



Making Room for God

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

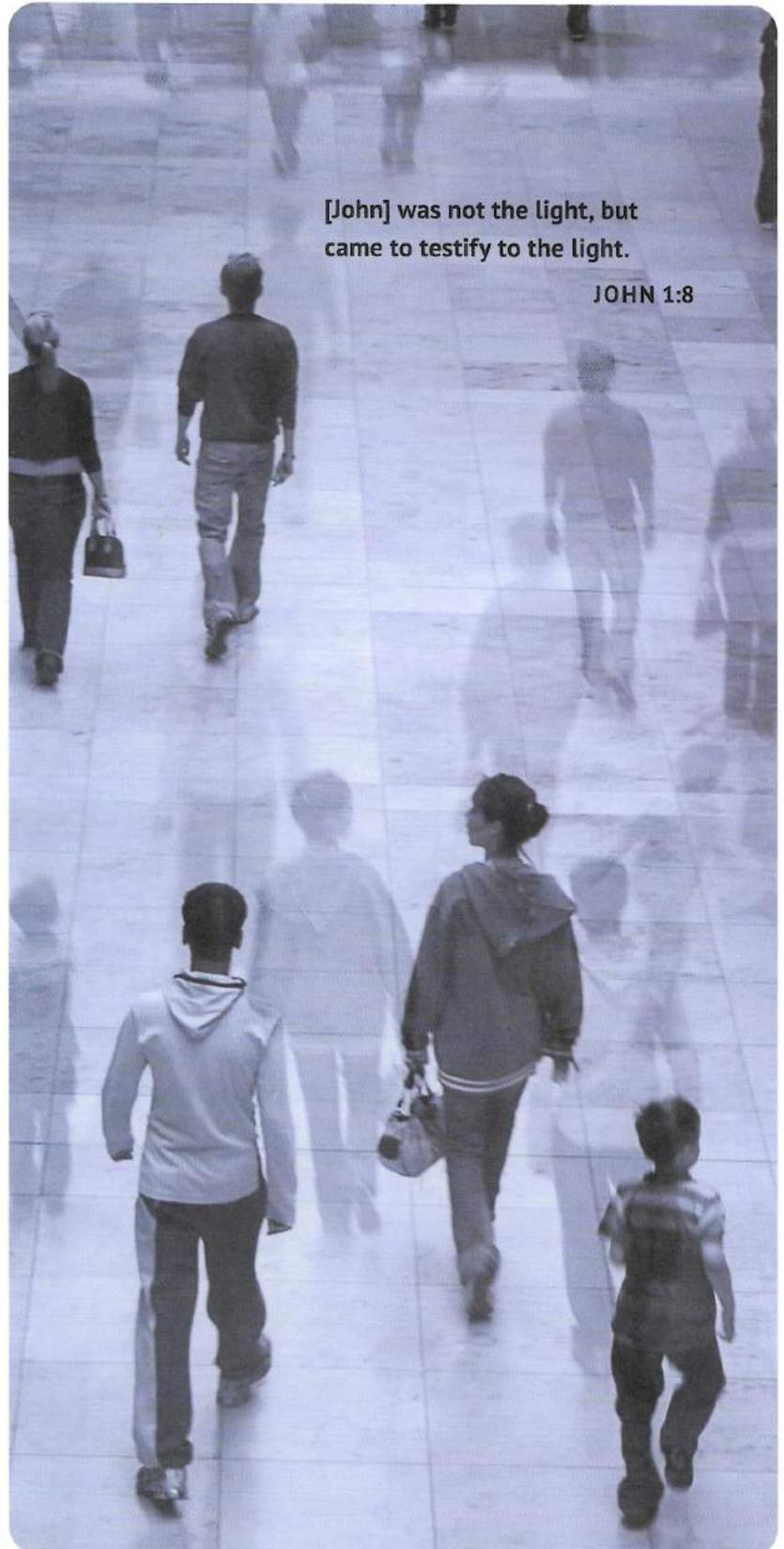
The story of John the Baptist is the story of taking a back seat to Jesus, of fading into the background so that Jesus might be the light. Fading out of the picture is something we may find ourselves doing more than once in our lives. Sometimes it's also a choice we have to make, even when it's painful.

