



The Light Side of the Dark

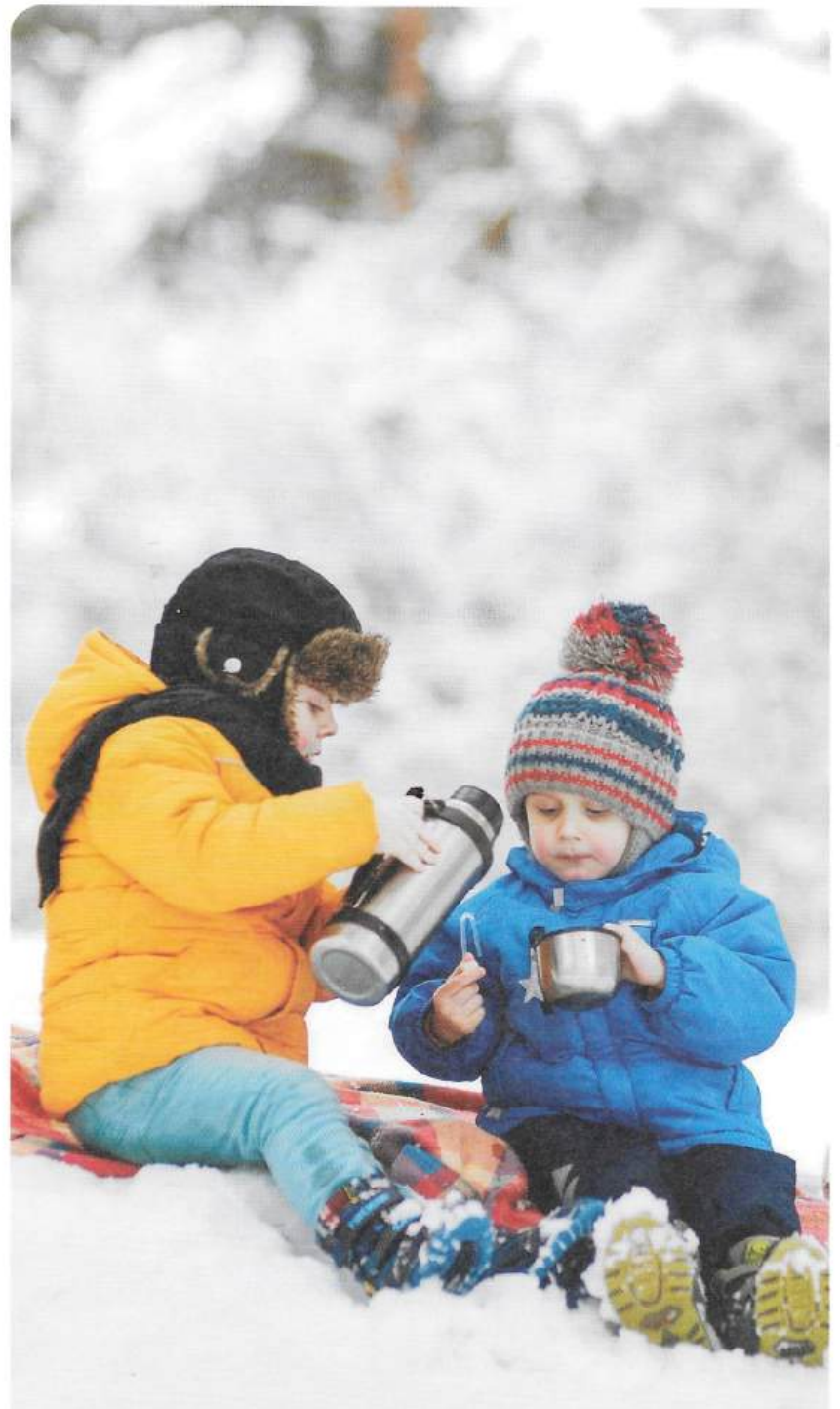
FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

There's something to be said for kindness. Often when we say to ourselves that something is an act of godliness, it's when someone is kind, especially when it seems to come out of the blue. It's what John the Baptist seemed to be thinking when he said we would be baptized with the Holy Spirit and with the sort of passionate fire that warms and gives off light. Henry James, the British novelist, once said that three things were important in life—the first, be kind; the second, be kind; the third, be kind. Long before Henry James said it, St. Paul wrote to the Christian community in Philippi: “Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near” (Philippians 4:5). God's presence seems to be nearer when someone is kind.

