



BASILICA OF THE CO-CATHEDRAL OF THE SACRED HEART



Pilgrimage Site for: Diocesan Shrine of Santo Niño
“Annunciation” and “Tree of Life” Meditation Gardens

2nd Sunday of Advent - December 6th, 2020

Pastor: Most Rev. Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

Rector: Very Rev. Donald X. Higgs Email: dhiggs@dwc.org
Associate: Rev. Binu Emmanuel, CST Email: bemmanuel@dwc.org

1114 Virginia St., East, Charleston, WV 25301, Telephone: (304) 342-8175/Fax: (304) 344-3907
E-Mail: sacredheartwv@gmail.com - Website: www.sacredheartcocathedral.com



MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 5:30 PM
Sunday 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM & 12:00 Noon
Monday-Friday 12 Noon

Mass from the Basilica is live streamed on our
Facebook page, Sundays at 10AM

Mass from the Diocese is being live-streamed at 6 p.m. on
Saturday, where it remains online. The link is
<https://dwc.org/home/mass/>

Listen to EWTN on WLUX 1450 AM
Dunbar|Charleston
<https://www.ewtn.com/radio/schedule>

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

In the Cordis Center Chapel by appointment only.
304-342-8175

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Suspended until further notice.



PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

“We, at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, are a diverse community of the poor, the disadvantaged and hungry, the well-to-do, the youth, elderly, visitors and those seeking refuge.

As a community of many cultures and races, we stand for unity in our diversity by expressing our love of God the Father through prayer and worship, through service to one another, through the ministry of welcoming, through evangelization and ecumenism. With the Bishop, we shall pursue this mission faithfully through the example of Jesus Christ, the power of the Holy Spirit and the gifts and talents of our members.” All are welcome today, especially visitors, guests and those who might be new to the community.

Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart

TELEPHONE 304-342-8175

FAX 304-344-3907

ADMINISTRATION

Bookkeeper: Pam Acevedo 342-8175
email: pacevedo@shccwv.us
Office Assistant: Angela Hodges 342-8175
email: ahodges@shccwv.us
Property Manager: John Blake 342-8175
email: jblake@shccwv.us
Secretary: Sheila Kerekes 342-8175
email: skerekes@shccwv.us

EDUCATION

Director of RCIA: Mike Kawash 549-6453
Email: mak@ramlaw.com
Coordinator of Religious Education: Sr. Ida Chikara 1-304-709-0026
Email: idachikara@gmail.com
Sacred Heart Early Learning Center: 6 weeks-3 years
Dawn Snyder, Director 414-5757
Sacred Heart Child Development Center: After School Care
Jeannie Tyler, Coordinator 344-1125
Sacred Heart Grade School: K-5/Pre-School (ages 3-4)
Susan Malinoski, Principal 346-5491
Charleston Catholic High School: 6-12
Colleen M. Hoyer, Principal 342-8415

SACRAMENTS

Anointing of the Sick, Confession, Infant Baptism, Weddings
For information/to schedule any of the above 304-342-8175

MUSIC

Music Director: Mark Haas 342-8175
Email: mhaas@shccwv.us
Principal Organist: Gregory Gray 380-4786

OTHER PARISH GROUPS OR MINISTRIES

Boy Scouts: Michael Casey 380-3129
Catholic Charities Office-Family Life Center 380-0162
Cub Scouts: Adam Rohrig 276-274-8110
Girl Scouts: Sandi Greenhowe 553-7021
Knights of Columbus -St. Michael the Archangel #12630
Dick Fauss, Grand Knight 965-6872
George Merolle, Faithful Navigator, Fr. Boniface Assembly 546-2269
Ministry to Sick/Elderly
Sr. Ida Chikara, SJI 1-304-709-0026
Sr. Placxedece Mugore, SJI 1-304-709-0037
Mount Olivet Cemetery/Mausoleum 342-8135
Wayne Johnson or Sacred Heart Parish
Prayer Shawl Ministry: Wanda Dettinger 344-1181
Saint John XXIII Pastoral Center 342-0507
SH Christian Service Committee: Ron Rushworth 382-7768

