

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

December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Issue No. 218



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

Facebook
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General Directory

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(Priest in Residence)

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Office Hours:

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

St Anthony by appointment. Our Lady of the Hills by appointment.



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

Facebook
www.facebook.com/ourladyofthehillswv

Christmas 2020

In this year like no other, we are approaching a Christmas like no other: no packed Masses and severely limited family celebrations.

This year we may feel closer to the Holy Family, however, who on that first Christmas were living in discomfort far from home and family, uncertain about the future. How do we respond as Catholics to life in the time of pandemic? We have a long tradition of “offering up” our inconveniences, disappointments, hurt feelings, sufferings and crosses. St. Paul expresses it eloquently in his Letter to the Colossians: “Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the church.” (Col 1:24).

Thus, we participate spiritually in the Lord’s sufferings by offering our sufferings as penance for our own sins or the sins of those who cannot or will not do penance for themselves: for the sick, the lonely, the souls in purgatory or for other intentions. When we do that, our pain and anguish take on a meaning beyond ourselves and so is lessened.

There has been no shortage of suffering and losses in our parish community in 2020: deaths from COVID-19 and from other, sometimes related, causes, loss of employment, family stresses, isolation, anxiety, and depression. As members of the one Body of Christ, we all suffer when one suffers.

Priests are not immune from what others experience, and I have suffered with you and for you and have experienced my own challenging moments, not the least of which is being deprived of contact with so many of those I live to serve.

I have also taken heart, first from the Lord’s fidelity to me, and then from the cheerful and tireless devotion of our band of volunteers without whom the parishes could not function at the level they do. I am also greatly encouraged by your continued support and generosity that is extended not just to our parishes, but also to responding to the many needs in our parish communities.

(continued on page 3)



Mass Schedule December 19 — 27

Saturday 12/19: <small>4th Sunday of Advent</small>	SA Mass 5:30 p.m. †Charles W. Bee
Sunday 12/20: <small>4th Sunday of Advent</small>	OLH Mass 8:30 a.m. †Holy Souls in Purgatory (prayer gift) SA Mass 10:30 a.m. People of the Parish
Wednesday 12/23:	SA Mass 9:00 a.m.
Thursday 12/24: <small>Christmas Eve</small>	SA Mass 5:30 p.m. (Livestreamed Facebook) †Tom O'Farrell OLH Mass 8:00 p.m. †Holy Souls in Purgatory (prayer gift) SA Mass 10:30 p.m. †Holy Souls in Purgatory (prayer gift)
Friday 12/25: <small>Christmas Day</small>	SA Mass 10:30 a.m. People of the Parish
Saturday 12/26: <small>The Holy Family</small>	SA Mass 5:30 p.m. †All Healthcare Workers—Living and Deceased
Sunday 12/27: <small>The Holy Family</small>	OLH Mass 8:30 a.m. †Reparation to Divine Justice (prayer gift) SA Mass 10:30 a.m. People of the Parish

Mass Intentions—In accordance with the guidelines from the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, Mass stipends are deposited in a separate checking account. **If you are writing a check, please make it payable to St. Anthony Mass Account.**

The current suggested level of giving is **\$20 for a weekend Mass or \$10 for a daily Mass.** Any offering, however, is most welcome, and, if you do not have funds to offer, you are encouraged to request your Mass intention.

Prayer List for the Sick & Homebound

St. Anthony—Mary Canterbury, Mary Hanson, David Dodd, Nazira Joseph, Zachariah Kushner, Christina Lopez, Michael McCallister, Maya Clark, Robin Holly, Michael Bee, William Ashworth, Terrie Rosenfeld, Anna Corbin

Our Lady of the Hills—Bert Zodorozny, Margaret Hancock, Violet Edwards, Marilyn Spencer, William Spencer, Katie Caroli, Jeanne Rollins, Steven Spencer, Doug Spencer, Harry Crede, Doug Rollins, Anna Corbin, Vickie Ayoob

Please call Father Tijo George at 304-342-2716, ext. 406 if you would like a visit and to receive communion or a home blessing.

