

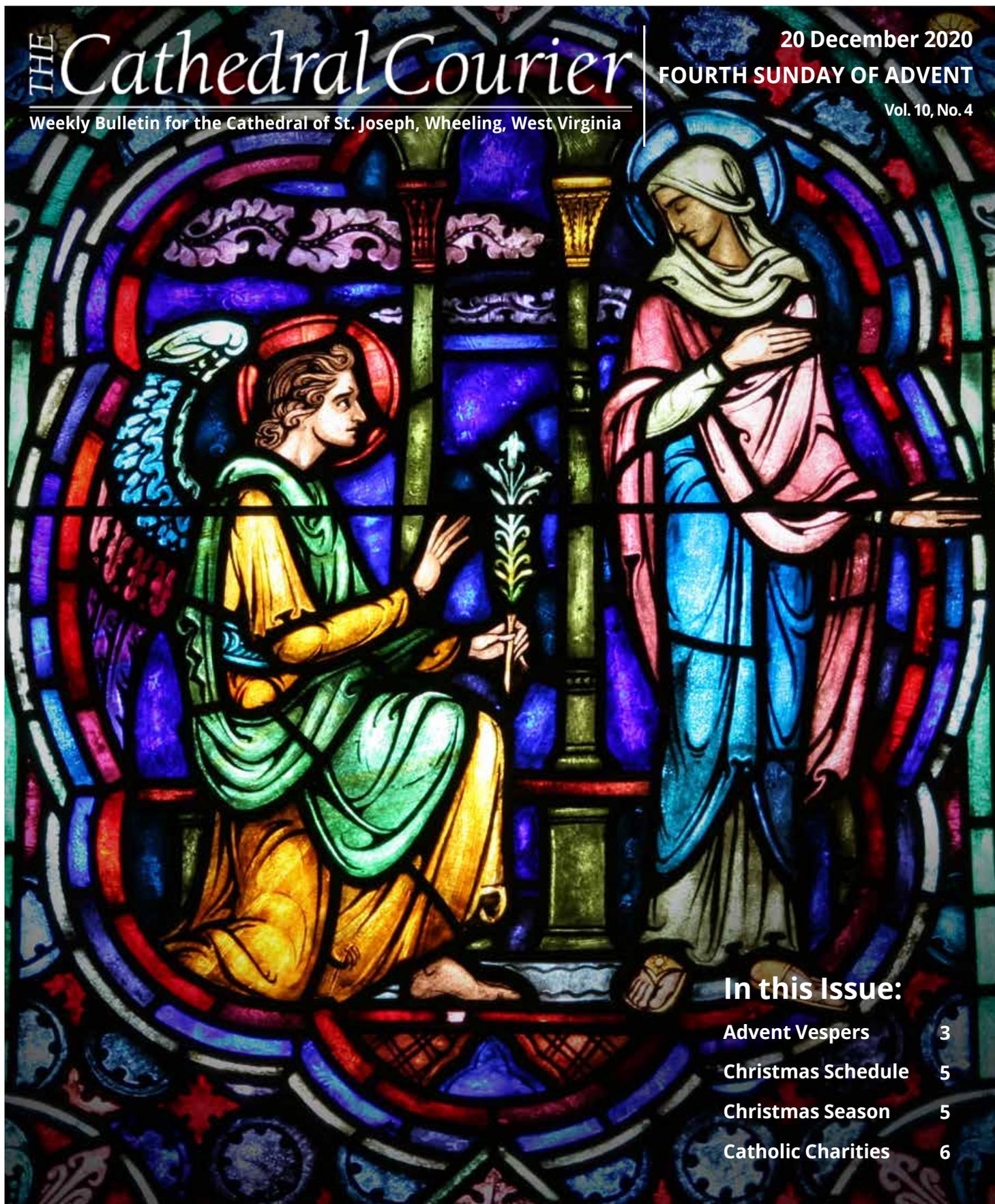
THE Cathedral Courier

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

20 December 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Vol. 10, No. 4



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

This Week

December 20 - 27, 2020

SUN 20 **Fourth Sunday of Advent**
6:00 pm (Sat) Mass for the Parishioners
8:00 am Mass for Madeline Belby
10:30 am Mass for John & Shirley Sheets
6:00 pm Vespers