It is curious how in the darkest moments of life, the light of kindness shines more brightly. Natural calamities seem to bring out kindness toward those who suffer. So too, at times of personal tragedies or disasters, when others are grieving the death of someone they love, as well as countless other times when people find themselves lost in the dark. Little wonder then how during this time of year when the days are shortest, and the nighttime dark is longest, that the days of Advent and Christmas seem to be laced with kindness for one another. Then the veil that hides God from our eyes grows thinner, and we catch glimpses of “God with us.” ●

Reflect

***Have you made kindness
a regular practice?***



**The peace of God that surpasses all understanding
will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.**

PHILIPPIANS 4:7

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH

1003 WYOMING ST, BLUEFIELD, WV 24701

DECEMBER 14 & 15, 2024

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 14 - 6:00 PM

✠ Fr. Greg Lyttle by Deborah Garton & Fred Butler

Sunday, December 15 - 9:00 AM

✠ People of the Parish (Pro Populo)

Tuesday, December 17 - Noon

NO MASS ~Fr. Out of Town

Wednesday, December 18 - 9:00 AM

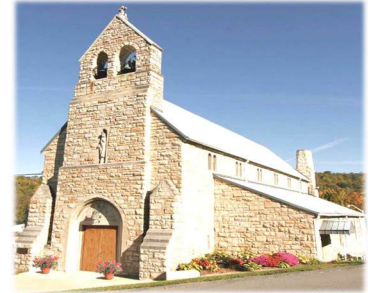
NO MASS ~Fr. Out Of Town

Saturday, December 21 - 6:00 PM

✠ Catsonis Family by Family

Sunday, December 22 - 9:00 AM

✠ Arnold Family by Family



Office Hours: 304-327-5623

Monday- Thursday 9:00am-4:00pm

Friday 9:00am-12:00pm

Confession:

Before Weekend Masses

During Eucharistic Adoration

First Saturday's of Month

By Appointment

Food Pantry Hours:

Wednesday 10:00am -2:00 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 15: Third Sunday of Advent

December 22: Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 23: Cancelled: Knights Meeting

December 24: Children's Christmas Eve Mass 4 pm

December 24: Christmas Eve Mass 7 pm

December 25: Christmas Day Mass 9 am

December 26-27: Offices Closed for Holiday

December 31: Fr. Sebastian's 30th Anniversary of Ordination

January 1: Solemnity of Mary Mass 12 Noon

January 3: First Friday Mass 6 pm

January 4: First Saturday Reconciliation 10-11am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Friday's from 6:00-7:00 PM

December 20: Bluefield

December 27: Princeton

CHURCH STAFF

PASTOR: Very Rev. Sebastian E. Devasya, V.E.
sdevasya@dwc.org

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE: Julia Harrison, M.A.A.T.
julia@sacredheartblfd.org

YOUTH MINISTRY DIRECTOR: Wendi Aiello
w.aiello@yahoo.com 304-320-2150

PARISH SECRETARY: Lucy Brinegar
lbrinegar@sacredheartblfd.org

PARISH BOOKKEEPER: Kim Hickman
Khickman@sacredheartblfd.org

To our non-Catholic friends, we extend a warm invitation to for you to come forward and receive a Blessing when our Catholic brothers and sisters come forward to receive Holy Communion. Please come up to the Priest or Eucharistic Minister with your hands folded across your chest, so we will know that you wish to receive a Blessing. We are grateful for your presence.