Actor Nick Nolte talked about what it was like for him when he turned seventy; how his body would hurt and how painful it was to get out of bed some mornings. He told of how he cried when a longtime friend passed away and of the sadness death brings. But the worst part, he said, is coming to the realization that your children have grown up, are on their own, and don't need you the way they once did. His son has a family, and for him the family comes first, as it should be. That's the painful part, Nolte says, the letting go of your children because they are no longer yours; in reality, they never were.

From the perspective of faith, why do we need to fade into the background? To leave room for the hand of God in life, that's why. So that God can do what God does best, and so that we don't get in the way of it all. That is a task not only at the end of life but for all of life. ●

Reflect

When has it been difficult for you to fade into the background?



[John] was not the light, but came to testify to the light.

JOHN 1:8

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH

1003 WYOMING ST, BLUEFIELD, WV 24701

DECEMBER 16 & 17, 2023

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 16- 6:00 PM

† Deceased Members of Sacred Heart

Sunday, December 17- 9:00 AM

† People of the Parish

Tuesday, December 19- Noon

† Herman & Mathilda Behrmann by Tom Behrmann

Wednesday, December 20- 9:00 AM

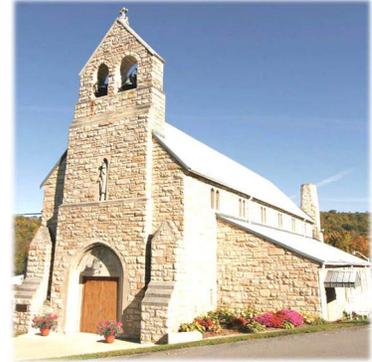
† Charles & Opal Garton by Fred Butler and Deborah Garton

Saturday, December 23 - 6:00 PM

† Deceased Members of Sacred Heart

Sunday, December 24 - 9:00 AM

† Deceased Members of Sacred Heart



Office Hours: 304-327-5623

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

Friday 9:00am-12:00pm

Food Pantry Hours:

Wednesday 10:00am -2:00 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 17: Third Sunday of Advent

December 17: Practice for Children's Mass in Church

December 23: Regular 4th Sunday of Advent 6:00 PM Mass

December 24: Regular 4th Sunday of Advent 9:00 AM Mass

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

December 24: Christmas Eve Mass 7:00 PM

December 25: Christmas Day Mass 9:00 AM

December 26-27: No Daily Mass

January 5: First Friday Mass 6:00 PM

January 6: First Saturday Reconciliation 10-11 AM

January 8: Knights of Columbus Meeting 7:00 PM

January 18: PPC Meeting 6:00 PM

January 20: 2nd Collection: Developing Worlds Collection

January 22: Knights of Columbus Meeting 7:00 PM

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION SCHEDULE

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

December 29th -Bluefield

CHURCH STAFF

PASTOR: Very Rev. Sebastian E. Devasya, Assoc. V.E., V.F.
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

NEWMAN CENTER: Paul Krause
pkrause@dwc.org 216-402-1450

Third Sunday of Advent

Dear Sacred Heart family,

As we approach the third Sunday of Advent, also known as Gaudete Sunday, we light the pink candle on the Advent wreath, symbolizing the joy that comes from the nearness of our Lord. It is a time for us to prepare our hearts for our Lord's coming, reflect on his love and mercy, and renew our commitment to follow him.

In the first reading from the Book of Isaiah speaks of the anointing of the prophet to bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives, and announce a year of favor from the Lord. This reading reminds us that the coming of Christ brings liberation and joy to those who are oppressed.

The second reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians encourages us to rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances. This reading reminds us that joy comes from living a life of constant prayer and thanksgiving, even in difficult times.

