

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

January 26, 2025

Mass Intentions

January 26, Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00AM+Claude Michael Walls (Tom & Lisa Levine)

10:00AM+James Weaver (Jen & Cory Geishauer)

5:00PM Pro Popolo/For the People

Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church 11:30AM

January 27, Monday, Saint Angela Merici, Virgin and Religious Founder

12:00PM+Souls in Purgatory (Anonymous)

January 28, Tuesday, Saint Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church

12:00PM+Kathryn Carosielli (Peg Behe)

January 29, Wednesday, Weekday

12:00PM Special Intention (Cecelia Ratzesberger)

January 30, Thursday, Weekday

12:00PM+Matt & Mark Burns (Mr. & Mrs. Dave Hanekamp)

January 31, Friday, Saint John Bosco, Priest

10:00AM B.G.A. Catholic Schools Week Mass

12:00PM+Msgr. Thomas Madden (Kathy & Terry Tomassetti)

February 1, Saturday, Weekday

12:00PM+Debbie Fornwalt Beiswenger, Birth. (Bob & Cathy Chirdon)

Vigil: The Presentation of the Lord

5:00PM+Edgar A. Johnston, Birthday (Mom & Family)

February 2, The Presentation of the Lord

8:00AM Special Intention Vince Bumann, Birthday (Family)

10:00AM+Brian McCaulley, Anniversary (Family)

5:00PM Pro Popolo/For the People

Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church 11:30AM



As we did five years ago, when the Feast of our Lord's Presentation, February 2nd, also fell on a Sunday, we will begin Mass next weekend with the traditional blessing of candles and procession (processions remind us that we are a pilgrim people, which is especially appropriate during this Jubilee Year).

Forty days after his birth, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem to fulfill two Mosaic laws: to present their firstborn son to God and to "purify" Mary after childbirth, along with the appropriate sacrifices. Although neither Jesus nor Mary needed "purified", they participate in these rituals as faithful and observant Jews within their community.

Since Jesus is revealed as "a light of revelation to the nations and the glory of God's people," candles are blessed on this feast for use at home and during liturgy, reminding us that Christ is the light of the world.

Members of the congregation are asked to gather in the narthex/vestibule/entrance area of the cathedral. The cathedral bell will call us to gather there 10 minutes before Mass time. The bell will ring again at the hour.

The taper candle you carry may be taken home. Devotional candles for home use will also be available for a donation.



OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS

Sunday, January 19, 2025, \$ 12,907.63

Thank you for your monetary and personal contributions to the life of our parish.

RADIO MASS

Following consultations with our Parish Council and Finance Council, it has been decided to discontinue broadcasting our 10:00 A.M. Sunday Mass on the radio. Gratitude is extended to our generous sponsors. As you know, there has been an significant increase in Masses that are available on television and the internet.

FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION

All meetings/sessions will be held in the Cathedral basement from 6:30-8:00PM. A parent must accompany your child to the meetings. Please contact Chris Laraia if you are unable to attend a meeting so that make up work can be assigned.

PARENTS / STUDENT SESSIONS:

March 11, 2025

April 8, 2025

First Communion will be celebrated at the 10:00AM Mass May 4, 2025. If you have any questions please call Chris Laraia, 814-312-7317 or email me at claraia@dioceseaj.org



Liturgical Ministers Schedules

The schedule and assignment of liturgical ministers will to be done by our parish office.

The schedule for Lent and Holy Week will be prepared during the week of February 17th. If you have requests, preferences, or are not going to be available, please notify the office by February 17th. Thank you.



The Jubilee logo shows four stylized figures, representing all of humanity, coming from the four corners of the earth. They embrace each other to indicate solidarity and fraternity which should unite all people. The figure in front is holding onto the cross. It is not only the sign of the faith which this lead figure embraces, but also of hope, which can never be abandoned, because we are always in need of hope, especially in our moments of greatest need.

There are rough waves under the figures, symbolizing the fact that life's pilgrimage does not always go smoothly in calm waters. Often the circumstances of daily life and events in the wider world require a greater call to hope. That's why we should pay attention to the lower part of the cross which has been elongated and turned into the shape of an anchor which is let down into the waves. The anchor is well known as a symbol of hope. Just as an anchor stabilizes a ship, hope stabilizes our lives, especially during stormy situations.

The pilgrim's journey is dynamic and communal, marked by an increasing movement closer to the cross. The cross is also dynamic as it bends down towards humanity, not leaving human beings alone, but stretching out to them to offer the certainty of its presence and the security of hope.

At the bottom of the logo is the motto of the 2025 Jubilee Year: Pilgrims of Hope.

COURTESY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bridges Out of Poverty

January is the month of National Poverty Awareness. Please consider joining a virtual overview of **Bridges Out of Poverty: Strategies for Professionals and Communities** to have a better understanding of a comprehensive approach to the dynamics that cause and maintain poverty, from the individual to the systemic level. Catholic Charities will have two options to share this information virtually: Thursday, January 23, from 6 PM to 8 PM. To register please RSVP coconnor@dioceseaj.org.

