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(304) 884-7825
M-F 8:30-5:30



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Call 304-269-3048**

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Tuesday, November 12
6:00 p.m.
\$10 (Suggested donation)
We invite you to be part of the SoulCore
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ened physically and spiritually in His
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November 11, 2018

Thirty-Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

Volume III, Issue 45

The Lewis County Catholic Times

*A Weekly Bulletin for the parishes of Saint Patrick Catholic Church, Weston,
Saint Boniface Catholic Church, Camden and Good Shepherd Mission, Glenville, West Virginia*
Established 1848

Thirty-Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

The first reading is taken from the First Book of Kings 17:10-16. In this reading we have one of the many miracles attributed to Elijah, the great prophet who preached in the northern kingdom between 900 and 850 BC.

The second reading is from St. Paul's Epistle to the Hebrews 9:24-28. This epistle continues with its description of Christ as the high priest of the New Testament and his superiority over those of the Old Testament.

The Gospel is from the Gospel of St. Mark 12:38-44. Our Lord's severe condemnation of those Scribes whose exaggerated opinion of their own importance made a mockery of the religion they professed to live, is a serious warning to all his followers not to look for the praise and esteem of their neighbors when doing their good works, but rather to hope for God's praise and esteem in the future world. In another context, he said to his followers: "Because of practicing your piety before men in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven . . . when you give alms do not let your left hand know what your right is doing ... and your Father who sees in secret will reward you . . . when you pray go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father ... who sees in secret and will reward you" (Mt. 6: 1-6).

It is hardly necessary to say that our Lord is not referring to community prayers or services here. What he is condemning is the hypocrisy of the Scribes, who lengthened their garments and their prayers not in order to give glory to God but to earn the glory of their fellowmen for themselves. Pride was their predominant vice—the vice which caused the fall of angels and of man. It so governed their lives that even their best actions were vitiated by it. There is a strong inclination to pride in

every one of us. The reason is that we have great gifts from God and great capabilities: but we are tempted to claim the credit for these gifts and capabilities for ourselves—whereas we owe them all to God's generosity.



without publicity and without seeking the praise of her neighbors. It is this deep contrast between her outlook on life and on religion, and that of the Scribes in the first that connects the two incidents. While the Scribes sought to earn the

respect and praise of their fellow-Jews—as well as all the financial gain they could come by—from the practice of the externals of their religion, this poor widow's religion was practiced in secret and it was to God alone that she looked for any reward that he might deign to give her. As we saw in today's first reading we can be sure that she was not left without the reward she deserved. The widow of Zarephath was given a temporal reward. The same generous God did not let the similar act of supreme generosity on the part of the widow in Jerusalem go unnoticed. Christ's judgment on the Scribes implies this: They will receive the greater condemnation for their pride, and abuse of religion for their own temporal gain. On the other hand the widow's religion was an act of complete self-renunciation: "she has put in everything she had, her whole living."

A proud Christian is surely a contradiction in terms. A Christian is a follower of Christ whose humility can never be equaled. He was God as well as man. While on earth he emptied himself, as St. Paul puts it, of his divine glory so that he could be like one of us. A follower of Christ should not try to make display of gifts which are not his own, nor try to exalt himself above his neighbor because of something he has which was not given to his neighbor. If Christ wanted to be, and indeed was like the least one among us, we must never try to raise ourselves above our neighbor. Love of neighbor is the second of the two essential commandments—there can be no true love of neighbor where there is pride.

The second incident in today's Gospel story highlights true humility and true charity. The poor widow, forgetful of herself and of her own needs gave her all, her last penny, to help others who were in need. She made this sacrifice

We may never be called on to share our last morsel with a starving neighbor but if we are, we must remember that Christ gave his very life for us and has asked us to do likewise, if necessary. It may never be necessary for us to make this supreme act of self-renunciation. If, however, we are sincerely practicing our religion, we must be ever-ready to help a neighbor in need even if this cuts into our hard-earned reserves. The greater the sacrifice, the greater the reward.

Excerpted from The Sunday Readings by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

What's Inside...

