

Blessed Sacrament Parish

December 3, 2017

First Sunday of Advent

*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, Toni Bowers, Bill Breese, Jim Cavanaugh, Elizabeth Coleman, Matthew Crabtree, Rhonda Crede, Jody DeBias, Ro DeBias, David Divita, Karol Dunford, Patty Farry, Marietta Fenton, Mary Ann Gargarella, Patty Geissinger, Kathleen Groom, Ann Henderson, Betty Hines, Mike Howard, Ruth Kirk, Joe Lynch, John Lynch, Louann Lynch-Kelley, Alex Mansfield, Jr., Clara Reynolds, Phyllis Safreed, Mary Ann Shear, Michelle Smith, Gary Sutton, Tim Wells, Jr., Sandy Wheeler and Lily Woolwine.

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

- who helped to dismantle our Autumn liturgical environment and to mount our Advent environment!
- who came to pray before the Blessed Sacrament for our church and our world!
- who assisted with the funeral Mass and luncheon for David McGucken!
- who coordinate and provide transportation for parishioners to get to church and other necessities!
- who faithfully coordinate, train, schedule and trouble-shoot all our liturgical ministries!
- who hosted our RCIA group for dinner before and after seeing the opera "Mary"!



Christmas Memory/Honor Flowers – To remember or honor a loved one with a poinsettia, please send the name(s) and donation (if you wish) to the parish office by December 17th. Special envelopes are on the



Advent Prayer Resources are available in the gathering area:

Daily reflection booklets for all ages, advent wreaths, candles, and ideas for family activities
(All items are free but your donations are appreciated.)

We have a newly redesigned website! Visit our new site at blessedsacramentwv.org.
While you are there, check out our new parish video.

Blessed Sacrament Parish Celebrates Advent

December 3, 3:00pm First Sunday of Advent

Youth Night, 4:00pm, Mass at 5:30pm

Grades 6-12 are invited for faith, food and fellowship.

December 10, 3:00pm Second Sunday of Advent

Blue Christmas Prayer Service

This service offers prayers of support and comfort to those who experience sadness, for any reason, during the holidays.

Our parish community gathers to share the Christ Child's gifts of peace and hope to everyone, including those not of our faith community.

All are invited, especially those: who are grieving the loss of a loved one; who suffer with PTSD; who are struggling with pain and illness; who are lonely without family during the holidays; who wish to offer love & support to these brothers and sisters in Christ.

Tuesday December 12, 11:00pm

A Special Celebration for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

This special evening will start with the rosary at 10:30PM.

At 11:00PM Mass will be celebrated with a candlelight procession outdoors, then the presentation of flower offerings to Our Lady.

All prayers and songs will be in Spanish.

The celebration will continue with music and refreshments in the parish hall, immediately following the Mass.

Peoples from all ethnic backgrounds are invited!

Friday December 15th, 7:00pm

Advent/Christmas Concert

Make plans to enjoy the beautiful music of the season with our Adult Choir, Children's Choir, Hand Bell Choir, Instruments.

Assembly Caroling will be included!

December 17, 3pm Third Sunday of Advent

Communal Penance Service

Experience the gift of God's forgiving love at this "user friendly" form of confession.

Come and experience the joy of being reconciled to God and with one another!

Advent Charities

Christmas Baskets for Coalburg

In keeping with a long-time tradition, we will provide Christmas food baskets for 300 families in the Coalburg, WV area. For this endeavor, all of the food is mass-purchased at a total cost of about \$16,000. If you would like to help make this happen, you may put your donation in the regular collection in a special envelope marked "Christmas Baskets." You can find these envelopes on the credenza in the gathering space. You may also just write "Christmas Baskets" in the memo on your check. (So far, parishioner donations have totaled \$1,185!)



Christmas is coming....be *Christ's Shining Star* to a child in need!

Select a star from the tree and return several or all of the suggested items **UNWRAPPED** by Friday, **December 8th**. Catholic Charities WV will deliver gifts to children in Lincoln County. Thank you for bringing God's love, light and hope to those less fortunate in this Holy Season! Catholic Charities: Providing Help, Creating Hope. For more information, contact Jeanne in the church office.

Heart and Hand Outreach Ministries

Heart and Hand is in need of Stocking Stuffers to be given away during their Christmas Toy Shop on Dec. 20. In 2016 they helped 368 children and this year the demand will likely be greater. Please put your stocking stuffer items in the large box in our Gathering Space near the hospitality table.

A shopping list with helpful items is next to the box. **The deadline for donations is December 17th.**

Manna Meal

Manna Meal is collecting gloves, mittens, and hats for those who need them. Your contributions will be especially appreciated. Please place them in the large bin in the gathering space near the windows. **The deadline is Dec. 15th.**

Next Weekend

Retirement Fund for Religious Special Collection – December 9/10

Aging religious need your help. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others – educating the young, comforting the sick, seeking justice for the oppressed – often receiving miniscule wages for their communities. Today, many are frail, elderly, and in need of assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to furnish medication, nursing care, and other necessities. Please give generously to next weekend's collection. The basket will be passed a second time for this special collection. Please make checks payable to Blessed Sacrament with the memo "retired religious".

