

# St. Patrick Catholic Church

## A Christmas and Family Prayer

We bless your name, O Lord,  
for sending your own incarnate Son,  
to become part of a family,  
so that, as he lived its life,  
he would experience its worries and its  
joys.

We ask you, Lord,  
to protect and watch over this family,  
so that in the strength of your grace  
its members may enjoy prosperity,  
possess the priceless gift of your peace,  
and, as the Church alive in the home,  
bear witness in this world to your glory.

We ask this thought Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



## Merry Christmas

**T**he Christmas feast is a festival full of joy. The Eternal Word has become Man and dwells among us. The longings of the patriarchs and prophets are fulfilled. With the shepherds we hurry to the manger and adore the Incarnate Son of God, who for us and for our salvation descended upon earth. The purpose of the Christmas feast is beautifully expressed in the Preface of the Nativity: "For by the mystery of the Word made flesh the light of Thy glory hath shone anew upon the eyes of our mind; so that while we acknowledge Him a God seen by men, we may be drawn by Him to the love of things unseen."

During the Christmas season there is an extensive exchange of greetings and good wishes among friends. These greetings are a reminder of those "good tidings of great joy that shall be to all the people, for this day is born to you a Savior Who is Christ the Lord" (Lk. 2:11). They are a reminder, too, that all blessings and graces come to us from Christ: "Hath He not also with Him given us all things?" (Rom. 8:32).

During the Christmas season there is also an exchange of gifts. This custom should recall to us that on this day God Himself gave to us the greatest of all gifts, His beloved Son: "God so loved the world as to give His only begotten Son" (John 3: 16).

The Christmas tree, of which the first-known mention was made in 1605 at Strasbourg, was introduced into France and England in 1840. It symbolizes the great family tree of Christ which through David and Jesse has its roots in Abraham, the father of the chosen race. It is often laden with gifts to remind us that Christmas brought us the priceless gifts of grace and of eternal life. It is frequently adorned with lights that recall to us that Christ is the Light of the world enlightening those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Though not entirely unknown before, the custom of the Christmas Crib was adopted by St. Francis of Assisi at Greccio, Italy, on Christmas 1225. It is a concrete and vivid way of representing to ourselves the Incarnation and birth of Christ. It depicts in a striking manner the virtues of the newborn Savior, especially His humility, poverty, and charity.

## The Holy Family

**M**arriage is too often conceived as the sacrament which unites a man and a woman to form a couple. In reality, marriage establishes a family, and its purpose is to increase the number of the elect, through the bodily and spiritual fecundity of the Christian spouses.

1. Every marriage intends children. Although Mary and Joseph were not united in a carnal way, their marriage is a true marriage: an indissoluble, exclusive union, wholly subordinated to the child. Mary and Joseph are united only in order to bring Jesus into the world, to protect and raise him. They have only one child, but he contains the whole of mankind, even as Isaac, an only child, fulfilled the promise made to Abraham of a countless progeny.

2. The purpose of every marriage is to establish a Christian family. The Holy Family observed the religious laws of Israel; it went in pilgrimage to Jerusalem every year with other Jewish families (Lk. 2:41). Jesus saddens and amazes his father and his mother because to their will and company he prefers "to be in his Father's house". Thus it may happen that God's will obliges the family to make disconcerting sacrifices. Yet every Christian family must live in harmony and in prayer, which are the pledges of joy and union.

3. "He remained obedient to them." Jesus was God. And through the fullness of grace Mary stood above Joseph. Nevertheless — if we except the event in the Temple — Joseph remained the head of the family; he took the initiative (as when the Holy Family fled to Egypt), and in Nazareth Jesus obeyed his parents.

--Excerpted from Bread and the Word, A.M. Roguet

## Parish Office Closed

The parish office will be closed Monday, December 27. It will reopen at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 28. We will be closed on Friday, December 31 and will reopen at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, January 3.

Have a blessed and safe Christmas and New Year!

# St. Patrick Catholic Church

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

## Pastor:

**Rev. Douglas A. Ondeck**  
ondeck.douglas@gmail.com  
304-269-3048

## Secretary:

Sandra Mick, Parish Secretary  
secretary@spchurchweston.net

## Parish Office Hours:

Monday, 9 - 4  
Tuesday, 9 - 4  
Wednesday, 12 - 5  
Thursday, 9 - 1  
Friday, 9 - 1

## Prayer Chain:

Micki Snyder, 304 269-3688

For last rites and anointing of the sick, please call 304-691-0537 to speak to Fr. Ondeck.