MON 21 **Saint Peter Canisius**
12:05 pm Mass for Clara Scheibelhood

TUE 22 **Advent Weekday**
12:05 pm Mass for Katerina Bolcek

WED 23 **Advent Weekday**
12:05 pm Mass for John Bolcek

THU 24 **Advent Weekday**
12:05 pm Mass for the Parishioners
3:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass
6:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass

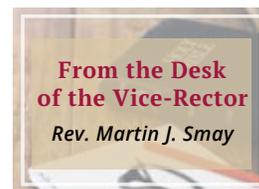
FRI 25 **The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ**
Midnight Christmas Mass During the Night
10:30 am Christmas Day Mass

SAT 26 **Saint Stephen**
9:00 am Mass for Frank Moran
5:00 pm Confessions
6:00 pm Mass for Stephen Pacewicz

SUN 27 **Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**
8:00 am Mass for the Parishioners
10:30 am Mass for Bob & Betty Foster
(60th Wedding Anniversary)



Dear Parishioners of the Cathedral Parish, The Church desires that all Catholics actively participate in the Mass every holy day of obligation. This desire for us to actively participate in Mass, manifest in numerous documents (the first use of the term was in 1903), most famously in the Second Vatican Council's document on the Sacred Liturgy, has been subject to much misunderstanding. Such misunderstanding has led to no small amount of confusion and even harm to the Church's worship. Some conceive of "active participation" as "doing" or "being busy" by reading, serving, or doing other such things at Mass. While those things are not excluded from active participation in Mass, active participation cannot be reduced to them.



If we wish to come to a proper understanding of how the Church wants us to participate at Mass, we have to begin with the human person. Historically there has been a tendency toward two extremes about what a human is. On the one side there is what might be called the Platonic extreme. In this conception of the human person, the "real person" is just a soul. The body, in this case, becomes a kind of prison in which the soul is trapped for a while and death is a release from this prison. At the other end of the spectrum is the materialistic conception of the human person whereby the human person becomes nothing more than a very complex and advanced animal. The soul, in this case, is a reality which is considered non-existent or, if existing, the soul dies with the body.

Both of these extremes have a piece of the truth but end in error because they take a part for the whole. The Catholic Church has consistently taught that the human person is, properly speaking, a body and a soul united. This position was articulated by the pre-Christian philosopher Aristotle when he defined a human as a "rational animal." The truth that the Platonic view encapsulated is that we humans have souls and they are immortal (that is, they survive the death of the body); the truth that the materialists got right is that the body is something integral to the human being.

The only conception of the human person which makes sense taking into account the revelation of God to the Jewish People in the Old Testament and the Resurrection of our Lord from the death is that which accounts for both the body and the soul. For the Greeks at the time of Christ, who predominately considered the body to be the prison of the soul, the resurrection of Christ from the dead made no sense. If the body is a prison, why would anyone want to return to that prison? Our contemporary secular materialists likewise deny the Resurrection of Christ because the life of the body is the only life and death is a permanent end to that life. Because a human is a body and a soul, it is unnatural for the soul to be separated from the body at death. Death was not a part of God's original plan, only a consequence of sin. At (biological) death, our souls separate from our bodies, but at the end of time, our souls will be reunited to our bodies, hence we say in the Creed every week that we "look forward to the resurrection of the dead."

These truths about the human person are intuitive for us. If we were to meet the Pope or argue a case before the Supreme Court, we would not dress like we were going to the beach. When someone important comes into a room, we stand; when we meet someone for the first time, the natural thing to do is shake hands, bump fists, embrace, or make some other physical contact (to say nothing of seeing beloved family and friends after a notable absence).

Likewise, if we were to be with another and start playing on our phone, or just in general not be paying any attention, there would be something wrong with the picture and that would generally be considered rude. It is not enough to just be physically present and respectful, we must also give our mindful attention to them.

