

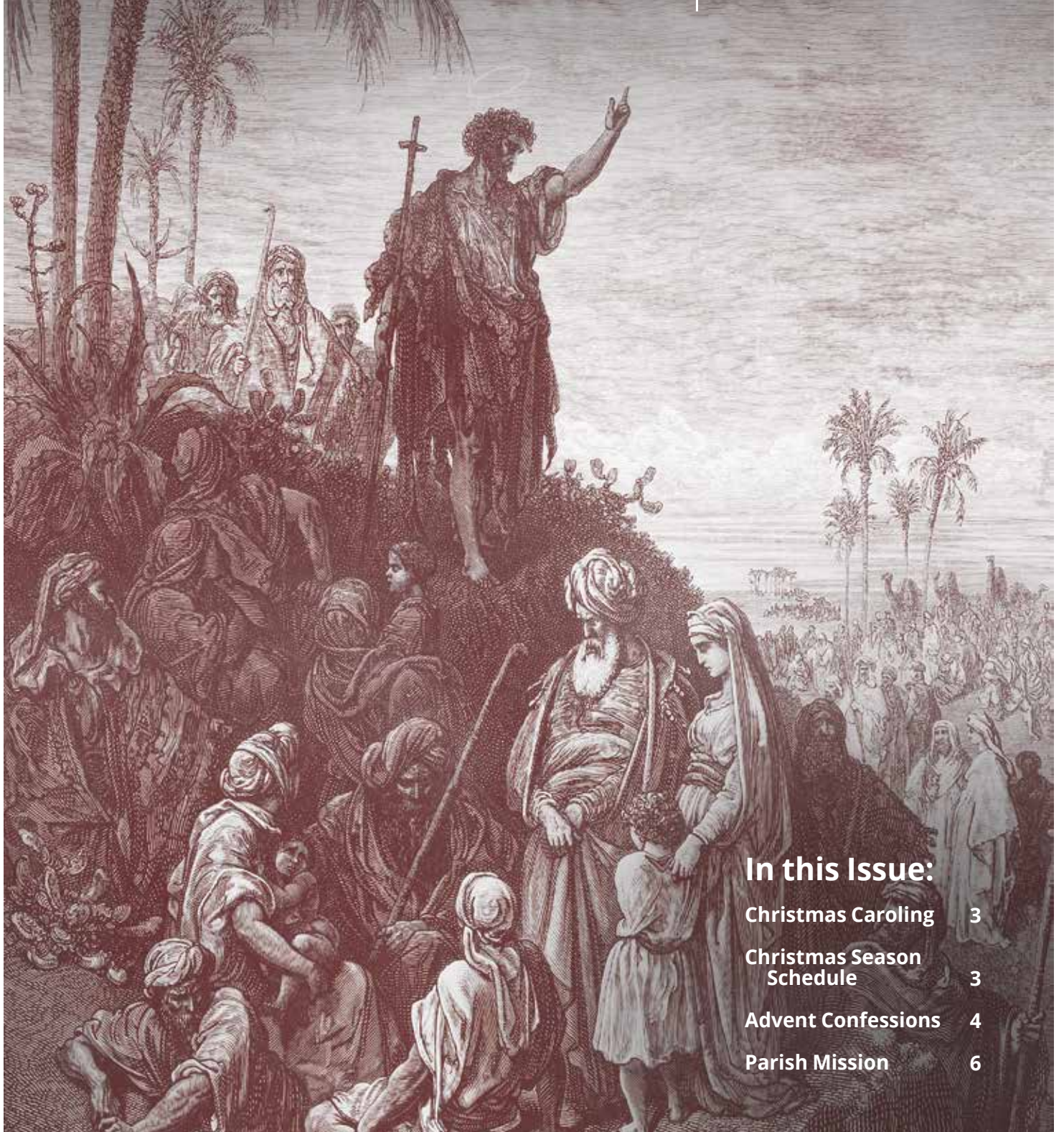
THE Cathedral Courier

Weekly Bulletin for the Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling, West Virginia

17 December 2023

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Vol. 12, No. 3



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Saint Joseph Cathedral Parish is called to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ as a community. We are committed: to our urban neighborhoods, to being the Cathedral of the Diocese, and to fellowship, formation, sacrament, and prayer.

