

From the Pastor . . .

Dear Faithful Parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul,
We are celebrating Mercy: The Good News for this week is that there will be a communal penance service at St. Michael Parish this Thursday starting at 7:00 p.m. Fr. Gary and I will be there along with several priests from the area.

Pope Francis commented on the sacrament of Confession at the start of Lent in 2014. The Pope said: *"Everyone can say to himself: 'When was the last time I went to confession?' And if it has been a long time, don't lose another day! Go, the priest will be good. And Jesus, (will be) there, and Jesus is better than the priests - Jesus receives you. He will receive you with so much love! Be courageous, and go to confession."* Acknowledging a popular objection to the sacrament, Pope Francis noted, *"someone can say, 'I confess my sins only to God.' Yes, you can say to God, 'forgive me,' and say your sins. But our sins are also against our brothers, against the Church. This is why it is necessary to ask forgiveness of the Church and of our brothers, in the person of the priest."*

Making a good confession is a wonderful gift to our Lord. There is no better way for us to prepare for Christmas than to renew the power of God's salvation by celebrating his mercy. Please bring your family and participate in this reconciliation service.

We are celebrating Generosity: I thank everyone who generously purchased gift items for needy families as a result of our giving tree project. I was proud that all the ornaments were taken from the tree and all gifts were returned to the parish. I thank the St. Vincent de Paul Society for organizing the gifts and returning them to the Catholic Neighborhood Center.

Our ministry to the homebound group, Nurturing Neighbors, sends small Christmas gifts to our homebound parishioners. This group works hard to keep in contact with those who cannot join us at the altar due to physical infirmity.

We are grateful for our parish mission. Last week, I received positive feedback on our presenter, the Passionist priest Fr. Bob Weiss. His presentations were filled with insightful explanations of the scriptures, and humorous and touching stories from his years of experience in the priesthood.

Msgr. Paul Hudock



COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE: ADVENT COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION SERVICE

Our Communal Penance Service - in conjunction with St. Michael's - will be held Thursday evening, December 15, at 7:00 pm at St. Michael Parish. Everyone is invited to attend this Prayer Service with the opportunity for confession as part of your preparation for Christmas.



Christmas Mass Schedule at St. Vincent's and Our Lady of Seven Dolors

Saturday, December 24 - Christmas Eve
4:30 pm Children's Christmas Pageant before Mass
7:00 pm "Brass Unlimited" will accompany Mass
9:30 pm (Our Lady of Seven Dolors)
Sunday, December 25 - Christmas Day
12:00 am Midnight
9:30 am



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.



A SEASON OF HOPE: Today we can bask in the imagery that the Mass readings offer us. In particular, Isaiah's vision of a parched land that blooms with abundant flowers holds a message for each of us. Too often we are just like that parched land. We can allow ourselves to become absorbed in the waves of consumerism that grip so many. We look for fulfillment in the things that money can buy. Unfortunately, this leaves us like parched land, thirsting for something that money can't buy. This holy season has much to offer to quench our thirsts. In a word, this season offers hope. We are told that those who are ransomed by God will know joy and gladness. For them, sorrow and mourning will be no more. Let us place our hope in these promises.

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Please Pray For... Leah Bailer, Bishop Michael Bransfield, Jim Albert, Betty Allen, Phyllis Allen, Pam Ammirante, Daniel Bauer, Susie Beazel, Kathleen Benedetto, Jayne Benson, Doug Bentz, Joan Bliss, Patricia Bock, Dave Bonenberger, Cindy Botizan, George Bridges, Martha Hohman Carpenter, Fred Chipkar, Maggie Conley, Bob Coyne, Frances Darrah, Joyce Peluchette Donnellan, Christine Edge, Benjamin Elswick, Kitty England, Mary Fisher, Michael Frank, Lou Frasnelli, Mary Ann Fowler, Kevin Gallaway, Linda Galloway, Patty Glanding, Judy Glatz, David Hamm, Juliana Hatgy, Louis Havel, Megan Herschell, Caleb Hlebiczki, Kathie Hough, Stryker Jaquay, Janice Kalo, Russell Knight, Matt Koval, Barbara Kubiszak, Marcia Laughlin, Maddox Marti, Patricia Millward, Butch and Michalene Munas, Kay McGee, Lynn McCloskey, Abby McGowan, Grace Neidert, Pete Newmeyer, Will Nickerson, Vincent Parisi, Betty Petri, Lori Plants, Mary Plants, Mary Ann Poluck, John Powell, Karen and Bob Rose, Laura Ryan, Fred Schweitzer, Shirley Seamon, Ann Sengewalt, Bruce Shapaka, Barbara Shores, Mark Slater, Bonnie Starkey, Nick Stephan, Julianne Stewart, Jamie Orth Taylor, Evelyn Tellitocci, Rick Terry, Sylvia Trenton, John Ullom, Charles Vanyo, John Voscavitch, Kathy Wagner, Shawna Warner, Tom Weishar, Fr. Joe Wilhelm, Josephine Wilson, Betty Zinn

