JANUARY 21, 2018 | THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

They abandoned their nets and followed Jesus.

~ Mark 1:18
**ST. MICHAEL PARISH STAFF**

Rev. Msgr. Joseph L. Peterson, Pastor  
stmikes@stmikesparish.org

Rev. William K. Matheny, Jr., Associate Pastor  
wmatheny@dwc.org

Wendy Hinerman, Business Manager  
whinerman@stmikesparish.org

Kathleen Dieffenbaugher, Stewardship Director  
kathleen@stmikesparish.org

Cindy Barone, Secretary  
secretary@stmikesparish.org

Chad Carter, Liturgical Music Director, Organist  
ccarter@dwc.org

Nick Mayrand, Catechesis Coordinator  
mayrand.nick@outlook.com

Jenny Imer, Youth Director  
jimer@stmikesparish.org

**PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION**

Our Parish Office is across the street from the church

Parish Office: 304.242.1560
Parish Fax: 304.243.5710
Clergy Residence: 304.243.5454
Website: www.stmikesparish.org
Email: stmikes@stmikesparish.org
Facebook: St. Michael Parish - Wheeling, "Almost Heaven" West Virginia

**ST. MICHAEL PARISH SCHOOL STAFF**

Jamie Kovalski, SMPS Principal mrskovalski@smpswv.org
Kim Burge, Vice Principal mrsburge@smpswv.org
Shandi Nodurft, Advancement mrsnodurft@smpswv.org
Michelle Patterson, SMPS Bookkeeper mrsppatterson@smpswv.org
Diane Fahey, SMPS Secretary mrsfahey@smpswv.org
Michelle Koval, SMPS Receptionist mrskova@smpswv.org

**PARISH SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION**

School Office: 304.242.3966  
Fax: 304.214.6578
Website: www.smpswv.org
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/The.Official.Site.of.SMPS

**PARISH COUNCILS & COMMITTEES**

Pastoral Council - Leslie Kosanovic, President
Stewardship Council - Louis Volpe, President
Buildings & Grounds - Denny Wilson, Chairperson
Finance Council - Brann Altmeyer, Interim President

**ST. MICHAEL PARISH SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD**

Danielle Doerr - President

**WEEKLY READINGS**

Monday: 2 Sm 5:1-7, 10; Ps 89:20-22, 25-26; Mk 3:22-30,
Tuesday: 2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19; Ps 24:7-10; Mk 3:31-35
Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:4-17; Ps 89:4-5, 27-30; Mk 4:1-20
Thursday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Mk 16:15-18
Friday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5; Ps 51:3-7, 10-11; Mk 4:26-34
Saturday: 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17; Ps 51:12-17; Mk 4:35-41
Sunday: Dt 18:15-20; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

Sunday: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children
Tuesday: St. Vincent; Saint Marianne Cope
Wednesday: St. Francis de Sales
Thursday: The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle
Friday: Ss. Timothy and Titus
Saturday: St. Angela Merici; Blessed Virgin Mary

The Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation is held 3pm-4pm on Saturday, 8am on First Saturday, or by appointment.

Please contact the secretary at the Parish Office if you are interested in any of the following: Baptism, Matrimony (six months prior to the desired wedding date), Anointing of the Sick, Christian Initiation of Adults, or joining the parish.

To arrange a pastoral visit for Homebound Parishioners please contact Kathleen Dieffenbaugher at the Parish Office.

