfilled.

Consider, for example, that the assassination attempt that nearly killed St. Pope John II in 1981 occurred on May 13, the 64th anniversary of Mary's first appearance at Fatima! John Paul was revealed as the Pope who would "have to suffer much." Also, consider that Our Lady's words regarding Russia and its conversion began to be fulfilled when, in 1989 the Soviet Union began to collapse.



Sister Lucia dos Santos lived to be 97, dying on Feb 13 (the same day of the month's apparitions had usually occurred), 2005, less than two months before St. John Paul II's death. Her cousins died young, victims of the Great Flu Epidemic of 1919. John Paul declared Francisco and Jacinta blessed on May 13, 2000, making Jacinta the youngest non-martyred child ever to be beatified.

As Our Lady predicted, it was left to Lucia — a Carmelite nun who lived for another 87 years after Fatima — to spread the Fatima message of prayer, penance, and conversion, and to promote devotion to the Immaculate Heart.

Her personal physician, Dr. Branca Paul, MD, felt the last earthly beat of the heart of Sr. Lucia. When it had become clear that Lucia had lost her will to live, Mother Celina, prioress of the convent in Coimbra, Portugal, called her in. Lucia had slipped into a coma. There was nothing to do but wait for this beautiful life to commend its spirit to God. But then Lucia surprised everyone. She lifted her head and began moving it back and forth, trying to see in front of her.

"For the Holy Father!" Lucia said. "Our Lady, Our Lady, holy angels, Heart of Jesus, Heart of Jesus! We are going, we are going."

"Where?" Mother Celina asked.

"To Heaven," Sr. Lucia replied.

"With whom?" Mother queried.

"With our Lord, Our Lady, and the little shepherds," Sr. Lucia answered. They were her last words. Francisco and Jacinta had come along to take her to Heaven.

As Sr. Lucia's physician, Dr. Paul spent much time alone with Lucia over the final 15 years of her life. She got to know her as well as anyone. What was she like?

"She was bright, determined, funny, fun loving, yet practical," Dr. Paul said. "she lived jokes and puns. She also, of course, had a profoundly humble spirituality."

We were very close," Dr. Paul continued. "It was amazing that she was so normal, simple, and humble. Full of joy and laughter, always joking smiling a lot. For example, when I came in to see her in a new hairstyle or new clothes, Sister would kid me about it. Sister Lucia was great to be around. Her infectious joy made everyone more happy."

Such joy is the result of consecration to Our Lady's Immaculate Heart, to a complete entrustment of a person to Jesus through Mary, serving her mission faithfully and well. As it was for Sr. Lucia, may it be for all of us through the intercession of the Fatima visionaries and Our Lady of the Rosary.

***Observance of the 100th Anniversary of the
Apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Fatima, Portugal***

The year 2017 marks the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary to three shepherd children in Portugal from May to October 1917. The message of Fatima includes a call to conversion of heart, repentance of sin, prayer (especially the Rosary), and devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Pope Francis has encouraged the faithful to take advantage of the spiritual benefits at Marian celebrations during this centennial observance. In the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Bishop Bartchak will lead the following celebrations:

- **Saturday, May 13, Memorial of Our Lady of Fatima, 11:30 A.M., Rosary and Mass, Our Lady of Fatima Church, Altoona.**
- **Friday, September 8, Feast of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 5:30 P.M., Mass and Rosary Procession (outdoor shrine), Saint Catherine of Siena Church, Duncansville.**
- **Sunday, October 1, Annual Marian Celebration in Honor of the Holy Rosary, 3:00 P.M., Rosary and Mass, Saint Benedict Church, Johnstown.**

Participation in these celebrations are in keeping with the ways in which the faithful may obtain a plenary indulgence during the Centennial Fatima Observance as announced by Pope Francis. The opportunity for a plenary indulgence throughout the entire year, which began on November 27, 2016, and will end November 26, 2017, may be gained as follows:

To obtain the plenary indulgence, the faithful must fulfill the ordinary conditions: Go to confession and Communion, be interiorly detached from sin, and pray for the intentions of the Holy Father.

