



Liturgical Notes

The Immaculate Conception

Hail Mary, full of grace". For thousands of centuries, millions of times per day the Virgin Mary is greeted by the faithful with the greeting of the Archangel, that we hear resonating anew in today's Gospel. The sons of the Church learn from the words of the Archangel Gabriel that the fullness of the mystery of God's grace was realized in Holy Mary. St Paul the Apostle teaches us that the Father made all fullness dwell in His Incarnate Son (c.f. Col 1:12-20), which overflows from Christ's head and spills out on His Mystical Body that is the Church. Before descending in Body, Christ's fullness was spread in a unique and unrepeatable way on Mary, predestined from eternity to be the Mother of God. Blessed Pope Pius IX on the 8th of December 1854 proclaimed the Dogma of the faith revealed by God that the Blessed Virgin Mary "in the first instant of her conception, by a singular privilege and grace granted by God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the human race, was preserved exempt from all stain of original sin" (Denz.-Schonm, 2083). If the official proclamation of the dogma is relatively recent, the profession of faith by Christians and the liturgy is very ancient in this regard. Furthermore, four years later the same Virgin Mary, appearing in Lourdes to St Bernadette, confirmed the truth of the doctrine by presenting herself with the title 'I am the Immaculate Conception'. Mary's predestination to this singular grace—consistent with the suspension of the universal decree by which every man, from the moment of his conception is contaminated with original sin—leads us to ponder in the deepest depths the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity's salvific plan. God, One and Triune, had foreseen from the very beginning the future incarnation of the Word culminating in the redemption of human nature that had fallen into



sin. He therefore predestined pure Mary, so that He could draw from her uncontaminated humanity, which the Son could adopt in order to re-establish in Himself the original purity of creation and reorient it to eternal glory. Mary's Immaculate Conception is a direct consequence of her Divine Maternity. St Anslem of Aosta wrote: 'Assuredly, it was fitting that the Virgin be beautified with a purity than which a greater cannot be conceived, except for God's. For, toward her, God the Father was so disposed to give His only Son who was naturally one and the same common Son of God the Father and of the Virgin.' (De conceptu virginali et originali peccato, XVIII)

This link between the privilege of Divine Maternity and Mary's Immaculate Conception results also in her superiority with respect to us. She is a perfect image of the Church in heaven, the new triumphant Jerusalem, that won't have any marks nor will there be pain and death. This is why today's preface recites: '...she was to be a worthy mother of your Son, your sign of favour to the church at its beginning, and the promise of its perfection as the bride of Christ, radiant in beauty'. Also in heaven Mary is not and will never be only a disciple, but her Son's most exalted. She is and will always be the Mother of God, the Mother of the Church, the Queen of the Angels and Saints. Therefore, the preface of the Mass adds: '... You chose her from all creatures to be our advocate with you and our pattern of holiness.'

Mary was Immaculate because she had to be the Mother of God. She, herself has received the original grace of purity and the final state of the blessed life that we also, by collaborating with Divine Grace, hope one day to receive.

Excerpted from CatholicCulture.org

Remember: Thursday, December 8 is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and it is a Holy Day of Obligation! Masses are celebrated at 8:15 a.m., 12:00 noon, and 6:00 p.m.

Fundraising While You Shop:

Our School's SCRIP Program

Put your shopping dollars to work! Scrip is a program that allows families to raise money for St. Patrick Catholic School. Scrip is just another way to pay for everyday purchases using gift cards in place of cash, checks, and credit cards.

You purchase gift cards from St. Pat's at face value, and the school orders those cards from Great Lakes Scrip Center at a reduced price. The difference is an instant rebate for your organization. It's really that simple!

When you use scrip gift cards at your favorite retailers, you're fundraising while you shop. Great Lakes Scrip Center offers over 300 of the country's biggest brands, including grocery, department stores, gas stations, restaurants, hotels, home improvement, and more. Just by using scrip to pay for your normal weekly purchases, you can easily raise \$500 or more per year.

To learn more about Scrip contact Mary Hendricks at the parish office.

Use the scrip form in the vestibule for all your Christmas presents this year! The perfect gift is so easy to buy while earning money for the school. The order

form does not include all participants. For a complete list, hot to, www.glscrip.com.

