

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 20, 2023

Trust Your Disgust

The devil may hoodwink our minds into pretending that all is well, but our guts know better.

The devil's greatest trick, the adage goes, is convincing the world he doesn't exist. His second is duping humanity into believing that poison both tastes good and is good for us. The ruse goes all the way back to the moment just before the fall, when Eve, prompted but not coerced by the serpent, beholds the fruit that God had directly warned would be fatal if consumed:

The woman saw that the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eyes, and the tree was desirable for gaining wisdom. (Gen. 3:6).

Eve succumbs to the temptation and bites. Adam, who the text implies has been watching the whole time, sinks his teeth in as well. As forewarned, the joint act of defiance—gratuitous and easily avoidable (God had given them the freedom to eat of every other tree in the garden)—leads to their eventual death, releases chaos into creation, and corrupts every subsequent generation by passing on a taste for moral toxin.

Catholicism holds, however, that though human nature has been corrupted by the fall, it has not been destroyed. We retain the vestiges of natural goodness and original sanity. One indicator comes in the form of moral disgust, an emotional and, often, physical recoil to evil, even if its presence is not an immediate threat. It was disgust, for example, that famously led President Theodore Roosevelt to pass the 1906 Pure Food and Drug Act after reading about the abuses of the meatpacking industry in Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle*. Disgust helped turn the tide of the civil rights movements when, in 1965, millions of Americans watched the brutality inflicted upon peaceful marchers in Selma, Alabama. Disgust at witnessing the extermination of an unborn child and seeing the room where abortionist staff stacked and catalogued dismembered babies' bodies compelled Abby Johnson to quit Planned Parenthood and become a pro-life advocate. A sign of good moral health—just as good physical health—is a revulsion to what causes us and everyone else harm.

The devil knows we have this defense mechanism, and so he's found a deviously clever way around it: if we can be convinced to obfuscate the meaning of words, breaking the connection between reality and language, then our moral perception can be altered. Because of the serpent's lie about God's motives and the consequence of eating the fruit ("You certainly will not die!"), for example, Eve begins seeing differently: rather than poison, she now perceives the fruit not only as attractive but as a positive good—a tool for gaining "wisdom." A cancerous syllogism thus buds in the fallen mind:

It is desirable (good) to gain wisdom.

Wisdom includes knowing evil.

Therefore, it is desirable (good) to know evil.

This is the great algebraic inversion of sin, the black hole that human beings, with the assistance but not compulsion of the devil, rip in the fabric of moral reality: good = evil and evil = good.

This may sound abstract, but take a look around and you'll see the sophistic reversal everywhere in secular culture: human rights include the right to kill innocent humans; being healthy includes condemning fitness; being a man includes an entitlement to be a woman; racial justice includes practicing racism; saving humanity from a climate apocalypse includes decimating humanity; saving the natural world from environmental destruction includes destroying the environment; being a good parent entails appropriating babies from their birth mothers. Ugly is the new beautiful. Children are the new consenting adults. Censorship is the new free speech. Machines are the new (improved!) humans.

Evil is often portrayed with grotesquely frightening imagery. That may get the underlying reality of evil right, but not its operational strategy. Evil propagates most effectively under the guise of the good. That's why abortion, transgenderism, the suppression of speech, racist employment and admission policies, and no less than totalitarian climate change initiatives (like banning private cars) all sell themselves under the banners of "health," "safety," "freedom," "love," and "justice."

How, then, can we tell the difference between the ersatz good and the authentic good? How can we distinguish between what is beneficial for us, even if, like medicine, it may go down hard, and what drags us into the dark, even as it lights up every pleasure sensor along the way?