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

**Collection & Attendance Data: Jan. 13/14 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collection</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4:30pm—163</td>
<td>7:30am —97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00am—188</td>
<td>11:30am —202</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ATTENDANCE:</strong> 650</td>
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1st Collection: $9,030.00
2nd Collection: $2,318.60
Miscellaneous: $1,040.74
**TOTAL:** $12,389.34
MASS SCHEDULE
Saturday, January 20
7:30am †Gloria Theresa Weisenborn
4:30pm †Maurice Ackermann

Sunday, January 21
7:30am People of the Parish
9:00am †Edward J. Wilhelm
11:30am †June L. Bryson

Monday, January 22
7:30am †Richard Fitzsimmons
5:30pm †Albert Cinque

Tuesday, January 23
7:30am †Madge Emmerth

Wednesday, January 24
8:30am †Bonnie Bihler
5:30pm †George Fahey

Thursday, January 25
7:30am †Leah Reisinger (A)

Friday, January 26
7:30am †Bea Marquart

Saturday, January 27
7:30am †Irene Heffner (A)
4:30pm †William Mueller

Sunday, January 28
7:30am †Leona Miller
9:00am People of the Parish
11:30am †Joseph Makee

The Sanctuary Candle beside the tabernacle burns this week (Jan. 21–27) in memory of:
Joe Tomshack

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION
One of the most unusual Catholic churches in the world is in Amsterdam: Our Lord in the Attic, or as the locals say, “Ons Lieve Heer op Solder.” (see picture below). What looks like a beautiful narrow brick mansion alongside a canal is a clever disguise for a very well-preserved seventeenth-century home and a secret church. During the Reformation, the Netherlands was divided into Protestant Holland and the Spanish Netherlands, now known as Belgium, a Catholic stronghold. Protestant reformers seized all the Catholic parishes in Holland and “de-Catholicized” them. New laws forbade the celebration of the Mass in public. St. Nicholas Church was renamed “Old Church” by the new owners, and the dispossessed Catholics got to work “hiding” St. Nicholas Parish in the upper floors of this mansion. Other Catholics did the same thing, but this is the only hidden church that survives today. Sunday Mass is still celebrated here.

It’s a beautiful hideaway, with nothing spared in regard to marble, gilding, a pipe organ, and classic Dutch painting. A few steps away, the Old Church, begun in 1250, stands emptied of the statues and carvings of its Catholic days, its windows replaced by plain glass. The new tenants gave up when it came to the ceiling, which is still painted with saints, biblical scenes, and merchant ships. The Dutch reformers were tolerant sorts, and as long as the Catholics kept out of sight, they were out of mind. Catholicism was at last tolerated in Holland after 1853, but in 1924 when the International Eucharistic Congress was held in Amsterdam, processions of Catholics were still forbidden in the streets. Today, Roman Catholics are about 19 percent of the population, and there’s no need for any of them to hide in the attic.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

RIP Reverend William Seli, S.M.
July 2, 1931-January 11, 2018

St. Michael Parish mourns the death of Fr. Bill Seli, S.M. who served as our Associate Pastor from 1974-1976

May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace
LITURGICAL MINISTERS

*Multi-week Ministry Schedule is available on St. Mikes webpage*

**Jan. 22-26 Weekday 7:30am Altar Servers:**
Levi Rine and Elizabeth Wolf

Saturday, January 27, 4:30pm
Sacristan: Karen Kelly
Lector: Lillian Bischof
Altar Servers: S. Dieffenbaugher, Dominic/Jimmy/John Brogan
EMOHCS: Karen Kelly, Jim Kelly, A. Dieffenbaugher, Staci Spry, Linda McCabe

Sunday, January 28, 7:30am
Sacristan: Mary Kay Wensyel
Lector: Shaunnna Hershberger
Altar Servers: Grady Mullin, Danielle Agcaoili
EMOHCS: Mary Kay Wensyel, Kathy Galinski, Peek Gutman, Joe Roxby, Bob Fanning

Sunday, January 28, 9:00am
Sacristan: SMPS
Lector: SMPS
Altar Servers: SMPS
EMOHCS: SMPS

Sunday, January 28, 11:30am
Sacristan: SMPS
Lector: SMPS
Altar Servers: SMPS
EMOHCS: SMPS

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Contribution Statements for the 2017 calendar year will automatically be mailed, by January 31, to all families who have contributed a total of $250 or more. Others who may wish to receive a statement should contact the Parish Office, 304.242.1560, x.0 or secretary@stmikesparish.org.