## Mass Schedule

Saturday, 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

## Weekday Masses:

Mon., Thurs., & Fri., 8:15 a.m.  
Wed., Immediately following  
benediction at 5:45 p.m.  
**(See Weekly Schedule for any  
changes to times or location!)**

## Reconciliation:

Wednesday, 5:00—5:40 p.m.  
Friday, Immediately following Mass  
Saturday, 5:00—5:20 p.m.  
Sunday, 10:00—10:20 a.m.  
Or by appointment.

## Eucharistic Adoration:

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

## Religious Education and Sacramental Prep Coordinator

Megan White  
mwhite@stpatricks.school

## St. Patrick Catholic School

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

Rev. Fr. Douglas A. Ondeck  
Acting Principal

Regina Frazier, Secretary  
RFrazier@saintpatricks.school

***“Forward, always forward, everywhere forward! We must not be held back by debts, bad years or by difficulties of the times. Man's adversity is God's opportunity.”***

Archabbot Boniface Wimmer, O.S.B.

## When Should Catholics Not Receive Holy Communion?

- If you have a mortal sin on your soul. Some serious sins include (but are not limited to) being married outside the church, being unmarried but living together or purposely not attending Sunday Mass or holy days of obligation. For more info on what constitutes a mortal sin, refer to the Catechism of the Catholic Church 1857 - 1859.
- If you have not observed the Eucharistic Fast one hour before receiving. Plan to eat your breakfast after Mass!
- If you have not yet received First Communion.

## Why Can't Non-Catholics Receive Holy Communion?

Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are not admitted to Holy Communion.

For those who cannot receive Eucharist at this time, we welcome you to join in our liturgy, to pray and sing with us. Please remain in the pew during the Communion Procession, offering your heartfelt prayers to our God of love and mercy. We eagerly await the time when you will join us at the Eucharistic table!

## Attendance & Collections

Please write separate checks for the different collections.

Saturday:	81	\$1129 (27 envelope/check donors)
Sunday:	191	\$3127 (30envelope/check donors)
Mail and Lockbox Donations: \$ (donor)		
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$4256</b>

School	\$10	Maintenance	\$0
Votive Candles	\$57	Organ	\$95
Loan	\$250	Religious Retirement Fund	\$500
Catholic University	\$100		

Restoration loan balance: \$69826.04

## Special and Second Collection

- All Christmas Masses: Catholic Charities West Virginia

## MyEOffering Donations for November

General: \$2406.64  
School: \$492.50  
Maintenance: 2000.00

You can now give to the newly established maintenance directly through myEOffering. Go to <https://members.myeoffering.com/#/> landing to login or create an account.

## 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 parish office. Parishioners over 18 should register as a household to help us keep records accurate and up-to-date.

## Church Mailing

On Friday, December 17, we sent an Advent mailing to all our households. We are constantly working to keep our database up to date but mistakes happen. If you did not receive a letter, please contact the parish office with your mailing address. Our email address is [secretary@spchurchweston.net](mailto:secretary@spchurchweston.net).

## Camp Carlo Counselor Retreat

Camp Carlo is a Catholic Youth Summer Adventure Camp dedicated to leading young people closer to Christ and his Church. In preparation of this ministry, we are seeking 18-22 year old's to serve the church as Camp Counselors for summer 2022. Our staff will be blessed with the opportunity to grow in their spirituality with like hearted people, while ministering to young adults, developing lifelong friendships, and learning in depth what it means to offer themselves as a gift to others. Join us for our counselor discernment retreat January 7-9, 2022, at 225 Catholic Conference Center, Huttonsville, WV 26411. To reserve your spot in discerning to join our team in our mission, please RSVP by December 28th at, [sshields@dwc.org](mailto:sshields@dwc.org). May our lady of Victory place a veil of protection over your hearts and Saint Ignatius of Loyola guide you in discernment. Blessed Carlo, pray for us.

### Save the Date for Your Summer Adventure

- June 26th – July 2nd,  
A “catch-all week” from 3rd grade thru 12th grade.
- July 3rd – July 9th,  
Rising 6th graders to 8th graders.
- July 10th – July 16th,  
Rising freshmen to seniors in high school.
- July 17th – July 23rd,  
A “catch-all week” from 3rd grade thru 12th grade.
- July 24th – July 30th,  
“A Camp Carlo Summer Vacation” free program for 7-12-year-olds who receive support from government or Catholic Charities.

