

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Gospel Commentary

The Gospel is from St. Luke 12:13–21. Jesus was surrounded by a large crowd to whom he was giving his message of salvation. Some men in the crowd asked him to arbitrate in a family dispute over property. This Jesus refused to do. This interest in property gave him the occasion to teach his hearers, and all of us, in a very effective parable, the relative value of this world's goods.

The lesson of this parable is obvious to all, and it is perhaps as difficult to put into practice as it is obvious. To be in this world and not of it, to collect the necessary goods of this world by honest labor and yet remain detached from them, to possess but not be possessed by worldly riches, is an ideal to which our weak human nature responds very reluctantly.

A large percentage of Christians, however, do respond to the challenge manfully and loyally. They earn and use the goods of this world, while at the same time they keep God's laws and earn wealth for heaven. Some renounce even the right, which is theirs, to possess the necessary things of this world, by taking on themselves the vows of religion. Thus they set themselves free to devote their whole time and energy to the service of God and neighbor. Others, and they are of necessity the more numerous, have to own the world's goods in order to provide for themselves and their dependants, but, while so doing, they never let their temporal possessions come between them and their God. To do this is not easy, but God's helping grace is always available to the willing heart.



There is still a third group—those who resemble the foolish man described in the parable. Like him they are so enmeshed and ensnared in their desire to collect good things for their earthly life, that they forget that at any moment they may have to leave this earth and all they possess in it. They may not have large barns or grain-bins bursting at the seams with the fruits of their fields or their market dealings, but they have allowed their possessions, large or small, to become the prison-houses of their hearts and thoughts. In their mad rush for earthly treasure they give themselves no time to stop and think of the really important thing in life, namely, that soon they must leave this world and all it holds dear to them. But it is not the departure from this world that is to be feared. Rather, it is the arrival at another for which they have made no preparation. That other world of which they have often heard, but which they shrugged off as something fit for the weak-minded, will not open before them in all its awe-inspiring immensity. They will have a momentary glimpse of the eternal beauty and happiness that they lost for a "mess of pottage," before they enter the unending valley of sorrow which they elected for themselves when, during their period of trial, they chose earthly baubles instead of God.

This has been the fate of foolish men and women in the past. It will, also, be the fate of many more in the future. It could be my fate, too, unless I remain ever on the alert to keep myself free from the snare of worldly wealth. I must remember that it is not the quantity of this world's goods which I possess that will be my undoing, but the quality of the hold which they have on me. There are and will be millionaires in heaven, while many in the lower income-brackets will find themselves excluded.

No man will be excluded from heaven because he lawfully possessed some of this world's wealth. But a man will exclude himself from eternal happiness if he lets this world's wealth possess him to the exclusion of God.

The fate of the rich man in the parable need not, and should not, be mine. I still have time to stop building larger grain-bins and barns, and to turn my attention instead to collecting some treasure for heaven.

—Excerpted from The Sunday Readings Cycle C, Fr. Kevin O' Sullivan, O.F.M.

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH. WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

St. Patrick Catholic Church

www.spchurchweston.org/

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210 Center Ave.

Weston, West Virginia 26452

304-269-3048

Pastor

Rev. Fr. Douglas A. Ondeck

ondeck.douglas@gmail.com

Permanent Deacon

Rev. Mr. Mike Brumley

brumleyma@gmail.com

Religious Ed. & Sacramental Prep

Megan White

mwhite.stpats@gmail.com

Secretary

Sandra Mick

secretary@spchurchweston.net

Parish Office Hours

Monday & Tuesday, 9 - 4

Wednesday, 12 - 5

Thursday and Friday, 9 - 1



St. Patrick Catholic School

<https://stpatswv.org/>

www.facebook.com/StPatsSchoolWestonWV

Pre-School – 8th Grade

224 Center Ave.

Weston, WV 26452

304-269-5547

Pastor

Rev. Fr. Douglas A. Ondeck

Principal

Mr. John Riley IV

jriley@saintpatricks.school

Secretary

Mrs. Regina Frazier

Rfrazier@saintpatricks.school

Mass Schedule

Monday - 8:15 a.m.