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Tuesday - December 13

Bible Study 6:00 pm Caveney Rm

Thursday - December 15

Communal Penance Service 7:00 pm St. Michael's

EVENTS NEXT WEEK

Tuesday - December 20

Bible Study 6:00 pm Caveney Rm

Prayer Shawl 1:30 pm Library

Society of St. Vincent de Paul 6:30 pm Caveney Rm

SVS Christmas Program 7:00 pm School Gym

Thursday - December 22

Decorating of the Church 1:00 pm

RCIA 6:30 pm Caveney Rm

R.C.I.A.:

No Class Thursday, December 15.

BIBLE STUDY: The next gathering of our Bible Study will be Tuesday, December 13, at 6:00 pm.



PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION



Dec. 11 Class
Dec. 18 No class (Practice for 4:30 pm)
Christmas Eve Mass at 12:30 pm in the church)
Dec. 21 Practice for 4:30 pm Christmas Eve Mass at 12:15 pm - in the Church
Dec. 28 No Class

ADVENT APPEAL: Thank you to all who have so generously donated to our annual Advent Appeal. At the present time, we have received approximately \$7,000. We greatly appreciate your continued generosity!

Parish Sacrificial Giving
November 27, 2016

Regular Collection: \$9,217.00
Mass Attendance for November 27 583

December 5, 2016

Regular Collection: \$9,778.00
Mass Attendance for December 5 652

Thank you!

SAFE ENVIRONMENT/PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN: The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is committed to the protection of its children and young people. The Diocese complies with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* by maintaining an Office of Safe Environment. To report an incidence of suspected child sexual abuse, please contact your local law enforcement agency, or you may confidentially contact the West Virginia Bureau for Children and Families/Child Protective Services by calling the Child Abuse Hotline at 800.352.6513. 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 (toll free) or 304.233.0880: Sister Ellen Dunn, ext. 264; Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Msgr. Frederick Annie, ext. 267, or Msgr. Anthony Cincinnati, 270. For more information on the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment, please go to www.dwc.org, then click the "Diocese" tab, then click "Office of Safe Environment" under the "Offices" menu. To learn more about the Catholic Church's efforts in preventing sexual abuse of children in the United States, please visit <http://www.usccb.org>. Under "Issues and Action," click "Child and Youth Protection" from the drop down menu.

School News

Upcoming dates to Remember for SVS:

- Next week we will have our Santa Secret Shop where students can shop for the parents, siblings, grandparents and pets.
- **Monday - December 12** -- Stifel Fine Arts will present *The Nutcracker* in the SVS Gym on (Donations to help defray the cost of this presentation would be greatly appreciated!)
- **Tuesday, December 13** -- SVS Choir will be singing @ Wheeling Hospital at 12 noon.
- **Tuesday - December 20** -- SVS Christmas Program - 7 pm in the Church (Refreshments following program)
- **Wednesday - Dec. 21** - Noon Dismissal - Christmas Break
- **Wednesday - Jan. 4** - School resumes
- **Thursday - Jan. 5** - Geography Bee 1:30 pm in the school gym

SCRIP CARDS: Please consider purchasing gift cards from our Scrip Program at St. Vincent's School. It will help with your Christmas shopping and support our school at the same time! If we don't have what you need in stock, cards can be ordered up to approximately December 10. Please call the school for more information at 304-242-5844.

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 \$11,000 toward our goal. We greatly appreciate the generosity of our parishioners! May God continue to bless each of you!

CATHOLIC CHARITIES NEWS: Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) is inviting all people to join in its vision of hope for West Virginia by contributing to its "Be With Us" appeal. Proceeds from the annual appeal will directly support the outreach services of CCWVa throughout West Virginia. The traditional second collection at Christmas Mass will contribute to the appeal. Donations can also be made online at CatholicCharitiesWV.org by mail at 2000 Main Street, Wheeling, WV 26003.

