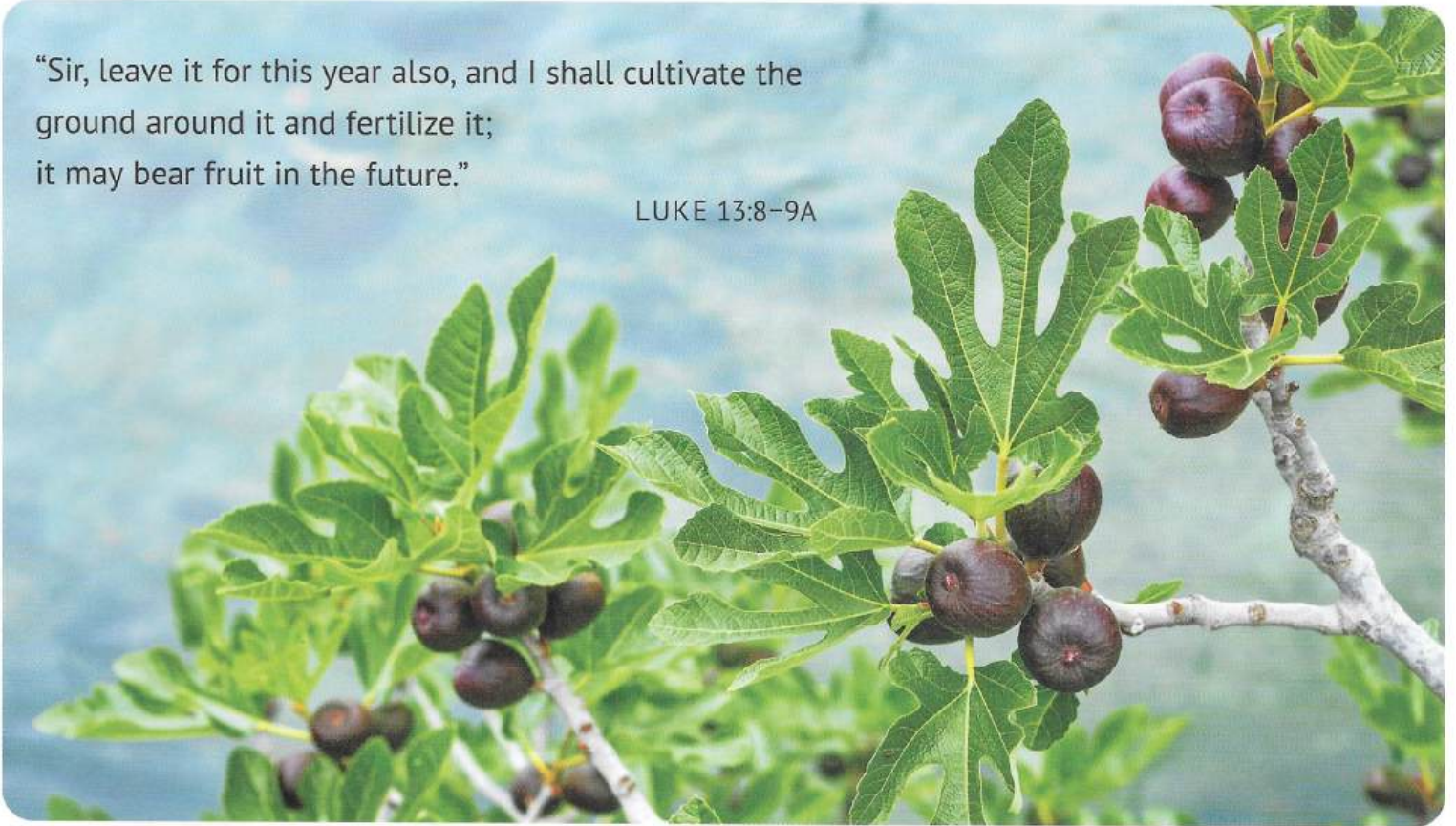




“Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future.”

LUKE 13:8–9A



A Gardener God

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Charles Baudelaire was a French poet and essayist in the mid-1800s. He once observed that life is like a hospital in which each patient is possessed by the desire to change beds. In other words, he thought everyone seemed to think life would be so much better if only they had a different set of circumstances, a different job, a different marriage, a different place in life. Like trees, however, not everyone grows and matures at the same pace. There are forty-year-olds who still act and think like teenagers, and there are ten-year-olds who have an attitude toward life like that of an elder. Over time, we all grow into the lives we're given.