Bulletin & Mass Announcements

The deadline this week for bulletin announcements is **Monday at 5:30 p.m.** and for Mass announcements is **Wednesday at 9:00 a.m.** Thank you!



Safe Environment—The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is committed to the protection of its children and young people. The Diocese complies with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* by maintaining an 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 the West Virginia Bureau for Children and Families/Child Protective Services by calling the Child Abuse Hotline at 800.352.6513. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, please contact one of the Bishop's designees at 888.434.6237 (toll free) or 304.233.0880: Sister Ellen Dunn, ext. 264; Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; Fr. Dennis Schuelkens, ext. 270 or call the Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504. For more information on the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment, please go to www.dwc.org, then click the "Diocese" tab, then click "Office of Safe Environment" under the "Offices" menu. To learn more about the Catholic Church's efforts in preventing sexual abuse of children in the United States, please visit <http://www.usccb.org>. Under "Issues and Action," click "Child and Youth Protection" from the drop down menu.

Stewardship Report for December 12 & 13, 2020

St. Anthony

Offering	\$ 1,766.00
Retirement Fund for Religious	483.50
Other	304.38

Attendance Saturday—21 Sunday—52

Our Lady of the Hills

Offering	\$ 1,060.00
Retirement Fund for Religious	670.00
Other	325.00

Attendance Sunday—27

Thank you for your generosity! Please remember to continue to support your parish during this difficult time. May God bless you!



Healing Prayers Offered for Covid-19 Victims

If you have a family member/friend who has been infected by the Coronavirus, Fr. Tijo would like to pray for the infected person during the private daily Masses and Sunday Masses. A votive candle will also be lit for his/her healing. Please call the parish office or Fr. Tijo to have their names included in his prayers and a votive candle lit.

“To pray is to light a candle in the darkness. Prayer rouses us from the tepidness of a purely horizontal existence, lifts our gaze to higher things, makes us attuned to the Lord, allows God to be close to us; it frees us from our solitude and gives us hope.”

~Pope Francis tweet on 12/15/20

Music for Liturgy

LITURGY



AND MUSIC

Entrance:	O Come, O Come, Emmanuel — #38
Offertory:	Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming — #79
Holy:	Mass of Healing
Communion:	Servant Song — #378
Recessional:	People, Look East — #41

LITURGY



AND MUSIC



Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve	5:30 p.m.	SA
Christmas Eve	8:00 p.m.	OLH *
Christmas Eve	10:30 p.m.	SA
Christmas Day	10:30 a.m.	SA

***OLH Reservation Required**—Contact Chuck Stodola by email: charlesstodola@msn.com or phone: 304-343-0631. You must leave your name, number attending, and if those attending can sit together.



Solemnity of Mary Mass Schedule

New Year's Eve	5:30 p.m.	SA
New Year's Day	9:00 a.m.	OLH

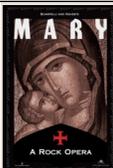
The 5:30 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve at St. Anthony will be livestreamed on the Facebook pages of St. Anthony and Our Lady of the Hills.



For Christmas, Father Tijo George invites each Parish Family to pick up Remember When!," a book written by Jeremiah Gagnon, an Our Lady of the Hills parishioner. Also, our 2021 Catholic calendars are now available. **Please only take one book and calendar per family.**

The office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, December 24 and 25.

Catholic Charities West Virginia: December 24 & 25—Support Catholic Charities West Virginia today! Our readings remind us of our baptism, where we joined the body of Christ and began our mission of love. At Catholic Charities West Virginia, we love our neighbors through caring and compassionate services to people in need, supporting them as they make meaningful change. **Will you help us?** Donate at www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org, mail in a donation (2000 Main Street, Wheeling, WV 26003), text 'Christmas' to 304-245-6600 or donate during any Christmas Mass (please make checks donated at Mass payable to your parish). We're waiting in joyful hope: 5 Days Until Christmas!



