

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 3rd, 2023

The Gospel is taken from Matthew 24:37-44. St. Matthew gives us a discourse which our Lord held with his disciples concerning the destruction of the temple of Jerusalem and the Parousia, or the second coming of Christ as judge of the world. In the verses we read today Christ is speaking of his second coming, and emphasizes its unexpectedness and suddenness.

In today's lesson it is Christ himself who is asking each one of us so to live our lives that no matter when we are called to judgement we shall not be found wanting. This does not mean that we must always be praying. Nor does it mean that we must take no interest in the affairs of this life. Of the two men working in the field and the two women grinding corn, one of each was found unworthy, not because of the work he or she was doing, but because that work had for them wrongly excluded God and his purpose in life. The two found worthy had room for God and their own eternal welfare in their hearts—their work was part of their loyal service to God and was a means towards their salvation.

Christmas comes but once a year but its meaning, its lesson, must remain in our hearts and minds all the year round. God wants us in heaven forever. He sent his Son on earth to bring us there. Aided by God's grace we resolve today so to live our lives that when death claims us we shall meet Christ, not as condemning judge, but as a loving brother.

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

*"but those who hope in
the Lord will renew
their strength"
-Isaiah 40:31*



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

Rev. Fr. Douglas A. Ondeck
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.

St. Patrick Catholic Church

- www.spchurchweston.org/
- www.facebook.com/StPatsChurchWestonWv

210 Center Ave.
Weston, West Virginia 26452
304-269-3048

Religious Ed. & Sacramental Prep

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

Mass Schedule

Monday - 8:15 p.m.
Tuesday - 6:00 p.m.
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.

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday & Wednesday 5:00 - 5:45 p.m.
Saturday 5:00 - 5:20 p.m.
Sunday 10:00 - 10:20 a.m.

Adoration

Tuesday & Wednesday - 5 - 5:45 p.m.

For **anointing of the sick**, please see
Fr. Ondeck after Mass.
For last rites, please call **304-691-0537**

St. Patrick Catholic School

- <https://stpatswv.org/>
- www.facebook.com/StPatsSchoolWestonWv

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

Pastor

Rev. Fr. Douglas A. Ondeck

Principal

Mr. John Riley IV
jriley@saintpatricks.school

Secretary

Mrs. Regina Frazier
RFrazier@saintpatricks.school

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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.

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!

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 2, 2023	5:30 PM	Mass for the People of the Parish
Sunday, December 3, 2023	10:30 AM	Mass for †Charles Rowgh by family
Monday, December 4, 2023	8:15 AM	Mass for Bonnie Hall
Tuesday, December 5, 2023	5:50 PM	Celebrant's Intentions
Wednesday, December 6, 2023	5:50 PM	Mass for †Michael Francis Tierney Jr.
Thursday, December 7, 2023	8:15 AM	Mass for †Charles and Opal Garton by Fred Butler and Deborah Garton
Friday, December 8, 2023	8:15 AM	Mass for the People of the Parish
	6:00 PM	Mass for †John Gallagher by Barbara Daugherty
Saturday, December 9, 2023	5:30 PM	Mass for the People of the Parish
Sunday, December 10, 2023	10:30 AM	Mass for †Paul Eugen Alkire

**The sanctuary lamp is burning in memory of Larry Dodson by Marcie Allen
December 3 - 16, 2023.**

Prayer List

Those who are sick: Hernan Ayala, Violet Angotti, Jill Balser, Dan Brannon, Dorothy Butcher, John Butcher, Courtney Clevenger, Brad Curtis, Rose Determan, Bonnie Detamore, Mary Catherine Fallon, Libby Ferrell, Sara Ferrell, Greg Garton, Marsha Garton, Emily Johnston, Coretta Jefferson, Ellen Ketron, Alesha Lehman, Rochelle Long, Shirley Murchland, Susan Murray, Judy Nicholas, Sue Nutter, Mary Oldaker, Rahming, Brenda Riley, Jim Riley, Mary Tenney, Helen Tomaro, Dorothy Valdez, Audrey Westfall

• **Those who have died:** Carol Bean, 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.**

Mass Attendance

Saturday	111
Sunday	205
Total	316

Collections

Saturday	\$1332
Sunday	\$1522
Mail/Drop Box	\$2100
Total	\$4954
School	\$60
Votives	\$0
Maintenance	\$0
Loan	\$20
Organ	\$0
Christmas Flowers	\$180
Wesbanco Balance	\$54,127.97
Organ Loan Bal.	\$77,599.38



**Christmas Flower Fund Donations are being accepted NOW.
Please consider making a donation.**

**Religious Retirement Fund
Collection: December 9 and 10**

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.