Journey of the Chalice schedule:
1/21: Patty & Steve Patrick
1/28: Laura & Scott Reed

The purpose of the Journey of the Chalice program is to encourage families to pray and promote vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. Praying for vocations is the most powerful way to support vocations. When we pray for vocations, we lift up to our Father those men and women whom He is calling to follow Him in a special way.

THE DEMANDS OF DISCIPLESHIP

Today we encounter readings that already have a Lenten feel about them. Nineveh undergoes a forty-day fast, the psalmist reminds us that God alone can show sinners the way, Paul shows us how fleeting the things and events of this world are, and Jesus cries out “Repent!” before he calls his new followers. “Come after me,” Jesus says, but if we are to truly live out the commands and demands of our discipleship through baptism, we must first know our need for conversion, our repentance, our need to believe in the gospel fully. Today’s Gospel opens with the stark reminder of what befell John the Baptist for completely living out his vocation as the herald of Christ and the gospel: he was arrested, imprisoned, and martyred. Though few of us will experience consequences that extreme, we must all be ready to risk some sort of rejection as, heeding the call of Jesus, we live out the kingdom of God at hand, repent of our sins, and believe in the good news of salvation.

SUNDAY’S READINGS

First Reading — The people of Nineveh believed God and turned from their evil ways (Jonah 3:1-5, 10).
Psalm — Teach me your ways, O Lord (Psalm 25).
Second Reading — The world in its present form is passing away (1 Corinthians 7:29-31).
Gospel — This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand (Mark 1:14-20).

PSR students across the various grade levels once again braved the snow and bitter cold last weekend so they could spend time learning about what it means to listen for and then try to answer God’s calling, following the example of Samuel from last Sunday’s first reading.

As we move into the 2nd half of our PSR calendar, please say special prayers for our 8th graders and 2nd graders. The former are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, while the latter are beginning their preparation for their First Holy Eucharist. Thanks for your continued support of our parish’s young people!

Please direct any questions about PSR to the coordinator, Nick Mayrand, at nmayrand@dwc.org.

Special Mass to Pray for the Opioid Epidemic

On February 1, 2018 at 7pm, all are invited to a special Mass at St. Michael Church to pray for healing and an end to the overwhelming opioid epidemic that is plaguing our area, our state and our country. As well, we will remember in a special way all whose lives have been impacted by drug abuse and those who have lost their lives due to the effects of drugs. Please come and pray for God’s mercy and healing.

*This Mass is a joint project of St. Michael Parish and St. Vincent de Paul Parish.*

PURSUIT Youth Event: On January 28 in the St. Vincent Parish Hall from 12:30-2:30pm, the Diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry will be offering a program entitled Pursuit. This FREE event will be an inspiring, fun and faith filled time for teens and parents that includes praise and worship music, prayer and a message of Christ’s presence with us. It will be a great opportunity for parents and teenagers (6th-12th grade) to have a fun and spiritually enriching evening together. St. Vincent’s will provide a light lunch at the beginning of the event.

Our next Mustang Mass(es) will be Sunday, January 28 at BOTH the 9am and 11:30am Masses as a kickoff to Catholic Schools Week. Hope to see all of our school families there!

Lent starts on February 14, 2018…

PALM BRANCHES: Lent begins with the solemn celebration of Ash Wednesday on February 14. The ashes that will be imposed on our foreheads come from the palm branches from the previous Lent. Please bring in your palm branches to the church vestibule so we can burn them for Ash Wednesday 2019. Thank you!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Begin on Friday, February 16. Please contact Fr. Bill if you would like to read for the stations: wmatheny@dwc.org or 304-242-1560, ext 7.

EXTRA WEEKDAY MASSES: During the season of Lent, we will have 5:30pm Masses each day, Monday through Thursday, starting the week of Feb. 19. Please contact Fr. Bill if you would like to lector for the additional evening Masses.
My husband tells the story of going to Spain with the Linsly Spanish Club when he was in high school. Apparently, Scott and some of the other cadets had not been studious prior to their journey. Being less than fluent, the only phrase they could remember when ordering a meal in a restaurant was "jamón y queso y una cerveza por favor." Those boys ate a lot of ham and cheese sandwiches - with a beer! But they did say please. And please is an important word. You can't say please too often and there should always be a thank you.

