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To report an incidence of suspected child sexual abuse, please contact your local law enforcement agency, or you may confidentially contact WV Child Protective Services at 800-352-6513. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, please contact the Diocese at 888-434-6237 or 304-233-0880.

December 15, 2019

The Third Sunday of Advent

Volume IV, Issue 50

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*

Third Sunday of Advent

Christ Even Now on the Way to Bethlehem

Evidently, in the mind of holy Church, neither the prophecy concerning Bethlehem Ephrata nor its fulfillment in the day of Caesar Augustus is to be considered merely a glorious divine disposition and achievement. No, the prophecy of Micheus is still being verified every day, but predominantly during the annual Advent season; for the selfsame incarnate eternal Son of God who journeyed to Bethlehem to be born there physically, now to the end of time comes to human souls as to spiritual Bethlehems, there to be born anew, again and again.

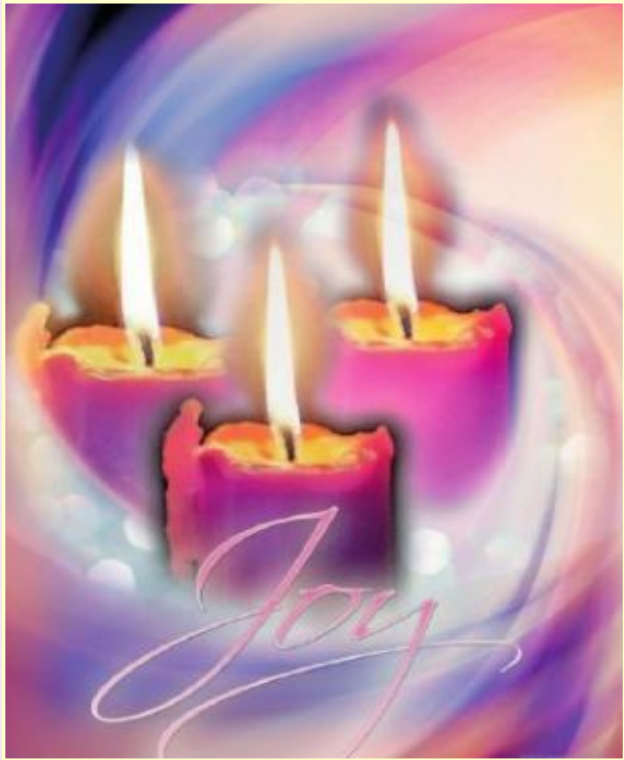
But be sure to picture these merciful spiritual journeyings of Christ to the Bethlehem of souls as all too often sadly realistic spiritual repetitions of His first long journey over the rugged road from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Meditate long on the wanton and malicious opposition He encounters on His way to them from souls that leave their senses and heart and mind to be ruled by earthly vanities, and their whole selves to be willing victims of the sensual and selfish illusions and witcheries of the seven capital vices.

Can you still fail to see why Isaias and the Baptist compare the hardships of the way of the world's Messiah-King to souls with a rough, crooked, and almost impassable road up steep hills and down precipitous valleys and through dangerous mountain passes? Do you wonder that these prophets of His coming insist so strongly that merely sentimental longings and routine prayers, however multiplied, cannot prepare us worthily for the entrance He must expect and the welcome He craves?

Pray very honestly, therefore, that you may begin to see the practical reasons for the Church's crying out in the desert world, and even into your own interior soul and heart:

"Prepare ye the way of the Lord: Make straight in the wilderness His paths; Every valley shall be exalted; Every mountain and hill shall be made low; And the crooked shall be made straight; And the rough ways plain" (Is. 40:3, 4). Then shall you see the salvation of God!

Excerpted from Our Way to the Father by Rev. Leo M. Krenz, S.J.



"Rejoice: the Lord is nigh." As Christmas draws near, the Church emphasizes the joy which should be in our hearts over all that the birth of our Savior means for us. The great joy of Christians is to see the day drawing nigh when the Lord will come again in His glory to lead them into His kingdom. The oft-repeated Veni ("Come") of Advent is an echo not only of the prophets but also of the conclusion of the Apocalypse of St. John: "Come, Lord Jesus," the last words of the New Testament.

Area Penance Services

Monday, December 16, 2019
St. Boniface Church, Camden

Tuesday, December 17, 2019
St. Patrick Church, Weston

Both begin at 7:00 p.m.

