

# GAUDETE SUNDAY

December 17th, 2023

The Advent liturgy is so rich, varied and beautiful. Every time the liturgical cycle repeats, it is another opportunity to enter more deeply into the Church's liturgy as She prepares for Christmas. This Sunday is the Third Sunday of Advent. The rose-colored vestments for the Third Sunday of Advent or Gaudete Sunday are a signal for the transition into the second part of Advent, which provides more intense preparation for the remaining days of Advent. Besides Gaudete Sunday, the Advent Ember Days and O Antiphons are the special treasures of the second phase of the Advent liturgy.

The Third Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudete Sunday because of the first word "Rejoice" in the Introit or entrance antiphon of Sunday's Liturgy. "Rejoice" is also repeated throughout the readings and prayers. The vestments worn by the priest can be the color rose (sometimes referred to as pink). The third candle of the Advent wreath is also rose. Both are reminders that Christ's coming is very soon; we are nearing the end of Advent, and we can hardly contain our joy. (Catholic Culture)



*I rejoice heartily in  
the LORD,  
in my God is the joy  
of my soul.*



## 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/](http://www.spchurchweston.org/)
- [www.facebook.com/StPatsChurchWestonWv](https://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](https://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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Enter Weston's zip code—26452

Register with your name and email address. Check  
that email account for a link to begin using FORMED

### **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 16, 2023	5:30 PM	Mass for †Bryan Francis and James Blake by Theresa Francis
Sunday December 17, 2023	10:30 AM	Mass for the People of the Parish
Monday, December 18, 2023	5:50 PM	Mass for †Michael Brian Franklin by Spring, Lindsey, Briana, and Kami
Tuesday December 19, 2023	5:50 PM	Celebrant's Intentions
Wednesday December 20, 2023	5:50 PM	No Mass
Thursday, December 21, 2023	8:15 AM	Mass for †Shirley Mason by Conner Jordan
Friday, December 22, 2023	8:15 AM	Mass for †Jim Arsenault by Sandy and Dan Mick
Saturday, December 23, 2023	5:30 PM	Mass for Bonnie Hall
Sunday, December 24, 2023	10:30 AM	Mass for the People of the Parish

**The sanctuary lamp is burning in memory of James Blake and Brian Francis by family.  
December 17 - 30, 2023.**

### Prayer List

**Those who are sick:** Robert and Sophia Anisko, 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, Sophia McLean, Shirley Murchland, Susan Murray, Judy Nicholas, Sue Nutter, Mary Oldaker, Rahming, Brenda Riley, Jim Riley, Jerry Stalnaker, Helen Tomaro, Dorothy Valdez, Audrey Westfall

• **Those who have died:** Gladys Mann, May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

• **All Veterans, and Military Personnel:** Bobby Summers

• **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	96
Sunday	191
Total	287

### Collections

Saturday	\$1741
Sunday	\$1190
Mail/Drop Box	\$1935
Total	\$4866
School	\$265
Votives	\$
Maintenance	\$225
Loan	\$0
Organ	\$5
Christmas Flowers	\$70
Religious Retirement	\$883
<b>Wesbanco Balance</b>	\$53,383.97
<b>Organ Loan Bal.</b>	\$77,599.38

December 24 & 25: Collection for  
Catholic Charities WV

### 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](http://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](http://www.dwc.org) under "Accountability" for additional information and reporting methods.





## **40 Hours Devotion 1/12-1/14**

**Join us for 40 Hours of devotion  
to the Blessed Sacrament.**

### **Friday**

6:00 PM—Exposition and Vespers with  
Preached Homily

9:30 PM—Chanted Compline followed by  
Simple Reposition

### **Saturday**

7:00 AM Exposition

8:00 AM—Office of Readings and Lauds

8:30 AM—Votive Mass of The Most Holy  
Eucharist

12:00 PM—Recitation of the Angelus and  
the Most Holy Rosary

5:00 PM—Vespers followed by Simple  
Reposition

5:30 PM—Saturday Vigil Mass

9:30 PM—Chanted Compline

### **Sunday**

9:30 AM—Office of Readings and Lauds  
followed by Simple Reposition

10:30 AM—Solemn Mass

12:00 PM—Recitation of the Angelus and  
the Most Holy Rosary

6:00 PM—Solemn Vespers and  
Benediction with Preached Sermon

# What is the 40 Hours Devotion?

The Forty Hours Devotion is a special forty-hour period of continuous prayer made before the Blessed Sacrament in solemn exposition. Of course, the focus of this devotion is on the Holy Eucharist. As Catholics, the words of our Lord burn in our hearts: "I myself am the living bread come down from Heaven. If anyone eats this bread, He shall live forever; the bread I will give is my flesh for the life of the world" (John 6:51).