1. ***Pilgrimage to the Shrine: Make pilgrimage to the Fatima Shrine in Portugal and participate in prayer dedicated to the Virgin. In addition, the faithful must pray the Our Father, recite the Creed, and invoke the Mother of God.***
2. ***Prayer before any Statue of Our Lady of Fatima: The faithful who visit with devotion a statue of Our Lady of Fatima solemnly exposed for public veneration in any church, oratory or proper place during the days of the anniversary of the apparitions, the 13th of each month from May to October (2017), and there devoutly participate in prayer in honor of the Virgin Mary. Those seeking an indulgence must also pray an Our Father, recite the Creed and invoke Our Lady of Fatima.***
3. ***Application for the Elderly and Infirm: To those who, because of age, illness or other serious cause, are unable to get around, may pray in front of a statue of Our Lady of Fatima and must spiritually unite themselves to the jubilee celebrations on the days of the apparitions, the 13th of each month, between May and October 2017. In addition, they must pray the Our Father, recite the Creed, and offer to our merciful God with confidence, through Mary, their prayers and sufferings or the sacrifices they make in their own lives.***

A Retreat for Women

The Hearts of Jesus and Mary

March 24th (6:00 pm) - March 26th (12:30 pm)

*A weekend of
Prayer, Conferences, Quiet Reflection, Holy Mass, Confessions*

Call Mother Jacinta Miryam, SSCJ at [814-505-2290](tel:814-505-2290)
or email her at sisterjacinta@gmail.com

Retreat Location

Sacred Heart Novitiate, 1872 Munster Rd., Portage, PA 15946

Suggested Donation: \$50, but not required

Sponsored by Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

You are invited:

**If only attending on Saturday we begin with Mass at 9:00 AM and
close with Exposition and Confession around 9:00 PM**
Please RSVP as lunch and dinner will be provided

WOMEN'S RETREAT (ages 25 and older)

Theme: The Hearts of Jesus and Mary

Starting time: Friday, March 24th – 6:00pm with dinner

Ending time: 11:00 am Mass (families are invited, but please rsvp for the sake of
the cook)

Please RSVP - Tuesday, March 21st, 2016

***** *Overnight accommodations are available but limited* *****

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 5, 2017
10:30 AM

OUR LADY OF FATIMA MASS INTENTIONS

Readings: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Rom 5:12-19; Mt 4:1-11

Today's Intention - Our Lady of Fatima Parishioners

March 12, Second Sunday of Lent

Readings: Gn 12:1-4; 2 Tm 1:8-10; Mt 17: 1-9

*10:30 AM Mary Wozniak (Children)

Cathedral Mass Intentions

March 6, Monday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46

6:45 AM Poor Souls in Purgatory

8:00 AM Sherry Madden, Anniv. (Kathy Oakes)

12:00 PM Inten. of Burgoon Family (M/M E. Simanski)

March 7, Tuesday: Saints Perpetua and Felicity, Mtrs.

Readings: Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15

6:45 AM Helen Burkholder, Birth.(Kathy Oakes)

8:00 AM Marian Clemens (Daughter, Carol)

12:00 PM Hilda Donahue (J. Mark & Debbie Bover)

March 8, Wednesday: Saint John of God, Religious

Readings: Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32

*6:45 AM Jack Douglass (Margaret Misitano Family)

8:00 AM Margaret Dolores Glass (Elizabeth Shea)

12:00 PM Lawrence Andrews, Birth. (Grandparents)

March 9, Thursday: Saint Frances of Rome, Religious

Readings: Est C:12,14-16,23-25; Mt 7:7-12

6:45 AM Nozzie, Jennie, Sandy Calabrese (Family)

8:00 AM Jonn Bauer (M/M Richard Tragon, Jr.)

12:00 PM Moose Plutko (M/M Ken Louder)

March 10, Friday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26

6:45 AM Alfred Rutolo, Anniversary (Family)

8:00 AM Margie Smith (Michael & Suzan Kuny)

*12:00 PM Tom Byrne (Dr. & Mrs. Peter Starr)

March 11, Saturday: Lenten Weekday

Readings: Dt 26:16-19; 5:43-48

8:00 AM Joseph A. Moffa, Anniversary (Estate)

12:00 PM Michael Febbo (Ed Stoltz)

Vigil: Second Sunday of Lent

Readings: Gn 12:1-4; 2 Tm 1:8-10; Mt 17: 1-9

5:00 PM M. Virginia Jones (Christian Mothers)

*Jesus, Son of the Living Father Have
Mercy on Me, A Sinner*

March 5, 2017
Scripture Reflection

During Lent the Church "goes on retreat." Many find it a good time for self-reflection and spiritual exercises that lead to a change of heart. One traditional path to transformation is through acts of penitence with prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Scripture emphasizes the mercy of God, the grace of God that changes hearts. Acts of penitence do not persuade God to be merciful; God's mercy leads us to be penitent.

