First Sunday of Advent

December 2, 2018

Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.

Luke 21:36
The Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation is held 3pm-4pm on Saturday, 8am on First Saturday, or by appointment. Please contact the secretary, Cindy Barone at the Parish Office if you are interested in any of the following: Baptism, Anointing of the Sick, Christian Initiation of Adults, joining the parish, bulletin ads or Weddings (six months prior to the desired wedding date).

To arrange a pastoral visit for Homebound Parishioners please contact Kathleen Dieffenbaugher at the Parish Office, Ext 9. Please contact Cindy at the Parish Office to arrange a pastoral visit for a hospitalized parishioner.

Our Parish Office is open 8am until 4pm Monday - Thursday and 8am until noon each Friday.

Eucharistic Adoration is held Monday 8am-5pm, 6pm-10pm; Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8am-5pm Wednesday 10am-5pm; Saturday 8am-noon.

The Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation is held 3pm-4pm on Saturday, 8am on First Saturday, or by appointment. Please contact the secretary, Cindy Barone at the Parish Office if you are interested in any of the following: Baptism, Anointing of the Sick, Christian Initiation of Adults, joining the parish, bulletin ads or Weddings (six months prior to the desired wedding date).

To arrange a pastoral visit for Homebound Parishioners please contact Kathleen Dieffenbaugher at the Parish Office, Ext 9. Please contact Cindy at the Parish Office to arrange a pastoral visit for a hospitalized parishioner. Our Parish Office is open 8am until 4pm Monday - Thursday and 8am until noon each Friday. Eucharistic Adoration is held Monday 8am-5pm, 6pm-10pm; Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8am-5pm Wednesday 10am-5pm; Saturday 8am-noon.

Collection & Attendance Data: Nov 17/18, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>242</td>
</tr>
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</table>

TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 827

1st Collection: $8,473.90
2nd Collection: $2,084.25
DWC Collection: $967.00
Miscellaneous: $1,275.00
Online: $661.50
TOTAL: $13,461.65

Collection & Attendance Data: Nov 24/25, 2018

<table>
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</thead>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>216</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 793

1st Collection: $9,828.00
2nd Collection: $3,968.00
Miscellaneous: $2,797.72
Online: $2,046.50
TOTAL: $18,640.22
Our Weekly Mass Schedule
Saturday, December 1
7:30am  †Helen Mahlke
4:30pm  †Wanda Clark

Sunday, December 2
7:30am  †William G. Klettner
9:00am  People of the Parish
11:30am  †Eleanor and Carl Huss

Monday, December 3
7:30am  †Edward Tolpa
5:30pm  †Frances L. Cerrone

Tuesday, December 4
7:30am  †Francis Mansuetto (A)

Wednesday, December 5
8:30am  †Marian Matella
5:30pm  †Deceased Members of the Lane Family

Thursday, December 6
7:30am  †Garvey-Edelen Families

Friday, December 7
7:30am  †Commemorative Mass Association
5:30pm  Vigil Mass for the Holy Day— †Louise Loder

Saturday, December 8 – THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
7:30am  HOLY DAY MASS  †Stan Wolen
4:30pm  †Joann Pappa

Sunday, December 9
7:30am  †Rudolf and Maria Pastur
9:00am  †Rosalie Young
11:30am  People of the Parish

The Sanctuary Candle beside the tabernacle burns this week (December 2nd - December 8th, 2018)
in memory of
Mary Hindson Albanese

Congressations
Natalie Jean Groves
Baptized on November 25th, 2018
Parents Curtis Edward Groves and Emily Jean Pell Groves
God bless you through your life’s journey!

PRAYERS AND CARDS NEEDED!

Our dear friend and parishioner, Jim Bordas, is again in the hospital in Houston, Texas. Jim will remain there for 3 or 4 months to receive a stem cell transplant from his brother, who is a perfect match.

His faith is strong and he needs our prayers. Notes or cards would be deeply appreciated and will help to keep his spirits up.

Jim’s address is:
Mr. Jim Bordas
5122 Morningside #507
Houston, TX 77005

Thank you so much, from Jim’s Family!

