



The Fatima Shrine NEWSLETTER



December 2025

Directed by the Barnabite Fathers

Visit the Fatima Shrine online: www.fatimashrine.com

Merry Christmas from The Fatima Shrine



Photos Courtesy of Kenia Dacey



IMPORTANT NOTICE

If the Newsletter you received in the mail looks shorter.. It is. If you would like to see a whole lot more, either get on our email list or simply go online to www.fatimashrine.com and click on the Newsletter Link.



The BARNABITE FATHERS

Cordially invite EVERYONE to join them in the celebration of...

**CHRISTMAS EVE
MIDNIGHT MASS**
..in the Shrine Basilica.

Masses On: CHRISTMAS EVE 4pm & 12 Midnight
Masses On: CHRISTMAS DAY 9am & 12 Noon only

December ~ Dedicated to The Immaculate Conception

Fatima Shrine Newsletter

UPCOMING SHRINE CELEBRATIONS & EVENTS

December 2025

(Dedicated to The Immaculate Conception)

Sat. Dec. 6 - 1st Saturday Devotions
Confessions: 30 minutes before Mass - Rosary Procession
Mass 8am & 11:30am & 4:00pm - 12:15 Adoration & Benediction

Sat. Dec. 6 - Knights of Columbus Food Collection
Collecting food before and after the 11:30am & 4:00pm Mass.

Sat. Dec. 6 - Men's Breakfast
9am Breakfast in the Cafeteria then from 9:30 to 10:30
Guest Speaker, followed by Rosary in the Basilica,
then 11:30am Mass - 12:15 Adoration & Benediction.

Wed. Dec. 10 - Buffalo Wind Symphony Christmas Concert
7:30 - 9:30 pm in the Basilica.

Sun. Dec. 28 - Tagalog Mass at 1:30 in the Basilica
(followed by a social in Fatima Hall.)

January 2026

(Dedicated to The Most Holy Name of Jesus)

Sat. Jan. 3 - 1st Saturday Devotions (same as above K of C, Men's B'fast)

Sat. Jan. 3 - St. Paul II Schola Cantorum Christmas Concert
5:00 pm in the Basilica.

Buffalo Wind Symphony
Christmas Concert



Wednesday, December 10, 2025
7:30 - 9:30 pm in the Basilica

Come to see this Amazing Event!
Admission is FREE

St. John Paul II
Schola Cantorum
Christmas Concert



Saturday, January 3, 2026
5:00 pm in the Basilica

Admission is FREE

Bake Sale
Fatima Shrine Cafeteria

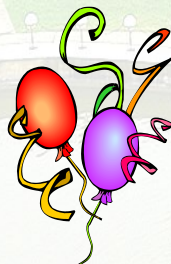
Friday - Dec 5 (Noon - 8pm)
Saturday - Dec 6 (9am - 8pm)
Sunday - Dec 7 (9am - 6pm)



December Birthday's



- 11 - Jane Bristol
- 29 - Ron Brandt



January Birthday's

- 2 - Jim Dacey Jr.
- 6 - Lynne Huffnagle
- 6 - Sarah Falsetti

BASKET RAFFLE SALE

OVER 40 BASKETS

1 Sheet of Tickets (25 Tickets) \$15.00
2 Sheets of Tickets (50 Tickets) \$25.00

Drawing will be held
Dec 7, 2025 at 6:30 pm

It would help us greatly if we could email you the Newsletter, it will save postage for the shrine. If you would like The Fatima Shrine Newsletter emailed to you.



Let us know by emailing us at: fatimashrinecommunications@gmail.com

The QR Code simplifies the email direct to our offices. Thank You.

SUBSCRIBE



FATIMA BOOKSTORE: BOOK REVIEW

by James Dacey Jr.

When The Smoke Clears

by Ascension Press

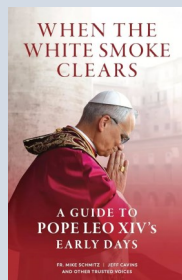
A Timely Gift for All Catholics

"When the White Smoke Clears" brings together some of Catholicism's most trusted voices, Fr. Mike Schmitz, Jeff Cavins, Dr. Edward Sri, and others, to guide readers through this pivotal moment in Church history. The book offers insightful commentary on the papacy's significance, Pope Leo XIV's biography and early priorities, and practical ways Catholics can support their new Holy Father through prayer and fasting.