Use Kroger Rewards to earn money for the school!

Kroger shoppers get 5% back for St. Patrick School! Just sign into: <https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards> and create an account to register your Kroger Plus Card with St. Patrick HSA. Every time you shop the school will receive 5% of that purchase!

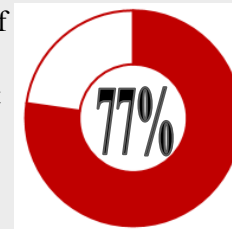
I'M IN! CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Goal: \$345,000.00

145 Pledges and gifts to Date: \$266,504.50

If you prefer not to make a pledge, please give through the diocese to the Catholic Sharing Appeal. Since we have reached the 50% mark of that goal, all donations given will be returned 100% to our parish throughout the coming months.

"For it is in giving that we receive."
— Francis of Assisi



Weekly Attendance & Collection (11/27/2016)

Sat: 108	Sun: 226	Latin Mass: 25
General:	\$4071.71	
Loan:	\$85.00	
School:	\$12.00	
All Saints:	\$10.00	
All Souls:	\$20.00	

Campaign for Human Development	\$10.00
Archdiocese of Military Services:	\$10.00

Upcoming Collections and Appeals

Dec. 3 & 4: Catholic Sharing Appeal (envelopes are in the pews)
Dec. 10 & 11: National Appeal for the Religious Retirement Fund
All Christmas Masses: Catholic Charities of West Virginia

We're already planning to **Deck the Halls for Christmas** here at St. Patrick's, and we need a lot of flowers to do it! Anyone who would like to donate a **Christmas Poinsettia** in honor of a loved one (living or deceased) should contact the parish office no later than **December 17**. Each poinsettia costs \$15.00, and will be used to decorate our sanctuary



Pope Francis "Tweets" @ Pontifex

Mercy is not a parenthesis in the life of the Church; it constitutes her very existence, making tangible the profound truths of the Gospel.



Citizens Bank of Weston
Member FDIC
201 Main Ave.
(304) 269-2862
M-TH 8:30-3, FRI 8:30-5:30
JANE LEW BRANCH
(304) 884-7825
M-F 8:30-5:30

Giovanni's
304 269-4563
DINE IN-CARRYOUT-DELIVERY
451 us Hwy 33 E, Weston, WV
DAILY SPECIALS & FEATURED STEAKS

Pickens Automotive Service
Approved Auto Repair
LJ-HAUL
518 N. Main Ave
304 269-3254
We don't want an arm & a leg—we just want your "tows!"

Charlie's Barber Shop
115 Bank Alley
Weston, WV 26452
Tom Fealy, owner

Peking Chinese Buffet
#3 Marketplace Plaza,
Weston, WV
304 269-6763

Garton Real Estate REALTORS
Charles G. Garton, Broker
465 Main Ave. 269-7676
Rudy Pascasio 517-7577
Derrick Love 269-2281
Veronica Brumley 269-3037

NAMES NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS

If you know someone who could benefit from a food basket this Christmas, please call the parish office at 304-269-3048. The Catholic Daughters, the church, and the school have worked together for many years to insure that those who need it would have a meal on Christmas.

SAINT PATRICK GIRL SCOUT TROOP 4165

BOOK COLLECTION

Do you have books your kids do not read anymore...not sure what to do with them? Here is your answer! Troop 4165 is taking donation of Children/Teen/Adult books. Books found to have a corresponding AR Quiz will be added to St. Patrick School Library for student use. All other books will be donated to other organizations OR sold. If sold the money raised will go to buy MORE BOOKS! Contact troop leader Sheila McCartney at 304 452-0442 for more info.

BAGS OF DRY BEANS NEEDED

Sheila McCartney and her Girl Scout Troop are collecting bags of beans to replenish local food pantries in January.


Food pantries are essentially "cleaned out" in December due to higher demand. Beans may be sent to the school, left in the church or taken to the parish office!