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Weekly Liturgical Calendar, & Mass Intentions

**St. Patrick
Catholic Church**
210 Center Avenue
Weston, West Virginia
26452
www.spchurchweston.org
304-269-3048
304-269-1244 (fax)

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

Associate Pastor:
Fr. Binny Thomas Mulackal
(304) 462-7130
bmulackal@dwc.org

Secretary:
Sandra Mick, Parish Secretary
secretary@spchurchweston.net

Parish Office Hours:
Sunday, 10:30 - 12:30
Monday, 9 - 4
Tuesday, 9 - 4
Wednesday, Noon - 5:00
Thursday, 9 - 1
Friday, 9 - 1

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

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.

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

Eucharistic Adoration:
Wednesday, 5:00 to 5:45p.m.

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

Saturday— November 10
Saint Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the
Church
6:00p Mass for †Bonnie Swecker by
Family

Sunday — November 11
Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:45a Confessions
9:30a Mass for People of the Parish
11:45p Confessions
12:30p Mass for †Sonny Walker by Robert
D'Aurora
(Latin Mass, 5th Resumed Sunday after
Epiphany)

Monday — November 12
Saint Josaphat, Bishop and Martyr
8:15a Mass for All Veterans, Living and
Deceased

Tuesday — November 13
Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini
8:15a Mass for Mary Policano

Wednesday — November 14
Wednesday of the 32nd Week in Ordinary
Time
5:00p Confessions
6:00p Mass for †James Blake by family

Thursday — November 15
Saint Albert the Great, Bishop and Doctor
of the Church
8:15a Mass for †Cathy Snuffer by Joe and
Sara Murray

Friday — November 16
Saint Margaret of Scotland; Saint Gertrude,
Virgin
8:15a Mass for †Rev. John McBride

Saturday— November 17
Saint Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the
Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious
6:00p Mass for †Michael Rafferty by Sue
and James Rafferty

Sunday — November 18
Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:45a Confessions
9:30a Mass for †Francis J. Lydon by Ed
and Sue Lydon
11:45p Confessions
12:30p Mass for People of the Parish
(Latin Mass, 6th Resumed Sunday after
Epiphany)

Weekly Scripture Readings

12 Mon
Ti 1:1-9/Ps 24:1b-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 17:1-6
13 Tue
Ti 2:1-8, 11-14/Ps 37:3-4, 18, 23, 27, 29
Lk 17:7-10
14 Wed
Ti 3:1-7/Ps 23:1-6/Lk 17:11-19
15 Thu
Phlm 7-20/Ps Ps 146:7, 8-9a, 9bc-10/Lk
17:20-25
16 Fri
2 Jn 4-9/Ps 119:1, 2, 10, 11, 17, 18/Lk
17:26-37
17 Sat
3 Jn 5-8/PS 112:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 18:1-8
18 Sun
Dn 12:1-3/Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11/Heb 10:11-
14, 18/Mk 13:24-32

**Liturgical Calendar for the
Traditional Latin Mass**

11/12 St. Martin I, Pope & Martyr
11/13 St. Frances Xavier Cabrini,
Virgin
11/14 St. Josaphat, Bishop and Martyr
11/15 St. Albert the Great, Bishop and
Doctor of the Church
11/16 St. Gertrude the Great
11/17 St. Gregory the Wonderworker,
Bishop & Confessor

Mass Intentions

Having the Holy Sacrifice of Mass offered
is more effective than flowers or memorial
gifts for your deceased loved ones or as a
special intention for a living person or
special occasion. Mass Intentions can be
placed in a “Mass Intention” envelope and
placed in the collection basket or dropped
off to the parish office. Please indicate if
the person is living or deceased and the
date you would like the Mass to be said.
Mass dates are filled on a “first come, first
serve” basis.

**St. Patrick Catholic
School**

Pre-School – 8th Grade

224 Center Ave.
Weston, WV 26452
304-269-5547
www.stpatswv.org
email: st.pats@stpatswv.org

Dr. Ian E. Scheu, Principal
Regina Frazier, Secretary

Prayer List

Of your charity, please offer prayers for...

