Aftaer processing into the church at the beginning of his celebration of Christmas Eve Mass at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston, Bishop Mark Brennan stopped to bless the nativity beside the altar.

“God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love. When our need for a savior was great, you sent your son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love. Lord, bless all who look upon this manger,” the bishop prayed. “May it remind us all of the humble birth of Jesus and raise up our thoughts to him who is God with us and savior of all and who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.”

Bishop Brennan said that it was a great joy for him to join with the parishioners of the basilica especially because it was the 125th anniversary of the first Mass to be celebrated in this church.

That Mass was celebrated by Bishop Patrick J. Donahue on Christmas Eve 1897. To commemorate the anniversary, Bishop Brennan carried Bishop Donahue's crozier for his 2022 celebration of Christmas Eve Mass at the basilica.

Concelebrating the Mass were Very Rev. Donald X. Higgs, V.F., rector of the basilica, and Father Dominic Athishu, assoc. rector. Deacon Dennis Nesser, J.C.L., served as deacon of the word. Also serving were diocesan seminarians.
Diocesan Official Appointments

Bishop Mark E. Brennan has made public the following appointments:

**Father Dominikus Baak, S.V.D.**, is appointed pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Montgomery, St. Anthony Shrine Mission in Boomer, and Good Shepherd Chapel in East Bank, effective immediately.

**Father Aloysius Boh** is appointed pastor of St. Bernadette Parish in Hedgesville, effective immediately.

**Father Binu Emmanuel, C.S.T.**, is appointed pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Mannington and St. Peter Parish in Farmington, effective immediately.

**Father Michael O. Lecias** is appointed pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Berkeley Springs, effective immediately.

**Father Shinto Mathew** is appointed pastor of St. John Parish in St. Marys, Christ Our Hope Mission in Harrisville (currently operating at St. Joseph Chapel, Pennsboro), and St. Joseph Chapel in Pennsboro, effective immediately.

**Father Biju Parampil** is appointed pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Logan, St. Edmund Chapel in Man, and Sacred Heart Parish in Williamson, effective immediately.

**Father J.L. Asantha Jude Perera, T.O.R.**, is appointed pastor of St. Anthony Parish in Follansbee, effective immediately.

**Father Daniel Price** is appointed pastor of Annunciation of Our Lord Parish in Fort Ashby and St. Anthony Parish in Ridgeley, effective immediately.

**Father S. Kumar Reddimasu** is appointed pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Stonewood, effective immediately.

**Father Thomas A. Sebastian, C.S.T.**, is appointed pastor of Assumption Parish in Keyser and Our Lady of Grace Parish in Romney, effective immediately.

**Father Martin Smay** is appointed pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Thomas and Our Lady of Mercy Mission in Parsons, effective immediately.

**Father Edward A. Tetteh, S.V.D.**, is appointed pastor of Holy Rosary Parish in Buckhannon and Sacred Heart Chapel in Pickens, effective immediately.

**Father Shaji Jacob Thomas** is appointed pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Huntington and St. Peter Claver Parish in Huntington, effective immediately.

In consultation with Bishop James Thoppil of the Diocese of Kohima, India, **Father Sojan Xavier** is appointed administrator of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in St. Albans with residence in St. Albans, effective immediately.
Christmas...

Cont’d from Page 1
Michael J. Tupta and Timothy Kawash

To begin his homily, Bishop Brennan shared the story of a 4-year-old boy on Christmas Eve in 1930s Kilkenny, Ireland. The boy’s mother was going into labor in her home. The boy did not understand what was going on or why women were going in and out of his mother’s bedroom or why no one gave him any presents. After a while, a woman came to him and said he had a new baby brother. He was not impressed.

“He told me he resented his baby brother at first,” Bishop Brennan said. “Eventually, he got over it.”

It was a Christmas Eve for him to forget, the bishop said of the boy. The first Christmas, the world will never forget, the bishop continued, noting that St. Paul reminded the Jews and the God-fearing gentiles who went to synagogue services on the Sabbath that God had acted on his people’s behalf many times—“freeing them from slavery in Egypt and giving them David, their greatest king. And from this man’s descendants Paul, went on, God has brought to Israel a savior, Jesus.