In this week's Parable of the Barren Fig Tree, some think God is like the owner who planted the tree, as

if God is impatient with us to begin bearing fruit and quick to uproot us if we fail. A case could be made, however, for God to be the gardener who patiently fertilizes and nurtures. In the beginning, it was God who had a garden called Eden, filled with all kinds of trees and plants among which God walked with Adam and Eve in the cool of the evening. After the resurrection, it was Mary Magdalene who went looking for the body of Jesus and mistook him for the gardener. It is God who hovers over us, watering and nudging and nurturing, waiting until in God's good time, we begin to bear fruit. ●

Reflect

***What needs nurturing in my life,
and what needs weeding out?***

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH

1003 WYOMING ST, BLUEFIELD, WV 24701

MARCH 22 & 23, 2025

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 22 - 6:00 PM

✠ Kenneth Franklin by Knights of Columbus

Sunday, March 23- 9:00 AM

✠ Dr. Brian Richards by Ron & Sherry Ciccolini

Tuesday, March 25 - 12 Noon

✠ Charles & Opal Garton by Deborah Garton & Fred Butler

Wednesday, March 26 – 9:00 AM

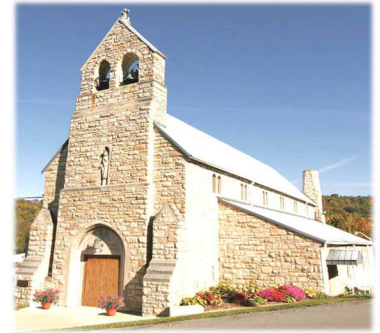
✠ No Mass ~ Due to Funeral in Princeton

Saturday, March 29 - 6:00 PM

✠ Fr. James Murphy by Fred Butler & Deborah Garton

Sunday, March 30- 9:00 AM

✠ Monty Ramella by Loretta Hammond



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

March 22-23: 2nd Collection: Diocesan Priest Retirement

March 23: Third Sunday of Lent

March 24: Knights of Columbus Meeting 6 pm

March 28: Stations of the Cross 6: 00 pm

March 29-30: CSA Commitment Weekend

March 30: Fourth Sunday of Lent

April 2: Mass with Healing Prayer 6:00 pm

April 4: Stations of the Cross at 5:30 pm

followed by First Friday Mass at 6:00 pm

April 5-6: St. Anne's Bake Sale

April 5-6: Knights Annual Spaghetti Dinner

STATIONS OF THE CROSS SCHEDULE

Every Friday during Lent. No Adoration during Lent.

March 28 at 6:00 pm ~ Centering Prayer Group

April 4 at 5:30 pm ~ Sacred Heart Food Pantry

CHURCH STAFF

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

sdevasya@dwc.org

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE: Julia Harrison, M.A.A.T.

304-396-5706

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 Lent



Dear beloved Sacred Heart Family,

Grace and peace to you on this Third Sunday of Lent! As we approach the midpoint of our Lenten journey, we are called deeper into reflection and renewal. This is a season of penance, prayer, fasting, and charity, a time to purify our hearts and draw closer to God in preparation for the joyful celebration of Easter.

Today, we celebrate the First Scrutiny in the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA). The scrutinies are an important part of the Lenten season, particularly for those preparing for baptism at Easter. These rites examine the lives of the catechumens, inviting them to turn away from sin and embrace the light of Christ. Through these scrutinies, we are reminded of the importance of self-reflection, repentance, and deepening our commitment to God.

In the Gospel reading for the third Sunday of Lent, we hear the story of Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:5-42). This conversation exemplifies the need for spiritual thirst to be quenched by the living water of Christ. It is in Christ that we find our true fulfillment, just as the woman at the well was invited to recognize her most profound need and find satisfaction in Him. As we fast and examine our lives during Lent, we, too, are invited to drink deeply from the well of Christ's mercy and grace.

Fasting is the second of Lent's three pillars. It is a discipline that nurtures both the body and the soul. Through fasting, we remove the distractions and excesses that often keep us from God. Fasting isn't simply about abstaining from food or pleasures; it is a spiritual practice that deepens our dependence on God. As Jesus said in Matthew 4:4, "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." Fasting is also a way of aligning our bodies with our spiritual goals. It helps to purify us, breaking our attachments to things that distract us from Christ. When we deny ourselves, we are more attuned to the needs of others and more aware of God's presence in our lives. Fasting with a sincere heart becomes a form of prayer and sacrifice that leads us to holiness.

