

[Elizabeth said to Mary,] “Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.”

LUKE 1:45

## Feeling Our Way

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**M**ost of the time we find ourselves backing our way into the will of God, or maybe even feeling our way into it. There are times when the will of God is quite clear: Should I lie or tell the truth? Should I steal or not? Most often, however, the will of God is not so clear. Too often it becomes a question of how to negotiate an aspect of life that’s been handed to us, often a reality we cannot escape. It may be an unwanted divorce, or a son or daughter in a questionable relationship, or an illness that dismantles one’s life plans. On the one hand, it is not as if God hands out scripts that we are expected to live by. On the other hand, God is part of all that unfolds. Somewhere in the midst of that is the will of God, which is another way of saying somehow you and I need to negotiate what we never chose, but is now served up by life. Or is it served up by God? Or by our own doing? Or all of that? That’s what I mean when I say we feel our way into the will of God.

It is what Jesus sorted out in the desert when he was tempted, “I come to do your will, O God.” It is Elizabeth’s story of an unexpected pregnancy in her old age. It is Mary saying “Yes” to an uncharted path. Living God’s will seems mostly to be a sorting process. ●

### Reflect

***Have you responded with a whole-hearted “Yes” to God’s will for you?***

# SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH



1003 WYOMING ST, BLUEFIELD, WV 24701

DECEMBER 21 & 22, 2024



## MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

### Saturday, December 21 - 6:00 PM

✠ Catsonis Family by Family

### Sunday, December 22 - 9:00 AM

✠ Arnold Family by Family

### Tuesday, December 24 - Children's Mass 4:00 PM

✠ People of the Parish

### Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Mass 7:00 PM

✠ People of the Parish

### Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas Day 9:00 AM

✠ Shelby Bowles by The Crigger Family

### Saturday, December 28 - 6:00 PM

✠ Mary Shumate by Delores Shumate

### Sunday, December 29 - 9:00 AM

✠ People of the Parish ( Pro Populo)



**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 23: Cancelled: Knights Meeting

December 24-25: 2nd Collection: Catholic Charities

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

January 4: Ordination Anniversary Dinner 7 pm

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

**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.*



# 4th Sunday of Advent

Dear Beloved Faithful,

As we gather on this beautiful Fourth Sunday of Advent, we find ourselves on the cusp of a profound celebration—the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. This season of waiting and anticipation draws to a close, inviting us to reflect on our journey together and the spiritual significance it holds for us.

Advent has always been a time of journey—not just the physical act of moving toward a destination but a deep spiritual pilgrimage within our hearts. Much like Mary and Joseph, who traveled to Bethlehem, we, as a congregation, are called to embark on a journey of deeper understanding and faith. This journey reminds us that our lives are not just a series of events but a progression toward grace and reconciliation. Each step draws us closer to God, nurturing our spirits and renewing our hope.

In today's readings, we witness the announcement of the miraculous birth of Jesus. In the Gospel of Luke, the angel Gabriel shares the incredible news with Mary, who, though initially perplexed, responds with profound faith. Mary's acceptance of God's plan reaffirms the theme of trust and surrender that resonates throughout our Advent journey. We are reminded that true faith often requires us to step into the unknown, holding fast to the belief that God's purpose will unfold in our lives.

As we light the fourth Advent candle today, a symbol of love, let us bask in the warmth and light it brings. This candle represents God's love for us, a love that comforts and guides us. It calls us to embody that love in our daily interactions, offering support, and extending forgiveness where it might be lacking. Love is a powerful force for reconciliation—it transforms hearts and mends broken relationships, bringing hope and comfort to all.

This Advent is a particularly opportune time to reflect on areas of our lives that may need healing. The call for reconciliation is not just essential, it's urgent. As we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ, let us seek to mend our relationship with God and strive to heal any rifts with those around us. Whether through a simple apology, a heartfelt conversation, or acts of kindness, our actions can bridge the gaps and draw us closer to one another as a community of faith.

Heavenly Father,

As we stand on the threshold of Your arrival,  
we thank You for the gift of this Advent season.

Help us embrace the love You offer so freely  
and guide us as we strive to share that love with others.

May our hearts be open to reconciliation,  
our spirits filled with hope,  
and our lives be a testament to Your grace.