“The Lord Jesus would go around to proclaim a gospel of forgiveness and new life before offering his life for our sins on the cross and then rising from the dead to give us eternal life,” the bishop said. “In the most definitive manner possible, by sending his son as our savior, God acted on behalf of his human children and began with that birth in Bethlehem.”

The bishop pointed to St. Luke, who emphasized that the coming of our savior took place in history. That is why he mentions Cesar Augustus ruling in Rome and Quirinius, the governor in Syria.

“But he also points out that the powerful and rich people of that time we’re not involved in or even knew about Jesus’s birth,” the bishop said. “The first to learn of it were shepherds, simple people engaged in tending sheep. And while many highly placed people in the past 2,000 years have believed in Christ, his message has always had a particular resonance with the poor and the lowly. Perhaps that is because they, more than others, yearn to hear some good news. We who are affluent and socially elevated do well to recognize that we need to be humble in order to welcome Christ into our lives. We have to make ourselves poor and lowly to welcome our savior.”

The Lord continues to act on behalf of those on whom his favor rests, who put their faith in him, Bishop Brennan continued. He then offered a few examples: a young West Virginia woman accepted, in these times, God’s call to enter religious life.

“She told me she has found great happiness in her community life and in her service to the poor,” Bishop Brennan said.

He then spoke of a young man who got married while still working on his doctorate. Bishop Brennan, who officiated the wedding, said the man and his wife trusted that if they did not put children on hold for a number of years but were open to new life their lives would not fall apart. Raising two little ones with a third on the way has slowed the husband’s academic progress somewhat, the bishop said, “but he and his wife are finding out that raising children is an engrossing adventure of its own.”

On a larger stage, Bishop Brennan pointed to the outpouring of prayer and humanitarian aid to Ukraine.

“I’m not talking about what governments do,” the bishop emphasized, “I’m talking about what we do as a people—our prayer and our humanitarian aid.”

The Archbishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Church told the U.S. bishops about this at their conference in November, Bishop Brennan shared.

“He thanked our people, all of you, greatly for all that help that’s given. All of that prayer, that humanitarian aid reveals God’s blessings on a predominantly Christian country willing to stand up to a bully,” Bishop Brennan said. “And Catholic parishes in this diocese and elsewhere around our country that support pregnancy centers will likewise experience God’s peace as his favor rests on them for doing what is right and good. So, God continues to show his favor to those who believe in him.”

Bishop Brennan said the Incarnation, the coming of God’s son into human flesh, taking a real man into his service to the poor, greatly for all that help that’s given. All of that prayer, that humanitarian aid reveals God’s blessings on a predominantly Christian country willing to stand up to a bully,” Bishop Brennan said. “And Catholic parishes in this diocese and elsewhere around our country that support pregnancy centers will likewise experience God’s peace as his favor rests on them for doing what is right and good. So, God continues to show his favor to those who believe in him.”

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See “Christmas” on Page 4
Sometimes the howling of the demons and the terrible afflictions, because acting through wicked people can discourage us, but we must resist giving into that negative sentiment. We must be convinced that like Jesus, who is legally descended through Joseph from the great King David, we have a royal dignity that cannot be taken away from us. We are the bearers, today, of the greatest message ever given to human beings. We say to all who will listen as Isaiah said: No more shall you be called ‘Forsaken,’ nor your land called ‘Desolate.’ But you shall be called ‘My Delight is in her,’ and your land ‘Es- poused.’ For the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be espoused. For as a young man marries a virgin, your Builder shall marry you; And as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride so shall your God rejoice in you.” (Isaiah 62: 4-5)

The bishop continued pointing to Luke 2:10, “The angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.’

No one need give in to despair, Bishop Brennan said.

“God has commissioned us to say to everyone that God loves all his children and has acted on their behalf by sending his son as their savior,” the bishop said. “Sin and death will not prevail. That is good news. That’s news too good to keep to ourselves. We must share it with others.”

Bishop Brennan said he was recently asked on a radio talk show which sermon he would prefer to give if he could only give one—Christmas or Easter? That choice was not hard for him to make. For him, it is Easter. Christmas, the bishop said, leads to Easter.

