



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.



December 3 - 10, 2023

sun 3

First Sunday of Advent

6:00 pm (Sat) Mass for the Parishioners 8:00 am Mass for Joseph Truini 9:15 am Book Club (*Rectory*)

10:30 am Mass for the Living & Deceased Members

of the Nicholas & Nimnoom Ghaphery and David & Faye Ghaphery Families

6:00 pm Sung Evening Prayer

MON 1

Optional Memorial of St. John Damascene

12:05 pm Mass for Bartholomew Purpura

TUE 5

Advent Weekday

12:05 pm Mass for Roseanna Thaman12:45 pm Rosary Guild (*Parish Offices*)

WED

Optional Memorial of St. Nicholas

12:05 pm Mass for Daniel Krulcik

7:00 pm Young Adults St. Nicholas Party (Cantina)

THU 7

Memorial of St. Ambrose

12:05 pm Mass for Carole Sacco

FRI 8

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Patronal Feastday of the United States of America Holy Day of Obligation

11:15 am Confessions

12:05 pm Mass for Wib & Rose Breiding6:00 pm Mass for the Parishioners

5A1

Optional Memorial of St. Juan Diego

9:00 am Mass for Jack DeMatte

9:30 am Rosary 5:00 pm Confessions

6:00 pm Mass for Anna Mae Myers

sun 10

Second Sunday of Advent

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

3:00 pm Afternoon of Advent & Christmas Concert

6:00 pm Sung Evening Prayer



"Is God's coming matched by our waiting?"

We spend a lot of time waiting. Children wait for their father to come home after many months of working in a foreign land, young people wait for their friends to come back from their trips, brothers and sisters wait for their siblings who have been staying away from home, patients

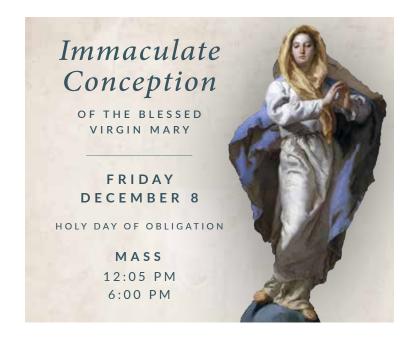


wait for a remedy for their terminal sickness, students wait for the results of their exams, the unemployed wait for a new job....All waiting tests the quality of their hope. Waiting is part of life and there is no life without it. Advent puts this in sharp focus; do we wait for God?

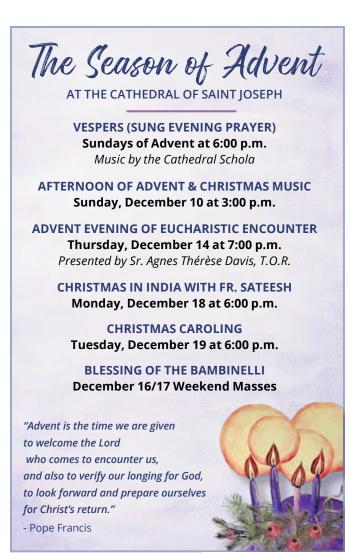
The Gospel on this First Sunday of Advent has a short parable about the householder who has servants to whom he assigns particular tasks before he sets off on a journey. He singles out the doorkeeper with a special warning. "Be on your guard then, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming." If we were to focus our gaze on the doorkeeper alone, we would realize that perhaps the greatest danger facing him is not so much that he may fall asleep on the job as that he may grow so accustomed to it that it will become just a job and nothing more.

We know that waiting and watching can become boring, and routine can set and take over in the best of circumstances. We can get used to anything, we can even get used to the Sacred, we can get used to God, and then smugness, skepticism creeps into our lives. We can become Christians by habit and routine and we can keep up the external ritual and routine, but we don't encounter God anymore but only our own emptiness. We know Jesus is constantly coming into our lives. Each of us is the doorkeeper, whom God has put in charge of our own lives as well as the lives of our community, our church, our society. Advent calls us to stand ready. We can only welcome Jesus into our life if we are alert and attentive to Him.

May we use this hopeful season to continue to prepare our hearts and entire lives for the coming of Christ Jesus by using the gifts God has given us, especially the sacraments and the Church. Let us be watchful, alert, and ready!