One tool is to conscientiously activate our reason, critically examining everything we hear about what's good, bad, right, and wrong to determine which of it is true. To be sure, our first parents failed this test miserably, which should have been the easiest act of due diligence in human history. They knew, as directly as one can know, that God is real and that he desires nothing else than their complete happiness. Yet they didn't think things through, missing the obvious answer to the question, "Is it a good idea to disobey the Creator of the universe?"

www.wordonfire.org/articles/trust-your-disgust/

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

210 CENTER AVE.
WESTON, WEST VIRGINIA 26452
304-269-3048

WEEKLY BULLETINS VIA E-MAIL

IF YOU ARE NOT RECEIVING OUR CHURCH BULLETIN EACH WEEK THROUGH EMAIL, PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE TO HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS ADDED TO OUR FILES.

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE

St. Patrick Catholic Church

210 Center Ave.
Weston, West Virginia 26452

304-269-3048

Religious Education

Megan White
mwhite@saintpatricks.school

Secretary

Sandra Mick
secretary@spchurchweston.net

Parish Office Hours

Monday & Tuesday, 9 - 4

Wednesday, 12 - 5

Thursday and Friday, 9 - 1

For anointing of the sick, please see
Fr. Odeck after Mass.

For last rites, please call 304-691-0537.

St. Patrick Catholic School

Pre-School – 8th Grade

224 Center Ave.
Weston, WV 26452

304-269-5547

Pastor

Rev. Fr. Douglas A. Odeck

Principal

Mr. John Riley IV
jriley@saintpatricks.school

Secretary

Mrs. Regina Frazier
RFrazier@saintpatricks.school

Pastor

Rev. Fr. Douglas A. Odeck

ondeck.douglas@gmail.com

"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."

Archbishop Boniface Wimmer, O. S. B.

Mass Schedule

Monday - 8:15 p.m.

Tuesday - No Mass

Wednesday - 6:00 p.m.

Thursday - 8:15 a.m.

Friday - 8:15 a.m.

Saturday Vigil - 5:30 p.m.

Sunday - 10:30 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Wednesday 5:00 - 5:45 p.m.

Saturday 5:00 - 5:20 p.m.

Sunday 10:00 - 10:20 a.m.

Adoration

Wednesday - 5 - 5:45 p.m.

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

Mass Attendance		Collection	
Saturday	79	Saturday	\$1116
Sunday	229	Sunday	\$1402.16
Total	308	Mail/Drop Box	\$507
Please, write separate checks for the different funds and collections. Thank you!		Total	\$3025.16
		School	\$200
		Votives	\$46
		Maintenance	\$55
		Loan	
		Organ	
Wesbanco Loan Balance			\$55,583.80



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Protecting God's Children

St. Patrick Church takes seriously this 'VIRTUS' pursuit of excellence in our community. With the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, we are committed to making every environment – a safe environment. All employees and volunteers are required to complete VIRTUS Training. Participants of this training complete short video modules to learn how to best protect the vulnerable in our community. These short sessions empower participants to accurately identify and correctly report all instances of suspected child abuse. To create or update your account, please go to virtusonline.org. We thank all of the employees and volunteers for their continued support in making the environment at St. Patrick Church safe for all.

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.

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, August 19, 2023	5:30 PM	Mass for the People of the Parish
Sunday, August 20, 2023	10:30 AM	Mass for †Martha Balkey
Monday, August 21, 2023	5:30 PM	Mass for †Lisa Ann Thoms by David Curtis
Tuesday, August 22, 2023	No Mass	No Mass
Wednesday, August 23, 2023	5:50 PM	Mass for †Opal Sims by the Blake family
Thursday, August 24, 2023	8:15 AM	Mass for special intentions of Gerard and Debra Hall
Friday, August 25, 2023	8:15 AM	Mass for †J. Francis Lydon by family
Saturday, August 26, 2023	5:30 PM	Mass for the People of the Parish
Sunday, August 27, 2023	10:30 AM	Mass for †Larry Dodson by the Dodson family

The sanctuary lamp is burning in memory of Joe White by Jane White, August 13-26

**Mass on Monday, August 21 will be at 5:30 p.m.,
followed immediately by our school open house.
Help us to get this school year off to a fantastic start
by praying with us and visiting the school.
We will NOT have an 8:15 Mass on that day.**

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!