March for Life

THE 47th ANNUAL MARCH FOR LIFE in Washington, D.C. commemorates the 1973 Supreme Court legalization of abortion, which has resulted in the deaths of over 61 million innocent, unborn children. Please join this March to help us rededicate ourselves to stopping this culture of death. A bus, sponsored by the Monongalia Chapter of West Virginians for Life, will leave on Friday, January 24, 2020 from the JC Penney parking lot at the Morgantown Mall at 4:00 a.m. It will return there on the same day at around 11:00 p.m. A Congressional meeting is planned for 10:00 a.m. in Rayburn HOB room 2168. The cost is \$15 a person or \$30 for a family of 3 or more. Call 304-594-9845 for mandatory bus reservations. **Reservation deadline is January 17.** Checks need made payable to WVFL-Mon County Chapter and mailed to PO Box 1479, Morgantown, WV 26507-1479

Baby Bottle Fundraiser Update

\$3849.98 has been raised to date in the baby bottle fundraiser. Proceeds from the fundraiser benefit The West Virginians for Life, Central West Virginia Center for Pregnancy Care and the Lewis County Family Resource Network. Instead of a cash donation to the LCFRN, a member of the Catholic Daughters purchased car seats from Kohl's on days when "Kohl's Cash" could be earned. She then used the "Kohl's Cash" to buy additional car seats bringing the total number of car seats to be donated to twenty-two.

The Catholic Daughters are extremely thankful for the support received for this fundraiser. **Please return all bottles whether or not they are full or have any money in them. The bottles will be used again next year.**

Catholic Women's Book Club

The Catholic Women's Book Club meets this Sunday, December 15th, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. in the parish meeting room of St. Patrick Church (please use back door). The book is "Joy to the World" by Scott Hahn. Even if you have not read the book, you are invited to join us at book club.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND 10 DAYS: NOVEMBER 9 - 18, 2020

**VISITING: HAIFA * TIBERIAS * CANA* NAZARETH
BETHLEHEM * JERUSALEM**

Hosted by
FR. JAMES DEVIESE
St. Patrick Catholic Church

\$3679 FROM WASHINGTON, D.C.*
*Air/land tour price is \$2979 plus \$700 gov't taxes/airline surcharges

For a More Information, Please Contact:
Fr. James DeViese, Jr.
Tel: (304) 269-3048
Email: pastor@spchurchweston.net

DON'T MISS THIS TRIP OF A LIFETIME!!

Parish Membership & Benefits:

To be considered an "active" member of any parish (and thus eligible for Sacraments, sponsor eligibility, and the "Active Parishioner Rate of tuition" at a Catholic school), the parish takes into account the following things. First, to receive a discount at a Catholic School or to receive a sacrament, the children **MUST** attend weekend Mass. Second, family & individual involvement in parish life and ministries are taken into consideration. Mass attendance is only able to be tracked accurately via collection envelopes. If you are not receiving envelopes currently, please contact the appropriate person at your parish. Parishioners over 18 should register as a household to help us keep records accurate and up-to-date.

A Message for All Parishes

Respecting God's House

"My house will be called a house of prayer for all the nations" (Isaiah 56:7b).

We ask all our parishioners please to be mindful of how we treat God's House. While there are some very dedicated parishioners who take it upon themselves to tidy up after Mass, we ask that everyone please ensure that they leave their pews at least as tidy as they found them. Please do not leave trash, bulletins, tissues, food, etc. in or around the pews or hymnal racks. Churches are consecrated to the glory and worship of Almighty God, and they house the True Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. It is important that we all demonstrate the utmost respect for this House of Prayer and treat it with reverence.

Glenville Blood-Drive

Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, more than 1 million units of blood could be transfused in the United States. To help replenish the supply, a Blood Drive will be held at the First Baptist Church in Glenville on January 3 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) for availability or register on-line at: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=gilmergirlscouts>

Poinsettia Trees

We will decorate the sanctuary with "poinsettia trees" during this Christmas season. All donations collected in the "Christmas flower" envelopes will be used to purchase these flowers. Poinsettias are \$15.00. If you do not have envelopes, you can still contribute by contacting the parish office at 304 269-3048 or by putting a check in the collection basket with **Christmas flowers** in the memo line.

Vanilla for Sale

The Catholic Daughters will sell homemade vanilla after Mass next weekend at St. Patrick Church. Bottles are \$10 each. If parishioners from St. Boniface or Good Shepherd would like to purchase a bottle, please call the parish office at 304-269-3048.

Go Fund The Pipe Organ

Give any time at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/st-patrick039s-organ-pipe>

Join St. Patrick Church in Weston, WV in renovating our church pipe organ - this includes a new console, new stops, and new electro-mechanical magnet valves. The new technology will be incorporated to offer many new sounds. Parishioners, friends, and visitors donate today and come enjoy the organ as a musical and artistic gem of the community!

Psalms 105 - Sing Him songs, belt out hymns, translate His wonders into music!

The "O Antiphons" of Advent

The Roman Church has been singing the "O" Antiphons since at least the eighth century. They are the antiphons that accompany the Magnificat canticle of Evening Prayer from December 17-23. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah.

