

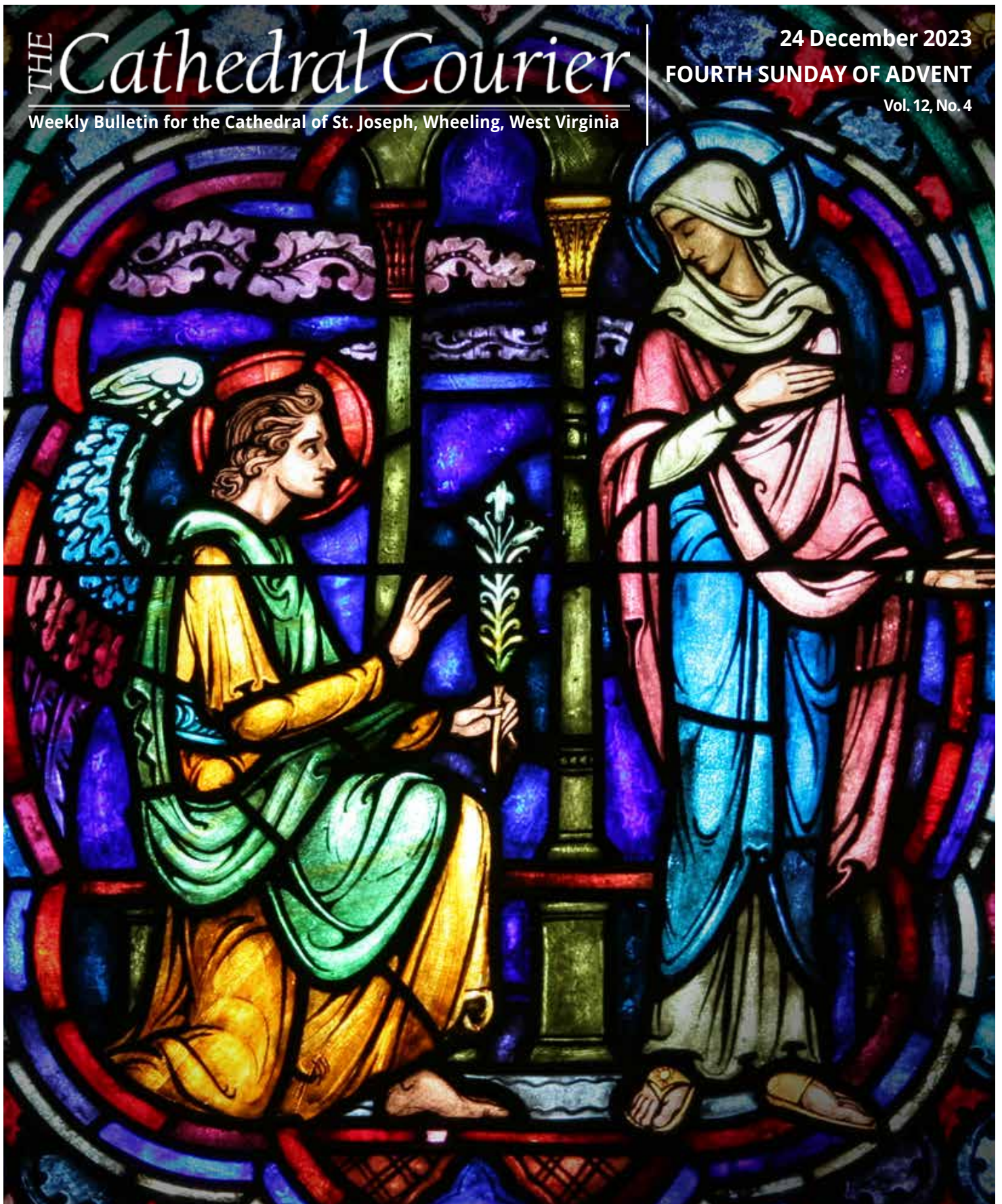
THE Cathedral Courier

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

24 December 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Vol. 12, No. 4



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 24 - 31, 2023

SUN 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent

6:00 pm (Sat) Mass for the Parishioners
8:00 am Mass for Adelaide Rayman
10:30 am Mass for Janet Castilow
6:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass

MON 25 The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

Midnight Christmas Midnight Mass
10:30 am Christmas Day Mass

TUE 26 Feast of St. Stephen

12:05 pm Mass for Stephen Pacewicz

WED 27 Feast of St. John

12:05 pm Mass for Patricia Oglinsky

THU 28 Feast of the Holy Innocents

12:05 pm Mass for Albert Schubert

FRI 29 Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity; Optional Memorial of St. Thomas Becket

11:15 am Confessions
12:05 pm Mass for Michael Pacewicz

SAT 30 Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity

9:00 am Mass for Janet Castilow
9:30 am Rosary
5:00 pm Confessions
6:00 pm Mass for Kevin Keane

SUN 31 Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

8:00 am Mass for Donald Gerrero
10:30 am Mass for the Parishioners
6:00 pm Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of
Mary, the Holy Mother of God



From Father Sateesh

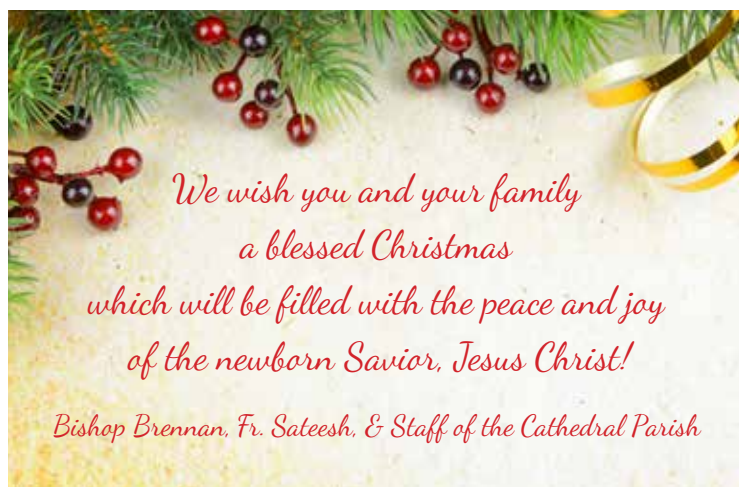
"Welcoming God, and His messengers, who comes to us!"



We live in a world of efficiency, where talent counts and where we are measured by what we can produce, what we can do, what we can deliver. In business, if we prove ourselves, we are acknowledged, rewarded, promoted, and given greater responsibility. While this is the norm in the business world, we have to be careful that this norm does not affect our relationships with people and more especially with God. God is no businessman! Faith is not merited, and grace is a free gift. Yet we keep trying to merit, earn something from God, to do something for God.

The Gospel focuses on Mary, who becomes the new Ark of the Covenant, the new tent of meeting, the new dwelling place of God. Mary is great not because of what she did for God but because of what she allowed God to do for her and in her life. "Rejoice, so highly favored! The Lord is with you! Mary is highly favored not because she deserves it, not because she has earned God's favor but precisely because God has chosen her! God does not look at our capabilities but our availability! God does not need our talents, He needs us! Mary is human and so she is surprised by the announcement that she is going to be the mother of Jesus. She asks: "How is this possible? How can this be?" We too sometimes ask: How can this be possible? I have done nothing to deserve this. We are so used to being chosen for our talents and capabilities that we think we have to earn and merit what we get from God.

The angel assures Mary that what will happen is the work of grace, in and through the Spirit. With God the impossible becomes possible! Mary's response is a "Yes" to God's plan. We see then a contrast between David's (our) plan for the way God should dwell with his people and Mary's openness to God's plan to dwell in her life. We cannot give God anything unless we have first received from Him. Love is an exchange of giving and receiving. What is important is that we receive first what God has to offer and only then can we meaningfully give in return. Christmas is a time of gift-giving. Henri Nouwen once wrote: "When someone accepts a gift, he admits another into his world and is ready to give him a place in his own being... Ultimately a gift becomes a gift only when it is accepted." Have we accepted His gift? May we discover the joy of welcoming Jesus into our lives!!!





Epiphany Home Blessing

For centuries, the Christmas season has been a time when Christians have their homes blessed.

