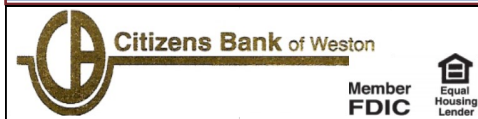


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The Lewis County Catholic Times

A Weekly Bulletin for Saint Patrick Catholic Church, Weston, West Virginia

Established 1848

**Feast of the Ascension:
A Key that Unlocks the
Meaning of Life***"Today our Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven; let our hearts ascend with him. Listen to the words of the Apostle: If you have risen with Christ, set your hearts on the things that are above where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God; seek the things that are above, not the things that are on earth. For just as he remained with us even after his ascension, so we too are already in heaven with him, even though what is promised us has not yet been fulfilled in our bodies." (St. Augustine)*

Throughout most of the Catholic Church we celebrated the Ascension of the Lord this past Thursday. In some places, the Feast is transferred to this Sunday. Sadly, the Feast seems to have lost its depth and meaning in the experience of too many Catholics and other Christians. Does the Ascension affect our lives in the here and now? Is it a commemoration of an event which occurred 2000 years ago? Or, could it be the key that helps unlock the very meaning of our lives and the plan of God for the entire created order?

The great western Bishop Augustine proclaimed these words on the Feast: "Today our Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven; let our hearts ascend with him. Listen to the words of the Apostle: If you have risen with Christ, set your hearts on the things that are above where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God; seek the things that are above, not the things that are on earth. For just as he remained with us even after his ascension, so we too are already in heaven with him, even though what is promised us has not yet been fulfilled in our bodies."

When we went down into the Font of Baptism we were incorporated into Jesus Christ, made members of His Body, the Church. Therefore, as Augustine also wrote, "Where the Head is, there is the Body, where I am, there is my Church, we too are one; the Church is in me and I in her and we two are your Beloved and your Lover." In other words, we have ascended with the Lord! He is the Head and we are members of His Body. We cannot be separated. Augustine, reflect-



Jesus Christ bridged heaven and earth. Through His Incarnation, His Saving Life, Death and Resurrection, we have been set free from the consequences of sin, including the sting of death. (See, 1 Cor. 15:55) We are being created anew in Him daily as we freely cooperate with His grace. One of the Catechism's definitions of grace is "a participation in Divine Life". (See, CCC #1997) It calls to mind the wonderful words of the Apostle Peter in his second letter. He reminded the early Christians that they were "participants in the Divine Nature". (2 Peter 1:4) So are we!

This Divine Life is mediated to us through the Word and the Sacraments - in the Church. We are incorporated into the Trinitarian communion of love, beginning now. The Church is not some "thing", the Church is Some-One, the Risen Christ truly present in the world which was created through Him and is being re-created in Him. The Church is the new Israel sent into the world to continue His redemptive mission until He comes again. Then He will complete the work of Redemption. The Church, as the fathers were fond of saying, is the new world, and the world in the course of transfiguration. The Christian vocation is about learning to live this new relationship in Christ together, with the Father, through the Holy Spirit and for the sake of a world that still awaits its full redemption.

Continued on page 3

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Schedule _____ Pg. 5



Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Join Fr. DeViese on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in May 2018. The trip will include visits to all major Biblical sites, including the holiest sites in Christianity in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, and the Sea of Galilee. (Also, a possibility of an optional extension trip to Rome for a few days at the end.)

Stay updated on cost and final itinerary by signing up for information at:

www.travelillume.com/trc/lpa

Those who sign up through the website will be given first priority once registration opens.



Happy Retirement!

We would like to congratulate Mary Hendricks on her retirement. Mary has faithfully served our parish as Pastoral Associate for 11 years and our school as Director of Development for 26 years. We are all inspired by her dedication and enthusiasm. Congratulations, Mary! And God's blessings on your retirement!