Notes from the Congregation of Saint Joseph

Across the United States, hundreds of religious communities lack financial resources sufficient to meet the retirement and health-care needs of aging members. Like many Americans, religious communities face the monumental challenge of funding eldercare. By 2027, retired religious are projected to outnumber wage-earners in their communities by more than three to one. There are 539 religious congregations of men and women who participate in receiving these funds. Of that number, approximately 27% of congregations are considered to be 80% funded; and only 8% of congregations are considered adequately funded. That means approximately 65% of religious congregations of women and men are inadequately funded. As these funds assist more congregations in becoming adequately funded, more monies are then freed up to provide assistance to congregations with larger retirement deficits.

Proceeds from the annual Retirement Fund for Religious appeal enable the National Religious Retirement Office to distribute financial assistance to hundreds of religious communities each year. Roughly 94% of donations go to address retirement needs in religious communities and the other 6% go to overhead.

The majority of donations—ordinarily 80 to 90 percent—are distributed as Direct Care Assistance. Direct Care Assistance is a per capita distribution based on specified criteria, including level of need. Religious communities may apply annually for these funds, which can be used to help meet such immediate costs as nursing care and medications and which can be saved for long-term retirement needs. Additional funding is allocated throughout the year for communities with the greatest needs as well as for retirement education and programming. Many communities use these monies to help pay for nursing home expenses since they no longer have the ability to house their sick sisters at their own motherhouses.

These monies have directly benefited one of the congregations in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. The Congregation of St. Joseph in Wheeling, for a period of 8-10 years received monies totaling close to \$200,000. It helped provide for some overall needs for the care of the sisters, such as a generator to supply power to the retirement home for when the power would often go off during the strong storms. It also enabled the purchase of a handicapped van to take the wheelchair-bound sisters to the doctors. These two examples of specific items were in addition to helping to provide for the direct care of elderly sisters through assistance with expenses of medications, doctor visits and hospitalizations; monies used to help with hiring nursing assistants and other aids to provide direct care to the sisters. These monies were also used by the congregation to do the financial planning necessary for future retirement needs. The CSJ congregation, because of the monies used for consultation, was better able to be prepared for future financial needs associated with retirement. This assistance with future planning has resulted in the congregation deciding to defer receiving funds during some of the years so that more monies would be available to congregations in greater financial need.

In 2016 the parishes in the Diocese of Wheeling Charleston contributed \$100,238.83. The religious of this diocese – sisters, brothers and priests – and indeed throughout the United States are enormously grateful and humbled by your generosity of time, talent and monies that have been shared with us over the years. You have been partners with us in our ministries throughout all our years and you continue to collaborate with us today in the building up of the Kingdom of God.

Other Items of Interest

Manna Meal Christmas Sing

The Manna Meal Christmas Sing has been scheduled for Saturday, December 16, 2017, at 11:00am at St. John Episcopal Church, 1105 Quarrier Street, Charleston, WV. The entrance to Manna Meal is in the parking lot beside the church. We sing traditional and popular Christmas music. You know all the words to the songs. Children are welcome! We gather at 11:00am and sing from 11:30am-12:45pm. Blessed Sacrament Parish has provided music for the Annual Christmas Dinner for the past 33 years. Please come and share your gift to those less fortunate. You will be blessed! Please let Dave Haas know you are coming. Dave can be reached at dulcimerdave@gmail.com or (304) 382-2000.

March for Life

The 45th Annual March for Life is a prayerful and peaceful demonstration in our nation's capital to raise awareness and promote an end to abortion in our country. As anyone who has attended the March before can attest, because of the Church's strong, pro-life teaching, it is predominantly attended by Catholics of all ages. The Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart will be taking a bus to the March on Friday, January 19th, 2018 and returning home the same day. If you are interested in attending or would like more information, please contact Fr. Brian Crenwelge at the parish office (304-342-8175) to reserve a seat. The cost will be \$25 per person; children eight and under accompanied by an adult are free. All are welcome! For more information on the march visit www.marchforlife.org. *If any Blessed Sacrament parishioner would like to go but needs financial assistance, please contact Fr. John.*

Bethlehem Farm Job Opportunities

Home Repair Project Director sought for Bethlehem Farm, a small Catholic nonprofit organization serving the people of Summers, Monroe, and Greenbrier Counties, through home repair and providing service experiences for young adult volunteers. The Project Director trains staff in work site management and coordinates the low-income home repair program, including client interaction, site assessment, project planning, implementation, and documentation. Requirements include 5 years experience in construction/carpentry, extensive knowledge of home repair, tools, and worksite safety, valid driver's license, and ability to teach and supervise unskilled volunteers. Full-time preferred, but part-time options available. 32-50 hours per week. Salary starts at \$20K, negotiable based on skill, experience, and degree level. Benefits include health insurance, sick and vacation time, development opportunities, some meals, and knowing you are helping others. On-site housing options available. Direct inquiries to Eric [304-445-7143](tel:304-445-7143), or email resume to eric.fitts@bethlehemfarm.net.