The Gospel reading from the Gospel of John speaks of John the Baptist, who came to prepare the way for the Lord. John the Baptist was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This reading reminds us that our joy comes from bearing witness to Christ and preparing the way for his coming.

During this Advent season, let us slow down and reflect on what is truly important in our lives. This could be spending more time with family, helping a neighbor in need, or taking a moment each day to express gratitude for our blessings. Let us focus on the blessings we have been given and the opportunities we must share those blessings with others.

As a parish community, we have much to be thankful for. We have a vibrant community of faith, dedicated volunteers who give their time and talents to serve others, and a strong commitment to social justice and outreach. Let us continue to build on these strengths and work together to create a more just and compassionate world. This could be through volunteering at a local charity, advocating for social justice issues, or simply showing kindness and understanding to those around us.

As we continue our Advent journey, let us keep in mind the words of John the Baptist: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." May we be ready to receive our Lord with open hearts and minds and continue to grow in faith and love.

Yours in Christ,
Father Sebastian



FAITH FORMATION



Faith Formation 2023 - 2024

Theme for 2023

Come to Me, all you who labor and are burdened and I will refresh you."

Matthew 11:28

The schedule through January 2024:

December 17 ~ Practice for Christmas Eve Children's Mass in the Church

December 24 ~ Children to participate at 4pm Christmas Eve Mass

December 31 ~ **NO** Faith Formation for Holiday

January 7 ~ **NO** Faith Formation for Holiday

January 14, 21, 28 ~ Faith Formation Regular Sessions

RCIA



The next RCIA meeting will be January 10, 2024 in the school. To learn more, please contact Barbara Musolin at 304-922-1934 or Julia at the parish office.

CRUSADERS YOUTH

Upcoming Events:

December 24th - Christmas Eve mass will be a Youth Mass please let Wendi know if you are able to participate.



The next handbell choir practice will be:
Sunday, Dec, 17 at 5pm.

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!



BLUEFIELD
Christmas Mass Schedule

December 23, Saturday
Regular 6:00 PM Mass

December 24, Sunday
Regular 9:00 AM Mass

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

Christmas Flower Offerings



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

Hobe & Susan Bauer

Frank & Lilian Brady

Bob & Cathy Buzzo

Vearl & Betty Clayton

John & Debbie Crist

John J. Crist, Sr., Elizabeth Crist

Ann Crist Byrd, Mary Ann Franklin,
Mary Williams

Angie Genovesi

Mary & Sam Genovesi

James & Valerie Hager

Julia Harrison

Frances Harrison

Tom Harrison

Frances & Robert Harrison

Katie Kidd

Daniel & Kathleen Kirk

Terry & Claire Lampert

J.W. and Joan Turner, Gene & Polly Lampert,

Jonathan Scott, Darrell Lawrence,

Beverly Gilmer Noakes

Natalie Lijoi

Mario A. Lijoi

Vickie Lijoi

Jimmy Maiolo

Carl & Linda Mariotti

Jimmie & Marilyn McCoy

Ray L. Shumate, Mary Shumate

Jay & Cathy Mullen

James & Barbara Musolin

Tulio & Linda Ramella

Johnny & Gina Rasi

The Baldrige Family, The Rasi Family

Michael & Debra Rebeck

Mitch Rebeck





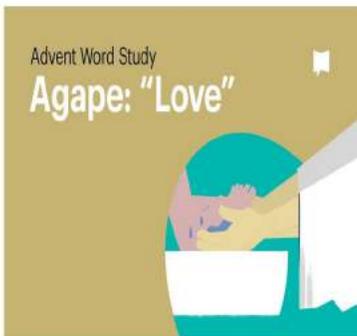
Catholic Charities West Virginia is on a mission to end poverty, one family at a time.

Join us! Please donate.