Retirement Party

Sunday, June 4, following the 9:30 Mass in the School Cafeteria

**Parish Office
Closed**

The parish office will be closed on Monday, May 29 in observance of the Memorial Day holiday. Please take a moment to pray for who have died in service to our nation.



Parish Store

Don't forget to check out our parish store, located in the Convent building. Lots of nice religious articles, books, rosaries, statues, and more. Catalogues are available for ordering.



Congratulations to those who have been baptized this month:

- Dominic Ecton, May 13
- JonLucas Ecton, May 13
- Joseph Pickens, May 20
- Aubrey Pickens, May 20
- Griffin Morschauser, May 26
- Hattie Long, May 26

We also want to congratulate two ladies from our RCIA class who were baptized, confirmed, and received their First Holy Communion:

- Brandi Francis, May 24
- Michelle Droppleman, May 24

May God continue to bless all of these families for many years to come!

**Commentary for the Readings in the
Extraordinary Form:
Sunday within the Octave of Ascension**



"When. . .the Spirit of truth. . .has come, He will bear witness concerning Me. And you also bear witness. . .The hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering worship to God" (Gospel).

The Apostles make the first Novena, recommended by Christ Himself, in preparation for the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Introit presents their Novena prayer, and ours, too. In the background St. Stephen is shown being stoned to death. The cross upside down, indicates how St. Peter was crucified. We are to "bear witness" to Christ and His Church against a world that will condemn us to death. thinking that they are "offering worship to God" (Gospel).

A witness! Yes, interiorly, to "be watchful in prayers;" exteriorly, by "mutual charity among yourselves" (Epistle). For this we now offer "this. . .sacrifice" (Secret), to "purify us" from past disloyalties and to "strengthen" us for future testimony.

— Excerpted from My Sunday Missal, Confraternity of the Precious Blood

**Liturgical Calendar for the
Traditional Latin Mass
During the Week**

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 05/29 | St. Mary Magdalen of Pazzi, <i>Virgin</i> |
| 05/30 | St. Felix I, <i>Pope & Martyr</i> |
| 05/31 | Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary |
| 06/01 | St. Angela Merici, <i>Virgin</i> |
| 06/02 | SS Marcellinus, Peter, & Erasmus, <i>Martyrs</i> |
| 06/03 | Vigil of Pentecost |

**Pope Francis "Tweets"
@ Pontifex**

With the Ascension of Jesus, we participate in the fullness of life with God. Let us carry this in our hearts in our daily lives.

This Week's Liturgical Calendar

Saturday—May 27

Saint Augustine of Canterbury

6:00p Vigil Mass of the Ascension of the Lord for People of the Parish

RDGS: Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9; Eph 1:17-23; Mt 26:16-20

Sunday — May 28

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

8:45a Confessions

9:30a Mass for Bob Stewart by Wayne and Rose Neal

RDGS: Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9; Ep 1:17-23; Mt 28:16-20

11:45a Confessions

12:30p Mass (Latin) for †Rev. Karl Wohinc

Sunday after the Ascension

Monday — May 29

Monday of the Seventh Week of Easter (St. Bridget Church, Goosepen)

9:30a Mass for Living and deceased people of the St. Bridget Area

RDGS: Acts 19:1-8; Ps 68:2-; Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday — May 30

Tuesday of the Seventh Week of Easter

8:15a Mass for † John and Clara Gould by Jim and Tammy Arsenault

RDGS: Acts 20:17-27; Ps 68:10-11, 20-21; Jn 17:1-11A

Wednesday — May 31

THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

5:00p Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

5:05p Confessions

5:30p Rosary and Miraculous Medal Novena

5:45p Benediction

6:00p Mass for †Irene Mick by family

RDGS: Zep 3:14-18a; or Rom 12:9-16; Ps 12:2-3, 4bcd; Lk 1:39-56

Thursday — June 1

Saint Justin, Martyr

8:15a Mass for †Charles Garton by Deborah K. Garton

RDGS: Acts 22:30, 23:6-11; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11; Jn 17:20-26

