

Blessed Sacrament Parish – December 12, 2021

*We, Blessed Sacrament Parish, Are a Christ-Centered Community,
Committed to Worship the Father, Committed to Respond to the Spirit's Gifts,
Committed to Loving Service to All God's People*

*Nosotros, la Parroquia del Santísimo Sacramento, Somos una Comunidad Centrada en Cristo,
Comprometidos a Adorar al Padre, Comprometidos a Responder a los Dones del Espíritu Santo,
Comprometidos en el Servicio Amoroso a Todo el Pueblo de Dios*

Masks are required.

We will continue to stream our Masses on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BSCWV/>
for anyone who cannot come to Mass in person.

Worship aids for each Mass will be sent to all by separate emails.

After each weekend and holy day Mass you may drive up to our south entrance to receive Holy Communion in your car.

**If you wish to receive Holy Communion in your car,
please send a text or leave a voicemail at 304-377-3560 to let us know that you will be coming.**

Mass Schedule

Day	Date	Time		Intention
New time Saturday	12/11	4:00pm	+	Tom Grishaber by Debbie Wright
Sunday	12/12	9:00am		Our Parish Family
		11:30am	+	Peter Grady by Joe & Beach Neenan
Monday	12/13			
Tuesday	12/14			
Wednesday	12/15	Noon		Intentions of All of Our Social Workers
Thursday	12/16	Noon	+	Tom Rugel by John & Nancy Kogoy
Friday	12/17	Noon	+	Rosie Webb by Amon & Tim Trapuzzano
Saturday	12/18	4:00pm	+	Pat Burriss by the Burriss Family
Sunday	12/19	9:00am		Our Parish Family
		11:30am	+	Kathy & Jack Grady by Joe & Beach Neenan

We Remember in Our Prayers

Barbara Baldy, Bo Burdette, Elizabeth Coleman, Matthew Crabtree, Karol Dunford, Joe Eisel, Marietta Fenton, Joe Fernandes, Andrew Fields, Rose Finch, Patty Geissinger, Dante Geronilla, John Gianola, Sr. Joe Gregg, Kathleen Groom, John Hanna, John & Claire Johnson, John Lordan, Bob Lucas, Louann Lynch-Kelley, Sheila Kerns, Alec Mansfield, Buz and Barbara McCormick, Evelyn Miller, Keith Morgan, Marie Richardson, Michelle Smith, Nicholas Taylor, Sandy Wheeler, Lily Woolwine, Toni Van Meter

This Week at Blessed Sacrament Parish

Anyone can participate in our Masses and Adoration by just going to www.facebook.com/BSCWV/.

All are most welcome to join all of our ZOOM gatherings

but they must have received a personal email with connection information – so **let us know if YOU “want in”**.

Day	Date	Time	Event	Location
Sat	12/11	9:00am	Men's Bible Study	Parish Hall & ZOOM
		3:00–3:30pm	Confessions	Reconciliation Room
		4:00pm	Mass	Sanctuary & Facebook.com/BSCWV/
Warm Up Kits Weekend				
Sun	12/12	9:00am	Mass	Sanctuary & Facebook.com/BSCWV/
		11:30am	Mass	Sanctuary & Facebook.com/BSCWV/
		1:00pm	What Difference Does Faith Make? https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83890375662?pwd=eGtuaWk0ZGp4b0tKaW9Rd2FBVXZBdz09	Parish Hall & ZOOM
		1:30pm	Breathing Under Water discussion group https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86713888925?pwd=ZzJiSTBRaDVjZzEzNXdESEFqbFA3QT09	Room 5 and ZOOM
		7:00pm	Dismas Men's Group	ZOOM
Mon	12/13	6:00pm	RCIA	Room 5
		7:00pm	Pastoral Council	ZOOM
Tue	12/14	5:00-6:00pm	All Youth – Assembling Warm-up kits	Parish Hall
		6:00pm	Liturgy Committee	ZOOM
		7:30pm	Recycling Team	ZOOM
		7:00pm	What Difference Does Faith Make? https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82507096646?pwd=Y0U2VjFNQktSYTNCZiEYRkR1ZDVpUT09	Parish Hall & ZOOM
Wed	12/15	10:00am	Bible Study: Gospel of Luke	Parish Hall and ZOOM
		Noon	Mass	Chapel & Facebook.com/BSCWV/
		1:00pm	Bible Study: The Book of Habbakuk CH. 3	ZOOM
		7:00pm	Bible Study: Next Sunday's Readings	ZOOM
		7:00pm	Praying Together as Family https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87117924995?pwd=bkE4dkFWRXRicTZ2dlV3WS9BTzQ2Zz09	ZOOM
Thu	12/16	Noon	Mass	Sanctuary & facebook.com/BSCWV/
		6:00pm	Bells Rehearsal	Sanctuary
		7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Fri	12/17	11:15am	Rosary	Chapel & Facebook.com/BSCWV/
		Noon	Mass	Chapel & Facebook.com/BSCWV/
Sat	12/18	9:00am	Men's Bible Study	Parish Hall & ZOOM
		3:00–3:30pm	Confessions	Reconciliation Room
		4:00pm	Mass	Sanctuary & Facebook.com/BSCWV/
		After Mass	Youth Christmas Get-Together	4 th Avenue Field
Sun	12/19	9:00am	Mass	Sanctuary & Facebook.com/BSCWV/
		11:30am	Mass	Sanctuary & Facebook.com/BSCWV/
		3:00pm	Communal Penance Service	Sanctuary

SUNDAY EVENING MASSES IN OUR AREA

Sacred Heart, Charleston 5:00 PM Saint Joseph, Huntington 5:30 PM Our Lady of Fatima Huntington 6:30 PM.

