



# THE TRINITY AND THE SHAMROCK

Educate

Inform

Entertain

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St Patrick Catholic Parish

## A GIFT FOR YOU! LOVE, GOD

God's gift to us, the Greatest Gift of All, Jesus - was the theme of this year's parish float in the Hinton Christmas Parade. The parish input was amazing. To date, we have no idea if, or where, we placed with the judges, but it doesn't matter; We placed #1 in having a great time and sharing the love of God with our community.

We would like to give a great big thank-you to Robelle, who beautifully portrayed Our Blessed Mother on the float, and to Ray, who stepped-in at the last minute for Scott, to

become our Joseph for the day. Laynie, Ellie, Sullivan and Gavin are always angels, but during the parade, we had the rare opportunity to actually see their wings and halos. All characters



Ellie, Gavin, Sullivan and Laynie

were beautiful and we thank them from the bottom of our hearts!

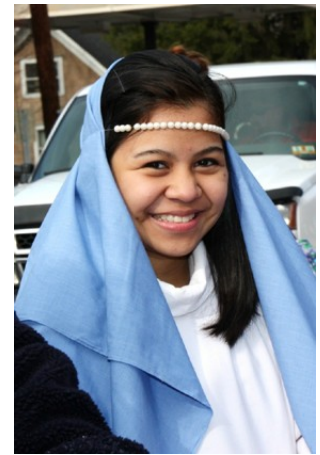
In addition, we would like to express our gratitude to everyone who shared

their time and talent in this project: Buck, who drove the float, Joe G., for the trailer and use of the garage, Loretta, who provided the Infant Jesus and the manger, Lynne, Fr. Tom, Robin, Patty J., Nathan, Pat D., and Molly, who assembled the float, Glorible, who walked the parade route with us, Patty S. for so many great ideas, and finally, Millie, who provided the dove (representing the Holy Spirit), which was perched over the manger. We had several non-parishioners involved in the project, which added to the real message - the true gifts of this Christmas season: Joy, Love, Peace and Hope.

## Hugs for Our Homebound

Waja Cobb  
Faye Gwinn  
Virginia Gwinn  
Margaret O'Farrell  
Sarah Smith  
Alice Ward

Please keep these wonderful ladies in your daily thoughts and prayers. Though they are unable to be with us during our Eucharistic Celebrations, they are still with us in our hearts. Call them or send a note to them to let them know how blessed we are



Robelle as Our Blessed Mother

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A perfect day! A gathering of Christian brothers and sisters, in the midst of the colorful mountain autumn foliage, near the banks of the New River, with one purpose and one heart - to spend a day with Our Lord, in prayer, worship, fellowship and Word.



We thank Patty Stacklin and Karen Eagle for coordinating the retreat. It was perfect! We also thank Fr. Bonaventure for sharing the day with us as teacher, guide, priest and friend. And Fr. Tom, who was able to spend a some time with us before going to Alderson for Mass.

## THE TRINITY AND THE SHAMROCK

### Pastoral Council News

How would you rate your well-being? How about the well-being of St. Patrick parish? Please let a member of the pastoral council know if there is any way we can provide an opportunity to improve or nurture your [spiritual] well-being or that of our parish community. As your pastoral council, we work together to build-up the Body of Christ, His Church, through the seven elements: Word, Worship, Community, Service, Stewardship, Leadership and Evangelization. We welcome your comments

and suggestions.

Some of the items on recent agendas include plans for a Healing Mass in February, a Spring Retreat focusing on Catholic teachings regarding family and moral issues, and the idea of a "Mobile" Retreat for parishioners to carpool and visit our homebound members for 30 - 45 minutes each on a Saturday or Sunday, to pray, read Scripture or just spend time with our "ladies." The idea of asking our youth to participate in the weekly Liturgical duties (greeters, ushers/ collections, gifts) on a weekly basis was mentioned. In addition, plans for the Christmas Parade parish float and other Christmas events were discussed. If you would like to coordinate

or help in organizing any of these activities, please contact Fr. Tom or any member of the Pastoral Council.

Fr. Tom noted that he would like to designate a specific time each week (other than prior to Sunday morning Mass) for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Watch future bulletins for details. And finally, in light of the earthquake that shook our area several weeks ago, the concern of structural damage, in addition to the existing structural problems with our church building was mentioned. Fr. Tom plans to meet with the Finance Council to obtain information regarding the structural study of our church performed several months ago, and then go forward with

planning for the necessary repairs.

Please feel free to contact any member of the Pastoral Council with your comments and concerns: Lynne Bauer, Patti Crawford, Pat Dotson, Patty Jeffries, Andrea Pack and Joe Peplowski. You can find a copy of meeting minutes on the bulletin board of the church.