THE THREE COMINGS OF ADVENT
There are three distinct comings of the Lord of which I know: His coming to humankind, His coming into humankind, and His coming against humankind.
—St. Bernard: Third Sermon for Advent

HEARTFELT
Remember that God prefers the poverty of our hearts to the most sublime thoughts borrowed from others.
**LITURGICAL MINISTERS**

*Multi-week Ministry Schedule is available on St. Mikes’ webpage. **Weekday 7:30am December 3-6, 2018
Altar Server: Andrew Hartzell and Laken or Ryan Costanzo

Saturday, December 8th, 4:30pm  
Sacristan: Joe Bourgo  
Lectors: AJ Bucon and Brann Altmeyer  
Altar Servers: Sarina Dieffenbaugher, Thomas Komorowski, Noah and Ryan Blair  
EMOHCS: Joe Bourgo, Audrey Dieffenbaugher, Linda McCabe, Andrew Komorowski, Paul Litvak

Saturday, December 8th, 4:30pm  
Sacristan: Joe Bourgo  
Lectors: AJ Bucon and Brann Altmeyer  
Altar Servers: Sarina Dieffenbaugher, Thomas Komorowski, Noah and Ryan Blair  
EMOHCS: Joe Bourgo, Audrey Dieffenbaugher, Linda McCabe, Andrew Komorowski, Paul Litvak

Sunday, December 9, 7:30am  
Sacristan: Kathy Ulevich  
Lectors: Denny Wilson and Amy Miesel  
Altar Servers: Liam and Sam Shinn  
EMOHCS: Kathy Ulevich, Tony Miesel, Joe Roxby, Bob Fanning, Jeep Naum

Sunday, December 9, 9:00am  
Sacristan: Phil Emmerth  
Lectors: Rob Krall and Andrew Tiu  
Altar Servers: Kate Tiu, Tyler Dean, Luca and Aria Swartz  
EMOHCS: Phil and Marybeth Emmerth, Camille Basinger, Dee Dean, Mollie Tolbert

Sunday, December 9, 11:30am  
Sacristan: SMPS  
Lectors: SMPS  
Altar Servers: SMPS  
EMOHCS: SMPS

---

**Children’s Liturgy of the Word**

is held each Sunday during 9am Mass. All 3 year olds through 1st graders are welcome to attend. The presider will call the children up to the front of the church after the opening prayer and before the First Reading.

---

**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 WV Child Protective Services at 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 888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880.

Saint Michael Parish recognizes the late **Mr. Tom Hoyt**, for the outstanding dedication and stewardship that he shared so generously in many years past. Eternal rest grant unto Tom, and let perpetual light shine upon him.

---

**Monthly First Friday Mass**

*All are welcome as we celebrate this Mass in honor of our beloved family members and friends and all buried in this cemetery who have gone before us in faith.*

December 7th, 2018  
@ 5:30pm  
Mount Calvary Cemetery Bishops’ Chapel

All are welcome to attend the monthly First Friday Mass celebrated at the Bishops’ Chapel located in Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Wheeling. Please invite family and friends to join us for the holy sacrifice of the Mass and to remember our beloved dead who are buried within the cemetery.

---

**Happy 100th Birthday Mrs. Wilson!**

We hear that you blew out all of your candles on the first try! Congratulations and many happy, healthy more from your parish family!
Last year was our inaugural St.Nick@Nite Stewardship Appreciation event. The parish staff came up with the idea as a way to say thank you to our incredible stewards. We knew we couldn’t say “First Annual” because the grammar police would be quick to point out that it is not possible to have a first annual if it has not occurred in previous years. We used the word inaugural as it was the first ever, and we were hopeful that it would continue and it could become a tradition.

We had a grand time at the inaugural evening! Monsignor Peterson did not hesitate to give us the green light to schedule this year, so I will boldly say, it just may be an annual celebration.

We learned a few things last year and have made a few tweaks. We plan to set up the buffet in the center of the Angelus Center to avoid a traffic jam in the hallway outside of the meeting rooms. We will NOT have live candles on the tables (last year Monsignor came to the rescue and extinguished a tablecloth). And we will not run out of punch!

What will stay the same? The candy canes will be blessed, we’ll share a delicious meal catered by our friend Charlie Schlegel, eat Christmas cookies, sing a few carols (special thanks to Mr. Ryan Wolf and St. Michael Parish School) and there will be a visit from St. Nicholas! We can say hello to friends, take a photo with St. Nick, and reflect on the true meaning of Advent and Christmas.