Parish Communal Penance Service

Sunday, December 19 at 3:00pm in our Sanctuary

(also Monday, December 13 at 7:00pm at Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral)



Christmas Mass Schedule

Friday, December 24th	4:00pm	7:00pm	Midnight
Saturday, December 25th	10:00am Christmas morning		

Thank You!

Your donations of toys, dolls, blocks, and books for the needy children served by Catholic Charities will make their Christmas mornings much brighter.



Dinner on Christmas

Bob Danielson, one of our inquirers into the Catholic faith, and a member of the Men's Bible Study on Saturday mornings, has offered to host 6-7 people for Christmas dinner at his house. If you would like to attend, please contact Bob at [home] 304-965-0064 or [cell] 304-415-5323.



Warm Up Kits (This weekend)

Instead of hygiene supplies, please consider donating new warm hats, scarves, gloves and socks for the women participating in the substance abuse recovery homes we help.

Retirement Fund for Religious (special collection **This** weekend)

Reflect on the role of religious in our lives. They nurture faith and vocations. They serve in hospitals, parishes, social services, and Catholic schools. Help them have **adequate resources** in their retirement years.

Christmas Food Baskets for Good Shepherd Food Pantry (between now and Christmas)

This year Blessed Sacrament will donate around \$10,000 to the Good Shepherd Food Pantry in Coalburg to purchase supplies to make Christmas food baskets for 240 needy families. Please consider making **monetary donations** for this very important activity. Write "Food Baskets" in your check's memo line.

Riverside ROTC youths begin preparing Christmas baskets for Coalburg area families.



Catholic Charities West Virginia (special collection on Christmas Day)

Catholic Charities West Virginia helps tens of thousands of our brothers and sisters in need every year. Your **monetary donation** allows us to provide hope, provide safety, provide food and provide care. Join us in our mission of love! Give to Catholic Charities: Online at www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org and by mail to 2000 Main Street, Wheeling, WV 26003.



Get behind our Diaper Drive!



What: Diaper Drive to collect diapers, training pants and baby wipes (or the funds to buy them!) for babies in need in the Kanawha Valley.

All diaper sizes, especially large sizes (4, 5 or 6).
All sizes of training pants.

When: Now through December 31, 2021

How: Purchase a package (or more!) of diapers, training pants and/or baby wipes at your local grocery or discount store and donate them to us.
Or shop online for direct delivery to:

Gabriel Project of West Virginia
1207 Jefferson Road
South Charleston, WV 25309

Unsure about what to purchase? Use our "wish list" registries:

Walmart: <https://www.walmart.com/registry/registryforgood>.

Type Gabriel Project of WV into the search box.

Amazon: <https://smile.amazon.com/hz/charitylist/is/1QRMINNMYMTA>

Why: The average child uses over 2,700 diapers in their first year alone. Diapers are not covered by public assistance. For low-income families, it is a difficult choice between buying a sufficient quantity of diapers and other essential household needs.

Diapers collected during our drive will go directly to families in our community. Please donate!

2022 Parish Calendars Have Arrived!



Pick yours up on the credenza in the gathering space!

Other Items



A Thought on the COVID-19 Pandemic

from Bishop Brennan's Letter to the Faithful on Dec. 3, 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic has not gone away. We must be patient and prudent. Simple protective measures, such as being vaccinated and wearing masks in group settings, make sense. I urge you to trust that the vaccines we prayed for will help you and others stay healthy.

I hope you understand that wearing a mask is an annoyance but not a grave hardship. We are honoring the Lord's command, Love your neighbor as yourself, when we adopt these safety measures.

Let us pray for all those who are sick, for those who died and for the consolation of their families, for our dedicated health care personnel and our essential workers.

At Christmas we will celebrate the birth of our Savior. He came to do us the immense good of freeing us from our sins and from eternal death. Let us, in the midst of this plague, do good to others and to ourselves by practicing both patience and prudence. A blessed Advent season and Christmas to you all! Sincerely in Christ,
Bishop Mark E. Brennan

TEC

TEC stands for Teens Encounter Christ. TEC is an international, spiritual-renewal movement in the Catholic Church that strives to bring young people and adults into a close, personal relationship with Jesus Christ. TEC is a community, led by the Holy Spirit, that gathers people into Christian groups of faith, while attempting to incorporate its ministry into the overall ministry of their members' dioceses and parishes.

The primary method employed to gather people into Christian community and form them in the Christian life is that of the weekend retreat. At the weekend retreat, which usually runs from Friday evening to Monday afternoon, the participants are led into Christ's Paschal Mystery, through a combination of presentations, activities, talks, prayer, community building, and liturgy.