- Give to the second collection at Christmas masses
- Donate online at: www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org
- Mail donations to: 2000 Main Street, Wheeling, WV 26003



Come to me, all who are weary and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
-Matthew 11:28



FORMED® THE CATHOLIC FAITH. ON DEMAND.

Agape/Love | Advent: Word Studies | The Bible Project

The word "love" is one of the sloppiest words in our language, as it primarily refers to a feeling that happens to a person. In the New Testament, "love" refers to a way of treating people that was defined by Jesus himself: seeking the well-being of others regardless of their response.



Mary of Nazareth

What would it have been like to have known the Mother of God? Watch this beautiful film portraying the life of Mary in order to contemplate Mary's profound faith and the mysteries of her life.



O Holy Night, The King is Born: What Christmas Is About | Brother Francis

Celebrate the wonder and joy of Christmas with Brother Francis in this heartwarming presentation of the birth of God's Son! Witness the moving submission of Mary, Joseph, and others as they make way for our Savior.



OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY

With Deepest Sympathy we announce that Mason Giavanni Rasi passed away on November 23, 2023

We send our sincere condolences to
Jerry and Karen Rasi.
Mason was their Great Grandson.
And to Johnny & Gina Rasi.
Mason was their
Great Great Nephew.

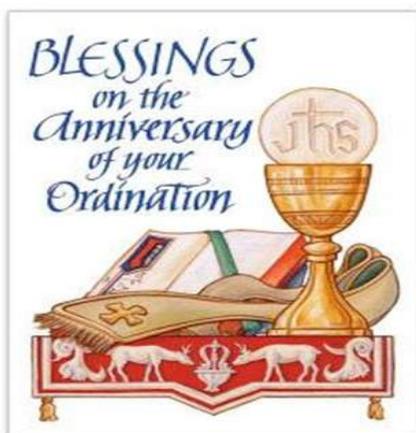
May our Lord comfort all of you and give peace to those who mourn and may Mason rest eternally in the arms of Jesus, and in the company of all the angels and saints.



A big thank you to the Family Life Committee for hosting the St. Nicholas Celebration for our kids. Thanks to Sherry Ciccolini for the planning, Courtney Longworth for photography, Kim Matzel Brown and Tommie Jo Longworth for serving, and to our middle and high school youth who helped with the event.

A special thanks to St. Nicholas our very own Terry Lampert

Congratulations Fr. Sebastian for the 29th Anniversary of your Ordination on December 31! If you would like to present him with a card, you can mail it to the parish office or hand it to him before or after Mass. With Sincere Thanks for your Ministry to Sacred Heart!



Altar Flowers

Altar Flowers were donated by Ron and Katie Goodwin in Loving Memory of the Deceased Members of the Goodwin and Kearns Families



Thank you to all those who donated gifts for the Angel Tree program. We are overjoyed and very grateful with how many parishioners participated this year.

December Ministry Schedule

Mass Date & Time	Sacristan	Rosary Leader	Altar Servers	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Hospitality	Collection Counters
12/16 Sat. 6 pm	T. Lowery	T. Lowery	F. Moran	D. Garton	1.C. Stacy 2.J. Stacy 3.P. Peretti	The Pascaio's	A. Robinson
12/17 Sun. 9 am	T. Lampert	C. Mulkey	A. Froy TBA	T. Lampert C. Ott	1.A. Robinson 2.C. Havens 3. K. Kirk	TBA	D. Duritza
12/23 Sat. 6 pm	TBA	M. Zalduondo	A. Peretti E. Peretti	M. Zalduondo F. Moran	1.V. Hager 2.T. Hager 3.L. Mariotti	J. Monaco	The Aiello's
12/24 Sun Regular 9 am	M. Malamisura	C. Mulkey	M. Malamisura	1.R. Ciccolini 2.G. Abromitis	1.K. Kirk 2.M. Romeo 3.S. Romeo	R. Malamisura	
12/24 4 pm Children's	P. Peretti	No Rosary	C. Tran R. Aiello	M. Rebuck S. Tran	1.A. Robinson 2.W. Aiello 3.G. Aiello	J. Monaco	Counted after Christmas
12/24 7 pm Christmas Eve	J. McCloud	No Rosary	D. Kelley D. Kelley	F. Moran	1.J. McCloud 2.D. Garton 3.TBA	TBA	Counted After Christmas
12/25 9am Christmas Day	M. Malamisura	No Rosary	S. Copolo M. Copolo	R. Ciccolini E. Abromitis	1.T. Lampert 2.M. Malamisura 3.S. Copolo	R. Malamisura	Ron Ciccolini Rocky Malamisura