Tuesday - 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday - 6:00 p.m.

Thursday - 8:15 a.m.

Friday - 8:15 a.m.

Saturday Vigil - 5:30 p.m.

Sunday - 10:30 a.m.

(See the Weekly Schedule for changes to Mass times or location!)

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday & Wednesday: 5:00 - 5:45 p.m.

Saturday: 5:00 - 5:20 p.m.

Sunday: 10:00 - 10:20 a.m.

Adoration

Tuesday & Wednesday - 5 - 5:45 p.m.

(During Lent - Adoration begins at 1pm on Wednesdays.)

Sacrament of the Sick & Last Rites

The anointing of the sick is administered to bring spiritual and even physical strength during an illness, especially near the time of death. It is most likely one of the last sacraments one will receive.

Please call the parish office to schedule or if you are in danger of death, please call 304-691-0537

Protecting God's Children

St. Patrick Church takes seriously this 'VIRTUS' pursuit of excellence in our community. With the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, we are committed to making every environment – a safe environment. All employees and volunteers are required to complete VIRTUS Training. Participants of this training complete short video modules to learn how to best protect the vulnerable in our community. These short sessions empower participants to accurately identify and correctly report all instances of suspected child abuse. To create or update your account, please go to virtusonline.org.

Thank you for your continued support in making the environment at St. Patrick Church and school safe for everyone.

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. In addition to civil authorities, to report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; Sr. Martha Gomez, ext. 264. Or you may call Rev. Don Higgs, 304.685.2367, the Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504, or Victims Assistance Coordinator Erin McFarland at 304.559.6742. Please visit www.dwc.org under "Accountability" for additional information and reporting methods.

"Forward, always forward, everywhere forward! We must not be held back by debts, bad years or by difficulties of the times. Man's adversity is God's opportunity."

Archbishop Boniface Wimmer, O. S. B.

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, August 2, 2025	5:30 PM	Mass for the People of the Parish
Sunday, August 3, 2025	10:30 AM	Mass for †J. B. Parker by Parker family
Monday, August 4, 2025	8:15 AM	Mass for Seminarians at St. John Paul II Seminary
Tuesday, August 5, 2025	6:00 PM	Celebrant's Intentions
Wednesday, August 6, 2025	6:00 PM	Mass for †Beulah Ruppert by Luke, Benjamin, Samuel, and Dominick Milinovich
Thursday, August 7, 2025	8:15 AM	Mass for †Janie Garton by Sara, Manny, & Daylen Robinson
Friday, August 8, 2025	8:15 AM	Mass for †Charles and Opal Garton by Fred Butler and Deborah Garton
Saturday, August 9, 2025	5:30 PM	Mass for the People of the Parish
Sunday, August 10, 2025	10:30 AM	Mass for †Paul Derico

CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE TO SPONSOR THE SANCTUARY LAMP FOR A TWO WEEK PERIOD!



The sanctuary lamp is burning in memory of Tom and Marie Murray and family, by the Frazier's, July 27 - August 09, 2025.

Prayer List

Those who are sick: Don Markley, Ray and Sue Swiger, (Ruby), Michael James, (PA Burn Center), Vicki Almase, Hernan Ayala, Cyndee Becker, Bill Bennett, Tim Bennett, Tyrone Binford, Kathy Boyle, Kelsea Butcher, Margaret Carr, Jody Craig, Bonnie Detamore, Libby Ferrell, Sara Ferrell, Charles Frame, Katie Frazer, Greg Garton, Jeff Garton, Marsha Garton, Dave Gissy, Tim Haggan, Lucille Hicks, Mark Jamison, Coretta Jefferson, Brice Johnston, Shawn Keyser, Pat Kiddy, Dave King, Bernadette Law, David Lewis, Beth Linger, Catherine Lipps, Rochelle Long, Matt McCauley, James McClain, Robert McClain, Louise Mehr, Judy Nicholas, Sue Nutter, Mary Oldaker, Amy Price, Raylee Rahming, Brenda Riley, Dan Rittenhouse, Cody and Lindsey Skinner, Mary Smith, Micki Snyder, Terry Sprouse, Nile Straley, Marge Tierney, Diane Walker, Jane White, Kyle Wilkinson

Those who have died: Debbie Murray, Rose Gum, Michael Fisher, May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

All Veterans, and Military Personnel:
 Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life
 All seminarians: Especially Joe Derico, and Andrew Dean
 Former priests and religious of and from our parish
 Those who are homebound, in assisted living or nursing homes.
 All struggling with infertility.