The fasting of Lent made practical sense in the past, when food supplies were limited. In the springtime especially, when winter stores were depleted but new crops had not matured, fasting was necessary. Springtime hunger was part of the natural order of life, and many concluded that it was God's will. Modern farming practices ensure that people in the developed world have an uninterrupted supply of food. We might have good intentions--trying to give up vices like smoking or excessive online entertainment--but the deeper meaning of Lenten fasting, to follow the will of God, is sometimes lost.

In Scripture, the desert is a place of testing and isolation; there Jesus encounters the devil. Like all temptation, this one appeals to Jesus' self-identity. The devil begins with the phrase, "If you are . . ." He's inviting Jesus to flaunt his identity and his mission, perhaps even challenging its genuineness. Matthew places this event right after Jesus' baptism, when he was called "beloved" by the heavenly voice and from there began his ministry. Lent becomes for us a time to remember who we are: baptized in the Lord for the work of the Lord.

Lent asks, "Have we put our trust in what only appears to be good, pleasing, and desirable, or in the One who alone can satisfy our hungry hearts?" Open your eyes to see who we are, children of God who belong to Jesus Christ. May our Lenten journey renew our identity so that we can discover what it really good, desirable, and life giving.

- What penitential acts have you chosen for Lent.

Out and About...

ORDER OF CELEBRATING MATRIMONY

Liturgical Reflection...

The Church has revised the Order of Celebrating Matrimony (2016). This is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the beauty and meaning of the Sacrament of Marriage. Lent is our time to turn from sin and return to God. In the Catechism of the Catholic Church (Number 1609) it is stated that marriage helps to overcome self-absorption, egoism, pursuit of one's own pleasures, and to open oneself to the other, to mutual aid and to self-giving. Husbands and wives model Christian living in the Church. The love of man and woman models the love of Christ for his Church.

2017, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 S. Logan Blvd., Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648

1st Sunday of Lent -March 5th

In a society that frequently tempts us to focus on ourselves and our pleasures, many find it hard to accept the challenge to live as Christian disciples and stewards. May I make a genuine effort to discover the true meaning of Christian stewardship and live accordingly.

03/09 Francis Baronner



03/10 Bert Bravin

2017 \$AV-A-ROUND COUPON BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS

THE BOOKS ARE \$25.00 NATIONAL COUPONS ALSO!
Some of the coupons are valid immediately. The book has a value of \$5,000. We have a few coupon books left. I have been asked to reduce the price to \$18.00. Thank You for your purchases.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas...

Court Prince Gallitzin #2625 is hosting the Stations of the Cross for the Youth and their family members on Saturday, March 25th, from 10:30-11:30 am at St. Therese of the Child Jesus Church.

We will be selling "Apple Dumplings for your "Palm Sunday Breakfast and or Brunch" @ \$4.00 each. Fill out the pew sheet or call the rectory @ 942-0371 or e-mail your order to: olfoff10@hotmail.com. Deadline is Wed, March 29. Pickup is Wed, Apr. 5th before Palm Sunday.

PLEASE NOTE : Incorrect dates were listed.

Christian Prayer and Spirituality Course will be offered at two locations this March. Sr. Marilyn Welch, CCW will be teaching Wednesdays from 6:30-8:30 PM at St. Catherine of Siena, Duncansville, beginning March 8th and Deacon Michael Russo will be teaching Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30 PM at St. Patrick School, Johnstown, beginning March 7th. During this 8 week course, participants will explore both traditional and contemporary expressions of Christian prayer and spirituality that will help deepen their relationship with God. The cost of this course which includes registration and materials is \$55. For further information and registration please contact the Office of Adult Enrichment and Lay Ecclesial Ministry at (814)361-2000 or email: mheinze@dioceseaj.org. All are welcome!

