

Faith Formation by Toni Webb

WHAT EXACTLY IS OUR FAITH?

Recently someone asked me to write on this topic. That could actually take years instead of two 600 words or less essays. But, basing the answer on the Nicene Creed, here goes.

First, a little history, history teacher that I was and still am to am certain extent. . The Nicene Creed was predominantly written at the first Council of Nicaea (325 AD) and completed at the Council of Chalcedon (451 AD). The Council of Nicaea was called primarily to condemn the Arian heresy. The Council declared that God the Father and God the Son are indeed "consubstantial"; that is they are literally "of the same substance" (homoousian in the original Greek). The recent change in our creed reflects a closer translation to the previous Latin edition. The Chalcedon Council condemned the heresy known as Monophysitism which had declared that Jesus had only one nature instead of two-human and divine. Thus the creed was written to indicate what we DON'T believe as well as what we DO. And as another aside, the Apostles' Creed was written before the Nicene Creed. It received its name not so much because of the fact that the Apostles wrote it; but rather that it was a summary of the teaching of the Apostles. It contains 12 articles or doctrines, and is an extension of the form used during apostolic times. (Catholic Encyclopedia 1987).

Our Nicene Creed begins: "I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible." Now, just as an addendum, while we think of God the Father as Creator, Gen. 1:26 says, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness" (NRSV). This, therefore, indicates to us that the entire Trinity was involved in creation.

Continuing, we state: "I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man." This section indicates to us that Jesus' life did not begin with His birth in Bethlehem. Only His human life did. It informs us that He existed with His Father from all time and was not "created" as we think in terms of something being "made" by someone else-hence the term "begotten". Jesus became "incarnate" of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit. In other words, he took on a human body, but there was no male sperm involved-hard for us to wrap our brains around. I often like to think of Jesus as getting all His genetic markers from his mother. And by the way, if you read Luke 1:26-38-a wonderful thing to do during this Advent season-you'll find that the Angel Gabriel did not so much ASK Mary if she would be the Mother of God ,but he TOLD her she would be Jesus' mother, to which she acquiesced. Interesting, huh? Oh, and by the way, many biblical scholars say that a better translation of the word "virgin" from the Greek is/would be maiden or young woman. However, the Church needed to emphasize that no other human being, save Mary, was involved in Jesus' conception. TO BE CONCLUDED

SS Peter & Paul Catholic Church

BRINGING THE MESSAGE OF JESUS CHRIST TO OTHERS FOR OVER 100 YEARS



December 6, 2015
The Second Sunday
Of Advent

PASTORAL STAFF:

Pastor:
Rev. Symeon Galazka
Parish Office Manager:
Amy Inghram

Director of Religious Education:
Toni Webb

School Principal:
Ricky D. White

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Second Sunday Of Advent

Prepare the way of the Lord.

This week, Advent and the Jubilee Year of Mercy intersect. On Tuesday, we who are waiting for the coming of the Lord at the end of time and into our hearts at this time, will begin a sacred time of considering God's mercy and how we reflect that mercy into the world around us. The rest of the world is awaiting the coming of the Lord, even if they don't know it. What are we doing to show them the presence of the Lord?

Mass Intentions

Saturday 5:30p.m.	Dec. 5 -Vigil Teed, Margaret, Charlie & Mary Dixon by Family
Sunday 8:00a.m. 10:30a.m.	Dec. 6 For All Parishioners Harriet Zelek Griges by Stanley & Jennie Frayer
Monday 8:30a.m.	Dec. 7 E.J. Stevenson, by Margaret Staggers
Tuesday 8:30a.m. 6:00p.m.	Dec. 8—Immaculate Conception Holy Day Judy Epperly, by Mary Kerby Louise Belletto, by Reggi & Terri Dodd
Wednesday 6:00p.m.	Dec. 9 Earl Wade by Hak & Shirley Kim
Thursday 8:30a.m.	Dec. 10 Frank Lagos, by SSPP Ladies Guild
Friday 8:30a.m.	Dec. 11 Scott George, by Bill & Regina O'Neal
Saturday 8:30a.m.	Dec. 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe Intention of Angel Santos Family by Nancy Sanger
-Vigil 5:30p.m.	Andrea Schultz, by Terry & Sally Shay
Sunday 8:00a.m. 10:30a.m.	Dec. 13 Dori & Matt Edwards by Mary Rosenecker For All Parishioners

The Parish Advent Penance Service will be
Friday, December 18th at 6pm.

