

The Cathedral Courier

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

17 December 2017

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Vol. 7, No. 3

I am 'the voice of one
crying out in the desert,

*'Make straight
the way of
the Lord'*

JN 1:23

In this Issue:

Christmas Mass Schedule	3
Rector's Ruminations	4
Christian Awareness	5
Christmas Tree Blessing	6



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

At The Cathedral



SUN 17 **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
 (Sat) 6:00 PM Mass for the Parishioners
 8:00 AM Mass for Helen Pasden
 9:15 AM First Communion Classes (*Parish Offices*)
 10:30 AM Mass for Robert Burke
 12:00 PM Decorating the Church

MON 18 **Advent Weekday**
 12:05 PM Mass for Paul & Dorothy Fillipovich

TUE 19 **Advent Weekday**
 12:05 PM Mass for John Bolcek

WED 20 **Advent Weekday**
 12:05 PM Mass for Margie Burke

THU 21 **Advent Weekday;**
Saint Peter Canisius, priest, doctor of the Church
 12:05 PM *Diocesan Employees Holiday Mass*
 Mass for Clara Scheibelhood

FRI 22 **Advent Weekday**
 11:15 AM Confessions
 12:05 PM Mass for John Bolcek

SAT 23 **Advent Weekday;**
Saint John of Kanty, priest
 9:00 AM Mass for Dr. Adiel Anghie
 9:30 AM Rosary
 5:00 PM Confessions
 6:00 PM Mass for George Guba

SUN 24 **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
 8:00 AM Mass for Jeannie Ann Quirk
 10:30 AM Mass for the Parishioners
VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
 6:00 PM **Christmas Eve Mass**



Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11; (Ps) Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54
 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-27

A key facet of discipleship has always been personal witness. Today's readings deal in large part with the witness of John the Baptist. St. John the Baptist, according to historians, was a few months older than Jesus. It is also generally accepted that he began preaching about six months before Jesus came to him to be baptized and to begin His ministry.

St. John the Baptist pointed to Jesus as the Messiah. John the Baptist, through personal witness, raised a great sense of expectancy and excitement, the kind of expectancy and excitement that we associate with this season of Advent. John tries to awaken in people a consciousness of sin, the importance of conversion and change, and the need to become more holy in God's eyes.

Those are the same goals we should have during this Advent season. The matter of witness is a serious and important thing. It establishes truth and a solid foundation for faith. When we personally witness, it means we make a commitment. We cannot be neutral when it comes to our faith. We are called to be disciples, witnesses of and for Christ. We best accomplish that by the ways we live our own lives and how we relate to and treat others.

Jesus can meet our every need. Now is the time for us to accept that and to place our total trust in Him. We can do that best by making our own commitment to be His disciple, a witness to Who He is and what He means to us and all people.

We are more than halfway through the Advent Season. Let us take this time to seriously reflect on our baptismal call to preach and live out the Gospel like John the Baptist in order to "make straight the way of the Lord."



ATTENTION: Readers, Servers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Greeters, and Ushers

Christmas is fast approaching. Please consider signing up as soon as possible to serve at the Christmas Masses. The sign-up sheets are located in the narthex of the church.

Christmas at the Cathedral Mass Schedule

The *Fourth Sunday of Advent* will be observed on
Saturday evening, December 23, at 6:00 p.m.,
and Sunday morning, December 24, 2017 at 8:00 a.m.
and 10:30 a.m.

Please join us as we celebrate the Nativity of Our Savior:

Christmas Eve
Mass at 6:00 p.m.
and Midnight

Christmas Day
Mass at 10:30 a.m.

There is an obligation to participate at Mass for both the
Fourth Sunday of Advent and for Christmas this weekend.
Attendance at one Mass does not fulfill both obligations.



THANK YOU

to Stephanie Bugaj for making the
beautiful purple and red bows for
the Advent & Christmas seasons!



“Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem.

*May we let ourselves be drawn
by the light of God made man.”*

- Pope Francis

By God's gift, through water and the Holy Spirit,
we are reborn to everlasting life.