Sharing Our Treasure - 11/29/2020

Regular Collection: \$11,540
Thanksgiving: \$384

Thank you for your faithful generosity.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at the Basilica
2nd Sunday of Advent-December 6th, 2020

12/05 Sat. 5:30 pm NO MASS
12/06 Sun. 8:00 am NO MASS
10:00 am People of the Parish
12:00 pm NO MASS
12/07 Mon. 12:00 pm NO MASS
12/08 Tue. 12:00 pm Live Stream Mass for Immaculate Conception
12/09 Wed. 12:00 pm NO MASS
12/10 Thu. 12:00 pm + John Ruddick
12/11 Fri. 12:00 pm + Fr. Lydon his Parents & Siblings
12/12 Sat. 5:30 pm People of the Parish
12/13 Sun. 8:00 am + Joe Koleske
10:00 am + Arlene Estep Munson
12:00 pm + Florencia Bernardo Jiminez

Mark Haas is looking for 5-6 people to assist with Christmas Mass live streaming and overflow area projection. All Masses on Christmas eve/day will be live streamed and broadcast. Contact him today! mhaas@shccwv.us

Due to COVID complications, the annual [Catholic Charities Shining Stars Program](#) cannot occur this year as has been in the past. Last year, the Charleston Catholic Community sponsored Christmas gift-giving for over 300 children; this year we are hoping that same generosity will shine forth and help us provide the necessary funding to assist parents with children in need.

Cash and checks are acceptable forms of donation; checks should be made out to Sacred Heart Parish...in the memo part of your check, please insert "Christmas Shining Star". If you prefer to donate cash, please place in a sealed envelope and likewise, mark as "Christmas Shining Star".

All donations should be received by Sunday the 13th of December. 100% of all funds collected will go to Charleston's children in need.

Bill Hagy,
Catholic Charities West Virginia
1024 Quarrier Street, Charleston, WV 25301
304-380-0162 or bhagy@ccwva.org



Blessings and Congratulations to Matthew Reed Balenovich, Baptized Saturday, November 28th. He is the child of John & Rebecca Balenovich.

Dear Parishioners,

Greetings in the Lord!

It has been since March that our world has been dealing with Covid-19. We have watched with great sadness and shock the growing number of infections and deaths. While we have seen and experienced a lot of suffering and loss, we have seen great examples of heroic work done by our healthcare workers, physicians, and first responders. Locally, we have witnessed the many long hours of hard work from our school principals, staff, and teachers to serve our students. Parents and students have also done incredible work in order to keep everyone safe in school.

Since May we have been blessed to be able to gather at our Basilica for the celebration of Mass. In order to gather in person for Mass, we rely on the dedicated help of our ushers and on you in following the safety procedures. I am grateful for all of you, for we have not had any outbreaks in our Basilica.

However, I want to let you know about an outbreak in our parish office building, which is the Sacred Heart Cordis Center.

This past week a multitude of staff members have tested positive for Covid-19. Fr. Binu and I have been tested twice, both times we were negative. Our Religious Sisters have been tested and are awaiting their results. Due to the fact that Fr. Binu and I have had direct contact with those who have tested positive, it is out of an abundance of caution that we will not be having public Masses this coming weekend (Dec. 5-6). We take this action with the approval of Bishop Brennan and the advice of the West Virginia Health Department guidelines. We will live-stream the 10am Mass from the Basilica.

Our parish offices will be closed until further notice. At this time, we plan to resume daily Mass on the 10th of December and return to our Sunday Masses next weekend (Dec. 12-13). Please do your part in protecting others and yourself by following the safety measures and the pro-life mandates. I know this is a trying and scary time for those who have tested positive and their families. Our faith will see us through these difficult days. The vaccines that are coming give us great hope. Please keep our parish staff and their families in your daily prayers as they recover and return to work.