Friday — June 2

Saints Marcellinus and Peter, Martyrs

8:15a Mass for †Alice Murray by Wayne and Rose Neal

RDGS: Acts 25:13b-21; Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20b; Jn 21:15-19

Saturday— June 3

Saint Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs

6:00p Vigil Mass of Pentecost for †Joseph Ellison by Kathy Riley

RDGS: Gn 11:1-9; Ps 104:1-2,24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30; Rom 8:22-27; Jn 37-39

Sunday — June 4

PENTECOST

8:45a Confessions

9:30a Mass for People of the Parish

RDGS: Acts 2:1-11; Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34; 1Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23

11:45a Confessions

12:30p Mass (Latin) for †Special Intentions

Pentecost Sunday

MASS INTENTIONS: Please contact the parish office or use one of the envelopes in the vestibule to schedule your Mass Intentions.

St. Patrick Catholic Church

210 Center Avenue
Weston, West Virginia 26452
www.spchurchweston.net
304-269-3048

Parish Staff:

Rev. James R. DeViese, Jr., J.C.L.
pastor@spchurchweston.net

Sandra Mick, Parish Secretary
secretary@spchurchweston.net

Weekend Masses:

Saturday, 6:00 p.m.,
Sunday, 9:30 a.m.,
12:30 p.m. (Latin)

Weekday Masses: M, T, Th, F, 8:15 a.m. Wed., 6:00 p.m.

Confessions: Wednesday and Saturday, 5:00pm, Sunday, 8:45 & 11:45 a.m.

Eucharistic Adoration: See Weekly Schedule

(See Weekly Schedule for any changes to times or location!)

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Sunday: 10:30 - 12:30
Monday: 9 - 4
Tuesday: 9 - 4
Wednesday: 9 - 1
Thursday: 1 - 8
Friday: 9 - 1

Prayer Chain: Micki Snyder, 304 269-3688 or 304 476-8819

St. Patrick Catholic School

Pre-School – 8th Grade
224 Center Ave.
Weston, WV 26452
www.stpatswv.org
304-269-5547
email: st.pats@stpatswv.org

Maureen Gildein, Principal
Regina Frazier, Secretary

Kids' Corner Catechesis

Why Is Hell Dark If They Have Fires?

The Bible uses a lot of pictures to give us an idea of what heaven and hell are like. Fire means burning and pain. Do you remember having a fever? You felt you were burning up, but there was no flame. Darkness means loneliness. Can you imagine anything more lonely than sitting by yourself in total darkness? What God is telling us is that hell is a terrible place. We certainly don't want to go there

Key Verses

[Jesus is speaking] "And many ... shall be thrown into outer darkness. They will be put in the place of crying and pain." (Matthew 8:12)

Related Verse

Luke 16:28; Revelation 20:15

Note to Parents

Children hear conflicting descriptions of hell. They hear that hell is a dark place (Matthew 8:12) and yet a lake of fire (Revelation 19:20). (They may also have heard that it is cold.) Instead of grasping the meanings of these metaphors, the child is taking the images concretely.

Altar Server Boot Camp!

All current and prospective Altar Servers entering **grades 3-8**, who have received their First Holy communion are invited to participate in this year's Training Session. Those who do not participate will not be included on the schedule until other arrangements are made with Fr. DeViese.

Boot Camp lasts from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., on Tuesday, June 13 through Friday, June 16.

Training for high school students will take place later in the summer.



Knights of Columbus

In service to One, In service to all.

Monthly Meeting is the first Tuesday of the each month @ 7 pm.

www.kofc1415.org



Catholic Daughters of the Americas

ALL Catholic women 18 and older are invited to join the Catholic Daughters. Find out more by going to catholicdaughters.org.

