

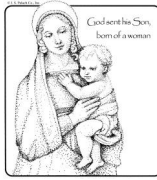
Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Today's readings include another account of the story of Jesus' birth. Numbers reminds us that we are blessed. We are looked upon with kindness and grace. The psalm and Galatians remind us of the blessings given through God's Son. Luke tells of our ultimate blessing, that Mary, a human being like us, gave birth to a child who is God's Son. Mary, a young mother, watches all that is happening around the birth of her son. She listens as the shepherds bring messages from angels, a message she also received from an angel, about her son. Yet Mary remains silent. She keeps all this news about her son to herself. She reflects on all these experiences. The only thing she shares is the name of her son, Jesus, a name given him before he was even conceived. Her silence leaves us wondering if this is how one responds to such a great blessing.

BLESSED NEWS: Both Numbers and the psalm describe being blessed, like the experience of our father's face lighting up as he sees us. Blessings are received with gestures and expressions of kindness and grace. In Galatians we are reminded that we too are children of God. As children, our Father's blessing is sought and cherished. The shepherds arrive and repeat the message of the angels. They bring news from angels that this child is both Son of God and son of Mary. This small, helpless, impoverished infant is the Savior, the Lord and King for whom all have been waiting. He is the blessing that lights the sky and the face of all who see him. This Son, this Lord and King, rests in his mother's arms as she reflects on all these things.

ANSWER TO OUR PRAYER: There is lots of news from various sources in these readings. Moses, Paul, angels, shepherds, all have some news about this child. But there is no news from Mary. Mary is silent and reflective. The shepherds' message is amazing, but she had heard this message before and her response then was to say yes. Yes to the uncertainty, the unknown, the blessing. Her response now is to reflect, keeping all these things in her heart. She said yes and now that yes is real in her infant son. She holds the fulfillment of that earlier promise in her arms and she is powerfully aware of how small and vulnerable that promise is. She knows that her son, God's Son, is the answer to the prayers of so many for so long, and she knows how fragile that answer is. Her son needs to be loved and nurtured. As Mary knows and we will learn, the answer to a prayer is only the beginning.

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OLSD CHRISTMAS PARTY: Our Lady of Seven Dolors Altar/Rosary Society will hold their annual Christmas Party on Thursday, January 5, 2017, beginning with Mass at 11:00 in the Church - followed by lunch in the parish center. All Altar Society members are invited to attend. To RSVP, call Carol Harris at 304-907-0148, or Nancy Riser at 304-242-7020.



WORLD MARRIAGE DAY: Join us on Saturday, February 11, 2017, for an evening of celebrating your love and the blessing of your marriage together at St. Vincent's Marist Center. We begin by celebrating Mass together at 5:00 pm, followed by a wine and cheese social in the parish center. A candlelit dinner will follow, and one couple (pre-committed) will give a brief witness to their experience in the Sacrament of Marriage. The evening ends with coffee and wedding cake served to the group. Cost of the evening is \$45 per couple. Reservations are required and must be made no later than February 8. For more information, contact the Beiter's at 304-238-4904 or the Reed's at 304-242-8156.



THE MEMORARE
Remember, O most gracious Virgin
Mary,
that never was it known
that anyone who fled to thy
protection,
implored thy help, or sought
thine intercession was left unaided.
Inspired by
this confidence, I fly unto thee,
O Virgin of virgins, my mother;
to thee do I come, before thee I stand,
sinful and sorrowful.
O Mother of the Word Incarnate,
despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy
hear and answer me.
Amen.

From the Pastor. . .

Msgr. Paul will be away from the parish from January 1st through January 5th.

PARISH SICK LIST: Beginning this weekend, we will be changing the way we do our list of sick parishioners. If you wish to include a loved one's name on this list, please call the parish office. *Names will be removed after one month.*

Please Pray For those who are sick. Pam Ammirante, Janice Kalo, Evelyn Tellitocci, Fred Chipkar, Dave Bonenberger, Janet Ferrera, John Powell, Norma Jean Knight

For those who have died: Frances Darrah



“O Come Let Us Adore Him.” A Christmas Concert January 4, 2016 @ 7:00pm St. Michael Church. This concert will include Handbell Choir, Instrumentalists and Vocalists as we continue to celebrate the Christmas season with carols and songs! This concert is free and open to the public.

