

Blessed Sacrament Parish

August 27, 2017

*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*

We Remember in Our Prayers:

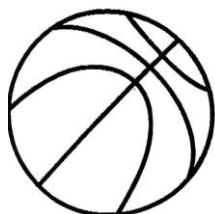
Sal Ambrosio, KB, Toni Bowers, Bill Breese, Bobbi Lee Casey, Jim Cavanaugh, David Churchill, Elizabeth Coleman, Jim Conrad, Matthew Crabtree, Rhonda Crede, Jody DeBias, David Divita, Patty Farry, Mary Ann Gargarella, Patty Geissinger, Roger Green, Kathleen Groom, Ann Henderson, Mike Howard, John Lynch, Louann Lynch-Kelley, Alec Mansfield, Alex Mansfield, Jr., Libby McGinn, Missy Mowrer, Clara Reynolds, Phyllis Safreed, Mary Ann Shear, Michelle Smith, Gary Sutton, Tim Wells Jr., Sandy Wheeler and Lily Woolwine.

† May He Rest in Peace †

David Churchill, son of Don & Susan Churchill

Many Thanks to the Good Stewards of God's Grace!

- who put on another great Pancake Breakfast last Sunday!
- who participated in our CYO leadership council meeting last Sunday!
- who parked outside the parking lot (while the surface was renewed) on Monday and Tuesday!
- who assisted Jeff and Mandy Boling with their wedding!
- who donated 23 units of blood at the Red Cross Blood Drive last Saturday!
- who coordinated planning for the Blood Drive!



Basketball

We would like to know what level of interest our younger parishioners have in playing basketball on a Blessed Sacrament team, and whether we have any parishioners interested in coaching and/or organizing our Blessed Sacrament basketball teams. If you or your family members would like to be involved with a team, please show your interest by noting your information on the sign-up sheets in the gathering space. We will gather this information through Sunday, September 3rd.

If there is not enough interest to field teams – don't despair! We will share contact information with would-be players so they can find teams that need more members.

FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION FORM 2017/2018

Family Name _____

Family Address _____

Family Telephones: (Home) _____ (Cell) _____

Preferred Email Address: _____

PRESCHOOL SUNDAY SESSIONS 9:00-10:00AM [Start Date: September 24*]

Name	Birth Date	School	Allergies, Special Needs

GRADES 1—12 SUNDAY SESSIONS 10:15-11:15AM [Start Date: September 24*]

Grade	Name	Weekday School	Birth Date	Allergies, Special Needs

*Parents must accompany children on Sunday, September 24th at 10:15am in the parish hall for a parent meeting. Childcare for younger children will be provided in the nursery.

ADULT SUNDAY SESSIONS 10:15-11:15AM [Start Date: October 1]

_____ The Journey: My Encounter with Jesus [Part 3]

Refresh and renew your relationship with Jesus Christ through scripture, videos, personal reflection and small group sharing. Facilitators: Deacon John Hanna and Ric Brennan Location: Parish Hall

BIBLE STUDIES

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| _____ Wednesday Mornings 9:30-11:00am | Currently: The Book of Job |
| _____ Wednesday Afternoons 1:00-2:30pm | Currently: The Book of Psalms |
| _____ Wednesday Evenings 7:00-8:30pm | Continuous: Upcoming Sunday Readings |

BEGINNERS' LEVEL BIBLE STUDY

_____ I am interested in a Beginners' Level Bible Study. These days/times are good for me:

Watch for these future Faith Formation opportunities!

Create a Blessing Cup for your household to use in prayer.

Create an Advent Wreath in anticipation of Christmas.

Create and learn how to pray the rosary.



TEEN HELP WANTED!

If you are a middle school or high school student, we can use your help at the parish picnic on Sunday, September 17. As always, there will be games, face painting, hair spraying etc. This is where your help is needed - to work with these things at the picnic. Activities will begin once people have finished their meals. Not only will you be providing a great service to our parish family, but this will also count for community service hours with your school - so bring your form if you have one. And, so that we will be ready for the "crowds," all game workers will go through the food line first. If you can help out, please e-mail Jeanne Jarrett at jarrett104@aol.com before the picnic.



The Red Cross was able to gather 23 units of blood during their blood drive last Saturday here at Blessed Sacrament.