What makes this book exceptional is its ability to be both timely and timeless. It explores the biblical foundations of the papacy while providing contemporary insights

into Pope Leo XIV's vision for the Church. The inclusion of traditional and contemporary prayers for the Holy Father, along with a glossary of papal terms, makes it a valuable reference that extends beyond mere information.

This accessible guide equips Catholics to meet this historic moment with faith, clarity, and prayer, reminding us that the election of a pope is more than news; it's an invitation to rediscover our shared spiritual heritage and deepen our commitment to the universal Church. A must-read for anyone seeking to understand and prayerfully support Pope Leo XIV.



ORDER DIRECT

Order
Your
Copy
Today

\$17.99 + Tax + Shipping

Fatima Shrine Newsletter

From Fatima:



A BARNABITE MOMENT December 2025

There is a scene in Big Bang Theory in which Sheldon is angry that Penny has bought him a Christmas present because now he is forced to give her a gift. She protests saying it's not necessary a gift is freely given. He dismisses the notion. Spiritually though God loves us and keeps loving us until we say yes to Him. As we prepare to celebrate Christmas let us reflect on God's love for us. St. Anthony Zaccaria in Sermon IV talks briefly of the Incarnation. Herecalls Jesus' words that he came to light a fire upon the earth and wished that it was already lit. (Luke 12:49). God loves us so much that even when we were His "enemy" He came to be one of us. It was the only way. Only by sending the perfectly pure One in our flesh could God save us and truly show us the way to love. Like any other lover the hope is that showing maximum love will awaken a corresponding love and almost force the receiver to return it. In our case it does not always seem to work as we continue to stray from following Jesus. Nevertheless, the celebration of Christmas, even in its somewhat secularized form, is a moment in which we seek to show love. It is a moment when we reach out to those we want to show love to, even those who are estranged from in hopes bonds can be reformed. We celebrate the love of God who loves us unceasingly and with incredible mercy. As our Founder says, "God humbled Himself so much in order that man might love Him back, and through this love be saved." (Sr IV) So this Christmas we ask for the grace to respond to that love to surrender to the Christ Child totally and at the same time to, like Him, love without holding back, to draw others to Him and be reconciled with all.

Written by Fr. Peter Calebrese, CRSP

"Miracles of the Eucharist Across The World" Exhibit

In Fatima Hall throughout the Festival of Light. Open when the Office is Open.



In the Relics Area
in the Basilica.



In Fatima Hall

St. Carlo Acutis



EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Wed. & Fri. from 12:00noon - 4:00pm

Adorers are always needed..

Please call 716-754-7489

if you can help with this important ministry.

The Gift and the Response: Our Lady of Fatima and Advent

As we light the candles of Advent and wait for Christmas, the message of Fatima helps us understand what this special time really means. Both the Fatima and Christmas Story tell us the same beautiful truth: God loves us so much, and He wants us to love Him back.

Advent is when we get ready for Jesus to come. At Fatima, Mary came to help three children get ready too. She asked them to Pray the Rosary, make little sacrifices, and turn away from sin. Just like Mary and Joseph prepared for Baby Jesus in Bethlehem, Our Lady wants us to prepare our hearts to receive Him at Christmas.

When Jesus was born, He came as a tiny, helpless baby in a stable. He could have come as a powerful king, but instead He came in the most humble way possible. At Fatima, Mary asked for simple things too: Pray the Rosary every day, offering up small sacrifices, and making reparation for sins. These simple prayers and sacrifices are powerful because they help save souls from hell and bring them to Heaven.

Mary said yes to God when the angel asked her to be Jesus's mother. Her yes made Christmas possible! At Fatima, she asks us to say yes too, yes to prayer, yes to sacrifice, and yes to loving her Immaculate Heart. When we do these things, we're also saying thank you to Jesus for being born for us.

At Christmas, the angels sang about peace on earth. But Our Lady of Fatima showed us how to get that peace, through prayer, especially through praying the Rosary, and by making sacrifices to console Jesus and Mary for all the sins in the world. Real Christmas joy comes from knowing Jesus and helping others know Him too.

As we wait for Christmas Day, let's remember that the greatest gift isn't under the tree, it's Jesus Himself. And just like we give gifts to others that we love, we also can give Jesus and Mary the gift of our prayers, our sacrifices and our good deeds. That's what makes Christmas truly special.