“The son of God’s natural life ended, as ours will, with his death. But the goal of Christmas was that he and we might obtain the fullness of eternal life which has already begun in the risen body of Jesus Christ. That new life, without constraints, the constraints and trials of this earthly life, awaits us. That is why Easter is the greatest Christian feast. Today’s feast of Christmas points to it as a sign along the highway points to the city ahead. Contemplating what God has done in his Christ, we can share the joy of the angels and the shepherds who glorified God for his saving deed.”

Turning back to the story he shared at the beginning of his homily, Bishop Brennan said that perhaps a 4-year-old boy could not grasp what happened on that Christmas. But later, he did realize that he and his little brother, born Christmas Eve, were bound by spiritual ties of faith as well as by the natural ties of blood.

“The older brother became a priest who served God’s people in our country honorably for many years,” Bishop Brennan said. “I was his associate pastor for four years when I was much younger. That priest, that older brother, learned the true meaning of Christmas and he taught his people to praise God, who had acted on their behalf. So, glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

The Mass was televised throughout the state and livestreamed on the diocese’s Facebook page.

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A Joyful Celebration in Oak Hill

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Pishner’s Song of Hope, Mercy, and Peace with ‘A Message from Heaven in a Tiny Child’

By Joyce Bibey
Courtesy of FaithInWV

All Saints Parish’s Stephen Pishner presents a reflective song, “This Child,” to create the vision and feeling of Emmanuel – God is with us – not only at Christmas but every day of our lives. “This was the idea,” Pishner said. “I wrote the song in 2019. From a very young age Pishner has believed music and song strengthen our faith. With this song he wanted to not only paint a picture, but to move hearts to keep focused on Christ in all we do.

“I wanted to write a song for Christmas that gave more of a sense of how God became flesh and dwells among us,” said Pishner, a composer, singer, writer, recording artist, and director of music ministry for the Bridgeport parish. “The song speaks of the Christ-Child who is so near to us, that he holds our hearts, in whatever shape they are in, broken or not, and even our tears in his hands. The song later speaks of this child who walks with the sinner and rejected, the outcast and the poor and that he even bears a resemblance of all the lowly ones. This is how God comes to us and when I wrote this song, I wanted to offer this kind of musical text, that might move the listener to delve deeper into the reality of the presence of God, not just at Christmas, but always.”

Pishner’s parents and grandparents raised him and his two sisters to be active in church. “I was raised in the Christian spirit, when you receive a gift would join us. I would love to see them in our church. It’s not about the presents really. It’s the message they send and the people who go out of their way to fill a wish. It’s about the true Christmas story – Christ being born, coming together for Mass, and listening to beautiful (sacred) music that fills the church.”

Each gift that is given from the parish family to the children is a sign of love and hope she said. “We get lots of requests for toys, and some people just say buy anything, but this year two young girls wanted electric blankets,” she said. Deter grew up in Follansbee, spent her 35 years teaching in the same county, and knows first-hand the needs and heart-breaking situations many families are trying to get through. The humble request for a child to ask for a warm blanket as their Christmas present puts an exclamation point on the reason we do this, she added – “we care.”

“Saint Anthony’s is known in our community as a friendly parish – active and very charitable,” Deters said. “Whether it is our Friday Friends (weekend food bags given to Brooke Intermediate Schools students), collections of items for the local nursing home, or even our fish fry; you will find this parish exactly how we all should be – friendly, welcoming, and caring.”

You know you have touched a heart with your Christian spirit, when you load the Jesse Tree presents in the car of the recipient family and the eyes of the parent or grandparent looking back at you are filled with grateful tears, Deter said.

“That’s when you know you are making a special difference,” she said, noting it is extra special when those faces are familiar.

The feet of this child will walk forevermore with the sinner and rejected, the outcast and the poor. For this child bears resemblance of all the lowly ones. This child is God–Man-Us, Emmanuel, God’s Son.