Third Sunday of Advent

Dear Beloved in Christ,

As we approach the halfway point of the Advent season, I want to check in with you on your spiritual journey. This sacred time of preparation invites us to pause, reflect, and renew our hearts as we await the coming of our Lord. I hope you are finding moments of peace and joy amidst the busyness that often accompanies this season.

Our readings remind us of the profound themes of joy as we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent, a significant milestone in our journey towards Christmas. In the first reading from Zephaniah, we hear the encouraging words: 'Rejoice, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart.' This call to rejoice is echoed in the Gospel of Luke, where John the Baptist urges the crowds to bear fruit worthy of repentance, illuminating how our actions reflect our inner transformation.

The common thread woven through these readings is the theme of joyful anticipation. We are not merely waiting but actively preparing our hearts to receive Christ anew. We are reminded of the joy that permeates this season as we light the third candle on our Advent wreath, also known as the 'Gaudete' candle. This pink candle symbolizes a shift from the penitential aspect of Advent to a joyful expectation of Christmas. The term 'Gaudete' comes from the Latin word for 'rejoice', and its lighting signifies our growing anticipation and joy as we draw closer to the birth of Christ.

In our daily lives, I challenge each of you to embody this joy as we continue our Advent journey. Consider simple yet powerful actions like reaching out to someone who may be feeling lonely, sharing a meal with those in need, or practicing gratitude for the small blessings each day brings. Each of these acts has the power to transform lives and illuminate the joy of Christ's love, making His presence felt in the world around us.

Let us remember that living out our faith is not confined to Sundays but is a daily commitment to shine the light of Christ through our words and actions. Each of us, as members of this congregation, plays a vital role in creating an atmosphere of joy in our homes, communities, and workplaces. May we all embody the spirit of Advent and spread joy wherever we go.

As we gather for worship this Sunday, know I am here to support and guide you in this spiritual practice. Together, we can transform our anticipation into joyful action, and I am here to walk this journey with you.

I invite you now to join me in prayer as we prepare our hearts for the Third Sunday of Advent:

Heavenly Father,
As we rejoice in this season of anticipation,
fill our hearts with Your joy.
Help us to bear fruits of love and kindness
that reflect the light of Christ in our lives.
May our hearts be open to receive Him anew this Christmas,
and may we strive to share that joy with others daily.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

May your week be filled with hope and joy,

In Christ's love,

Father Sebastian



FAITH FORMATION



Faith Formation 2024-2025

*Theme – “Lord, When Did We See You Hungry”
Matthew 25:37b*

The schedule through January 2025:

December 15 and 22 ~ Practice for Christmas Eve Children’s Mass in the Church
 December 24 ~ Children to participate at 4pm Christmas Eve Mass
 December 29 ~ **NO** Faith Formation for Holiday
 January 5, 12 ~ **NO** Faith Formation for Holiday
 January 19, 26 ~ Faith Formation Regular Sessions

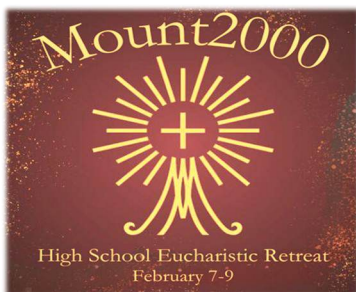
OCIA

Formerly known as RCIA



*If you are interested in the OCIA process please contact, Barbara Musolin at 304-922-1934 or Julia at the parish office. The next meeting will be **Wednesday, December 18th at 4:30 pm in the School Building.***

YOUTH MINISTRY



MOUNT 2000 HIGH SCHOOL EUCHARISTIC RETREAT

Who: Beckley Vicariate High School Youth

What: Mount2000 Eucharistic Retreat **When:** February 7-9, 2025

Where: Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland

For More Info: Lorin Albin, Youth Ministry Coordinator at Sacred Heart, Pctn
 540.529.6495 or lorinjalbin@gmail.com

SACRED HEART CENTENNIAL

You still have time to help with the publishing of our History Book. For \$15 you can get a memorial spot and for \$100 you become a Century Club donor. Contact Jean McCloud at Saturday mass or Theresa Bales at Sunday mass. If you drop the donation off at the office, be sure to tell who and what it is for to help us with paperwork.