We are so thankful for the time, talent and treasure which you generously share with our church, school, and community! I hope you’ll join us for our family friendly evening. Please RSVP by completing one of the forms in the pews, or you can click on the button on our website, www.stmikesparish.org.

—Wendy Hinerman
Edward J. Abraham
Mary Hindson Albanese
Pauline Allison
David Altmeyer
Jack & Evelyn Altmeyer
Lisa Bryson Ames
John A. & Cecelia Antlake
Baker & Frank Families
Joe & Eleanor Bechtel
Gertrude & Russel Becker
Bonnie Bhiler
Elmer & Virginia Blust
Bowman & Gaudet Families
Knute & Dot Boyle
Brahler & Hand Family
Jeffrey T. Bryson
June Bryson
Bucon, Otte & Wilhelm Families
Matt & Rosella Bugaj
Kathy Oliver Burgoyne
Burkhart & Valput Families
Vicki Lynn Burns & Ted Hawkins
Roy & Sara Burris
Mr. & Mrs. Richard V. Burke & Family
CCHS-SJA Classmates of 1946
Helen Emmerth Cahoon
Lee & Helen Campbell
Dr. Frank L. Carenbauer
John W. Carenbauer
Steve Carter
Frances L. Cerrone
Living & Deceased: Members of Christian Mothers
Albert Cinque
The John & Donna Clark Family and Minetta “Liz” Schafer
Virginia & Maurice Cogan
Fern Coleman
Nancy V. & John “Jack” Coleman
Comer & Engler Families
Conti & Messner Families
Mr. & Mrs. Luigi Conti
Mary M. Conti
Mr. & Mrs. Chester Contraguerro
Corbett & Grelia Families
Louis & Marjorie Costanzo
Edward “Ooga-Ooga” Covey
Cindy Coyne
Edward M. Culley Family
Gloria Dawes
Donato & Adele Deltoro
Shirley Dietz
Diane Diss
Michalene, Andrew & Breezie Diss
Dr. Robert U. Drinkard
Joseph & Connie Duffin
Durante & Dellefratte Families
Josephine Eikleberry
Rodney W., Veronica & Brian Ekey
Agnes and Robert Emmert, Sr.
Madge and Robert Emmert, Jr.
Tom and Sharon Emmert
Eleanor Lane Engelmeier
Mary & Steve Evanko
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Flading
Mary & Charles Flaherty
Bill Freeman
Catherine Grubler Freismuth
Ray & Helen Gantz
Dominick F. Gaudio
Nicholas Jr. & Nimnoon Ghaphery
Kerri Gilligan
The Goble Sisters and Family
Patricia Gompers
Ann and Howard Gompers
The Gompers Family
Paul Gossett
John Paul Gossett
Domenic & Josephine Granata
Thomas J. & Rita J. Greene Family
Christopher Michael Gribben
Grobn & Muth Families
Bill and Dorothy Grubler
Regina and Bernard J. Grubler, Sr.
Gundling & Marker Families
Hagedorn Family
Mary Hamm
The Hannig Family
Jamie Marie Hannig
Dr. Roy C. Harmon, Jr.
Jim Hartzell
Terry Hawkins
Mary Jane Hess
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hess
Hetzel, Grammar & Nixon Families
Roger A. High
Frank Holler & Gantzler Families
George Holt Family
Mr. & Mrs. Edward L. Hoose
John Howley Family
Thomas Hoyt Sr.
Nick Jasko
Ashley Jayasekera & Family
Salome Jayasekera & Family
Mr. & Mrs. H.G. Jepson
Mr. William F. Johnston
Patricia Wilhelm Johnston
Anthony Keltus Wilhelm
Nancy E. Jorden
Edward F. and Rosemary Kelly
Joe, Helen & Bob Kelly
Robert B. Klemm, Sr.
Robert B. Klemm, Jr.
William and Kathy Klettner
Dorothy Knorr
Joseph Knorr
Dr. Thomas Knorr
Frances Kovalchick and
John Kovalchick Jr.
Sam & Mary Lamalfa
Jim & Betty Letzelter
Litvak & Tabis Families
Lucey Family
Anderson & Luddy Families
Patricia Lynch
Lynskey & Merckle Families
John & Marge Madigan
Madl & Wagner Families
Francis & Susan Mansuetto
Charles Marazita
Nick Marazita & Marazita Family
Maroon, Diotti & Pogue Families
Kay, Lee, Joe & Dr. Mike Maroon
Ruth & Barbara Marti
Matella & Edelen Families
Theresa McCartney
McCarthy and Bowman Families
Jacqueline McElroy
John McFadden Family
Rosemary McGee
Bernard A. McGee, Sr.
Mac and Amy McGinley
Jack McNabb
William Medovic
Mike & Theresa Mehota
Ron & Lola Jean Meyer
Margie Michitti
Leona Ann Miller
The Minear Family
Millie Mulhern
Cindy Murphy
Alfred & Mary Mustacciuolo
Myslinsky/Wisniewski Family
Richard L. Nau
Joan S. Naum
Alfonso & Mafalda Nazzaro
Nelson & Schlag Families
Members of the Nesbitt Families
Novotney & Wynkoop Families
Mary “Susie” O’Donnell
John P. & Rita Andrews O’Leary
John T. “Jack” O’Leary
COMMEMORATIVE MASS ASSOCIATION: DECEMBER 2018