Written by James Dacey Jr. OFS

Fatima Shrine's Famous FISH FRY

Haddock Fish (deep fried or baked)

French Fries or Baked Potato, Cole Slaw

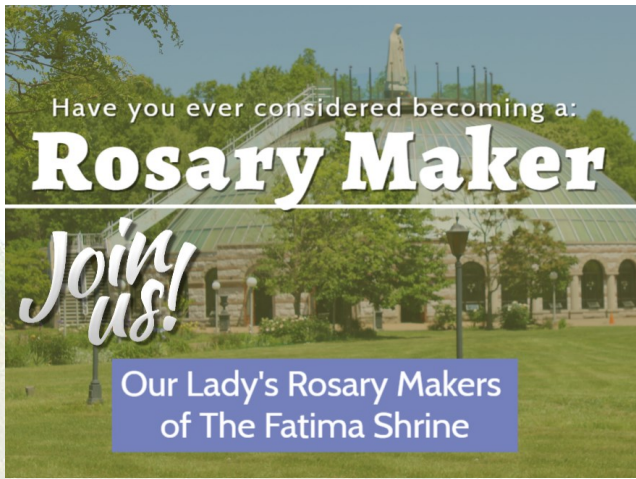
and a Roll & Butter

\$14.50



Cafeteria is Open Friday's 11am - 7pm

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Rosary Coordinator:
Jim Dacey Jr (Rosary Man Jim)
Making Rosaries since 1989

We will help you get started, and be part of one of the most exciting and creatively inspiring ministries in our Catholic Faith: Rosary Making



JOIN OUR MINISTRY

The Legion of Mary at The Fatima Shrine

Our Praesidium -
Our Lady Mother of Divine Providence,
meets at 1:15 pm in Fatima Hall every Sunday, with the exception of the 4th Sunday when there's a Filipino Mass - on those days we meet at 10:00 am. We pray the rosary and structured prayer.
JOIN US!!



BIBLE REFLECTION GROUP

In my heart I treasure your promise
Psalm 119:11

Mondays at 7:30pm in Fatima Hall

Discussion to focus on the Readings from the upcoming Sunday Liturgy.

PLEASE BRING A BIBLE

For info call:

Fr. Peter Calabrese at 754-7489

Would you like to JOIN US Remotely? on ZOOM Meeting ID: 936 8091 2873 Password: 863876

✠ PRAYER INTENTIONS ✠

Please remember in your prayers:

The Barnabite Fathers

especially

for the health and well-being of

Frs. Richard Delzingaro,

Peter Calabrese and Albino Vecina

and for the men around the world in **Barnabite Formation**, and

the Barnabite monthly intentions:

December: May we, like Mary in her singing of the Magnificat, be able to thank the Lord for our existence, our call to consecrated life as Barnabites and for all the graces and benefits we received throughout the Jubilee year, we pray.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Years from the Barnabite Fathers

Let Us Pray For

All those who asked the shrine for prayers.

For an end of abortion and for world peace and for solidarity and victims of war.

✱

For the **Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV** and his **Monthly Intentions:**

Craig Allan	Dr. Megan Johnson	Elaine & Bob Pagani
Debbie Baldwin	Barbara Johnson	Joanne Robbins
Mary Bucciarelli	Peggy Johnson	Anne Sauvageau
Sue Campbell	Kathy Kean	Jackie, Kathy &
Ermo Cercone	Camille Kiedrowski	Jeremy Slattery
Julie O'Connor-	Barbara Krueger	Abigail Schuster
Colvin	Ron Lester	Anthony Villa
Carmela Esposto	Jarod Lombardi	Jim Kirkpatrick
Kathy Gallagher	Gabriella Markle	Lisa Sfrangio
Dr. Talitha Arndt	Bill McKrell	Jacob Beanblossom
Pat Morreale	Paul Moran	JoAnn Sniatecki
Dorothy Janicki	Edward Grant	Jackie Jones ✠
Wendy Sullivan	Anne Forrestel	Doug & Paula Grant
	James W. Kirkpatrick Sr.	

<http://www.apostleshipofprayer.org/>

The Barnabite Fathers remember all visitors & Shrine supporters in their daily Community prayers, and thank you for yours.

Fatima Shrine Council #14622



..for information on membership to join, Call Fr. Peter Calabrese at 754-7489 . or you can e-mail the Council through the Shrine: office@fatimashrine.com .

