



THE MARIAN

ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, ALTOONA, PENNSYLVANIA

Website: <http://stmaryschurchaltoona.wix.com/saintmarys>

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – December 14, 2025

Rev. Mariusz Gorazd

Administrator

St. Mary's Rectory 942-2416

FOCUS: ... Lord, come and save us. Jesus' actions speak for themselves: The blind see; the lame walk; the poor receive the Good News. John the Baptist need not look for another, for God has arrived in human flesh, bringing the kingdom of God with him. Today, we carry on Jesus' work, allowing our words and actions to embody the love of God in the world.

Mass Schedule and Intentions

Weekday Mass Schedule at St. Mary's Church

Monday, December 15, 2025

9:00 Paul Perrin by Joe & Cathy Koehle

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

No MASS

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

9:00 AM Jim Showalter by Cathy & Joe Koehle

Thursday, December 18, 2025

9:00 AM – Mary Grove by Vinnie & Jerry Johnson

Friday, December 19, 2025

9:00 AM – Living & Deceased Members of the Parish

Weekend Mass Schedule at St. Mary's Church

Saturday, December 20, 2025

4:00 PM – David O'Connor by Mary Lou Lee

Sunday, December 21, 2025

8:00 AM – Living & Deceased Member of the Parish

Weekend Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church on Sunday

11:30 AM

MINISTRIES FOR THE WEEKEND OF December 21, 2025 and December 22, 2025:

DATE	ALTAR SERVERS	LECTOR	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS
Saturday, December 20 4:00 PM	Volunteer	James Woomer	Doug Wise – Host Laurie Woomer - Chalice Jim Adams – Chalice
Sunday, December 21 8:00 AM – Youth Mass	McKenna Snare Rylee Snare	Braden Hatch	Lily Butterbaugh – Host Anita Wavrek – Chalice Mary Rose Poorman – Chalice

VOCATIONS CHALICE – Pat Hrzic - (December 20) — 4:00 PM

CANDLE MEMORIAL: The Altar Candles and Sanctuary Lamp will burn the week of December 21 in memory of Anna Mae Roesch by her Family. If you would like to make an offering in memory of someone or a special intention, please call the rectory.

CONFESSIONS: Saturday at 3:00 PM.

PRAYER CHAIN: Please call the St. Mary's Rectory at 814-942-2416 to request a person be added to the prayer list.

LOW GLUTEN HOSTS AVAILABLE: For individuals who have Celiac Disease and want to receive Communion, please go to Father Mariusz's line for Communion and let him know by saying "Low Gluten" and he will give you the Low Gluten Host.

GROUP SESSIONS ON "THE CHOSEN" will be on Monday, December 15 facilitated by Father Mariusz in the Blessed Mother Room of St. Mary's Church on Monday Evenings from 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM. The sessions will continue in January.

ANGEL TREE GIFTS: If you took an Angel from the Angel Tree, the gifts need to be back in the church this weekend, December 13/14. When you bring the wrapped gift back, please tape the angel on the front of the package and place it under the tree or in the Blessed Mother Room in the church basement. (They may also be dropped off at the St. Mary's Rectory). Thank you in advance for your help with this project.

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the St. Mary's Angel Tree by taking an angel and purchasing a gift.

ST. MARY'S CHRISTIAN MOTHERS/LCBA #1290 "Dutch Hill Chocolate" Fundraiser. All orders should be picked up in the St. Mary's Church Basement Blessed Mother Room after Masses this weekend of December 13 and 14.