## College Altar Servers



We are blessed here at St. Pat's to have not one but two young men who willingly serve on their breaks from college. We are all aware of our favorite seminarian, Joe Derico but we also have the ever-faithful Dylan O'Sullivan who serves when he is home. Dylan is a freshman at Franciscan University in Ohio. He is not in seminary but who knows what God has in store for Dylan. No matter what that is, we are grateful for his continued service to St. Pats.

## Only 18% Of American Households Are Families With Married Parents

By Ben Zeisloft • Dec 8, 2021 DailyWire.com

Children need a mother and a father — a context that more American youth than ever are lacking.

Among the 130 million households in the United States, only 17.8% feature married parents with children — down from over 40% in 1970, according to the Census Bureau.

The Daily Mail summarized:

There are currently just 23.1 million American homes with those ‘nuclear families,’ which is the fewest since 1959. The reasons given for the drop include the pandemic delaying marriage and a continued decline in birth rate.

The average age of a woman at her first marriage is now 28.6 years. In the 1950s and 60s, women typically married at 20.4 years old. The average age for men to marry for the first time in 2021 was 30.4 years old. America's fertility rate dropped to 55.4 births per 1,000 in the second quarter of 2021, down from 58.5 in the same period of 2019.

Americans are also living alone at a higher rate than they used to. The percentage of adults in the US living with a spouse was 50 percent, down from 52 percent 10 years ago. Over 37 million adults lived alone in early 2021, up from 33 million in 2011. As far back as 1960, 87 percent of adults lived with a spouse.

Analysts and commentators have pointed toward declining rates of religiosity, higher living expenses, the permutation of LGBTQ ideology, and even climate alarmism to explain the erosion of the American family. Indeed, the United States economy is already feeling pressure from the nation's demographic crisis — for example, through the looming insolvency of Social Security and other programs.

Noticing these dangers, Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk commented at a recent summit that civilization will “crumble” unless people begin having more children.

“I think one of the biggest risks to civilization is the low birthrate and the rapidly declining birthrate,” Musk explained.

“And yet, so many people, including smart people, think that there are too many people in the world and think that the population is growing out of control,” Musk continued. “It's completely the opposite. Please look at the numbers — if people don't have more children, civilization is going to crumble, mark my words.”

Meanwhile, other nations are seeking to prevent societal barrenness.

China — which implemented strict population control measures following its communist revolution — is now seeking to undo its “one-child policy.” Today, the nation's central government is permitting couples to have up to three children.

China's authorities are also introducing new regulations meant to decrease the cost of living for couples with children.

For instance, the Chinese Communist Party banned for-profit tutoring in July, effectively kneecapping a \$120 billion industry overnight. Parents previously solicited tutoring services throughout a child's primary and secondary education to prepare them for the National College Entrance Examination, which determines whether a Chinese student is eligible for undergraduate education.

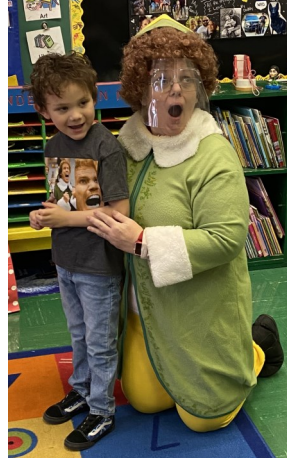
Days later, China implemented regulations on the nation's real estate sector to ensure that families can afford homes — a move that accorded with President Xi Jinping's adage that “housing is for living in and not for speculation.”



## School News

### SANTA'S COMING! I KNOW HIM!

Santa Claus made a surprise visit to the school on December 21 to check on all of our students to make sure they were working hard to stay on the "nice" list. Santa brought cherry candy canes and a real gold dollar for each student! We missed getting a group picture of Pre-K/S kids with Santa, but Miss Tonya took a group picture of them around their Christmas tree this afternoon. No Santa visit would be complete without his faithful helper, Buddy the Elf. Santa stopped by the Polar Express for a picture with his friend, Conductor J. J.





## School News Continued

### Pro-Life Club

We are proud to announce the opening of our school's Pro-Life Club. The club is offered to students enrolled in sixth, seventh, and eighth grade. The mission of our club is to defend the sanctity of life from conception to natural death and support women, families, and our community through education and public services. We are planning on attending the National March for Life, West Virginia Pro-Life Day. In addition, we will, sidewalk chalk in front of our parish, do fundraising and gather materials for local pregnancy centers and so much more! Watch and support us as we become warriors of life by joining Saint Patrick's School Pro-Life club Facebook group. Blessed Mother, pray for us!