**Kateri Tekakwitha**

This native American Indian girl was beautiful. Kateri Tekakwitha had small pox when she was four years old. Her parents and baby brother died from the pox. Kateri was left with pox scarring on her face and her eyesight was affected. Kateri died very young and after 15 minutes of her death all the pox scarring disappeared leaving a beautiful, soft vibrant face. Kateri made her First Holy Communion on Christmas Day. Merry Christmas Blessed Kateri.

### A Gift for You! Love, ?

Do you remember a special Christmas gift from your childhood? Not the biggest, or the most expensive one, but a special gift from someone who was bubbling over with joy by simply giving it to you?

When I was about 6-years old, my brother placed a package with my name on the tag under the Christmas tree a few days before Christmas. He asked me to shake it to see if I could guess what was in the box. It was lightweight and rattled a little, but I had no idea what it might be. He was relentless, asking me ... "can you guess what I bought you for Christmas?" It was clear that he chose a very special gift. He purchased it with

his earnings from delivering newspapers in our neighborhood. I had no idea what could possibly be in the package, but my anticipation was beginning to match his. "Please open my gift first, okay?" he asked as we went to bed that Christmas Eve. Before daylight on that Christmas morning, my brother came flying down the stairs and yelled, "You can open my gift now!" And I did. Tenderly tucked in tissue paper, placed in a cigar box, that was wrapped in green holiday paper by a 10-year-old boy, was a little girl's birth stone ring and matching necklace. His gift on that Christmas is one of the most precious gifts I can remember ever receiving.

The joy he had in giving the gift made it even more precious.

Can you imagine how God must have felt during the first Christmas Season? "Please open MY gift first, okay?" HIS anticipation of the Greatest Gift of All, to ALL - can you imagine it? He must have been bubbling over with joy by giving us The Light of the World, His Son, Jesus.

Let the blessings of the gift from God - the gift of His Only Begotten Son, Our Savior - be the most precious gift you receive this Christmas.

Merry Christmas to you and your loved ones, from the staff of the Trinity and the Shamrock!



*A Child is Born*

## WOMEN OF ST. PATRICK NEWS

By Janet Lambert



*And the angel said unto them,  
Be not afraid; for behold, I bring  
you good tidings of great joy  
which shall be to all the people:*

The Women of St. Patrick would like to thank the parishioners for their generosity in the Thanksgiving food basket project. We were able to prepare baskets, complete with turkeys, hams and food for a very special meal for the needy families in our community. Each basket contained a greeting card extending our best wishes for the Thanksgiving

holiday to the recipients, from the parish of St. Patrick. This may have been a Women of St. Patrick project, but the entire parish made it possible. We thank you!

The Railroad Days baked potato sale was a huge success. Once again, we thank the entire parish for sharing their time in this project.

The Women of St. Pat-

rick will provide the meat for the upcoming parish Christmas party. Everyone is asked to bring a side dish and/or dessert to share.

All women of St. Patrick are members of The Women of St. Patrick. Please plan to attend the next meeting. Check the bulletin for dates. Have a Blessed and Merry Christmas!



## Faith Sharing Breakfast

The parish Faith-Sharing Breakfast, sponsored by the Pastoral Council, resumed for the season on October 2, 2011. The morning featured breakfast and video showing the St. Patrick community sharing faith in a multitude

of ways ... *We've Come to Share Our Story.* Parishioners, young and old, past and present, were highlighted along with special parish events throughout the years. Plans are underway to make the DVD available to parish-

ioners in the near future. The next Faith-Sharing Breakfast is scheduled in January 2012.

## A Healing Mass??

Q: What Makes the Healing Mass Unique?

A: All Masses are healing Masses, for God wants to heal you through the powerful sacrament of the Eucharist. It is His gift to the Church.

A healing Mass is focused on healing: restoration of health, physical, spiritual or emotional healing, a relationship problem or help to forgive, letting go of an addiction (nicotine, food, etc.,) or healing our attitudes

toward circumstances. The list is endless. We receive healing each time we unite with God through the Holy Eucharist. A healing Mass gives us an opportunity to unite with God's Healing Grace in a very special way.

## GIRL SCOUT NEWS



Summers County Girl Scouts are selling cookies starting

Jan. 6. This is our 100th Anniversary Year so please support our program. Sum-

mers County Girl Scouts are raising money to have an overnight camp in summer 2012. The Nut Program and Cookie Sale are our main source of income. Pearl Knott, Katie Peplowski, and Kelly Eagle can take orders

from you. If you don't wish to buy for yourself consider buying a box or two for our troops. Another option, Girl Scout troops sell cookies for an organization of project of their choice, too.