A traditional way of doing this is by inscribing above the entrance door with blessed chalk:

20+C+M+B+24

The numbers represent the new year (2024).

The letters represent both the names of the Magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Bathasar) and the phrase "Christus Mansionem Benedicat," which is Latin for "May Christ Bless the House."

If you would like to have your home blessed by Fr. Sateesh, please e-mail Tyler at tgreenwood@dwc.org

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!

Christmas Collections

We ask you, in the spirit of Christmas giving, to be generous to the Christmas collection for the Cathedral Parish on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and to the traditional **second collection in support of Catholic Charities**, whose wonderful service throughout the state of West Virginia helps so many people. May God bless you for your kindness!

Don't have cash or check? Consider making a contribution using our online services www.saintjosephcathedral.com/giving or scan the QR code from your phone!



SCAN ME

Collection

December 17, 2023

Envelopes: \$3236

Loose: \$456

Online: \$563

Total: \$4255

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 Nariseti

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





Christmas is a Season!

It will begin very soon. We'll start to see Christmas trees on the curbsides or propped up against the back sheds. It usually starts the day after Christmas, with the number of discarded trees increasing until New Year's Day when it starts to taper off. In the malls and on the city streets, the decorations are coming down, too. The After-Christmas sales are booming and the return lines wind round and round the stores as folks come to exchange their unwanted Christmas presents. For many, the Christmas season ends on December 26.

For faithful Catholics, however, the Christmas season begins on the evening of December 24 and continues well into January. While the rest of the world is winding down their Christmas celebrations, we're just gearing up for ours.

We start with the Christmas Octave. Since the eighth century, the Church has observed octaves – eight days of celebration following a feast or solemnity. For Christmas, the octave begins on Christmas Day and ends on January 1, the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Holy Mother of God.

The Christmas season is filled with exciting scenes and happenings, all pointing to Jesus as the Christ. They all tell us about the magnificence and mission of the Infant born in Bethlehem that one day would be King.

Let's remember that Christmas is a season, not just one day. Celebrate it!

Come Home for Christmas

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.

THANK YOU!!!

A sincere word of thanks to everyone who helped decorate our Cathedral Church for Christmas! What a tremendous joy to see so many parishioners and friends working together! We are also very grateful to those who have donated the beautiful poinsettias which fill our church this Christmas Season!



PARISH GROUPS

Women's Group

Tuesday, January 9

6:30 - 7:30 pm in Chancery Cantina

Join us for good conversation and fellowship to start off the New Year on a great note!

Men's Group

Begins this January!

The beginning of our Men's Group will coincide with the Parish Mission on January 19 and 20th. Please join us!

Book Club

Sunday, January 7

9:15 - 10:15 am in Rectory

Our book club meets monthly to explore topics of the spiritual life, literature, and culture.

Young Adults

Wednesday, January 10 at 7pm

Our Young Adult group is open to anyone ages 18-39 with the goal of nurturing and strengthening our faith.



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

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.

Let this Christmas fill all of us with awe and wonder at how close human life is to God. Let us pray that the world will be cleansed all that tarnishes and rejects this gift. Let our Christmas joy be the joy of welcoming every human life!

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!

SAINTS OF THE WEEK

December 26 - St. Stephen (1st century)

Saint Stephen is the protomartyr, the first martyr. He was a deacon, a miracle worker, and apparently a skilled debater, but ultimately we are called to imitate his faith, which refused to be shaken by any of his persecutor's arguments or threats.

December 27 - St. John, apostle & evangelist (1st century)

John's account of the Gospel reveals a compellingly human Christ, one who cherishes his friends and is deeply moved by the death of Lazarus, while laying the theological groundwork for our understanding of Christ's divinity and union with God the Father.

December 28 - The Holy Innocents, martyrs (1st century)

During this octave of Christmas the Church celebrates the The Holy Innocents, those small children of the neighborhood of Bethlehem put to death by Herod the Great. Herod fearing for his throne after the Magi told him about the birth of Jesus, ordered the execution of all male children in Bethlehem, hoping that Jesus would be among those killed.