On behalf of Monsignor Peterson, Father Bill and the parish staff, thank you! YOU have been devoted, dedicated and generous. We asked you to please help with our Stewardship needs. We need your time and talent. From the Fish Fry to the Festival, hundreds of volunteers roll up their sleeves. Thank you!

The schedule for Liturgical Ministers and Music Ministry has over 185 names. If you add the “behind the scenes” helpers, it's over 200. Thank you!

We invited you to Mass and prayers services. We asked you to invite friends and neighbors to join us. Our Sunday attendance is on the rise and our prayer services have welcomed more guests. Thank you!

We need lay leadership and have many Councils and Committees meeting regularly. Thank you!

With the Connections campaign funds we have replaced parking lots, a boiler, and windows. We added walls, key card systems, and air conditioning. Thank you!

We asked you to please donate money for flood victims, the Angel Tree, and Catholic Charities West Virginia. You opened your hearts and your wallets. Thank you!

We said please pray and you said "Lord, hear our prayer." Thank you!

We asked you to participate with an Increased Offertory Program to help us reach the operating costs of a parish our size. You made a commitment to help. Thank you!

St. Michael Parish School provides a faith based education for 300 students. Tuition Assistance and the monthly school support collection helps to keep the doors open. Thank you!

We said please for a financial Christmas gift to the parish and we received over $40,000. Thank you!

To each and every one of our parishioners, supporters, donors, friends, family and neighbors, Thank you!

~Wendy Hinerman, Business Manager

**Parish Office Ponderings...**

Youth Group Happenings:

*Sunday, January 28:  At 12:15pm, Mrs. Imer will meet any interested youth group members at the Angelus Center and she will transport them to St. Vincent Church for the Pursuit Program which will last until 2:30pm. Parents are asked to pick up their students at St. Vincent’s Parish Center at 2:30pm. This gathering is a fun, faith-based event. Last year, St. Michael Parish hosted Pursuit and it was a huge success as we had approximately 50 students who attended. Mrs. Imer is hopeful that a large group of youth turns out again this year — please contact her to let her know if you are planning to attend!

*Sunday, January 28:  High School Youth Group  6-7:30pm in the Angelus Center
WHO WANTS TO BE A "HEAVENLY" MILLIONAIRE?

OLD TESTAMENT CHARACTERS  His name means “I drew him out of the water”
A. Isaiah
B. Jonah
C. Moses
D. Noah

Last week’s answer: The Spanish Basilica of the Sagrada Familia is located in Barcelona

PRO-LIFE CORNER

On January 22, St. Michael Parish will again host a day of prayer for the right to life for all, especially the unborn. Please come out and join us as we pray. The schedule is below:

7:30am: Mass
8:00am - 5pm Adoration in the Church with hourly pro-life rosaries being prayed
5:30pm: Mass
7:00pm - 8pm: Candlelight Prayer Service
8:00 pm - Midnight: Adoration Vigil in Church

IMPORTANT CONTACT NUMBERS

Pregnant & Need Help:
Northern Panhandle Gabriel Project: 304-639-5039
Birthright International: Helpline: 800.550.4900
Aim Women’s Center (Steubenville, OH): (740) 283-3636
Rachel’s Vineyard: 877 HOPE 4 ME (877-467-3463)
Silent No More: 888-735-3448

AOH Scholarship  The Bishop Whelan Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Wheeling, WV is offering three $1000 scholarships.

Applicants must be seniors and attending a high school in Ohio County or Marshall County in West Virginia or Belmont County in Ohio.

Scholarships are to be used for tuition or school expenses only and to be used to pursue post-secondary school education, such as a two year college degree, a four year college degree, a trade school or other acceptable post-secondary education or training. All applicants must have a GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Each person will be judged on his or her grades, reference letter, extracurricular school activities, knowledge of Ireland and the Ancient Order of Hibernians, civic and religious activities and the required essay.

