

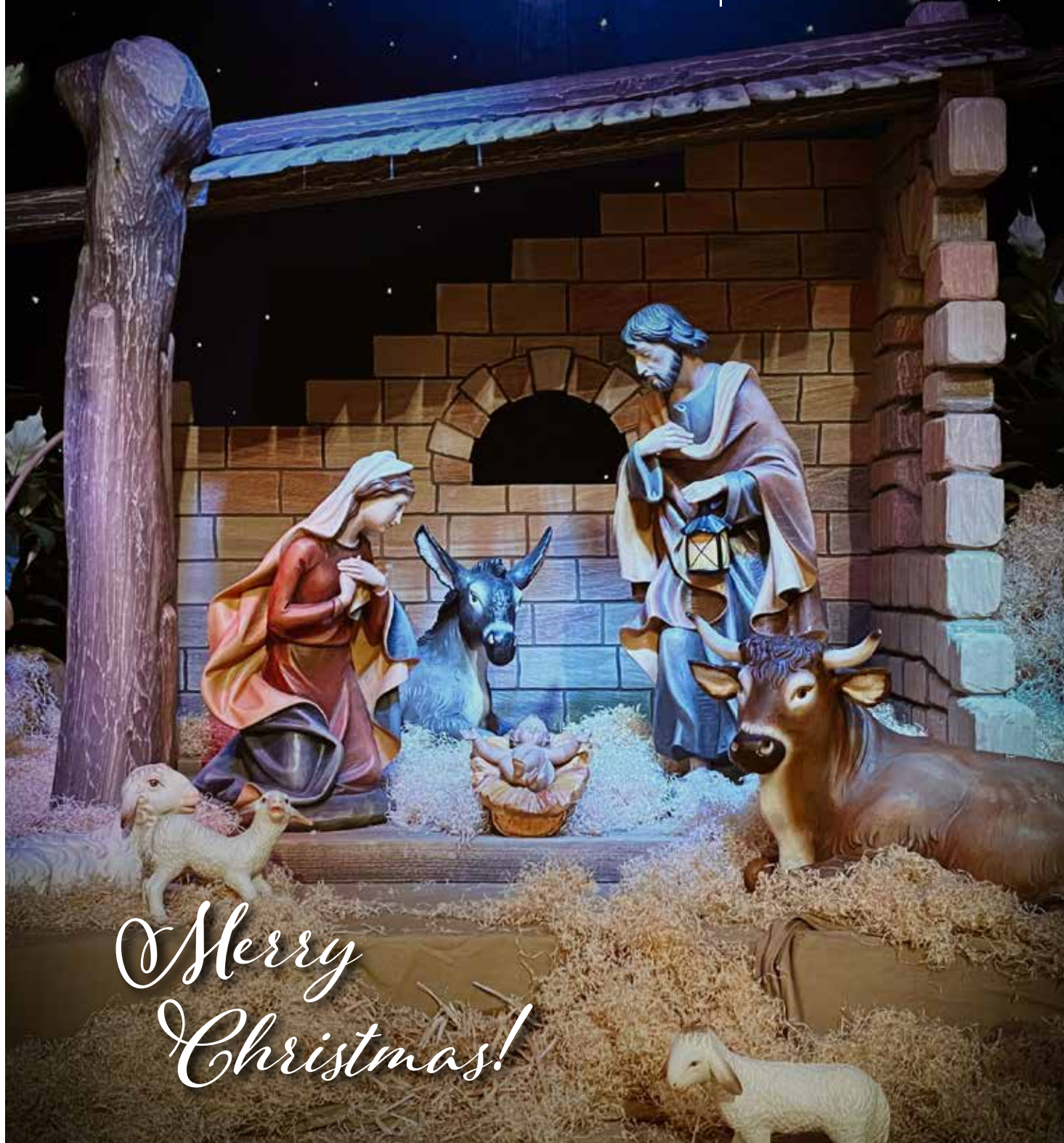
# THE Cathedral Courier

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

25 December 2022

THE NATIVITY OF  
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Vol. 11, No. 5



*Merry  
Christmas!*



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 25, 2022 - January 1, 2023

## SUN 25 Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

6:00 pm (Sat) Mass for the Parishioners  
Midnight Mass for the Parishioners  
10:30 am Mass for the Parishioners