Our participation in Holy Mass has to conform to the truth of the human person. God, Who created us, desires that we worship Him in conformity with the nature that He gave us. It is not a matter strictly of the mind because we are more than souls. Nor is it a matter strictly of the body because we are more than animals. We wear our "Sunday best" to Mass because we are to have an audience with the King of kings and the Lord of lords. We express our interior disposition with our bodily posture: standing for the proclamation of the Gospel, kneeling for the holiest part of the Mass, the consecration of the bread and wine into the body, blood, soul, and divinity of our Lord. Likewise we use our voice to sing and make the responses and our ears to hear the prayers and Scripture. Finally, if we are properly disposed, we receive Jesus in the Eucharist. But the external actions must be accompanied by an internal participation. The classical definition of prayer is "the lifting of the heart and mind to God." So with our mind and heart we must give advertece to the prayers and Scripture at Mass, not being content to simply hear, but to actually listen to them. We must converse familiarly with God as we would with a close friend. We must use our minds, animated with living Faith, to pierce the appearance of the liturgical actions and meditate upon the profound reality of what is happening on the altar. The essence of this reality is that Christ, through the ministry of the ordained priest, makes present on the altar His Sacrifice on Calvary. His love for us induces Him to be present to us, no in some purely spiritual way, but to come among us physically, in a way which accords with our nature as human beings, and actually transform the substance of the bread and wine into His body, blood, soul, and divinity.

Our Holy Mother, the Church, so ardently desires our active participation in Mass because she knows that such active participation is one of the greatest and indispensable means for cultivating and maintaining a relationship with the Lord Jesus.

God love you and keep the Faith!

Fr. Martin J. Smay

GUIDELINES FOR ATTENDING MASS

During the COVID-19 Pandemic

We ask that you please review and adhere to these guidelines while attending Mass in the Cathedral:

Wear Face Masks

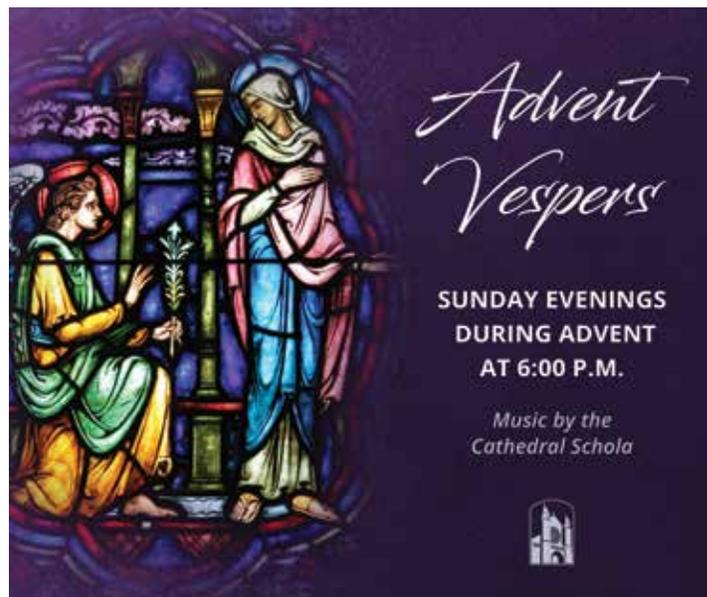
The faithful are required to bring their own facemasks and to wear them during Mass.

Keep Your Distance

Social distancing is necessary at Mass while seated in the pew and during the Communion procession. Families living in the same household may sit together. We are only able to accommodate 92 people per Mass at the Cathedral. Seating will be on a first come first seated basis.

Some common, though optional practices of the Mass, will be omitted such as the use of hymnals, holding of hands during the Our Father, the Sign of Peace, and the offering of the Precious Blood of Christ to the faithful. The complete list of guidelines are available for your review on the diocesan website: www.dwc.org.

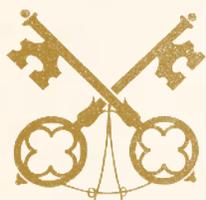
Please keep in mind that Bishop Brennan has given the faithful of the Diocese the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass. Therefore, sick persons and those more susceptible to infection – the elderly, those already in frail health – are urged to remain at home and participate in televised or online Masses. Anyone who fears being infected by attending Mass should stay home.





When was the last time you invited someone to Mass?

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.



The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for December

For a Life of Prayer

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

In Blaise Pascal's work, *Pensees*, he says: "What else does this craving, and this helplessness, proclaim but that there was once in man a true happiness, of which all that now remains is the empty print and trace? This he tries in vain to fill with everything around him, seeking in things that are not there the help he cannot find in those that are, though none can help, since this infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words by God himself."