The deadline for submission of an application is: March 17, 2018. Application and details can be found at https://aohwheeling.shutterfly.com/scholarship

Please pray for these men and women serving our country in the military, and for their families:
- Petty Officer First Class Eric J Auber, US Navy
- Staff Sergeant Robert Michael Baker, US Marine Corps
- Sergeant Anthony DiBias, US Army
- Chief Warrant Officer 4 John DiBias, US Army
- Lieutenant Andrew Klug, US Navy
- Captain Zach Lehman, US Marine Corps
- Capt. Michael Neuman, US Army
- Major Christopher Nodurft, US Marine Corps
- Seaman First Class Cody Patterson, US Navy
- Specialist Seth Sleime, US Army
- Sgt. Christopher Snyder, US Army
- First Sergeant Stephen Spohn, US Army
- Sergeant First Class Wendy Spohn, US Army
- Lieutenant Colonel Aaron P Tillman, US Air Force
- Chief Master Sergeant Patrick Van Vranken, US Air Force
- Airman First Class Taylor Wilkinson, US Air Force
- Airman First Class Sierra E. McKenna, US Air Force

Please contact the Parish Office with changes in rank or to add someone to the list. Thanks to ALL who have served or are currently serving!
EARLY CHILDHOOD OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, January 23rd or Thursday, January 25th

Tour times: 9am, 10am, 1pm & 2pm

Please join Mrs. Kovalski for a 30-minute small group tour of our school. Families interested in St. Michael Parish School’s Early Childhood Program will be given an opportunity to meet our teachers and see our students in action. The guided tours will begin in the school’s main office. Tour starting times are 9am, 10am, 1pm and 2pm, followed by a question and answer session.

We are proud to offer Lil’ Cherubs (2 year olds with an adult partner), Preschool Three, Preschool Four, Transitional Kindergarten, Kindergarten and our Expanded Day Program!

To register please contact our school secretary Mrs. Diane Fahey @ 304-242-3966 ext. 1 or mrsfahey@smpswv.org before January 19th.

St. Michael Parish School would like to thank the Paul W. and Virginia Blake Foundation for their very generous gift of $20,000 for tuition assistance given to support our school. We are blessed by your generosity. Thank you!

MLK March for Justice and Interfaith Prayer Service

We are so proud of the representation of St. Michael Church and School at the MLK MARCH FOR JUSTICE! We had an amazing opportunity to connect with individuals of Wheeling’s diverse faith community. The procession walked down Martin Luther King Boulevard in Wheeling to the 4th Street Methodist Church. Speakers represented Judaism, Hinduism, Islam as well as Christians including Lutheranism, Methodism, Protestantism, and Catholicism. It was certainly a moment of pride to hear our own Monsignor Peterson speak at this emotionally moving service.

Dr. King taught our country how to dream big, always to resolve conflict peacefully and make great friendships! Two quotes read at the service that were very powerful:

“An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity.”

“In the End, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”

If you were not able to join us this year, we STRONGLY urge you to attend next year. The march historically is the Sunday before MLK Jr. Day.

COME AND SEE WHAT ST. MICHAEL PARISH SCHOOL’S EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM HAS TO OFFER YOUR FAMILY!
MEET MR. RYAN WOLF

Mr. Ryan has joined the SMPS faculty as our Music Teacher. Mr. Wolf comes to us with a wealth of music knowledge and expertise! Ryan Wolf is a performer and educator who recently received his B.A. in Music Education from West Liberty University (WV). He most recently completed his student teaching experience at Martins Ferry City School District (OH) where he also worked as the Assistant Band Director. While at Martins Ferry, he taught beginner band, middle school band, middle school general music, high school band, high school choir, percussion ensemble, and music theory. He also maintains a private teaching studio in Pittsburgh, PA, and is the director of the Bridgeville Brass, a high school brass quintet. Mr. Wolf will be sending out an email to parents regarding after school music lessons. Please give him a warm SMPS welcome when you meet him. We are thrilled to have Mr. Wolf and his fresh, exciting new ideas at our school!