## MON 26 Feast of St. Stephen

12:05 pm Mass for Frank Moran

## TUE 27 Feast of St. John

12:05 pm Mass for Katerina Bolcek

## WED 28 Feast of the Holy Innocents

12:05 pm Mass for Albert Schubert

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

12:05 pm Mass for Michael Pacewicz

## FRI 30 Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

11:15 am Confessions  
12:05 pm Mass for Clara Scheibelhood

## SAT 31 Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity; Optional Memorial of St. Sylvester I

9:00 am Mass for Adolph & Mary Calovini  
9:30 am Rosary  
5:00 pm Confessions  
6:00 pm Mass for the Parishioners

## SUN 1 Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God; The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord

8:00 am Mass for the Parishioners  
10:30 am Mass for the Parishioners



*From Father Sateesh*

*"Today a Savior is born to us! He is Christ the Lord!"*



Christmas is real, it is now, it is today. We are not only remembering and re-living an event that took place centuries ago, but we believe that it is happening once again. God entered into our world that first Christmas day and once again God wants to enter into our own personal world, if we will let him in. We know from our experience that we are most relaxed and at ease when we feel at home and comfortable with people, situations and events. At Christmas, God wants to be with us. His name is Emmanuel, God-with us. Are we at home with God?

In the first reading the prophet reminds his people that in the darkness of the deportation of the Israelites into exile, the announcing of the birth of the Messiah shines out as a great light. His coming will dispel the darkness of despair, fear and helplessness and fill them with new hope and happiness. The coming savior will rescue his people and the night will be made radiant by the coming of Jesus. The names given to this child: Wonder-Counselor, Mighty-God, Eternal Father, Prince-of-Peace, spell out what a great gift awaits us if only we accept Him into our hearts.

The Gospel describes in simple terms the Christmas story of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. Yet this Gospel contains elements of high contrast and uses signs to announce the beginning of a new era with the birth of Jesus Christ. Caesar Augustus, seen as the inauguration of peace and the great world benefactor, is contrasted with a helpless new-born who will be the prince of peace and the Savior of the world. For this Savior of the world there is no place in the world. Mary and Joseph only find room for their son in a stable where animals live. By mentioning the manger, Luke wishes to symbolize that Jesus is born to be the sustenance of the world.

The swaddling clothes connote the protection and care that the helpless infant needed and also his solidarity with the poor and simple people of his day. The manner of his birth did not meet the expectations of those who awaited him. He did not come to live up to their expectations but in fulfillment of his Father's will. His arrival was not sensational, not heralded with much fanfare, but only announced to the simple shepherds. By these contrasting signs and events, the Gospel highlights how different God's ways are from ours and how, while Jesus was born one of us, his coming turned the values of the world upside down. To come to the stable, to experience his coming, are we ready to accept him on his terms and values? May Christmas be the beginning of a new life for us!

I want to wish you personally all God's wonderful blessings which His coming assures us of. As you re-live the Christmas story, may you experience the joy of Christmas, the renewed hope that He comes to bring, and the love that is the heart of Christmas! Merry Christmas!





## Stay Connected With Us!

**Flocknote** is an e-mail and text messaging tool that we use at the Cathedral of St. Joseph to message our parishioners about important information. Flocknote is totally free for you to use, you don't even have to download anything or create a password in order to participate. All it takes is simply your name, e-mail address and/or cell phone number.

### How Do I Sign-Up?

There are two easy ways to connect (pick one):



#### From your computer:

Visit the website at **cathedralofstjoseph1.flocknote.com** and fill out the online form.

OR:



#### From your mobile phone:

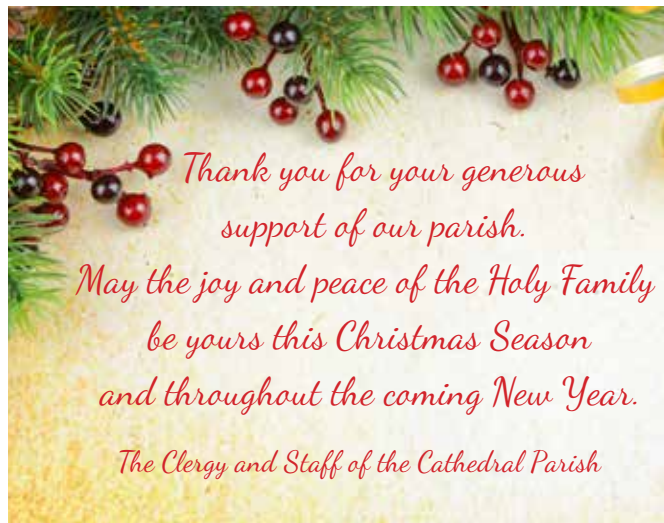
Text the letters **CSJ** to the phone number **84576**. You will then receive a reply which will allow you to sign-up.

## THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who have helped decorate our Cathedral Church for Christmas this year! Special thanks to Dave & Vivienne Perri, Jacob Manning, and the students of Wheeling Central Catholic High School who helped to assemble the Nativity! We are also very grateful to those who have donated the beautiful poinsettias which fill our church this Christmas Season!

## Kids Winter Wear Drive

Thanks to your generous support, the Knights of Columbus's Kids Winter Wear Drive donated 88 pairs of gloves, 99 coats, 40 scarves, 105 hats, 20 pairs of socks, 2 blankets, 28 pants and 2 pair of boots to Youth Services System (YSS) in Wheeling. Council 504 of the Knights of Columbus thanks you for your generosity!



Catholic Charities West Virginia

**Catholic Charities West Virginia is on a mission to end poverty, one family at a time.**

**Join us! Please donate.**

- Give to the second collection at Christmas masses
- Donate online at: [www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org)
- Mail donations to: 2000 Main Street, Wheeling, WV 26003

*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*  
- Acts 20:35



### 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+23**

The numbers represent the new year (2023). The letters represent both the names of the Magi (Caspar, Melchoir, and Bathasar) and the phrase "Christus Mansionem Benedicat," which is Latin for "May Christ Bless the House."

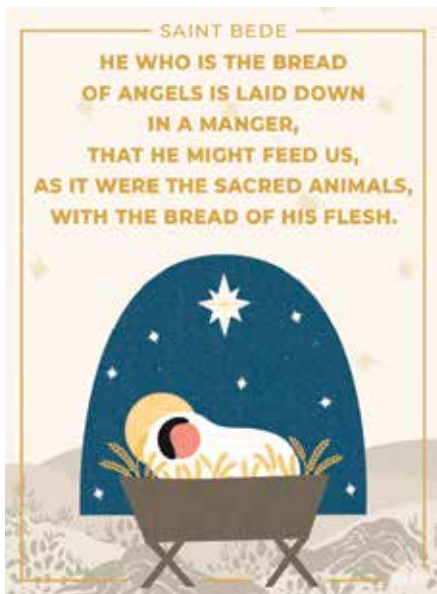
*If you would like to have your home blessed by Fr. Sateesh, please e-mail [tgreenwood@dwc.org](mailto:tgreenwood@dwc.org)*

### Offertory Collection

*The collection data was not available at the time of publishing. We will post it here next week.*



FOLLOW US ON  
**Instagram**  
[@wheelingcathedral](https://www.instagram.com/wheelingcathedral)



## New to the Parish?

Are you new to the Parish? Has your address or phone number changed? Are you a Catholic wishing to return to the Church? We would love to hear from you! Contact or stop by the Parish Offices to find out more information on how to become a member of the Cathedral Parish.

## Online Giving

The Cathedral of Saint Joseph offers Online Giving, a web-based electronic contribution application that is safe and secure. This site allows you to set up automatic contributions and change the timing or the amount of your gift at any time. You may make pledges and manage your contributions to the pledge amount, and you may make one-time donations. To sign up for Online Giving, visit our parish website at [www.saintjosephcathedral.com](http://www.saintjosephcathedral.com) and follow the "Giving" tab. This website will walk you through the process.

## Parish Offices Closed

The Cathedral Parish Office will be closed between Christmas and New Years. The office will reopen on Monday, January 2, 2023.



# Christmas

AT THE CATHEDRAL

## CHRISTMAS SEASON MASS SCHEDULE

**FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**  
Friday, December 30 at 12:05 p.m.

**MARY, MOTHER OF GOD  
OCTAVE DAY OF CHRISTMAS**  
Saturday, December 31 at 6:00 p.m.  
Sunday, January 1 at 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

**EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**  
Saturday, January 7 at 6:00 p.m.  
Sunday, January 8 at 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**  
Monday, January 9 at 12:05 p.m.

## Christmas is a season, not just a day

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. Christmas has its own octave, and so does Easter. 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. Both during and after the Octave of Christmas, there are number of important feasts to commemorate and celebrate.

Throughout these days, we hear in the daily readings the stories of the Nativity, but also of the prophecies of Simeon and Anna at the presentation and the finding of Jesus in the temple as well as the initiation of St. John the Baptist's ministry.

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!

## Christmas joy is for everyone, according to Leo the Great

By Philip Kosloski, Aleteia



Christmas is meant to be a joyous occasion, one that everyone should experience. It is not a joy tied to presents or even time spent with family members, but a joy firmly rooted in the coming of Our Savior on Christmas Day.