February 2017 Contributions

Feb 26, 2017	Env Used	67 /149
Weekly		1732.55
Cmas Club		5.00
Votives		45.00
Children's		4.75
Music		5.00
Shrine		5.00
Init. Off.		5.00
Fuel		0
Ash Wed.		4.10
Catholic Reg.		21.00
Total Dep		1827.40

St. Leonard's Home...

St. Leonard's Home will host its 2nd annual celebration of St. Joseph's Table on Saturday, March 18 from 5PM-8PM at the American Legion Post 516 Social Hall at Legion Park in Hollidaysburg. The event includes a meal, Cheese bar, desserts, wine tasting, auction, prizes for bidding and entertainment. Tickets are \$30, and are available at St. Leonard's Home or by calling 695-9581 during busi-

"Every day, once a day, give yourself a present. Don't plan it. Don't wait for it. Just let it happen." — Dale Cooper, Twin Peaks.

We still need \$\$\$ to fix our parking lots this spring. Donation envelopes are on the back table. Please put your name and env # to get credit for your donation. Current balance=\$695.00- Approx. \$2800. needed.

Nocturnal Adoration
St. Mark's Church, Sixth Avenue, Altoona
Friday, March 3, 2017
8-11 PM

Prayer and Luncheon for Widows and Widowers throughout our Diocese

Remember your loved ones on Monday, March 20 (first day of Spring) with Mass at 11:00 am. Theme of the day: "No Winter Lasts Forever...Spring Offers a New Beginning." All spouses will be mentioned and remembered at Mass. Luncheon to follow. Widows and widowers throughout the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese are invited to attend. Sponsored by the Diocesan Family Life Office and hosted by the Immaculate Conception Church, 1640 New Germany Road, Summerhill. Reservations required by March 14. A \$5 donation is suggested. Contact the Family Life Office at 814-886-5551 or familylife@dioceseaj.org.

Prayer and Luncheon for Widows and Widowers throughout our Diocese...

Remember your loved ones on Monday, March 20 (first day of Spring) with Mass at 11:00 am. Theme of the day: "No Winter Lasts Forever... Spring Offers a New Beginning." All spouses will be mentioned and remembered at Mass. Luncheon to follow. Widows and widowers throughout the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese are invited to attend. Sponsored by the Diocesan Family Life Office and hosted by the Immaculate Conception Church, 1640 New Germany Road, Summerhill. Reservations required by March 14. A \$5 donation is suggested. Contact the Family Life Office at 814-886-5551 or [familylife\(a\).dioceseaj.org](mailto:familylife(a).dioceseaj.org).

Try for a Lenten Moment...

If you're feeling discouraged because your effort to give up chocolate was thwarted by the co-worker who brought the birthday cake to work, don't lose heart. Lent is not a pass/fail class. Rather, it is a journey of becoming closer to God through prayer, sacrifice, and generosity. Seeing Lent only as a 40 - day block can prevent us from taking advantage of Lenten moments-opportunities that arise each day for us to deepen our relationship with God.

Here are a few:

***Prayer.** Between now and Easter, look for five minutes alone with your spouse. Face each other, hold hands, and ask your spouse what he or she is most worried about. Then together pray an Our Father, slowly, for that worry. Then do the same for your worry, followed by a prayer of gratitude from each of you.

***Generosity.** Almsgiving is the traditional way to be generous during Lent, but generosity can be practiced in small moments throughout the day - flowers for a teacher, a plate of cookies for an elderly.

***Sacrifice.** The strong among us are able to sustain a 40-day fast from sweets, chips, or alcohol during Lent, but the rest of us need to start small with our sacrifice. Try a focused, one-to-three day fast from something you truly enjoy, but for a purpose. Give up your afternoon Diet Coke for three days straight and pray for your children. Skip sweets for a day and make a point to learn more about those areas of the world affected by hungry.

MAY 13, 2017

100TH

ANNIVERSARY

OF

OUR

LADY

OF

FATIMA'S

FIRST

APPARITION

COVA DA IRIA, PORTUGAL



OUR LADY URGES US TO PRAY AND OFFER SACRIFICES
BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!

JUNE 29, 2017

22ND

ANNIVERSARY

OF

OUR

LADY

OF

FATIMA

PARISH

ALTOONA

PA