- **Those who are sick:** Ann Alderman, Mike Allman, Norma Aman, Nick Bakas, Alice Blake, Jack Bohan, Patty Burkhammer, Hampton Castleberry, Judi Conell, Anna Crim, Brad Curtis, Madison Jane Cunningham, Ed and Grace deLorenzo, Paul Derico, Rose Determan, Rose Anita Duley, Amanda Engstrom, Robert Fealy, Pam Gross, Lori Hamrick, James Shaver & Carl Ford (Lynne Shaver’s dad and step-dad), John Horne, Ed Hubbs, Robbie Klotz, Kent Kral, Agnes Kraus, Ryan Kreitzer, Jack Lang, Jeff Linger, Mary Ann McClain, Betty Maddix, Philomena Martin, Julia Marsh, Mary Ann Murray, Susan Murray, Rose Neal, Jean Ott, Emma Pascasio, Sara Queen, Vicky Radcliffe, Buck Ratliff, Betty Reed, Mike Riley, Amanda Roberts, Donna Roberts, Greg Stark, Mary Stillwell, Ben Timmer, Sherry VanLeewen, Aimee Wehrman, George Whelan, Jane White
- **Those who have died:** May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.
- **All Military Personnel:** Alan Hamilton, Aaron Hamilton, R. Brody Springer, Bobby Summers
- **Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life**
- **Those battling addiction**
- **Those who are homebound, in assisted living or nursing homes.**

Ministry Schedule for Weekend Masses November 17 & 18, 2018

Saturday, November 17, 2018
Servers: Marley Riley, Brady Jordan, Hayden Barnette
Reader: Teresa Angotti
EMHC: J. J. Jordan, John Weber, Micki Snyder
Cantor: Diane Collins

Sunday, November 18, 2018
Servers: Dylan O’Sullivan, Jack Paugh, Michael Riley
Reader: Joe Flesher
EMHC: Butch Cain, Judy Foster, Joe Derico, Betty Hill, Jim Mehr
Cantor: Dr. Ian Scheu

November Rosary Leaders:
Wednesday: Micki Snyder
Saturday:
Sunday: Micki Snyder

November Linens: Kathy Boyle
November & December Funeral Greeters: Mary Wagoner, Mary Ellen Rittenhouse

Weekly Attendance &
Collection

Saturday: 77
Sunday: 199
Latin Mass: 43

General: \$4006
Loan: \$350
School: \$600
Latin Mass: \$245
Loan Balance: \$114,031.94

Second and Special Collections
Nov. 10 & 11: Disaster Relief,
Catholic Charities
Dec. 9 & 10: National Appeal for the
Religious Retirement Fund
24 & 25: Catholic Charities West
Virginia

***Please arrive at least
20 minutes prior to the
beginning of Mass if
you are schedule for a
ministry.***

***If you are unable to
serve, it is your
responsibility to find a
substitute.***

2018 Catholic Sharing Appeal Update

Almost Heaven

Thank you to everyone who has given to the 2018
Catholic Sharing Appeal. St. Patrick is at **89%** with 49
gifts totaling \$17,213.
Donations can be made online at [http://
csa.dwcministries.org/](http://csa.dwcministries.org/).

Traditional Latin Mass

The Traditional Latin Mass (the Extraordinary
Form of the Roman Rite) is offered weekly at St.
Patrick Church in Weston. Confessions begin at 11:45
followed by Mass at 12:30. The second Sunday of each
month is the traditional “High” Mass with music and
the choir. Everyone is invited. This Mass does count as
your weekend Mass obligation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November

Our Neighbor Collection
November—Toothpaste

13, 20, 27 Tue: 6pm, SoulCore,
school
11 Sun: 11-2, Spaghetti Dinner, St.
Patrick School Cafeteria
12 Mon: Parish Office Closed
13 Tue: 6pm, Sacristan training, SP
13 Tue: 7pm, Extraordinary Ministers
of Holy Communion Training, SP
14 Wed: 6:30, Lector training, SP
15 Thu: 6pm, Extraordinary
Ministers of Holy Communion
Training, SP
15 Thu: 7pm, Sacristan training, SP
15 Thu: 7pm, Extraordinary
Ministers of Holy Communion
Training, SP
19 Mon: 6pm, Lector training, SP
19 Mon: 6pm, Catholic Daughters
Meeting, parish meeting room
22 & 23: Parish Office Closed
24 & 25: Food, Toy, Coat and mitten
drive begins
29 Thu: 4pm, St. Patrick School
Foundation meeting

December

Our Neighbor Collection
December—toilet tissue

4, 11, 18 Tue: 6pm, SoulCore, school
3 Mon: 6pm, St. Boniface Pastoral
Council meeting
1 Dec: Knights of Columbus Bean
dinner, St. Patrick School cafeteria
6 Thu: 6pm, St. Patrick Church
Finance Council budget meeting
13 Thu: 6pm St. Patrick Church
Pastoral Council meeting
14 Fri: 7pm, St. Patrick School
Christmas program, gymnasium
16, 17, 18: 6pm, Advent Retreat, St.
Patrick Church
18: St. Patrick Church Advent
Penance Service
23-26: Parish Office Closed

FORMED PICK

The Miracle of Father Kapaun

**Do You Know
This American
War Hero?**

Emil Kapaun—priest,
soldier, and Korean War
hero—was awarded
posthumously the Medal
of Honor, and is also
being considered by the
Vatican for canonization
as a saint.