Prayer for the Advent Wreath

Lord, our God, we praise You for Your Son, Jesus Christ, for He is Emmanuel, the Hope of all people.

He is the Wisdom that teaches and guides us.

He is the Savior of us all.

O Lord, let your blessing come upon us as we light the first (purple) candle of this wreath.

May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise of salvation.

May He come quickly and not delay.

We ask this in His holy name. Amen.



Waiting

We light an advent candle today, a small dim light against a world that often seems forbidding and dark. But we light it because we are a people of hope, a people whose faith is marked by an expectation that we should always be ready for the coming of the Master. The joy and anticipation of this season is captured beautifully in the antiphons of hope from the monastic liturgies:

See! The ruler of the earth shall come, the Lord who will take from us the heavy burden of our exile

The Lord will come soon, will not delay.

The Lord will make the darkest places bright.

We must capture that urgency today in the small flame of our candle. We light the candle because we know that the coming of Christ is tied to our building of the kingdom. Lighting the flame, feeding the hungry, comforting the sick, reconciling the divided, praying for the repentant, greeting the lonely and forgotten – doing all these works hastens His coming.

Mass Schedule for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Friday, December 8

8:15 a.m.

6:00 p.m.

Mary's Immaculate Conception

On December 8, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which references Mary's conception in her mother's womb without the stain of Original Sin:

An essential part of God's plan for the mother of his Son was that she be conceived free from Original Sin. "Through the centuries the Church became ever more aware that Mary, "full of grace" through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception" (CCC, no. 491).

In anticipation that she was to bear the Son of God, Mary was preserved from the time of her conception from Original Sin. We call this the Immaculate Conception. No sin would touch her, so that she would be a fitting and worthy vessel of the Son of God. The Immaculate Conception does not refer to the virginal conception and birth of Christ, but rather to Mary's being conceived without inheriting Original Sin.

In the course of time, the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception became more precisely enunciated, as its truth—long supported by the universal popular devotion of the faithful—was better understood by deepening theological inquiry. In 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed this dogma infallibly: that is, in his role as supreme teacher of the Church, he declared that this doctrine is divinely revealed and must be accepted with faith by the entire Church. (United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, 142-143)

Even before this tenet of the faith was formally declared, a long tradition of faith that held this belief that Mary was conceived without sin:

Even before this tenet of the faith was formally declared, a long tradition of faith that held this belief that Mary was conceived without sin:

This feast was celebrated in some monasteries before the beginning of the eighth century and became widespread in the eighteenth century. In the United States, celebration of this observance predates the Declaration of Independence. The bishops commended the nation to the patronage of Mary under the title of the Immaculate Conception in 1846. It became a nationwide holy day in 1885. (Essential Guide to Seasons and Saints, 120)





Eucharistic Testimony

A Eucharistic Revival Initiative

"I believe, help my unbelief." This is the prayer I'm often repeating in my mind when the Eucharist is elevated at Mass. You see, unlike last week's parishioner, I am a cradle Catholic, but my love for the Eucharist didn't happen until I was older.

My story is simple. I grew up Catholic and even went to a Catholic grade school, but I didn't know what the church taught or what made us different from other Christian denominations. I only knew that the only other kids in my public high school who were reading their Bibles and taking their faith seriously were not Catholic. I thought about leaving the Catholic Faith for this very reason. But I knew enough to know that I didn't know what the church taught. I went to a Catholic college for this explicit reason, "To give the Catholic Church one last chance to teach me."