We remember in love those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith...

Sara G. O'Leary
Winnie & Joe Palkovich
    and Julie & Peter Littner
Robert & Angela Palmer
Doris Petri
Charles Petri
Angela Phillips
Ronald & Barbara Pickens
John Michael Pinto
Post & Haney Families
Susanne Potts
John J. Prezkop
Tom Przybysz
Angela & Vincent Purpura
Herman Radish
Marian Ratcliffe & Eleanor Black Families
John M. & Frances
    Raszkiewicz Family
James Reddy
Dennis Regele
Nancy C. Regele
Charles E. Regele, Sr. Family
Rempe & Gutman Families
Frank L. & Mary Ellen Voellinger Rice
Alice & Steve Rovnak
Sylvia Santavicca
Joseph & Rosaline Saseen
Susie Saseen
Jerome Schmitt
Schenerlein & Bandi Families
Schneider & Smith Families
Smith & Latz Families
Paul A. & Eileen Schubert
Paul T. Schubert
Jacklyn Sebulsky
Mary Elizabeth Shafer
Dr. William J. Shivlin
Shaughnessy & Muhlman Families
Sisters of Our Lady of Charity
John Skyback
Smith & Latz Family
Eleanor Jane Sneddon
Martha J. Sobray
Esther Pinto Sonnefeld
Mary Margaret Stein
Rudy & Trudy Stolfer
Deceased Members of the Teufel Family
Thalman & Weigand Families
Thomas & Crow Families
John & Florence Thalman Kammer
Rusty Tillman
Edward R. Tolpa
Aurelia & Frank Truax
Bertha & Edward Truax, Sr.
George & Jeanne Kammer Truax
Lori White Tunnell
Rosemary Villanova
George P. & Mayme Weir Voellinger
Suzanne M. Walter
Rosemary Wasemann
Widmer & Ginocchio Families
Michael Wiley
Adrian Wilhelm
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Wilhelm, Sr.
Wilson-Frohnepfel Families
J. Edward Winiesdorffer
Allen Wojcik
John and Ann Wolodkin
Eli & Louise Wokovitz
Stanley J. Wolen
Alex & Ann Yablonsky
Dr. Benjamin Ybanez
Rosalie Dailer Young
Luke Zien
George & Mary Ellen Zoeckler Family

COMMEMORATIVE MASS ASSOCIATION (CMA)

The CMA is a special program which allows our parishioners and friends to remember their loved ones in a beautiful way. A total of 18 Masses will be celebrated for the repose of the souls of those inscribed in the Parish Commemorative Mass Association throughout the year of enrollment. The cost to enroll is $50. The bulletin will regularly list the names of those enrolled in the CMA.

At the time of enrollment, you will receive a beautiful leatherette-type folder (as seen above) describing the Commemorative Mass Association. Please contact the Parish Office with any questions or to enroll someone in the CMA.