Affirming our belief in the real presence of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, the Vatican Council II taught that the Holy Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life" (Lumen Gentium, #11). While the Mass is the central act of worship for us Catholics, an act which participates in the eternal reality of our Lord's passion, death, and resurrection, Vatican Council II upheld and encouraged the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament outside of Mass. Of course such devotion derives from the sacrifice of the Mass and moves the faithful to both sacramental and spiritual communion with our Lord (Eucharisticum Mysterium, #50). As Pope Pius XII taught in *Mediator Dei*, "This practice of adoration has a valid and firm foundation." Our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II has repeatedly "highly recommended" public and private devotion of the Blessed Sacrament, including processions on the Feast of Corpus Christi and the 40 Hours Devotion (cf. *Dominicae Caeae*, #3, and *Inaestimabile Donum*, #20-22).

Second, the number forty has always signified a sacred period of time: the rains during the time of Noah lasted 40 days and nights; the Jews wandered through the desert for 40 years, our Lord fasted and prayed for 40 days before beginning His public ministry. The 40 Hours Devotion remembers that traditional "forty-hour period" from our Lord's burial until the resurrection. Actually in the Middle Ages, the Blessed Sacrament was transferred to the repository, "the Easter Sepulcher," for this period of time to signify our Lord's time in the tomb.

The Forty Hours Devotion begins with Exposition, which concludes with the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. The Blessed Sacrament remains on the altar in a monstrance. During the next 40 hours, the faithful gather for personal or public prayer in adoration of our Lord. The Blessed Sacrament is reposed in the tabernacle for the daily Mass, and then returned for exposition after Mass. At the end of the devotions, the Mass of Reposition is offered, again concluding with a procession, benediction and final reposition of the Blessed Sacrament. While the forty-hour period should be continuous, some Churches break-up the time, reposing the Blessed Sacrament at night because of security reasons.

The Forty Hours Devotion can be seen almost like a parish mini-retreat or mission. A guest priest may be invited to give a series of homilies. Confessions should be offered and encouraged. Consequently, an appropriate time to schedule Forty Hours is either Advent or Lent.

While the Forty Hours Devotion nurtures the love of the faithful for our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, three special dimensions have also surrounded this devotion: the protection from evil and temptation; reparation for our own sins and for the Poor Souls in Purgatory; and deliverance from political, material, or spiritual calamities. Here the faithful implore our Lord to pour forth His abundant graces not only for themselves, but their neighbors, not only for their own personal needs, but for those of the world.

Such practices are evidenced in the history of this devotion. The practice of Forty Hours Devotion originated in Milan about the year 1530. Granted, prior to this time, the Church did have exposition and benediction, Eucharistic processions, and devotions to the Blessed Sacrament reserved in the tabernacle. In 1539, Pope Paul III responded to a petition from the Archdiocese of Milan asking for an indulgence for the practice: "Since our beloved son the Vicar General of the Archbishop of Milan, at the prayer of the inhabitants of the said city, in order to appease the anger of God provoked by the offenses of Christians, and in order to bring to nought the efforts and machinations of the Turks who are pressing forward to the destruction of Christendom, amongst other pious practices, has established a round of prayers and supplications to be offered by day and night by all the faithful of Christ, before our

Lord's Most Sacred Body, in all the churches of the said city, in such a manner that these prayers and supplication are made by the faithful themselves relieving each other in relays for forty hours continuously in each church in succession, according to the order determined by the Vicar... We approving in our Lord so pious an institution, grant and remit." While this pronouncement seems to be the earliest official approval by the Church of this devotion, the Forty Hours Devotion spread rapidly.