The next TEC retreat that will take place in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston will be held from Friday, January 14th to Monday, January 17th, at the St. John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston, West Virginia. It will be free for all teens who are in their junior year of high school through first year of college.

You can register on the Diocesan website, at <https://dwc.org/diocese/ministries/youth-and-young-adult-ministry/youth-ministry/tec/>, or you can contact Jeanne McKeets at the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis to register: 304-233-0880, ext. 374 or jmckeets@dwc.org.

Our Lady of Guadalupe—Feast Day December 12



In the year 1531, Mary appeared to an Aztec native named Juan Diego. He saw her dressed as an Aztec princess wearing brightly colored clothing. She had a sash around her waist that was worn by pregnant women. Mary promised to help all who called on her and asked that a church be built where she stood. When Juan Diego asked for a sign to convince the bishop of the vision, Mary guided him to a spot where roses were suddenly blooming where only cactus had grown. He filled his cloak with the roses and rushed to the home of the bishop. There he emptied his cloak in front of the astonished bishop and found not only the roses but the image of Mary imprinted on his cloak. That cloak, or *tilma*, is now placed over the altar of a great church that was built, as Mary had directed, on the hill of Tepeyac where an Aztec temple had once stood. The vision and Mary's message brought faith and comfort to the Aztec people, who had been treated with great cruelty by Spanish explorers. Aztec women had been especially abused, and they were greatly honored by Mary's appearance in their features and clothing. Today the oppressed native peoples of the Americas see her as a promise of justice and a cause for hope. Our Lady of Guadalupe is the patron saint of Mexico.

Pray this Prayer as you light your Advent Wreath:

God of mercy, through the prayers of Our Lady of Guadalupe, help us to place our trust in you, and with ever-growing faith, to care for the poor and needy in your name. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Coloring Page:

<https://lpress-craft.loyolapress.com/images/saints/Our-Lady-of-Guadalupe-coloring.pdf>

Videos

The Story of Our Lady of Guadalupe [kids]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I-u7SFLvz8Q>

The Story of Our Lady of Guadalupe [adults]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=egN4HUxhE6M>

How to Make a Paper Tilma [kids]

<https://adw.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2018/11/WWM-How-To-Make-a-Tilma.pdf>

How to draw Mary and Joseph [kids]

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=or_GWyjSYkA

Blessed Sacrament Whole Parish Faith Formation continued

This Week Topics:

- What Does It Mean to be “Created in God’s Image and Likeness”?
- What is Original Sin?
- St. Paul’s Struggle with Sin
- Rose Hawthorne Lathrop [Mother Alphonsa] founder of the Dominican Congregation of St. Rose of Lima & Servants of Relief for Incurable Cancer

Join the discussion either on Zoom or in person on Sunday, December 12 at 1:00pm or Tuesday, December 14 at 7:00pm.

Blessed Sacrament Parish Ministries - Liturgy

Liturgical Ministers –December 11/12

	4:00pm	9:00am	11:30am
Lectors	Tony O’Leary	Victoria Russo	Laura Jennings
Altar Servers	Karen Lewia	Jeanne Jarrett	Need Volunteer
Cantors	Jeanie Walter		John Shawler
Communion: <i>Principals</i>	Todd Witsberger	Barbara Williams	Linda Matheny
Communion to the Sick		Mike Burgess Bob Sherrard Reagan Whitmyer	
Greeters/Ushers	Bev Schissler Rob Schissler	Shelley Nason Pat Cochran	Young Family

Liturgical Ministers – December 18/19

	4:00pm	9:00am	11:30am
Lectors	Gerri Wright	Irene Galloway	Kathy Lester
Altar Servers	Jackson Davis	Eli Simonton Nathaniel Simonton	Vince Stricker Carla Stricker
Cantors	Joe Deegan	Jack Dever	Heather White
Communion: <i>Principals</i>	Christine Fernandes	Rob Plutro	Sally Cline
Communion to the Sick		David Elliott Jackie Lilly Dan Waller	
Greeters/Ushers	Mike Habenschuss Pat Habenschuss	Sue Manahan Barbara Williams	Linda Ayers Greg Ayers

Blessed Sacrament Parish Ministries - Vocations

31 Club this week

	<i>December</i>	
SUN	12	Victoria Russo Jackie Aluise
MON	13	
TUE	14	Shelley Nason
WED	15	Connie Jarzynski
THU	16	Connie Jarzynski
FRI	17	Bob Galloway Bowles Family
SAT	18	Ruby Moore Patty Frame

Serran Prayer for Vocations

O God, Who wills not the death of a sinner, but rather that he be converted and live, grant we beseech you, through the intercession of the Blessed Mary ever Virgin, Saint Joseph, her spouse, Saint Junipero Serra, and all the saints, an increase of laborers for Your church, fellow laborers with Christ to spend and consume themselves for souls, through the same Jesus Christ Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever, and ever. Amen.