2017 CALENDARS

*The 2017 parish calendars are in the vestibule.
Please pick one up today.*



JENNY GARTON
Car ~ Home ~ Life ~ Health ~ Business
269-1414
51 Circle Heights
Weston, WV 26452
Providing Insurance and Financial Services





Thyme Bistro
Tue — Fri 11am-3pm / 5pm-9pm
Sat: 5pm-9pm
5 1/2 East Second St., Weston WV
304-269-7177



GJ GARTON
INSURANCE
Chris & Amber Heater
400 US Hwy. 33 E., Weston, WV 26452
304 269-3095 / 304 269-5523 fax
www.gartoninsurance.com

**TED'S HEATING
and COOLING**

Jane Lew, WV
304 672-1145

**Pro-Life
Legislator**



Delegate
Peggy Donaldson Smith




**The Physicians
of St. Joseph's**
304-473-2200
The Right Care is Right Here

**DC's Barber
Shop**

1 East Second St.
Weston, WV 26452

**DR. DANIEL D.
FARNSWORTH IV**
Optometrist
137 Main Ave.
Weston
269-2020



Choir Practice

The Adult Choir will practice for the Christmas Liturgies following the Saturday evening masses on December 3, 10 & 17. This is an opportunity for you to play a part in welcoming the Christ Child by giving of your time and talent to the parish. All are invited to participate.

SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS BELL RINGING



Saint Patrick Catholic Church is working in conjunction with other area churches to ring the Salvation Army Christmas Bell at CVS and Shop-N-Save. The dates we need to fill are Tues., Dec. 13 and Fri., Dec. 16, from 11am to 7pm. Sign-up sheets is in the vestibule. We ask that you sign up for at least an hour session. You are allowed to stand inside at both locations to ring the bell.

CATHOLIC SHARING APPEAL UPDATE:

62 gifts = \$19,234

112% of goal

We have surpassed our goal! Thank you to everyone who made this happen. We will receive back in it's entirety, all donations given to the appeal. This money will then be applied to our loan repayment. We will continue our monthly collection for the Catholic Sharing Appeal on the first weekend of the month.

Thank you to all who have given to this appeal!

This Week's Liturgical Calendar

**Saturday — December 3rd
Saint Francis Xavier, Priest**

5:00p Confessions
6:00p Anticipated Sunday Mass for Charlie Rowgh, by Family

RDGS:

**Sunday — December 4th
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

8:45a Confessions
9:30a Mass for People of the Parish
RDGS: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rom 15:4-9, Mt 3:1-12
12:30p Mass (Latin) for The Community of the Monastere Saint Benoît
Second Sunday of Advent

**Monday — December 5th
MONDAY of the Second Week of Advent**

8:15a Mass for Bettie Joe Newhouse,
by Connie Bower Anderson
RDGS: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 5:17-26

**Tuesday — December 6th
Saint Nicholas, Bishop**

8:15a Mass for Marjorie Ruppert,
by the Delores Snyder
RDGS: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10-13; Mt 18:12-14

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

5:00p Confessions
5:30p Rosary and Miraculous Medal Novena
6:00p Mass for Charles Garton,
by Deborah K. Garton
RDGS: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30

**Thursday — December 8th
THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

8:15a Mass for People of the Parish
Noon Mass for Jane Myers by Ronnie and Junior Brumley
6:00p Mass for Special Intentions
RDGS: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Ep1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

**Friday — December 9th
FRIDAY of the Second Week of Advent**

8:15a Mass for Karen Bailey,
by St. Patrick Parish
RDGS: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4,6; Mt 11:16-19
9:00a Exposition
9:00a Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
11:30a Chaplet of Divine Mercy
12:00p Benediction

**Saturday — December 10th
SATURDAY of the Second Week of Advent**

5:00p Confessions
6:00p Anticipated Sunday Mass for Josephine Determan, by St. Patrick Parish

RDGS:

**Sunday — December 11th
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

8:45a Confessions
9:30a Mass for People of the Parish
RDGS: Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11
12:30p Mass (Latin) for Fr. Gerald Gawronski
Third Sunday of Advent

Ministry Schedule for December 10-11, 2016

Saturday, Dec. 10, 2016
Greeters: T J and Mindy Hall
Servers: Madison Hall and Jayna Jerden
Reader: Teresa Angotti
Offertory: Jerden Family
EMHC: Valerie Corley, B. Queen, Micki Snyder
Cantor: K. Sims

Sunday, Dec. 11, 2016
Greeters: Lisa Marlow and Richard Mattrella
Servers: Macy Franklin and Michael Riley
Reader: Steve Corley
Offertory: Chris and Ginger Franklin
EMHC: Jeremy and Jenny Garton, Rose Neal
Cantor: John Collins