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them Lord, and Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them and All the Souls of the Faithfully Departed.
EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS
Submitted by Shandi Nodurft

♦ November 26-Dec 5th: Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser
♦ December 1: Craft Fair
♦ December 2: First Day of Advent
♦ December 5: 6th - 8th grade Grandparent’s Day

Pancake Breakfast
♦ December 6: St. Nick @ Nite
♦ December 7: Wear Your Wings Dress Down
♦ December 9: 11:30 Mustang Mass

THANK YOU CM/CW!
We would like to once again thank the Christian Mothers and Christian Women for giving so generously to our school. They donated $2131.00 from the Children’s Clothing Sale held on October 20th. We are so happy to share that $1131.00 will be deposited in the school field trip fund! The other $1000.00 will be divided between the classroom teachers to enhance their classroom religious education.

WHEELING ELKS LODGE NO. 28 of the BENEVOLENT & PROTECTIVE ORDER of ELKS
Thank you to Marty Haynes and Jeannie McKeets for donating individual dictionaries to all of our third grade students. The students were thrilled to receive their own dictionary and they enjoyed the goodie bags too!

FUNDRAISING
Thank you for supporting our 1st annual Texas Roadhouse (THH) Gift Card Fundraiser (DEC). This is an amazing opportunity to help raise funds for our school. Please consider purchasing a $15, $25 or $50 gift card to use for Texas THH. This fundraiser will run from January 1st through January 25th.

Please turn all money and order envelopes into your child’s teacher or the school office by Wednesday, December 5th. This fundraiser will conclude at the end of the month, and gift card orders will be sent home with student no later than Dec. 20th. Thank you in advance for your support. Each dollar raised revolves around our Mustang students and teachers.

Blessings,
Shandi Nodurft
Advancement Coordinator
mnodurft@smof.org
304-243-3966 ext. 4

GRANDPARENT’S DAY
Thank you to all of the grandparents that joined us for TK-2nd GPD on October 17 and 3rd-5th GPD on November 14th. There was a packed house for both events! 6th-8th grade GPD is December 5th.

Texas Roadhouse Gift Card Fundraiser Monday, November 26 – December 5th. Please stop into the school office if you would like to support this fundraiser!
Important Dates For The 2018-2019 School Year

- **December 5th**: Grandparent’s Day 6th-8th grades
- **December 6th**: St. Nick @ Nite
- **December 24th - January 2, 2019**: Christmas Break
- **April 15th - April 22nd**: Easter Break
- **May 24th**: Kindergarten Graduation
- **May 29th**: 8th Grade Graduation
- **May 31st**: Last Day of School/Picnic
We need vocalists, instrumentalists and Handbell ringers!!

If you can carry a tune and want to learn, come make music with us. Please contact Chad Carter
if you are interested: 304.233.0880 or ccarter@dwc.org.

The Catholic Charities’ Neighborhood Center on 18th Street in Wheeling, WV needs volunteers, especially backup drivers to deliver meals. Through the meal delivery program, the Neighborhood Center feeds about 170 people each day. These individuals are shut in their homes for various reasons, and would otherwise struggle to get the nourishment they need. We are in dire need of volunteers willing to deliver meals to individuals in need of this service. Your support and help is greatly needed and will truly be appreciated.

For more information please contact Keith Miller at (304) 650-9608. Thank you!

St. Michael Parish is in need of volunteers at the 18th Street Center for the first and third Sundays of the month from November thru March. We need people to work 8-11am and 11am-2pm. We will be serving breakfast and lunch. If anyone is able to do this please contact Jacqueline Kaniecki at 304-242-9289. It is a rewarding way to serve our parish and help the community. Thank you!

St. Michael Parish has an opening for the position of Rectory Housekeeper.

Duties include:
- Dusting and polishing furniture and fixtures
- Cleaning and sanitizing bathrooms
- Making beds and changing linens
- Vacuuming and cleaning carpets and rugs
- Laundry and ironing

The candidate must be reliable, trustworthy and respectful of confidentiality.

The position is part-time, approximately 8-12 hours per week.
If you are interested, please contact Wendy Hinerman at whinerman@stmikesparish.org.

We need vocalists, instrumentalists and Handbell ringers!!