Formed in 1903, the Catholic Daughters of the Americas® is one of the Oldest and Largest Organizations of Catholic Women in the Americas.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May

29 Mon: 9:30, Mass at St. Bridget Church in Goosepen
29 Mon: Parish office closed

June

4 Sun: 10:30, Mary's retirement party, cafeteria
13-17: 9 - 1, Altar Server Boot Camp
26-30: 9 - 12: Vacation Bible School

Weekly Attendance & Collection

Saturday: 81
Sunday: 209
Latin Mass: 19

General: \$3588
Loan: \$330
School: \$322
Latin Mass: \$330
Trinity Dome: \$225

Upcoming Collections and Appeals

June 3 & 4: Peter's Pence

Ministry Schedule for Next Weekend

Saturday, June 3, 2017

Greeters: Junior & Veronica Brumley
Servers: Christian & Jackqueline Mullins, Jayna Jerden
Reader: Teresa Angotti
Offertory: Jerden family
EMHC: Mike Determan
Cantor: Brenda Reed

Sunday, June 4, 2017

Greeters: Dave & Becky King
Servers: Haley Kiro, Payton & Jordyn Aman
Reader: Danielle Mick
Offertory: Nick and Erica Kiro & family
EMHC: Rose Neal
Cantor: Brenda Riley

June Linens:

June Funeral Greeters: Jim Bohan and Shirley Hubbs

Parish Prayer List

Of your charity, please offer prayers for...

- ♦ **Those who are sick:** Mary Ann Edwards, (Allegheny Hospital), Luanne Cunningham, (Health South), Rev. Leo Lydon, Jeff Linger, Jim Kerrigan, Violet Angotti, Larry Dodson, Marsha Garton, Linda Heater, Mary Groover, Bobby Gill, Nick Bakas, James Carni, Steve Colburn, Rose Determan, Robert Fealy, Shelly Kraus, Mary Ann Murray, Julieta Rilling, Burke Riley, Mike Riley, Tim Rinehart
- ♦ **Those who have died:** Mary Margaret McLaughlin, Harold Smith (Bernie Smith's husband) 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:** Alan Hamilton, Aaron Hamilton

St. Patrick School Now Enrolling!!!

St. Patrick School is accepting registrations for the 2017-2018 school year for students in Pre-School through 8th grade. For more information, visit our website at www.stpatswv.org or call the school office at 269-5547.

St. Patrick School Is Now Hiring!

St. Patrick School is now accepting applications for teacher and teacher assistant positions for 2017-2018 school year. Call the school office (269-5547) for more information or pick up an application in the school office.

Parish Membership & Benefits: To be considered an "active" member of the parish (and thus eligible for Sacraments, sponsor eligibility, and the "Catholic tuition" rate at St. Patrick's School), the parish takes into account family & individual involvement in parish life and ministries, and Mass attendance. Mass attendance is only able to be tracked accurately via collection envelopes. If you are not receiving envelopes currently, please contact the parish office. Parishioners over 18 are encouraged to register as their own household to help us keep records accurate and up-to-date.



CAMP BOSCO

(4weeks to choose from!)
July 2 - 8
July 9 - 15
July 16 - 22
July 23 - 29
grades 3rd-12th.

Cost is \$315.00 per child
(Scholarships are available)

Registrations for Camp Bosco are being accepted. All parish youth are encouraged to come spend a week of fun, adventure, and prayer. Applications are available online at camp-bosco.com.

How Can I Help?

The following items are collected continually at our church.

- Snack food items for our backpack food program.
- Box tops, Coke reward points for the school.
- Used ink cartridges and can tabs for Ronald McDonald House.
- Old towels, sheets, and blankets for animal rescues, shelters, and vet offices.
- NEW socks collected by the Catholic Daughters to be donated to homeless shelters.

Need Help? Get Help!

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.

Pastoral Notes & Ramblings

The month of May is inherently identified with thoughts of spring, of new life, of growth and renewal. As the Easter Season begins to transition us into Pentecost and to direct us into the second phase of Ordinary Time, we see how the world around us has begun to brighten. The days are longer. Tree blossoms have begun to fade and give way to the verdant hue of spring leaves. Hatchlings have begun to take flight and are on their way toward maturity. And as we sit and ponder the awesome power of God's Creation and His ever-present work among us, a glance back at our own parish's life in this month is a nice parallel.