★★★★★

"A must see film."
—James S., East Dubuque, IL

Watch on formed.org

Christmas Trees Needed for St. Boniface Church

The Saint Boniface Church Altar Society needs Christmas trees to decorate the church for Christmas. Anyone who wishes to donate a tree should contact Susie Cunningham. Thank you!

Annual Thanksgiving Dinner at St. Boniface Catholic Church

The Ratliff / Fallon families will be hosting their annual free Thanksgiving Dinner, on Thanksgiving day 11:30 - 1:30 At St. Boniface parish hall at Camden. Don't be alone on Thanksgiving come and share a traditional thanksgiving dinner with friends and neighbors. Everyone is welcome especially those who are alone, unable to cook or maybe just a couple, (hard to cook thanksgiving dinner for just two). There will be no deliveries and no carry outs until after 1:30. Would like for you to enjoy lunch in a social atmosphere. Reservations are not required but a phone call would be appreciated. Call 304-269-2872, 304-269-2505, 304-884-8267 or 304-884-6977.

Who Wants to Go to the March for Life?

Friday, January 18, 2019, Washington, DC

If you are interested in joining a delegation to attend the March for Life, please contact the parish office by phone or email at 304-269-3048 secretary@spchurchwerston.net.

If enough people are interested, we may be able to charter a bus that would leave from St. Patrick Church.



The Dead Theologians Society

Saints of Yesterday Inspiring Youth of Today

The Dead Theologians Society is a national organization that seeks to engage high school students through prayer, catechesis, and social activity that is rooted in the Catholic tradition and based on the Lives of the Saints. DTS meetings are open to all Catholic high school students and are held in the parish meeting room of St. Patrick Church in Weston.. For more info, text @dts-weston to 81010. The next meeting will be Sunday, November 11 at 6:00 p.m.

Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus meet on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7pm in the St. Patrick School cafeteria. All Catholic men, 18 and older are encouraged to get involved in this vital organization.



In service to One, In service to all.
www.kofc1415.org

Join us for service, fellowship, and spiritual growth!

Need Help? Get Help!

Meetings are held in the basement of St. Patrick School, 224 Center Ave., Weston. Use the door on the side of the school building facing the rectory for AA and NA meetings.

Narcotics Anonymous

NA - Mon. at 7pm

Alcoholics Anonymous

AA - Tues., Thurs., & Sat. at 8pm

Birthday Mass for Sister Eileen

St. Patrick's School would like to invite the St. Patrick's community, alumni, and families to join us in the celebration of Sister Eileen Sinnott's birthday. The celebration will occur on Wednesday, November 28. We will have a special mass at 8:15 a.m., the celebrant will be Fr. McSweeney and the collection taken during that mass will be given to a charity of Sister Eileen's choice. Please join us in honoring our former principal who has done so much for our school, parish, and community!

Backpack Food Program at St. Patrick Church

Food donations for the St. Patrick Church Backpack Food Program can be dropped off to the parish office or placed in the church vestibule. Monetary donations can be made through St. Patrick Church. Please place donations in an envelope and write Backpack program on the envelope. Once again, coordinator Kim Derico is working with the Lewis County Family Resource Network to purchase supplies through the FRN at a discounted price.

Thank you to everyone who continually donates to this program. Thank you to Kim and her family for overseeing this program year after year.

Salvation Army Christmas Bell Ringing

Volunteers are needed to ring the Salvation Army Christmas Bell. The dates are Monday, November 26 and Thursday, December 6 at Shop-N-Save in Weston. One hundred percent of the money collected stays in Lewis County to support the Angel Tree Program. To volunteer please call Missy Jordan at 304-517-8619.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Victory 379

The Catholic Daughters are women of Faith under the patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary, glorifying the Lord, and serving others! The Court is not exclusive to St. Patrick Church. Members can be from any parish that does not have a court. Join us at our next meeting on Monday, November 19 at 6:00 p.m. in the parish meeting room of St. Patrick Church.