Our Partners in Community Service Catholic Charities West Virginia

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - to help with flood disaster recovery in Clay County

Contact Janet Kelley today at jkelly@ccwva.org and help make a difference in the lives of these families:

Case #1: Young couple; need group of 6-8 volunteers for 1-2 days to install mobile home metal skirting, replace bathroom floor - tongue and groove OSB and install laminate

Volunteer skill level needed: experience with saw, drill, measuring and general labor

Case #2: Single dad and child; need electrician for wiring and installing light fixtures; need 6-8 volunteers for 4-5 days to install sheetrock and finish, install gutters, lay floor covering, install kitchen cabinets

Volunteer skill level needed: general labor, experience with sheetrock finishing, experience with installing kitchen cabinets

Case #3: Family of 3; need 4-5 volunteers for 1 day to install insulation under mobile home

Volunteer skill level needed: general labor

Email Janet at jkelly@ccwva.org for more information

Covenant House

Charleston Gazette - Sunday August 19th, 2015

Ellen Allen: "Federal budget plan would put more people out of homes"

There's no place like home — unless you don't have one.

Searching for safety, single mother Stacy and her infant son, Hunter (names changed) fled their home in Charleston to escape Stacy's drug consumed partner. They lived out of Stacy's car for several days until ultimately finding their way to Covenant House and into the Housing First program. After three years, Stacy and Hunter moved out of the Housing First program and into their own place.

This intervention kept Stacy and Hunter safe during a precarious and threatening time; this opportunity would not be available to our most vulnerable citizens under the Trump administration's proposed budget. These drastic cuts would find more women and children sleeping on abandoned porches and in cars. As the wealthiest democracy on Earth, are we prepared to accept this reality?

As the executive director of Covenant House, I've seen firsthand the difference that a home, and a skilled advocate, can make. Housing First policies have had a transformative impact on the lives of millions of families facing homelessness. By putting housing first, literally, we are enabling struggling families to finally break the cycle of poverty and get back on their feet.

Housing First has been in the news lately. The program is an approach to quickly and successfully connect individuals and families experiencing chronic homelessness — more than a year — to permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry, such as sobriety, treatment or service participation requirements. Supportive services are offered to improve housing stability and prevent returns to homelessness, as opposed to addressing predetermined treatment goals prior to housing entry.

This is not only good for the families, it makes for more stable and safer communities. We've all heard about the unthinkable violence within the homeless population in the last few weeks. Perhaps Rachele Jarrett would still be alive had she not been sleeping on the porch of an abandoned home.

In our state alone, more than 35,000 West Virginia households use federal rental assistance programs. That's in addition to nearly 5 million households across the U.S. — nearly 90 percent of which includes seniors, people with disabilities and children — who use federal rental aid to keep a roof over their heads and make ends meet. Federal rental assistance programs are a crucial way to help people afford safe and stable housing.

But President Donald Trump's 2018 budget would leave millions of Americans out in the cold. By cutting homeless assistance grant funding by \$133 million, eliminating funding for more than 250,000 Housing Choice Vouchers and raising rents on four million poor families, seniors and people with disabilities by a total of \$4 billion, the budget's deep cuts to housing programs would crush the hopes of millions of people who want a better life for themselves and their children. It would set them up for a lifetime of poverty.

The consequences of these deep budget cuts in West Virginia would be devastating. At Covenant House, we've seen the impact of homelessness on children, from missing school to food insecurity and increased risk of being separated from their families and placed into foster care.

Reducing opportunities for affordable housing does not make the homeless disappear; it only increases homelessness and their visibility in communities.

To make progress in reducing homelessness, we must expand the aid available to help those who have lost their homes, not cut it. Rejecting the deep cuts in the president's and Congress' budgets is only the start. Right now, federal rental assistance reaches only one in four eligible households because of funding limitations. To free up more resources to expand rental aid and meet other urgent needs, Congress must reach an agreement to relax the arbitrary spending caps for housing assistance and other domestic programs.

With so much on the line, we need our leaders — Reps. Alex Mooney, David McKinley and Evan Jenkins and Sens. Shelley Moore Capito and Joe Manchin — to work to protect federal housing assistance programs and other important investments in West Virginia and across the country.

Please join me in demanding our leaders reject any 2018 budget that makes life harsher for everyday West Virginians or takes away one of our most basic necessities in life: a home.

