

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK:

Fr. Tomkosky's Column

MONDAY 12-16 MAHLON DIMOND
8:00 AM DEBBIE ROWAN
ADORATION UNTIL 9:00AM

TUESDAY 12-17 NO MASS

WEDNESDAY 12-18 DAVID HINSON
8:00 AM JIM & SHARON FEIGHT & FAMILY
3:00PM OLGf HOLY HOUR

THURSDAY 12-19 JOSEPH BORKOVICH
8:00 AM BARB CARRODUS

FRIDAY 12-20 CAROL BROSNIC
8:00 AM BROTHERS & SISTERS
3:00PM HOLY HOUR

SATURDAY 12-21
5:00 PM MARK ROWAN
DEBBIE ROWAN

SUNDAY 12-22
7:00 AM *PEOPLE OF THE PARISH*
ST. THOMAS AND SEVEN DOLORS

9:30 AM JEFF DULL
JEFF'S FAMILY

Server Schedule:

DECEMBER 21-22

5:00PM	Pat Brenner	T. Clark
7:00AM	Annette Godissart	Serio
9:30AM	Lloyd Roach	Cordova

Mass Readings for December 22

First Reading Micah 5:1-4a

Second Reading Hebrews 10:5-10

The Gospel Luke 1:39-45

The St. Thomas Advent Penance Service: will be this Sunday Dec 15 at 4 pm. There will be 5 priests hearing Confessions – take advantage of this graced opportunity.

General Confession: If you want to do a Confession of your whole life up to this point to get a fresh start with God and grow spiritually, please contact me as it takes more time.

Reaching out to lapsed Catholics during Advent: As we move closer to Christmas, I ask each parishioner to think of **at least one person** you know who has drifted away from the regular practice of their Catholic faith, for whatever reason, **and to kindly invite them back** to the practice of the Catholic faith this Advent. The reality is once people have been away from practicing the Faith for a while it is hard to get them back for a variety of reasons, but each of us must do our part to evangelize - that's all the Lord asks: *that we try our best to share the Catholic faith with others*. Truly this is **the greatest gift** we could give to the Christ-child on Christmas, pointing a person or two back to Him, along with our own deepening commitment to Him in prayer, penance, works of charity, and growing in holiness each day. *If the person (s) you invite back needs to talk to me about anything, an annulment/ or making a good Confession, please tell them to e-mail me (ricopadre@hotmail.com) or give me a call: 623-5526 and I will try to help them out.*

Brown Scapular: Of Our Lady of Mt Carmel- let me know if you want to be enrolled in.

Winter reminder: If school in Bedford is cancelled or delayed: for the safety of everyone when the winter weather is bad, **we will cancel 8 am daily Mass** and will reschedule the intention to the first open date on our Mass calendar. Also, if Bedford school is cancelled on a Weds or Friday, the 3 pm Holy Hour is cancelled as well.

New EWTN winter program guides: Take one on the radiators and watch some shows.

Some good Catholic websites for the latest news: For both secular and Church news from an orthodox Catholic perspective see: www.catholicculture.org and www.newoxfordreview.org & www.newadvent.org. & www.spiritdaily.com.

Lending Library: Before or after Mass, go to the library to borrow a good book or DVD or CD to help you and your loved ones grow in the understanding of the treasure of our Catholic faith and the spiritual life, esp. in these challenging times. Remember good spiritual reading helps us grow into deeper spiritual union with the Blessed Trinity.

Info about the Divine Mercy Devotion and helping the Souls in Purgatory: Go online and read the new **Winter 2024** quarterly Marian Helper magazine at: www.marian.org/imh/. There is also info on how to join **the Marian helpers** which is a great Catholic group to belong to with many spiritual benefits and **the Holy Souls Sodality** to help the souls in Purgatory (see PrayForSouls.org or call: 1-800-462-7426). You can also check out their You Tube channel with many good Catholic videos www.youtube.com/MarianHelpers. And if you or anyone you love needs prayers, please call the Divine Mercy Prayer line at 1-800-804-3823 or go online to: www.marian.org/prayerline. And they have a great online Catholic store at <https://divinemercurygiftshop.org/> (1-888-484-1112) for purchasing rosaries; metals of the saints, artwork, books, etc. Have a blessed week. ☩

Please Remember In Your Prayers

Those Who Are In Need of Healing:

Karen McAleer, Joan Deike, Cheryl Gross, Sara Pullen, Carolyn Arnold, Sherry Diehl, Ruth Zack, Matt Siehl, Bryan Braman, Mark Fleegle, Scott Ward, Nora Massie, Melissa Baker, Cathy Houseworth, Anita Spiker, Angie Wolfhope, Frank Dohoda, Marie Smith, Mike Montreal, Jordan Seville, Debbie Wertz, Gabriel Grassi, Beverly Clark, Molly Wyman, Nicole Shorey, Dianna Garvis, Parker Lease, Mary Grace Imgrund, Kathy Nebel, Patrick Fleming Sr., Bruce Leonard, Mary Sue Harris, Mary Anderson, Pat Kohler, Gerald Steves, Fr. John Byrnes, Terry Metivier, Don Hershberger, Carolyn Hershberger, Nadine Naugle, Sandi Fleegle, Nancy Woods, Sandy Rouzer, Emily Diehl, Ed Dudzinski, Fae Montreal, John Sloniger, Tom Futcher, James B. Whisker II, Inga Pepoy, Tina Datesman, Marlene Claycomb, Tara Musselman, Hope Yotko, Catherine Marie Boob, Suzanne Wilk, Evelyn Yost, Charles Cuppett, Edith Cuppett, Peggie Scritchfield, Father John Moineau, Patricia Quarry, Jacob Clark, Melinda Stone, David Brunstretter, Cathy Vent, Matthew Kostelac, Preston Taylor, Amanda and Tim Hixenbaugh, Fr. Tom Acklin, Sue Durr, Tina Honkus, Sara Felton, Debbie Porta, Cpl. Hunner Flint, Barry Leydig, Danielle Henry, Scarlett Chris, Toni Reiss, Barry Fleegle, Rick and Val Dovala, Troy Nelson, Sherry Kendall, Ernie Imgrund, Patricia Worrell, Richard Grimes. Leesa Keys-Waite, Robert Myers, Penny Wyman, Cindy Zimmer, John Andzelik, Debbie Fisher, Barb Isaac, Sal Santino, Adam Wright, Cora Sue Sheirer, Jeremy Porta, Sue Prescott, Dan Grazer, Marlene Rankin and Duane Bruner.

To have someone placed on the Prayer list or the Military List, Please call the rectory 623-5526. Please ask the person for their permission before placing them on either list. Please call the rectory to have them removed from the list when they recover or are no longer serving in the military.

In Defense of Our Country Both at Home and Abroad:

Leo Gressick Jr., Jim Hillegass, Richard Keller, Wilbert Litzinger, Mark Popchak, George Pullman, Michael Ryder, Gregory Smith, Jonathan Vogel, Ryan Smithmyer, Matt Stankan, Jennifer Lindsey Whetstone, Lindsey Zack, Michele Notestine, Heather Dovala, John Bankes, Ian McCoy, Curt Shane, Derrick Bunja, Michael Franklin, Adam Wertz, Aaron Ebersole, Michael Haith, Josh Gregor, Katie Simmons, Shaun Shaffer, Daniel Veltre, Justin Porta, Marco Veltre, Jeremy Porta, Cpl. Hunner Flint, Zackary Richards and Jullian Tayler.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

814- 979-0272

December 15-Third Sunday of Advent:

In today’s Gospel John the Baptist says, “Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise...”

Christmas is a time of love and gift giving...please share your abundance by giving a gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who do not have clothes and food can share in the blessings of Christmas.

If anyone has Rosaries that need repaired or if you want any type of chaplet please contact Linda Steele at 814-979-2838.

COLLECTION LAST WEEK:

Weekly Envelopes	\$4,125.25
Monthly	1,150.00
Loose	263.53
Candle	18.00
Immaculate Conception	1,091.15
Christmas	150.00
Missions	40.00
Total	\$ 6,837.93

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: ASSEMBLY MEETING, THURSDAY DECEMBER 19TH AT 7:00PM IN CHAMBERS.

Jumpstarting Jubilee 2025 – Advent Joy The third candle of Advent symbolizes Joy. Jubilee joy comes from our journey toward the fullness of God’s Kingdom. The upcoming Holy Year offers occasions for this through opportunities for pilgrimage and through communal liturgies. On December 29, 2024, Bishop Mark will open the Jubilee here in the diocese with a special Mass at 2 PM in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Come and celebrate “tidings of great Joy.”

The Women at the Well prayer group is meeting from 3-4PM in the Church Hall every 2 weeks on a Thursday. Dates are, Nov. 14. Please bring your own Bible. All women are welcome. For more information call: Diana 814-330-1938; Susan 706-400-8204; or Pat 814-623-1337.