Our very first taste of May saw us basking in the glow of the warm spring sunshine and welcoming to the Table of the Lord 16 new young people! For any modern parish that number is impressive. For a parish our size, it is simply astounding. And it is a testament to the life that still courses through our faith community and to the families who continue to strive to hand on to the next generation the Faith that we ourselves have received. Seeing these young people approaching the altar and receiving Holy Communion with expressions of sheer joy is one of the great blessings of priesthood. I commented the other day how invigorating it is to see the excitement on their faces as they come forward, knowing *whom* they are receiving and what that means for them as Catholics.

At the same time that we celebrated First Holy Communion for our young people, we redirected ourselves to Our Blessed Mother. In this 100th anniversary year of the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima, I truly hope that all our parishioners are seeking to increase their own private devotions to the Mother of Our Lord. Marian devotion is, of course, a recognizable hallmark of Catholicism, and it is so important to the life of the Christian, because without her example of how to say "Yes!" to God's will in our lives, we may not have had our Savior to begin with! It seems a bit extreme to say

that, but there is truth in it. Our devotion to Mary is central to our understanding of Christ because she was the first to believe in Him. She was the first to receive His flesh and blood into herself (at the Immaculate Conception). She was the first to share Him with the world (Epiphany). Much of what we take for granted in our relationship with Jesus, Mary was the first to do. And she should always be our example and model of what it means to be a Christian—to live lives of virtue and holiness, to be docile to the will of God in our lives, and love Jesus with a love that is unconditional, absolute, and unending.

More than just an example, though, is the power of Mary's intercession for us. Catholics are often criticized for honoring Mary and praying to her, usually with convenient quips like "Well, I just pray directly to God." My response has always been, "That's nice. I do too. So do you never ask other people to pray for you? If you ask the living to pray for you when you can pray directly to God yourself, why wouldn't you ask those who are already in Heaven to do the same?" The intercession of Mary is even more powerful, though, because of her special relationship to Jesus. Kings in the line of David, after being crowned, maintained a very special tradition: they offered to their mother a crown as Queen. The mother of the King was never denied access to her son, and she was privileged to be able to ask of him any request, which the King would have to honor. These facts are documented throughout the Old Testament. And the logic then holds that if Jesus Christ is truly a King in the line of David (which he is), then He most certainly would have honored His mother with a queenship, and could not possibly deny the request of His Mother. And for those who may still have hesitation about entrusting your prayers to Mary or are afraid that your devotion to her might in some way eclipse your love of Jesus, remember that you will never be able to love Mary more than Jesus did!

It is no coincidence, then, that May—a month dedicated to the Blessed Virgin—is also a time in which we honor all mothers. We pause as a nation on the second Sunday of May to honor our mothers—those who have given us life, who have raised us and taught us the important lessons of life, who nurture and support us, and who love us unconditionally. While it is true that some have not been the fortunate beneficiaries of this model of motherhood, the majority can point to someone in



their life who has, in some way, modeled the virtues of motherhood to them in a variety of ways. To all mothers—past, present and future, potential, actual, and everything in between—we entrust you to the care of the Mother of Our Lord, that she be especially for you a model of all virtue and grace in your lives.

May also seems to be the season of graduations and moving forward. We were blessed to honor six high school seniors from our parish who will be moving on to bigger and better things. There have been countless speeches given about the nature of graduation, growth, moving forward, etc. And they all have as their theme leaving something behind and moving forward to something greater. Indeed with all the hope and aspiration that surrounds graduation, it is impossible not to look ahead to what is yet unknown. It is, in some way, a pale vision of



the Christian life which, as we continue to move forward from one chapter of our lives to the next, leads us continually toward the horizon of human existence, confident in the future. Despite trepidation and the natural fear of not knowing, we pilgrims on our journey forge ever onward with confidence

in Divine Providence and in the Faith which sustains us. Our prayer as a parish ought to be that very thing for our graduating seniors—that they entrust themselves and their journey to Divine Providence. We have entrusted them with the Faith. It is now up to them to make it the source of their strength and the benchmark of their lives. May they go always with God and dare to be the Saints that He has created them to be!