To add or remove names to the prayer list, please call or email Sandy at the parish office!

Attendance & Collections

Saturday	97
Sunday	211
Total	308
Saturday	\$1751
Sunday	\$3653
Mail/Drop Box	\$135
Total	\$5539
School	\$
Votives	\$50
Maintenance	\$130
Loan	\$
Organ	\$
Wesbanco Balance	\$33,110.05
Organ Loan Balance	\$59,094.52
HVAC	\$1980

Sound System and Air Conditioning Update

**Thank you for generosity!
 We have raised \$18,830!**

Donations can be placed in the collection basket or dropped off at the parish office. Please make sure you write "air conditioner/sound system" on the memo line or envelope.

Catholic Sharing Appeal Update! - Thank you!

St. Patrick Parish, Weston

Raised \$21,119 of \$24,400 with 20 gifts

87%

OCIA

Order of Christian Initiation
of Adults

Questions About the Catholic Church?



If you do not understand the Catholic Church, you are not alone. There are many misconceptions, misunderstandings, or simply erroneous beliefs in our society about Catholicism.

Now is the time to figure out what the Catholic Church is all about.

**Why do Catholics confess
their sins to a priest?**

**Why do Catholics pray to
saints?**

**Do Catholics really think the
pope is infallible?**

Do you have questions like these?

Find answers to these and more starting **September 21st**. Use the QR code above to register. Questions? Email: mwhite.stpats@gmail.com

Testimonial

"When I first considered joining OCIA, I was hesitant and skeptical. I had a wall up. I was unsure of what I'd learn, what would be asked of me, and whether I would belong. I feared the truth might challenge me in uncomfortable ways. The depth and tradition of the Church felt overwhelming. But beneath it all, I knew something was missing. I carried a deep emptiness that nothing and no one could fill, until I realized what I was longing for was a true relationship with God.

What I didn't expect was how deeply I would connect with the Church, the people or how much it would begin to transform me from within. OCIA became a journey not just of learning, but of healing, discovery, and peace..."

-Nastausha H. (OCIA Class of 2025)

**Becoming Catholic May
Not Be in Your Plans this
Year...**

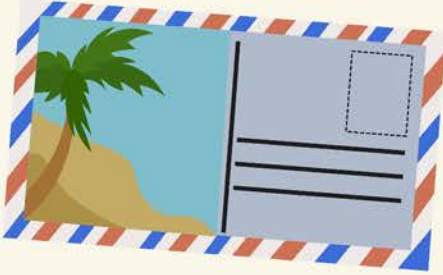
But Maybe it Should Be?

CHURCH VISITORS & PARISHIONER'S TRAVELS

DON'T TAKE A VACATION FROM MASS THIS SUMMER

A loving reminder that vacation is not considered a valid reason to miss Sunday Mass. When you plan a trip, include Mass in your itinerary to meet your Sunday obligation.

If you visit a different parish or holy site this summer, snap a photo of your family at the and email it to Sandy along with the parish name, city, and state as we would love to feature your travels in the bulletin!



The White family attended St. Anthony's Church- a lively parish with many young families and more children than you could count- while visiting Colonial Beach, VA. Attendance here exemplified the growth of the Catholic Church among the youth around the world. Here are some exciting statistics:

- In France, a record 17,800 catechumens were baptized at Easter including more than 7,400 young people aged 11 to 17. The 18-25 age group now represents the largest segment of adult catechumens in France at 42%.
- For the first time since the English Reformation, it's predicted that Catholics will outnumber Church of England members in Britain. This shift is largely attributed to a growth in Catholic church attendance among younger generations, particularly those in their 20s and 30s.
- Dioceses across the US are reporting significant increases in conversions, with some seeing jumps of 30% to 87%, according to news sources, especially among young adults, with many citing a search for stability, clarity, and a connection to something larger than themselves as reasons for joining the Church