A Prayer for Priests

by John Cardinal O'Connor (deceased former Archbishop of New York)

O loving Mother Mary, Mother of Priests, take to your heart your sons who are close to you because of their priestly ordination and because of the power which they have received to carry on the work of Christ in a world which needs them so much. Be their comfort, be their joy, be their strength, and especially help them to live and to defend the ideals of consecrated celibacy.

Lord Jesus, we your people pray to You for our priests. You have given them to us for OUR needs. We pray for them in THEIR needs.

We know that You have made them priests in the likeness of your own priesthood. You have consecrated them, set them aside, anointed them, filled them with the Holy Spirit, appointed them to teach, to preach, to minister, to console, to forgive, and to feed us with Your Body and Blood.

Yet we know, too, that they are one with us and share our human weaknesses.

We know too that they are tempted to sin and discouragement as are we, needing to be ministered to, as do we, to be consoled and forgiven, as do we.

Indeed, we thank You for choosing them from among us, so that they understand us as we understand them,

suffer with us and rejoice with us, worry with us and trust with us, share our beings, our lives, our faith.

We ask that You give them this day

the gift You gave Your chosen ones on the way to Emmaus:

Your presence in their hearts, Your holiness in their souls, Your joy in their spirits.

And let them see You face to face in the breaking of the Eucharistic bread.

We pray to You, O Lord, with Mary the mother of all priests, for Your priests and for ours.

Amen.



The Pastoral Council Goal #2 Team chose the “Salt Shaker” as our logo for Catholic Social Teaching. Everything that our parish community does to promote our mission is “seasoned” with the seven tenets of Catholic Social Teaching! How many salt shakers can you find in these announcements?

Catholic Social Teaching for December – Part 1

#6 – Solidarity and Subsidiarity

“The Church teaches a basic solidarity among all citizens and a responsibility to work together for the benefit of all. There is a call from the gospels to live in harmony and peace based on just principles that include a respect for each human person and their own unique cultural roots and ethnicity, which should extend as well to respect for other nations and cultures.”

Rev. Kevin E. McKenna, A Concise Guide to Catholic Social Teaching

The teaching documents related to this topic include:

- Peace on Earth (Pacem in Terris), Pope John XXIII, 1963, <http://www.vatican.va/encyclicals/paceminterris>
- The Challenge of Peace: God’s Promise and Our Response, National Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1983, <http://www.usccb.org/resources/thechallengeofpeacegod’spromiseandourresponse>.
- God is Love (Deus Caritas Est), Pope Benedict XVI, 2005, <http://www.vatican.va/encyclicals/deuscaritasest>
- Saved in Hope (Spe Salvi), Pope Benedict XVI, 2007, <http://www.vatican.va/encyclicals/spesalvi>
- On Integral Human Development in Charity and Truth (Caritas in Veritate), Pope Benedict XVI, 2009, <http://www.vatican.va/encyclicals/caritasinveritate>

Current Discussion Area:

In this Season, where so many religions and cultures are celebrating a variety of holy worship and experiences, it is appropriate to begin with the words of Pope John XXIII regarding peace and harmony in our world. Pacem in Terris emphasizes a natural law methodology appealing not primarily to the theological categories of redemption, Jesus Christ, and grace but to the ordering of natural law found in human nature that our conscience reveals to us. The building blocks of this ordered world rely on recognizing the order laid down by God written in the heart and revealed by conscience. The main categories of human rights outlined by Pope John XXIII in Pacem in Terris are the rights to: life, moral and cultural values, worship God according to one’s conscience, choose one’s state in life, economic rights, meeting and association, emigrate and immigrate, political rights. At the same time, these natural rights are inseparably connected with respective duties. “A well-ordered society demands that each person recognize and observe one another’s mutual rights and duties.”

Questions for the Week

1. What do you consider to be the most important rights given to you by virtue of being a human being? Why?
2. How does a society best defend the rights of those who are most vulnerable?
3. According to Pope John XXIII, there can be “no peace among people unless there is peace in each person.” How can Christian communities promote this insight in concrete way?

Prayer:

Loving God, help us do everything we can to build a society where all people are able to exercise their human rights and fulfill their responsibilities. Amen

Other Items

Virtual Learning Community

Three 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 the books associated with the courses. The course instructor is Dr. Rodica Stoicoiu. **For further information or to register, please contact Jeanne McKeets at jmckeets@dwc.org with your name, address, and phone number.**

The New Testament Cycle 1 Jan 17-Feb 20 (registration open from Oct 13)

This course explores the stories in and behind the writings we call the New Testament. The course is a general overview introducing the student to the cultural context, composition, themes, and pastoral application of the New Testament accounts for growing in Biblical knowledge. We will study the texts from the threefold perspective of the World within the Text: Literature, The World behind the Text: History, and the World in Front of the Text: Our Culture. Through the study of Biblical maps, articles and religious art present on authoritative websites, our text and class discussions students can grow in New Testament knowledge, understanding and application to their life and ministry.