This Week

December 17 - 24, 2023

SUN 17 Third Sunday of Advent

6:00 pm (Sat) Mass for Madeline Belby
8:00 am Mass for Helen Pasden
10:30 am Mass for the Parishioners
Noon Christmas Decorating
6:00 pm Sung Evening Prayer

MON 18 Advent Weekday

12:05 pm Mass for Dorothy Fillipovich
6:00 pm Christmas in India (*Great Hall*)

TUE 19 Advent Weekday

12:05 pm Mass for Rose Purpura
6:00 pm Christmas Caroling
(*Continuous Care Center, Wheeling*)

WED 20 Advent Weekday

12:05 pm Mass for Mary Lou Guckert
5:00 pm Confessions

THU 21 Advent Weekday

12:05 pm Mass for Clara Scheibelhood

FRI 22 Advent Weekday

11:15 am Confessions
12:05 pm Mass for Julia Bartolovich

SAT 23 Advent Weekday

9:00 am Mass for John & Shirley Sheets
9:30 am Rosary
9:30 am Confessions (until Noon)
5:00 pm Confessions
6:00 pm Mass for the Parishioners

SUN 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 am Mass for Adelaide Rayman
10:30 am Mass for Janet Castilow
6:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass



From Father Sateesh

"Rejoice!"



On this Third Sunday of Advent, the readings sound the note of joy. But we could ask what is there to be happy about. After all there are so many things that depress us and make us sad. Yet we are asked to rejoice, to be a Christian we have to have joy in our lives. Isaiah will point out that we should rejoice in the Lord! Isaiah believes he has been chosen to bring good news to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to bring liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison, to proclaim the joyful news that God will do all these things for us. He is coming, He will not delay, He is faithful to his promises. He will come! Whatever your situation, He will come!

The second reading taken from St. Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians, is among the closing verses of this letter and St. Paul gives us a 4-point formula for living life. In line with the theme of Gaudete Sunday, the first point asks us to Rejoice always. Rejoicing is not to be done only when things are going our way but even when the going gets tough. In his own life, going through various challenges, Paul demonstrated that it is, indeed, possible to rejoice amid adversity. The second point is to pray without ceasing. More than a mere tool to obtain what one desires; prayer establishes and strengthens one's relationship with God. The closer we are to God the better we can discern His will for us. The last point is perhaps the most difficult. Paul asks us to give thanks in all circumstances. To be able to do this demands a very strong faith and trust in God's plan and love for us. In the Gospel we have John pointing out to the people that he is not the messiah, he is not the prophet, he is not Elijah but the voice of one crying out in the wilderness. He reminds them that there is one person in their midst who is greater than he is, but they do not recognize Him. John is merely a witness, pointing out to the one who is coming so that they might not miss him. He is the light, He is their hope, He is the promised one! If we do not see him, accept him, believe in Him, then the source of our joy is lost. We have missed the one who can bring meaning into our lives! We did not know He was in our midst. He came unto his own and his own did not recognize Him. God comes in strange ways!

As we come closer to Christmas, let us spend some time this Gaudete Sunday and reflect over what is the manifesto of our lives. How can I follow the 4-point formula of St. Paul and lastly focus on carrying, reflecting and recognizing the light of Jesus in our daily lives. May we be joyful witnesses of God's love in the world today!



Christmas Caroling
 Join us as we spread the joy of the season!

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19 AT 6PM

CONTINUOUS CARE CENTER
 236 HULLIHEN PLACE, WHEELING

Next Weekend's Mass Obligation

This year is unique in that the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve fall on the same day; this happens about every six or seven years although a leap year might render a longer interval. According to the law of the Church, which is based on divine law, Catholics are required to participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on Sundays and on other days of precept which we know as holy days of obligation. Christmas is a day of precept whose obligation is never lifted, the same as Sunday. **Therefore, all Catholics must attend Mass the weekend of December 23/24 for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and also for the Solemnity of Christmas on December 24/25.**

Angel Tree

Catholic Charities is asking for \$10.00 gift cards from Walmart or Target. They are collecting them, and then distributing them equally among the children signed up. If you would like to give more, please keep them in \$10.00 increments. In order to avoid going to the store, you may order the gift card online and print it. If you don't have a printer, you can put \$10.00 in an envelope and Catholic Charities can purchase a gift card for you. You can put them in the gift box in the sanctuary, or in the collection, or mail them to the Cathedral. **Please return them by Sunday, December 17.** Thank you!

ATTENTION: Greeters, Readers, Ushers, and Gift Bearers

Christmas is fast approaching! Please consider signing up as soon as possible to serve in one of these important ministries at the Christmas Masses. The sign-up sheets are located in the narthex of the church. Thank you!

Collection

December 10, 2023

Envelopes: \$1955
 Loose: \$855
 Online: \$806
Total: \$3616

Thank you for your support!