May he continue to pour out his blessings
upon this child of His who was welcomed
into the Church through the holy waters of Baptism
at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph on Sunday, December 10, 2017:

Tamora Aurelia Zane-Campbell
daughter of Brian & Brandie Morris



2018 Calendars are available in the narthex,
please feel free to take one.

A special word of THANKS to those who
helped deliver the Angel Tree Gifts this year,
in particular:

John Rowan & the Residents of
Oakview Juvenile Residential Center

Altmeyer Funeral Home
Perfection Painting
Cynthia Strader

In your charity, please keep in your prayers:

Annie Midcap, Arthur Danehart, Austin Cook,
Barb Mazzocca, Betty Teater, Bill Wilson, Bob Armstrong,
Bob Jones, Brogan Gallentine, Caleb Hlebiczki,
Charles Heizer, Children of the Youth Services System,
Chuck Fair, Darleen Williams, David A. Kress, Jr., Dustin
Ronevich, Eva Wood, Father Joseph Wilhelm, Frank
Davis, Fred Herink, Gail Koch, George Kirchner, Haley
Carter, Hines Rotriga, Jack Jochum, Jr., James Benner,
Jane Rudari, Marlene Martin, Janet Cupp, Janie, Jean and
Chuck Schultz, Jim Antill, Jim and Dee, Jimmy Hocking,
John Petrella, Jon-Michael Lasher, Judy Pack, Julia Sheets,
Kathy Cooley, Kermit Klosterman, Liam Manning, Lukie
Brown, Margaret Stocke, Mark Davis, Martha Yocum,
Mary Alice Florio, Mary Ann Fowler, Mary K. Schlosser,
Mary Shutler, Mary Walicki, Michael DeBlasis, Milissa
Rose, Milly Burke, Mona Wurtzbacher, Norma Bosold,
Patricia Kaliszcz, Pete Mack, R. J. Stocke, Richard Simon,
Rick Burgy, Ron Hickman, Rosalie Davis, Sarah Hanasky,
Sarah Sargent, Shawn Thomas, Shirley DeCaria, Stanley
Kyrck, Stephanie Bugaj, Susan Graff, Susan Mize, Susan
Schulte, Tammy, Thelma Pearson, Thomas Griffith,
Trystan Timmons, Victoria Jeskey



**Catholic
Charities
West Virginia**

Annual Appeal

If one suffers in poverty, we all suffer. Throughout the
Mountain State, Catholic Charities West Virginia
(CCWVa) provides vital assistance to the forgotten elderly,
the hungry children and the people struggling paycheck
to paycheck. Annual contributions to the second col-
lection on Christmas directly impact the amount of as-
sistance and quality of service CCWVa provides in our
service region of which our parish is a part.

Pope Francis recently observed the first World Day of the
Poor on November 19th. He reminded us that we are
all one in the Body of Christ and we must care for the
suffering within the Body. Please support the good works
that Catholic Charities West Virginia is doing on our
behalf for the poor and suffering. Contributions may be
made online at www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org, mail to
2000 Main Street, Wheeling, WV 26003 or in the second
collection on Christmas.

Weekly Collection

December 10, 2017

Envelopes: \$2905 Loose: \$697

Online: \$499

Thank you for your generosity and support!



Rector's Ruminations

Advent Wreath

BY REV. MSGR. KEVIN M. QUIRK

As promised in the last installment of *The Rector's Ruminations*, we turn our attention to what has been embraced throughout most of Western Christendom as the central symbol of Advent: the Advent Wreath.

Before its revival and popularization in the 19th Century, the exact origins of the Advent Wreath are uncertain and lost in the mists of time. However, there is evidence of pre-Christian Germanic peoples using wreaths with lit candles during the cold and dark December days as a sign of hope in the future warm and extended-sunlight days of Spring. In Scandinavia during winter, lighted candles were placed around a wheel, and prayers were offered to the god of light to turn "the wheel of the earth" back toward the sun to lengthen the days and restore warmth. Indeed, this same Norse origin may possibly have given rise to the wreath-crown with lighted candles associated with the cult of St. Lucy, whose feast day on December 13 falls in the middle of Advent and whose Latin name, Lucia, is derived from the Latin word for light, *lux*.

It seems that by the Medieval period, northern European Christians had adapted this earlier tradition and used Advent wreaths as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas and the home practice of the faith, together with other home customs such as grace before meals, prayers before bed, and the invocation of patron saints. The preference for a wreath of growing light certainly makes sense in the northern latitudes of Western Europe, as the days grown ever shorter throughout the calendar's last month, leading up to the Winter Solstice, followed shortly by

Christmas. In those days, the wreath's light is no longer needed as the light of Christ, the true Sol Invictus or Unconquered Sun, begins to return to the world, staying longer each day. This natural reality reminds us that Christ is "the Light that came into the world" to dispel the darkness of sin and to radiate the truth and love of God.