PARISHIONER'S TRAVELS



St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Indiana PA



St. Joseph's, Hagerstown, MD



St. Mary's, Sandusky, OH



St. John the Evangelist, Wellsburg, WV



St. Mark the Evangelist Parish- St. Kilian Church, Cranberry PA



Susie Pickens attended Mass at St. Augustine Church in Grafton- a parish very special to her. Susie's Irish grandparents, John & Vena Kady, were married in this church. Her grandmother, whose maiden name was Behan, was from Grafton and her grandfather, an engineer for the B&O Railroad, was from Keyser. Since she was 9, Susie has been attending this parish on summer weekends. Sandy Mick, and Danielle and Emerson Jamison also attended Mass at St. Augustine on Saturday.



The Cunningham's have visited several parishes this summer while traveling for Johna's softball tournaments- a true testament that your kids can excel at sports while keeping God first in your family!

VISITORS & PILGRIMS

For those visiting our parish this summer, we would love to include you in our bulletin. Take a picture and email it to the address below. Tell us your names, where you are visiting from and the name of your home parish!



Donna Lake visited her home parish of St. Bernard of Clairvaux in Indiana, PA. Pictured with her is Fr. Richard Owen, O.F.M., Cap, and her mother, Joan Bland-Veyo.

HOW THE OUTDATED BECAME EMPOWERING

THE CHURCH'S TEACHING ON REPRODUCTION IS COMING BACK IN STYLE

EMILY TORRES • 7/25/2025 • CATHOLIC ANSWERS

As a Gen Z Catholic woman, I find it funny when beliefs that secularists labeled “outdated” become increasingly popular in my generation today. One of these beliefs relates to birth control and natural family planning.

Following the release of *Humanae Vitae*, secularists panned the Church’s view against artificial contraception as “outdated and incomplete.” With the development of the birth control pill, women were able to more effectively space out the number of children they had or even avoid having children altogether. This newfound agency over their reproductive systems gave women a sense of empowerment: women could go to work full-time or pursue whatever opportunity they wanted without having to leave due to pregnancy or children.

One of the [first advertisements](#) for the Pill tapped into this exact sensation: “From the beginning woman has been a vassal to the temporal demands . . . of the cyclic mechanism of her reproductive system. Now to a degree heretofore unknown, she is permitted normalization . . . of cyclic function” (132). Women are depicted as slaves to their reproductive systems, so the promise of regulating reproduction gave women hope that they could be more detached from it and, frankly, more like men.

But this newfound “hope” and “freedom” felt by Catholic women on the Pill was squashed in 1968 by the words of Pope Paul VI: “The Church . . . condemns as always unlawful the use of means which directly prevent conception, even when the reasons given for the latter practice may appear to be upright and serious” ([Humanae Vitae 16](#)). Critics viewed this teaching as the Church placing restrictions on what a woman could or could not do with her body and derided it as oppressive. After all, the feminists sneer, “what do celibate clergymen know about reproduction and a woman’s body?”

Furthermore, what’s really the big deal with taking the birth control pill? After all, the argument goes, is it really so different from practicing NFP? Both have the same goal in mind but just achieve it in different ways.

Without addressing that question directly (which is done [here](#)), I want to respond that many Gen Z secularists are realizing that the birth control pill really is a big deal. [One recent study](#) reveals that between 2018 and 2023, there was a decline in the number of women on artificial contraceptives and a nearly sixfold increase in the number of women practicing fertility awareness to avoid conception. With more research revealing an increased risk of [cancer](#), [stroke](#), and [depression](#) associated with oral contraceptive usage, it is understandable why more and more women have shied away from artificial contraceptives and have opted for more natural means to avoid pregnancy.

The advocacy for women to track their cycles naturally and practice NFP is also ever-increasing across [social media pages](#). Since modern technology has given women the ability to more easily track their cycles (such as cycle tracking apps and the new *Oura* ring), Gen Z women have even greater opportunities to understand and track their fertility compared to women in previous generations.