Overall, this month has been an excellent time for our entire parish to reflect on all the blessings that the Lord has given to us. The community of St. Patrick's continues to move forward, to grow and to change and to strive to model itself as a church built of Living Stones, people after God's own heart. We have had 8 baptisms this month, 16 First Holy Communions, and 2 adult Confirmations. What joy should be filling our hearts as we prepare for Pentecost and the feasts that follow (Trinity Sunday and Corpus Christi)! May the Lord who has ascended to Heaven pour His Holy Spirit into our hearts and continue to fill our community with His grace and peace!

Ascension, Cont. from page 1

The Ascension of the Lord is not a final act in the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ. Nor is it some kind of "intermission" to be concluded upon Christ's Bodily return - which will most certainly occur. Rather, it is about a new way of being, living in Christ in the here and now. The Apostle Paul wrote to the early Christians in Galatia: "No longer do I live but Christ lives in me and the life I now live I live by faith in the Son of God." (Galatians 2:19, 20) That is how we are invited to live, now.

Jesus said "Abide in me as I in you" (John 15:4). These are not mere sentiments of piety but meant to become reality, now. Christians can live differently - now - because we live "in" Jesus Christ. We can love differently - now - because we love "in" Jesus Christ. We can "be" differently - now - because, as St. Paul wrote to the Colossians, "For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God". (Coll. 3:3) Our lives are "hidden in Christ"- now.

On this Feast of the Ascension we should ask ourselves this question, "How are we doing?" The Feast presents us with an invitation to assess the relationship between our profession of faith and its manifestation in our daily lives. St. Paul encouraged the Christians in Corinth in his second letter to take such an examination: "Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you? Unless, of course, you fail the test. I hope you will discover that we have not failed"

Philosophers and Theologians speak of "ontology" as the essence of being, what makes something what it is. There is an "ontological" meaning to this Feast of the Ascension. We have ascended with Him and

are called to live on earth the very realities of heaven, beginning now. This Feast also gives us insight into the Feast of Pentecost which we will soon celebrate. The "breath" of God, His Spirit, has been breathed into this Church - and thus into each one of us - in order to capacitate us to live this way and engage in His ongoing work of redemption.

That work will not be complete until the One who ascended returns and hands the re-created cosmos back to the Father. That is "the plan", the "mystery" now revealed in Jesus Christ. That is what I meant as I began this reflection when I asked whether the Ascension is the key that helps unlock the very meaning of our lives and the plan of God for the entire created order?

Let me conclude with these words of the great Apostle and mystic Paul who reflects on this plan:

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens, as he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him. In love he destined us for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ, in accord with the favor of his will, for the praise of the glory of his grace that he granted us in the beloved. In him we have redemption by his blood, the forgiveness of transgressions, in accord with the riches of his grace that he lavished upon us.

"In all wisdom and insight, he has made known to us the mystery of his will in accord with his favor that he set forth in him as a plan for the fullness of times, to sum up all things in Christ, in heaven and on earth.... In him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, which is the first installment of



June 26 - June 30, 9 am to Noon

\$20 per child, \$30 per family

Scholarships available

Register in the Parish Office

our inheritance toward redemption as God's possession, to the praise of his glory." (Ephesians 1:3-14)
Happy Feast!

VBS Volunteers **Needed!**

We are seeking volunteers to help out with Vacation Bible School this summer. Lots of jobs available: coordinating activities, snack preparation, crafts, games, general crowd control, etc. To sign up, please send an email to Deborah Stevens (Fr. Josh Stevens' mom) at

deborah.stevens.

stevens

@gmail.com

