



With many such parables [Jesus] spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it.

MARK 4:33

## Life Happens

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**T**he adage that “life is what happens to us as we’re busy doing other things” seems to be a rewording of this week’s Gospel about the kingdom of heaven, namely about God’s reigning activity in our lives. It is a parable about a man who sows seeds in his field. The seeds sprout, grow, and bear fruit, all without his knowing how. In effect, the message says that it is *God* who happens to us as we’re busy doing other things.

We tend to convince ourselves that we have complete control over our lives, when in reality that is somewhat of an illusion. Though we may decide what we will have for dinner, what TV program to watch, or what we will wear, we have much less control over the portions of life that so often give meaning and shape to who we are. The person someone marries

is dependent upon the mutual commitment of the two people in love. The degree of job satisfaction we eagerly hope to find can partly depend upon the people with whom we work and the expectations of others. “We walk by faith and not by sight” reveals that we recognize the reigning presence of God bringing us to a life we’d never imagined. In reality, the one thing we do have control over is how we respond to life’s events, which can then open us to the ways by which God brings us to fruitful abundance. ●

### Reflect

**Think of three of your blessings:  
How much did you have to do  
with their coming about?**

# SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH

1003 WYOMING ST, BLUEFIELD, WV 24701

JUNE 15 & 16, 2024

## MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

### Saturday, June 15- 6:00 PM

✠ Sandra Johnson by James & Donella Crigger

### Sunday, June 16- 9:00 AM

✠ Josefina Marrella & Family by Vittoria Lijoi

### Tuesday, June 18- Noon

✠ NO MASS

### Wednesday, June 19- 9:00 AM

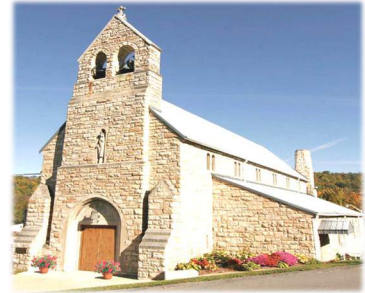
✠ Irene Sash by Cathy & Carl Cook

### Saturday, June 22- 6:00 PM

✠ Vivian Romano by Cherie Lambert

### Sunday, June 23- 9:00 AM

✠ 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  
By Appointment

**Food Pantry Hours:**  
Wednesday 10:00am -2:00 pm

## UPCOMING EVENTS

June 17-19: Vacation Bible School

June 24: Summer Talk Session by Joe Derico 6 pm

June 24: Knights of Columbus Meeting 7 pm

June 29: Men's Day of Recollection 9am - 3 pm

July 1: Seminarian Summer Talk by Joe Derico 6 pm

July 4: Independence Day

July 5: First Friday Mass and Benediction 6 pm

July 8: Knights of Columbus Meeting 7 pm

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION SCHEDULE

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

June 21 ~ Princeton                      July 12~ Princeton

June 28~ Bluefield                         July 26~ Bluefield

## 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

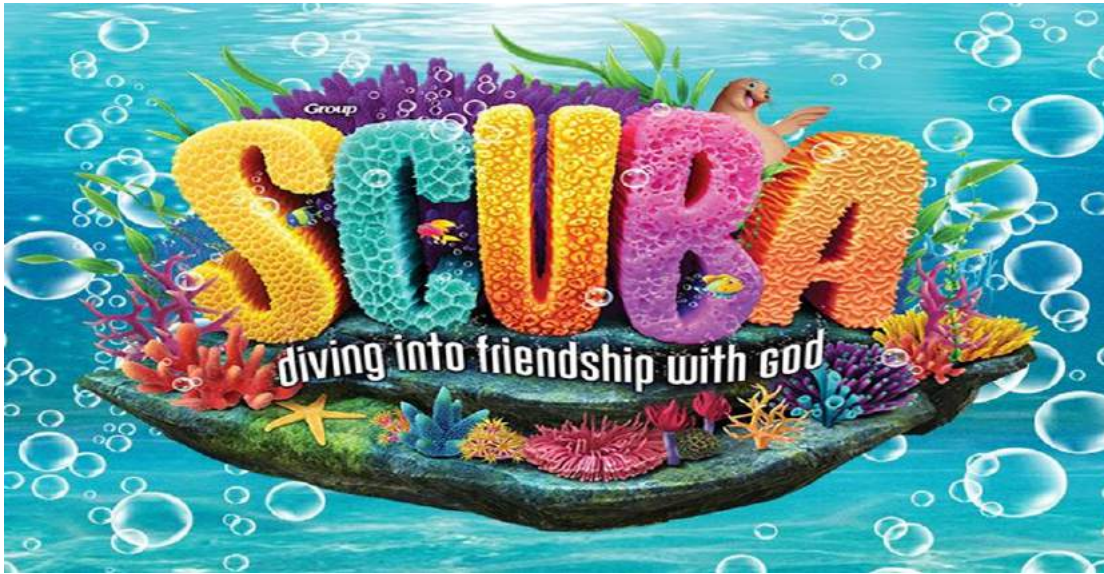
**PARISH SECRETARY:** Lucy Brinegar  
lbrinegar@sacredheartblfd.org