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THE TRUE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Notice if you will the multi-colored dynasty of lights decorating everything imaginable and then some. Red and green tend to predominate; however, other colors constantly vie for attention in their own domain. Yes, it is Christmas time once again!

For many people the secular world has managed to latch onto a strong foothold for retail purposes while society gladly surrenders into its advertising madness. I suppose it is wonderful for many people, especially those who are enraptured with productive offerings.

But---for Catholics it is a time of great spiritual joy that didn't begin on Christmas Day but commenced some nine months previously on March 25th.

On that day, a young virgin named Mary was visited by an archangel named Gabriel who asked Mary with a heavenly favor---to bear the Christ child in her womb. At the moment of her fiat the most luminous light of all flashed in her womb as a miraculous sign of a heavenly conception. Christmas Day and the birth of the baby Jesus could happen simply because of what happened on March 25th to a young virgin named Mary.

Through modern technology science has proven this fact to be true because it is now possible to capture the exact moment of conception within a woman's womb with a powerful flash of light. Is this the infusion of the immortal soul? I tend to think so...what say you?

The light that occurs signifies something eternal and that the light continues to glow with each new birth and the assurance of Christ's light continues in every human being. This is nothing that compares with the sight of and holding a newborn child who is only moments into life outside the womb. This is Christmas repeated with every birth.

Christ is our light! let it shine not just during this very festive season but always and in all ways.

Written by: Alfred J. Picogna, OFS



Festival of Lights Schedule

Festival of Lights Calendar DECEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30 LIGHTS 5pm-9pm STORE 9am-9pm OFFICE 9am-9pm CAFÉ 10am-7pm	1 LIGHTS OFF STORE 9am-5pm OFFICE 9am-5pm CAFÉ CLOSED	2 LIGHTS OFF STORE 9am-5pm OFFICE 9am-5pm CAFÉ CLOSED	3 LIGHTS OFF STORE 9am-5pm OFFICE 9am-5pm CAFÉ CLOSED	4 LIGHTS OFF STORE 9am-5pm OFFICE 9am-5pm CAFÉ CLOSED	5 Bake Sale 12-8pm LIGHTS 5pm-9pm STORE 9am-9pm OFFICE 9am-9pm CAFÉ 11am-8pm	6 Bake Sale 9-8pm LIGHTS 5pm-9pm STORE 9am-9pm OFFICE 9am-9pm CAFÉ 9am-8pm
7 Bake Sale 9-6pm LIGHTS 5pm-9pm STORE 9am-9pm OFFICE 9am-9pm CAFÉ 10am-7pm	8 LIGHTS OFF STORE 9am-5pm OFFICE 9am-5pm CAFÉ CLOSED	9 LIGHTS OFF STORE 9am-5pm OFFICE 9am-5pm CAFÉ CLOSED	10 CHRISTMAS CONCERT Buffalo Wind Symphony 7:30PM - 9:30 PM LIGHTS 8-9 PM STORE & OFFICE 9-7:30PM CAFÉ 4-7:30PM	11 LIGHTS OFF STORE 9am-5pm OFFICE 9am-5pm CAFÉ CLOSED	12 LIGHTS 5pm-9pm STORE 9am-9pm OFFICE 9am-9pm CAFÉ 11am-8pm	13 LIGHTS 5pm-9pm STORE 9am-9pm OFFICE 9am-9pm CAFÉ CLOSED
14 LIGHTS 5pm-9pm STORE 9am-9pm OFFICE 9am-9pm CAFÉ 10am-7pm	15 LIGHTS OFF STORE 9am-5pm OFFICE 9am-5pm CAFÉ CLOSED	16 LIGHTS OFF STORE 9am-5pm OFFICE 9am-5pm CAFÉ CLOSED	17 LIGHTS OFF STORE 9am-5pm OFFICE 9am-5pm CAFÉ CLOSED	18 LIGHTS OFF STORE 9am-5pm OFFICE 9am-5pm CAFÉ CLOSED	19 LIGHTS 5pm-9pm STORE 9am-9pm OFFICE 9am-9pm CAFÉ 11am-8pm	20 LIGHTS 5pm-9pm STORE 9am-9pm OFFICE 9am-9pm CAFÉ CLOSED
21 LIGHTS 5pm-9pm STORE 9am-9pm OFFICE 9am-9pm CAFÉ 10am-8pm	22 LIGHTS 5pm-9pm STORE 9am-9pm OFFICE 9am-9pm CAFÉ CLOSED	23 LIGHTS 5pm-9pm STORE 9am-9pm OFFICE 9am-9pm CAFÉ CLOSED	24 LIGHTS 5pm-3AM STORE 9am-2pm OFFICE 9am-2pm CAFÉ CLOSED	25  LIGHTS 5pm-9pm CLOSED	26 LIGHTS 5pm-9pm STORE 9am-9pm OFFICE 9am-9pm CAFÉ 11am-8pm	27 LIGHTS 5pm-9pm STORE 9am-9pm OFFICE 9am-9pm CAFÉ 12pm-8pm
28 LIGHTS 5pm-9pm STORE 9am-9pm OFFICE 9am-9pm CAFÉ 10am-7pm	29 LIGHTS 5pm-9pm STORE 9am-9pm OFFICE 9am-9pm CAFÉ CLOSED	30 LIGHTS 5pm-9pm STORE 9am-9pm OFFICE 9am-9pm CAFÉ CLOSED	31 LIGHTS 5pm-9pm STORE 9am-2pm OFFICE 9am-2pm CAFÉ CLOSED			