This means that no one is excluded from true Christmas joy. Whether you are rich or poor, with family or alone, everyone can rejoice on Christmas.

Here is how Pope St. Leo the Great put it in one of his Christmas sermons from the 5th century: "Our Saviour, dearly-beloved, was born today: let us be glad. For there is no proper place for sadness, when we keep the birthday of the Life, which destroys the fear of mortality and brings to us the joy of promised eternity. No one is kept from sharing in this happiness. There is for all one common measure of joy, because as our Lord the destroyer of sin and death finds none free from charge, so is He come to free us all.

Let the saint exult in that he draws near to victory. Let the sinner be glad in that

he is invited to pardon. Let the Gentile take courage in that he is called to life. For the Son of God in the fullness of time which the inscrutable depth of the Divine counsel has determined, has taken on him the nature of man, thereby to reconcile it to its Author: in order that the inventor of death, the devil, might be conquered through that (nature) which he had conquered.

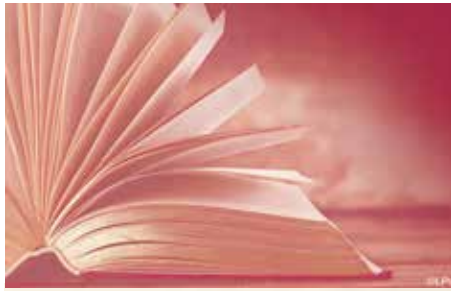
Let us then, dearly beloved, give thanks to God the Father, through His Son, in the Holy Spirit, Who for His great mercy, wherewith He has loved us, has had pity on us: and when we were dead in sins, has quickened us together in Christ, that we might be in Him a new creation and a new production. Let us put off then the old man with his deeds: and having obtained a share in the birth of Christ let us renounce the works of the flesh...Remember the Head and the Body of which you are a member. Recollect that you were rescued from the power of darkness and brought out into God's light and kingdom."



We are still in the midst of Christmas Time, and on January 1, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, a Holy Day of Obligation. This solemnity is the most ancient liturgical observance of Mary in the Church's calendar. It honors Mary as *theotokos* or "Mother of God," the title accorded her at the Council of Ephesus in 431. Mary is not just the Mother of Jesus: she is the Mother of God, because Jesus is both God and man, divine and human. As other Marian feasts entered the calendar, January 1 acquired a different focus. The eighth day after birth was the traditional day for the circumcision and naming of a child, and so this became the Feast of the Circumcision of the Lord (and the naming of Jesus). It was only in 1969 that the Marian character of this ancient feast was restored.

**Please join us on New Year's Day as we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God and Octave Day of Christmas.**

# SAINTS OF THE WEEK



## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Week of December 25

#### SUNDAY

Isaiah 52:7-10

Ps 98:1-6

Hebrews 1:1-6

John 1:1-18

#### MONDAY

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59

Ps 31:3-4, 6-8, 16, 17

Matthew 10:17-22

#### TUESDAY

1 John 1:1-4

Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12

John 20:1-8

#### WEDNESDAY

1 John 1:5—2:2

Ps 124:2-5, 7-8

Matthew 2:13-18

#### THURSDAY

1 John 2:3-11

Ps 96:1-3, 5-6

Luke 22:35

#### FRIDAY

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Psalms 128:1-5

Colossians 3:12-21

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

#### SATURDAY

1 John 2:18-21

Ps 96:1-2, 11-13

John 1:1-18

#### NEXT SUNDAY

Numbers 6:22-27

Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:16-21

*The readings are included each week so that those who are unable to join us for daily Mass will be able to consider and*

### December 26 - St. Stephen (1st century)

Saint Stephen is the protomartyr, the first martyr. When the Apostles chose deacons to help in their ministry, he was among the first seven. Stephen was arrested and tried by the Sanhedrin for blasphemy. His fate was sealed when he had a vision during his trial and cried out, "Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God" (Acts of the Apostles 7:56). He was dragged out of the city and stoned to death by the mob, which included Saul of Tarsus. Stephen is shown in art with three stones and a martyr's palm, sometimes wearing a dalmatic, a deacon's vestment. *Patronage:* bricklayers

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

Saint John, apostle and fourth Evangelist, is called the "beloved disciple" because of his close relationship with Jesus. Throughout his account of the Gospel, Saint John, named as the son of Zebedee and brother of Saint James the Greater, makes an appearance at significant moments in Jesus' life; specifically, at the Last Supper, the Garden of Gethsemane, the foot of the Cross, and the upper room. His account of the Gospel is quite different from the synoptic accounts (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) due to his high Christology (divine emphasis), which is proclaimed through symbolic language and poetic form. The eagle is the chosen symbol for John's account, representing the depth and height to which the human spirit must soar in order to grasp the meaning of John's text. *Patronage:* friendships

### 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. According to Matthew, this fulfilled the prophecy of Jeremiah (31:15): "In Ramah is heard the sound of sobbing, bitter weeping! Rachel mourns for her children."