Less uncertain is the modern history of the Advent Wreath: Johann Wichern (d. 1881), a Lutheran pastor in Germany and a pioneer in urban mission work among the poor, is commonly identified as the creator and popularizer of the modern Advent wreath in its contemporary form. It seems that Wichern originally developed a much larger wreath with 20 small red candles to mark the weekdays and 4 large white candles to mark the Sundays of Advent, the wreath

essentially serving as a circular rather than linear Advent Calendar. He used this large wreath in the mission school and gradually shrank the wreath for use in the home, until it became the wreath with four candles known today. After Wichern's death, the Advent wreath was adopted by Catholic households in Germany and eventually made its way to the United States, appearing in the households of German Lutheran and German Catholic immigrants. From

there, the Advent wreath spread to broader culture, this original home devotion became a public and liturgical action, figuring prominently in the life of many parishes, schools, and other institutions.

Much attention is given to the minor symbols of the Advent wreath. First, there is the material from which the wreath is made. Various kinds of evergreen needle or leaf are used, signifying continuous life. Depending on where one is located, the plant material changes. Laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering; pine, holly, and yew symbolized immortality; and cedar, strength and healing. Holly is particularly popular among the English, as its prickly leaves recall the crown of thorns and English legend asserts that the Cross itself was made of holly. The circle of the wreath, without beginning or end,

symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ. And, for those who add pinecones to their wreaths, these symbolize life and resurrection.

The four candles of the wreath represent the four weeks of Advent. Three candles are purple and one is rose. The purple candles, lit on the First, Second, and

**See "Ruminations"
on Page 7**



It's Not About Me, Anymore

BY ALEX NAGEM

One more week to go before we celebrate the birth of Jesus, are you ready? What answers will you give? I imagine answers of “almost, only a few more presents to buy,” or “no, the house still needs cleaned and decorated. I will be decorating up to Christmas Eve dinner.” We try to make everything perfect from the decorations around our home, the wrappings of the presents and the choice of present, and the Christmas Day dinner. The fine china will be placed on the dinner table along with the crystal goblets and polished silver. In my home it will be Chinet (which we recycle) and the everyday silverware Lori and I have had since our marriage 30 years ago. It is not what we wear to Mass or to dinner on Christmas Day that shows we are prepared. It is not the elaborate decorations of the home or gifts. It is our behavior and mindset of being thankful for the birth of Jesus. Are you holding a grudge against someone? Then you are not ready. You have not prepared yourself for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. We are to celebrate with a clean soul with help from the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and a light heart. No burden or guilt is so great that we should carry it alone or carry it all. The birth of Jesus is the beginning of our salvation. We should be ready to receive this gift and this is why we celebrate. We should rejoice with loud Hallelujahs in the remembrance of our saving gift, the gift of a second life, an eternal life. Shouldn't we all be prepared to receive this gift? C.S. Lewis wrote about being prepared for Christmas as, “I find an experience fully God centered, asking of God no gift more urgently than His presence, the gift of Himself, joyous to the highest degree, and unmistakably real.”

We should desire no gift more urgently than the gift of God's presence. When you give thought to this, and I ask that you do, what other gift has more importance, meaning or uniqueness? What other gift can change your life if you let it? Early on in life I searched for one. But none could be found that was more satisfying, more tolerant, and lasting than the gift of Jesus Christ. This is the gift that reminds us to forgive. It opens our hearts and hands to those in need. It is the gift that allows us to rest at night jubilant in what we have done for others, and wakes with us to do all again. The gift at Christmas is not about me or us. It is all about Jesus Christ. If we are prepared, it will be about Jesus Christ every day.

“Lord Jesus Christ, take all my freedom, my memory, my understanding, and my will. All that I have and cherish you have given me. I surrender it all to be guided by your will. Your grace and your love are wealth enough for me. Give me these, Lord Jesus, and I ask for nothing more,” St. Ignatius of Loyola.

You are remembered in my prayers as I hope I am remembered in yours as we give thanks and rejoice in the birth of Jesus Christ.

“Vocatus Atque Non Vocatus, Deus Aderit” ☩



Confession is celebrated each week at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph each Friday from 11:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. and on Saturday from 5:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.

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.”

Join with the Prayer of the Church each evening and reflect on these words preparing for Christmas day by day:

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!*

Scripture Readings

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.