We also still have ornaments for \$20, cookbooks for \$15, note cards for \$5, and a few magnets for \$5. These are available after church. You can contact Ann Robinson or Theresa Bales or call 304-920-8104 to purchase any items.

The Centennial Committee would like to thank you for all you have done to make this celebration a success!





PRINCETON
Christmas Mass Schedule

December 24th 4:00 PM
Childrens Christmas Eve Mass

December 24th 11:30 PM
Carols
Midnight Mass

December 25th 11:00 AM
Christmas Day Mass




BLUEFIELD
Christmas Mass Schedule

December 24th 4:00 PM
Children's Christmas Mass

December 24th 7:00 PM
Christmas Eve Mass

December 25th 9:00 AM
Christmas Day Mass



Thank You

**A big thank you to the
Family Life Committee for hosting the
St. Nicholas Celebration for our kids.
A special thanks to St. Nicholas
our very own Terry Lampert.**

Third Sunday of Advent

*The Third Sunday of Advent is
Gaudete Sunday. At this
halfway point in Advent, light
two violet and the rose candles
on your Advent wreath and
Rejoice!
For the Lord is near!*



**SACRED HEART
ORNAMENTS**

Perfect for Christmas to hang on the tree! Buy one for yourself or as a gift to family members and friends! These beautiful ornaments are an exact replica of our Sacred Heart Church Building!

**The ornaments will
be selling
for \$20.00 each.**



We will be selling them at Mass or you may call Ann Robinson at (304) 887-2421 or the parish office to place your order.



Christmas Flower Offerings



Thank you to all who donated: In Memory/Honor of.....

Randy & Cynthia Albert

Don & Carol Asbury

Hobe & Susan Bauer

Frank & Lilian Brady

Deborah Garton & Fred Butler

Bob & Cathy Buzzo

Vearl & Betty Clayton

James & Donella Crigger

John & Debbie Crist

John J. Crist, Sr., Elizabeth Crist, Ann Crist Byrd,
Mary Ann Franklin, Mary Williams

Tom & Valerie Hager

Julia Harrison

Robert L. and Frances L. Harrison

Tom Harrison

Frances A. Harrison

Carol Havens

Percy Johnson

Margie Johnson

Danny & Kathy Kirk

Terry & Claire Lampert

Turner & Lampert Families, Katherine Nelson,
Harold Bright, O.E. Clemins

Natalie Lijoi

Mario A. Lijoi

Vittoria Lijoi

Jimmy Maiolo

Carl & Linda Mariotti

Jimmie & Marilyn McCoy

Ray & Mary Shumate

Mary McGonagle

Feelesha Moran

James & Barbara Musolin

Steven & Patty Peebles

Patty Peretti

Anthony P. Peretti

Monty & Deborah Ramella

Johnny & Gina Rasi



The Baldrige Family, The Rasi Family

Deb Rebuck

Mitch Rebuck

Greg & Callie Winfree

Calvin Ray Doss, Letha Doss, Jean Price,
Mary Hawkins

CELEBRATING



YEARS OF PRIESTHOOD

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4TH
AFTER 6:00 PM MASS

Help Us Celebrate Fr. Sebastian's
30th Anniversary of Priesthood!

We will be having a covered dish dinner
in the lounge to honor Fr. Sebastian!

Please bring a side dish to feed
10-12 people.