Pray for our world and nation as we face this pandemic. During this Advent time, let us increase our prayers and ask Jesus, the Divine Physician to come and bring healing and comfort to the suffering. If you have any questions, please call me on my cell. May you and your family be safe and peaceful. I remain,

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Don

304-685-2367



DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON
1311 BYRON STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 230
WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA 26003

Monday, November 23, 2020

Dear Faithful of the Wheeling-Charleston Diocese,

We are about to enter the season of Advent, a time of joyful expectation for the coming of the Lord. Early in Advent we focus on the Lord's second coming in glory before turning to the season's later phase to remember how God fulfilled His promise to Israel to send a Savior, Jesus, born in humility in Bethlehem.

After a contentious election season, during a dangerous pandemic whose end is not yet in sight, having become more conscious of ongoing patterns of racism and nativism in our country and still grappling with scandals in our beloved Church, it may seem that the promise of Christ is remote from our experience. Yet the Lord is never absent from us! He comes to us through his Word, proclaimed in church or meditated upon at home; through those in need, in whose faces we recognize Christ's; and through the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, in which the Lord personally enters each of us, and Penance, which purifies us to receive the Lord worthily. In these ways he keeps his word to us: I am with you always, until the end of the age [Matthew 28:20].

The COVID-19 pandemic will affect how we celebrate Advent and Christmas in our Diocese, but we will celebrate them! Masks and hand sanitizers and physical distancing cannot stop us from expressing our faith and joy in the Lord. They actually allow us to gather for worship in a safe manner, considerate of those with whom we worship.

Even during this pandemic, many people who do not ordinarily worship with us will join us at Christmas Masses. Let us welcome them, if not with embraces, because of the pandemic, then with "the elbow of friendship" and a hearty "Welcome!" Let us presume that they want to hear how God, through the birth of His Son, has shown His love and mercy to the world. Let them know you hope to see them again.

The truth is that we have a great message to announce to the people we live and work with. To a world submerged in the darkness of sin, error and death, God has sent a Savior. We cannot overcome these evils on our own. Only God can destroy sin, enlighten those in error and bring the dead to new life. That's the message we have: Jesus Christ is the Savior designated by God the Father to bring us light and life. Our message is rightly called Good News. It is news too good to keep to ourselves. We have to share it.

I hope you are willing to share the Good News about Jesus Christ with others. It is not beyond your ability. Let me share with you a simple Advent plan.

First, make a list, mental or on paper, of people you hope will hear the Gospel: family members, friends, coworkers, fellow students. Make the commitment to pray for them every day. In your morning prayer or at some other time, ask the Lord to open their minds and hearts to His Word.

Second, fast for these people once a week. Fasting can be from food -- most of us can afford to forego lunch or another meal without hurting our health -- but fasting can also be from some favorite activity such as a television show or playing video games. We do without a good thing as a sacrifice to show the Lord we mean it when we are praying for those on our list.

Third, offer to God any hardship or suffering you are experiencing: an illness, the loss of a loved one, a job opportunity that slipped away. Rather than let it embitter you, give it to God on behalf of those for whom you are praying. You can also offer good works you engage in: a teacher might dedicate her teaching on behalf of those for whom she prays, while a doctor does the same as he sees his patients; a teenager might dedicate to this intention her effort to reach out to a fellow student no one talks to, while a father might give to the Lord his getting up from bed to check on the baby he heard crying. When we do things with the right spirit, our prayers have greater effect. The fervent prayer of a righteous person is very powerful before God [James 5:16].

There is a final step: ask the Lord to give you opportunities to speak to those for whom you have been praying. Sometimes they give you an opening: a desire to talk about a problem, a great joy they share with you. You can then speak in a simple way from your own experience about why your faith in Jesus Christ and your belonging to his people matter to you. You don't need a theological degree or the eloquence of St. Paul to do it. You are an expert on your own life, including how God has blessed you and held you up. Your willingness to speak of your faith may win an absent Catholic back or gain a soul we never had.

Some may feel that, buffeted as we have been by scandals, this is not the time to speak to anyone about our Catholic faith or reach out to those who have left us. I must disagree. St. Paul said: Proclaim the word; be persistent, whether it is convenient or inconvenient [II Timothy 4:2]. Athletes who don't run will never win the race. Christ's Gospel is not an appetizer. It's the main course. Indeed, it is the best food for the spiritually starved. If it sustains us, it will sustain others.