The Cathedral Courier December 3, 2023







Sundays of Advent - Sung Evening Prayer, 6pm

December 3 - First Sunday of Advent

December 6 - St. Nicholas Party for Young Adults, 7pm

December 8 - Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

December 10 - Advent & Christmas Concert, 3pm

December 14 - Eucharistic Encounter with Sr. Agnes Therese

December 17 - Decorating the Church for Christmas, Noon

December 18 - Christmas in India with Fr. Sateesh, 6pm

December 19 - Christmas Caroling at Continuous Care, 6pm

December 24 - Christmas Eve Mass, 6pm

December 25 - Christmas Midnight Mass

December 25 - Christmas Day Mass, 10:30am

December 30/31 - Blessing of Families, All Weekend Masses

January 1 - Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

January 7 - Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

January 8 - Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Magnificat Advent Companion

We are happy to provide the Magnificat Advent Companion in the back of the church to help deepen your prayer life during the upcoming Advent Season. This rich spiritual companion will accompany you through the four weeks of Advent with poignant scriptural reflections for each day of the season. You will also find a wealth of meditative prayers, essays, and poetry, an examination of conscience, and a unique feature: the Advent Stations. Please take one for yourself and allow this book to bring you ever closer to Jesus.

Advent & Christmas Schedule

The Cathedral's 2023 Advent and Christmas brochure available in the back of the church lists the special liturgies and events marking these holy seasons. Invite someone to join you for one of our Advent liturgies or for Christmas Mass this year. You will be giving the "perfect gift" of Jesus Christ.

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!



Collection

November 26, 2023

Envelopes: \$1289 Loose: \$605

> Online: \$475 Total: \$2369

Thank you for vour support!

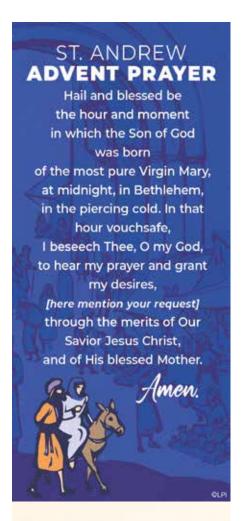
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First Sunday of Advent 3

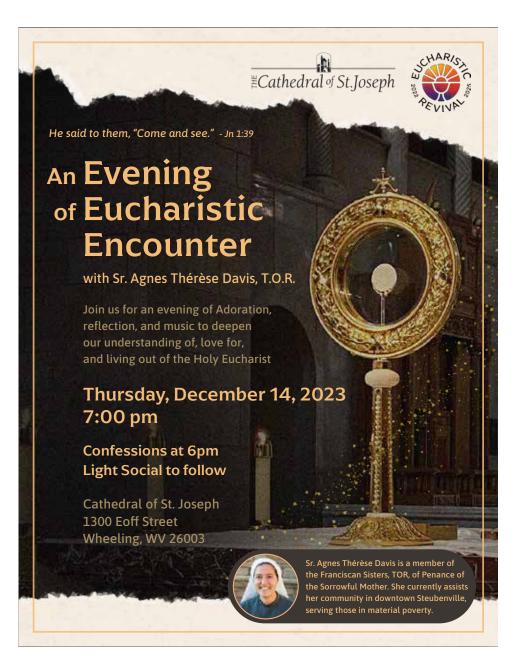


Annual Collection for Retired Religious

Next Weekend: December 9/10

The annual collection for retired religion will be taken up in our Diocese next weekend. This collection has helped many religious communities in our country since it began in 1988. It is a simple fact that, having taken vows of poverty, religious do not usually have the resources to take care of all their needs when they reach an age when they can no longer actively serve. Yet they have given of themselves for many years to God's people. It is our duty as Catholics to show our esteem and appreciation for their loving service.

Please be generous response to the collection next weekend for the Retirement Fund for Religious. All the proceeds will help religious congregations around our country. Thank you in advance for your generous support.



How To Make the Most of This Advent

Set Aside Time for Silence

If prayer is a conversation with God, that means part of the conversation involves listening. To enter into silence, find a quiet place and remove all distractions. Perhaps eventually you will try visualizing a quiet, peaceful scene, like the divine silence in the hours after Jesus was born, as He slept in Mary's arm.

Rediscover Old Traditions

There are many beautiful traditions associated with Advent. Perhaps the most easily recognized is the lighting of the Advent wreath each Sunday, with its one pink and three purple candles. Some families have a tradition of slowly adding pieces to their nativity set over the weeks, culminating in placing Jesus in the manger on Christmas Eve.