Introduction to Prayer Cycle 2 Mar 7-Apr 9 (registration opens Jan 19)

"Prayer is our means of taking a sighting, of re-orienting ourselves – by re-establishing contact with our goal. In the presence of God many components of our life fall into perspective and our journey makes more sense. Prayer is inseparable from living." (Casey, p.5). This course explores prayer as essential to our lives as Christian people, as individuals, and within our community of faith. Through this course, students will explore the qualities, forms, and expressions of prayer that help to form and sustain our lives as Catholic Christians.

Survey of Catholic Doctrine Cycle 3 Apr 25-May 15 (registration opens Mar 9)

This course will look at some of the major doctrines of the Catholic Church. Participants will come to a better understanding of the Trinity, original sin, church, salvation history, and the communion of saints. Participants will be asked to identify the meaning of magisterium, ecumenism, eschatology, and other Catholic terms.

Women's Retreat

Co-sponsored with the DWC Office of Evangelization and Catechesis

Embraced with Compassion ... Embracing the World

Presented by Sr. Mary Dean Pfahler

February 25-27, 2022

St. John XXIII Pastoral Center

For information contact:

Gerri Wright 304.552.3662 gerwright1@aol.com

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December 12, 2021

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Third Sunday of Advent

Zep 3:14-18a | Phil 4:4-7 | Lk 3:10-18

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Although spontaneous outbursts of joy are not part of our liturgy, today's readings alert us that we have much reason to rejoice. Even in times of anxiety, we can rely on the words of St. Paul, who writes that we can rest assured that "the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard [our] hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." As we prepare for his coming during this Advent season, we don't need to leap out of our pews and make a show of our praise (but go for it, if that's your style!). However, in our hearts and in our prayer, we can follow the psalmist's lead and "cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel." We can praise God in many ways, through fervent prayer, simple acts of kindness and, as John the Baptist did so well, sharing the Good News.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

"What should we do?" The crowds asked John the Baptist a deceptively simple question many of us wrestle with today. How do we prepare for Christ's coming? How should we spend the next hour, the day, the next year, the next five? John the Baptist answers without reservation: Share what you have. Don't be greedy. Do not falsely accuse others. In other words, get it together! The Lord is coming. Advent is a wonderful time to do just that, and St. Paul reminds us that we don't have to know all the answers. "The Lord is near," he writes, "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." Last week, the readings encouraged us to discern what is truly valuable in our lives as Christians. Today's readings encourage us to ask the Lord: "What should we do?" Just as John the Baptist showed the people how to prepare for Christ's coming, the Lord shows us how to live out and share our faith through the Scriptures and in the silence of prayer.

ACTIONS Remember the last time you felt unadulterated joy? For me it was when my son smacked a game-winning goal at a hockey game. As we move through Advent, we can reawaken a sense of childlike joy as we prepare to celebrate Christ among us. As you light the Advent candle, take time to share with one another something that gave you joy within the past week.



Next Sunday's Mass Readings – December 19, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Reading I

Micah 5:1-4a

Thus says the LORD: You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah too small to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel; whose origin is from of old, from ancient times. Therefore the Lord will give them up, until the time when she who is to give birth has borne, and the rest of his kindred shall return to the children of Israel. He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock by the strength of the LORD, in the majestic name of the LORD, his God; and they shall remain, for now his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth; he shall be peace.

Responsorial Psalm

80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19.

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hearken, from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth.

Rouse your power, and come to save us.

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Once again, O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven, and see; take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand has planted; the son of man whom you yourself made strong.

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

May your help be with the man of your right hand, with the son of man whom you yourself made strong.

Then we will no more withdraw from you; give us new life, and we will call upon your name.

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Reading II

Hebrews 10:5-10

Brothers and sisters:

When Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; in holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight. Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll, behold, I come to do your will, O God.'"

First he says, "Sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings, you neither desired nor delighted in." These are offered according to the law. Then he says: Behold, I come to do your will." He takes away the first to establish the second. By this "will," we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Gospel

Luke 1:39-45

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

Prayer offered by Pope Francis November 24

Saint Joseph, you who guarded the bond with Mary and Jesus, help us to care for the relationships in our lives. May no one experience that sense of abandonment that comes from loneliness. Let each of us be reconciled with our own history, with those who have gone before, and recognize even in the mistakes made a way through which Providence has made its way, and evil did not have the last word. Show yourself to be a friend to those who struggle the most, and as you supported Mary and Jesus in difficult times, support us too on our journey. Amen.