Week of December 17

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
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

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

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Weekly Devotions at the Cathedral

The following devotions are prayed each week following the 12:05 pm Mass:

Miraculous Medal Novena
Monday

Litany of Saint Joseph
Wednesday

Chaplet of Divine Mercy
Fridays

The Holy Rosary
Saturdays after the 9 am Mass



This Week with the Saints

December 21 - Saint Peter Canisius (1521-1597) was the first Dutchman to join the Jesuits. He is known as the second apostle of Germany for his work restoring Catholicism after the Reformation, writing a "German catechism," which defined basic Catholic beliefs in German. Peter felt that it was more effective to clarify the teachings of Catholicism rather than engage in polemics with the reformers. His last twenty years were spent in Switzerland, where he founded the Jesuit College that is the core of the University of Fribourg. He is credited with adding "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners" to the Hail Mary. This appeared for the first time in his Catechism of 1555.



December 23 - Saint John of Kanty (1390-1473), also known as John Cantius, was a brilliant and multitalented Polish 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 salary as a professor to the poor, keeping just enough to live simply. Miracles were attributed to him in his lifetime, and he became a very popular saint in Poland. Many churches founded in North America for Polish immigrants are named in his honor.



*All holy men and women,
Saints of God,
pray for us!*



Blessing of a Christmas Tree for the Home

The use of the Christmas tree is relatively modern. Its origins are found in the medieval mystery plays that depicted the tree of paradise and the Christmas light or candle that symbolized Christ, the Light of the world. According to custom, the Christmas tree is set up just before Christmas and may remain in place until the Solemnity of Epiphany. The lights of the tree are illuminated after the prayer of blessing.

When all have gathered, a suitable song may be sung. The leader makes the sign of the cross, and all reply "Amen."

The leader may greet those present in the following words:

Let us glorify Christ our light, who brings salvation and peace into our midst, now and forever. Amen.

My brothers and sisters, amidst signs and wonders Christ Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea: his birth brings joy to our hearts and enlightenment to our minds. With this tree, decorated and adorned, may we welcome Christ among us; may its lights guide us to the perfect light.

One of those present or the leader reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example, Titus 3:4 (lines 4-7) or Ezekiel 17:22 (lines 22-24 4; I will plant a tender shoot on the mountain heights of Israel.)

The leader says the prayer with hands joined:

Lord our God, we praise you for the light of creation: the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night. We praise you for the light of Israel: the Law, the prophets, and the wisdom of the Scriptures. We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son: he is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace, who fills us with the wonder of your love.

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree. May the light and cheer it gives be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts. May all who delight in this tree come to the knowledge and joy of salvation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.

The lights of the tree are then illuminated.

Ruminations ... Cont'd from Page 4

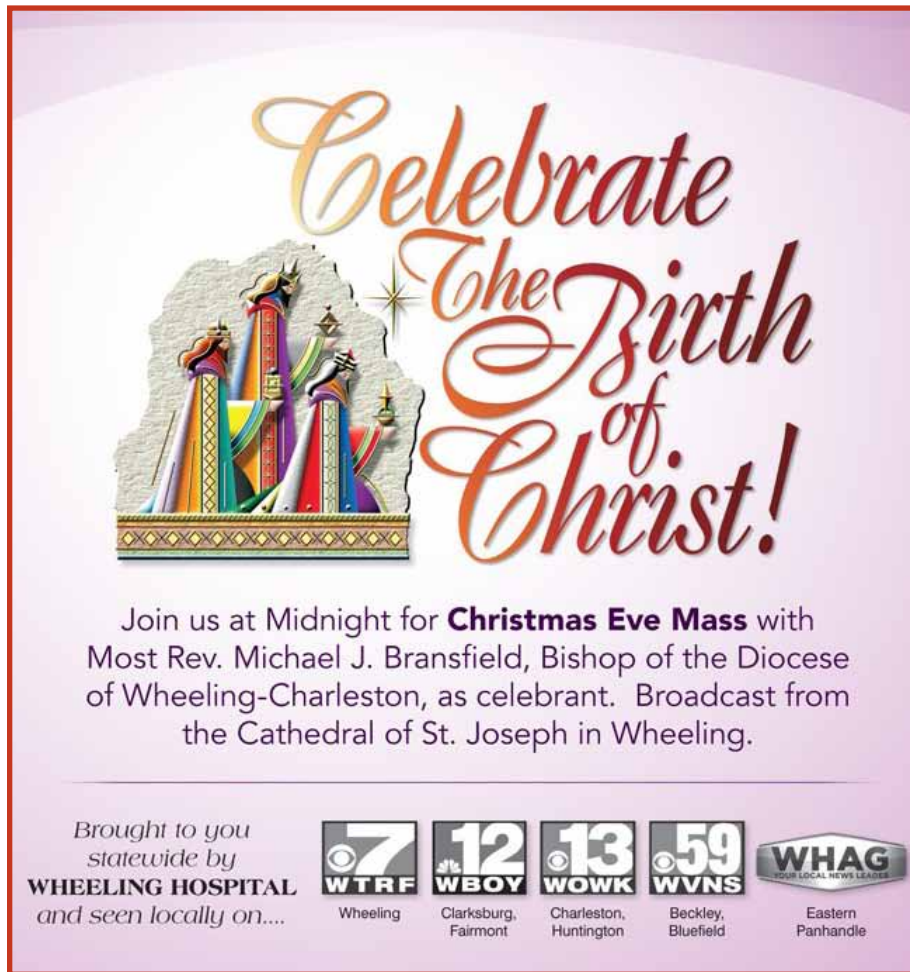
Fourth Sundays of Advent, symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices of the Advent Season. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, called Gaudete from the introit of the Mass and because this Sunday is beyond the middle point of Advent and the proximity of Christmas brings rejoicing.