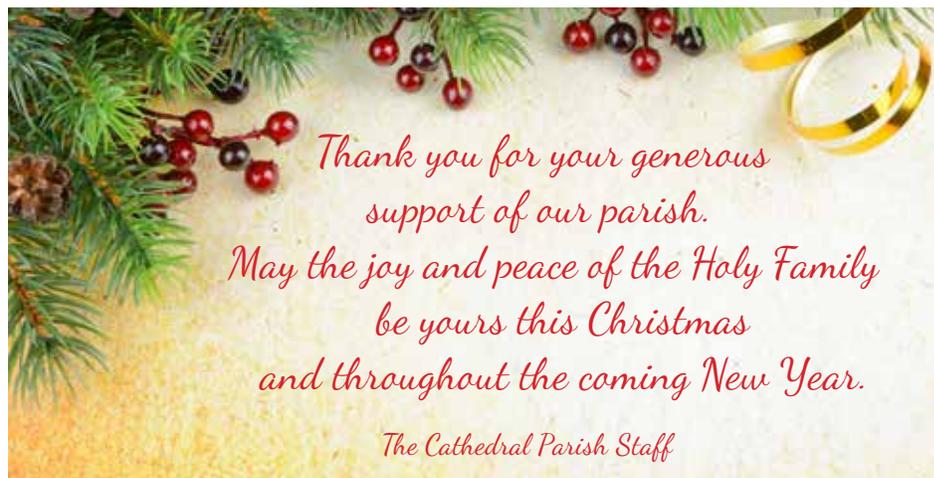
We have a difficult time accepting that fulfillment and happiness are not achieved by our own merits but through a relationship with God. We are hardwired for this relationship and it is in our DNA. The simple fact is that we come from God and are designed to return to God. If our beginning and our end define who we are, why would we not want to seek the One who can truly satisfy? The world does not realize that it is waiting. It is waiting for the birth of God in time, within one's soul and in eternity. We get so confused by seeking other momentary satisfactions that we misinterpret the hunger within. We crave God.

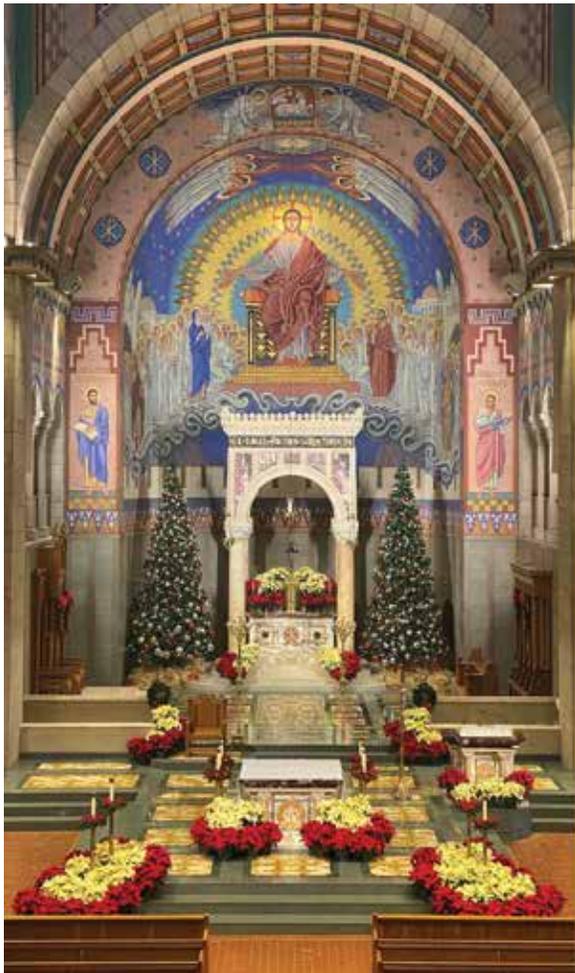
The union of God and humanity, revealed in Jesus Christ, is precisely what sets us on a straight path, orders our relationships, establishes proper focus and goals and tells us whose kingdom we really are meant to serve.