Serve Others

Much of the holiday season is spent thinking of presents and the material aspect of Christmas, and seeking out ways to serve others is the perfect antidote. During the season there is no shortage of soup kitchens and donation centers in need of help, and it is an opportunity to bond with family and friends, as well as meet new people. By serving others, we are in essence serving God and His Son. Advent is the perfect time to prepare oneself to meet Jesus by meeting Him in others.

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PARISH GROUPS

Women's Group

Tuesday, December 12

6:30 - 7:30 pm in Chancery Cantina

The Cathedral Women's group has the second scheduled meeting on December 12th, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Catina, located inside the Diocesan Office building. During the meeting, the group will be using Endow's "Letter to Women" workbook, which can be found on the Endow website. The workbook is meant to be read aloud with pauses for group discussion, and purchasing the text is not mandatory to participate in but you may wish to.

Tiffany will be sending an update on December 4th. If you would like to receive her updates via email, please write to her at tboury@franciscan. edu. Please reach out to her and make sure you are on her mailing list. Additionally, if you bring a laptop or phone, a link will be shared to follow along that evening.

Join us for an evening of holiday blessings and enriching conversations!

Book Club

Sunday, December 3 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

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 traditioanlly 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 astrong 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.

The pro-life men who were brutally beaten in a recent vicious assault by an abortion advocate outside Planned Parenthood are determined to continue standing up for life have returned to the abortion business to try to help pregnant women and save babies from abortion.

First Sunday of Advent 5



SCRIPTURE READINGS

Week of December 3

THIS SUNDAY

Isaiah 63:16-17, 19; 64:2-7 Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:33-37

MONDAY

Isaiah 2:1-5 Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 Matthew 8:5-11

TUESDAY

Isaiah 11:1-10 Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 Luke 10:21-24

WEDNESDAY

Isaiah 25:6-10 Ps 23:1-3, 3-4, 5-6 Matthew 15:29-37

THURSDAY

Isaiah 26:1-6 Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27 Matthew 7:21, 24-27

FRIDAY

Genesis 3:9-15, 20 Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12 Luke 1:26-38

SATURDAY

Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26 Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 Matthew 9:35—10:1, 5, 6-8

NEXT SUNDAY

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 2 Peter 2:8-14 Mark 1:1-8

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.

SAINTS OF THE WEEK

December 4 - St. John Damascene, priest, doctor of the Church (c.657-749)

St. John Damascene was a Syrian monk and priest. He authored the *Fountain of Wisdom*, a summary of the teachings of the Greek Fathers, and is honored as a Doctor of the Church for his theological writing on the assumption and his defense of the veneration of images.

December 6 - St. Nicholas, bishop (270-343)

St. Nicholas of Myra, was a fourth-century bishop remembered for both his acts of charity and his denunciations of the Arian heresy. His generosity to the poor and reputation as a miracle worker made him one of the best-loved saints of both the Eastern and Western Churches. *Patronage*: children, bankers, pawnbrokers, sailors, perfumers, brides, unmarried women, travelers, fishermen, dock workers, brewers, poets, prisoners

December 7 - St. Ambrose, bishop and doctor of the Church (c.340-397)

St. Ambrose was baptized and ordained both presbyter and bishop in one week. He let nothing get in his way. His way of settling conflict brought him to be elected a bishop. He cared for his people as did the friends of the paralytic and Jesus, who cured body and soul. Can we live Christ today, even if opposition and disbelief try to dissuade us? *Patronage*: beekeepers; candlemakers

December 9 - Saint Juan Diego Cuautlatoatzin (1474-1548)

Saint Juan Diego Cuautlatoatzin was a native Mexican, a farmer, and a laborer. On December 9, 1531, on his way to attend Mass, he heard a woman call out from Tepeyac Hill. She was the Virgin Mary, and she asked Juan Diego to tell the bishop to build a chapel on the site. Juan Diego went to the bishop with the request, but the bishop scoffed at him. He returned with his clock, or tilma, filled with roses, and when he unfurled it before the bishop, the woman's image was imprinted on the inside. The bishop believed, and the church was built. The image on Juan Diego's tilma is venerated as that of Our Lady of Guadalupe.



Blessing of an Advent Wreath at Home

The use of the Advent wreath is a traditional practice which has found its place in the Church as well as in the house. The blessing of an Advent Wreath takes place on the First Sunday of Advent. Customarily the Advent Wreath is constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which are inserted four candles. According to tradition, three candles are violet and the fourth is rose. When the blessing of the Advent Wreath is celebrated in the home, it is appro-

priate that it be blessed by the parent or another member of the family.

Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, he is the Savior of every nation. Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May he come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



The Cathedral Courier December 3, 2023



Confraternity of St. Nicholas

The Confraternity of Saint Nicholas is a public association of the faithful who, through prayer, fasting, and good works, are dedicated to the protection of all children from scandalization, abuse, and trafficking. Obligations are to attend Mass on December 6 and May 9, to say the Litany of St. Nicholas weekly, a brief daily prayer, and skip one meal every Wednesday.

For more information and to register, please visit: www.confraternityofstnicholas.org

Eucharistic Congress Pilgrimage

On **July 17 to 21, 2024** the Church in the United States will gather as one family for a National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, IN. This exciting event will be a five-day experience with prayer, Mass, Adoration, Catechetical sessions, fellowship, etc. with Catholics from around the country. The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston was able to purchase 250 tickets at a discounted rate and Bishop Mark Brennan would like to make them available to members of the Catholic faithful at no cost. **Because of the large number of Catholics across the state, the Diocese has decided to allot 2 tickets for each parish.** It is important to note that the complimentary ticket is only for entry into the venue. It does not include transportation, hotel, or meal costs. To help offset the cost for participants, the Diocese is partnering with Corporate Travel, the official pilgrimage partner of the National Eucharistic Congress, to make a comprehensive pilgrimage package available to participants at a discounted rate. **Please see the flyers in the back of the church for more information as well as pricing. If you are interested in participating in this pilgrimage, please submit your name to the parish offices by December 6.**

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Andrew Helfer Angela Niehart Archer Hatch Arthur Danehart Austin Cook Barb Mazzocca **Becky Schlosser** Beth Jochum **Betty Teater** Bill Wilson **Bob Armstrong** Billy Hanasky Brian Hanasky **Brogan Gallentine** Caleb Hlebiczki Carol Young Carolyn Lash Carolyn Wiethe Catherine Lanham Charles Heizer Charles DeBeni Children of the Youth Services System

Christina Helfer

Chuck Fair David A. Kress, Jr. Dianna Albright **Doug Jones** Eric South Eva Wood Fr. Joseph Wilhelm Frank Davis Frederick C. Schweizer Gail Koch George Kirchner Geri Adams Nagy Hines Rotriga Jean Schultz lim Antill Jim and Dee Jimmy Hocking loe Bechtel John Petrella Jon-Michael Lasher Judy Pack Julia Sheets Kathy Cooley

Kermit Klosterman Kristin Smith Langan Family Liam Barns Liam Manning Lukie Brown Margaret Stocke Marge Mucheck Marie Farnsworth Marie & Conner Workman Mark Davis Marshall South Martha Yocum Mary K. Schlosser Mary Walicki Michael DeBlasis Milissa Rose Nadine Greenwood Nicholas Barns Pete Cuffaro Pete Mack Philippa Shores Rachel Wade

R. J. Stocke Richard Simon Rick Burgy Ron Hickman Rosalie Davis Rose Otey Sarah Hanasky Sarah Sargent Shirley DeCaria Stanley Kyrc Susan Graff Susan Mize Susan Schulte Susanna Kress Tammv Teresa Helfer Thelma Pearson Tony Helfer **Trystan Timmons** Victoria Jeskey Zoey Knight

From the Diocesan Office of Safe Environment

Kaitlyn Hanasky

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.



WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

Distribution of Wine

Question:

Why haven't Catholic Churches gone the way of disposable cups for wine distribution?

Answer:

If a Catholic has ever attended a Protestant worship service and saw the communion service that was offered for that community, one of the things that might have stood out was the use of small, disposable cups for distributing the wine or grape juice. This is in stark contrast to the precious metal chalices used in Catholic churches during the Mass.

Although practices for Protestant Christians can vary (ranging from large shared chalices, to personal-use cups, to dipping the bread in the wine/grape juice), the norms governing Catholic practices are fairly direct: "Sacred vessels are to be made from precious metal. If they are made from metal that rusts or from a metal less precious than gold, then ordinarily they should be gilded on the inside. In the Dioceses of the United States of America, sacred vessels may also be made from other solid materials that, according to the common estimation in each region, are precious ... they are to have bowls of nonabsorbent material" (nos. 328-330). Rather than being a commentary on the beliefs or practices of those other communities, these rules are intended to highlight the reverence that Catholics have for the bread and wine consecrated at Mass, which become the Body and Blood the Lord.

First Sunday of Advent 7

The Cathedral of Saint Joseph



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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.