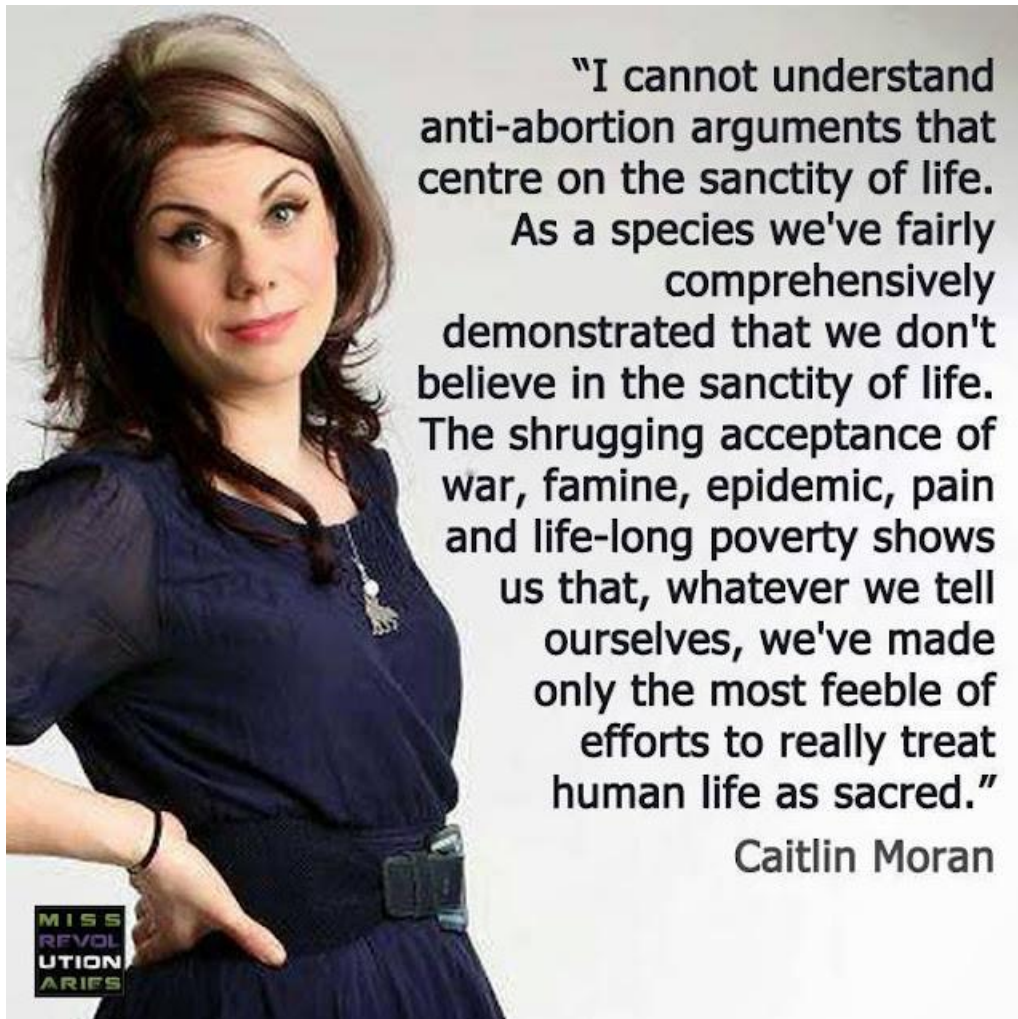
Other Items

Young man who was accidentally invited to 'grandma's' Thanksgiving as a teen celebrates 6th year of dinner together
<https://www.cnn.com/2021/11/26/entertainment/teen-grandma-thanksgiving-text/index.html>

She lost her husband in a tragic accident and then built a community of support that has reached millions
<https://www.cnn.com/2021/08/12/us/widows-grief-soaring-spirits-cnnheroes/index.html>

A Los Angeles woman invited an Afghan refugee family over for Thanksgiving. Here's what happened at their first Thanksgiving meal
<https://www.cnn.com/2021/11/27/us/thanksgiving-afghan-refugee-family-los-angeles/index.html>

Sometimes it's good to listen to our opponents, so that we can better understand their reasoning. I offer this as a reminder that we have failed to convince our people about the sanctity of life. That doesn't mean that we should stop trying to provide alternatives to abortion! It just means that we need to strengthen the credibility of our faith proclamation that all humans are created in the image and likeness of God, by advocating for more consistent application of this faith perspective. The Catholic Church itself has seriously wounded its own credibility by the way we mis-handled reports of sexual abuse of children by priests. JHF



Parish / Staff Contacts & Other Information

Our parish office is open Monday – Friday from 9:00am to 3:00pm.
The South entrance doors are unlocked during those hours so that anyone can enter the building to visit the office, chapel or library without a prior appointment.

New Mailing Address: P.O. Box 18427, South Charleston, WV 25303

Physical Address: 305 E Street, South Charleston, WV 25303

Telephone (Parish Office): 304.744.5523 *E-mail:* blessedsac@suddenlinkmail.com

Web page: www.blessedsacramentwv.org

Our Parish Staff

<i>Pastor</i>	Rev. John H. Finnell	Cell: 304.377.3560 <i>calls and texts</i> E-mail: snowman25303@hotmail.com
<i>Deacon</i>	Rev. Mr. John Hanna	Home: 304.935.4646 Cell: 304.389.7255 E-mail: deaconjohnh@suddenlink.net
<i>Pastoral Associate</i>	Jeanne Haas	E-mail: haasjeanne@hotmail.com
<i>Office Manager</i>	Natalie Zellers	Office E-mail: blessedsac@suddenlinkmail.com
<i>Music & Youth Director</i>	Mary Odin	E-mail: wmodin@frontier.com
<i>Janitors</i>	Dan Ryan and Jeff Bradley	
<i>Accompanists</i>	John Ellison and Jim Zellers	

Our Pastoral Council

Laura Jennings, facilitator	Rick Brennan	Tim Norris	Matt Davis	Pam Council
Reagan Whitmyer	John F. Gianola	Ken Holz	Jack Dever	Chip Council
Joe Gresham	Matt Hayes	Philip Maramba	Ann Dever	Charlie Wilson
	Katie Smithberger		David Lewia	

Council members are always grateful to hear about any concerns our parishioners have.