Intentional Community Caretaker

Do you feel called to a life of prayer, simplicity, community, and service? We invite you to prayerfully consider applying to be a Caretaker at Bethlehem Farm. Bethlehem Farm is a Catholic community in Appalachia that transforms lives through service with the local community and the teaching of sustainable practices. We invite week-long volunteers to join us in living the gospel cornerstones. Caretakers serve as service-retreat week leaders, coordinate work sites, interact with volunteer groups during their visit to Bethlehem Farm, help maintain the farm and gardens, and assume other roles and responsibilities as needed to serve the local community. Benefits include volunteer stipend, health insurance, local and organic meals, use of vehicles, and possibility of AmeriCorps education award. Minimum one year commitment. Call Eric at 304-445-7143 or email hiring@bethlehemfarm.net for more information. Caretaker application found at <http://bethlehemfarm.net/bf-community/become-a-caretaker>.

Our parishioner, and Bethlehem Farm board member, Molly Linehan could also answer questions about these positions:
304-342-8415

Hope Village – A Fair Trade Boutique

Hope Village, an outreach ministry of First Presbyterian Church of Charleston, opens its doors during the Christmas season as an exquisite fair trade shop. Hope Village brings to Charleston beautiful and unique items from our Global Partners around the world to include jewelry, shawls, wood carvings, home and children's items, olive wood nativities, hand-woven baskets, olive oil and much more! By making a purchase from Hope Village, you are directly and profoundly impacting the lives of each artisan and their families. One hundred percent of the proceeds, received from Hope Village, go directly back to the artisans to help support their families with food, clothing, shelter, and education which enables them to live a more just and sustainable life. The shop is located at First Presbyterian Church, 16 Leon Sullivan Way, Charleston. Their hours are 10:00am to 2:00pm on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from November 8 through December 20. Cash or checks only. For more info: <http://firstpresby.com/mission/hope-village/>

Part-Time Job Opening

Church Secretary Charleston Baptist Temple

The Church Secretary should be a high-school graduate, have good interpersonal skills, have experience working as a member of a team, be able to take direction from others and have adequate computer skills. He or she should also be a professing Christian and have the ability to understand and support the mission of the Church. Patience and professionalism are required in all aspects of this job.

Work Schedule: Three 8-Hour Days per Week. Compensation: \$12 per Hour

Qualifications and Skills Required:

- The use of computer software such as Microsoft Word, Excel and Publisher.
- Good communications.
- Positive interpersonal relations.
- Ability to work as a team member.
- Organization of assigned work.
- Public relations.

Send resume by December 22, 2017 to:

Charleston Baptist Temple Attention: Mary Jane Vredeveld, 209 Morris Street Charleston, WV 25301

Communal Penance Service

Tuesday, December 19, 7pm

Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral

Organ Concert

Sunday, December 10, at 7:00 pm at the Kanawha United Presbyterian Church, [1009 Virginia Street East](#), Charleston.

Debut community performance of new organist, Chris Engel, and performances by some of Charleston's finest musicians in a Christmas concert sure to uplift and fill you with the spirit of the season!

Chris will perform classical organ pieces including the Tannhäuser Overture by Richard Wagner, along with performances by Betsy Bare Dodd, mezzo soprano, Sandra Groce, viola, and Vicki Cavendish, piano, performing two Brahms works.

After a brief intermission, Part II will be Sounds of the Season, featuring a variety of stylized and traditional Christmas music by the choir and individual musicians, including Ashley Dannewitz, soprano, performing "O Holy Night."

A wine and cheese reception will follow so that you can welcome Chris to Charleston, and "meet and greet" all the musicians and your fellow music lovers. The concert will be a donation-based benefit for the Choral Scholars program, as Chris seeks to introduce local youth musicians to classical sacred music, as well as expand the choir at KUPC.

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Nativity Scenes from around the World Display

open to the public

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

839 Chestnut Street, South Charleston

open from 4:00pm to 9:00pm every day from Friday December 1 through Sunday December 9, 2017

This is a non-denominational self-guided exhibit of hundreds of nativity scenes from over 100 nations. It is a great way to begin the Christmas season and the cost is FREE! There is also an optional "Walk Through Bethlehem", and on Sunday there will be live local Christmas music from 6 - 7:45 pm. And we are wheelchair accessible.

for more info:

<https://www.townplanner.com/charleston/wv/event/local-events-christmas/nativities-from-around-the-world/344853/>

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

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

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