We are the Gospel people today must encounter. The Lord is counting on us to do our part. Make the commitment to pray, fast and offer your hardships and good works to God for those you hope God's grace will touch. And if anyone shows an openness to hear your testimony of faith, have the courage to share it.

Keep a good Advent! May it bring you happily to the joy of Christmas!

Faithfully in Christ,
+Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

Dear Parishioner,

As you may be aware, the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart will construct an additional mausoleum near the current mausoleum at Mt. Olivet Cemetery. **This is the only Catholic Cemetery in Kanawha County.**



The church has consulted with Tim White at Barlow Bonsall Funeral Home to help us get the mausoleum built. You may contact him at (304)342-8135 or his cell phone at (304)395-4824 for more information or to set up a private meeting. This may be done either virtually or in person. Affordable monthly payment plans are available.

Sincerely yours,

Very Rev. Donald X. Higgs
Rector

“Lord Jesus Christ, by your own three days in the tomb, you hallowed the graves of all who believed in you and so made the grave a sign of hope that promises resurrection even as it claims our mortal bodies”

– Rite of Committal

The Marian Antiphons – Alma Redemptoris Mater

Mark Haas

It has been a joy to pray and sing with fellow parishioners at Sacred Heart for a little over five months now. I am always intrigued by the local customs that have developed within various parish communities. One particularly inspiring custom at Sacred Heart has been to regularly sing and pray the Marian Antiphon. What a beautiful observance of Catholic piety to hear the Salve Regina sung by so many people from the assembly!

The Salve Regina is but one of the four seasonal Marian antiphons that is observed during the liturgical year. This antiphon, a traditional Carmelite hymn, is sung after Pentecost until the first Sunday in Advent. As a spoken prayer, the Salve Regina is often prayed at the conclusion of the rosary: “Hail holy queen, mother of mercy...”

As we reach the season of Advent, the Church now observes the Alma Redemptoris Mater, which is sung through Advent until the Feast of the Purification on February 2 – the traditional concluding date of the Christmas season). This 11th century prayer tells of the angel Gabriel’s announcement, and of Mary’s divine motherhood.

The Alma Redemptoris Mater describes Mary as the gate of heaven, which is a reference to her perpetual virginity, as foretold by the prophet Ezekiel: “This gate is to remain shut. It must not be opened; no one may enter through it. It is to remain shut because the LORD, the God of Israel, has entered through it.” (Ez 44:2)

The antiphon designates our Blessed Mother as the star of the sea. Mary’s name in Hebrew – Miryam, meaning “drop of the sea.” The imagery suggests that the Mother of God is the interceding light to all Christians. She is like the moon, which is lightless, until it reflects a guiding light from the sun (the Son). In his classic book, True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin, Louis Grignion de Montfort would famously coin the phrase, “To Jesus through Mary.”

As we wait with joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ during this season of Advent, let us pray the Alma Redemptoris Mater, and seek our Lord Jesus, through his Blessed Mother, Mary most holy.

Alma Redemptoris Mater, quae pervia caeli porta manes et stella maris, succurre cadenti, surgere qui curat, populo: tu quae genuisti, natura mirante, tuum sanctum genitorem, Virgo prius, ac posterius, Gabrielis ab ore sumens illud ave, peccatorum miserere.

Readers for Weekday Masses

If you wish to read for the weekday Mass, please see the usher as you enter the Church. The usher will give you a copy of the readings for the Mass of the day. The reader is to keep the readings with them while in the pew and bring them as they come up to do the reading. While we are most grateful for the few who do volunteer now, (sometimes at the last minute) this new procedure will allow time for preparation and more volunteers. Thank you.