Behold, God comes among us! Behold, a new way of living!
A message from heaven in a tiny child: “God is doing something new!”
ALL: O come let us adore him. O come let us adore him. O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Behold, God comes among us! Behold, a new way of living! A message from heaven in a tiny child: “God is doing something new!”
ALL: O come let us adore him. O come let us adore him. O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Noel! Christ is born! Noel! Christ is born!
Behold, a new way of living! (Noel! Christ is born!)
A message from heaven in a tiny child: “God is doing something new!”
ALL: O come let us adore him. O come let us adore him. O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Brooke County Parish Giving Gifts of Hope

By Joyce Bibey
Courtesy of FaithInWV

ollansbee’s Saint Anthony Parish Jesse Tree Project is a way to show children Christ is among us not just at Christmas but always.

The Brooke County parish delivered a treasure trove of colorfully wrapped presents to 78 children the week of Christmas in the spirit of the Christ child. The presents were for children 3 months old to 18-years-old. Recipients are students and siblings from Brooke Primary North or Brooke Intermediate North schools whose families are struggling to make ends meet.

Many of the children receiving the gifts come from homes who do not know the story of the Christ child. When they attend a church, said Nancy Deters, coordinator of the program that began 40 years ago thanks to the late Josie D’Ulisse and her son David Owen.

It has always been the hope of the parish that the children who open the gifts get to know God’s love through this project, Deters said.

“God gave us our greatest gift (Jesus),” she said. “Maybe these kids will find and know God in that way. Hopefully knowing someone cares.”

“This is evangelizing, I wished every family that receives a gift would join us. I would love to see them in our church. It’s not about the presents really. It’s the message they send and the people who go out of their way to fill a wish. It’s about the true Christmas story – Christ being born, coming together for Mass, and listening to beautiful (sacred) music that fills the church.”

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You know you have touched a heart with your Christian spirit, when you load the Jesse Tree presents in the car of the recipient family and the eyes of the parent or grandparent looking back at you are filled with grateful tears, Deter said.

“That’s when you know you are making a special difference,” she said, noting it is extra special when those faces are familiar.

Sometimes the parents of the children receiving the gifts are former students of mine,” she said. “They need the help and I love that I’m still here – we at St. Anthony’s are here – to help them the best we can. It is truly a gift for us to be able to do it.”
December 30, 2022

The Catholic Spirit

Pope Francis Says Retired Pope Benedict is ‘Very Sick’

By Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Saying that retired Pope Benedict XVI was “very sick,” Pope Francis asked people to offer special prayers for him.

“I would like to ask all of you for a special prayer for emeritus Pope Benedict,” Pope Francis said at the end of his weekly general audience Dec. 28.

The 95-year-old retired pope “is sustaining the church in silence,” Pope Francis said. “Remember him. He is very sick.”

“As the Lord conspire him and sustain him in his witness of love for the church until the very end,” Pope Francis said.

Matteo Bruni, director of the Vatican press office, told reporters that Pope Francis went to Pope Benedict’s residence after the audience to visit him.

“I can confirm that in the last few hours there has been a worsening of (Pope Benedict’s) health due to advancing age,” Bruni said.

“The situation at the moment remains under control, constantly followed by doctors.”

On Feb. 11, 2013, Pope Benedict announced that he would retire effective Feb. 28 that year. He spent the first several months of his retirement at the papal summer villa in Castel Gandolfo before moving into the monastery with Pope Francis and the new cardinals the pope had just created.

Supreme Court Keeps Title 42 Restriction on Border Entry in Place for Now

By Carol Zimmermann, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In an end-of-the-year decision, the Supreme Court said Dec. 27 that a federal public health rule that allows immigration officials at the border to quickly turn away migrants seeking asylum could stay in place while legal challenges to the policy played out.

In a 5-4 decision, the justices stopped a trial judge’s ruling that would have lifted the measure, known as Title 42 of the Public Health Services Act, on Dec. 21.

Chief Justice John Roberts had already put that order on pause Dec. 19 responding to an emergency request filed by 19 states asking the justices to keep Title 42 in place.

The Trump administration used the public health measure during the pandemic to allow U.S. border officials to expel migrants quickly without giving them an opportunity to seek asylum into the United States.