December 29 - St. Thomas Becket, bishop, martyr (1118-1170)

St. Thomas Becket was the archbishop of Canterbury in the mid-twelfth century. He was murdered in his own cathedral by followers of King Henry II due to conflict between the saint and the king.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Week of December 24

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

Isaiah 52:7-10
Ps 98:1-6
Hebrews 1:1-6
John 1:1-18

TUESDAY

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59
Ps 31:3-4, 6-8, 16, 17
Matthew 10:17-22

WEDNESDAY

1 John 1:1-4
Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12
John 20:1-8

THURSDAY

1 John 1:5—2:2
Ps 124:2-5, 7-8
Matthew 2:13-18

FRIDAY

1 John 2:3-11
Ps 96:1-3, 5-6
Luke 22:35

SATURDAY

1 John 2:12-17
Ps 96:7-8, 8-9, 10
Luke 2:36-40

NEXT SUNDAY

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
Psalm 128:1-5
Colossians 3:12-21
Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

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.

Christmas in India

We were transported to India last Monday evening for our "Christmas in India" gathering with Fr. Sateesh! The evening was filled with great food, fun, and fellowship as Fr. Sateesh shared with us the Advent and Christmas traditions in India. We continue to thank God and offer our prayerful support for the gift of our international priests who so generously serve our Diocese!



Christmas Caroling at Continuous Care

On Tuesday evening, we had the great blessing of visiting the residents of the Continuous Care Center in Wheeling, sharing with them the joy of the season by singing Christmas carols! Join us in praying for all those in hospitals and care facilities, especially during this time of year, that they may know the peace, hope, and love of the One who is coming into the world!



Blessing of the Christmas Manger

The blessing of the Christmas manger scene can take place on Christmas. When the manger is set up in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another family member. Consider making this a tradition in your home after you return from Mass.

All make the sign of the cross.

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Response: Who made heaven and earth.

Read Luke 2:1-8 or Isaiah 7:10-15.

Leader: God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Savior was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love.

Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns forever and ever.

All: Amen.



WHY DO WE DO THAT?

Catholic Life Explained:

Lighting Candles in Church

Question:

Why do Catholics light candles in church?

Answer:

Candles have been part of the Church's worship from the earliest times. In the days before electricity, candles and oil lamps were the ways that people lighted buildings. Even today, we often still depend on candles during power outages, relying on their flickering flames to bring light into the dark.

Like our ancestors, we also light candles on special occasions. Think about a festive family meal or a romantic dinner for two — there will often be candles on the table, special objects for a special event. We light candles on birthday cakes and carry them in processions. We also place candles at makeshift memorials that appear when there has been an accident or act of violence. In these moments, their light casts aside a different kind of darkness — the darkness of grief, fear, and death.

The custom of the early Christians lighting candles and lamps at the tombs of the martyrs gave way to the practice of having candles at Mass, honoring the sacredness of the celebration.

As Christians decorated their worship spaces with statues and icons, they would burn candles in front of sacred images and the relics of the saints, basically "shining a light" on what they held to be sacred. When pilgrims would visit these shrines, they would often bring candles to light before the image or relic. These candles came to be a symbol of the person, and their prayer and the burning these candles came to be understood as an extension and continuation of the prayer that was offered. What began as a practical way to provide light has come to be a symbol of the hopes, desires, loves, losses, fears, and faith of everyday Christians offering their prayers to God and his saints.



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 Hlebiczk	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



DIRECTORY

PARISH OFFICE

1218 Eoff Street
Wheeling, WV 26003
Phone: 304-233-4121

Website: www.saintjosephcathedral.com

STAFF

PASTOR

Most Reverend Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

VICE-RECTOR

Rev. Sateesh Narisetti, H.G.N., J.C.L.
nsateesh@dwc.org

DEACON

Deacon Douglas Breiding
dbreiding@dwc.org

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE / ASSOCIATE ORGANIST

Tyler J. Greenwood
tgreenwood@dwc.org

PARISH LIFE AND MINISTRIES ASSISTANT

Debora V. Fahey
dfahey@dwc.org

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

Matthew S. Berher
mberher@dwc.org

SACRISTAN

Martin Imbroscio
mimbroscio@dwc.org

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

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.