December Ministry Schedule							
Mass Date & Time	Sacristan	Rosary Leader	Altar Servers	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Hospitality	Collection Counters
12/14 Sat. 6 pm	P. Peretti	D. Garton	A. Peretti	Tom Behrmann	1.L. Mariotti 2.P. Peretti 3.TBA	John Monaco	D. Duritza
			E. Peretti				
12/15 Sun. 9 am	M. Malamisura	B. Musolin	A. Froy	C. Lampert	1.T. Lampert 2.M. Romeo 3.A. Robinson	R. Malamisura	R. Malamisura
			E. Husband	T. Bales			
12/21 Sat. 6 pm	TBA	TBA	Dave Kelley	Valerie Hager	1.T. Behrmann 2.T. Hager 3.A. Peretti	Pascasio's	D. Shumate
12/22 Sun. 9 am	The Winfree's	T. Lampert	R. West	R. Albert	1.S. Copolo 2.C. Havens 3.K. Kirk	B. Buzzo	M. Mccoy
			K. Oakes	R. Cicoliini			

Christmas Week Schedule							
Mass Date & Time	Sacristan	Rosary Leader	Altar Servers	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Hospitality	Collection Counters
12/24 4 pm Children's		No Rosary		Youth	1.C. Saunders 2.A. Robinson	R. Ciccolini	Counted after Christmas
12/24 7 pm Christmas Eve		No Rosary		B. Buzzo C. Lampert	1.F. Moran 2.T. Lampert		Counted After Christmas
12/25 9am Christmas Day	M. Malamisura	No Rosary	Mary	R. Ciccolini	1.D. Garton 2. 3.	R. Ciccolini	Counted After Christmas
			Malamisura	D. Garton			
12/28 Sat. 6pm	J. McCloud	V. Hager		F. Moran	1.L. Mariotti 2.T. Hager 3.J. McCloud		
12/29 Sun. 9 AM					1.		
					2.		
					3.		

ATTENTION MASS VOLUNTEERS

We still need lots of help with our wonderful Christmas Masses.

Please reach out to Lucy at the Parish Office if you would like to participate this Christmas!

Sacred Heart Prayer List

Parishioners: Linda Angelelli, Stephanie Blevins, George Bowling, Mary Bruch, John Burton, Loretta Carrigan, Ron Ciccolini, Carl Cook, Benny Disibbio, Angie Genovesi, Valerie Hager, Daniel Kirk, Claire & Terry Lampert, Tommie Jo Longworth, Mary Malamisura, Aalannah McPeak, Feleesha Moran & Family, Claude Morgan, Sharon Rothausen, Carolina Ferrare

Homebound Parishioners: Linda Angelelli, Richard Canterbury, Alex Ercoline, Joanne Ercoline, Lou Ercoline, Mary Claire Keenan, Sue Mazol, Joan Monaco, Ernesto Pascasio, Barbara Pickett, Rosalie Rochetti, Mitzi Romeo, Miriam Salaita, Anna H. Switch, Joan Zingale

Friends & Family: Cherie Beck, Yvonne Blevins, Donald Bowles, Shelby Bowles, Teddy Bradshaw, Mark Burnette, Patrick Clark, Chuck Comer, Carolyn Crigger, Christina Easton, Fr. Chapin Engler, Jason Fortney, Beth George, Dolly Hager, Steve Hamm, Skip Harless, Larry Hicks, Yael Issacs, Natalie Jackson, Sandy Kegley, Sherry Khatib, Stan Lawson, Bill Lester, Bob Mahood, Robert Martin, Connor McKenzie, Ken Mulkey, Angelo Perri, Walt "Buddy" Pierce, Dr. Amanda Hale Reese, Brian Richards, Leanna Smith, Larry Sarever, Abby Taylor, Judy Tolbert, Kay Trimble, Cathleen Underwood, Debby VanBlaricom, Steve Vaught, Alma Wheeler

If there is anyone you would like to add to our prayer list, please call the parish office at 304-327-5623 or you may email Lucy at lbrinegar@sacredheartblfd.org



**Help Those
In Need.**

Give to the second
collection at
Christmas Mass to
support Catholic
Charities.