## Christmas in Ireland

*Christmas in Ireland lasts from Christmas Eve to the feast of the Epiphany on January 6, which is referred to as Little Christmas.*

*Ireland's Christmas is more religious than a time of fun.*

*Lighted candles are placed in windows on Christmas Eve, as a guide that Joseph and Mary might be looking for shelter. The candles are usually red in color, and decorated with sprigs of holly.*

*Irish women bake a seed cake for each person in the house. They also make three puddings, one for each day of the Epiphany such as Christmas, New Year's Day and the Twelfth Night.*

*After the Christmas evening meal, bread and milk are left out and the door unlatched as a symbol of hospitality.*



## Reason for the Season

*When eggnog's generously filling  
Each and every Christmas mug  
And siblings tour miles and miles  
To greet you with a hug  
There's scarce else I'll be wishing  
Than this simple little prayer  
Of peace and calm and blessings  
much  
On Christmas Day this year.*

# Give Us Our Daily Bread

By Loretta Sanda

“Give us our daily bread.” This means to feed our body and our soul. A priest gave Abraham bread and wine. I am trying to think of all the times bread and wine are mentioned in the Bible. Are you thinking?

When the angel of death came among the 12 tribes they were eating unleavened bread. Moses led them out into the desert. They had no food. Moses prayed to God for food and God sent them bread from heaven. “What is it?” This is what His people said. Manna means “What is it?” Manna was one of the objects that were in a jar in the Arc of the Covenant. The other two were: The Ten Command-

## A PRAYER

submitted by Patty Stacklin

The man whispered, “God, speak to me” and a meadowlark sang.  
But, the man did not hear.

So the man yelled “God, speak to me!” And the thunder rolled across the sky.  
But the man did not listen.

The man looked around and said,  
“God, let me see You.” And a star shined brightly.  
But the man did not notice.

And, the man shouted, “God, show me a miracle!” And, a life was born.  
But, the man did not know.

So, the man cried out in despair,  
“Touch me, God, and let me know You are here!” Whereupon, God reached down and touched the man.  
But, the man brushed the butterfly away and walked on.

Don't miss out on a blessing because it isn't **packaged** the way that you expect!

ments (really there were many more!) and the Rod of Moses and Aaron, Moses' brother. When God gave instructions to Moses to build a Tabernacle (tabernacle means “tent”) in the first room there was bread and wine. In the Holy of Holy is where God dwells. The Arc of the Covenant was also there and it was a foot stool for our God.

I need some help or as Miss Sullivan would say, “I don't need help, I need advice!” I was thinking about the time when Jesus fed the multitudes with loaves and fishes. Then there is the love of Jesus at the Last Supper where the Holy Eucharist was given to us by Jesus. His Body and Blood. If you can think of more times, please, let us know by emailing to The Trinity and the Shamrock or put your information in the collection box.

Our church has Adoration of the Holy Eucharist every first Friday of the month. May I suggest some readings: Mt. 26: 40 -41; John 12:27 and Ps. 116 12-13. These are somewhat sad but beautiful.

We are still on the same page so stay with me. I was reading October's The Catholic Spirit (here is another one: Grace means The Holy Spirit. “Hail Mary full of Grace.” (Father Bonaventure's classes are wonderful.)

There was a picture of Bishop Michael J. Bransfield behind the altar celebrating Mass at Corpus Christi Parish in Wheeling of the recent renovation of the church. “In his homily, Bishop Bransfield noted the eight newly painted murals that adorn the walls of the church, depicting the pelican as a symbol of the Eucharist.” I had to read that over again.

Then I looked it up and found that the pelican when it does not have enough food for the babies in her nest will pluck or take feathers out of her breast and give her babies the blood to feed them. I mentioned this at one of Father Bonaventure's classes and one of our parishioners/students/choir singers said, “We have one?” “Where?” “As you climb the choir steps, the 6-8 steps up and look down at the two stained glass windows there is a picture of a pelican in her nest with her babies and the window next to this is a window with The Holy Eucharist.”

We, at St. Patrick Catholic Church, are blessed in so many ways and I thank God for His Church, which was established in the year 33 Of Ordinary Time and for all our parishioners.



## Mary had a little Lamb

Mary had a little Lamb,  
His fleece was white as snow.  
And everywhere that Mary went,  
The Lamb was sure to go.  
He followed her to school each day,  
Twasn't even the rule.  
He made the children laugh and play,  
To have the Lamb at school.  
And then the rules all

changed on day,  
Illegal it became;  
To bring the Lamb of God to school,  
Or even speak His Name.  
Everyday got worse and worse,  
And days turned into years.  
Instead of hearing children laugh,  
We heard gun shots and tears.  
What must we do to stop

the crime?  
That's in our schools today?  
Let's let the Lamb come back to school,  
And teach our kids to Pray!