December linens - Melissa Allison
December Funeral Greeters - Mary Wagoner, Mary Ellen Rittenhouse

Parish Prayer List

- ◆ **Those who are sick:** Mike Riley, Carl Ford (Lynne Shaver's father), Tina Barnette, Randy Campbell, Shawn Campbell, Sal Carmona, Rose Determan, Robert Fealy, Ed Hubbs, Sara Jane Huntz, Rose Mazza, Mary Ann Murray, Matt McCauley, Julieta Rilling, Burke Riley, Jane Taylor, Megan Westfall, and Jane White.
- ◆ **Those who have died:** Josephine Determan and Karen Bailey (Anna Lee Determan's mother), May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.
- ◆ **Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life**
- ◆ **All Military Personnel:** Ryan Faulkner, Fr Jeff Paveglio, Alan Hamilton

Putting ‘Christ’ in Christmas

Recently this graphic began to make its way around the internet, and it certainly is poignant as we draw closer to the holidays. With so much emphasis on consumerism, buying gifts for others, and great deals, one finds it easy to forget that there are so many in our area who are genuinely in need. As the Church has just concluded the Jubilee Year of Mercy, it is necessary that we continually remind ourselves of the Corporal Works of Mercy and all that we can do here in our parish to care for our neighbors.

Here at St. Patrick’s, there are several great initiatives that can lead us to putting Christ in Christmas in a very meaningful way. The first is

by sponsoring a needy family through our annual Angel Tree. All the angels have been taken, and we are all grateful for those who have generously volunteered their time



and resources to sponsoring these families. The second is our Toy Drive: New and gently used toys will be collected on Sunday, December 11, for donation to Our Neighbor. The Catholic Daughters

of America, in conjunction with our parish and school, are sponsoring a Christmas Food Drive: please bring breakfast foods, canned fruits and vegetables, soups, canned meats, pasta, stuffing, desserts, peanut butter, jelly, condiments, instant potatoes, etc. to the school or church before December 18. Finally our school’s annual Winter Clothing Drive ends on December 11. Before then, please donate new or gently used coats, which will be given to Our Neighbor and the Clarksburg Mission.


As we observe Advent and Christmas as a time of preparation and gift-giving, let us always be mindful of our Lord’s command to care for those less fortunate than ourselves. “Whenever you did these things for the least of my brethren, you did them for me.”

on it is God’s, our job is to be stewards of what he has created. We can’t take credit for any of it. Whatever we have and do are God’s gifts to us.

You can sing? You own a fabulous sports car? You have a wonderful sense of humor? You’re a whiz with the checkbook? That quilt you created, the child on your lap, the ability to see, smell, taste, feel, hear? All of them are God’s gifts to you. Get the picture?

At the risk of sounding slightly politically incorrect, God is a little bit of an Indian giver. He wants a portion of those gifts back.

Next week, I’ll tell you why.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

MEETING DATES:

- The Knights of Columbus regular monthly meeting will be on Tues., Dec. 4, at 7 in the cafeteria.
- The monthly board meeting will be on Tues., Dec. 27, at 7 at the Hickory House Event Center. All officers and members are invited!

Stewardship Thoughts with Mary

When you’re the only girl in the family, you don’t have to worry about sharing. Your brothers don’t want to style Barbie’s hair or play house. The problem is: you begin to think that every doll, toy, or book belongs to you and you alone.

As adults, we tend to have that “Mine, all mine” attitude. My life. My house. My car. My family. My grown up toys. None of it, nothing, belongs to us. We don’t own anything on this earth. It all belongs to God.

The Bible has plenty of verses about God’s sovereignty, but this one is short and sweet: “The Earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.” (Psalm 24:1)

All that we own can be gone in an instant—a natural disaster, an accident, death. Instead of saying, “You can’t take it with you,” our old pastor Fr. Murphy used to say, “You will never see a hearse with a U-Haul behind it.” We are merely stewards of whatever we have on this earth.