ADVENT APPEAL: Thank you to all who have so generously donated to our annual Advent Appeal. At the present time, we have received approximately \$13,000. We greatly appreciate your continued support!



GRAND KNIGHT'S TWELFTH NIGHT BALL will be held Saturday, January 7, 2017 at the Catholic Charities Administrative Offices Ball Room, 2000 Main Street, Wheeling. Complementary beverages beginning at 6:30 pm; Food catered by Mehlman's. There will be live music, entertainment, door prizes and a 50/50 raffle. Tickets are \$14 per person/\$25 per family. RSVP by sending payment to Knights of Columbus Council 504, Attn: Ken Staley, 118 Edgington Lane, Wheeling, WV 26003. Please write the number of tickets needed on the memo of your check.

Parish Sacrificial Giving

December 25, 2016

Regular Collection: Not Available
Mass Attendance for December 25 Not Available
Thank you!

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Tuesday - January 3

Prayer Shawl 1:30 pm Library
 World Marriage Day Team 6:00 pm Library

Thursday - January 5

OLSD Christmas Party Mass at 11:00 am
 RCIA 6:30 pm Caveney Rm
 Health and Wellness Committee 7:00 pm Library

Saturday - January 7

Eucharistic Minister Training 11:00 am Church

EVENTS NEXT WEEK

Sunday - January 8

Eucharistic Minister Training 12:45 pm Church

Tuesday - January 10

Bible Study 6:00 pm Caveney Rm

Thursday - January 12

Finance Council 6:00 pm Library
 RCIA 6:30 pm Caveney Rm

Tuesday - January 17

Stewardship Committee 6:00 pm Library

R.C.I.A.:

Our next RCIA gathering will be Thursday, January 5, 2017. Topic will be: The Eucharist

BIBLE STUDY: The next gathering of our Bible Study will be Tuesday, January 10, at 6:00 pm.



MARCH FOR LIFE 2017: On January 27, 2017, Our Lady of Peace Parish is sponsoring a bus to take part in the March For Life in Washington, D.C. Bus will leave Our Lady of Peace Thursday night, January 26, at 10:30 pm. Cost is \$50 per person. You will need to bring warm clothing and money for meals. For more information or to reserve a seat, call the parish office at 304-242-6579.

Our vision is a world where every human life is valued and protected. Tragically, 57 million babies have been lost to abortion since 1973. Join pro-life Americans in the nation's capital to be a voice for the voiceless!



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 1-800-352-6513. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, please contact the Diocese at 1-888-434-6237.

School and Youth News

Upcoming dates to Remember for SVS:

- **Wednesday - Jan. 4** - School resumes
- **Thursday - Jan. 5** - Geography Bee 1:30 pm in the school gym

Happy New Year!

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St. Vincent de Paul Parish School students and staff wish all of our parishioners a very blessed New Year!!

ADOPT A STUDENT UPDATE: Thank you to everyone who is supporting our Adopt A Student program to help families ensure a Catholic education for their children! Our goal for this year is \$50,000. So far, we have received \$18,500 toward our goal. We greatly appreciate the generosity of our parishioners! May God continue to bless each of you!



A PANCAKE BREAKFAST to benefit St. Vincent Grade School Class Trips will be held Sunday, January 29, after Sunday Masses in the Church Hall.

SUMMER CAMP NEWS: St. Vincent's Summer Camp has been scheduled for the week of June 18 - 24, 2017. Mark your calendars now!!

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION

Jan. 1	No Class
Jan. 8	Class



UPCOMING DATES:

- **Confirmation** will be held Sunday, April 23, at 1:00 pm at the Cathedral of St. Joseph.
- **First Communion** will be Sunday, May 7, at 11:30 Mass



YOUTH GROUP NEWS Our Youth Group will attend a Wheeling Nailers Game, Friday, Feb. 17th, 2017.

AMAZON ASSOCIATES PROGRAM: St. Vincent's School is now participating in the Amazon Associates Program. Click on the Amazon link found on the school or parish website before you make your purchase, and a percentage of all purchases will come back to St. Vincent's. (The link will remain active for 24 hours, at which time you will have to go back to the school or parish website and click on the Amazon link again to ensure SVS gets credit)

TEENS ENCOUNTER CHRIST (T.E.C.) -- Jan. 14-16, 2017

ATTENITON HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS AND SENIORS AND COLLEGE FRESHMEN! TEC is happening!