By 1550, both St. Philip Neri and St. Ignatius Loyola had also instituted this practice, especially for the reparation of sin. Recognizing the tremendous graces offered through this devotion as well as the dangers threatening the Church, Pope Clement VIII in his letter *Graves et diuturnae* (November 25, 1592) proclaimed, "We have determined to establish publicly in this Mother City of Rome an uninterrupted course of prayer in such ways that in the different churches, on appointed days, there be observed the pious and salutary devotion of the Forty Hours, with such an arrangement of churches and times that, at every hour of the day and night, the whole year round the incense of prayer shall ascend without intermission before the face of the Lord." He also issued regulations for the devotions, which were later collected and promulgated by Pope Clement XI in 1705, and known as the *Instructio Clementina*.

In our own country, St. John Neumann (1811-60), the fourth bishop of Philadelphia, was a strong promoter of the Forty Hours Devotion. While the practice had already existed in individual churches throughout the city (as well as in other places in the country), no organized, cohesive diocesan schedule for it had ever before been attempted. St. John had an tremendous devotion to our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, and desired to foster such a spiritual life in his people.

Unfortunately at this time, a strong anti-Catholic sentiment plagued Philadelphia. During the Know Nothing riots of 1844, two churches were burned and another was saved simply by the threat of gunfire. Some priests, therefore, advised St. John that the introduction of 40 Hours Devotion would only flame the hatred against the Catholics and expose the Blessed Sacrament to desecration. St. John was left in a quandary.

A strange incident occurred which helped St. John decide. One night, he was working very late at his desk and fell asleep in his chair. The candle on the desk burnt down and charred some of the papers, but they were still readable. He awoke, surprised and thankful that a fire had not ignited. He fell on his knees to give thanks to God for protection, and heard His voice saying, "As the flames are burning here without consuming or injuring the writing, so shall I pour out my grace in the Blessed Sacrament without prejudice to My honor. Fear no profanation, therefore; hesitate no longer to carry out your design for my glory."

He introduced the practice of 40 Hours Devotion at the first diocesan synod in April, 1853, and the first devotions began at St. Philip Neri Parish, an appropriate place since that saint had initiated the devotion in the city of Rome. St. John himself, spent most of the three days in the Church praying. No trouble ensued. St. John then introduced the program for the whole diocese, so that each parish would have Forty Hours Devotion during the course of the year. He composed a special booklet for the devotions and obtained special indulgences for the faithful attending them. The Forty Hours Devotion was so successful it spread to other dioceses. At the Plenary Council of Baltimore in 1866, the Forty Hours Devotion was approved for all Dioceses of the United States.

The Forty Hours Devotion provides a wonderful opportunity for the spiritual growth of each person and the parish as a whole. In a world where temptation and evil abound, where devotion to the Mass and our Lord in the Holy Eucharist have declined, where the practice of penance and confession have been forgotten, we need the Forty Hours Devotion more than ever.





# Eucharistic Testimony

## A Eucharistic Revival Initiative

It was another night with my Bible open and my husband with his Catechism. I had questions and wanted to understand why he wanted to join the Catholic church. I was ready with scripture to push back. Covid led him into a deep dive researching and he began attending Mass. I was less than thrilled. I had grown up in a strong Christian home, attended a Christian school, and never once considered exploring the Catholic church and challenging what I believed as a Protestant.

As my husband began attending RCIA classes, I started reading more and attending Mass on the weekends. Scripture memory had always been a big part of my life growing up so I was shocked by all the scripture I heard during the Mass. I had so many questions but my heart was being drawn in.

One of the books I was reading at the time discussed John 6 in depth. It was as if I had never read this chapter in the Bible. I was struck by how many times Jesus was commanding the people to eat his flesh, that He truly was the bread of life sent down from Heaven to bring people eternal life. He was not giving a parable. The people listening knew he was speaking literally. Verse 66 says "many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him." I pictured myself standing there with the twelve as Jesus asks them "Do you also want to leave?" I could clearly hear his invitation to receive him fully: body, blood, soul, and divinity in the Eucharist.

The Bible was becoming alive to me in a whole new way and challenging me. I still had questions and needed to understand more fully the church's teachings but Christ was calling me to step out in faith. I had reached a point in my journey that to not take the next step felt more like disobedience.