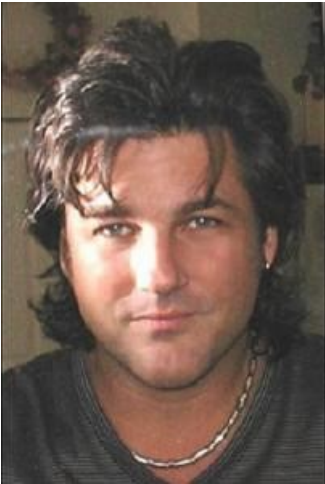
Stewards? A steward is one who manages another’s belongings. When Jesus tells parables about stewards in the Gospels, he points out that they should be faithful, responsible, and profitable. Since the earth and everything

Christmas Concert, A Family Event

Dec. 16

Stonewall Jackson Resort

Hosted by The Catholic Daughters of the Americas



Michael Russell O’Brien, a nationally known Christian musical entertainer, will be performing locally at Stonewall Jackson Resort in Lewis County, in the ballroom on Friday, December 16 at 7pm. The Christmas concert will be mixed with his faith stories, experiences that led him from a successful career in secular music to Christian/Catholic, and some humor along the way. The event is for the entire family. Several Catholic Daughters participated in one of his concerts

this summer. They have expressed a positive experience with witness to a humble and down to earth man, with no hesitation to share his love of our Catholic Faith. The tickets are being sold by our Catholic Daughter group for \$10.00 each, and since this is a family event, a family pack for immediate family members up to 6 persons will be sold for \$30.00. To purchase a ticket contact a Catholic Daughter, or call Kathy Sims 304-476-1200. Tickets are also available at the parish office.

UpFront (continued)

She answered, “But, Daddy, if I play with any of these toys, they might break!”

Next, he went to Hope’s room where she was happily flinging manure all over the place. “What are you doing, child?” he yelled. “Daddy, with all this manure, there has to be a horse in here somewhere!”

Isaiah wants his people to hope for a peaceful kingdom, and he uses the most impossible examples: the wolf who is the guest of the lamb, the leopard together with the kid, the calf and young lion, all led by a little child. Can you imagine a cow and bear as neighbors? Or a baby playing in a snake’s den? Every allegory is absolutely ridiculous.

Yet, Isaiah, promises that this shoot, this stubborn new life from a dead stump, will make it happen. He even says Gentiles will be involved.

Well, you know the end of the story. It all happened when that shoot, Jesus, was born. He became the light, the hope of the word, who brought the message of

AMERICAN GIRL DOLL (Maryellen Larkin) RAFFLE

Sponsored by St. Patrick School

Chances are: \$1 each or 6 for \$5

For your convenience, chances will be sold after Mass on Nov. 26 and 27 and Dec. 3 and 4.

Drawing will be held on December 7.

All items for this raffle were donated by a parishioner of St. Patrick Church.



peace to all people of the world. Yes, lions and bears are still predators of calves and cows, but maybe Isaiah was using animals to help us imagine a world where contentious people can live as neighbors, as brothers and sisters.

It will happen. As Isaiah will tell us at midnight Mass at Christmas: “The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!”



Catholic Daughters of the Americas

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA) meet on the third Monday at 6pm in the parish meeting room. This month, instead of a meeting, the Daughters will celebrate Christmas on Friday, Dec. 16 at Stonewall Jackson Resort, prior to the Michael Russell O’Brien Concert.

The next regular monthly meeting will be Monday, January 16. ALL Catholic women 18 and older are invited to join the Catholic Daughters. Find out more by going to catholicdaughters.org.

A Day to be Thankful For

Thanksgiving is a day on which the people of our nation gather around their respective tables to give thanks to Almighty God for the blessings of life and liberty that they have received from Him. From the time of the first Puritan pilgrims who came to our shores to the



proclamation of the first official National Day of Thanksgiving by President George Washington to its establishment as a national holiday by President Abraham Lincoln, Americans have taken a day to

celebrate with family and friends, to break bread with one another, and to focus on all that we are blessed to receive in this life. As it marks the beginning of our culture’s Holiday Season, it is a time in which many of us begin to think of those less fortunate, who do not have a table around which they may gather with family and friends; some are lonely, some are hungry, some do not even have a proper home.

