

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph...and the virgin's name was Mary.

LUKE 1:26-27

THE ANNUNCIATION, HENRY OSSAWA TANNER, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Wondering Why

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

The old axiom goes: if you want to make God laugh, tell God your plans. All too often the vision God has for us takes us in quite varying directions. The stories of King David and of Mary echo such realities. David, who wanted to build a temple for the Ark of the Covenant so God would not need to live in a tent, had his plans nixed, only to be reminded that it is *God* who does the building in life and not David. And Mary, who found herself confused over how she might conceive, was asked to simply trust and place her life in the hands of God. Both said “yes.”

There are always times when the unfolding path of God for us may unsettle us: the complexities of immigrants at our doorstep, the changing demographics of our cities, the need to close or merge parishes, the upheavals of our personal lives. We find ourselves asking why without receiving any answers. Each time there is no answer, consider it an invitation to trust in a power greater than ourselves.

Not all rhythms of life are necessarily caused by the hand of God, but then one can never be sure. Who is to say where and how and through whom God works? Christmas comes as a reminder that God's love and presence still unfolds in varied and new ways, always giving birth again and again to the divine made flesh in our lives. The mystery of the Incarnation points to this truth: God is present in all of life. ●

Reflect

Have you ever had your plans unsettled in a way that turned out, in the end, to be a gift from God?

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH



1003 WYOMING ST, BLUEFIELD, WV 24701



DECEMBER 23-25, 2023

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 23- 6:00 PM

† Elizabeth Linkous by Family

Sunday, December 24- 9:00 AM

† Fran Derenge by Barbara Lynch

Monday, December 25- 9:00 AM

† Members of St. Anne's by St. Anne's Altar Society

Tuesday, December 26- Noon

† No Mass

Wednesday, December 27- 9:00 AM

† No Mass

Saturday, December 30 - 6:00 PM

† Mary Shumate by Delores Shumate

Sunday, December 31 - 9:00 AM

† People of the Parish

Holiday Mass Schedule

4th Sunday of Advent

December 23, Saturday 6:00 pm

December 24, Sunday 9:00 am

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

December 24, Sunday: Children's Mass 4:00 pm

December 24, Sunday: Christmas Eve 7:00 pm

December 25, Monday: Christmas Day 9:00 am

Please Note: The Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent does not fulfill the obligation to attend one of the Christmas Masses, nor do the Christmas Masses fulfill the obligation to attend the Mass on the 4th Sunday of Advent.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

Merry Christmas

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Merry Christmas my beloved Sacred Heart family! My heart is filled with joy and gratitude for the opportunity to share this special time with each of you. Christmas is a time of great spiritual significance as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who came to bring light and hope to a world in darkness.

As we reflect on the true meaning of Christmas, let us remember the humble beginnings of our Lord, born in a stable surrounded by animals and visited by shepherds. May we be reminded that it is not the grandeur of our surroundings that matters, but the purity and sincerity of our hearts.

Let us also remember those less fortunate and extend a hand of love and compassion to those in need. May our celebrations reflect the generosity and kindness that Christ himself showed during his time on earth.

This year has been a challenging one for many of us, but as we gather together with our families and friends, let us take comfort in the knowledge that we are never alone. Christ is always with us, guiding us along the path of righteousness and leading us towards eternal life.

May the spirit of Christmas fill your hearts with peace, love, and hope. May you be blessed with the joy of Christ's presence in your life, and may your celebrations be a testament to the goodness and greatness of our Lord.

I pray that this Christmas season will be a time of renewal and spiritual growth for each of you, and that you will continue to be a shining example of Christ's love in the world.

With love and blessings,

Fr. Sebastian



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.

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 24 ~ Children to participate at 4pm Christmas Eve Mass

December 31 ~ **NO** Faith Formation for HolidayJanuary 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.

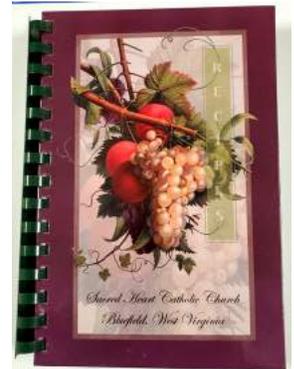
Sacred Heart Cookbooks

The Sacred Heart Cookbooks celebrating the Church Building's 100th anniversary have arrived!

Cynthia Stacy will be at the 4th Sunday of Advent Masses giving out cookbooks for those who would like one prior to Christmas.

They are selling for \$15 per cookbook.

Please call Cynthia Stacy at 304-952-3534 or the parish office at 304-327-5623 after Christmas to pick-up a Cookbook.

***Altar Flowers***

The Altar Flowers are donated by The Family of Sacred Heart

***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.



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

It was wonderful to have such large groups and see the beauty appear for our Advent and Christmas Seasons.

A thank you to Sherry Ciccolini for coordinating everything.



Christmas Flower Offerings



Thank you to all who donated:

In Memory/Honor of.....