The joke was on me! I had no clue about the Baltimore Catechism (the latest Catechism of the Catholic Church wasn't published yet), encyclicals, papal letters, or even that the Second Vatican Council had written many letters and they were all available to read (by the way, you can read all these church documents for free on the Vatican's website: vatican.va). Simply picking one of these books and reading could have taught me; I was ignorant of their existence at the time. But once I realized about them, I began to devour them. I had a genuine love for Christ, which I attribute to my parents' sincere faith and trust in God that they lived out in their daily lives. But I was sorely lacking in knowledge of Him and the truths of the Catholic Faith. Once I understood everything had a purpose or reason (even standing for the Gospel and not the other readings), I was hooked on Liturgy and the richness of our Catholic Faith! I loved the way everything was leading up to the pinnacle moment of the Eucharist in each Mass.

For me, the problem was that it didn't really seem like anyone believed this Eucharist was really Jesus. I mean, the church documents were very clear, but in practice...people came to church not acting like it was Jesus. That confused me because as a kid more is caught than taught. So, I just trusted the Church. I went to Mass, not just on Sundays, but anytime I could. I started to make praying in front of the Blessed Sacrament a way of life — especially with huge decisions (spouse, jobs, houses, kids), but even my daily cares because He cares about me (He cares enough about me to know exactly how many hairs are on my head!). So, I came and sat with Him. I enjoyed the peace. The reverence. The quiet. Daily. And finally, it clicked. I could tell in my life things were different.

One significant example in my life is praying about my future husband in front of the Blessed Sacrament. I cannot tell you the overwhelming peace I had about marrying him. Granted, it was what I wanted, but I wanted the Will of God more and it was wonderful to have that reinforced each time I prayed in front of Jesus.

But for me, practically speaking, I need to continually focus on the reality in Mass that: This is Jesus. The Jesus Who changed the water to wine, healed the blind man with mud, stopped the woman's flow of blood, and healed the paralytic on the mat. All these stories we read or hear proclaimed from the Gospels... that same Jesus is here at our church. That's nuts! But because He is hidden under the appearances of bread and wine it takes faith to continually believe in His Real Presence. He's hidden so that we don't see His radiant Body and Blood; hidden so we don't feel too ashamed to show up and receive Him. Being that He is hidden, I do need to think before I receive Him. This is Jesus, I remind myself. I think about the fact that this is the same Jesus of the Bible because my senses just see a small white circle. I need to use my intellect to remind myself of the TRUTH. He loves me so much to come change this Host from wheat and water to His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. "Lord, I am NOT worthy, but only say the Word and my soul shall be healed."

I've been to talks with world-famous speakers, a Saint's Canalization Mass, a U.S. President's inauguration — crowds of people at each of these! Throngs of people to be near or get a glimpse of the speaker, pope, or president. But yet here where we have Jesus Christ — the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, God Himself as a gift to be with us always — we have no crowds and sometimes even empty pews. Why? This is what I didn't understand as a kid...if this is really Jesus, where is everybody?!? The humility of God to remain hidden is an incredible example to us on how to live, and the gift of our faith to believe is the greatest He could give us to live this life on earth!

I know for me, my personal belief in the Eucharist happened gradually. The importance my parents placed on Sunday Mass as a kid — it was never a question or option to go, it was just a part of our life. The fact that I saw trauma and drama in the church and people still prioritizing the Catholic Faith with Jesus Christ present. The beautiful churches, Monstrance, bells, candles, incense, vestments...all to show that This is HOLY...we are standing on Sacred Ground...it woke me up to something. When taking the Faith as my own, as we each need to do, I wrestled with the Eucharist. Is He really here? I acted on faith. I just kept going to Mass and praying in front of the Tabernacle. And WOW! The clarity. The peace. The 'Ah! Ha's!' The fruit of that time changed my life FOREVER. I acted in faith and He revealed Himself to me. We need to do our part: show up, be open, sit with Him, speak, and LISTEN. With an open heart and mind to the TRUTH — He will show Himself each time!

SCHOOL NEWS

"Walking in a Winter Wonderland."

Thank you to Shelia and Asia Sumpter, Sean and Rachel Smith, Coretta and Elizabeth Jefferson, Terry and Yonnie Southhall and last, but not least, Laura and Mackenzie Murphy! We appreciate your time and effort with the float this year, it turned out fantastic! Also, thanks to all the students that participated and handed out candy.