As Catholics, abstaining from meat on Fridays during Lent is a tradition connecting us to Christ's passion. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is the ultimate act of love and self-giving. By abstaining from meat, we participate in this act of self-denial, remembering Christ's ultimate sacrifice for our salvation. The Church calls us to abstain from meat on Fridays during Lent to offer up a small sacrifice in recognition of the tremendous sacrifice Jesus made for us. It is a small act that reminds us of the need to die for our desires and live for Christ. It also serves as a reminder of the suffering and death that Christ endured for us, helping us grow in gratitude and love. Consider joining us each Friday for Stations of the Cross. Also consider joining us in Princeton for Stations of the Cross and for a meatless meal in the parish hall afterwards. By joining together in fasting, we share in the spirit of simplicity and solidarity, abstaining from the luxury of rich foods as a way of growing closer to God and each other. Let us remember that fasting is not just about denying ourselves, but it is an opportunity to open our hearts to prayer, charity, and spiritual growth.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Fasting is not limited to food alone. It can be an opportunity to detach from anything that hinders our relationship with God. Here are a few ways you might fast during this season:

- 1. Fast from unhealthy attachments:** Consider fasting from social media, excessive entertainment, or other distractions that take up time and energy better spent in prayer, reflection, and acts of charity.
- 2. Fast from negativity:** Let go of critical or judgmental thoughts and cultivate a spirit of kindness and patience.

Reflection Questions

1. What is something you are overly attached to in your life and need to fast from to grow closer to God?
2. How can fasting help you deepen your relationship with Christ during this Lenten season?

Lord Jesus,

We thank You for the grace of this Lenten season.

Help us to fast from food and all that separates us from You.

Through our self-denial, may we grow in charity, humility, and love.

*As we walk with You on this journey, open our hearts to the living water
that You offer so that we may be refreshed and made whole.*

*May our sacrifices unite us more closely with You and with one another,
as we prepare to celebrate Your glorious resurrection.*

*We ask this in Your holy name,
Amen.*

May God bless each of you and strengthen you on your Lenten journey.

In Christ's peace,

Father Sebastian



FAITH FORMATION



Faith Formation 2025

Scripture: "If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts"

Psalm 95

The schedule through Spring 2025:

March 23, 30: Regular Sessions

April 6, 13, 27: Regular Sessions

April 20: No Faith Formation ~ Easter Sunday

April 27: Except for the Confirmation Class/Last day of Faith Formation

First Holy Communion will be May 4 during the 9am Mass. First Reconciliation will be announced soon.

Please pray for our First Communicants:

- Kaiden Bryant*
- Adalynn Farmer*
- Alexander Rose*

Confirmation Class Schedule

All of the classes listed above for Faith Formation and the following:

May 11, 18, and June 1

A Class Retreat and Rehearsal date will also be announced

Confirmation Mass is June 8 at 4:30pm with Dinner to follow with Bishop Brennan

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, March 26 at 4:30 pm in the School Building.

Please pray for our Elect ~ Jacob Lawless, Janet Belcher, and Cody Jewell

VIRTUS ~ SAFE ENVIRONMENT

PROGRAM AND SERVICE OF THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC RISK RETENTION GROUP, INC.

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THIS ONLINE PROGRAM IS REQUIRED FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS IN THE DIOCESE OF WHEELING CHARLESTON AND SACRED HEART

VIRTUS Requirements:

- yearly training video
- background check every 3 years
- Initial training documents
- Monthly training bulletins

Local VIRTUS Coordinator:
 Kim Hickman, 304-920-2440
 khickman@sacredheartbldf.org

if you SEE something SAY something

To report an incidence of suspected child sexual abuse, please contact your local law enforcement agency, or you may confidentially contact WV Child Protective Services at 800.352.6513. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, please contact the Office of Safe Environment at 304 - 230 - 1504.



Knights of Columbus
Council 1404

Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, April 5 - 5 pm to 8 pm

Dine in or take-outs

Sunday, April 6 - 10 am to 1 pm

****take out only on Sunday****

\$12 Spaghetti with meatballs dinner

\$14 Tour of Italy

Children under age 10 Free

Meatballs (Dozen) \$9

Sauce (Quart) \$6

To place an order for meatballs and sauce, call Ron Ciccolini at 304-320-0268

ENTRANCE DOOR: Please enter on the Monroe St. bottom door entrance, not the main doors on Wyoming St.

PARKING: Please use the lower lot on Monroe St.



Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Bluefield, West Virginia

Church address:
1003 Wyoming Street
Bluefield, WV 24701



Report for February 2025

Total Clients	909
New Families	32
Clothing	286
Hygiene Products	688
Total #	368



Several weeks ago the Threads of Love sent out an SOS to all crafters that our supply of prayer shawls/blankets was getting low and we were in need of more. We are so blessed to be a part of this wonderful parish! because of some caring and giving people, we have received 11 shawls/blankets. A million thanks to all those generous crafters who donated. May God bless each of you.

Report:

Since the first of the year, the following have received a prayer shawl or blanket from Threads of Love:

Colton Havens

Mary Malamisura

Fr. Sebastian's Mother

Andrew Arczynski

If you know of anyone you think should receive a shawl or blanket, please contact any member of St. Anne's.

St. Anne's Altar Society Bake Sale



April 5 & 6



Where's The Dessert?

Word has it, that while the basket bunnies are busy fixing baskets full of goodies for the little ones, the baking bunnies have gone on strike! Which could mean no dessert for Easter dinner.

Have no fear -- St. Anne's is Here! **We will be having our Easter Bake Sale April 5 & 6 after each Mass.** Come and get that special treat for your special holy week dinner.

As always, all donations, either monetary or goodies are always truly appreciated.

Stations of the Cross Schedule

March 28 at 6pm

Led & Hosted by
Centering Prayer Group

April 4 at 5:30pm

Led by Bob Buzzo
Hosted by Sacred Heart Food Pantry

April 11 at 6pm

Led by Tom Behrmann
Hosted by Knights of Columbus

Lenten Lunches

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

11:45-1:00 PM

CALL FOR RESERVATIONS: 304-327-9727

208 TAZEWELL AVE BLUEFIELD, WV 24701

SACRED HEART PRINCETON

FRIDAY, MARCH 28

12 NOON

AFTER STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Mass with Healing Prayer April 2nd 6:00 pm

Join us for a Mass of Faith, Hope and Healing
with a special Mass with Healing Prayer on
Wednesday, April 2nd at 6:00 pm.

Any Choir Members who are available to
participate in the Mass, there will be a
practice on Tuesday, March 25th at 6:00 pm
in the church lead by Dan Turner.



Lenten
Penance
Service


April 8 - 6 pm
Princeton

April 9 - 6 pm
Bluefield

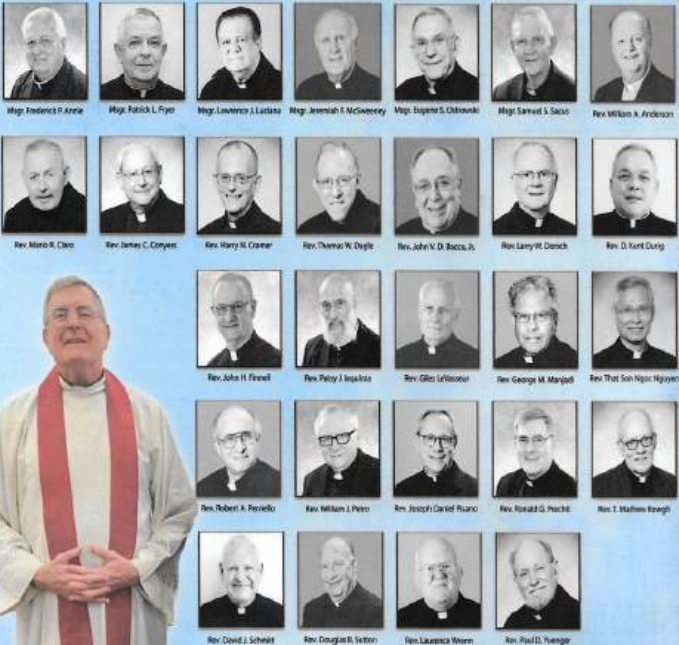


 Sacred Heart
Catholic Church

March Ministry Schedule							
Mass Date Time	Sacristan	Rosary Leader	Altar Servers	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Hospitality	Collection Counters
3/22 Sat. 6 pm	P. Peretti	TBA	Dave Kelley	Valerie Hager	1.P. Peretti 2.TBA 3.F. Moran	J. Monaco	The Aiello's
3/23 Sun. Sun	T. Lampert	L. Ajulo	R. Aiello A. Zinsmeister	M. Rebuck A. Rebuck	1.W. Aiello 2.G. Aiello 3.K. Kirk	R. Malmaisura	
3/29 Sat. 6 pm	P. Buenafe	V. Hager	Purita Buenafe	Maria Zalduondo	1.L. Mariotti 2.TBA 3.T. Hager	The Pascasio's	Ron
3/30 Sun. 9 am	The Winfree's	T. Lampert	R. West K. Oakes	B. Buzzo R. Ciccolini	1.S. Copolo 2.M. Romeo 3.TBA	B. Buzzo	Tommie Jo



**JUBILEE 2025
PILGRIMS OF HOPE**



**RETIREMENT FUND
FOR DIOCESAN PRIESTS**
COLLECTION DATE: MARCH 23, 2025




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than ever before!**


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to donate securely from your phone!