We are so lost. God is with us. The prophet Nathan told this to King David, the angel said this to Mary and the birth of Christ brings this Good News to us. We do not need to be busily looking for more things but must learn to find contentment and blessing in the One Presence. This is the beautiful simple message of Advent!

If you are feeling unsettled, anxious, angry, disgruntled, disconnected, unhappy, worried, fearful, off center, becoming overly self-indulgent, unable to spend time alone and without distraction, then there's a good chance you are lost. Now is the time to allow God to find you! Ponder the holy simplicity of Mary's call to be the Mother of God. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." When we are helpless and at home with our emptiness, God will fill us. Our Savior has come.





Christmas AT THE CATHEDRAL

CHRISTMAS EVE

Thursday, December 24

Mass: 3:00 p.m.

Choral Meditations: 5:30 p.m.

Mass: 6:00 p.m.

Choral Meditations: 11:30 p.m.

Mass at Midnight

CHRISTMAS DAY

Friday, December 25

Mass: 10:30 a.m.

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD OCTAVE DAY OF CHRISTMAS

Mass: Thursday, December 31 at 6:00 p.m.

& Friday, January 1 at 9:00 a.m.


The Cathedral of St. Joseph

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, Mother of God. Both during and after the Octave of Christmas, there are number of important feasts to commemorate and celebrate.

December 26 – Saint Stephen (the first martyr)

December 27 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

(When December 27 is not on Sunday, this is the feast of Saint John the Evangelist)

December 28 – Holy Innocents

January 1 – Holy Mary, Mother of God

January 3 – The Epiphany of the Lord (visit of the Magi)

January 10 – The Baptism of the Lord

Throughout those 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!

SAINTS OF THE WEEK

December 21 - St. Peter Canisius (1521-1597)

Saint Peter Canisius 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 26 - St. Stephen (d. c.35)

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

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Week of December 20

SUNDAY

Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

1 Samuel 124-28
(Ps) 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8
Luke 1:46-56

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16
Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29
Luke 1:67-79

FRIDAY

VIGIL
Isaiah 62:1-5
Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25
Matthew 1:1-25

NIGHT

Isaiah 9:1-6
Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13
Timothy 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14

DAY

Isaiah 52:7-10
Ps 98:1-, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6
Hebrews 1:1-6
John 1:1-18

SATURDAY

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



The Angel Gabriel reminds us that nothing will be impossible for God. At the Catholic Charities West Virginia offices throughout the State of West Virginia, miracles have been seen in the outreach centers, food pantries and education centers. Our Christmas second collection goes directly to

Catholic Charities West Virginia. If you are able, please help our neighbors in need by making a donation. Please write CCWVa in your memo and drop your donation into the designated collection basket or mail to the Parish Office.

How They Help

- The Center is open Monday - Saturday from 7:30am to 5:00pm
- Breakfast 9:00 am and Dinner 4:30 pm.
- Laundry: Open 5 days per week. Detergents provided. Hours are from 9:30am - 2:00pm.
- Showers: Available by request. Toiletries provided.
- Telephone: Local Calls; long distance by request.
- Children's Services: Diapers

Other Available Services

- Case Management: Assistance on the path to self-sufficiency.
- Food Pantry: Every Tuesday and Thursday from 11:30 to 1:00
- SNAP Enrollment: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program enrollment assistance.
- Utilities: Financial help to prevent services from being terminated. Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays.
- Cleaning Supplies: Every Wednesday from 1:00 to 2:30
- Eye Care: Provided by Lens Crafters, Anwar and the Lion's Club.
- Delivered Meals for the Homebound: available six days a week. Home assessment required.
- Help Obtaining Official Documents: Drivers Licenses, State ID Cards, birth certificates, etc.
- Hospitality House: Transitional housing for families.

Call Catholic Charities at 304-232-7157

— DID YOU — KNOW?

★ FACTS ★
ABOUT OUR PARISH

The Cathedral Church is built on the modified basilica floor plan. The basilica was a public Roman building used as a sort of courthouse. When large numbers of people became Christians after the conversion of the Emperor Constantine in 315 A.D., the church turned to this familiar architectural form for its gathering spaces. It has been widely used and adapted ever since. The overall design is that of a cross with the great dome directly over the crossing.