### Grinch and Storybook Character Day

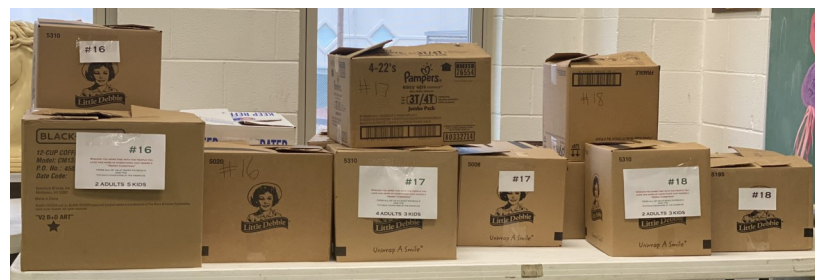
The school got into the Christmas spirit on Monday, December 20 by dressing as a Who from Whoville or as someone from their favorite Christmas book. We had lots of Cindy Lou Who, and the Elf on the Shelf, a few Polar Express kids and, a few Ralphies, but there was only one Grinch!





## Thank you!

Thank you to parishioners and school students for donating to our annual food drive. We also want to thank the Catholic Daughters of the Americas for once again spear-heading the drive and the assembling of the food boxes. Because of your generosity we were able to help 24 families this Christmas.



## Donuts and Coffee? Yes, please!

Please join us on Sunday, January 9, 2022 after Mass for our donuts and coffee in the school cafeteria. This Social Sunday is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus,

## The Sunday Obligation

The Ten Commandments, which were believed to be the laws and moral code handed down by God, tells believers in the Third Commandment to "Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day." For the Jews, the Sabbath was Saturday; Christians, however, transferred the Sabbath to Sunday, which was the day of Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead. The Church says that you have an obligation to fulfill the Third Commandment by refraining from unnecessary work on Sunday and by participating in Mass, your chief form of worship as Christians. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that "You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor." The obligation is binding every Sunday. It is a holy day of obligation, a day for you to grow in your faith, and you are required to attend to the extent that you are able to do so.

## Private Worship Is Not Enough

From the earliest days of the Church, Christians have understood that being a Christian is not a private matter. You are called to be Christians together. While you should engage in the private worship of God throughout the week, your primary form of worship is public and communal, which is why Sunday Mass is so important.

## Church Calendars

Our shipment of 2022 church calendars has arrived and can be picked up in the church vestibule.

Thank our calendar and as well as all who advertise on church bulletin. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

## Calendar Cash

### \$10 each, 28 Chances to win!

Calendar Cash tickets are on sale now. They make a great Christmas gift and stocking stuffer. Tickets are numbered for tracking but the game is not based on the daily lottery numbers. A winning ticket is drawn everyday in February! If your ticket is drawn, it goes back in and you can win again! The student who sells the winning ticket for the day receives \$5. Tickets can be purchased through the parish office or from any parent of a St. Pat's student.

## Free Throw Competition



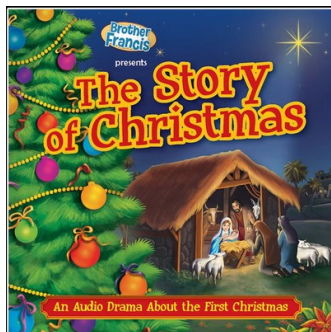
Sunday, December 16  
11:30 a.m.  
Boys and Girls ages 9—14  
St. Patrick's gym



Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

## Discover your faith with the Best Catholic media at home or on the go at formed.org.

- Go to [formed.org/signup](https://formed.org/signup)
- Enter Weston's zip code—26452
- Register with your name and email address
- Check that email account for a link to begin using FORMED.





## Schedule and Mass Intentions

**Saturday, December 25, 2021, The Nativity of the Lord**  
12:00 a.m. (Midnight) Mass for the People of the Parish  
10:30 a.m. Mass for †Ed Hubbs by Shirley Hubbs  
**No Anticipatory Sunday Mass this evening.**

**Sunday, December 26, 2021, The Holy Family**  
10:00 a.m. Confessions  
10:30 a.m. Mass for the People of the Parish

**Monday, December 27, 2021**  
9:00 a.m. Mass for †James A. Weber by family

**Wednesday, December 29, 2021**  
5:00 p.m. Adoration and confession  
5:50 p.m. Mass for †Frances McCauley

**Thursday, December 30, 2021**  
8:15 a.m. Mass for †Charles and Opal Garton by Deborah Garton

**Friday, December 31, 2022**  
8:15 a.m. Mass for †Paul Derico

**Saturday, January 1, 2021**  
9:00 a.m.\* Mass for Andy and Mary Ondeck  
5:30 p.m. Mass for the People of the Parish

**Sunday, January 2, 2022, the Epiphany of the Lord**  
10:00 a.m. Confessions  
10:30 a.m. Mass for †Cathy Snuffer by Tom and Connie Scott

\*Because Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God is on a Saturday, it is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year. Saturday's evening Mass will be the anticipatory Mass for the Epiphany of the Lord.