Second Sunday of Advent



The Path

God of power and might, you sent the prophets Elijah, Isaiah, and John the Baptist to call your people to the path of righteousness. When we wander off, you seek us out and lead us back. Guide us onto the right path. Remove the obstacles that block our way. Strengthen us to continue forward in faith and hope. Protect us from all that endangers us. Compel us to support each other when we stumble or falter. Help us to walk the path of holiness more quickly every day until we are running with joy into your kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 6, 2020-Hasten the Day

Today's Readings: Isaiah 40:1–5, 9–11; Psalm 85:9–10, 11–12, 13–14; 2 Peter 3:8–14; Mark 1:1–8. All three readings today urge us to participate in the completion of God's reign. God tells Isaiah to speak words of consolation. God's people had sinned, and as a result they had been defeated by a foreign nation and scattered from their homeland. God declares that he has forgiven them and is bringing them safely back. The glorious restoration of God's people, however, will only be possible if they turn back to God and undertake the journey home.

John the Baptist declares that the Lord's day is coming whether people want it or not, but he also insists that people can prepare themselves for it. They can acknowledge their sins so as to receive God's mercy and be empowered by God's Spirit when the Lord comes.

Remarkably, in our Second Reading, we are told not only to prepare, but that by striving to live as holy, faithful people, we bring God's kingdom closer to completion. For those who wonder why Christ has not yet returned in glory, St. Peter replies that God is giving us time to repent. The more quickly we allow God's Spirit to work within us, the sooner God will transform our world. We depend on God for "new heavens and a new earth," but when God sees that we are preparing ourselves and helping others to prepare for this transformation, he will hasten the day of his Son's return.

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This Week at Home

Monday, December 7-St. Ambrose of Milan

God will heal his people of all that afflicts them so that they will return to their homeland and begin their lives anew. The man whom Jesus heals in the Gospel passage is also given a new life. How will we live differently when we encounter God's healing and mercy? St. Ambrose's life changed dramatically when the people of Milan asked him to become their bishop. He wasn't even baptized, but he accepted the new path that God laid out for him. May we do the same. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 35:1–10; Psalm 85:9ab and 10, 11–12, 13–4; Luke 5:17–26.*

Tuesday, December 8-Immaculate Conception

Our belief that God kept Mary free from sin in order to bear the sinless Son of God sets Mary apart from us. For some, Mary is too perfect to be relatable. The Second Reading reminds us that God planned for all of us to be holy. God overshadows us with his Spirit so that we, too, will live according to his will. Carefully read through today's Gospel. Then imagine the angel Gabriel appearing to you. What does God ask of you? How do you respond? *Today's Readings: Genesis 3:9–20; Psalm 98:1–4; Ephesians 1:3–6; 11–12; Luke 1:26–38.*

Wednesday, December 9-Yoked

When Jesus urges us to yoke ourselves to him, we might think we are the oxen and he is walking behind us, steering us. Instead, he probably means that he is yoked alongside us, sharing the weight of whatever we are pulling. As we hear in the First Reading, God so lightens our burdens and strengthens us that we seem to have wings. Every few hours, imagine Jesus walking beside you, listening and supporting you. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 40:25–31; Psalm 103:1–2, 3–4, 8 and 10; Matthew 11:28–30.*

Thursday, December 10-Obstacles

God tells his people that they will cut through the mountains that block their path as they return home after being scattered by war. This time of renewal points ahead to the kingdom that Jesus brings. Those who strive to enter God's kingdom will also face obstacles, but their faithful perseverance will bring them into the fullness of God's reign. Offer people a glimpse of God's kingdom by volunteering at or donating to a local food pantry. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 41:13–20; Psalm 145:1 and 9, 10–11, 12–13ab; Matthew 11:11–15.*

Friday, December 11-Wisdom

In the Old Testament, God's wisdom is personified as Lady Wisdom. She dwells among people, teaches them, and draws them down the path of righteousness. Jesus both teaches and embodies God's wisdom. Despite the crowd's refusal to believe it, Jesus is doing the work of God. He remains with us today, guiding us down the path of righteousness. The Book of Proverbs 10—29 is a collection of wise sayings. Choose several that apply to you, and bring them into your prayer. *Today's Readings: Isaiah 48:17–19; Psalm 1:1–6; Matthew 11:16–19.*

