

WEST LIBERTY UNIVERSITY
presents the

3RD ANNUAL Holiday Card TO WHEELING

SUNDAY DEC 4 | 3 PM & 7 PM *St. Joseph Cathedral, Wheeling*

Featuring WLU Choirs and the Choirs of Wheeling Park HS, Brooke HS, John Marshall HS, and Wheeling MS

FREE ADMISSION, but early arrival is advisable to secure seating. A freewill donation will be taken to support local Catholic charities.

WestLiberty.edu/music

A reminder that Angel Tree gifts are due back to the Cathedral by December 8

Share a Meal with the Women's Faith Sharing Group

The Women's Faith Sharing Christmas luncheon is Friday, Dec. 9, 1:00 pm (following noon liturgy) at Perkins. For reservations call Diane (304-233-8574) by noon Thursday, Dec. 8.



Mark Your Calendars
SANTAtizing the Cathedral
December 18
12:00 NOON
Fellowship
Music
Food
Decorating the Cathedral
A great time for all.

Parish Office: 1218 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003; (304) 233-4121
www.SaintJosephCathedral.com
Like us on Facebook!

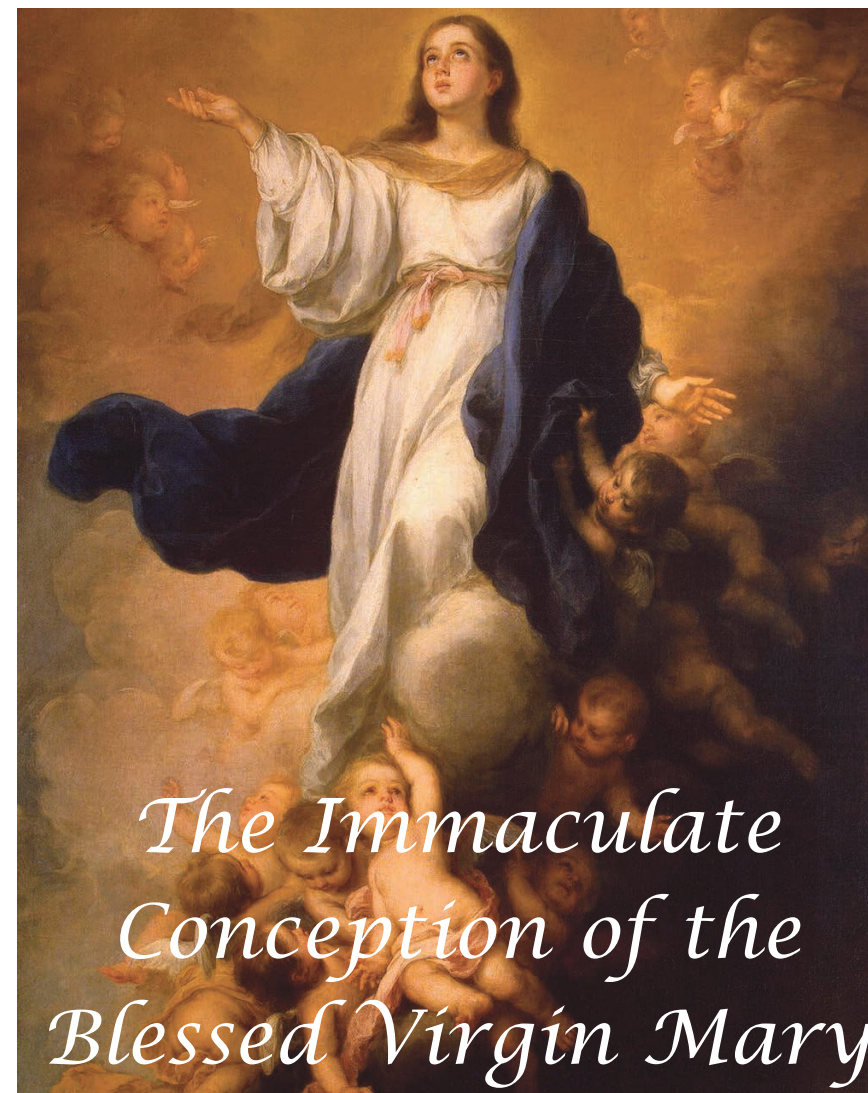
Parish Staff:
Most Rev. Michael J. Bransfield, Pastor
Rev. Monsignor Kevin M. Quirk, J.C.D., Rector (304) 281-7073 (kquirk@dwc.org)
Ms. Debora Valorie Fahey, Parish Assistant for Pastoral Ministries (dfahey@dwc.org)