Catholic Schools Week Agenda
January 28- February 3, 2018

Sunday-- Celebrate the Parish
• SMPS Masses (9:00 and 11:30)
• Students will lead Masses & wear uniforms

Monday-- Celebrate the Community
• Penny Drop-Classroom Competition & Canned Food Drive-Grade Level Competition Monday—Friday.
• Please try to bring in pennies and non-perishable food items all week.
• Wear Your Wings Day (with dress down)
• Class selected service projects

Tuesday-- Celebrate the Nation
• Red, white, blue dress down; Penny Drop/Canned Food Drive
• Bomb Popsicles provided by Ziegenfelder Company

Wednesday-- Celebrate Families
• Penny Drop; Canned Food Drive
• "Souper Bowl" soup collection

Thursday-- Celebrate Academics Blue and Gold Dress Down Day
• Penny Drop; Canned Food Drive
• Academic games
• No homework
• Dine to Donate Texas Roadhouse
• 7/8 St. Michael vs St. Michael game
• Free admission with SMPS gear
• 50/50

Friday-- Celebrate Students
• Penny Drop; Canned Food Drive
• No tests
• NFL team color dress down
• Movie and popcorn
• Pep rally & team recognition; Students vs. Faculty game

January 11th was our third Box Top Shopping Day for the 2017-2018 school year. A special thank you to Melissa Mansuetto for organizing, setting-up and managing the students as they shop. Also, a very special thank you to Kathy Ulevich for assisting with the Box Top Store as well as the hours spent calculating the Box Tops! SMPS is proud to announce that more that $442 was collected in Box Top earnings. An impressive increase of $160 from our last collection day in November! Thank you so much to our families and parishioners for their support in raising this money. Keep using the app and sending in the Box Tops! It really does make a difference!

Using your Box Top App, please look at the items and see if you need 5 of the 50 offered in the in-store bonus offered from 1/1/18-1/31/18. It will earn 50 bonus Box Tops for each 5 purchased. If you need help with the app please stop by my office and I’ll be happy to help you!

Mrs. Nodurft 304.242.3966 ext. 4

A special thank you to this week’s hot lunch volunteers:
Jennie Adams, Kathy Blatt, Jen Decker, Karen Kahle, Janet Kelly, Jessica Frangos, Susie Nau, Larry Brothers and McKenzie Keane!
NEVER STOP PEDDLING - by Lisa Perron

Several years back, my husband Bob and I took up bike riding. We used to go to the trail a few times a week, putting many miles on those wheels. There was something beautiful about experiencing the splendor of nature while getting much needed exercise that made those times together on the trail priceless.

Marriage is a lot like riding a bike. At the beginning of your relationship, pedaling is easy. The excitement of new love and a new relationship keeps you pushing up the hills and enjoying the exhilarating glide down them. After a while, pedaling becomes more difficult. There are some hills that are so steep, you feel as if you’ll never reach the top. But if you press on, you will be rewarded by the other side.

Not long ago, we heard about a couple that is very dear to us who had just separated. This couple was the last couple that we ever dreamed would separate. Bob and I had looked up to them as they built a beautiful family and, what appeared to be, an amazing life together. It’s so easy when you’ve been married a long time to take your relationship for granted. You get bogged down by busyness of family life and work and stop focusing on the importance of your relationship. Somewhere along the way, indifference set in, mistakes were made, and after nearly thirty years, this precious couple stopped pedaling.

This news breaks our hearts for several reasons. We’re devastated for the couple. They both are people that we admire greatly and we knew that this must be incredibly painful for the both.

Continued on page 2.
NEVER STOP PEDDLING (Continued)

of them. We also ache for their children. As hard as this news is for us to accept, I can’t imagine how terribly difficult this must be for them. We also know that this situation has shocked and caused pain to their extended family as well. After the initial shock, we were overcome by fear when we heard about this couple’s separation. If it could happen to them, it could happen to anyone. And if it can happen to anyone, it could happen to us.