**PARISH BOOKKEEPER:** Kim Hickman  
Khickman@sacredheartblfd.org

**NEWMAN CENTER:** 304-534-8093

*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.*





*The Best Time of the Summer!*

*\*New Friends \*Amazing Crafts \*Creative Games  
\*Delicious Snacks \*Surprising Video Adventures \*Incredible Music*

## ***Vacation Bible School 2024***

***Location: Sacred Heart Bluefield***

***VBS will last from: June 17 ~ 19***

***Monday & Tuesday ~ 6-8pm***

***Wednesday ~ 6-8:30pm***

*Each day's fun begins at 6:00pm in the lounge with Music and Snacks*

*We move to the School for Games, Video Adventures, and Crafts*

*Kids should be picked up in the school/gym each night.*

*Note: The last night will be extended until 8:30.*

***For more info or if you can help,***

*call: 304-327-5623 and ask for Julia*

*Or email: [julia@sacredheartblfd.org](mailto:julia@sacredheartblfd.org)*

*Registration forms are in the back of the Church*

# RECONCILIATION TIMES

Jesus entrusted the ministry of reconciliation to the Church. The Sacrament of Penance is God's gift to us so that any sin committed after Baptism can be forgiven. Sacred Heart Church is increasing the opportunities to have reconciliation.

Fr. Sebastian will be available for Reconciliation

- Prior to the start of Saturday and Sunday Mass
- During Eucharistic Adoration
- By Appointment



## Liturgy + Picnic = LitNic

Summer LitNics are back and being scheduled! We share the liturgy for spiritual growth followed by the picnic for fellowship and good food. Are you interested in having mass at your house for neighborhood friends? The host family is responsible for paper good and drinks. Those attending please bring a potluck dish. LitNics begin at 6 PM on Wednesdays. If you would like to host a Litnic please contact Ann Robinson at 304-887-2421.

**Current Dates**


- June 26<sup>th</sup> - OPEN
- July 3<sup>rd</sup> - Claude & Annette Morgan
- July 10<sup>th</sup> - OPEN
- July 30<sup>th</sup> - Ralph & Linda Modena
- Aug 7<sup>th</sup> - George & Wendi Aiello
- Aug 14<sup>th</sup> - Kenny & Theresa Bales
- Aug 21<sup>st</sup> - Stephen & Laura Ward




## CRUSADERS YOUTH MINISTRY

### UPCOMING SCHEDULE

**June 17-19** - We will be volunteering to help with Vacation Bible School. Join us for a fun week!



## RCIA

*The next RCIA Meetings will be Wednesday, June 26 at 5 pm in the school.*

*There will be no meeting June 19th due to VBS.*

## Summer Talk Series

### by Seminarian Joe Derico

Monday, June 24 - 6:00 pm ~Bluefield  
Tuesday, June 25 - 6:30 pm ~ Princeton



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Gaudium et Spes: The Church in the Modern World and Vatican II

**Fr. Sebastian and the Office Staff of Sacred Heart wish all Fathers a joyous and blessed Father's Day!**

**The Bluefield Knights of Columbus wish all Men of the parish a Happy Father's Day!**

**Please be sure to pick up your present after Mass!**

## Sacred Heart History Book

A NEW BOOK ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH IS BEING WRITTEN.

What are your favorite memories of our parish or school?  
Please share them!

If you have photos (label date and people) or memories you would like to share, please email them to [tbales54@gmail.com](mailto:tbales54@gmail.com) or give them to Theresa Bales at church.