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An Advent/Christmas Reflection

Jesus Christ is near, nearer than we think. Advent is a season of anticipation, and Christmas follows closely as a joyful celebration. Both seasons call us to be alert and grateful and watchful, waiting in hope for the one who is coming. It may seem silly to be waiting for someone who is already here. But in reality the Advent/Christmas season doesn't merely commemorate or remember the birth of Jesus - It also calls us to prepare for the second coming of Christ, not with anxious fear but with joy. And although 2025 may only be a blip on the radar screen, we can faithfully intuit with a deep longing for Jesus here and now.

Now is a place where we are and a time to remember, anticipate, and long for the first coming of Jesus while also expecting a deeper relationship - a watchful waiting of the promise of the deep trust in our loving God.



Fr. Richard Delzingaro, CRSP



However, in this age of anxiety, the world is at "sixes and sevens", coping with the toxic presence of skepticism, despair, and the insidious snare of polarizing antipathy. We ask, how is it my God that you have given us a busy, hectic life that I have so little time to enjoy your presence? And yet, rather than carp and complain about the challenges of life, let us be encouraged by Mary's hymn of praise to God. The Blessed Mother's prayer The Magnificat is a manifesto of non-violence, and a hopeful call, not to arms, but a disarmament striving for mercy and justice. Mary's words are serious, but so many of us seem more prone to despair. We lash out and criticize those who disagree with us. Some of us even espouse the cause of polarity and gridlock.

A collateral damage of violence is to play the blame game of disdain-ing criticism. Negativity takes over, especially with regard to an inner violence before our compassionate God. Moreover, we blame church leaders for the closing and restructuring of parishes, a diminishment of clergy, the criticism of the ineptitude of pastoral care. We are scandalized by empty pews and the increase of watching the Mass on TV as a rationalization of not wanting to actively go to church as a religious alternative.

The Lord Jesus proclaimed the good news through the prism of healing action. And yet in hearing him, we have totally missed the message of redemption and the necessary validity of unity - *ut unum sint* - that all may be one.

Moreover, what good is it if Mary gave birth to the Son of God 2000+ years ago if we do not also give birth now to the Son of God in this our time, our culture.

St John of the Cross (1542 to 1591), a Spanish mystic, religious priest, and doctor of the Church, once gave a retreat focusing on and predicated by a passage from Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 25. The primary message of John of the Cross to his retreatants was simply, how much while here on earth, did you love?

Truly, I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me. (v. 45)

Therefore, in spite of the imbroglio here and now and the impact of lowered morale, when our time comes to leave this planet and cross over to eternal life, we will be asked but one question - did I love enough ... to be with the righteous in eternal life? (cf. Mt 19,29-30)

A simple, single question, but also powerful spiritual indictment of human life. What will your answer be? Did you? Do you love enough? Don't live life in a quagmire of self-righteousness by listening to the pompous rhetoric of the hypocritical pundits of privatized piety. Listen to Jesus, the Crucified One who demonstrates the power of love. And do it now.

Written by: Fr. Richard Delzingaro, CRSP