Ironically, this same ability now is more in tune with “female empowerment” [online](#). Feminists who once received Pope Paul VI’s words as restrictive and oppressive now find this knowledge empowering. It seems a deeper, more holistic understanding of their bodies allows women to be feel more informed and, in turn, contributes to a stronger sense of agency. Instead of having to rely on doctors or medication, women can just rely on their own understanding and knowledge to regulate their pregnancies.

This attraction to real freedom is not surprising, considering that it is God’s desire for us to be most free, and this can be attained only when a holistic understanding of the human person is found. This understanding is not a threat to the Church, nor is it unscientific. In fact, it is through the Church that we understand the extent of the dignity and agency owed to the human person.

This is exactly what Paul VI desired to promote throughout *Humanae Vitae*. Instead of placing arbitrary restrictions on what a woman can or cannot do (which is how feminists can interpret it), Paul VI outlines what healthy boundaries look like in a flourishing, Christ-centered marriage. One of these boundaries includes preventing the objectification of wives by their husbands, which the usage of artificial contraceptives can reinforce, since “a man who grows accustomed to the use of contraceptive methods may forget the reverence due to a woman” and thus may “reduce her to being a mere instrument for the satisfaction of his own desires, no longer considering her as his partner whom he should surround with care and affection” ([Humanae Vitae 17](#)).

Nobody perceives guardrails on balconies as restrictions unjustly placed on tenants, diminishing their freedom. Instead, they’re looked at as reasonable safety measures. This same mindset should be had for boundaries put in place within marriage, which is a sacred institution created by God. Being the “sanctuary of life” and foundation of society, how much more safety and protection should it be given? ([Centesimus Annus 39](#)). The safe is not for replaceable items, but rather for priceless valuables. That is how the Church views the sacrament of holy matrimony.

Although many of these secularists are using NFP for sexual acts outside marriage (read [here](#) for why that is bad), I still consider it a win that more and more people are aligning with a Catholic appreciation for NFP and fertility tracking. Understanding that the Church’s morality is not outdated or arbitrary is huge in a day and age that views objective morals as nonsensical. Who knows what “outdated” Catholic belief will be trending online next?





Farewell Party

The Derico family invites the parish to join them on **Sunday, August 10** for a farewell reception for Joe, who leaves for Rome the next week. There, Joe will continue his priestly studies and formation at the Pontifical North American College for the next 4 years. The reception will be held in the gym and will be immediately after 10:30 Mass. Let's send Joe off knowing how much he is loved and appreciated by his family, friends and parish.



**Farm,
Family,
Faith.**

Recently, the Ricottilli family reunion took place on the family farm in Belington. This large Italian family holds mass in the garage each year on the Sunday of the reunion. Father Ed from Buckhannon offered the mass for them this year. Above is a picture after mass with some of the family that were in attendance (the Derico family in the back).

Remember, nothing can hold your family together like faith can.



Yearbook Search

Do you have a St. Patrick's School Yearbook from the 1940s (40, 41, 42, 43) that could be borrowed?

Contact: Diana Karp Thompson 304-472-1947

Congratulations

Congratulations to newlyweds, Leo and Sarah White, who were joined in the sacrament of holy matrimony at our parish on Saturday, July 26. May God richly bless your marriage.



On Deck

Sunday, August 10

Farewell Reception for Joe Derico, gym (immediately after Mass)

Monday, August 18

St. Patrick School Open House

Tuesday, August 19

First day of classes for St. Pat's Students

Our Neighbor Collection

August: Bath Soap, Dish Soap, Laundry Supplies

The Our Neighbor pantry is in need of the items listed above. They don't need conditioner just shampoo as well as the other items listed.

Items can be placed in the cabinet on the back porch of the parish office.

St. Patrick Catholic School

We're Hiring

- Physical Education
- Art
- ~~Paraprofessionals~~

Contact: John Riley (304) 269-5547
jriley@saintpatricks.school

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BETTY HILL, CPA
TOM STARK**



John White, parishioner

95 US-19S
304-269-2952
304-931-9379

jmgrafixwv@gmail.com

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\$330 per year

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year**

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\$1400 per year