“Our hearts (are) broken by this decision and the many people that will be further harmed because of it,” tweeted the Massachusetts Immigration Coalition Dec. 27.

They said that as people of faith, they were calling on President Joe Biden to “do everything in his power to welcome people seeking safety with the compassion they deserve.”

The justices agreed to hear arguments about enforcement of Title 42 at the border in February. In their brief unsigned order, they said the rule will remain in place for now and they will only consider whether the states challenging it have the legal right to do so.

In a dissent, Justice Neil Gorsuch, joined by Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, emphasized that the Biden administration and Congress have failed to adequately address the immigration crisis and also said the nation’s high court is not meant to issue policies.

He said he did not discount concerns raised by the state attorneys general and also acknowledged that lifting Title 42 “will likely have disruptive consequences,” but he said the reason it was enforced, as a public health measure, is no longer valid.

“The current border crisis is not a COVID crisis,” he wrote, adding that the courts “should not be in the business of perpetuating administrative edicts designed for one emergency only because elected officials have failed to address a different emergency. We are a court of law, not policymakers of last resort.”

Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan indicated they would have allowed the federal judge’s ruling ending Title 42 to stand, but they did not join the dissent.

Title 42 gives the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention the power to bar the entry of individuals to the United States to protect the public from contagious diseases.

The Biden administration initially extended the policy used by the Trump administration but in April it announced that it would end it, saying it was no longer necessary to protect public health.

A federal judge in Louisiana said the administration had not followed proper procedures in trying end Title 42 and ordered that it stay in place. The administration has appealed that decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit, where it remains pending.

In a separate case, a federal judge in Washington ruled that the policy itself was illegal and ordered the government to end it, which was challenged by 19 states with Republican attorneys general.

After the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit rejected the states’ request to join the case, the states came to the Supreme Court urging the court to keep the policy in place and saying that lifting it would “cause a crisis of unprecedented proportions at the border.”

Migrant families challenging the policy say the states’ support for Title 42 is not based on pandemic-era rule was scheduled to end.

In mid-December, Dylan Corbett, director of the Hope Border Institute, a Catholic organization helping migrants, said constant changing policies make it hard for organizations such as his to plan.

“For the families, it means that the policy has had a devastating impact on those forced to return to ‘cartels and others ready to exploit them.’”

Migrant advocates, including Catholic church organizations, women religious and Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, Texas, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ migration committee, have strongly supported ending Title 42.

Texas border cities, like El Paso, had been preparing for the surge of new migrants as the pandemic-era rule was scheduled to end.

By Carol Zimmermann, Catholic News Service

In October, Bishop Seitz issued a statement expressing his disappointment that Title 42 had been expanded to Venezuelans seeking to cross the border.

“Now we must all work harder, especially the faith community, to build a culture of hospitality that respects the dignity of those who migrate, and to continue to press lawmakers and the Biden administration to establish a safe, humane, functioning and rights-respecting system to ensure protection to those in need,” he said.

304-232-0330
Priest Weathers Christmas Blizzard on Fireboat Celebrating Mass for Two

By Dennis Sadowski, Catholic News Service

Father Paul Seil experienced a Christmas unlike any other in his 67 years of life in Buffalo, New York.

In the midst of the multiday blizzard that paralyzed parts of western New York, Father Seil, chaplain for the Buffalo Fire Department, had to evacuate the rectory at his parish in the city’s Old First Ward neighborhood on Christmas Eve, then spent the night aboard the department’s fire boat and celebrated a short Mass Christmas morning for crewman Jack Kelleher.

Finally the afternoon of Christmas Day Father Seil made it to the rectory at St. Joseph Cathedral — courtesy of Kelleher — where he has been “holed up” since the storm began.

“This is the worst storm I’ve ever seen,” Father Seil, a native of Buffalo, told Catholic News Service Dec. 27.

The blizzard and subzero temperatures prompted Buffalo Bishop Michael W. Fisher to urge Catholics living in the worst affected communities to avoid venturing to their parishes for Christmas Mass and "to take advantage of livestreamed liturgies instead."


As of Dec. 29, at least 37 people have died from the storm in various parts of New York, with some towns in the area reporting over 10 feet of snowfall in just a few days.