Yearly dues are \$30 and are due now. Checks can be made payable to CDA 379 and mailed to P. O. Box 764, Weston, WV 26452.



Parking

Just a gentle reminder, for parishioners and visitors of St. Patrick Church and School, not park in the lot of the Danser Hardware Building. That lot is private property and we do not have permission to park there. Thank you for respecting the wishes of the property owner.

Parish Membership & Benefits:

To be considered an “active” member of the parish (and thus eligible for Sacraments, sponsor eligibility, and the “Active Parishioner Rate of tuition” 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.

Special Second Collection for Disaster Relief this Weekend

Archbishop William E. Lori, Apostolic Administrator for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, has approved a special collection to be held the weekend of Nov. 10-11 in all parishes and missions throughout the diocese to support recovery efforts related to the recent natural disasters that have occurred across the country.

Proceeds from this collection will support the humanitarian and recovery efforts of Catholic Charities USA and Catholic Relief Services and will provide pastoral support and rebuilding assistance to impacted dioceses through the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

As we hold the victims and first responders in our prayers during these critical days, let us also spend time in prayer and discernment as we prepare for this upcoming collection. Let us come together now to support our brothers and sisters in Christ who are suffering this horrible loss.

For those who wish to make a gift now, you may contribute online at <https://catholiccharitiesusa.org>.

Please remember in prayer those who have lost their lives as a result of the storms and flooding, as well as all those who are injured and lost their homes, cars, employment, access to food and water and to those who remain without electricity or are stranded.



Spaghetti Dinner to Raise Money for Christmas Food Baskets

**Sunday, November 11
11-2**

Veterans Eat Free

\$10: adult, \$5: children

Menu: spaghetti, meatballs, salad, bread, dessert and drink. Take out will be available.

Profits will be used to purchase meats and other items needed for our Christmas food baskets. In 2017, 19 families received a food basket from St. Patrick Church. Names for food baskets are given to us by parishioners and we work very hard to insure that those receiving baskets are not taking advantage of the generosity of the church.

Sponsored by the Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

Minister Training Schedule for St. Patrick Church

November 13

6pm Sacristans

7pm Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

November 14

6:30pm Lectors

November 15

6pm Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

7pm Sacristans

November 19

6pm Lectors

7pm Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Please prayerfully consider which ministry God is calling you to. You only need to attend one session per ministry. These training sessions are only for those serving at St. Patrick Church.

The job of the sacristan is to, under the guidance of the parish priest, undertake the preparation of liturgical celebrations including all that is needed for special days such as Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday.

Get them before they are gone!

Please adopt one or more of the forty angels from our parishes this year. Remember to fill out the adoption form so we know who to contact in something comes up. Please wrap all Angel presents. The deadline to return your presents is December 13. Angels adopted from St. Patrick Church need to be returned to the church or the parish office. Angels from St. Boniface and Good Shepherd need to be returned to the parish they were adopted from.



Attention all Veteran's

Mass, Veteran's Assembly
and Breakfast
November 12



St. Patrick School will observe Veteran's Day on Monday, November 12. Mass will be at 8:15 in St. Patrick Church. A brief assembly will be held in the gym after Mass. After the assembly a delicious home cooked breakfast will be held in the cafeteria.

All veterans and their families are welcome.

Thank-Scrip-ing Day is November 20

Map out your holiday shopping list—Thank-Scrip-ing Day is coming on Tuesday, November 20 bringing big bonus rebates on eGift cards (ScripNow®) and reloads to your physical gift cards. Take advantage of exclusive bonus rebates on all the scrip you need for Black Friday and Cyber Monday shopping. Mark your calendars: participating brands and bonus rebates will be announced at 12:00 a.m. Eastern on the 20th.

Enroll in online payments (PrestoPay™) to receive your eGift cards and reloads to your physical gift cards faster.* You can also pay by check when you place your order within the 27 hours of the promotion. You'll receive your eGift cards and reloads to your physical gift cards when your coordinator releases the order.

To earn big, create an account on ShopWithScrip.com or MyScripWallet.com if you don't have one yet. Ask your coordinator for the enrollment code to sign up today.

The Knights of Columbus are gearing up Advent and Christmas!

On Saturday, December 1, they will hold a bean dinner in the cafeteria from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. They will sell Christmas cards again this year at St. Patrick Church. They will work in conjunction with the Catholic Daughters of the Americas and St. Patrick Church to collect food for the Christmas food baskets.