The Sanctuary Lamp is burning December 19, 2021—January 1, 2022, in memory of Mary Ann Murray

## **A Christmas Gift for Each Family**

Each family is asked to pick up their copy of "A minute in the Church" by Gus Lloyd as you leave Mass. It's a 46 page book of one-minute Catholic Apologetics with references to the Bible and the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

## **Congratulations and Welcome to the Christian Community!**

We have had a lot to celebrate this past month. We've had three baptisms, one Confirmation and First Eucharist, and one marriage.

Brian Droppleman, son of Chris and Michelle Droppleman received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist on Sunday, December 5th.

On Sunday, December 12, Brogan Barnette, daughter of Logan and LaTisha Barnette was baptized and Logan and LaTisha's marriage was convalidated.

Stephen Thomas White was baptized on Sunday, December 19. He is the son of Steve and Megan White.



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Friday, December 24**  
• 6:00 p.m., Vigil Mass for the Nativity of the Lord

**Saturday, December 25**  
• 12:00 a.m. Midnight Mass for the Nativity of the Lord  
• 10:30 a.m., Mass During the day for the Nativity of the Lord  
• We will not have an evening Mass or confessions.

**Monday, December 27**  
Mass will be at 9:00 a.m. and the parish office will be closed.

**Friday, December 31**  
Parish office closed.

**Sunday, January 9**  
Coffee and Doughnut Sunday, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

**Sunday, January 16**  
11:30 a.m., Free Throw Competition, St. Pat's gym

## **Our Neighbor Collection**

### **January**

- Soap, Deodorant and Feminine products

Items can be placed in the cabinet on the back porch of the parish office.

## **Prayer List**

### **Of your charity, please offer prayers for...**

- **Those who are sick:** Nick Bakas, Jill Balser, Mike Blanchard, John Butcher, Butch Cain, Courtney Clevenger, Rose Determan, Amy Flesher, Lynne Fultineer, Marsha Garton, Sandy Gill, Robert Hamilton, Coretta Jefferson, Emyle Johnston, Ellen Ketron, Lynn Lynch, Ed Murray, Susan Murray, Heather Haddix Nicholas, Beth Nichols, Delores Paugh, Raylee Rahming, Brenda Riley, John Riley, Mike Riley, Frank Rogucki, Sheila Sayre, Dale and Micki Snyder, Special Intentions, Mary Taylor
- **Those who have died:** May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.
- **All Veterans, and Military Personnel:**
- **Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life**
- **Former priests and religious of and from our parish**
- **Those who are homebound, in assisted living or nursing homes.**
- **All police officers, health care workers, first responders, and mail carriers**
- **All RCIA participants**

## **Happy Anniversary**

*Bill and Kathy Moodispaw will Celebrate 50 years of wedded bliss on January 1, 2022. May God continue to bless Bill and Kathy and their family.*

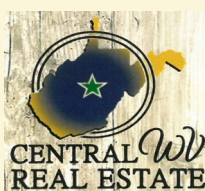
**Bishop Brennan asks that all those in attendance at Mass wear a mask, other than those under the age of 2.**



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COOLING**

Jane Lew, WV  
**304-672-1145**



**John White, Parishioner**  
195 US-19S  
304-269-2952  
304-931-9379  
jmgrafix@gmail.com



*Jonathan D. Clutter, Licensee-in-charge,  
Patrick D. Boyle, Funeral Director*

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www.patboylefuneralhome.com

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Vice President - Human Resources  
Asst. Sec. to the Board/Marketing  
Branch Admin NMLSR 769878

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tyoung@citizensbankweston.com

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Betty Hill, CPA  
Tom Stark



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FARNSWORTH IV**

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**269-2020**



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Douglas Ondeck,  
Acting Principal

Regina Frazier,  
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**\$300 January  
- December  
(\$25 a month)**

**\$600 January  
- December  
(\$50 a month)**

**\$900  
January -  
December  
(\$75 a  
month)**

**\$1200 January -  
December  
(\$125 a month)**

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. In addition to civil authorities, to report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, please contact one of the Bishop's designees at 888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; Fr. Dennis Schuelkens, ext. 270 or call the Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504. Please visit www.dwc.org under "Accountability" for additional information and reporting methods.