LAST WEEKEND'S COLLECTION

Adult Envelopes	\$ 6,964.00
Student Envelopes	\$ 55.00
Monthly	\$ 2,469.00
Loose	\$ 127.00
Votive Candles	\$ 5.00
Thanksgiving	\$ 45.00
Retired Religious	\$ 80.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 250.00
Immaculate Conc.	\$ 611.00
Imm. Conc. Youth	\$ 2.00
Imm. Conc. Loose	\$ 36.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 440.00
Christmas	\$ 940.00
Vocation Appeal	\$ 182.00
TOTAL	\$ 12,206.00

REGISTRATION OF PARISHIONERS: We are always happy to welcome new parishioners to Saint Mary's Parish. Please introduce yourself to a member of the parish staff and register at the rectory. Registration, the practice of stewardship, and regular participation in the Eucharist indicate that a person is an active member of the parish and is eligible to act as a godparent or sponsor. As a Church community seeking to be faith-filled disciples and good stewards, the sacrifice of our time, talent and treasure is essential for the common good.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: The Sacrament of Baptism for Infants normally takes place during a weekend celebration of the Eucharist or on Sundays at 9:00 AM. For the baptism of their first child, parents are expected to attend a baptismal session with Father Mariusz. Please call the rectory office for an appointment. Godparents for infants must be at least 16 years of age, confirmed, and regularly practicing the faith with the freedom to receive the Eucharist. Sponsor certificates for Godparents are necessary and can be obtained from their parish office of their current Church registration.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY MATRIMONY: Please call the Pastor/Administrator nine months in advance to arrange for instruction and planning the marriage ceremony.

SACRAMENT OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION: Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Catholic Church should contact a member of the parish staff by calling the Rectory Office.

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK: You are encouraged to notify the rectory as soon as there is a serious illness. You are also asked to notify the rectory when a relative is admitted to a hospital or nursing home.

PRIESTS FOR THE FUTURE: Bishop Bartchak would like to remind us to prayerfully consider participating in the Altoona/Johnston Diocese Vocation Appeal. Over the last few years, our diocese has had too few seminarians to replace our retiring priests, which poses an urgent need for our prayer and action. To ensure our parishes have priests for the future, our diocese's Vocation Office has developed a robust plan to reach young men and invite them to consider the priesthood. To learn more about this new plan, and to support financially, visit ajvocations.org/give.

BAMBINELLI BLESSING: The Bambinelli Blessing will be part of the 8:00 AM Mass this weekend. Children are asked to bring the figure of the Baby Jesus from your family Nativity Scene to Mass on Sunday, December 14 to be blessed at the beginning of Mass by Father Mariusz. Children will process up to the altar as part of the entrance procession and then after the blessing will return to the seats with their family. We hope you will have your child participate in this beautiful Christmas tradition.

THE 2026 ST. MARY'S OFFERTORY ENVELOPES are available in the Blessed Mother Room of the Church. Please pick up your envelopes, and also consider helping us by delivering envelopes to your family and neighbors who are members of St. Mary's Parish. This is a great way to check on family and friends this Holiday Season. If you are unable to pick up your envelopes in church, contact the rectory at 814-942-2416 and a time can be arranged for pick up.

ATTENTION PARISHIONERS: If you have any changes to your personal information such as address changes, telephone numbers, email addresses, please let the rectory office know. We need to keep the most current information in our files.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES: The Churches in the Altoona Johnstown Diocese have scheduled Penance Services during Advent. **Our Service here at St. Mary's Penance Service will be on Monday, December 22, at 6:00 PM. If you are not able to make it then, you can attend a Penance Service at one of the other churches as follows:**

St. John the Evangelist on Sunday, December 14 at 4:00 PM

St. Joseph's in Bellwood on Sunday, December 14 at 5:00 PM

St. Catherine in Newry on Sunday December 14 at 5:00 PM and Wednesday, December 17 at 6:00 PM

Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesday, December 17 at 6:00 PM

Sacred Heart on Thursday, December 18 at 5:30.

PROCLAIM TO AIR CHRISTMAS SHOW AND MASS: The *Proclaim!* TV Christmas special *Joy to the World: Christmas in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown* will air on Sunday, December 21 at 6:00 PM on WWCP FOX 8. The one-hour show will highlight the spirit of Christmas throughout the diocese and include beautiful music from parish and Catholic School Choirs, as well as the *Proclaim!* Priests' choir. *The Proclaim!* TV Christmas Mass will air live from Saint John Gualbert Cathedral in Johnstown on Christmas Eve, December 24, at 4:00 PM, on WATM ABC 23 with Bishop Mark as the celebrant and homilist.