If you do not know any of the members personally, you may send a note or email to our parish office for them.

St. Paul Radio - West Virginia.....Presents Catholic radio on:

WLUX 1450 AM Dunbar; WNUX 89.7 FM Beckley; WOUX 105.3 Parkersburg

Visit www.sprwv.org for a link to stream Catholic radio to a smart phone

Our diocesan newspaper, *The Catholic Spirit* <http://thecatholicspiritwv.org/>

Diocesan Financial Audit http://thecatholicspiritwv.org/download/spirit_pdf/Financial-Audit-Pages-10-11-.pdf

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

Go to www.dwc.org to find a directory that includes all priests (active and retired), religious, diocesan employees, parish addresses, etc.

The main telephone number for our diocese is 304-233-0880

The main address for our diocese is P.O. Box 230, Wheeling, WV 26003

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.

Dear guest or member at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church,

I was saved on April 28th, 2021. My father requested that I write my testimony of salvation for you. It is my hope and prayer that you are encouraged by this.

I was baptized as a baby. I grew up attending Catholic churches with my parents. I was a consistent altar boy, and I went through the sacrament of Confirmation. During my teenage years, my compliance declined. I started to ask questions. One of these questions was this: "Why should I believe in God?" The answer was: "Well, you should believe in something in case there is a Hell." After receiving this unsatisfying answer, I pretty much shut the door on religion altogether.

Years of wandering went by. I indulged in thousands of hours of videogames and hung out with friends. It was all fine because I kept my grades up. I pursued college (nursing), got a job, and dated. Life was "good". Later I was heartbroken to the point of coming into work intoxicated and then quickly leapt into another relationship with a married woman.

I followed Deb to Georgia in 2017, not knowing where exactly I was headed or what I was going to do. After we settled, we brought her daughter Jasmyn to a local church that had an Awana¹ program (she attended another program before). She became so acquainted that she liked going to the Sunday morning children's class. One morning when I dropped her off, the pastor, John, approached me quickly and encouraged me to come to the adult class. I begrudgingly followed (not knowing how to say "no" without offending him) and sat in the class. I started going with Deb and her daughter to church because I wanted to support them. After going for some time, John boldly asked if I would be interested in meeting with him one-on-one on a regular basis. "Sure," I shrugged.

I learned concepts that were alien to me. Salvation, sanctification, and glorification were some of the important things I learned. I decided to investigate literature and videos regarding apologetics². Homicide detective and former atheist J. Warner Wallace led me to another former atheist C.S. Lewis. "Have you heard of C.S. Lewis's Mere Christianity?" I texted John one night. He quickly and enthusiastically responded, "we should read that together!" Time passed, and Deb and I now had a son. It was during our study of Book Four within Mere Christianity that Deb took a bold leap. She approached church leadership for help with a dilemma: for years she was living with a non-Christian spouse, with whom she shared a family and a home, and she was stuck between choosing obedience to God and preserving peace in her home life (see 2 Corinthians 6:14 and Luke 12:48). At the peak of my stress balancing psychiatric nurse practitioner school, kids, and work during a pandemic, she abruptly left the house to stay with the pastor's family, leaving me home by myself with the kids.

Feeling betrayed and confused, I was angry all the time—especially at Deb and the church. I drank heavily. I was hopeless. I carefully convinced my primary care provider to prescribe me Prozac. I disappeared from church and stopped meeting with John to discuss anything.

One Sunday morning I decided to drive to Atlanta to spend time (drink) with my childhood friend Baker. When I arrived, I noticed a stack of books on his dining room table. They were philosophy books of various kinds, piled high. He told me about one author who stated that life was meaningless while on his death bed. Baker was also in pursuit of truth. The next day I returned to my wretched life of tirelessly studying, working, and taking care of the kids while devoid of any hope or joy. I mysteriously developed an intolerance to alcohol, so I was forced to stop drinking. I bought a \$100 weighted vest so I could work out harder at the gym, and the vest ripped. I tried to focus on studying but was too angry to do so. I texted my pastor, "We need to meet."

Breathing heavily, I met him as he was walking outside of the house. "Boy look at all this dirt that has ended up in my driveway!" he said nervously as he pointed to a trail of drainage that washed down the street onto his driveway. "You see, the way that the road is angled, whenever it rains it ends up coming down my driveway and causing all this damage!" I stared at the brokenness in the pavement. "Oh wow," I vacantly responded. We walked around the block talking about anything except the turmoil that welled up within me over the past week or so. When we returned to the porch of his house, we sat down and finally talked.

I told him that I simply didn't understand what was going on. He listened, seeing as how someone in my position would be confused and angry. I knew that I couldn't change the situation. With no effective coping skills left and truly nothing else to lose, we continued our personal bible study together.