Randy & Cynthia Albert

Mary, Ken, and Roger Mash,
Mary & Bill Albert, Patsy Malamisura,
Rose Pendleton, Nancy & Bill Densmore,
Ada Mae Williams, Hattie Mash

Hobe & Susan Bauer

Frank & Lilian Brady

Bob & Cathy Buzzo

Richard Canterbury

Ralph K. Canterbury Sr., Evelyn Canterbury,
Ralph K. Canterbury Jr., Kay Canterbury Cox,
Robert William Hanes

O. Perry & Mary Clark

Vearl & Betty Clayton

John & Debbie Crist

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

Robert & Joanne Ercoline

Angie Genovesi

James & Valerie Hager

Julia Harrison

Tom Harrison

Katie Kidd

Daniel & Kathleen Kirk

Terry & Claire Lampert

Mary & Sam Genovesi

Frances Harrison

Frances & Robert Harrison

J.W. and Joan Turner, Gene & Polly Lampert,
Jonathan Scott, Darrell Lawrence,
Beverly Gilmer Noakes

Natalie Lijoi

Vickie Lijoi

Carl & Linda Mariotti

Jean McCloud

Jimmie & Marilyn McCoy

Mary McGonagle

Jay & Cathy Mullen

James & Barbara Musolin

Monty & Deborah Ramella

Tulio & Linda Ramella

Johnny & Gina Rasi

Michael & Debra Rebeck

John & Cynthia Stacy

Jay & Pat Valeyko

Stephen & Laura Ward

Mario A. Lijoi

Jimmy Maiolo

Barry McCloud

Ray L. Shumate, Mary Shumate

The Baldrige Family, The Rasi Family

Mitch Rebeck

John & Pat Stacy



December Ministry Schedule

Mass Date & Time	Sacristan	Rosary Leader	Altar Servers	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Hospitality	Collection Counters
12/23 Sat. 4th Sunday of Advent 6 pm	P. Peretti	V. Hager	A. Peretti E. Peretti	F. Moran	1.V. Hager 2.T. Hager 3.L. Mariotti	J. Monaco	The Aiello's
12/24 Sun 4th Sunday of Advent 9 am	M. Malamisura	C. Mulkey	M. Malamisura	R. Ciccolini 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 On-Call Minister: Connie Saunders	J. Monaco	
12/24 7 pm Christmas Eve	J. McCloud	No Rosary	D. Kelley D. Kelley	F. Moran	1.J. McCloud 2.D. Garton 3.M. Malamisura	The Pascasio's	
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	
12/30 Sat. 6pm	Theresa Lowery	V. Hager	TBA	F. Moran V. Hager	1.V. Hager 2.T. Hager 3.C. Saunders	The Pascasio's	
12/31 Sun. 9 am	Greg & Callie Winfree	Terry Lampert	Hadley Wills Keegan Wills	A. Rebuck C. Ott	1.K. Kidd 2.M. Romeo 3.S. Romeo	S. Copolo	TBA



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

Weekly Collection	weekend Dec 16-17	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Envelopes	9,062.00	232,029.90	239,500.00
Loose Offertory	534.00	21,690.60	19,375.00
Christmas memorial Flowers	175.00	1,880.00	2,000.00
Total Contributions	\$ 9,771.00	\$ 255,600.50	\$260,875.00
Food Pantry	520.00	42,262.35	0.00
Dioc: Religious Retirement	150.00	1,710.00	0.00
Attendance:	6pm: 50	9am: 90	



The Derenge Family wishes to thank all those who prayed, sent cards, and asked about our mother Frances the last months leading up to her passing into the open arms of our Heavenly Father. Your expressions of love and support gave us comfort to know that Mom's love was received and share by everyone she touched.

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 Deringe, 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 Kohlmeyer, 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, Joyce 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

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

Thank You for Your Donations!

Dear Padre,

The Bible talks about Jesus' brothers and sisters. Is there scriptural proof that Jesus was Mary's only child?

The Catholic Church's position is that Mary had only one child; her son called Jesus. Yet there are at least ten scriptural references to "the brothers of Jesus" or to his "sisters" (see Matthew 13:55–56, Mark 6:3, and Luke 8:19–21).

The difficulty is that the meaning of the term "brothers" (translated from the Greek *adelphos*) isn't restricted to the sharing of a parent. On the contrary, it may not only refer to other relatives, including cousins, but also to close relationships, such as disciples. This is not unlike how we might refer to "brothers in arms" as those who fought in a war together, or a religious order of brothers or sisters.

Recall, too, that Jesus and his disciples spoke Aramaic, and there is no equivalent for the meaning of "cousins" as we know it in that language. Instead, the word for brother or sister was used when referring to cousins. Thus, when St. Jerome (*circa* 340–420) translated the Bible from Hebrew into Church Latin, he considered "the brothers of Jesus" as cousins, not siblings. After all, it would have been the rightful responsibility of these male relatives of Jesus to take care of Mary when Jesus died. Yet Jesus entrusts his mother to the care of his beloved disciple John (John 19:26). ●



VIRGIN AND CHILD, ASIA (ARTIST UNKNOWN)

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
December 25 <i>Nativity of the Lord</i>	December 26 <i>St. Stephen, the First Martyr</i>	December 27 <i>St. John, Apostle and Evangelist</i>	December 28 <i>Holy Innocents, Martyrs</i>	December 29 <i>Christmas Weekday</i>	December 30 <i>Christmas Weekday</i>	December 31 <i>Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph</i>
Is 52:7–10 Heb 1:1–6 Jn 1:1–18 or 1:1–5, 9–14	Acts 6:8–10; 7:54–59 Mt 10:17–22	1 Jn 1:1–4 Jn 20:1a, 2–8	1 Jn 1:5–2:2 Mt 2:13–18	1 Jn 2:3–11 Lk 2:22–35	1 Jn 2:12–17 Lk 2:36–40	Sir 3:2–6, 12–14 Col 3:12–21 or 3:12–17 Lk 2:22–40 or 2:22, 39–40

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Let us ask our Lady for a grace...that she kindle our enthusiasm for the ideal of holiness which is not a matter of holy cards and images, but is about living what happens each day, humbly and joyfully...with our eyes fixed on God and the neighbor we meet.

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 8, 2021