One of the biggest attractions of the school year is the annual Christmas pageant. This year, the pageant will be on Friday, December 15.

This will be year three for music and upstairs religion teacher, Mrs. Fiona Ayala writing and directing the play.

We are offering two shows so hopefully everyone will have a chance to watch our wonderful kids who are working hard to make this show the best yet!

The matinee performance will be at 1:00 p.m. and the evening performance will be at 6:45 p.m. Please join us for what promises to be an amazing show with beautiful music and delightful performances by our students!





Join us for A

HOLIDAY COOKIE EXCHANGE
DECEMBER 10 AT DONUT SUNDAY!

The Catholic Daughter's are initiating a new parish activity for the holidays that we are very excited about!

Would you like to bake a batch (3 dozen) homemade cookies and leave with a variety for the holidays?

Bring 3 dozen of your favorite **HOMEMADE** Christmas cookies wrapped in 9 packages of 4 cookies each and drop them off in the cafeteria before the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Then join us for Donut Sunday and pick out a variety of 3 dozen cookies to take home.

Just remember, you must bring cookies to take cookies.

You may wish to freeze your cookie variety for the holidays or enjoy them right away!

Support Seminarians

Religious Items Available at Donut Sunday

Items will be displayed at Donut Sunday on December 10. If you see something you like, make a donation to the Catholic Daughters. All donations are then given to seminarians.

**Donut Sunday
December 10**

Sponsored by the Catholic Daughters

Names for Christmas Food Baskets

If you know someone who could benefit from a food basket this Christmas, please call the St. Patrick Church parish office at 304-269-3048 or email secretary@spchurchweston.net. Please ask the person or family if it is okay before adding their name to the list. Please do not add someone who is already receiving a food basket from another church or organization. By doing this, we are able to help more people who otherwise might be overlooked.

When you add someone to the list, you are responsible for distributing the basket of food to them or for making sure they are able to pick up the basket themselves.

We need the following information when you add someone to the list.

- Family name
- Family size (broken down by the number of adults and number of children)
- A contact number for the family.
- Your name and phone number.

Food Drive for our Christmas Food Baskets

Collecting has begun for our annual food drive for our Christmas food baskets. The classes of St. Patrick's School collect various items to help with the drive. Each class is assigned a different food item or items. Items we need from the parish are, boxed dinners, (Homestyle bakes, hamburger helper, tuna helper, etc.), Assorted canned vegetables (green beans, corn, peas, carrots, sweet potatoes, etc.), Baked beans, Assorted canned fruit (peaches, pears, fruit cocktail, etc.), Applesauce, Canned chili, Chef Boy-r-dee ravioli, beef stew, Chunky soups, Stuffing, Gravy

The deadline for food donations is December 17. Any nonperishable food will be appreciated.

Drive Through Food Drive

The Catholic Daughters will hold a Drive Through Food Drive before and after Masses on December 16 and 17. A member of the Catholic Daughters will come to your car, unload your donation and take in in the school.

Donations may be dropped off at the parish office, the church vestibule, or placed in the cabinet on the back porch of the office.

ON DECK

Sunday, December 3

First Sunday of Advent

Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Deadline

Monday, December 4

Angel Tree Deadline

Sunday, December 10

Donut Sunday & Cookie Exchange,

Sponsored by Catholic Daughters

Friday December 15

St. Patrick School Christmas pageant

1:00 p.m., matinee performance

6:45 p.m., evening performance

December 16 and 17

Drive thru food drive before and after

Mass

Monday December 18

Confessions

- 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.
- 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
- 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Mass

- 6:00 p.m.
- Fr. Maghsoudi will hear confessions during and after Mass

Our Neighbor Collection

December: Toilet paper and tissues

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

Stonewall Veterinary Hospital, Inc.

Tonya Pickens, DVM
(304) 997-8059

3080 Old Route 33
Horner, WV 26372

Stonewallvethospital@gmail.com



John White, parishioner

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jmgfix2@gmail.com



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Cell 304-266-2143

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Americas**

Court Victory 379

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6:00 p.m., Cafeteria



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Council 1415**

First Tuesday of each month.
7:00 p.m., Cafeteria