FOLLOW US

on social media for updates and more info!

@wheelingcathedral

on Facebook & Instagram

Christmas at the CATHEDRAL

CHRISTMAS EVE
Sunday, December 24

Choral Prelude at 5:30PM
Christmas Vigil Mass at 6PM
 Most Reverend Mark E. Brennan
Celebrant & Homilist

Choral Prelude at 11:30PM
Christmas Midnight Mass
 Reverend Sateesh Narisetti
Celebrant & Homilist

CHRISTMAS DAY
Monday, December 25

Christmas Day Mass at 10:30AM
 Most Reverend Mark E. Brennan
Celebrant & Homilist

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH
Sunday, December 31
 Masses: 6PM (Sat), 8AM, 10:30AM
Blessing of Families at all Masses

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
Monday, January 1
 Vigil Mass at 6PM (Sunday, Dec 31)
 Mass at 9AM

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
Sunday, January 7
 Masses: 6PM (Sat), 8AM, 10:30AM

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD
Monday, January 8
 Mass: 12:05PM



The "O" Antiphons

Each year on December 17, the Church begins a series of seven short verses sung before the Magnificat during Evening Prayer or Vespers, on the seven days before the vigil of Christmas. They each begin with the exclamation "O" and are therefore called the "O Antiphons." The antiphons were composed in the seventh or eighth century when monks put together texts from the Old Testament which looked forward to the coming of our salvation. The first letter of the Messianic titles: Emmanuel, Rex, Oriens, Clavis, Radix, Adonai, Sapientia—all spell out Latin words *ERO CRAS*, meaning, "Tomorrow, I will come."

December 17 - O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!

December 18 - O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!

December 19 - O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: come to save us without delay!

December 20 - O Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!

December 21 - O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

December 22 - O King of all nations and keystone of the Church: come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

December 23 - O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!



Advent Confessions

Prepare your hearts for Christ!

Wednesday, December 20

5:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Saturday, December 23

9:30 am to Noon

Advent is a most advantageous time to go to confession! The Sacrament of Reconciliation figuratively wipes the slate clean in any liturgical season, but Advent provides a poignant time to experience the joy of reconciling with God and the Church, being one with Christ in the here and now, while celebrating His First Coming in His birth in Bethlehem and preparing for His Second Coming and all eternity. **As you prepare for Christmas, take time to truly prepare your hearts and minds by taking advantage of our additional times for Confession during this holy Season.**



There is a place for you here at the Cathedral of St. Joseph

Each one of us has a responsibility to evangelize - to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. How can we reach out to our friends, family members, and those we work with who are not practicing their faith? Consider inviting them to join you for Christmas Mass this year. Pray that the peace and joy of the Christ Child may enlighten their hearts and minds to accept His grace in their lives.

Welcoming Visitors for Christmas

In these last days of Advent, please pray for the warm welcome to the Cathedral of all those who have been away from the active practice of the Catholic Faith, or even just away from being physically in church for a while. Their appearance at our Christmas celebration is not some interruption that threatens to leave us without our "favorite" seat in church; it is rather a great homecoming of our brothers and sisters, who must find in us such joy that they will be drawn irresistibly to come back and be with us each Sunday! Join us in praying that this Christmas may be a time of true renewal, conversation, and joy!

PARISH GROUPS

Women's Group

Tuesday, January 9

6:30 - 7:30 pm in Chancery Cantina

The Cathedral Women's group a scheduled group on the second Tuesday of the month in the Chancery Cantina.

Men's Group

Begins this January!

A group of men committed to living out the Faith through prayer, friendship, and discussion, emulating the virtues of our patron, St. Joseph, and striving to become better husbands, fathers, sons, and brothers.

Young Adults

Next Gathering To Be Announced

Our Young Adult group is open to anyone in their late teens, twenties, and thirties, with the goal of connecting young adults with Jesus Christ, the Church, the mission of the Church in the world, and a peer community in which their faith is nurtured and strengthened.

Book Club

Sunday, January 7

9:15 - 10:15 am in Rectory

Our faith sharing book club meets monthly to explore topics of the spiritual life, literature, and culture in a communally enriching way.



Christmas Caroling

Tuesday, December 19 at 6pm

Continuous Care Center, Wheeling

If you are 55 years and over and searching for a group that shares conversation, friendship, fun, and spiritual activities, this group is just for you!

Help spread the joy and hope of the Christmas season by joining parishioners and friends for an evening of Christmas Caroling at the Continuous Care Center on December 19 at 6pm!