As we light the fourth candle,  
fill us with the warmth of Your presence and  
prepare us to celebrate the joy of Christ's birth.

In Jesus' name, we pray,  
Amen.

May the light of this season illuminate your hearts and guide your steps as we approach the holy celebration ahead.

With love in Christ,

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 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

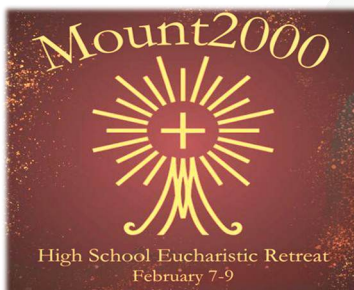
## OCIA

### **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, January 8th 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

## SACRAMENTAL NEWS



*Welcome to Sacred Heart!*

*And pray for Elise Marie Austin*

*Daughter of Brandon & Krystin Austin*

*God/Grandparents: Lane & Peggy Austin and Michelle Bourdua*

*Sister: Claire*

*Baptized on December 22, 2024*





**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



**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.



**Merry  
Christmas**

*On behalf of the Staff of Sacred Heart Parish, The Parish Pastoral Council, and The Parish Finance Council, We want to wish everyone A Merry Christmas! Your kindness and generosity are a blessing to our Faith Community. With warmest regards for your love and support.*

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

*On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, light all three violet and the rose candles on your Advent wreath and pray that the light of Christ will enter your heart so that you may share the warmth of God's love with those you meet.*



**BISHOP BRENNAN'S  
EVANGELIZATION INITIATIVE**

**COMING JANUARY OF 2025!**

A 10–15-MINUTE SURVEY will be available in January and will ask you to reflect on your own spiritual growth and enable you to provide your perspective on our parish's efforts to help you grow in relationship with Christ. All responses will be confidential, and the parish will only receive information about the community as a whole. **We will share the link with you a bit closer to the launch of the survey. Paper surveys will also be available for those who do not have the ability to complete the survey online.**



## 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

Angie Genovesi

Sam & Mary Genovesi

Tom & Valerie Hager

Nick Disibbio

Julia Harrison

Robert L. and Frances L. Harrison

Tom Harrison

Frances A. Harrison

Carol Havens

Percy Johnson

Margie Johnson

Danny & Kathy Kirk

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

Terry & Claire Lampert

Natalie Lijoi

Mario A. Lijoi

Vittoria Lijoi

Jimmy Maiolo

Rocky & Sandy Malamisura

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



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YEARS OF PRIESTHOOD

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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
12/21 Sat. 6 pm	M. Malamisura	M. Malamisura	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	P. Peretti	No Rosary	A. Peretti E. Peretti H. Wills K. Wills R. Aiello	M. Rebuck A. Froy K. Oakes R. West	1.C. Saunders 2.A. Robinson 3.TBA	R. Ciccolini J. Monaco	Counted after Christmas
12/24 7 pm Christmas Eve	T. Lampert	No Rosary	Dave Kelley	B. Buzzo	1.F. Moran 2.T. Lampert 3.K. Kirk		Counted After Christmas
			Davey Kelley	C. Lampert			
12/25 9am Christmas Day	M. Malamisura	No Rosary	Mary	R. Ciccolini	1.D. Garton 2.C. Havens 3.L. Mariotti	R. Ciccolini	Counted After Christmas
			Malamisura	D. Garton			
12/28 Sat. 6pm	J. McCloud	V. Hager	A. Peretti E. Peretti	F. Moran	1.L. Mariotti 2.T. Hager 3.J. McCloud		
12/29 Sun. 9 AM	T. Lampert				1.S. Copolo		
					2.T. Lampert 3.		