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**OR SCAN THE QR
CODE TO DONATE
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Thank you for your generosity!

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Sacred Heart Prayer List

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

Homebound Parishioners: Linda Angelelli, 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: Lorin Albin, Yvonne Blevins, Donald Bowles, Shelby Bowles, Teddy Bradshaw, Mark Burnette, Patrick Clark, Chuck Comer, Carolyn Crigger, Beatrice Dunn, Christina Easton, Fr. Chapin Engler, Jason Fortney, Beth George, Laura Haines and unborn son. Steve Hamm, Skip Harless, Larry Hicks, Yael Issacs, Natalie Jackson, Sandy Kegley, Sherry Khatib, Stan Lawson, Bill Lester, Bob Mahood, Robert Martin, Connor McKenzie, Doug & Kim Miller, Ken Mulkey, Angelo Perri, Walt "Buddy" Pierce, Dr. Amanda Hale Reese, Leanna Smith, Larry Sarever, Abby Taylor, Judy Tolbert, Kay Trimble, Cathleen Underwood, Debby VanBlaricom, Steve Vaught, Alma Wheeler

Attention Parishioners

We are updating our **prayer list**, and if there are any names that you would like to **KEEP** on the prayer list, please call the parish office at 304-327-5623 or you may email Lucy at lbrinegar@sacredheartblfd.org
We will refresh the prayer list starting on April 1, 2025.



Weekly Collection	weekend March 15-16	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Envelopes	3,967.00	41,686.00	43,500.00
Maintenance	200.00	1,599.00	1,050.00
Loose Offertory	463.00	4,562.26	5,500.00
Total Contributions	\$ 4,630.00	\$ 47,847.26	\$ 50,050.00
Food Pantry	494.00	10,022.20	0.00
Memoria Contrib	50.00	51,470.00	0.00
DWC: Diocesan Priest Retirement Fund	536.00	586.00	1,500.00
Attendance:	6pm: 53	9am: 89	

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,

May I receive Communion if I'm divorced and haven't gotten an annulment?

Yes, you may. Divorce, in itself, is not an impediment to the reception of Communion. Divorce, although regrettable because of the many ramifications that may be part of the experience, is not in itself a sin. There are situations when divorce may be the most loving choice and make it possible for all parties involved to live the lives God is calling them to live.

Remarriage, when a person is not free to marry because of the presence of a previous bond, is an impediment to the reception of holy Communion. Although this situation is more and more common, it does not mean that the law of the Church, representative of the teaching of Jesus, can be set aside. As part of the process of healing from your divorce and moving on with your life, you may want to seek an annulment, particularly if you think you might want to marry again. The annulment process can often be healing and a source of great blessing. It also provides a rare opportunity to reflect on what was lost as a result of the original divorce and what can be learned as a way of moving forward and building a second marriage that is strong and life-giving.



STEVE LOVEGROVE / SHUTTERSTOCK

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
March 24	March 25	March 26	March 27	March 28	March 29	March 30
<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>The</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>
2 Kgs 5:1-15b Lk 4:24-30	<i>Annunciation of the Lord</i> Is 7:10-14; 8:10 Heb 10:4-10 Lk 1:26-38	Dt 4:1, 5-9 Mt 5:17-19	Jer 7:23-28 Lk 11:14-23	Hos 14:2-10 Mk 12:28-34	Hos 6:1-6 Lk 18:9-14	Jos 5:9a, 10-12 2 Cor 5:17-21 Lk 15:1-3, 11-32



VATICAN MEDIA

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

I like to think that a nice name for God could be “the God of another possibility”.... [God] does not look at the achievements you have not yet reached, but the fruits you can still bear. He does not keep track of your shortcomings but encourages your potential. He does not dwell on your past, but confidently bets on your future.

ANGELUS, ROME, MARCH 20, 2022