December 17

O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!

December 18

O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!

December 19

O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: come to save us without delay!

December 20

O Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!

December 21

O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

December 22

O King of all nations and keystone of the Church: come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

December 23

O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!

—From Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers

St. Patrick Church Choir Rehearsals

St. Patrick Church Choir rehearsal for Christmas will begin on Saturdays in the choir loft of the church immediately following the 6:00 PM Mass. Rehearsals will continue until the Saturday before Christmas.

Christmas at St. Patrick's

2019 Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve 6:00 p.m. 12:00 Midnight	New Year's Eve Eucharistic Adoration – 5:00 p.m. Mass – 6:00 p.m.
Christmas Day 9:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. (Latin)	New Year's Day 12:30 p.m. (Latin) 6:00 p.m.

Christmas at St. Boniface Church and Good Shepherd Mission

2019 Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve 7:30 p.m. (Good Shepherd) 10:00 p.m. (St. Boniface)	New Year's Eve 5:00 p.m. (St. Boniface) 7:30 p.m. (Good Shepherd)
Christmas Day 8:30 a.m. (St. Boniface) 10:30 p.m. (Good Shepherd)	New Year's Day 8:30 a.m. (St. Boniface) 10:30 p.m. (Good Shepherd)

You're Invited to the 34th Annual Free Lewis County Christmas Dinner

Christmas Day
Dine-in from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Carry Out and Delivery from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Lewis County Senior Center
West 2nd St. Weston, WV

- Advance orders for delivery are being taken at 304-884-6789. Please leave a message.
- Please help: Volunteers are needed on December 24th and 25th for food preparation, serving and cleanup. Drivers are needed on December 25th for delivering to those who can't make it out.
- Donations of pies, cake and cookie may be dropped off at the Senior Center on December 24 from 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- To volunteer, please contact Dan Mick at 304-269-1888. Please leave a message.

The Lewis County Christmas Dinner is staffed by volunteers and funded entirely by donations. If you would like to make a monetary donation please make your check payable to Lewis County Christmas Dinner and mail to P. O. Box 1012, Weston, WV 26452.

Dear Friends,

We are all saddened by the announcement of the reassignment of our Parochial Vicar, Fr. Cody Ford. While his time has been brief in our parishes, we have all come to appreciate his affability and the solicitous pastoral care he has demonstrated. As was mentioned last weekend, the loss of one of our parish priests inflicts upon all of us a burden.

As your pastor, I will be charged with providing sacramental ministry for all three locations, which are rather spread out. As parishioners, you will be tasked with exercising a degree of flexibility and understanding not asked of you in the past. But together, as a people united in our One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Faith, we will proceed forward, not permitting this unfortunate change to deter us from our mission to catechize, evangelize, witness, and grow in personal holiness.

I spoke with Bishop Brennan this past week to express my distress at the situation in which we now find ourselves, and he was not unsympathetic to our plight. The shortage of priests around our diocese is taking its toll on many parishes, and no one is immune. While our immediate response may be one of anger or sadness, it is imperative that we put aside those emotions to focus on something for which we are still responsible: our holiness, and the holiness of our children, because that is where a new generation of priests and religious sisters will come from. If we want priests in our parishes, we must pray for them, of course; but we must cultivate in the hearts of our children a deep love for Jesus Christ and His Church, catechizing them faithfully, and committing ourselves more deeply to live exemplary lives of holiness that will inspire them to imitate us.

Looking ahead, the pastoral councils of our parishes will have a joint meeting on January 9th. The purpose of this gathering will be to advise me on a proposal for a new weekend Mass schedule, which I can present to Bishop Brennan for his approval. I ask you please to speak to your pastoral council representatives over the holidays and give your input. None of us wants to see our Mass times change, but the physics of one priests covering the liturgical schedule as it exists now is simply an impossibility.

In order to ease the transition, I am working to arrange for visiting priests to give me assistance throughout the month of January (at least), so that the new weekend schedule will not go into effect right after New Year's. Once the schedule is finalized, it will be made public (I expect) at least a couple of weeks in advance of its implementation. A new Daily Mass schedule will be published after Christmas.

Again, I encourage all our parishioners to look past the inconvenience of our present situation, and to permit the grace of the Season of Advent and the coming of Christmas to fill our hearts instead with a deeper desire to draw close to Christ Jesus. I pray that we might all grow in holiness and devotion during this Season, and that Our Lord will be generous to us in His Grace as we continue to seek to do His will in all things.

Please join me in offering our sincerest gratitude to Fr. Cody Ford for his dedication to priestly ministry, and let us all wish him an abundance of grace and peace in his new assignment.

Sincerely in the Love of Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. F. Dalton", with a horizontal line underneath.