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

Saint Thomas Becket, was born in London as the son of Norman parents. He received a good education at Merton Abbey, and later in Paris. When he left school, he became a secretary, a position of some prestige in a society with limited literacy. Eventually, he became assistant to Theobald, Archbishop of Canterbury. Recognizing his talent, Theobald sent him to the court of King Henry II, and eventually Thomas was named Lord Chancellor of England. In 1162, hoping to gain control over the Church, Henry had him installed as archbishop of Canterbury, but Thomas had a conversion, resigned as Chancellor, and thus began a conflict between King and archbishop. When Thomas returned from exile in France and excommunicated Henry's followers, Henry said in a rage, "Will no one rid me of this meddlesome priest?" Four knights took this as a command and killed Thomas as he went to join the monks for vespers in the abbey church. The story is retold in T.S. Eliot's play *Murder in the Cathedral* and Jean Anouilh's play, *Becket*.

### December 31 - St. Sylvester I, pope (d. 355)

Very little is known about Saint Sylvester, in spite of his being pope during an eventful era in history, from 314 to 334. Shortly before the beginning of his papacy in 314, Constantine I issued the Edict of Milan (313), extending religious tolerance throughout the Roman Empire and enabling the Church to come out of hiding after years of persecution. During Sylvester's pontificate, some of the great churches in Rome were built: the Basilica of Saint John Lateran, Santa Croce, the first Saint Peter's Basilica, and several others. The First council of Nicea in 325, at which the Nicene Creed was adopted, occurred during his papacy. Sylvester himself did not attend, but he sent his legates, Vitus and Vincentius, who approved the council decisions on his behalf.

## A Christmas Blessing

May love come alive within your heart,  
 As Christmas day draws near.  
 May hope fill each room you decorate,  
 And bring joy to those you hold dear.  
 May peace be before you at every meal,  
 And faith ring through every song.  
 For Christ is alive, the light of the world,  
 May he bless you all year long.  
 God bless and strengthen your family!



Please remember  
 in your prayers all  
 who serve in the  
 Armed Forces.  
 May they be kept  
 safe and out of  
 harm's way.



## WHY DO WE DO THAT?

### Catholic Life Explained:

#### *Christmas Gifts*

#### Question:

Why do we give gifts at Christmas?

#### Answer:

Great events in and of themselves are not tangible. They occur in life but leave no mark behind, nothing that someone could come across and know that something significant occurred. So we mark the event with monuments, holidays, gold watches or plaques, making a meaningful event tangible and memorable.

Gifts at Christmas do the same thing. They mark the occasion of the birth of Jesus, communicating a bit of the joy of the day by allowing us to be both giver and receiver. Gift-giving sets aside the day as special and different. The special foods, customs, decorations, and gifts all help focus our attention on the importance and meaning of the day and at the same time allow us to share personally in its joy and happiness.

In giving gifts, though, we can share in the meaning of Christmas in a significant way. We imitate God in sharing with others. We give a bit of ourselves to others in the gifts we give, just as God gives us the gift of his Son. No wonder we often say that the best gifts are those that come from the heart. Given in love, these presents are wrapped in the best covering of all.



## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

## From the Diocesan Office of Safe Environment

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is committed to the protection of its children and young people. The Diocese complies with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People by maintaining an 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 the West Virginia Bureau for Children and Families/Child Protective Services by calling the Child Abuse Hotline at 800.352.6513. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, please contact one of the Bishop's designees at 888.434.6237 (toll free) or 304.233.0880: Sister Ellen Dunn, ext. 264; Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; Fr. Dennis Schuelkens, ext. 270 or call the Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504. For more information on the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment, please go to [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), then click the "Diocese" tab, then click "Office of Safe Environment" under the "Offices" menu. To learn more about the Catholic Church's efforts in preventing sexual abuse of children in the United States, please visit <http://www.usccb.org>. Under "Issues and Action," click "Child and Youth Protection" from the drop down menu.

# The Cathedral of Saint Joseph



## DIRECTORY

### PARISH OFFICE

1218 Eoff Street  
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Phone: 304-233-4121

Website: [www.saintjosephcathedral.com](http://www.saintjosephcathedral.com)

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## 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.**