Weekly Donations	weekend Dec 9-10	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Envelopes	13,439.00	222,967.90	234,000.00
Loose Offertory	706.00	21,156.60	18,750.00
Christmas Memorial Flowers	160.00	1,705.00	2,000.00
Holy Day Collections	325.00	3,555.00	1,000.00
Total Contributions	\$14,630.00	\$ 249,384.50	\$255,750.00
Fund Raisers-ornaments	815.20	4,439.20	0.00
Food Pantry	2,799.00	41,742.35	0.00
Dioc: Religious Retirement	1,460.00	1,560.00	0.00
Attendance:	6pm: 39	9am: 104	

Please Pray For:

Parishioners: George Aiello Sr, Jeanne Ameli, Peggy Austin, John Babbitt, Mary Jo Babbitt, Stephanie Blevins, Richard Canterbury, Loretta Carrigan, Sherry Ciccolini, Ron Ciccolini, Tony Colobro, Donella Crigger, Victoria Crofcheck, Teresa Derenge, Alex and Joanne Ercoline, Bryson Fanning, Debbie Ameli Froy, Angie Genovesi, Katie & Ron Goodwin, James (Tom) Hager, Mary Claire Keenan, Susan Kerr, Daniel Kirk, Claire Lampert, Tracy Lyon, Harold Mabardy, Sue Mazol, Mary McGonagle, Aalannah McPeak, Feleesha & Patrick Moran, Shane Neal, Jacob Nester, Patricia Nester, Ernesto Pascasio, Barbara Pickett, Nancy Pochick, Nancy & Dr. Anthony Rasi, Jerry Rasi, Kathy Richards, Rosalie Rocchetti, Sharon Rothausen, Rodney & Jami Rust, Mariam Salaita, Virginia Shumate, Wayne Shumate, Ann Switch, Laura Zande Taylor, Stella Mae Taylor, Joe Thomas, Jason and Clay Thomason, Theresa Thomason, Larry Zande Jr., Patricia & Larry Zande Sr., Kara Zande and Analeigh Dawn, Joan Zingale

Homebound Parishioners: Linda Angelelli, Joy Formica, Dolores Pritchett, Mitzi Romeo, Theresa Soulis

Friends & Family: Betty Akers, Andrew Arczynski, Sandy Arczynski, Jim Archer, Jeffery Arkland, Tim Arnold, Jack Asbury, Jonathon Bays, Robert Below, Maggie Blankenship, Cara Blankenship, Amanda Bolton, Vanessa Boyer, Teddy Bradshaw, Melissa Carnett, Sandy Cassidy, Michelle Coker, Chuck Comer, Harold Cutlip, Lisa Dalton, Barry Dinger, Kim Duesing, Christina Easton, Mike Farmer, Cathy Feather, Tina Fitzgerald, Phil Gesotti, Larry Gilliam, Mary and Colin Gillespie, Vincent Godfrey, Dr. James Godwin, DDS, Skip Harless, Becky Harris, Gary Haynes, Owen Hime, Claire Holt, Alpha Jean Holly, Shannon Honaker, Madilyn Humphreys, Josh Husband, Trish Johnson, Cyndi Jones, Joseph Justin, Sherry Khatib, Sandy Kegley, Melonie Koch, Charlotte Kohlmeier, Zoe Kotsko, Eddie Lanter, Dawn Lawless, Stan Lawson, Elaine Lilly, James & Pam Linkous, Susan Lively, John Paul Lovell, Jaysen Marshall, Jacob and Tara Matney, Andy McKoy, Brandon McKoy, Linda Meadows, Chase Miller, Kim & Doug Miller, Scott Morris, Jacob Morton, Helen Mullins, Jane Murphy, Ane Montarroyos, Bobby Neal, Shane Neal, Steven Nelcher, Jonny Phillips, Annette Pike, Barbara Polatz, Thomas Presley Sr., William Ray, Brian Richard, Roy Rogers, Keving Roland, Mayra Rolon, Charles Rose, Barbara Sadler, Rick Saunders, Brittany Scott, Courtney Shade, Devin Shamro, Raymond Shumate, Leanna Smith, Bryan Staten, Adam Stuart, Laurie Stuart, Robert Shade, Ellie Spencer, Teresa Taylor, Jim Thompson, Evelyn Turnbough, Sarah Turner, Cathleen Underwood, Debby VanBlaricom, Jane Walthall, Charlotte Woolwine