Sunday Masses: 6:00 p.m. Saturday; 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday.
Weekday Mass: 12:05 p.m. Monday through Friday; 9:00 a.m. Saturday.
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 11:15-11:50 a.m. Friday; 5-5:45 p.m. Saturday.
Sacrament of the Sick and Communion to Homebound: Call the parish office anytime to make arrangements.

Sister Mary Bowman, SFCC, Pastoral Associate for Ministry to the Sick
Dr. Michael Match, Director of Music (mmatch@dwc.org)
Mr. Tyler J. Greenwood, Associate Organist (tgreenwood@dwc.org)
Mr. Martin Imbroscio, Sacristan
Mr. Alex Nagem, CPA, CGMA, Comptroller (anagem@dwc.org)
Mr. Donald Gruber, Custodian

Il Corriere del Duomo

Weekly Journal for the Cathedral of St. Joseph



In 1854, Pius IX solemnly proclaimed: "The most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instant of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin."

In Luke 1:28 the angel Gabriel, speaking on God's behalf, addresses Mary as "full of grace." In that context this phrase means that Mary is receiving all the special divine help necessary for the task ahead.

"[Mary] gave to the world the Life that renews all things, and she was enriched by God with gifts appropriate to such a role. It is no wonder, then, that the usage prevailed among the holy Fathers whereby they called the mother of God entirely holy and free from all stain of sin, fashioned by the Holy Spirit into a kind of new substance and new creature. Adorned from the first instant of her conception with the splendors of an entirely unique holiness, the Virgin of Nazareth is, on God's command, greeted by an angel messenger as 'full of grace' (cf. Luke 1:28). To the heavenly messenger she replies: 'Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done to me according to thy word' (Luke 1:38)" (Vatican II, Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, 56).

Christian Awareness

The Birth of Christ from the Eyes of a Shepherd

By Alex J. Nagem

"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they

were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and ly-

ing in a manger.'" (Luke 2:8-12)

The night air was clean and fresh, filled with a scent of lilies. This was not common in the rainy month of December. As I gazed in the night sky, I saw a celestial light approaching. The light was now upon me and the other shep-

herds as we sat by the fire. I and the others wanted to stand and run in fear, but the light spoke to us. "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of

See "Awareness" on Page 2

Christian ...

Cont'd from Page 1

David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." In the distance, the voices of a choir could be heard singing a song of praise and rejoicing. I and a few of the shepherds who witnessed and heard the heavenly voice did not know what to do at first. We did not want to leave our flocks of sheep. They were all we possessed besides the clothes we wore. The enchantment of the distant choir and words spoken to us would lead us to a decision to leave our flocks in the care of younger shepherds and hurry off to find the child born to us as the Messiah.