"Mary: A Rock Opera"—Mark Scarpelli and Dan Kehde's "Mary: A Rock Opera" follows the life of Mary, mother of Jesus, during the final 9 months before the birth of Christ. Because of COVID-19, they are unable to mount the usual production in 2020, but the Contemporary Youth Arts Company is keeping the tradition alive with a film adaptation that was shot under strict COVID protocols. To view the Mary video, please visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HSeIWjEJ3t8>.



Giving Tuesday Thank You—We wish to thank our generous parishioners for supporting our parishes through the Giving Tuesday campaign. We raised a total of \$3,227 for St. Anthony and \$950 for Our Lady of the Hills. Your generosity is gratefully appreciated!

Christmas 2020 (continued from page 1)

I have found strength in the words of the prayer that I have been praying since March. Here is part of that prayer:

"We ask for strength in adversity, health in weakness, and comfort in sorrow. Help us, O Blessed Mother, to be filled with confidence and trust in the tender compassion of our God. Let us not be afraid, but rather entrust our life into the care of our Divine Physician."

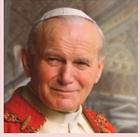
The Finance Council members, pastoral team, and staff of both of our Parishes join me in wishing you every blessing this Christmas—with your families, in your homes, your schools and places of work—and throughout the New Year.

Mary, Mother of God and St. Anthony, pray for us.

Father Tijo George



Good News of Great Joy



AS WE CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD, THE INTRODUCTION FROM POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II'S ENCYCLICAL EVANGELIUM VITAE PROVIDES A RICH SOURCE OF REFLECTION ON GOD'S LOVE FOR HUMAN LIFE, WHICH HE CREATED IN HIS IMAGE AND LIKENESS:

“**At the dawn of salvation**, it is the birth of a child which is proclaimed as joyful news: ‘I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord’ (Lk. 2:10-11). The source of this ‘great joy’ is the birth of the Savior; but Christmas also reveals the full meaning of every human birth, and the joy which accompanies the birth of the Messiah is thus seen to be the foundation and fulfillment of joy at every child born into the world (cf. Jn. 16:21).”

It is amazing to contemplate that the eternal Son of God became man and experienced every stage and aspect of the human condition, except sin. He was conceived in the Virgin Mary and took the form of a human being, beginning life like every human being—as a single-celled embryo.

According to Scripture, after the Incarnation of our Lord, Mary went in haste to visit her cousin Elizabeth, who was six months pregnant with John the Baptist. Given that it would have taken two to three days for Mary to reach Elizabeth, it's possible that Jesus had not yet implanted in Mary's womb (implantation occurs 5-7 days after conception) when His presence caused John to stir in Elizabeth's womb: “For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy.” (Luke 1:44).

C. S. Lewis provides another source of reflection on the sanctity of all human life in *The Weight of Glory*: “The dullest and most uninteresting person you can talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship. ... There are no ordinary people. ... Next to the Blessed Sacrament itself, your neighbor is the holiest object presented to your senses.”

With these thoughts in mind, I cannot imagine a better way to celebrate the birth of our Lord in a humble stable in Bethlehem, and to celebrate the gift of every human life, than to support a local pregnancy help center or maternity home. These centers do extraordinary work and truly represent the heart of the pro-life movement's goal of making abortion unthinkable.

Another way to make a difference is through our prayers and sacrifices. Taking place in January, 9 Days for Life (www.9daysforlife.com) is an annual period of prayer and action for life. Each day of the novena provides a different intercession, reflection, information item and suggested action. The novena is available in English and Spanish, and can be received in four ways: a free mobile app, text message, email, or social media.



May the good news of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ bring great joy to all—comforting the afflicted, deepening respect for all human life, and strengthening us to share the Gospel of Life.



PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

St. Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle.
Be our defense against the
wickedness and snares of the
Devil.
May God rebuke him,
we humbly pray,
and do thou,
O Prince of the heavenly hosts,
by the power of God,
thrust into hell Satan,
and all the evil spirits,
who prowl about the world
seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