The primary symbol of the wreath is, however, the progressive lighting of the candles and the increasing light that it gives. The candle light is a living flame, unlike electric light; it flickers and changes, sometimes surging up, other times guttering, yet burning

hot and giving light to all who draw near. Just so, it points to Christ, who calls himself "the Light of the World," and who is coming into the world, both as a child at Christmas and as the Universal King at the end of time. The ever increasing light of the wreath symbolizes our growing expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and our anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead. It reminds us that Christ the light scatters the darkness and draws ever nearer to us.

The attentive reader will note that in the first paragraph of this installment, I wrote of the Advent Wreath as the central symbol of Advent in Western Christen-

dom. The occidental limitation is not merely an accident of culture or date of wide adoption. Rather, Advent in the Eastern Churches, both Orthodoxy and Catholic, is a six week season, similar to that of Lent and has fasts similar to those practiced during Lent among Eastern Christians. The six week period throws off the symmetry of the four candles placed about the Wreath and, were imported into Eastern households, necessitates six candles without the interruption of one rose candle for Gaudete Sunday. If you have a question for *The Rector's Ruminations*, please share it with our recently returned from pilgrimage editor, Mr. Tyler Greenwood (tgreenwood@dwc.org). 🌱



Join us at Midnight for **Christmas Eve Mass** with Most Rev. Michael J. Bransfield, Bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, as celebrant. Broadcast from the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling.

Brought to you statewide by **WHEELING HOSPITAL** and seen locally on...

7 WTRF Wheeling
12 WBOY Clarksburg, Fairmont
13 WOWK Charleston, Huntington
59 WVNS Beckley, Bluefield
WHAG Eastern Panhandle

Stewardship Thoughts

"Rejoicing in the Lord" connects today's Scripture readings. The Prophet Isaiah proclaims, "The spirit of the Lord is upon me ... I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul.: In St. John's Gospel, John the Baptist testifies to the Light that is Christ; that through Christ, all people may believe. St. Paul, in his First Letter to the Thessalonian community, exhorts them, and us, to "rejoice always, never cease praying, render constant thanks; such is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." How do we, as baptized stewards in the Lord, respond in gratitude for this tremendous gift — our life in Christ Jesus? Our Lord continues to guide and watch over us. All he asks of us is love in return - love for Him and love for our neighbors. The upcoming season of Christmas provides many wonderful opportunities to bring the love of Jesus Christ to so many people who are in need. But what about the rest of the year?

Before retiring each night, express in prayerful gratitude to the Lord the blessings you received from Him that day and how you can share them with others.

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; Msgr. Frederick Annie, ext. 267, or Msgr. Anthony Cincinnati, 270. For more information on the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment, please go to 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



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Mr. John Petrella
LITURGICAL MINISTRIES SCHEDULER

Masses

Sundays: 6:00 p.m. (Saturday)
8:00 a.m.
10:30 a.m.

Weekdays: 12:05 p.m. Monday thru Friday
9:00 a.m. Saturday

Holy Days: Please consult the bulletin

Confessions

Friday 11:15-11:45 a.m.

Saturday: 5:00-5:45 p.m.
or by appointment



BAPTISMS / INITIATION

Both Baptism and the Rite of Initiation for Adults can be arranged by contacting the parish office.

MARRIAGE

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

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK / COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND

Please call the parish office to arrange for a visit.

PARISH REGISTRATION

Registration forms can be obtained through the parish office.
Please notify the parish office of address changes through the parish office or by visiting the website.

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Announcements for the Courier must be submitted to Debbie Fahey by email to dfahey@dwc.org by noon on Monday (5 days prior to publication).

