

Catholic Parishes of St. Anthony and Our Lady of the Hills

January 7, 2024

The Epiphany of the Lord

Issue No. 376



St. Anthony Catholic Church
1000 6th Street
Charleston, WV 25302
www.stanthonywv.com

Facebook
www.facebook.com/stanthonywestvirginia

General Directory

Pastor

Fr. Thomas Kalapurackal
Email: tkalapurackal@dwc.org

Fr. Charles Anemelu
(Priest in Residence)

Deacon David Wuletich
Email: davidwuletich@gmail.com
Phone: 304-345-9567

Office

1000 6th Street, Charleston, WV 25302
Email: secretary@stanthonywv.com Phone: 304-342-2716

Office Hours:

Monday-Tuesday-Thursday-Friday from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm; Closed Wednesday and holidays.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

St Anthony: Saturday 4:15 p.m.—4:45 p.m. Our Lady of the Hills: Tuesday 5:00 p.m.—5:15 p.m.



Our Lady of the Hills Catholic Church
100 Jackson Drive
Elkview, WV 25071
www.ourladyofthehills.com

Facebook
www.facebook.com/ourladyofthehillswv

From the Pastor's Desk

“The Family Is a Domestic Church”



“The nuclear family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph is for each believer and especially for families an authentic school of the Gospel. Here we admire the fulfillment of the divine plan to make of the family a special community of life and love. Here we learn that every Christian nuclear family is called to be a “domestic church,” to make the Gospel virtues shine and become a leaven of good in society. The classic traits of the Holy Family are: reflection and prayer, mutual understanding and respect, and a spirit of sacrifice, work, and solidarity.

From the exemplary witness of the Holy Family, each family can find precious guidance for the style and choices of life, and can draw strength and wisdom for each day's journey. Our Lady and Joseph teach us to welcome children as a gift of God, to beget them and raise them, cooperating wonderfully in the work of the Creator and giving to the world, in each child, a new smile. It is in a united family that children bring their existence to maturity, living out meaningful and effective experience of freely given love, tenderness, reciprocal respect, mutual understanding, forgiveness, and joy.

I would like to pause above all on joy. The true joy which is experienced in the family is not something random and fortuitous. It is a joy produced by deep harmony among people, which allows them to savor the beauty of being together, of supporting each other on life's journey. However, at the foundation of joy there is always the presence of God, his welcoming, merciful, and patient love for all. If the door of the family is not open to the presence of God and to his love, then the family loses its harmony, individualism prevails, and joy is extinguished.

(continued on page 4)

Music for Liturgy

	SA 5:00 & OLH 8:30	SA 10:30
Entrance:	We Three Kings — #107	We Three Kings — #107
Gloria:	Mass of Christ the Savior — #915	Mass of Christ the Savior — #915
Offertory:	As with Gladness Men of Old — #109	Christ, the Sun of Light — choir only
Communion:	The First Nowell — #112	The First Nowell — #112
Recessional:	Angels, from the Realms of Glory — #111	Angels, from the Realms of Glory — #111

Minister Schedule

	January 7, 2024	January 14, 2024
	The Epiphany of the Lord	2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time
<u>St. Anthony</u>		
5:00 p.m. Mass		
Lector:	M. Doneghy	D. Hess
Eucharistic Minister:	J. Polak & D. Hess	M. Doneghy & W. Leach
10:30 a.m. Mass		
Lector:	S. Kawash	M. Ferguson
Eucharistic Minister:	B. Morton & S. Kawash	M. Hamilton & B. Ashworth
Counters:	C. Joseph & S. Bossie-Maddox	K. Layne & S. Spencer
<u>Our Lady of the Hills</u>		
Lector:	M. Swecker	R. Stodola
Eucharistic Minister:	C. Lothes	J. Felber

Bulletin & Mass Announcements—The deadline this week for bulletin announcements is **Wednesday at 5:00 p.m.** & for Mass announcements is **Friday at 9:00 a.m.** Thank you!

 **You are invited to Bible Study led by Deacon David on Thursdays at 2:00 p.m. in the SA Parish Center.**



January Birthdays

- 2 August Green
- 5 Tobin Arnold
- 5 Jacob Swecker
- 7 Eric Carroll
- 10 Melissa Bossie
- 10 Mary Agnes Keener
- 11 Natalie D'Alessio
- 11 Agnes Michaelson
- 12 May Clark
- 13 Kayla Jusko
- 15 Pat Lanna
- 15 Brenda Withrow
- 17 Dan Lanham
- 18 Ellen Asbury
- 20 Jameson Garton
- 21 Leah Wines
- 22 Joyce Sweeney
- 24 Mary Ellen O'Farrell
- 25 Mary Arnold
- 27 Joe Akers
- 27 Brenda Cavendish
- 30 Melissa Tyler

Please notify the office if your birthday is not listed or the date is incorrect.

Thank you!

Reception for Father Thomas Kalapurackal



On Tuesday, December 26, 2023, Father Thomas celebrated the 35th Anniversary of his Ordination. To celebrate his anniversary, parishioners from both parishes are invited to a reception following the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, January 7, 2024, in the St. Anthony Parish Center. Please plan to join us to commemorate this wonderful occasion with Father Thomas.