Dec 15, 2024 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

‘Rejoice in the Lord always, I shall say it again, rejoice!’ We have arrived at Gaudete Sunday (Gaudete is the Latin word for ‘rejoice’) on this Third Week of Advent, and the Scriptures takes on a joyful tone as we continue our preparations for the feast of our Savior’s birth and ultimately for His Second Coming. As the great feast of Christmas draws near, let us rejoice in Christ’s extravagant love. Let’s avail ourselves of the peace He longs to give us. And let’s look carefully at our lives to make sure we are indeed making of them a gift fitting for Him. When we get this ‘gift’ right, all the other gifts and to-do’s on our Christmas list will fall into their proper place.

RECONCILIATION (Confessions): Saturdays – 3:45 pm

ADORATION: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Will be held every Monday after 8:00 am Mass until 9:00 am

FIRST FRIDAY DEVOTIONS: The First Friday of every month after 8:00 am Mass there is Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 9:30 am

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS: Mass The First Saturday of every month at 8:00 am. Confessions following.

HOLY HOUR: Friday afternoon at 3:00 pm. Confessions at 4:00 pm.

BAPTISMS OF INFANTS AND CHILDREN: Parents are expected to be registered in the parish and to attend a class on the Sacrament of Baptism before a child is baptized. Due to the hectic schedule that often faces new parents as well as the nature of the material covered, we encourage parents to attend prior to the birth of the child. Call the Rectory Office for an appointment.

MARRIAGES: The Sacrament of Matrimony requires a time of Preparation. Arrangements are to be made with the Priest of the Parish nine months before the date of marriage. Your church date and time are to be set prior to your reception date and time. The Pre-Cana Conferences or Engaged Encounter must be part of the marriage preparation. **Either the bride or the groom or both must be a registered and practicing member of St. Thomas parish.** To make Marriage Preparation arrangements in the parish, call 623-5526.

Children of parishioners are reminded that they are removed from their parents' registration upon their 22nd birthday and must register as an adult member of the parish.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING: Certified diocesan instructors are located throughout the diocese. Contact the diocesan Family Life Office, 814-886-5551; familylife@dioceseaj.org; www.dioceseaj.org/family-life

NEW PARISHIONERS ARE WELCOME! Please call the Rectory for an appointment. If you are moving away or returning, please let us know so we can maintain accurate records. Changes in phone number are also appreciated.

INACTIVE CATHOLICS: Baptized Catholics who have not been practicing their faith are most welcome to return Please call or email Fr. Tomkosky if you have questions.

R.C.I.A (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults): This process sees to the needs of adults who wish to become Catholic. Catholics baptized as infants and have never received the Sacraments of First Holy Communion or Confirmation are also invited into this process. Call the Rectory for Details.

CARE OF THE SICK: Those confined to home due to illness or age should contact the Rectory. Arrangements will be made to bring the Eucharist and if needed, the Sacrament of the Sick.

ENVELOPES: Regular use of envelopes provide a stable income for the parish and enables us to prepare a budget. A record of your contributions is kept and a statement will be mailed upon your request.

PROJECT RACHEL: Is a program of counseling, compassion, and healing for women and men who have been involved in an abortion. Call (814) 884-8000 or ProjectRachel@dioceseaj.org **HURTING RELATIONSHIPS?** Spouse to Spouse or Spouse to Child. Call (814) 535-6538.

BIRTHRIGHT: Believes that every pregnant woman has to right to give birth, and every child has the right to be born. Call 1-800-550-4900. www.birthright.org Birthright, 216 Dibert Street, Johnstown, PA 15901

CATHOLIC COUNSELING: Call Catholic Charities...Altoona office... 814-944-9388.

**SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

215 East Penn Street

Bedford, Pennsylvania 15522

PHONE:(814) 623-5526 FAX: (814) 623-1741

WEB SITE: www.webparish.com/aj/thomas

Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

Most Rev. Mark Bartchak, Bishop

SERVING YOUR PARISH

Rev. Richard B. Tomkosky, Pastor

ricopadre@hotmail.com

MASS SCHEDULE:

SATURDAY: 5:00 p.m. Mass in the Church

SUNDAY: 7:00 a.m. Mass in the Church

9:30 a.m. Mass in the Church

Note: The Rosary is recited ½ hour before each Mass.

Confessions: Saturday, 3:45 p.m. in the Church.

Or call the rectory for an appointment.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday 8:00am-12:00pm

Thursday 8:00am-11:30am

All ordinary parish business should be conducted at this time. Please call Father to make an appointment with him at 623-5526 ext.3

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 15, 2024

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.

Indeed, the Lord is near.

Phillipians