Other Items of Interest

Ronald McDonald House will have a Yard Sale on September 9th, from 8:00 am to 2:00pm. The yard sale will be at their new location: 910 Pennsylvania Avenue in Charleston. (just past CAMC Women's & Children's Hospital)

The 4th Annual Charleston Rosary Rally will be held at 10:00 a.m. at the St John XXIII Pastoral Center on Saturday, October 7, 2017. Join us in praying the Holy Rosary with your friends from all our Charleston area parishes. The rally will be followed by a light reception. ALL ARE WELCOME!

3 coming events sponsored by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to which all are invited

1. EVANGELII GAUDIUM

A regional convocation the Missionary Discipleship of West Virginia

September 8-9 John XXIII Pastoral Center

more information, schedule and registration at: <https://dwc.org/dwc-convocation/>

or you can find flyers with details in our Gathering Space

2. LARCUM

LARCUM = Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic, United Methodist ecumenical conference

September 11-13 at John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston

<https://dwc.org/diocese/ministries/departement-of-social-ministries/office-of-religious-unity/larcum-conference-registration/>

or you can find flyers with details in our Gathering Space

3. DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE

to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC

Saturday, September 16, 2017

Registration and more details including bus transportation:

<http://dwc.org/diocese/offices/office-of-worship-sacraments/2017-diocesan-pilgrimage/>

or you can find flyers with details in our Gathering Space

Comparative Religions

with Dr. Robert G. Newman



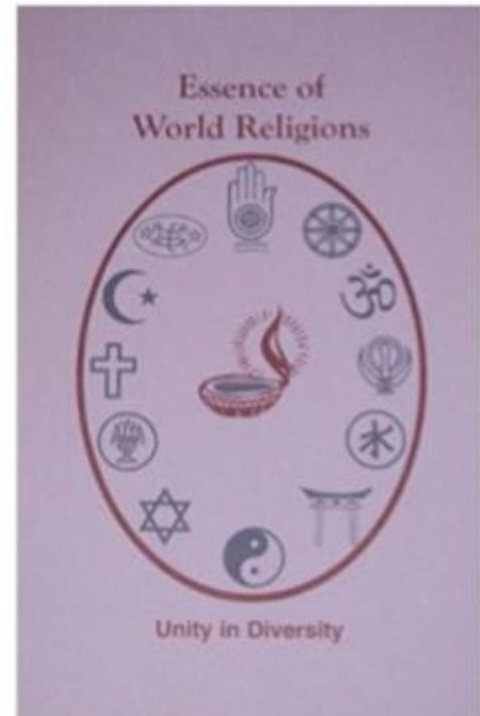
Join the Lay Academy as we begin our journey through the religions of the world and gain knowledge and understanding of our neighbors and their beliefs.

All Lay Academy classes are open to the public and free of charge for audit study.

This course is available for credit* through the University of Charleston.

We will meet at 4:00 p.m. on Sundays from September 3, 2017– December 10, 2017 with the exclusion of October 15 and November 19 and 26. Class will be held in the Dining Room of the Activities building of First Presbyterian Church, 16 Leon Sullivan Way, Charleston, WV 25301.

For more information, complete schedule, course syllabus or to register, please call the church office, 304-343-8961.



The text book, *Essence of World Religion: Unity in Diversity*, by Pravin K. Shah, will be given free to all who register for this course.

*If you choose to take this course for credit through the University of Charleston, you will need to register with the university. A tuition will be charge through the university. To register for credit, please call the University of Charleston Student Solutions Office at 304-357-4800.

For Inspiration

Sister Teresa Maya, new LCWR president, brings bicultural view to role

<http://www.archindy.org/criterion/national/08-11-lcwr.html>

Pope Francis quote: "In Mary we see that humility is not a virtue of the weak but of the strong who don't have to treat others badly to feel important."

MOVING FROM HATE TO LOVE WITH GOD'S GRACE

By Fr. William Aitcheson

8/21/17

Arlington Catholic Herald

newspaper of the Catholic Diocese of Arlington, VA

In the course of one's life, there are seminal moments that humble us and, in some cases, even bring shame. For the past several decades, I have been blessed with the opportunity to serve as a Catholic priest. Originally ordained for the Diocese of Reno-Las Vegas, I transferred to my home area here in the Diocese of Arlington.

What most people do not know about me is that as an impressionable young man, I was a member of the Ku Klux Klan. It's public information but it rarely comes up. My actions were despicable. When I think back on burning crosses, a threatening letter, and so on, I feel as though I am speaking of somebody else. It's hard to believe that was me.