Through the hard work of Jim and Maureen Gildein and a committee of



very hard-working and dedicated volunteers, and with the overwhelmingly generous support of our parishioners and local businesses, we here at St. Patrick’s sought to provide a true Thanksgiving feast to any and all who needed one. With spatulas in hand and more turkeys that you could shake a stick at, our parish embarked on a journey to forge a new Weston tradition, and the results were more than any of us could have expected.

With a team of over 65 volunteers (young and old alike!), our parish provided Thanksgiving dinner to over

200 people from the Weston area who otherwise would have gone without a proper celebratory feast. In the end, God was praised, charity abounded, and our community of Faith made our National Day of Thanksgiving truly memorable for a great number of our brothers and sisters.



What a beautiful witness of Faith this was to our brothers and sisters! May this be the start of something truly special in our parish, and may its merits ring in eternity for all those who gave of their time, talent, and treasure to see this good work completed in them.

Thank you to everyone who participated. May God bless you, and may the prayers of St. Patrick forever strengthen you!

Sacrificial Giving Envelopes for 2017 will be mailed directly to your home. They should arrive in the next couple of weeks. If you do not receive a set of envelopes (for the First Quarter), please contact the parish office. If you have received envelopes and prefer not to (for example, if you use E-giving), please place the entire packet into the collection basket, and we will remove you from the list.

Mass Intentions

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the most effective prayer that we as Christians can offer. Mass may be offered for the intentions of the living or deceased. Please contact the parish office to schedule your Mass Intentions. Intentions are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

From the Parish Priest’s Desk

*A Pastoral Council:
Helping a Shepherd to Tend His Flock*

The Second Vatican Council in its decree on the Pastoral Office of Bishops (*Christus Dominus*) makes clear that “the parish exists solely for the care of souls.” Thus, every action that we as a parish seeks to undertake ultimately must be for the benefit of those souls entrusted to our parish. As the Council also instructed, the parish priest is empowered, therefore, and indeed encouraged, to seek, as it were, the guidance and advice of the lay faithful in order that he might more faithfully and effectively discharge the duties of his office to teach, to govern, and to sanctify. To that end, and with the encouragement of our Diocesan Bishop, our parish has recently undertaken the selection of a body of parishioners to form a Pastoral Council, which will serve as a deliberative, consultative body to assist me in my work as parish priest.

The purpose of the parish pastoral council is to investigate pastoral matters, to consider them thoroughly, and to propose practical conclusions about them. The council’s task is, first of all, to study those matters brought to its attention and shed light on them. Its second task is to reflect on them thoroughly, to discern their true nature, to evaluate and to ponder them. Its final task is to draw sound conclusions. The council presents these conclusions to the pastor in the form of recommendations. This threefold task of the council—investigating, considering, and recommending conclusions—is called pastoral planning. After the pastor has accepted the recommendations of the council, he directs their implementation. Council members may assist him, but strictly speaking, implementation is the responsibility of the pastor, not the council.

The scope of the council concerns pastoral matters. These may include everything that pertains to the pastor’s ministries of proclaiming God’s word, to celebrating the sacraments, to caring for the faithful, to promoting the mission of the Church to the world, and to fostering good stewardship of parish resources. The scope includes all the practical matters of parish life. There is, in short, virtually nothing about which the pastor may not consult the council.

As the parish priest, I am most concerned with making use of our pastoral council to help formulate a long-range plan for the future of our parish community. While it will address any number of immediate needs, including parish fundraising efforts, catechesis and evangelization, et al., what will be of paramount importance will be the council’s

input on how we can prepare for the future.

Ultimately the Council’s work will be to form with the pastor and the Finance Council a Pastoral Leadership Team that will bring to my own aid an extra dose of guidance, wisdom, and perspective.

HIGH SCHOOL GATHERING

All high school students are invited to participate in a weekly gathering led by Fr. DeViese.

The group will meet on Sunday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the upstairs meeting room of the parish office. Snacks and drinks provided. Come as you are.