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. Mints and gum break your fast.
- If you have not yet received First Communion.

Prayer List

Those who are sick: Jill Balser, Vince Baker, Dorothy Butcher, John Butcher, P. Dane Carder, Courtney Clevenger, John Collins, Rose Determan, Jed Easton, Libby Ferrell, Denver Garrison, Greg Garton, Marsha Garton, Sandy Gill, Robert Hamilton, Ava Jefferson, Coretta Jefferson, Ellen Ketron, Terri Morris, Sr. Theresa Metz, Shirley Murchland, Susan Murray, Judy Nichols, Sue Nutter, Raylee Rahming, Brenda Riley, Jim Riley, Mike Tierney, Helen Tomaro, Audrey Westfall, Lesley White

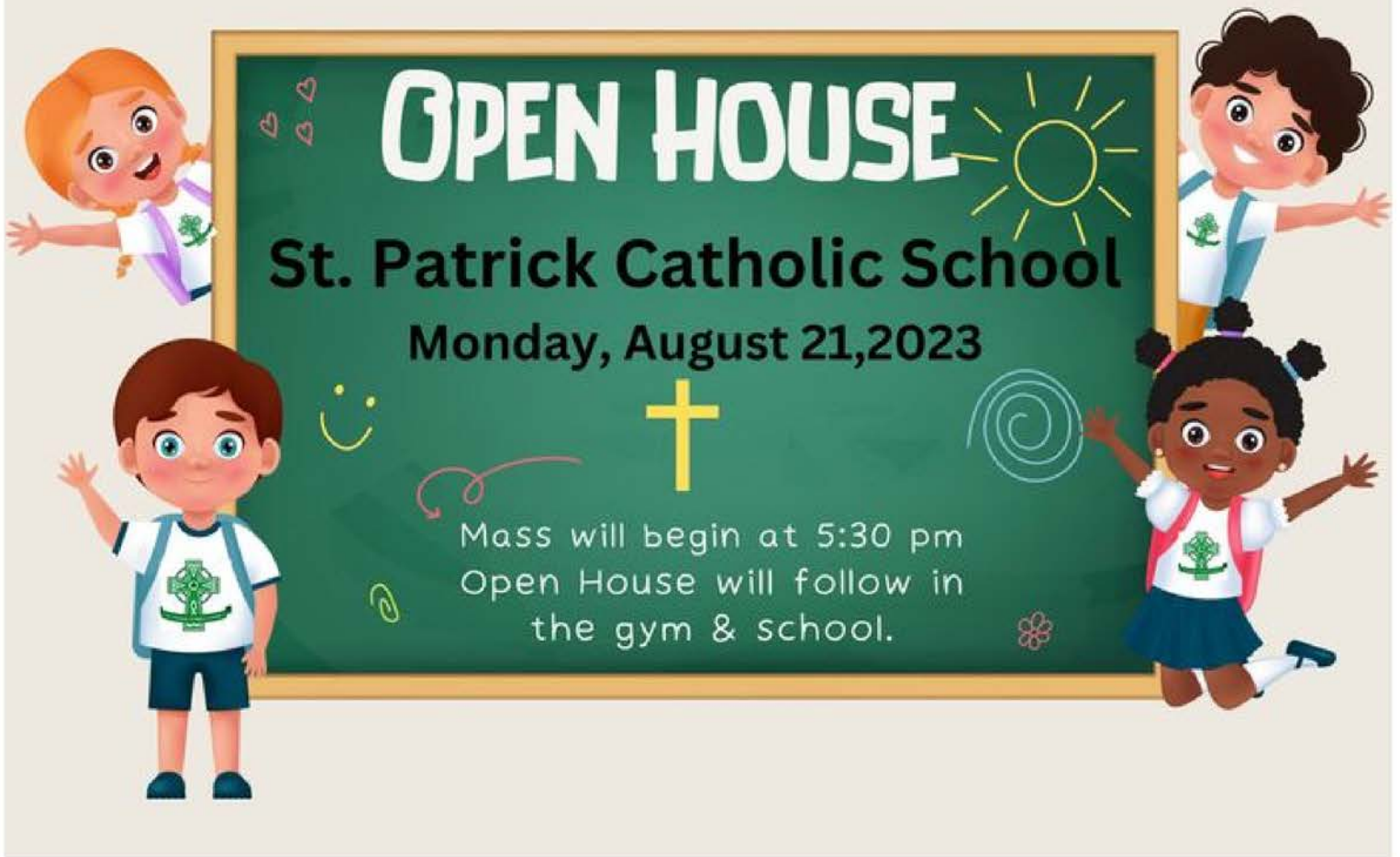
- **Those who have died:** Marjorie Paugh, May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.
- **All Veterans, and Military Personnel:**
- **Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life**
- **All seminarians:** Especially, Joe Derico.
- **All studying for the diaconate program:** Especially, Mike Brumley.
- **Former priests and religious of and from our parish**
- **Those who are homebound, in assisted living or nursing homes.**
- **All struggling with infertility.**