Special Collection for the Holy Land Region: January 13 & 14—We are all aware of the current Hamas-Israeli war and the escalation in violence in the Holy Land. Bishop Brennan has approved a special collection for the Holy Land region to be held the weekend of January 13 & 14, 2024. The money collected will be sent to The Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA), a papal agency for humanitarian and pastoral support. They will provide the essentials of water, food, and emergency kits on the ground in the Holy Land. CNEWA has offices in the region and know where and what kind of help is needed the most. **Checks are to be made payable to your respective parish and on the memo line indicate CNEWA Holy Land.**

2023 Tax Contribution Statements—To save money on postage, paper and ink for our parishes, your 2023 tax contribution statements will not be automatically mailed to you. **Please contact Michele at the office (email: secretary@stanthonywv.com or phone: 304-342-2716) AFTER Thursday, January 11, 2024** if you would like to receive a copy of your tax contribution statement. **If you have any receipts for items purchased for your parish to be added to your statement, please submit them no later than Friday, January 26, 2024. Thank you!**

“The Family Is a Domestic Church” *(continued from page 1)*

Instead, the family which experiences joy—the joy of life, the joy of faith—communicates it spontaneously, is the salt of the earth, and light of the world, the leaven for all of society.”

Pope Francis. “The Holy Family: The Family Is a Domestic Church.” Christmas at the Nativity, Focolare Media/New York City Press, 2023, pp. 108-109.

They Fell down and Worshiped Jesus

Meditation: If Jesus truly is who he claims to be, the eternal Son of God and Savior of the world, then why is he not recognized by everyone who hears his word and sees his works? John the Evangelist states that when Jesus came into the world *the world knew him not and his own people received him not* (John 1:10-11). Jesus was born in obscurity. Only the lowly shepherds recognized him at his birth. Some wise men also found their way to Bethlehem to pay homage to the newborn King of Israel. These men were not Israelites, but foreigners. They likely had read and discussed the Messianic prophecies and were anxious to see when this Messianic King would appear. God led them by means of an extraordinary star across the desert to the little town of Bethlehem where Jesus was born.

John Chrysostom (347-407), in his homily on this passage from Matthew 2, explains the significance of the star of Bethlehem:

"Note how fitting was the order of events: the wise men saw the star, were received by the Jews and their king; they heard prophecy to explain what had appeared; the angel instructed them; and then they journeyed from Jerusalem to Bethlehem by the guidance of the star. From all this we learn that this was not an ordinary star, for no other star has this capacity to guide, not merely to move but to beckon, to "go before them," drawing and guiding them along their way. The star remained after bringing them to the place, in order that the child might also be seen. For there is nothing conspicuous about the place. The inn was ordinary. The mother was not celebrated or notable. The star was needed to manifest and illumine the lowly place, until they had reached their destination at the manger." [*The Gospel of Matthew, Homily 7:3*]

In their thirst for knowledge of God, the wise men from the East willingly left everything, their home and country, in pursuit of that quest. In their diligent search they were led to the source of true knowledge - to Jesus Christ, the Light and Wisdom of God. When they found the newborn King they humbly worshiped him and gave him gifts fitting for a king.

The Lord of the universe who revealed the star of Bethlehem to the Gentiles of the East so they could come and worship Jesus, the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6) and King of Kings (Revelations 19:16), gives each one of us the same light of revelation to recognize and accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Faith is an entirely free gift that God makes to us. It is through the help of the Holy Spirit, who moves the heart and opens the eyes of the mind, that we are able to understand, accept, and believe the truth which God has revealed to us through his Son, Jesus Christ. In faith, the human will and intellect cooperate with grace. "*Believing is an act of the intellect assenting to the divine truth by command of the will moved by God through grace*" (Thomas Aquinas).

To know and to encounter Jesus Christ is to know God personally. In the encounter of the wise men with Jesus we see the plan of God to give his only Son as King and Savior, not just for the Jewish people but for all the nations as well. The Lord Jesus came that both Jew and Gentile might find true and lasting peace with God. Let us pray today that Jew and Gentile alike will find the Lord and Savior on their journey of life. Do you bring the light of Jesus Christ to those you meet through the witness of your life and testimony?

copyright © 2023 Servants of the Word, source: dailyscripture.net, author [Don Schwager](#)

A five-week course, ***RCIA: A Process of Conversion, Catechesis and Community***, is being offered through the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF).

RCIA: A Process of Conversion, Catechesis and Community is intended for leadership teams and individuals who are or will be involved in implementing the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) – soon to be called the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) – in their parishes. The content of the course will help students appreciate the character of the RCIA as an extended process of formation for discipleship that focuses on conversion. Students will be able to explain how this process takes place within community, is supported by liturgical celebrations, and is enriched by appropriate and complete catechesis in each of its periods. We highly recommend leadership teams take this course together.

It is offered **in-person** at St John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston on 5 consecutive Thursdays from 6:00-7:30 p.m., beginning January 18th. Registration is required and space is limited. The course is being underwritten by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Office of Evangelization & Catechesis, which pays 100% of the tuition and the cost of any books associated with the courses. The facilitator is Gerri Wright. For further information or to register, please contact Gerri at gwright@dwc.org or 304-720-8311. Registration deadline is January 9th.