NOTEWORTHY EVENTS

December – Cleaning Supplies

4 Sun: 10:30, GIFT, Uncover your Gifts, cafeteria

4 Sun: 7pm, High School Gathering, upstairs meeting room—parish office

7 Wed: American Girl Doll giveaway

11 Sun: 7pm, High School Gathering, upstairs meeting room—parish office

13 Tue: Salvation Army bell ringing, CVS and Shop-N-Save

15 Thu: 7pm, Advent Penance Service, church

16 Fri: Salvation Army bell ringing, CVS and Shop-N-Save

16 Fri: 7pm, Michael Russell O’Brien Concert, Stonewall Jackson Resort

18 Sun: 7pm, High School Gathering, upstairs meeting room—parish office

21 Wed: 7pm, St. Patrick School Christmas pageant, gym

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICES

- **Tues., Dec. 6, 7pm—Holy Rosary Church, Buckhannon**
- **Tues., Dec. 13, 7pm—St. Brendan Church, Elkins**
- **Thurs., Dec. 15, 7pm, - St. Patrick Church, Weston**

Alcoholics Anonymous

AA - Tues., Thurs., & Sat., 8pm school basement.

Narcotics Anonymous

NA - Mon., 8pm school basement

Use the door on the side of the school building facing the rectory for AA and NA meetings.



Invite Someone

Catholics know there are problems in the world. We also know the source of peace: Christ.

This Advent, the Register encourages readers to invite people back to Mass.

Reaching out and extending an invitation to the sacraments, starting with Mass, can make a blessed difference in someone's life.



DANIEL ISAAC/CNA IMAGE

- 1 God tells us to keep holy the Sabbath (Third Commandment) and holy day.
- 2 Jesus instituted the Mass at the Last Supper.
- 3 Mass honors God and changes our hearts.



Quick Tip 1 Arrive on time or be early. Then you will have time to prepare your heart to receive God's word and his body.

- 4 The saints were Massgoers. You can go every day. Daily Mass is a blessing!
- 5 "If we really understood the Mass, we would die of joy," said St. John Vianney, patron of parish priests.



ZVONIMIRATLATIC / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

Quick Tip 2 Prepare for Communion. Being in a state of grace means that one is not conscious of having committed a serious sin (missing Sunday Mass, infidelity, etc.) since one's last confession. Fast one hour before Communion.

- 6 At Mass, you receive Jesus in the Eucharist — the "source and summit of the Christian life," according to the Catechism (1324) — when you are in a state of grace.

7 "It would be easier for the world to survive without the sun than to do without holy Mass." So said St. Pio of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio).

8 What can hear Scripture at Mass. What is God saying to you through his holy word?



DETH RELIGIOSE CATVLOGUE

Quick Tip 3 Know what's happening. Follow along with the missalette, missal or another Mass aid, such as the Magnificat.

Additional copies: NCRegister.com; click "Resources."

Why (and How) to Return to Sunday Mass

The Register's clip-out, photocopy and pass-on guides for Advent

Quick Tip 5 Dress up for God and wear modest clothing.

Common 'Good Excuses'

Why go? God wants you to! See No. 1 at left.

I don't have to go to church to pray. Yes, you can pray anywhere. But the Mass is the Church's greatest prayer.

I am mad at the Church. Unfortunately, many people feel this way, especially due to the scandals. The Church is made up of flawed people, but the Church is Christ's, first and foremost. And Jesus wants you to be a part of his body.

I don't feel different after Mass. Strive to focus on each part of the Mass: the songs, the prayers, the readings — and, most importantly, the Eucharist. Even if the homily isn't enlightening or the music is not to your liking, Jesus offers you his Body and Blood.

I'm too busy.

Sunday Mass is one hour of your week. It should be the best hour of your week.

I don't feel worthy. No one is. That's why we need Mass and confession, where Christ offers himself and his healing to us.



Quick Tip 7 Go to Mass with family or friends. Mass is a community prayer.



Quick Tip 4 Bow your head as a sign of reverence before receiving Communion.

9 Mass offers the faithful the Living Bread (John 6:51, 54, 56).

Quick Tip 5 Pray the Anima Christi prayer after receiving Communion: Soul of Christ, sanctify me. Body of Christ, save me. Blood of Christ, indelibly mark me. Water from Christ's side, wash me. Passion of Christ, strengthen me. O good Jesus, hear me. Within thy wounds, hide me. Suffer me not to be separated from thee. From the malicious enemy, defend me. In the hour of my death call me. And bid me come unto thee, that I may praise with thy angels, forever and ever. Amen. — EWTN.com

10 The Catechism tells us that Mass unites us with Jesus, Mary and the saints (1419).

"Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight."

— Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the General Roman Calendar

Why (and How) to Return to Confession

The Register's clip-out, photocopy and pass-on guides for Advent

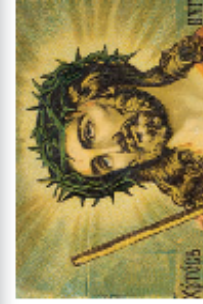


Peace Of Mind

This Advent, the Register encourages readers to go to confession and recommend it to friends and family. The guide provided here can help. As Pope Francis has reminded us, when speaking about God's mercy, "in the confessional ... is an encounter with Jesus."

Jesus "donates to us the peace that only he gives," he said. Pope Francis also explained that being ashamed of sins is "not only natural; it's a virtue that helps prepare us for God's forgiveness."

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops offers an Examination of Conscience based on the Ten Commandments (at right and online at USCCB.org).



1 I am the Lord your God: You shall not have strange Gods before me. Have I treated people, events or things as more important than God?

Step 1 Examine your conscience.

2 You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain. Have my words, actively or passively, put down God, the Church or people?

Step 2 When you enter the confessional or go behind the screen, the priest will bless you and greet you.

3 Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day. Do I go to Mass every Sunday (or Saturday vigil) and on holy days of obligation (Jan. 1; the Ascension; Aug. 15; Nov. 1; Dec. 8; Dec. 25)? Do I avoid, when possible, work that impedes worship to God, joy for the Lord's Day and proper relaxation of mind and body? Do I look for ways to spend time with family or in service on Sundays?

7 You shall not steal. Have I taken or wasted time or resources that belonged to another?

Step 6 Make an Act of Contrition, such as this traditional version: "God, I am heartily sorry for having offended you, and I detest all my sins because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell; but most of all because they offend you, my God, who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve with the help of your grace to confess my sins, do penance and to amend my life."

8 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. Have I gossiped, told lies or embellished stories at the expense of another?

Step 8 Acting in the person of Christ, the priest will absolve you of your sins.

9 You shall not covet your neighbor's spouse. Have I honored my spouse with my full affection and exclusive love?

10 You shall not covet your neighbor's goods. Am I content with my own means and needs or do I compare myself to others unnecessarily?

Step 9 Do your penance. Then leave the church with the peace of forgiveness — and rejoicing! — Accepted from USCCB.org

Step 3 Make the Sign of the Cross and say, "Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. It has been [give weeks, months or years] since my last confession."

4 Honor your father and your mother. Do I show my parents due respect? Do I seek to maintain good communication with my parents where possible? Do I criticize them for lacking skills I think they should have?

Step 4 Confess your sins, most importantly any mortal sins. If you need help examining your conscience, the priest will assist you.

5 You shall not kill. Have I harmed another through physical, verbal or emotional means, including gossip or manipulation of any kind?



Step 5 The priest will assign you a penance and perhaps offer a word of advice/encouragement.

6 You shall not commit adultery. Have I respected the physical and sexual dignity of others and of myself?

What Is Sin?

"Sin is an act contrary to reason. It wounds man's nature and injures human solidarity" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1872).

Mortal vs. Venial

What constitutes "mortal sin"? "For a sin to be mortal, three conditions must together be met: 'Mortal sin is sin whose object is grave matter and which is also committed with full knowledge and deliberate consent'" (Catechism, 1857).

The Catechism continues (1858): "Grave matter is specified by the Ten Commandments, corresponding to the answer of Jesus to the rich young man: 'Do not kill; do not commit adultery; do not steal; do not bear false witness; do not defraud; honor your father and your mother.' The gravity of sins is more or less great. Murder is graver than theft. One must also take into account violence against a stranger."

In addition, "Mortal sin requires full knowledge and complete consent. It presupposes knowledge of the sinful character of the act, of its opposition to God's law. It also implies a consent sufficiently deliberate to be a personal choice. Feigned ignorance and hardness of heart do not diminish, but rather increase, the voluntary character of a sin" (1859).

What is "venial sin"? As the Catechism explains,

"One commits venial sin when, in a less serious matter, he does not observe the standard prescribed by the moral law or when he disobeys the moral law in a grave matter but without full knowledge or without complete consent" (1862).



Additional copies: NCRegister.com; click "Resources."