Catholic Sharing Appeal Update



We have not reached our halfway point as previously posted in the bulletin. We are just \$545 away from hitting the 50% mark. Once we get to 50% (\$11245) in donations to the Catholic Sharing Appeal, **ALL** money donated from that point forward, is returned to the church.

~Goal \$22490 ~Raised \$10700 ~48% ~Gifts 24



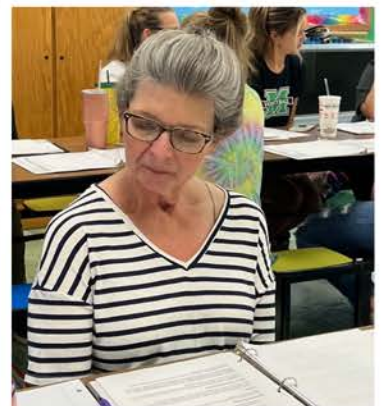
**TEACHING IS
A
WORK OF HEART**

Teachers returned this week for professional development days and to finish getting their classrooms ready for students and open house. Mr. Riley is pleased to announce that we will welcome back a familiar face to be our second grade teacher this year, Mrs. Beth Brumley. Beth was the aide for our pre-K program last year and was loved by students and staff.

Mrs. Fiona Ayala will take over for Mrs. Megan White for religion classes in the third through eighth grades. Mrs. Ayala will be the music teacher for the school, lead the new Schola Choir, and direct the annual Christmas pageant.

Mrs. Sheila McCartney will be the art teacher and will continue to organize books, volunteers, and the Accelerated Reader Program. in the school library.

Miss Autumn Fitzsimmons will be our pre-school aide, and Mr. Jacob Rahming will teach gym. Miss Chloe McCartney will assist in pre-school and continue to work GAP, our after school program.



Herb Blessing, and Marian Procession



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Informational Meeting

Learn about this opportunity for children ages 3-7 to grow in their love of Christ through a hands on approach to religious formation

Attend to learn more and to register your child.

September 10th

**Immediately Following Mass
Church Office Conference Room**



**Limited
Space
Available
for
Registration**

Interested in Joining our Intercessory Prayer Team?

- **Be contacted as a part of a chain with prayer requests**
- **Contact the next person on the prayer chain**
- **Join in intercessory prayer meetings**
- **Join in making cards for prayer recipients**

Need Intercessory Prayer?

For yourself or another?

call or email Beth Brumley with prayer requests to begin a chain or to become a participant in our prayer team



1-304-389-1212

brumleybeth@gmail.com

A Visit from Monsignor McSweeney

We had a very special visitor with us on Sunday, August 13. Former pastor, Rev Fr. McSweeney concelebrated at Mass and stopped by Donut Sunday to catch up with his former parishioners.