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 FRESH-
MEN! 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

OUR FAMILY LABELS: Riesbeck's is in the process of phasing out the "Our Family" brand. In its place will be the "Best Choice" brand. Please continue to save these Best Choice labels, as our school will still be redeeming these labels for cash. Thank you for your continuing support of St. Vincent de Paul Parish School!



ST. VINCENT'S GIVING TREE:

Thank you so much to all our parishioners who supported our Giving Tree Project!! The gifts were all delivered to Catholic Neighborhood Center. The gifts for the homebound and those in Nursing Homes will be delivered within the next week. Thank you for your generous support!

Mass Schedule

Liturgical Minister Schedule for Next Weekend (December 17/18)

Masses This Weekend

Saturday Dec. 10 (3rd Sunday of Advent/Vigil)
5:00 pm John Marple (B)
Sunday Dec. 11 (3rd Sunday of Advent)
8:00 am Madeline Belby (Anniv)
9:30 am Marie Newton
11:30 am Josephine Ammirante
10:30 am (OLSD) All the People of our Parish

Masses This Week

Monday Dec. 12 (Our Lady of Guadalupe)
7:50 am Jim Doyle
Tuesday Dec. 13 (St. Lucy, Virgin/Martyr)
7:50 am No Mass
Miraculous Medal Novena before 7:00 pm Mass
7:00 pm Salvatore and Virginia Vecchio
Wednesday Dec. 14 (St. John of the Cross, Priest)
7:50 am Anne Keel
Thursday Dec. 15
7:50 am Harry Hohman
Friday Dec. 16
9:00 am Patrick Clutter (Anniv)

Masses Next Weekend

Saturday Dec. 17 (4th Sunday of Advent/Vigil)
5:00 pm Dorothy Bischof (B)
Sunday Dec. 18 (4th Sunday of Advent)
8:00 am Sharon O'Leary
9:30 am All the People of our Parish
11:30 am Robert Bianco and Robert Kniezle
10:30 am (OLSD) Cec and Eddie Comer



Be patient until the coming of the Lord



Decorating for Christmas: On Thursday, December 22, at 1:00 p.m., we will be gathering in the Church to put the finishing touches on our Christmas decorations. If you would like to help with decorating, please call the parish office and join us on Friday.

Saturday—5:00 pm

Servers: Cadence Parsons and Abby Hall
Greeters: Dave and Jeannie Miller
Lector/Announcer: Vickie Joseph
Eucharistic Ministers: Nancy LaBrosse, Barbara Roberts, Mike and Cindy Perring, Joseph Wiley

Sunday 8:00 Mass

Servers: Patrick Childers and Griffin Stenger
Greeters: Patsy and Gary McGlumphy
Lector/Announcer: Paul Dimmey
Eucharistic Ministers: Cindi Dimmey, Jim Baller, Katie Kreitzer, Carolyn Brookover, Susie Koval

9:30 Mass

Servers: Luke Miller, Mary Derrow, Laura Tighe
Greeters: Ellen Kuhar and Lois Naegele
Lector/Announcer: Dale Naegele
Eucharistic Ministers: Leo and Marsha Boissy, Dorothy Dudzik, Marilyn Delbrugge, Need Someone, Rosemary Guerriero, Bev Vanaman

11:30 Mass

Servers: Lliam and Abigail Gerney and Maddie Taylor
Greeters: Andrea Kalo, Jean Hohman, Nancy Freeman
Lector/Announcer: Dave Soloninka
Eucharistic Ministers: Karen Bates, Bob Morgan, Janet Thomas, Barb Napple, Janie Fox

PARISH STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL NEWS:

Attention Heads of Parish Ministries: Please remember to call and connect with parishioners who have expressed interest in joining your ministry through our parish stewardship renewal.

Liturgical Minister Training

Sunday, December 18 -Training for Lectors 2:00 p.m. in the Church.

Training for Altar Servers: 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, **January 7th**, in the Church, and 3:15 p.m. on Monday, **January 9** in Church.

Training for Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist: **Saturday, January 7th** after the 5:00 p.m. Mass, **Sunday January 8th** after the 9:30 and 11:30 Mass. *We ask that all current Eucharistic Ministers attend one of these trainings.*