Donate online at
www.ccwva.org

Weekly Donations	Weekend Dec 7-8	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Envelopes	3,091.00	244,077.20	227,000.00
Maintenance	25.00	4,029.00	5,000.00
Loose Offertory	281.00	22,405.20	23,200.00
Holiday Flowers	130.00	1,902.00	2,500.00
Total Contributions	\$ 3,527.00	\$ 272,413.40	\$257,700.00
Food Pantry	445.00	25,961.00	0.00
DWC: Religious Retirement	1,459.00	1,559.00	1,500.00
attendance:	6pm: 44	9am: 106	

Father Sebastian Devasya
**Holy Year Italy
Pilgrimage**
September 2 – 11, 2025
(10 days)
\$5,999 from Charlotte

View a video with helpful information about traveling
with Unitours at www.Unitours.com/traveler



We have raised **\$36,511** for the
Catholic Sharing Appeal. Which has
surpassed our goal of \$24,620!

Thank you everyone for your
generous donations. Please continue
to donate if you can!

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY AND A PRIEST IS NEEDED, PLEASE CALL:

Parish Office (304) 327-5623

Princeton Office (304) 425-3664

In case of serious or life-threatening sickness or the actively dying: {Please consider, with Fr. Sebastian out of town, it will take longer to contact a priest. Please call the church office as soon as you can} The church should be contacted as soon as possible. People deserve the opportunity to confess their sins, profess their faith, be anointed, and receive Holy Communion – the foretaste and pledge of eternal life. PLEASE don't wait until after the person is unconscious or so sedated that he or she cannot communicate. It is imperative with current situations, that there be enough time for Fr. to go through the appropriate protocol to visit the actively dying.

In case of illness: Please call the parish office to let us know if you, a family member, or a parishioner is sick. We can place your name on the prayer list. If requested, Fr Sebastian will arrange for distributing Holy Communion in the home.

Nursing homes & Hospitals: are not permitted to contact the church. If someone you know is in the hospital, please call the church office.

Dear Padre,

My family, friends, and coworkers seem to be uncomfortable when I tell them that I've been praying for them. Should I just keep it to myself?

There is nothing fundamentally wrong with telling people you have been praying for them. Most people are probably grateful for such care and support. But it can be a little tricky. If the person believes the praying is actually a judgment and not a blessing, it may provoke a less-than-grateful response. This is where honest discernment on your part is invited. Are you coming across as prayerfully concerned, or is there some criticism or judgment in what seems to be an innocent blessing? People are able to perceive the difference.

Another consideration—and this is not at all unusual as a response in the culture of today—is that some people are very defensive about any religious expressions and do not react favorably. Think, for example, about the different reactions to “Merry Christmas” or “Happy Holidays,” which can often provoke the familiar idiom “them’s fightin’ words.” My best advice is to keep praying for everyone, as no one truly understands or fully appreciates the power of prayer. That being said, temper your announcement when you suspect it will not be well received. This demonstrates a grateful and blessed heart, which is what you intend and hope for, after all. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 16	December 17	December 18	December 19	December 20	December 21	December 22
<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>
Nrn 24:2–7, 15–17a	Gn 49:2, 8–10 Mt 1:1–17	Jer 23:5–8 Mt 1:18–25	Jgs 13:2–7, 24–25a Lk 1:5–25	Is 7:10–14 Lk 1:26–38	Sg 2:8–14 or Zep 3:14–18a Lk 1:39–45	Mi 5:1–4a Heb 10:5–10 Lk 1:39–45



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

[The crowd asked John the Baptist,] “What shall we do?”
By suggesting this question, the Gospel reminds us of something important: life has a task for us.... Each of us—let us not forget this—has a mission to accomplish. So, let us not be afraid to ask the Lord: what shall I do?

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 12, 2021