And finally, they will once again sponsor a Christmas music concert to keep Christ in Christmas. The concert will be Friday, December 28 at 7:00 p.m. in St. Patrick Church. The concert is free to the public but a free will offering will be collected to offset the expense of the musicians.

A Perspective on Mass Orientation

The essence of the Mass is not that it is a communal gathering, for there are many sorts of communal gatherings that are not Masses, and, as the Church has consistently taught, a Mass celebrated privately by a priest and a server, or even in a case of necessity, by a priest alone, is still a true and proper Mass. No, the essence of the Mass is the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on Calvary, made present anew in the immolation of the Victim under the species of bread and wine, and offered again to the Father as a sweet-smelling oblation for the salvation of the world. This, and not the circle of people who may or may not gather around the table, is the essence of the Mass.

As a consequence, the Mass is a theocentric prayer. It is ordered to God. As the Gloria sings: *propter magnam gloriam tuam*, for the sake of Thy great glory; or in the words of the doxology at the end of the Canon: “All glory and honor are Thine, Almighty Father...” Yes, the Mass was given to us by Our Lord at the Last Supper for our benefit, but it benefits us precisely by ordering us to God first, giving Him the primacy that is His by nature and by conquest. We are benefited by being subordinated to God, yielding ourselves to Him as a rational sacrifice (cf. Rom 12:1); we profit from being decentered on ourselves and re-centered on Him, our first beginning and last end.

It is exactly for these reasons that celebration of the Mass *versus populum* or “facing the people” is not merely an unfortunate aberration based on poor scholarship and democratic-socialist habits of thought endemic to modern Westerners. It is a contradiction of the essence of the Mass and a distortion of the proper relationship of man to God. Because of its inversion of the proper directionality of the worshipping community, people and priest alike, to the uncreated Font and Origin, it functions as a sort of “immunization” against the rational self-sacrifice that turns our souls and our bodies towards the Father, in union with His beloved Son, whose meat is to do the Father’s will, not His own as a man (cf Jn 4:34; Jn 6:38).

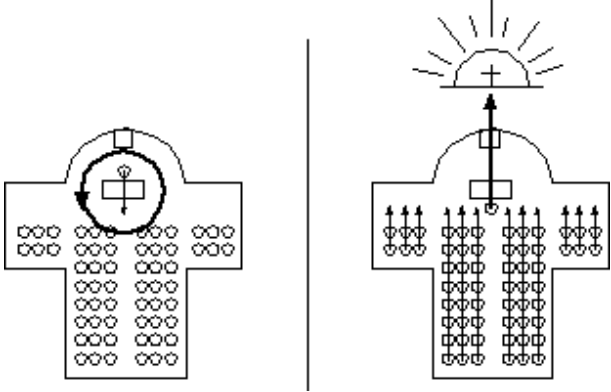
To privilege a partial, secondary truth over the fundamental truth is to inculcate untruth.

We can see this if we look at the history of Christian heresy. When the Arians privileged the truth that the Son is in some sense less than the Father (cf Jn 14:28) but neglected the more fundamental truth that He is God—God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God—they inculcated an untruth, for the Son is not less than the Father simply speaking.

When the Pelagians privileged the truth that man is not saved without his own effort, but neglected the more fundamental truth that even our efforts are God’s gift and that without His aid we can do nothing, they inculcated an untruth, for we are saved not by works simply speaking.

When the Protestants privileged the truth that Jesus Christ is our Savior but neglected the truth that He saves us in and through a visible body, the Church, of which we must become members in order to benefit from His saving action, they inculcated an untruth, for there is no salvation outside of the body of the Savior. A subjective conviction that “I am saved” has nothing to do with what we see happening in the New Testament, let alone the history of the early Church.

When modern-day European liberals privilege the truth that man has innate dignity but neglect the truth that his dignity is not absolute or independent of his social nature with its ensuing obligations towards society and its susceptibility to just punishment up to and including death, they inculcate an untruth, for neither death nor the punitive sovereignty of civil authority is contrary to human dignity simply speaking.



In all of these examples (and of course they could be multiplied almost indefinitely), we see how the emphasis of a partial truth taken out of the context of the network of truths that give it meaning results in the establishment of a false system of belief, an -ism that separates itself from Catholicism.