Father Seil’s Christmas adventure began after the electricity went out the evening of Dec. 23 in much of the neighborhood around Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, which has served the community for 125 years.

He said he went to sleep that night bundled in warm clothing and woke up the next morning to a "pretty cold room."

Relocating to the kitchen, Father Seil periodically used the stove for a little heat, making sure the carbon monoxide detector he had worked. That situation lasted just a few hours.

"I heard a sound of rushing water. The pipes broke evidently and water came pouring down through the kitchen ceiling and exiguous the stove," he said.

"With water coming in and no heat, it was getting a little desperate. I was scared. I was a little afraid of what the future might bring," he said.

Soon, Father Seil put out a call for help on the fire radio he carries as fire department chaplain, a ministry he began in 2018. But the department couldn’t respond. Firetrucks and emergency vehicles answering emergency calls were getting stuck in snowdrifts up to 6 feet high.

"There was nothing for me to do," Father Seil said.

Father Seil periodically used the generator, which provided heat and electricity. "It was nice. It was warm," Father Seil said.

Also in Father Seil’s bag was a couple of pounds of smoked kielbasa sausage and a few rolls. Christmas Eve dinner on the Cotter was a feast for the two men.

The next morning, Father Seil celebrated a brief Mass for Christmas Eve dinner on the Cotter was a feast for the two men.

The fireboat was operating on a generator, which provided heat and electricity. "It was nice. It was warm," Father Seil said.

In Father Seil’s bag was a feast for the two men.

The priest, whose father was a firefighter in Buffalo until a serious accident while fighting a fire disabled him in 1964, was hoping to reach the Cotter as soon as possible. He was waiting for the all-clear from city officials that travel was safe again.

"I’m sorry I’m not in my parish," he said.

The city of Buffalo remained under a travel ban at midday Dec. 27 as snow removal crews gradually cleared streets, many of which were blocked by vehicles that had become mired in deep snow.

Bishop Fisher said safety was his primary concern in asking people not to attend long-awaited Christmas Masses.

“Unfortunately, it was too dangerous to ask people to even try to get here to the cathedral or any of our parishes,” he told CNS Dec. 27.

Most parishes in the immediate Buffalo vicinity canceled Masses, while many livestreamed liturgies for people stuck at home or in shelters. In some locales where streets were not clogged with snow, Masses went ahead as scheduled.

Bishop Fisher credited Catholic Charities of Buffalo for rushing to ensure food and supplies were distributed to people in need before the storm arrived.

“We felt confident people had food who needed it,” he said.

Several parishes also opened as shelters under Erie County’s emergency management plan, allowing people whose homes lost heat and electricity to relocate to some place comfortable.

Two days after Christmas, many parishes remained closed, with pastors "hunkered down in their rectories," Bishop Fisher said.

A special Mass was planned for Dec. 28 at St. Joseph Cathedral for Buffalo-area residents who died during the storm. Another liturgy was set for the weekend for first responders and other essential workers who continued to serve residents affected by the wild winter weather.

“We’re trying to take care of one another,” the bishop said.

This time of the year, as we’re celebrating Christmas, it’s supposed to be a time of hope," he added. “The people here in Buffalo, I’ve found, they’re tough and hearty and resilient and very faith-filled. I know they’re caring for one another and we’re trying to do what we can as part of the community.”

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**Daily Living**

**Sunday Mornings**

6:30 WOWK 13 - Huntington - Charleston
6:30 WTOW FOX 9 - Wheeling-Steubenville
8:00 WBOY NBC 12 - West Virginia - Fairmont
8:30 WVNS FOX 59 - Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewistown)
11:00 WDVN 25 - Haerer-Washington D.C.
8:00 WTVT 15 - Parkersburg
6:30 WWAY TV 4 - Beckley & Bluefield
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St. Michael Parish School in Wheeling congratulates its Aquinas Medal recipient, Levi Rine. Levi is standing next to Bishop Mark Brennan, on the right. His family is also with him. From left are his father, Jason; brothers, Isaac and Jacob; and his mother, Heather, who is the transitional kindergarten teacher at the school. Also pictured is Father Frederick J. D’Souza, parochial vicar of the parish. The success and value of our Catholic schools is manifested through our students. The Aquinas Medal is awarded to one student from each Catholic school in the diocese who embodies the qualities we seek to instill in our students. Saint Thomas Aquinas, patron saint of scholars, combined his powerful intellect with an all-embracing love of God. Saint Thomas labored, as do our schools, to impart knowledge infused with an awareness of God to those who learned from him. One student is selected from each of the diocese’s Catholic schools to receive the Aquinas Medal. The medal is not intended as strictly an academic recognition but to make visible those young people in our schools who embody the spirit of the school’s mission and the philosophy of Catholic school education.
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...to shape little minds"