As a young adult I was Catholic, but in no way practicing my faith. The irony that I left an anti-Catholic hate group to rejoin the Catholic Church is not lost on me. It is a reminder of the radical transformation possible through Jesus Christ in his mercy.

While 40 years have passed, I must say this: I'm sorry. To anyone who has been subjected to racism or bigotry, I am sorry. I have no excuse, but I hope you will forgive me.

The images from Charlottesville brought back memories of a bleak period in my life that I would have preferred to forget. The reality is, we cannot forget, we should not forget. Our actions have consequences and while I firmly believe God forgave me — as he forgives anyone who repents and asks for forgiveness — forgetting what I did would be a mistake. Those mistakes have emboldened me in my journey to follow the God who yearns to give us his grace and redemption.

The images from Charlottesville are embarrassing. They embarrass us as a country, but for those who have repented from a damaging and destructive past, the images should bring us to our knees in prayer. Racists have polluted minds, twisted by an ideology that reinforces the false belief that they are superior to others.

Christ teaches something different. He teaches us that we are all his creations and wonderfully made — no matter our skin color or ethnicity. Realizing this truth is incredibly liberating. When I left my former life, I did a lot of soul-searching. God humbled me, because I needed to be humbled. But abandoning thoughts of racism and superiority gave me the liberation I needed.

We must condemn, at every opportunity, the hatred and vile beliefs of the KKK and other white supremacist organizations. What they believe directly contradicts what we believe as Americans and what we, as Catholics, hold dear.

If there are any white supremacists reading this, I have a message for you: you will find no fulfillment in this ideology. Your hate will never be satisfied and your anger will never subside. I encourage you to find peace and mercy in the only place where it is authentic and unending: Jesus Christ.

I ask that you pray for the victims of racism and bigotry. Pray that they would never feel like anything less than children of God, bestowed with dignity and love.

Pray also for those who perpetuate racist beliefs and wrongly believe they are superior to others. God forgives everyone who truly repents. Nobody is outside of his loving grasp. With conversion in Christ, they can find new life in the truth.

From the Diocese of Arlington: Father William Aitcheson's article was written with the intention of telling his story of transformation. He voluntarily asked to temporarily step away from public ministry, for the well being of the Church and parish community, and the request was approved.

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Thanks to CNN for highlighting this story. Their piece, with a photo of Fr. Aitcheson is here:
<http://www.cnn.com/2017/08/23/us/catholic-priest-steps-down-kkk-trnd/index.html>

A longer article in the Washington Post gives more detail:
https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/acts-of-faith/wp/2017/08/22/my-actions-were-despicable-catholic-priest-steps-down-after-revealing-he-was-a-ku-klux-klan-member-decades-ago/?utm_term=.cbfc189ad75e

Anyone who would like to send a message to Fr. Aitcheson can send a hard copy letter to:
Rev. William Aitcheson
c/o Diocese of Arlington
200 N Glebe Rd #914
Arlington, VA 22203

Helpful Information

Our Parish Staff

<u>Pastor</u>	Rev. John H. Finnell	Cell: 1.304.377.3560	E-mail: snowman25303@hotmail.com
<u>Deacon</u>	Rev. Mr. John Hanna	Home: 304.935.4646/Cell: 304.389.7255	E-mail: deaconjohnh@suddenlink.net
<u>Pastoral Associate</u>	Jeanne Haas	E-mail: haasjeanne@hotmail.com	
<u>Office Manager</u>	Natalie Zellers	Office E-mail: blessedsac@suddenlinkmail.com	
<u>Music & Youth Director</u>	Mark Haas	E-mail: MarkHaasCatholic@gmail.com	

Our Pastoral Council

Vince Stricker	David Elliott	Kay Margocee	Jo Stone	Matthew Crabtree
Susan Churchill	Molly Linehan	Colleen O'Neill	Bob Sylvester	Bob Lucas
Rick Brennan	John Gianola	Travis Green	Tom McLane	Joe Gresham

Our Contact Information:

Address: 305 E Street, South Charleston, WV 25303
Parish Office: 304.744.5523 E-mail: blessedsac@suddenlinkmail.com
Our office hours are from 9am – 3pm, Monday – Friday.
Web page: www.blessedsacramentwv.org