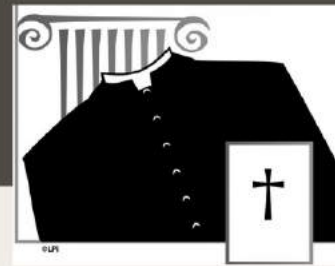


# LET'S TALK



#4

with  
Seminarian Joe Derico



## My Lord and My God!

We long for His love, for His understanding, for His mercy, and often, for His intervention in our lives. We often leave God at a distance until we need Him, we ask Him to intervene when our loved ones are ill or hurt, whenever there is some war tearing apart the world, or when we find ourselves in a difficult spot. We do everything we can to fix the problem ourselves, yet we cannot possibly be able to do so. We try and stop a war using our own means, but then, when things finally seem utterly hopeless, we turn to God. We beg, we make a mess of ourselves, we cry, we would do anything for the Lord to intervene. Yet when He does, we do not thank Him, we do not continue in relationship with Him, but rather we go back to the same thing we were doing before, doing the best we can on our own.

Three years into seminary formation, I have been making a holy hour each day, as part of the expectations of my seminary formators. I will readily admit that it was initially one of the most dreaded parts of my day. My schedule would say “Holy Hour” and I would think “Time to go stare at Jesus for an Hour”. Obviously, this was not the correct response on my part, and I have long since seen the error of my ways. I now see my holy hour as the crux of my day, tantamount only to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, it is truly the most important thing I do each day. I wish however, to return to the statement I made just a moment ago, because there is some truth there.

Whenever I first began making a holy hour, I had literally no clue what I was doing. I would walk into the chapel, do the genuflection thing, and shuffle into my pew. Then I would kneel, and rather instinctively make the sign of the cross, but then...I had no clue what to do. The feeling was utterly terrifying. College is supposed to be a time for growth, making decisions for oneself, being in control, and yet I found myself with no control at all. What was I supposed to do?

So, I did the only thing I knew how to do, when I didn't know what to do, I stared at Jesus. “Hold on, what, this makes no sense” You're right, it doesn't, but it was all that I was able to muster for those first couple of weeks. An hour every day, I was taking the time to sit in silence, unplugged from the world, just Jesus and I, in the chapel, and all I could do, was stare. It seems rather absurd.

In an hour I could have done so many things, homework, reading, singing, playing games, working out, or even wasting that time, would have seemed preferable, to having to realize that I wasn't in control of it. How could I possibly give up a whole hour to be with the Lord? These are truly the thoughts that went through my head, but in staring at Jesus all of those days I came to realize that I was reducing my time in a holy hour to wasted time, when I was at the liberty of another, yet in staring, I saw the error of my ways. “Oh wait, the Lord who gave me life, who makes himself vulnerable to me in the Eucharist, who forgives my sins, and pardons my transgressions. Yeah, I couldn't possibly give an hour to that guy.”

What an absurd thought, I was being selfish. God created me, so that I could worship him, and I can't even give up a measly hour of my day. We were meant to pray.

**June Ministry Schedule**

Mass Date Time	Sacristan	Rosary Leader	Altar Servers	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Hospitality	Collection Counters
Sat. 6/15 6:00 pm	T. Lowery	D. Garton	P. Buenafe	T. Behrmann	1.T. Hager 2.A. Peretti 3.L. Mariotti	The Pascasio's	D. Shumate M. McCoy
Sun. 6/16 9:00 am	M. Malamisura	M. Malamisura	C. Tran	B. Buzzo	1.M. Malamisura 2.K. Kirk 3.TBA	St. Copolo	
			A. Froy	R. Albert			
Sat. 6/22 6:00 pm	P. Peretti	TBA	TBA	TBA	1.P. Peretti 2.C. Saunders 3.T. Hager	J. Monaco	W. Aiello G. Aiello
Sun. 6/23 9:00 am	T. Lampert	T. Lampert	R. Aiello	A. Torrez	1.A. Robinson 2.W. Aiello 3.G. Aiello	R. Malamisura	
			A. Zinsmeister	R. Ciccolini			
Sat. 6/29 6:00 PM	P. Buenafe	P. Buenafe	D. Kelley	T. Behrmann	1.F. Moran 2.J. McCloud 3.T. Hager	The Pascasio's	B. Buzzo T.J. Longworth
			A. Zinsmeister				
Sun. 6/30 9:00 AM	M. Malamisura	M. Malamisura	T. Brown	B. Musolin	1.K. Kirk 2.C. Havens 3.TBA	R. Ciccolini	
			A. Froy	T. Bales			

**MEN'S DAY OF RECOLLECTION**



Join us for a day of spiritual renewal, focused on strengthening your faith and enhancing your commitment to God and his church. Come and experience God's transformative power as he molds you into the Man he created you to be.