Easter of 2021 our family was welcomed into the Church. After months of attending Mass, I was about to receive our Lord in the Eucharist! The entire day leading up to the vigil I had butterflies in my stomach. It reminded me of getting ready on my wedding day. John Paul II calls the Eucharist "the sacrament of the Bride and the Bridegroom." All these months at Mass I would just weep as communion was given. As the Catechism says, it is the source and summit of our faith and before I could receive my soul deeply knew this and longed for Him. That night at the Easter Vigil I had a peace I had never known before. But, all this was to prepare me and our family for much harder times ahead.

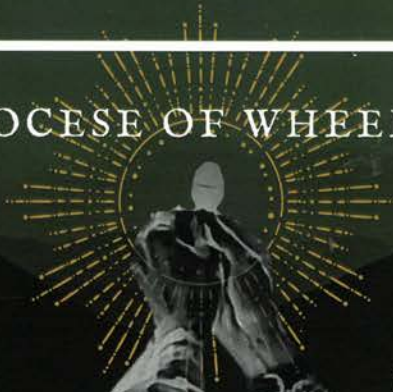
It has not been an easy road since coming into the Church. When I read about the lives of the saints, the disciples, and Jesus himself I take comfort in knowing our sufferings are used for God's glory. There are many times I have questioned God's timing but know I was not equipped to handle the hardships I've faced without the sacraments.

I often think of the woman afflicted with hemorrhages as I wait to receive the Eucharist. She had faith enough to believe that if she only touched the hem of Jesus' garment she would be healed. My prayer is that I, my husband, and my children would always approach the Eucharist with this same faith. The same Jesus that healed this woman, made the lame walk, and rose from the dead is really present every time we receive communion. What a miracle!





DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON



# PRIESTHOOD **Discernment** Retreat

- FOR MEN 18 AND OLDER
- PRAY, SHARE MEALS, AND ATTEND SEMINARY CLASSES WITH WV SEMINARIANS
- HEAR TALKS ABOUT PRIESTLY LIFE AND DISCERNMENT

MOUNT ST. MARY'S SEMINARY

16300 OLD EMMITSBURG RD, EMMITSBURG, MD 21727

SUNDAY  
MARCH 10  
12:30PM



MONDAY  
MARCH 11  
10:00PM

TO APPLY, CONTACT FR. PHILLIP SZABO  
AT [PSZABO@DWC.ORG](mailto:PSZABO@DWC.ORG) TO ARRANGE  
A TIME FOR A BRIEF PHONE INTERVIEW.





## When Christmas Eve is on a Sunday....

Some are naturally wondering, do we have to go to Mass twice on Dec. 24th, because Christmas Eve is on a Sunday?

It's a bit confusing, but yes, if you are typically a Sunday Mass goer and enjoy attending the Christmas Vigil, you will be going to Mass twice that day. Just do not make the mistake of assuming your Sunday obligation and Christmas holy day of obligation can be met with one Mass on Dec 24th.

To be clear, the Sunday obligation for the Fourth Sunday of Advent may only be fulfilled by attending either the vigil Mass on Dec. 23rd or a morning Mass on December 24th. The Holy Day of obligation for Christmas is fulfilled by attending Mass at 4pm or after on Sunday, December 24 or Mass on Christmas Day.

On the fourth and final Sunday of Advent of we reflect on the peace that Jesus Christ brings to our world. The fourth candle we light on the advent wreath, called the Lord hear our prayer "Angel Candle" represents the moment the angels announced that Jesus has come to bring peace (Luke 2:14).



Enjoy these holy days of opportunity to grow in the faith, hope, love, and joy of Christ.



# Faith IN WV

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

## FAITH IS A LIFELONG JOURNEY!

Strengthen yours through FaithInWV,  
our weekly e-bulletin in the  
Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

Visit [FAITHINWV.ORG/CONTACT-US](http://FAITHINWV.ORG/CONTACT-US)  
to receive this FREE weekly e-bulletin.