I maintain that the same is true of *versus populum*. When liturgical reformers privileged the idea of a communal gathering for table fellowship, but neglected the more fundamental truth (recognized as *de fide* dogma by Trent) that the Mass is the unbloody representation of the bloody Sacrifice of the Cross, they inculcated an untruth, for the Mass is not first and foremost a group doing something together, but Jesus Christ offering Himself in sacrifice and granting us the opportunity to unite ourselves to this perfect, all-sufficient offering, in which our very salvation consists. It is the man who has, over his lifetime, become one with Jesus on the Cross who will be saved, not the man who gets together with friends to reminisce about the itinerant preacher of kindness from Nazareth. The emphasis of a partial truth (that the Mass is a social or communal event involving edible refreshment), when taken out of the context of the larger dogma that gives this event its meaning and power (that the Mass is the sacrifice of Christ, Head and members), falsifies the partial truth and in fact makes it to be harmful, in the same way as Arianism, Pelagianism, and Protestantism are harmful, although each is built upon a truth.

Celebration of the Liturgy of the Eucharist

facing the people necessarily decontextualizes and falsifies the social nature of the Mass and unavoidably (even if, in many instances, contrary to the devout wishes of its celebrant) suppresses its theocentric essence. For this reason, it inculcates a false understanding of the Mass, effectively *decatechizing* the faithful as to its true nature. It does not simply tilt the emphasis to one side or the other; it cancels out the orientation that is demanded by the very meaning of sacrifice, which is to be offered manifestly to God alone. He alone, moreover, deserves and demands our adoration, and if it is not clear that we are united together in adoration of the One who alone is worthy of *latreia* or divine worship, then the unique right of God to such worship in spirit and in truth has been compromised or canceled out.

If we recall that “religion” names for St. Thomas Aquinas the moral virtue by which we offer to God what is owed to Him by means of external signs and rites (cf. *Summa theologiae* II-II, q. 81), it would be accurate to say that *ad orientem* worship and *versus populum* ‘worship’ are the expression of different “religions,” at least in the sense that something different is being displayed and given.

The problem, then, is not merely that the practice of celebrating Mass “towards the people” has no foundation whatsoever in the history of Catholic or Orthodox worship. No, it is much worse than an unfortunate sociological aberration, like the current fashion of body-piercing. The use of *versus populum* erodes and corrupts the faith of the people as to the very essence of the Mass and the adoration of God *propter magnam gloriam eius* — the absolute primacy of God over man, and the corresponding duty of man to subordinate himself to God, as opposed to the ancient sophists and enlightened moderns who unite in the error that “man is the measure of all things.”

Years ago, I used to think that the “Benedictine altar arrangement,” whereby six candles and a crucifix are placed on the front of the altar between the congregation and the celebrant (with the crucifix facing the celebrant as a resting point for his gaze), was an imperfect but valid temporary solution to the dramatic pastoral crisis of the anthropocentric inversion of the Mass. I still believe it is better, all things considered, if only to break up the closed circle and offer visual respite from the tête-à-tête, but I can no longer see it as adequate to the magnitude of the problem.

The placement of six candles and a crucifix on the west side of the altar, useful though it may seem as an “instant fix,” creates two major problems of its own. First, it leaves the false orientation intact, as the priest is still standing with his back to the East (and, in a church with a centrally-located tabernacle, his back to the Lord!), towards the West which — as indicated in the Byzantine rite of baptism — symbolizes the kingdom of darkness. The idea of a “virtual East” represented by the crucifix, while clever, is too cerebral; it is contradicted by the “body language” of the sanctuary, the altar, and the priest.

Second, it throws up an arbitrary barrier between the celebrant and the people, in a way that never happens in *ad orientem* worship, where everyone faces the same direction and feels the unity of this common orientation. That is, it could subtly accentuate the “priest over against people” mood that is already such an annoying characteristic of the *Novus Ordo*, which was composed by clericalists masquerading as populists.

I am not at all opposed to the existence of real, permanent barriers in a church whenever they make sense liturgically and ceremonially: the ancient curtains around the baldachin, the chancel screen or rood screen, the iconostasis, the communion rail. Such barriers articulate liturgical space and provide for a meaningful progression of ministers and actions, while catechizing the faithful about hierarchy, sacredness, and eschatology. But introducing a line of furnishings on the western end of an altar in order to make up (somehow) for the lack of a proper common orientation is arbitrary. It looks temporary and temporizing, as it is, and more often than not, marks an awkward caesura in the sanctuary, like a divider between office cubicles.