Saturday, December 12-Our Lady of Guadalupe

The angel greeted Mary by calling her "favored one." This term implied that Mary had a patron who had commissioned her for some kind of work. Since Mary was a young woman from an insignificant village and God was her patron, she was understandably worried about what she could do for God. As it turned out, she could do a great deal. Just as God favored her, so she revealed God's favor to others, such as the indigenous people of Mexico. What do you need Our Lady of Guadalupe to reveal to you? *Today's Readings: Zechariah 2:14–17 or Revelation 11:19a; 12:1–6a, 10ab; Luke 1:26–38 or Luke 1:39–47.*

2nd Sunday of Advent-Cycle B-1999 (Msgr Sadie)

The discovery of the Dead Sea scrolls in the caves surrounding The Qumran area of the Holy Land has deepened our knowledge of the Jewish sectarians known as the Essenes. These Jews had become disillusioned with what they perceived as the impurity of the liturgy and priesthood in the Temple and laxity in the observance of the Law. Accordingly, they withdrew from mainstream Judaism into the desert to await the Messiah. There they lived monastic lives, sharing all their material and spiritual goods in common. They spent their days in prayer and good works, especially studying, interpreting, copying, and preserving their Sacred Scripture.

These writings discovered in 1947 contain most of the Books of the Old Testament, including a complete scroll of Isaiah from the early part of the 1st century B.C. This is the oldest copy ever found and has advanced biblical scholarship immeasurably.

When the Essenes were preparing to welcome their long-awaited Savior and Deliverer, they took to heart the exhortation of Isaiah we here today in two readings: "In the desert, prepare the way of the Lord."

Although the Qumran's settlement was destroyed by Rome during the Jewish revolt of 66 A.D., the contribution of this group continues to have an impact on the faith of both the Jewish and the Christian communities. Again, this Advent, we, like our Quran ancestors are called to go into the desert, not necessarily in a literal sense, but in a spiritual manner, by invoking the desert experience.

Israel's special relationship with God was born and first nurtured in the desert. With no other resources than those provided by God, the people not only survived, they flourished. Formerly a Bedouin and nomadic society, the Jews eventually became a stable nation and claimed a portion of the earth as their own by God's good favor.

They were sustained in the desert by God, physically with manna, quail, and water from the rock, spiritually by the experience of God's abiding presence in a cloud and a tabernacle. As a people, they enjoyed a special intimacy with their Creator and Redeemer.

Their formative years of wandering in the wilderness, totally dependent upon God, could be thought of as a "honeymoon" with joys far greater than any struggle or difficulty they encountered.

Thus, when subsequent generations of Jews were unfaithful or lacking in fervor, the prophets harked back to the desert experience. They called their contemporaries to repentance and renewal by reminding them of their first zeal for God and God's will and ways with them. "Go back into the desert," they said, "find there once again, the goodness of your youth." Today, the Church calls you and me to once again go into the desert, remember your first fervor for God, renew your initial love.

John the Baptist reminds us of our need for repentance while encouraging us with the Good News that our God is a God of mercy, eager to forgive, eager to welcome sinners.

Peter in his Second Letter suggests that we regard the lengthy interim between the first and the final advent of the Lord not as a delay but as a gift of time from a patient God. Rather than squander this gift by idle speculation about the end of the world or by procrastination, each of us is called to use the gift of each day wisely and well by retiring to that spiritual desert where we stand in truth before God, admit our guilt, define our needs, and pray for the grace of growth and renewed baptismal holiness.

I suggest that even in the midst of your frenzied preparations for Christmas, you can find that desert experience by spending a few minutes in this church any day between 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM. Here you can find silence, solitude and simplicity while experiencing contemplation, communion, and celebration.

But our desert experience must also have social and communal consequences. Just as each Israelite was not alone with God in the wilderness, neither are we. By returning to the first fervor of our love for God, we return to those bonds that bind us not only to God but also to one another. We mark Advent by strengthening those bonds of mutual love and service.