**Catholic Charities West Virginia is on a mission to end poverty, one family at a time.**

**Join us! Please donate.**

- Give to the second collection at Christmas masses
- Donate online at: [www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org)
- Mail donations to: 2000 Main Street, Wheeling, WV 26003



Come to me, all who are weary and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.  
—Matthew 11:28

It is more blessed to give than to receive. — Acts 20:35  
Catholic Charities West Virginia helps tens of thousands of our brothers and sisters in need every year. Your donation allows us to provide hope, provide safety, provide food and provide care.  
Join us in our mission of love! Give to Catholic Charities: Through the second collection at Christmas masses  
Online at [www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org)  
By mail to 2000 Main Street, Wheeling, WV 26003  
In giving, we live honorably before God who gives us all we have. Through your support, we can continue providing caring and compassionate support to West Virginians in need. Thank you for your heart to give.

**Support Catholic Charities West Virginia!**

## **Special Collection for the Holy Land Region to be Held Jan. 13-14 in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston**

By Colleen Rowan

WEST VIRGINIA—Bishop Mark Brennan has approved a special collection for the Holy Land region to be held in parishes and missions of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston at Masses the weekend of Jan. 13-14.

The bishop made the announcement Dec. 14 to all priests, parishes, and missions of the diocese.

"We are all aware of the current Hamas-Israeli war and the escalation in violence in the Holy Land," the bishop said in the announcement. "The money collected will be sent to The Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA), a papal agency for humanitarian and pastoral support. They will provide the essentials of water, food, and emergency kits on the ground in the Holy Land. CNEWA has offices in the region and know where and what kind of help is needed the most."

Checks for the collection are to be made payable to one's respective parish/mission and on the memo line indicate CNEWA Holy Land Collection. The parish/mission will then send one check for all contributions for this collection to the DWC Finance Department.

The bishop is asking parishes to spread the word about the importance of this collection.

"Please continue to pray for peace and for all those who have suffered losses during this war," the bishop said.

CNEWA was founded by Pope Pius XI in 1926 as an instrument of love and a sign of hope for those in need scattered throughout the historic but unstable lands of the ancient Eastern churches — the Middle East, Northeast Africa, India and Eastern Europe, the organization's website states.

For nearly 100 years, the site states, CNEWA has walked side by side with those in need.

"We have prayed with them when they were attacked, comforted them when they grieved, fed them when they hungered, bandaged them when they bled, sheltered them when they had no place to call home," the site states. "We have been there, always, through the arms of the living body of Christ, the church, as they live for others, counseling the despondent, caring for the sick, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, teaching the eager and forming the next generation of leaders."

CNEWA, the site notes, is a network of generous and compassionate people scattered throughout the world, committed to living Jesus' great command to "love one another" by reaching out to their neighbors in need, regardless of where their neighbor may be.

This network links generous donors with the laity, priests, sisters and bishops of the local churches — CNEWA's "boots on the ground" — who receive help and touch countless lives in incalculable ways in Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, India, Armenia, Georgia and Ukraine



## SCHOOL NEWS

Our Santa Shop brought joy and smiles last week, and it was a resounding success! A special round of applause to the incredible Mrs. Shelia McCartney for masterfully orchestrating this festive event. Gratitude fills our hearts for the dedicated parent volunteers who generously shared their time, making it a memorable experience for everyone involved. Thank you for spreading the holiday spirit and creating cherished moments!



### Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest Winners

There was great participation in the annual Knights of Columbus "Keep Christ in Christmas" Poster contest this year. The contest was judged on Artistic Merit, Slogan, and overall impact. Thank you to everyone who entered.

Age 11 - 14

1st place: Ella Minnich

2nd place: Eva Lough

3rd place: Daniel Cardenas

Age 8 - 10

1st place: Reagan Murphy

2nd place: Ryleigh Murphy

3rd place: Mia Park

Age 5 - 7

1st place: Aubrey Pickens

2nd place: Cecilia Ayala

3rd place: Kamdyn Walton

### Fall Newsletter



The school's fall newsletter was mailed this week to all school parents, alumni, and church parishioners. If you did not receive one in the mail, please contact the church office.