I stumbled over rocks and rough ground as I hurried from the valley just below the town of Bethlehem. The brightest of stars in the night sky beckoned me forward. I ran when I could, climbing higher with each step. My breathing was hurried, but I did not stop to rest. The closer I came to the top of the hill, the choir of voices became clearer. The song they sang was one I had not heard before this night. The voices were of a beauty that could only be Heaven sent. My feeling of fear had now turned to excitement. Seeing my way in the moonlit night, I

reached the top of the hill surrounding the valley before the other shepherds. I found my way to the main street of Bethlehem. I could now run without stumbling. My direction was toward the song being sung and the brightest of stars in the night. My fellow shepherds were running behind me. At the end of the street I could see a bright light coming from a cave behind a home. Several townspeople were hurrying toward the cave opening. I followed with continued excitement and now joy. I was to be a witness to the birth of the Messiah. I, a protector of sheep, who has no home of his own besides the grazing fields of the valley and the thick branches of the pines for shelter, will be one of the first to see the Messiah.

I entered the cave to see a young mother sitting beside a feeding trough where a new born baby lay. An older man stood watch as a shepherd with his flock. The child was sleeping as the mother rocked side to side. The beauty of the child drew me near. I had the feeling if I could only touch the clothes of the child all the fears and worries that plagued my days would be gone. The choir of voices was all around us, though I could not see a body singing. The beauty of the chant brought a chill to my body. There was a refreshing scent of lilies that

filled the room, though no flowers were in sight. This must be the Messiah of Scripture as told by the celestial light in the field. Why was I chosen as one to witness this birth? I am but a poor shepherd of simple means and birth. I have no title or holdings in land. I am but a shepherd who sleeps in the fields and the under the cover of trees. Our Savior is born as I was born of humble means. There are no palatial surroundings or hand maddens to help this mother. The clothes for his birth are nothing more than a cloth wrapped tightly around his body. Was this the clothing of a king or shepherd? I see a child born as the child of a shepherd. But I have been told this child fulfills the words of the Prophets. This child who sleeps in the manger, could he be the one who we have waited? Could he be the Messiah who will care for me and others?

As I gaze upon the mother, I see her face is tired and happy, but there is sadness in her eyes. She looks as though she knows tragedy will come to her child and grief to herself as a mother. The older man stands beside her with staff in hand. He does not have the face of a father, but one of a protector for both this mother and child. He looks upon the child with honor and praise as one would look upon a king of men.

But this is the day of a child's birth. We should all be happy and sing praise. Has Prophecy been fulfilled this night with the birth of this child? The excitement and joy I feel in his presence allows me to believe so.

I leave the stable, a cave in the earth. In these meager surroundings is where the Messiah will spend the first night of his birth. I will go and tell others of the glory and praise to God for all things I have seen and heard. For this birth was told to me and other shepherds on this December night so all may praise and honor our Messiah. The choir of voices singing of the glory to God could still be heard as I walked the streets of Bethlehem this night. My flock of sheep, the only possessions I own, I will leave with others so to not have any obligations other than to tell of what I have seen which was just as I had been told.

In ending, I hope you spend time in reflection on the words of Scripture. Allow your thoughts to place you in a time when Christ was teaching all who followed in his steps. With these thoughts, may a new meaning to what is written in Scripture fill your days.

You are remembered in my prayers as I hope I am remembered in yours.

"Vocatus Atque non Vocatus, Deus Aderit"
Alex J. Nagem

Food Drive to Benefit the Catholic Neighborhood Center

The Society of St. Joseph is asking for your help during its annual food drive to benefit the Catholic Neighborhood Center on 18th street.

We would like to ask if

you could bring your donations to the church or parish office by Dec. 18.

Last year's drive netted more than 20 boxes of canned-goods. Food supplies at the Center are ex-

tremely low especially with the upcoming holiday season. We will only ask you to fill one bag with canned or boxed goods, but extra donations are always welcome.

So the next time you are at the store, fill up an extra bag and return it to the church by Dec. 18. And thank you in advance for helping us out in this important ministry.