The month of December is traditionally dedicated to the Divine Infancy of Jesus Christ. This month, let the paradox of Christ's birth and childhood strike us anew. Let us pray with Mary in the words of an ancient hymn by Saint Ephrem the Syrian: "I am your Mother but I will give honor to you. I have engendered you, but you are older than I am. I have carried you in my womb, but you sustain me on my feet. You have been born of me like a little one, but you are as strong as a giant. The height of the heavens are filled with your majesty, and yet my womb has not been too small for you."

Ways to Honor the Divine Infancy

- ❖ Pray and support children and their families who are victims of abuse; homelessness; hunger; discrimination; and poverty
- ❖ Pray the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary
- ❖ Make an effort to take the Season of Advent seriously

Christmas in India

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

6:00 P.M.

Due to the number of people who registered, this event has been moved to the Great Hall of Wheeling Central Catholic High School.

Join Father Sateesh as he shares with us the Advent & Christmas religious customs in India as well as some delicious food!



Pro-Life Corner

At all stages of life, we believe life is sacred. Whether it's at a child's conception to a senior on their last breath, life is a blessing that should be preserved as God intended.

There are now 39 universities in 17 states with emergency contraceptive (abortion drug) vending machines, and at least 20 more considering them, according to the American Society for Emergency Contraception.

SAINTS OF THE WEEK

December 21 - St. Peter Canisius, priest, doctor of the Church (1521-1597)

St. Peter Canisius wrote a German-language catechism and founded the Jesuit College in Fribourg, Switzerland, as a response to the errors of the Reformation. He avoided polemics and direct debate with Protestant theologians, believing that it was better to attract people with solid orthodox teaching and let the truth speak for itself.

December 23 - St. John of Kanty, priest (d.1473)

Also known as John Cantius, St. John of Kanty was a theologian and professor of Sacred Scripture at Krakow. In addition to his theological work, he was also a physicist and anticipated the work of Galileo and Newton. He was known for his spirit of poverty and humility and gave most of his professor's salary to the poor, keeping just enough to live simply.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Week of December 17

THIS SUNDAY

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11
(Ps) Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

MONDAY

Jeremiah 23:5-8
Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19
Matthew 1:18-25

TUESDAY

Judges 13:2-7, 24-25
Ps 71:3-4, 5-6, 16-17
Luke 1:5-25

WEDNESDAY

Isaiah 7:10-14
Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6
Luke 1:26-38

THURSDAY

Song of Songs 2:8-14
or Zephaniah 3:14-18
Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21
Luke 1:39-45

FRIDAY

1 Samuel 1:24-28
(Ps) 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8
Luke 1:46-56

SATURDAY

Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24
Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14
Luke 1:57-66

NEXT SUNDAY

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16
Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

The readings are included each week so that those who are unable to join us for daily Mass will be able to consider and pray them in union with the whole Church.

JOIN US ON JANUARY 19TH & 20TH FOR ST. JOSEPH'S

RESTORED PARISH MISSION



JOHN EDWARDS

FOUNDER OF PEW
MINISTRIES AND HOST OF
"JUST A GUY IN THE PEW"
PODCAST

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19TH

- 7:00 PM** From Addict to Evangelist: John's Powerful Conversion Story
- 8:15 PM** Reception

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20TH

- 9:00 AM** Mass
- 9:45 AM** Restoring Your Identity: Who You Are, Whose You Are, and Why You're Here
- 11:00 AM** The Most Important Thing: A Personal Relationship with Jesus
- 12:15 PM** Men's Lunch
- 12:45 PM** Men's Ministry Training

Cathedral of St. Joseph
1300 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003



MARK YOUR CALENDARS! On January 19 and 20, **John Edwards**, a nationally recognized Catholic speaker, will lead us through a series of inspiring talks and discussions for the whole family - men, women, and young people! Everyone will have an opportunity to meet John at a reception following the first talk on Friday evening. After the last talk on Saturday morning, the men who are present are invited to attend a ministry training which will coincide with the launch of our new Men's Group at the Cathedral!

Rest In Peace

Please remember in your prayers:
Adelaide Rayman (d. December 11, 2023)



WHY DO WE DO THAT?

Catholic Life Explained:

Preparing for Christmas

Question:

With Christmas fast approaching, can you give me some practical tips to prepare myself and my family that will help us stay grounded in what this holiday is really about? With all the commercialism, it's easy to stray.

