

JANUARY 2, 2017—FEAST OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD



**SAIN
PAUL
CATHOLIC
CHURCH**

Address:

140 Walnut Street,
Weirton, WV 26062

Phone:

304-748-6710

Web site:

stpaulcommunity.net

Pastor:

Rev. Larry W. Dorsch

E-mail:

wdorsch@comcast.net

Prayer Line:

304-748-4245

&

304-564-3114

Our Parish Mission: Christ calls our parish family to be a beacon of hope in a rapidly changing community.

A Huge Community Thank You

A week or so before Christmas I noted to the community that we were running short in finances and would have trouble meeting our end of the year expenses. I asked that anyone who could please to consider making an end of the year gift to the parish. Many, many of you responded overwhelmingly! Our Christmas collection was one for the record books: nearly \$13,000 in the regular collection and the Christmas offering. Parishioners also gave special gifts of \$1,500 and a former parishioner gave us \$3,000 in stock. Finally, our absolutely wonderful and generous Christian Mothers graced us with a check for \$15,000! God bless them. All of this should be more than enough to pay all the end of the year bills and the property insurance which is due right after the first of the year. I cannot tell you what a relief this is to me and the other parish staff; we sometimes worry about parish finances as if they were our own. Thank you to all who were able to contribute and get us over the hurdle. May God continue to bless our parish and St. Paul keep on praying for us!



THE GIVING SEASON

There was terrific teamwork and coordination at the **Community Bread Basket** as the annual distribution of Christmas baskets took place the Friday before Christmas. Pictured is the staples table that packed the regular Friday morning distribution before the Christmas distribution even began. The staples are added to a box of meats and bread and the order weighed before it is carried in a wagon out to the person requesting help. In the afternoon the distribution of Christmas baskets began with turkeys and other holiday foods being distributed. The Salvation also distributed hundreds of Christmas baskets. Both groups, the Community Bread Basket and the Salvation Army, coordinate their Christmas lists to prevent duplication.

Many thanks as well to the team from our parish who staffed the **Table of Hope** in December. This team cooked, served, waited tables and clean up after dinner on Friday, December 18th. Nearly sixty

adults and children regularly come to the Table to have the evening meal. The sign up list for the month of January crew is on the table in the back of the church.

Many thanks to all the **singers and musicians** who worked to make our Christmas liturgies so prayerful and joyous. Our children's choir did a wonderful job at the 6pm mass and our Voices of Hope and Adult Choir were lovely at 10 pm.

We are also grateful to our **Liturgical Decorating Committee** for transforming our worship space from Advent to Christmas. The **many donors of Christmas flowers** always make our church look so wonderful.

The **Christian Mothers** purchased flowers for all the homebound members of the parish which our **Ministers of Communion to the Sick** then distributed to them on their Christmas visits. Both groups try to make sure our sick still feel part of our community even though they can no longer come to worship with us.

THE WEEKLY WORD

Adult Bible Study
Bible Study resumes this week on Tuesday at 6:30 pm in the parish office conference room.

This week: Feast of Mary, the Mother of God

The eighth day after Christmas celebrates a Feast that honors Mary but which really recognizes that the child she bore is the Son of God. The early church require several centuries of debating the exact nature of who Jesus was before it could say definitely that he was "fully God and fully human," which became the creedal statement of faith. Mary was described as not just the Mother of Jesus (the human person) but also the Mother of God (the divine person) as well. This means that when Jesus was conceived and born he was human and divine fully and completely.

Next Week: The Feast of the Epiphany

Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 Matthew 2:1-12