Mass Intentions and Readings

Sunday—December 4th—SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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| Sat | 6:00p | Mass for Chester Renowicz |
| | 8:00a | Mass for the Parishioners |
| | 9:15a | 1st Communion and Confirmation Classes Cathedral Offices |
| | 9:15a | RCIA (Rector) |
| | 10:30a | Mass for Tom Naegele |
| | RDGS: | Is 11:1-10 Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 Rom 15:4-9 Mt 3:1-12 |
| | 3:00p | WLU Christmas Concert |
| | 7:00p | WLU Christmas Concert |

Monday—December 5th—Advent Weekday

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| | 12:05p | Mass for Dr. Edward Thomas Nagem |
| | RDGS: | Is 35:1-10 Ps 85:9ab, 10-14 Lk 5:17-26 |

Tuesday—December 6th—Saint Nicholas

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| | 12:05p | Mass for Charles Naegele |
| | RDGS: | Is 40:1-11 Ps 96: 1-3, 10ac, 11-13 Mt 18:12-14 |

Nicholas, died 4th c.; bishop of Myra in Asia Minor; model pastor noted for charity; popularized as Santa Claus; patron of children, bankers, pawnbrokers, sailors, perfumers, brides, unmarried women, travelers, fishermen, dock workers, brewers, poets, and prisoners; also of Russia, Greece, Sicily, Lorraine, and Apulia in Italy where his relics are enshrined in Bari.

Wednesday—December 7th—Saint Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor of the Church

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| | 12:05p | Mass for Daniel Krulcik |
| | RDGS: | Is 40:25-31 Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10 Mt 11:28-30 |
| | 6:30p | Choir Rehearsal |

Ambrose, died Holy Saturday, 397; born in Trier of noble parents; classically educated; while a catechumen, chosen by popular acclaim as bishop of Milan and consecrated Dec. 7, 374; his allegorical exegesis and rhetorical skill made him a compelling preacher; defender of the orthodoxy against Arianism; brought Theodosius to public penance, composed several liturgical hymns; baptized St. Augustine and Gregory I, declared one of the four great doctors of the Latin Church.

Thursday—December 8th—Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy Day of Obligation)

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| | 12:05p | Mass for Wib & Rose Breiding |
| | 6:00p | Mass for the Parishioners |
| | RDGS: | Gn 3:9-15, 20 Ps 98:1-4 Eph 1:3- 6, 11-12 Lk 1:26-38 |

Friday—December 9th—St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin

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| | 11:15a | Confession |
| | 12:05p | Mass for Anna Mae Myers |

RDGS: Is 48:17-19 Ps 1:1-4, 6 Mt 11:16-19
In 1531 Our Lady appeared four times to a native convert, Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin (meaning "the talking eagle"), at Tepeyac, near Mexico City. A member of the Chichimeca people, he was perhaps a leader of his own people and may have been involved in the area's textile industry. Known for his holiness, he devoted himself, tradition says, to the pilgrims who came to see the miraculous image of Mary imprinted on his cloak. Pope John Paul II canonized him 31 July 2002.

Saturday—December 10th—Advent Weekday

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| | 9:00a | Mass for Jean Huff Rosary |
| | 5:00p | Confessions |
| | 6:00p | Mass for Chris Miller |
| | RDGS: | Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19 Mt 17:9a, 10-13 |

Sunday—December 11th—THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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|--|--------|---|
| | 8:00a | Mass for Mary Bartolovich |
| | 9:15a | 1st Communion and Confirmation Classes Cathedral Offices |
| | 9:15a | RCIA (Rector) |
| | 10:30a | Mass for the Parishioners |
| | RDGS: | Is 35:1-6a, 10 Ps 146:6-10 Jas 5:7-10 Mt 11:2-11 |

Sign Up Now!

Sign ups are in the back of church for various ministries during the Christmas Masses! Don't forget to sign up before its filled!



Holiday Schedule

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| Dec 24 | 6:00p Vigil Mass |
| Dec 25 | 12:00a Midnight Mass |
| 10:30a | Christmas Day Mass |
| Dec 31 | 6:00p |
| Jan 1 | 8:00 a |
| 10:30a | |