Sight and Sound Theatre

You are invited to join the St. Mark/Holy Rosary Parishes' bus trip to see **Noah-30th Anniversary Limited Showing at Sight & Sound Theatre** on Wednesday, April 9. The cost of the bus trip includes the 11:00 AM Show and 2:15 PM lunch smorgasbord at Hershey Farm Restaurant. \$195.00/Adult, \$140/Child (3-12). Please contact Robyn Murphy 814-931-5683 or Diane O'Leary 814-935-2114 to reserve your seat.

Eucharistic Revival Spring Priest Presentations

The last of the Eucharistic Revival Year presentations will on Saturday, March 29th, at St. Francis University, JFK Center in Loretto. From 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM. You may register online at dioceseaj.org/spring_priest_presentatons or by mail. Forms are available at our entrances. The speakers are : Father Jozef Kovacic, Father George Jakopac, and Father Brian Saylor.

Men's Conference: Strength in Christ!

Sunday, March 30, from 11:30 AM to 5:30 PM at Mount Aloysius College, Cresson. The day includes lunch, talks from local priests, personal testimonies, a panel discussion, and Sunday Mass. There is no cost to attend. Visit www.dioceseaj.org to register online. Paper registration forms are also available at our entrances. The deadline to register is March 21st.



GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

January 26, 2025

3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21

A young couple in my parish told me they were expecting their second child, a baby boy. I knew that their five-year old only child Emma had been desperately wanting to be a big sister for years, so I said, "Emma must have been so happy when you told her the news." "Actually," they said, "she burst into tears. She wanted a baby sister!" How often in life God wonderfully fulfills our desires and we are sad because we don't approve of the way he does it. We want to control the gift and the delivery method.

The same thing occurs in the Gospel this week when Jesus announces in his hometown that the promise of an Anointed One bringing glad tidings to the poor is "fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:21). After a moment of elation, his fellow townsfolk realize this man is the way God is fulfilling his promises, and they erupt into a violent outburst. So Jesus departs. How sad for them.

Every single Sunday at Mass, including this one, some version of this happens to many of us. God's word announces the fulfillment of God's promises in Christ, and we easily overlook or disdain it. His way is almost never according to our narrow expectations. What's required of us is to set these aside, and to embrace a new openness to God's gifts, no matter how he wishes to give them. God is fulfilling his promises the way He likes — why be sad?

— Father John Muir ©LPi

Sunday, February 2, the Feast of our Lord's Presentation, is the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life. Be sure to pray for those who have made commitments to serve the Lord and the Church as professed religious women and men. So many of our lives were positively influenced especially by the religious sisters who taught us.

The Church of Altoona-Johnstown THE CATHEDRAL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

ONE CATHEDRAL SQUARE, Altoona, Pennsylvania 16601-3315

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, JANUARY 26, 2025

CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS:

The process of formation for those seeking God through membership in the Catholic Christian community.

INFANT BAPTISM:

Arrange in advance for pre-baptismal instructions.

CONFIRMATION:

Ninth, tenth and eleventh grade students are invited to participate in the Confirmation Preparation Process.

RECONCILIATION:

Wednesday: 7:00 PM, Saturday: 12:30 PM.

By appointment, by texting or calling 814-937 8240 Communal Penance Services: Advent and Lent.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK:

Upon Request and Communal celebration

MARRIAGE:

Arrange nine months in advance. Couples expected to participate in pre-marriage preparation program.

DEVOTIONS:

Eucharistic Adoration - Normally, the First Wednesday 12:30 PM - 6:45 PM

Eucharistic Day - Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ.

PRO-LIFE ROSARY

Sponsored by the Christian Mothers on Thursdays after the noon Mass.

Most Reverend Mark L. Bartchak, J.C.D., Bishop

Reverend Monsignor Stanley Carson, Administrator

Paula Clemens, Parish Secretary

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Chris Laraia - Pre-K thru 12 - 814-312-7317

Religious Education Office: Sundays - 814-943-7424

E-mail: claraia@dioceseaj.org

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

Leslie C. Thayer, MM, CAGO

Music Ministry Office - 814-944-2044

E-mail: lthayer@dioceseaj.org

CHRISTIAN INITIATION TEAM - 814-944-4603

CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME - 814-944-4603

MAIL MINISTRY TO ELDERLY, HOMEBOUND, SERIOUSLY SICK, AND GRIEVING - 814-944-4603

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM:

September through April: Pre-Kindergarten thru 12.

Sunday morning 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM Pre-Kindergarten thru 8. Grades 9-11 Sunday Evening at 6:15.

Church Office: 814-944-4603

E-MAIL: altcathedral@dioceseaj.org

Fax: 814-942-4337

WEB

www.altoonacathedral.org



Facebook

www.facebook.com/cathedralofaltoona



Mass Times

Sunday:	Weekday:
5:00 PM (Vigil)	12:00 Noon
8:00 AM	
10:00 AM	Saturday:
5:00 PM	12:00 Noon

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