On the morning of Wednesday, April 28th, we met in his office at the church to study C.S. Lewis. We were on the second to last chapter. One part of this chapter says,

¹ <https://www.awana.org/>

² The defense of faith, often by philosophy or debate

"The world does not consist of 100 percent Christians and 100 percent non-Christians...There are other people who are slowly becoming Christians though they do not yet call themselves so." (p.208)

After discussing the book, I asked him again how it is that someone comes to Christ—something I asked several times before. "You have to personally communicate with God and make Jesus lord of your life" he answered.

Right after this study I attended an informal meeting about a pregnancy center start-up. Carla, the founder, candidly poured out her heart about how she was running away selfishly from this idea for a long time. She added with some tears, "I can feel the Holy Spirit in this room."

Afterwards I drove to the coffee shop to study, which was my usual routine. It was closed. As I was driving out of the parking lot, I was blasting music. For a moment the music stopped on its own. "God, I don't know what I'm doing. Just show me that I belong to you," I prayed. That night I told John in person that I repented and turned to Christ. Bursting into tears, he responded, "I've been waiting so long for this. Welcome to the family." Honestly, this weirded me out. "I guess we'll find out if I'm a fraud or not," I quipped, half-serious. "That's between you and God," John replied. Then, I told Deb, who became similarly moved to tears, and I was weirded out again. Seriously doubting that anything had changed in me, I mentally wrestled with my thoughts on whether I was being authentic or not. I prayed again, "God please continue to show me that this is real and that I am truly yours."

Morning came, and I was unexplainably at peace. I soon found out that on the day I was saved, one of the elders prayed this prayer: "Lord please save Ira soon." These were the first occurrences that God showed me as evidence of my salvation—a clear response to my prayer.

I found myself unexplainably in love with the Bible. I read several chapters of the Old and New Testament and could hardly put it down. I discovered an incredible depth to each passage and verse that I never saw before. My understanding of Scripture rose sharply. I was content. Less than two weeks later, I married Deb on the foundation of Christ, convinced that we are more effective workers for the Kingdom of God together than we are apart. John baptized me in August. And to this day I submerge my mind in Scripture, hymns, and prayer. I surround myself with Christians and am delighted at opportunities to speak to others about Christ. Worship on Sunday mornings—once a time of dread and loneliness—became a time and place of rejoicing and belonging.

This is the story about my redemption. If you have not yet declared Christ as lord of your life, take hope. The fact that you have read this demonstrates God's overflowing desire for you to come to him (James 4:8). Persist in seeking truth, and don't be afraid to put what you find to the test (1 Thessalonians 5:22). I have shared below the two verses that I held onto during the depths of my despair shortly before God rescued me.

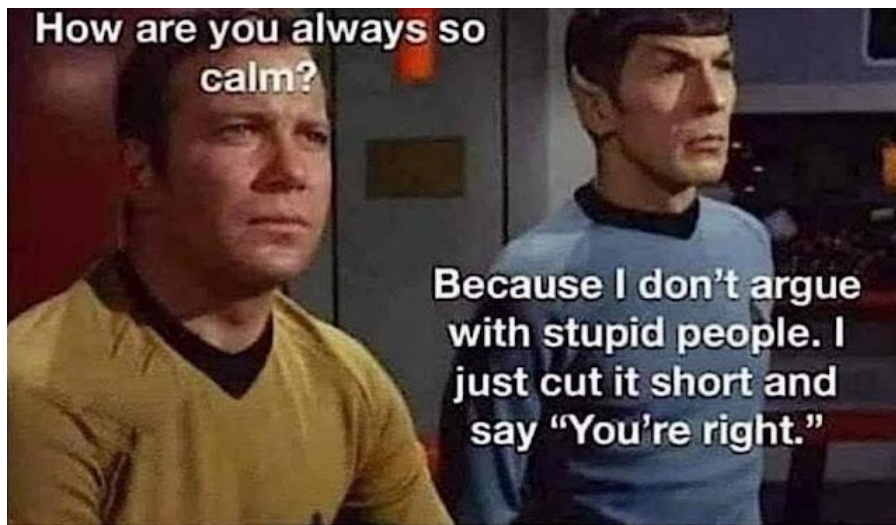
"And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." (Luke 11:9 ESV)

"What do you mean, 'If I can'?" Jesus asked. "Anything is possible if a person believes." The father instantly cried out, "I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!" (Mark 9:23-24 NLT)

Truly yours with overwhelming joy,

Ira Racadag (son of Alex and Eva Racadag) (Cell: 304-550-6327 Email: fryman492@yahoo.com)

editor's note: When Eva and Alex told me about their son's conversion, I asked that he write the story for our inspiration.



A photograph of a white church building at night, illuminated by warm lights. The church has a prominent, tall, white steeple. To the right of the church, a roller coaster structure is visible, featuring a large, circular, multi-level track supported by several tall, blue-painted metal pillars. The background is dark, suggesting it is nighttime. The overall scene is a juxtaposition of a traditional religious building and a modern amusement park ride.

**I DON'T KNOW WHICH
RELIGION THIS IS**

**BUT THEIR BAPTISMS LOOK
AWESOME.**