## Advent Reconciliation Opportunities

**Monday December 18**

9:00 - 10:00 a.m.  
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.  
5:00 - 6:00 p.m.  
6:00 p.m. - continued  
during & after Mass  
(Father Maghsoudi)

## Christmas Mass Schedule

**December 24th: 4:30 PM**  
**December 25th Midnight**  
**December 25th: 10:30 AM**

*Reminder: morning Mass on the  
24th does not count as your  
Christmas obligation, nor does the  
4:30 Mass on the 24th count for  
your Sunday Mass obligation. Time  
should be made to attend both  
Sunday Mass and Christmas Mass.*

## ON DECK

**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

**Wednesday, December 20**

No Adoration or Mass

**December 22 - 26**

Parish Office Closed

**Monday, January 1**

Parish Office closed

**Friday January 12, 6:00 p.m. -**

**Sunday, January 14, 6:00 p.m.**

40 Hours Devotion

**Sunday, January 14**

Free Throw Competition, sponsored by  
the Knights of Columbus

**Sunday, January 21**

Donut Sunday

## Parish Office Hours for the upcoming Holidays

The parish office will be closed on Friday, December  
22 - Tuesday, December 26 for Christmas.

The office will also be closed on Monday, January 1.

## Thank You, Bennett's Furniture and Appliance Center!

We would like to thank **Bennett's Furniture & Appliance Center** for  
once again sending a truck and driver to deliver our Angel Tree  
presents to Stonewall Resort. This year, thirty-five kids will have a  
better Christmas because of the generosity of our parishioners!  
Thank you to everyone who adopted angels!

## 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 two (purple) candles and the third  
(pink) 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.

## Rejoicing

"(The desert) will bloom with abundant flowers and rejoice with joyful song." "Rejoice  
in the Lord always!" "Shout for joy, O daughter Zion!"

The Scriptures for the Third Sunday of Advent proclaim their message in no  
uncertain terms: Rejoice! Joy is all around us and our celebration of Advent calls us  
to discover it. The joy that the Scripture passages speak about is not a joy that  
equates with hilarious laughter. It is a joy that comes from a security with our God,  
those around us, and our place in the world. It is the joy Isaiah describes when he  
writes, "I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul." It is a joy that  
cannot be bought or obtained from artificial highs. It is a joy that comes from our  
living faith in a living God.

It is the joy we feel as we approach the birth of our Savior and remember the  
awesome beauty of what happened on that cold Bethlehem night.

**Rejoice!**

## 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  
95 US-19S  
304-269-2952 - 304-931-9379  
jmgfix2@gmail.com



354 US HWY 33  
WESTON  
304-997-3228

Don't forget to grab a new calendar  
from the vestibule! Stay up to date  
on feast days throughout the  
liturgical year.

### Brooks' Body Shop

20 Brookview Drive  
Weston, WV 26452  
304-269-7257  
Cell 304-266-2143  
brooksbodyshop41@aol.com



JOHN LAW CPA, A.C.  
132 FIRST ST., WESTON  
304-269-3304  
JOHN E. LAW, CPA  
BETTY HILL, CPA  
TOM STARK

### Hickory House LLC.

Rental Properties  
and Campsites  
**304-695-1007**

Family Dentistry of  
Weston, PLLC



304-269-6151

kate@llgrp.com

Kate Garton, Broker



**MENTION THIS  
AD IN STORE TO  
SAVE 10%**

\*excludes serialized items

**LANDMARK  
FORESTRY**

### Lewis County Senior Center In-Home Care Department 304-269-5738

171 W. 2nd Street



Weston WV



304-269-7700  
Rusty Allison, Owner

### Foster Feed

202 Bland St  
Weston, WV  
304-269-1333

### ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL

More Ways to Care,  
Right Here at Home.  
Physician Referral Line  
**304-473-2200**



1 Amalia Drive  
Buckhannon

Dr. Daniel D.  
Farnsworth IV  
Optometrist



137 Main Ave.  
Weston

304-269-2020

**Ted's  
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Cooling**

Jane Lew, WV  
304-672-1145



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### COTTER WOODWORKING CO.

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cwc1991@comcast.net



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

144 Hackers Creek Road  
Jane Lew, WV 26378

304-884-2400

www.patboylefuneralhome.com

**HELP US KEEP  
GOD'S HOUSE CLEAN**

Please tidy up  
your pew before  
leaving.

**Thank you!**

**Support  
LOCAL  
Businesses**



### 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