A Teens Encounter Christ retreat will take place during Martin Luther King Weekend at Immaculate Conception Parish in Fairmont, WV. A group of young people are traveling from both St. Vincent's and St. Michael's Parish to participate in this retreat.

TEC is a lively and uplifting weekend centered around the saving message of Jesus. Young people share the faith with other young people.

For more information contact Msgr. Paul Hudock or Joanne Drnach

Discernment on the Mountain

January 2 -5, 2017

Join us for daily Mass, rosary, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, presentations on vocational discernment and a full day of skiing at Snowshoe Mountain Resort in Pocahontas County, West Virginia. College-aged men and high school juniors and seniors are invited to attend this retreat sponsored by the Office of Vocations of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. Come and have a great time in prayer and skiing with men who are seeking God's will for their lives. Register on-line at wvpriests.org or call Mr. Rick Teachout at the Office of Vocations. (304) 233-0880, Ext 442.

Mass Schedule

Liturgical Minister Schedule for Next Weekend (Jan. 7/8, 2017)

Masses This Weekend

Saturday	Dec 31 (Feast of Mary, Mother of God/ Vigil)
5:00 pm	Leona and Patsy Pietro
Sunday	Jan. 1 (Feast of Mary, Mother of God)
8:00 am	Georgette Joseph
9:30 am	Harold Bandi and Larry Bole
11:30 am	Rita Morgan
10:30 am (OLSD)	Jane and Albert Vogler

Masses This Week

Monday	Jan. 2 (Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops)
7:50 am	Eleanor and Carl Brookover
Tuesday	Jan. 3
7:50 am	Terry Schupbach
7:00 pm	No Mass
Wednesday	Jan. 4 (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton)
7:50 am	Louis Marquart
Thursday	Jan. 5 (St. John Neumann, Bishop)
7:50 am	No Mass
11:00 am	For the Living and Deceased Members of OLSD Altar/Rosary Society
Friday	Jan. 6
9:00 am	Leo Bartsch

Masses Next Weekend

Saturday	Jan. 7 (Feast of the Epiphany/Vigil)
5:00 pm	Howard and Regina McCann
Sunday	Jan. 8 (Feast of the Epiphany)
8:00 am	Dora Langmyer (B)
9:30 am	Louise Fitzpatrick
11:30 am	All the People of our Parish
10:30 am (OLSD)	Theresa Savage

Saturday—5:00 pm

Servers: Maddie Taylor and Cadence Parsons
Greeters: Nancy LaBrosse and Betsy Martin
Lector/Announcer: Cindy Perring
Eucharistic Ministers: Jim Roberts, Rita Gallo,
Michele and Tom McFadden, Joseph Wiley

Sunday - 8:00 am

Servers: Will and Andy Kent
Greeters: Don and Nancy Stenger
Lector/Announcer: Roberta Welling
Eucharistic Ministers: Teea Shook, Carol Harris,
Gary McGlumph, Derek Dimmey, GERALYN
Hemmann

Sunday - 9:30 am

Servers: Trenton and Trevor Rosenthal
Greeters: Cliff and Debbie Hess, Gwen Porter
Lector/Announcer: Bill Gibson
Eucharistic Ministers: Barb and Jerry Kulpa,
Janet Bole, Leo and Marsha Boissy, Dorothy Dudzik,
Marilyn Delbrugge

Sunday - 11:30 am

Servers: Jack and Lucy Klug
Greeters: Derek and Maggie Reed, Andrea Kalo
Lector/Announcer: Bryan Minor
Eucharistic Ministers: Barb Napple, Janie Fox,
Mary Lou Kent, Dave Soloninka, Karen Bates

CATHOLIC SHARING APPEAL: We thank everyone who gave to the CSA in 2016! We have received the first check of \$27,529.11 from the diocese at the end of December. This money will be used to continue the maintenance work on the Church building.

Training for Altar Servers: will be held at 11:00 am Saturday, January 7, in the Church, and 3:15 p.m. on Monday, **January 9** in Church. *We ask all current Altar Servers as well as new ones to attend a training.*

Training for Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist: **Sunday January 8th** after the 9:30 and 11:30 Mass. *We ask that all current Eucharistic Ministers attend one of these trainings.*