We at Catholic Family and Marriage, Inc. want to do our part to help stop the growing epidemic of failing marriages. First, we want to help pre-married and newly married couples to lay a strong foundation on which to build their family.

Second, we want to encourage couples as they pedal through the difficult terrain of exhausting parenting of very young children, through the busyness of making sure their older children make it to whatever practices or lessons they need to attend, and through the bumpy road of dealing with teenagers as they begin to step out in the world on their own.

Third, we want to remind couples to take time to examine their foundations, determine its weak spots, and make necessary repairs so they can continue to build on what God has blessed them with. We want to prevent families from getting to the same place that this couple has found themselves. We pray daily for strong families and, when those families are faced with difficult times, we pray for God to fill them with strength.

We ask that you join us in praying for this special couple. We know that God is more than capable to repair the damage their mistakes have wrought and give each of them the ability to forgive, if only they would open their hearts to receive the gift.

Always remember, when it comes to your marriage, never stop pedaling.

5 REASONS A PARENT OF A SMALL CHILD WON’T MAKE IT TO THE HOMILY

1. Projectile vomiting.
2. Diaper Disaster.
3. Crash followed by the rush to escape before the earth shattering scream.
4. Multiple potty breaks. (Sometimes even the kids have to go.)
5. Had to leave to fetch the child you forgot at home.

Getting to Mass on Sunday when you have small children is heroic. The sacrifices you make for your children when they are young sets the foundation for their faith journey in the future. Don’t let the struggle (or the lady giving you dirty looks two pew in front of you) deter you from gifting your children with faith.

Cartoon by Dan Reynolds.
Used with permission.
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.

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES, FRANCE
Fr. John Beckley, SM, the chaplain at Good Shepherd Nursing Home, Wheeling, will be participating in a pilgrimage to Lourdes from July 2-11, 2018. It is sponsored by the National Rosary Pilgrimage and the Lourdes Bureau of the Marist Fathers in Boston. If you would like to consider making this pilgrimage, an itinerary is available at the parish office or by contacting Fr. Beckley (johnbmarist@aol.com).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MENTORING
Youth Services System operates a mentoring program, formerly known as Big Brothers/Big Sisters, that matches a caring adult with a child in need of support and adult companionship. We ask that volunteers commit to a minimum of a one-year relationship and at least one get-together with the child per month.

The need is greater than ever. Our hope at YSS is that you might find room in your heart and your life for a child in need of love and attention. Please contact Jane Ketcham at 304-830-9516 or Jketcham@ysswv.com.

PIERRE CUBS BASEBALL / SOFTBALL REGISTRATION & FAMILY FUN DAY
St. Michael’s Angelus Center
Saturday, January 27th : 2-6pm
COME MEET THE PIRATE PARROT!!!
SKILLS COMPETITION & GAMES WITH THE WHEELING JESUIT BASEBALL TEAM
SILENT AUCTION / RAFFLE!!!
Autographs, Game Tickets, Merchandise donated by:
Pittsburgh Pirates, adidas, Cirque Salon, Nini’s Treasures and MORE!!!
Sunday, January 28th : 12-2pm – Additional Registration Opportunity – St. Michael’s School Cafeteria
**Only additional registration and Silent Auction on Sunday**

The Fish Fry is returning to St. Michael Parish.

Plan to join us on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent (except Good Friday) for great food and fellowship! Food will be served from 4-7pm with take-out available.

World Marriage Day:
Join us Saturday, February 10, 2018, for an evening of celebrating your love and the blessing of your marriage together at St. Vincent de Paul Marist center.
Cost of the evening is $45 per couple. Reservations are required and must be made no later than Feb. 7. For more information, contact the Beiter’s at 304-238-4904 or the Reed’s at 304-242-8156.

The above event is an OPEN event and has been timed to allow parishioners to stop by as they are coming to/leaving from Mass.
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