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:

Apostles vs. Disciples

Question:

What is the difference between apostles and disciples?

Answer:

When we look at the gospel accounts of the life of Jesus, we see two special titles applied to his followers: apostles and disciples. At first glance, we might think that these two words are interchangeable, but when we look at what each one means, we quickly see that the evangelists were using them very specifically.

The word *apostle* essentially means “one who is sent forth” or, as we might think of it today, “an ambassador.” The group of apostles — sometimes called the Twelve — included those twelve men who formed Jesus’ inner circle (see Mark 3:13-14; Luke 6:12-13). It was this group that received the gift of the Holy Spirit and who were sent out by Jesus with the special mission of forgiving sins on that first Easter Sunday (see John 20:19-23). In time, the Catholic Tradition also recognizes Saint Paul and Saint Barnabas as apostles, recognizing that they also shared the mandate of going out in the Lord’s name to pray, to bless, and to preach. In 2016, during the Jubilee of Mercy, Pope Francis raised the liturgical celebration of Saint Mary Magdalene to the rank of feast, recognizing that she also received a special mandate to proclaim the good news of Jesus’ resurrection to the Eleven, becoming the “apostle to the apostles.” In a particular way, the bishops continue the mission of the apostles in our own time.

When we think of the word *disciple*, we see that it has a very different meaning. Rather than referring to those who were sent out to carry on the mission of Jesus, a disciple literally means “student” or, more specially, an “apprentice learner.” The task of the disciple is to learn and integrate into their lives the teachings, values, and way of life of their master teacher. Although a disciple might be called on to explain or represent aspects of their life, in light of the teachings they receive from this master teacher, Christian discipleship is ultimately about living our lives with faith and integrity, guided by the life and mission of Jesus, our Master Teacher. The call to discipleship is the common vocation of all Christians.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Andrew Helfer
Archer Hatch
Arthur Danehart
Austin Cook
Barb Mazzocca
Beth Jochum
Betty Teater
Bill Wilson
Bob Armstrong
Bob Jones
Billy Hanasky
Brian Hanasky
Brogan Gallentine
Caleb Hlebiczki
Carolyn Lash
Charles Heizer
Children of the
Youth Services System
Christina Helfer
Chuck Fair
David A. Kress, Jr.
Eli Musser
Eva Wood

Fr. Joseph Wilhelm
Frank Davis
Fred Herink
Frederick C. Schweizer
Gail Koch
George Kirchner
Geri Adams Nagy
Hines Rotriga
Janet Cupp
Janie
Jean & Chuck Schultz
Jim Antill
Jim and Dee
Jimmy Hocking
Joe Bechtel
John Petrella
Jon-Michael Lasher
Judy Pack
Julia Sheets
Kathy Cooley
Kaitlyn Hanasky
Kenneth Shores
Kermit Klosterman

Liam Barns
Liam Manning
Lucille Renowicz
Lukie Brown
Margaret Stocke
Marie & Conner
Workman
Mark Davis
Marshall South
Martha Yocum
Mary Ann Fowler
Mary K. Schlosser
Mary Walicki
Michael DeBlasis
Milissa Rose
Milly Burke
Nadine Greenwood
Nicholas Barns
Norma Bosold
Patricia Kalisz
Pete Cuffaro
Pete Mack
Philippa Shores

Rachel Wade
R.J. Stocke
Richard Simon
Rick Burgy
Ron Hickman
Rosanne Gaughan
Rosalie Davis
Rose Otey
Sarah Hanasky
Sarah Sargent
Shirley DeCaria
Sr. Mary Florence Burke
Stanley Kyrk
Stephanie Bugaj
Susan Graff
Susan Mize
Susan Schulte
Tammy
Teresa Helfer
Thelma Pearson
Trystan Timmons
Victoria Jeskey

The Cathedral of Saint Joseph



MASS TIMES

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

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CONFESSIONS

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

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISMS
By appointment. Please contact the parish office.

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK /
MINISTRY TO THE HOMEBOUND**
Please call the parish office to arrange for anointing for someone who is seriously ill or preparing for surgery. If ill, homebound or hospitalized, a visit can be scheduled upon request.

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

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

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