If you can carry a tune and want to learn, come make music with us. Please contact Chad Carter
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December/January 2018

December 2nd — Angel Trees, First Day of Advent
December 5th — Grandparent’s Day
December 6th — St. Nick @ Nite 6pm
December 7th — Holy Day Vigil 5:30pm
December 8th — Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass 7:30am, Angel Tree Gift Return, Youth Group Christmas Party
December 9th — Angel Tree Gift Return
December 12th & 13th — SMPS Christmas Play
December 17th — Advent Penance Service 7pm
December 20th — Decorate Church 6pm
December 24th — Christmas Mass at 4pm, 7pm and 10pm
December 25th — Merry Christmas! Mass at 10am
December 26th — Mass at 9am only
December 31st — Vigil Mass at 5:30pm

January 1st, 2109 - Mass at 10am

SAVE THE DATE!
St. Nick @ Nite
December 6, 2018
6:00pm Dinner in the Angelus Center

The Angel Tree Project concludes Sunday, December 9, 2018. Please have your gifts returned to the church by then. We thank you so much for your generosity!

2nd Annual Lady Knights Holiday Basketball Camp

Come and join the fun as the Lady Knights hold their 2nd Annual Holiday Basketball Camp. Join us for a day of basketball drills, skills and games and much more!

Where: St. Michael’s Gym
When: December 27th, 2018
Session One: 10am until noon, grades K-4
Session Two: 12:30pm until 2:30pm, grades 5-8
Cost is $25 per camper

All campers will receive a 2nd Annual Holiday Camp T-shirt and drinks will be provided.

Please register by December 14th, 2018 at the SMPS Office.

St. Michael CM/CW will be having our Christmas Party on December 5, 2018 following 5:30 Mass. Our chicken dinner will be catered by The Alpha. Please mail your $11 to Kathy Galinski at 202 Shawnee Road, Wheeling or drop it off at the Parish Office.

What a fun time we will have with our $10 gift exchange!!
Pro Life Corner

Abortion facilities closing at unprecedented rate, says new report, while Planned Parenthood’s marketshare has climbed 35% nationwide

- Independent clinics are closing at an unprecedented rate: the number of independent clinics has been reduced by nearly 28 percent since 2012.
- Currently, six states have only one abortion care provider.
- While there have also been a handful of clinic openings, the total number of independent clinics in this country has decreased by 2 percent since 2012. Over the last three years, 50 independent clinics have been forced to close in the United States.

The report acknowledges what Live Action News has reported numerous times that despite decreasing health services, Planned Parenthood — one organization has a monopoly on abortions in the US. While figures indicate that profitable abortions are on a steady decline nationally, Planned Parenthood’s marketshare has climbed to nearly 35 percent nationwide. And ACN’s report shows the same.

IMPORTANT CONTACT NUMBERS:
Northern Panhandle Gabriel Project: 304-639-5039
Birthright International: Helpline: 1.800.550.4900
Aim Women’s Center (Steubenville, OH): (740) 283-3636
Wellspring Pregnancy Center (Moundsville, WV): (304) 810-0292
Rachel’s Vineyard: 877 HOPE 4 ME (877-467-3463)
Silent No More: 888-735-3448

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Occasionally, someone raises a surprised complaint that while Christmas arrives on Santa’s sleigh at the Macy’s parade on Thanksgiving Day, the Church doesn’t catch on too fast. They may even say that Advent is a new-fangled idea. Not so. To trace its beginnings, we have to go back to the fourth or fifth century in France (then Gaul), when Epiphany was the favored day, next to Easter, for baptism. The old pagan structures of Rome were collapsing then, and many people sought to be baptized. Since adults always prepared for baptism by fasting, folks counted back a few weeks for a kind of retreat. Before too long, bishops were advising everyone to attend church frequently beginning on December 17. Soon, artists were imagining ways of expressing the Advent mystery, and in Italy this gave rise to beautiful mosaics of empty thrones awaiting the arrival of the Lord of all creation.

Advent as we know it develops on two separate tracks: the first having to do with our spiritual preparation for celebrating the Christmas feast, and the second having to do with the way this is organized and expressed in the liturgical readings and prayers every day of the season.

—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.
From the WLP Vault comes the Bible Story of Christmas featuring 8 Classic Christmas Carols and a reading of the Gospel of Luke 2:4-20 by Bing Crosby! Also available on vinyl.

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