2nd Collection ~ January 13-14, 2023

In Light of the Hamas-Israeli war, Bishop Brennan has approved a special second collection for those struggling in the Holy Land. The money collected will be sent to The Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA), a papal agency for humanitarian and pastoral support. They will provide the essentials of water, food, and emergency kits on the ground in the Holy Land. CNEWA has offices in the region and know where and what kind of help is needed the most.

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 parish office.

Catholic Sharing Appeal

Goal: \$25,340

of Donations: 51

Amount Raised: \$68,484

[Donate – Catholic Sharing Appeal](#)

dwcministries.org



Dear Padre,

Was Jesus born in a stable or a cave? The Christmas scene in our church has Jesus born in a little shed, but in my friend's church it looks more like a cave. The Bible says Jesus was born in a manger, so just where was Jesus born?

The Christmas scenes, sometimes called Nativity scenes or crèches, vary from church to church. In Scripture, we find more details about the Nativity in Luke's Gospel, but even he simply says that Mary wrapped Jesus in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because the inn was full (Luke 2:7).

In none of the Scriptures do we have any details about what the place looked like, but since a manger is a place where caregivers feed livestock, we can assume that Jesus was born in a stable of some kind. At that time, small caves sometimes were used as stables.

Nativity scenes, though, are not an attempt to present a historically accurate picture of where Jesus was born. Rather, scenes of the birth of Jesus remind us of the special love that God shows for us in sending the Son to us. We do not care so much about creating an exact picture of what took place as we do of beholding the beauty and wonder of God born among us. ●



THE OFFICE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, ATTRIBUTED TO JACOBUS COEN

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org



DETAIL OF THE ISENHEIM ALTARPIECE BY MATTHIAS GRÜNEWALD. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

The Baptist is a model for those in the Church who are called to proclaim Christ to others: they are able to do so only by detaching from themselves and from worldliness, by not attracting people to themselves but directing them toward Jesus. This is joy: directing toward Jesus. And joy must be the characteristic of our faith.

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 13, 2020

MONDAY

December 18
Advent Weekday
Jer 23:5-8
Mt 1:18-25

TUESDAY

December 19
Advent Weekday
Jgs 13:2-7,
24-25a
Lk 1:5-25

WEDNESDAY

December 20
Advent Weekday
Is 7:10-14
Lk 1:26-38

THURSDAY

December 21
Advent Weekday
Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a
Lk 1:39-45

FRIDAY

December 22
Advent Weekday
1 Sm 1:24-28
Lk 1:46-56

SATURDAY

December 23
Advent Weekday
Mal 3:1-4,
23-24
Lk 1:57-66

SUNDAY

December 24
Fourth Sunday of Advent
2 Sm 7:1-5,
8b-12, 14a, 16
Rom 16:25-27 Lk 1:26-38

Timely topics viewed with a Catholic perspective

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