Lectors



Tues. 12/8: Tony Gerard
Sat. 12/12(Vigil): Randal Rosiek
Sun. 12/13: 8a.m. Nancy Sanger
10:30a.m.: Margaret Staggers

Extra-ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion



December

Sat. (Vigil): Rick Pino/Sally Shay
Sun. 8a.m.: Vickie Caldwell/Dominic Re
Sun. 10:30a.m.: Bev & Herman Hundley

Altar Server Schedule:



Tuesday: 12/8
6:00p.m. Rachel White, Dominic & Andre Re
Saturday (Vigil): 12/12
5:30p.m.: Mia Pino & Rachel White
Sunday: 12/13
8:00a.m.: Matthew & Jacob Mrozek
10:30a.m.: Jackie & Bethany Rosiek and
Keylie Alexander

Offerings Nov. 28/29



Env/Loose: \$ 2,565.00 **School:** \$ 135.00
Online: \$ 450.00 **Parish Maint.:** \$ 170.00



The Polish (Oplatki) Christmas Wafers are available in the vestibule of the church. The Polish tradition is to share with family members on Christmas Eve. During the exchange, good wishes are expressed.

This Week...

Wed. 4:15p.m. "Saturday Choir" Practice
Thurs. 6:00p.m. "Sunday Choir" Practice
Sat. 8a.m. Bible Sharing @ Bob Evans
8a.m. to 11a.m. Breakfast with St. Nick

Sunday

Faith Formation @ 9a.m.
RCIA @ 9a.m.
Adult Bible Class @ 9:15a.m.
High School Youth @ 7p.m.

Family Focus

Today's gospel shows John the Baptist and parents have similar vocations. Like the Baptist, parents are asked to make "rough ways smooth" and to "prepare the way of the Lord" for their families. This Advent ask: "Does my life hinder or help my family to know Jesus?" Bud Ozar



2016 Catholic Calendars:

The calendars are available in the vestibule of the church. The calendars are compliments of Tyree Funeral Home.

We appreciate their generosity.

Support Elderly Religious

Show your appreciation for the senior Catholic sister, brothers, and religious order priests who made a positive difference in so many lives. Please give generously to next week's (December 12-13) collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

New to the Parish? Not Registered?

Registration Forms are available in the vestibule of the church or come to the parish office to register.

Need offering envelopes?

Contact the parish office.

Toni and Bruce Webb would like to thank everyone who called, visited, sent cards or brought food during Toni's recent surgery and rehab. We are truly blessed to be part of such a caring parish community.

Confirmation Class

Tuesday 12/8 : Class will begin with Mass at 6:00p.m. and end at 8:00p.m.

The Ladies Guild will be raffling a Christmas Basket on December 13, following the 10:30a.m. Mass. Donation of \$1 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$5. To purchase tickets, contact Toni Webb at 304-469-6069.



The Advent Banks & Meditation Booklets are available to our families in the vestibule of the church. We also have the Banks & Booklets for our children. During Advent place your loose change in the bank, and the money donated from the Banks will be used to help those who come to us for utility help. Your support of this ministry is greatly appreciated.

Christmas Flowers:

No set donation; whatever you wish to donate. Offering can be made in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special someone. Please list them on the envelope. Drop envelope in collection basket, or bring it to the parish office.



Discernment on the Mountain

"A Spiritually Intense Experience for both High School & College age young men."

December 27-30, Huttonsville, WV
Cost: \$50

To Register Contact: Rick Teachout
rteachout@dwc.org
304-233-0880, ext. 442 or
Www.wvpriests.org

Parish Holiday Dinner

Wednesday, December 16th @ 6p.m., Parish/School Hall

**Meat provided by Ladies Guild
Drinks provided by The Knights of Columbus**

Please bring....

**A-L: Pasta, Rice or Vegetable Casserole Dish
M-P: Rolls, Butter, Chips, Cheese or Crackers
Q-Z: Salad/Dessert
(8 servings per casserole, salad, dessert)**



**All Parish Members & Families are invited.
(Please bring nonperishable item for the Food Pantry)
Hosted by: Ss. Peter & Paul Ladies Guild
Assisted by The Knights of Columbus**

Youth Ministry Night:

On *February 11, 2016* at *SS Peter & Paul* from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. the Diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry and the missionaries from the Bishop Hodges Pastoral Center will be offering a program entitled *Pursuit*. This evening is an inspiring, fun and faith filled night for families and will include praise and worship music, prayer and content based on the Year of Mercy. It will be a great opportunity for parents and teenagers (7th-12th grade) to have a fun and spiritually enriching evening together. These regional gatherings were designed to supplement youth ministry in parishes which already have active youth ministry and to serve as a model for those who do not. The evening is FREE.

Shared Blessings

We have been blessed in so many ways. As the Christmas season nears, let us share our blessings by reaching out to young men and women being released from juvenile correctional facilities. Deacon Rue Thompson tells that one of their needs is for hygiene articles. They need toothpaste, tooth brushes, dental floss, mouth wash, deodorant, soap, shampoo, conditioner, combs, hair brushes, razors and shaving cream. Also tote bags are needed to put items in. Can you provide some of these items? A box has been placed in the back of the church for your generous donations. Please have items at the church no later than December 13th. If you are not able to give at this time please keep them in your prayers, If you have any questions, please see Paula Probstollo or Debbie Garvin. Thank You!

SSPP School Christmas Program

Tuesday, December 15 at 7:00p.m.
in the church.



CATHOLIC SHARING APPEAL

PARISH GOAL: \$15,420.00

AMOUNT NEEDED: \$993.00