*Altar Flowers*

*Altar flowers were donated by Hobe and Susan Bauer*

*in loving memory of the deceased members of the Bauer and Gianato*



*Thank you to all those who helped the Liturgy Committee place decorations this year.*

*It was wonderful to see the beauty appear for our Advent and Christmas Seasons.*

*A thank you to Sherry Ciccolini for coordinating*





## 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, Frank Mamone, 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:** 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](mailto: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](http://www.ccwva.org)

Weekly Donations	weekend Dec 14-15	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Envelopes	15,201.00	259,278.20	233,000.00
Maintenance	200.00	4,229.00	5,000.00
Loose Offertory	275.00	22,680.20	23,800.00
Holiday Flowers	85.00	1,987.00	2,500.00
Holy Day Collections	342.00	3,301.00	5,000.00
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$16,103.00</b>	<b>\$ 291,475.40</b>	<b>\$269,300.00</b>
Food Pantry	699.00	26,660.00	0.00
DWC: Religious Retirement	75.00	1,634.00	1,500.00
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>6pm: 47</b>	<b>9am: 93</b>	

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](http://www.Unitours.com/traveler)



We have raised **\$46,511** for the Catholic Sharing Appeal. Which has surpassed our goal of \$24,620!

Thank you everyone for your generous donations.

**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.

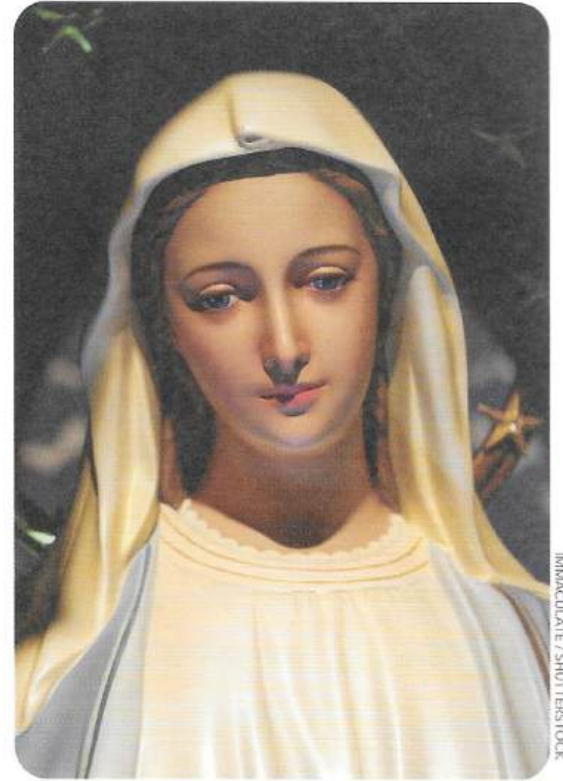
**Nursing homes & Hospitals:** are not permitted to contact the church. If someone you know is in the hospital, please call the church office.

# Dear Padre,

## Where does the Hail Mary prayer come from?

The Hail Mary owes its origin to the rosary. The traditional story of the rosary was that Mary herself appeared to St. Dominic in the twelfth century and gave him the rosary with the promise that if he spread devotion to the rosary, his religious order would flourish. In the twelfth century, religious orders recited together the 150 psalms as a way to mark the hours of the day and the days of the week. In order to pray the psalms, though, people had to know how to read. People who didn't know how to read wanted to share in the practice, so the rosary, or praying on beads, began as a parallel prayer practice. It was a way that illiterate people could remember the Lord and his Mother throughout the day.

The first rosaries consisted of a string of 150 beads, and, much as we do now, a person would pass over each bead after saying a prayer, usually the Our Father. Later, people added the Archangel Gabriel's greeting—"Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee"—and later still, Elizabeth's prayer we hear in today's Gospel—"Blessed art thou among women." Finally this prayer was added in the sixteenth century: "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death." ●



IMMACULATE / SHUTTERSTOCK

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
December 23 Advent Weekday Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 Lk 1:57-66	December 24 Advent Weekday 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Lk 1:67-79	December 25 Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Is 52:7-10 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14	December 26 St. Stephen, First Martyr Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Mt 10:17-22	December 27 St. John, Apostle and Evangelist 1 Jn 1:1-4 Jn 20:1a, 2-8	December 28 Holy Innocents, Martyrs 1 Jn 1:5-2:2 Mt 2:13-18	December 29 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28 Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24 Lk 2:41-52

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



YARA NARDI / CNS

## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*Do I move forward with hope...? We can also ask for...the grace of a healthy sense of humor: it does so much good.... The first act of charity we can do for our neighbors is to offer them a serene and smiling face. It is bringing the joy of Jesus to them, as Mary did with Elizabeth.*

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 19, 2021