"Unknown"
Spanish Teacher Needed

St. Joseph School in Martinsburg, W.Va., is seeking a Spanish teacher for grades kindergarten to two beginning Jan. 2, 2023. The candidate must have prior experience as a teacher or teacher’s aide; be a fluent Spanish speaker; be experienced in differentiating language instruction for diverse learners; and use appropriate instructional strategies for making language instruction comprehensible.

The ideal candidate is proficient in Spanish and has an associate degree or higher education in the field of language or teaching. The preferred applicant will act as an example and motivator toward the fulfillment of the Catholic philosophy of the school. The applicant agrees that the employer has the right to dismiss the teacher for public rejection or violation of the official teachings, and for any violations of the employee handbook policies.

Please email your resume to Meg Partington at mpartington@sjswv.org.

Spanish Teacher Needed

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Por Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — El papa Francisco pidió que tengan en cuenta “a todos nosotros, especialmente a los niños, que pasan hambre y tienen el poder de silenciar el trueno de las armas y poner fin de inmediato a esta guerra sin sentido”, oró.

Y mientras Ucrania domina las noticias, el papa Francisco, en su mensaje de Pascua de Pavo, oró por aquellos que “no tienen el derecho de presenciar el nacimiento de Jesús, Dios se hizo carne para compartir con nosotros su preocupación de vivir en la oscuridad y el frío, lejos de sus seres queridos, su bendición y el mensaje del papa invitando a la gente a prestar menos atención a los regalos y más a las ayudas en nombre del papa. La Diocesis de Wheeling-Charleston alienta a informar ante las autoridades civiles ante todo si se ha cometido un delito. También alen la mirada a Belén y escuchen los primeros gritos débiles del Príncipe de la Paz. Porque verdaderamente Jesús es nuestra paz.”


En Líbano, donde continúa la crisis económica y política, el papa rezó para que el país pudiera “finalmente recuperarse con la ayuda de la comunidad internacional y con la fuerza que nace de la fraternidad y la solidaridad.”


Además de los métodos enumerados anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la Diocesis también se ha asociado con Navex Global para ofrecer la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar otras inquietudes adicionales, como acceso de mala conducta financiera, personal y profesional de un servidor, daño, religioso, o empleado laico de la Diocesis o cualquier parroquia de la diócesis. La iglesia católica en West Virginia. Se puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a través de www.dwc.org, en “Rendición de cuentas”, luego “Informar al Coordinador de asistencia a víctimas de la Diocesis: lleve a la Dra. Patricia Bailey al 304.242.6988.

La escuela Saint Joseph en Martinsburg está buscando un maestro de español para los grados de jardín de infantes a segundo a partir del 2 de enero de 2023. El candidato debe tener experiencia previa como docente o auxiliar docente; ser un hablante fluido de español; tener experiencia en diferenciar la instrucción de idiomas para estudiantes diversos; y usar estrategias de instrucción apropiadas para hacer que la instrucción del idioma sea comprensible. El candidato ideal domina el español y tiene un título de superioridad o licenciado superior en el campo del idioma o la enseñanza. El candidato preferido actuará como ejemplo y motivador hacia el cumplimiento de la filosofía católica de la escuela. El solicitante acepta que el empleador tiene derecho a despedir al maestro por rechazo público o violación de las enseñanzas oficiales, y por cualquier violación de las políticas del manual del empleado. Si está interesado en este puesto, envíe su currículum por correo electrónico a Mptarrington@sjswv.org.
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