**WE WILL OFFER:**

- Rosary
- Confession
- Prayer
- Talks
- Prayer
- Shared Graces

**HOST: SEMINARIAN JOE DERICO**

Saturday, June 29, 2024

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Sacred Heart Church Bluefield

Registration is Free - Lunch is Provided  
Please register by calling the church office at  
304-425-3664 or scan the QR Code



Join our

**WEBSTER SPRINGS WORK CAMP**

July 6-12

*Ora et Labora: Prayer and Work For Rising 10th Graders to Seniors in College*

For More info or to register, visit the Parish Office or talk to Joe Derico  
Requested \$50 donation-Scholarships Available



## Sacred Heart Prayer List

**Parishioners:** George Bowling, Mary Bruch, Loretta Carrigan, Ron Ciccolini, Donella Crigger, Benny Disibbio, Angie Genovesi, Daniel Kirk, Claire Lampert, Tommie Jo Longworth, Claude Morgan, Sharon Rothausen

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

**Friends & Family:** Teddy Bradshaw, Loretta Carrigan, Patrick Clark, Chuck Comer, Christina Easton, Fr. Chapin Engler, Jason Fortney, Steve Hamm, Yael Issacs, Sandy Kegley, Sherry Khatib, Stan Lawson, Bob Mahood, Connor McKenzie, Laura Lee Null, Christina Rochester, Leanna Smith, Larry Sarever, Cathleen Underwood, Debby VanBlaricom, Steve Vaught

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)



We have raised \$26,966

We have surpassed our goal of \$24,620!

Thanks everyone for your generous donations!

Please continue to donate if you can!

Weekly Contributions	weekend Jun 8/9	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Envelopes	3,586.00	120,869.10	101,500.00
Loose Offertory	241.00	10,577.00	11,000.00
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$3,827.00</b>	<b>\$131,446.10</b>	<b>\$112,500.00</b>
Food Pantry	659.00	13,343.00	0.00
Dioc: Catholic Relief Services	10.00	1,036.00	1,000.00
Dioc: Peter's Pence	1,084.00	1,084.00	1,000.00
Attendance:	6pm: 55	9am: 84	



THE CATHOLIC FAITH.  
ON DEMAND.

### Episode 124: Dryness in Prayer

Probably the most important relationship in our life is our relationship with God, and we are building that through prayer. Prayer is real – it's for everyone, but we know that prayer is not always easy. Sometimes it can even be really hard.



### 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,

*Why did Jesus always speak in parables?  
Why didn't he give us clearer answers?*

Parables are short, relatable stories. Their simple images or comparisons convey a moral or religious lesson and put us in touch with the mystery of God and ourselves. Thus, parables confront the hearer or reader with a radical choice to enter God's kingdom: "One must enter the kingdom, that is, become a disciple of Christ, in order to 'know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven' (Matthew 13:11). For those who stay 'outside,' everything remains enigmatic" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 546).

About a third of Jesus' recorded teachings are in parable form. After the Pharisees rejected Jesus (Matthew 12:14), he immediately changed his straightforward preaching to parables. This fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet: "I will open my mouth in parables, I will announce what has lain hidden from the foundation [of the world]" (Matthew 13:35; see Psalm 78:2).

Parables are intended to reveal as much about us as they do about God. As John Shea writes in *Stories of God*, "God not only loves to hear our stories, God loves to tell stories. And, quite simply, we are the story God tells." In the telling, we ourselves are told. The timeless, universal stories of Jesus speak to us at different stages of life and provide multiple levels of meaning to the openhearted. ●



RETURN OF THE PRODIGAL SON, GUERCINO / WIKICOMMONS

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org)

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
June 17	June 18	June 19	June 20	June 21	June 22	June 23
Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	St. Aloysius	Weekday	Twelfth Sunday
1 Kgs 21:1-16	1 Kgs 21:17-29	2 Kgs 2:1, 6-14	Sir 48:1-14	Gonzaga,	2 Chr 24:17-25	in Ordinary Time
Mt 5:38-42	Mt 5:43-48	Mt 6:1-6, 16-18	Mt 6:7-15	Religious	Mt 6:24-34	Jb 38:1, 8-11
				2 Kgs 11:1-4,		2 Cor 5:14-17
				9-18, 20		Mk 4:35-41
				Mt 6:19-23		



## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*It may happen that we get discouraged, because we see the weakness of good as compared to the apparent power of evil.... The Gospel asks us to take a fresh look at ourselves and at reality...to discover the presence of God who as humble love is always at work in the soil of our life....*

ANGELUS, ROME, JUNE 13, 2021

VARUNA / SHUTTERSTOCK