Answer:

Happy times and events bring fond memories and a renewed sense of love and kinship with others. The anticipation is half the joy of the event itself. The coming of the Lord is that kind of event that people have been looking forward to for generations with fervent hope and desire. It gave them strength and courage as they waited for the coming of the Lord.

We know that Christmas is rushed. Sales begin in August and carols blare long before the season begins. Everyone laments the commercial aspects of the season, but there is still time this Advent to do something to help you be more mindful of the Lord's coming. Use an Advent wreath, or enthroned the Bible prominently, or read the readings from the Bible assigned to each day. Establish new family rituals, customs and prayers that help remind everyone that we are preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Fasting, daily Mass, a special celebration of reconciliation, reaching out to those alienated from family or society, and visiting the homebound manifest the love of the Christ Child and the Holy Family. Resist the temptation to rush the season. In his own time and in his own way, God will come. Our task is simply to be watchful and ready.

NATIONAL Eucharistic Pilgrimage

Next Summer, faithful Catholics throughout the country will join in pilgrimage along four routes to the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis! The "Seton" Route will be passing through our own Diocese, travelling through Weirton and Wheeling! Stay tuned for more information!

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Andrew Helfer | Chuck Fair | Kermit Klosterman | R. J. Stocke |
| Angela Niehart | David A. Kress, Jr. | Kristin Smith | Richard Simon |
| Archer Hatch | Dianna Albright | Langan Family | Rick Burgy |
| Arthur Danehart | Doug Jones | Liam Barns | Ron Hickman |
| Austin Cook | Eric South | Liam Manning | Rosalie Davis |
| Barb Mazzocca | Eva Wood | Lukie Brown | Rose Otey |
| Becky Schlosser | Fr. Joseph Wilhelm | Margaret Stocke | Sarah Hanasky |
| Beth Jochum | Frank Davis | Marge Mucheck | Sarah Sargent |
| Betty Teater | Frederick C. Schweizer | Marie Farnsworth | Shirley DeCaria |
| Bill Wilson | Gail Koch | Marie & Conner Workman | Stanley Kyrk |
| Bob Armstrong | George Kirchner | Mark Davis | Susan Graff |
| Billy Hanasky | Geri Adams Nagy | Marshall South | Susan Mize |
| Brian Hanasky | Hines Rotriga | Martha Yocum | Susan Schulte |
| Brogan Gallentine | Jean Schultz | Mary K. Schlosser | Susanna Kress |
| Caleb Hlebiczkzi | Jim Antill | Mary Walicki | Tammy |
| Carol Young | Jim and Dee | Michael DeBlasis | Teresa Helfer |
| Carolyn Lash | Jimmy Hocking | Milissa Rose | Thelma Pearson |
| Carolyn Wiethe | Joe Bechtel | Nadine Greenwood | Tony Helfer |
| Catherine Lanham | John Petrella | Nicholas Barns | Trystan Timmons |
| Charles Heizer | Jon-Michael Lasher | Pete Cuffaro | Victoria Jeskey |
| Charles DeBeni | Judy Pack | Pete Mack | Zoey Knight |
| Children of the Youth Services System | Julia Sheets | Philippa Shores | |
| Christina Helfer | Kathy Cooley | Rachel Wade | |
| | Kaitlyn Hanasky | | |

From the Diocesan Office of Safe Environment

To report an incidence of suspected child sexual abuse, please contact your local law enforcement agency, or you may confidentially contact WV Child Protective Services at 800.352.6513. In addition to civil authorities, to report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, please contact the Diocese at 888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880. Please visit www.dwc.org under "Accountability" for additional information and reporting methods.

The Cathedral of Saint Joseph



MASS TIMES

- SUNDAYS** 6:00 pm (Saturday)
8:00 am
10:30 am
- WEEKDAYS** 12:05 pm (Monday thru Friday)
9:00 am (Saturday)
- HOLY DAYS** Please consult the bulletin

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CONFESSIONS

- FRIDAY** 11:15 - 11:45 am
- SATURDAY** 5:00 - 5:45 pm
or by appointment

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISMS

By appointment. Please contact the parish office.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK / MINISTRY TO THE HOMEBOUND

Please call the parish office to arrange for anointing for someone who is seriously ill or preparing for surgery. If ill, homebound or hospitalized, a visit can be scheduled upon request.

MARRIAGE

Engaged couples who are members of the Cathedral parish should contact the parish office.

PARISH REGISTRATION

Registration forms can be obtained through the parish office.

Please notify the parish of address changes through contacting the parish office or by visiting the website.

Bulletin Articles due by 9am on Monday (5 days prior to publication). Submitted bulletin content is subject to approval.