As we see shoppers mob the malls and see the dividing line between the haves and have-nots-of-the-world even more sharply defined, we are challenged to share generously, our time, our talents, our treasure with those less fortunate. We are to recognize in our brothers and sisters the reflection of the Christ for whom we wait; we are to rejoice in welcoming Christ in them.

God Bless You



The Second Sunday of Advent-December 6th, 2020

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

On Tuesday, December 8th, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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).

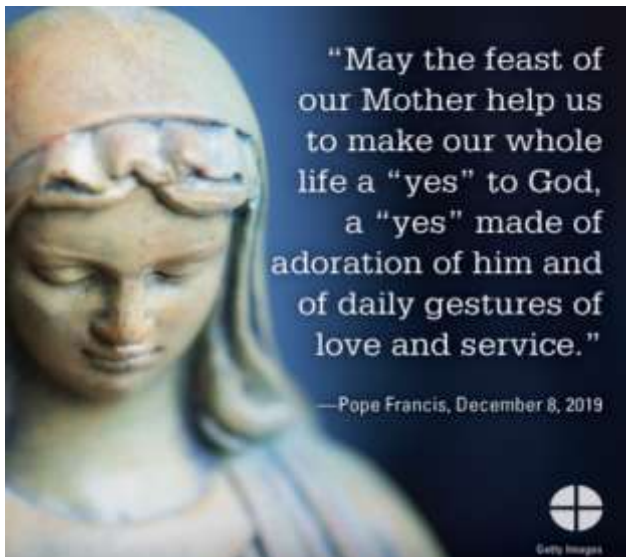
In anticipation that she was to bear the Son of God, Mary was preserved from the time of her conception from Original Sin.

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.

MEMORARE Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, we fly unto you, O Virgin of Virgins, our Mother. To you we come. Before you we kneel, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in your clemency, hear and answer them. Amen.—St. Bernard of Clairvaux



Advent Reconciliation Event

A number of Priests will be available at the Basilica on

December 16th—6:30 to 8:00 PM

You may visit anytime during the time frame.

Covid 19 guidelines will be observed.

Sacred Heart Basilica Gift Shop

If anyone needs to shop for items in the Gift Shop, appointments can be made to meet you there. Please call Antonetta Stevens at 304-415-8132 or Kathy Lamb at 304-552-3512 to make arrangements.

ADVENT WREATH MAKING SUPPLIES

are available in the gift shop, please call Antonetta or Kathy and let them know what you need and to make arrangements for pick up.



The **Red Cross** has informed Council 12630 that the blood drive held on November 24 was a success. The benchmark for a successful blood drive is 26 pints. Our blood drive was able to collect 35 pints [29 whole blood units and 3 double reds which counts as 6 units], which according to Red Cross statistics translates to helping save a number of lives. The Knights of Council 12630 appreciate the support we receive and thanks to anyone who helped with this event.

GABRIEL PROJECT WEST VIRGINIA

Current needs for struggling families in WV

Gabriel Project WV is in need of immediate donations of gently-used winter infant and toddler clothes, both for girls and boys. All types of clothing and all sizes (0 to 5T) are welcome, but newborn and 0 - 3 months is particularly needed - sleepers, shirts, pants, sweaters, outerwear, boys shoes and boots in particular...!

Share Gabriel Project's clothing needs with your family, friends and colleagues. Call 304 414-4666, 304 205-5865, or email: metrovalley@gabrielwv.org for information on drop-off days and times.

Times are tough for many of our West Virginia neighbors! Be an ANGEL and bring joy to someone this season.

Collection-Retirement Fund for Religious December 13th

Make a difference. "Every dollar makes a difference in covering our expenses," says a Trappist abbot. Hundreds of US religious communities struggle to provide for aging members because most senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little pay. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps these communities bridge the gap, offering support for medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please be generous.



State Tax Credits Available Through the Gabriel Project

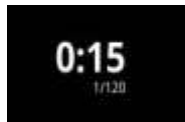
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To schedule a baptism preparation class for your family or to get more information please call 304-342-8175.



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