In *versus populum* is symbolized and promoted the anthropocentrism of modernity; its forgetfulness of God; its refusal to order all created reality to the uncreated source; its humanistic this-worldliness, which does not decisively subordinate the here and now to the Lord, the Orient, who has come and who will come again to judge the living and the dead. With this change alone, the liturgical ethos or consciousness of Christianity was shattered. If the old Mass were suddenly to be celebrated *versus populum*, in the manner in which the *Novus Ordo* generally is, it would be totally undermined by this one change; if the reformed Mass were to be celebrated *ad orientem*, this liturgical prodigal son would, by that metanoia, have already begun its journey back to the father’s house.

So much depends on the priest and the people facing east together, that it would be no exaggeration to say that orthodox Christianity will thrive only where public prayer is thus offered, and will suffer attrition wherever it has been abandoned.

The eastward stance and all that it symbolizes and implies is not a mere accident, an incidental feature that we can take or leave, like this or that style of chasuble. It is a constitutive element of the rite of the Holy Sacrifice. We should stop pretending that this is a matter of “six or one-half dozen,” a case of *de gustibus non disputandum*. A Mass that refuses to orient itself in continuity with the universal tradition and theology of Christian worship is irregular, harmful to the priest and people whom it malforms in an anthropocentric mentality, harmful to the Mystical Body in which it perpetuates rupture and discontinuity, and less pleasing to God whom it deprives of due adoration.

This article was written by Dr. Peter Kwasniewski at “The New Liturgical Movement” under the title “Mass ‘Facing the People’ as Counter-Catechesis and Irreligion

St. Patrick Church Advent Mission Retreat

Mark your calendars and prepare to join us at St. Patrick Church for evenings of Advent Reflection December 16, 17, 18. Fr. Christopher Smith, STD, of the Diocese of Charleston will lead us in powerful and insightful reflections to help better prepare us for our celebration of Christmas. All Mission sessions will begin at 6:00 p.m. The Tuesday, December 18, session will immediately precede our Advent Penance Service.

What’s Father Reading and Recommending?

(In no particular order)

- “Turning Towards the Lord” by Fr. Michael Lang
- “Phoenix from the Ashes” by H.J.A. Sire
- “Advent of the Heart” by Fr. Alfred Delp
- “Vocations” by Fr. William Doyle, SJ
- “By What Authority” by Msgr. Robert Hugh Benson

As always, please consider purchasing these books (and anything else) through Smile.Amazon.com, with St. Patrick Church & School as the designated charity. 0.5% of the cost of all your purchases will be donated to our parish school through this program.

Vocations Chalice Program and Sign-Up Sheet

The Vocations Chalice Program will resume at St. Patrick Church next weekend. A sign-up sheet has been placed in the vestibule for all who wish to participate. This program has existed for a number of years around the country, but was renewed at St. Patrick Church last January through the Knights of Columbus. The mission of the program is to encourage families to pray together for an increase of vocations to the priesthood and religious life. The program will help to cultivate an increased awareness of God’s plan for our lives and to help cultivate a positive environment to foster future vocations within our parish and Diocese.

Each week parishioners that have signed up will receive the chalice at the end of Mass, along with prayer booklets and a prayer journal. The family will take the chalice, as a symbol of the priesthood and the continuity of the action of the Mass in our daily lives, to their home and display it in a prominent place for all to see throughout the week. Each day of the week, the family will gather together to pray for vocations using the booklets as their guide. During this time, parents can explain and prompt young children and teenagers to consider how God is calling them into a deeper relationship with Him.

We are deeply committed to increasing awareness of how critical is it that more young people begin to turn their hearts away from the distractions of the world and to follow God in a more radical way. By God’s grace, we pray that He will raise up from among the youth of our parish a new generation of priests and consecrated religious that will seek to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our Diocese and throughout the world!



CYBER MONDAY JUST GOT BETTER!

If you are looking for the perfect gift for your child this Christmas, look no further. What could possibly be better than a week of fun, faith, and friends at Camp Bosco? Registration for camp will open on Monday, November 26th.

Anyone registering between November 26th and November 30th will receive a Camp Bosco crew neck sweatshirt to put under the tree along with a card announcing the amazing gift of CAMP!

Camp registration is \$325.

www.campbosco.com