PRO-LIFE LEADERSHIP *Youth Weekend Retreat*

3309 Horseshoe Run Rd., Parsons, WV 26287
August 24-27th, 2023

Highschool Students Ages 13-17
\$25

At the annual Leadership for Life Weekend, teens experience a unique combination of traditional fun-in-the-sun summer camping activities and leadership training to **SAVE LIVES** in the pro-life movement. Registration forms are in the vestibule.

For more info, go to

<https://www.wvforlife.org/event/leadership-for-life-weekend/>

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ON DECK

Monday, August 21, 5:30 p.m.

Mass for the School Open House

Tuesday, September 5, 5:00 p.m.

Knights of Columbus meeting,
cafeteria

Monday, September 18, 6:00 p.m.

Catholic Daughters meeting, cafeteria

Sunday, October 22

Mass and Covered Dish Dinner at St.
Bernard Church in Lovevery

Our Neighbor Collection

**August: Laundry Supplies, Bath and
Dish Soap**

**September: Papertowels & Cleaning
Supplies**

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

Free Christology and Images of Jesus Courses Available

Two five-week courses are being offered through the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF). These courses are hybrid models. They are composed of both weekly live two-hour zoom lectures as well as a rich variety of online course materials and discussion experiences through the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community For Faith Formation (VLCFF). The courses are being underwritten by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Office of Evangelization & Catechesis, who pays 100% of the tuition and the cost of any books associated with the courses. The course instructor is Dr. Rodica Stoicoiu. For further information or to register, please contact Dr. Stoicoiu at rodicastoiciuphd@gmail.com

Christology

This course is a deep dive into Jesus and assumes students have some familiarity with scripture already. We will hit the ground running with a look at how the Church has answered the question "Who do you say I am?" through the lens of theology. This course will enable students to learn and understand the foundations upon which all Christology rests, the theology developed from the apostolic age through the Council of Chalcedon in the fifth century A.D. We will discuss why the Church considers some ideas about Jesus heretical while others are not. We will gain a full understanding of how the Church understands who Jesus is and what he did, and the reasons why the Church holds this understanding. The class opens the week of August 28th and we will have our first class meeting Monday August 28th at 7 pm

Images of Jesus

Just starting to look to explore your faith or looking to learn more? This course is set at an introductory/intermediate level and is a good place to start for those seeking to move into adult faith formation.

Have you ever wanted to know more about Jesus? We are presented with many images of Jesus in the Gospels and throughout the New Testament. How have Christians come to understand the person of Jesus over the centuries? How are we to understand him today? Through this course participants will have the opportunity to examine, from a variety of theological perspectives, what we know and believe about the central figure of the Christian faith and arguably the most influential person who ever walked the earth. After looking at many different resources, the student will be able to form a personal answer to "Who do you say that I am?"

We will look at the images of Jesus in the New Testament, as understood in theology today, as understood in the Paschal Mystery and as encountered in the liturgical life of the Church. All course materials are online and the class opens the week of August 28th with our first class meeting Wednesday August 31st at 7 pm.

Stonewall Veterinary Hospital, Inc.

Tonya Pickens, DVM

(304) 997-8059

3080 Old Route 33

Horner, WV 26372

Stonewallvethospital@gmail.com



John White, parishioner

95 US-19S

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Horner, WV 26372

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kate@llrgp.com

Kate Garton, Broker



Brooks' Body Shop

20 Brookview Drive

Weston, WV 26452

304-269-7257

Cell 304-266-2143

brooksbodyshop41@aol.com



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304-997-8797

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and Campsites

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Weston, PLLC



304-269-6151

Lewis County Senior Center

In-Home Care Department

304-269-5738

171 W. 2nd Street



Weston WV

JOHN LAW CPA, A.C.

132 FIRST ST., WESTON

304-269-3304

JOHN E. LAW, CPA

BETTY HILL, CPA

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Catholic Daughters of the Americas

Court Victory 379

Third Monday (Sept—May).

6:00 p.m., Cafeteria



Knights of Columbus Council 1415

First Tuesday of each month.

7:00 p.m., Cafeteria