

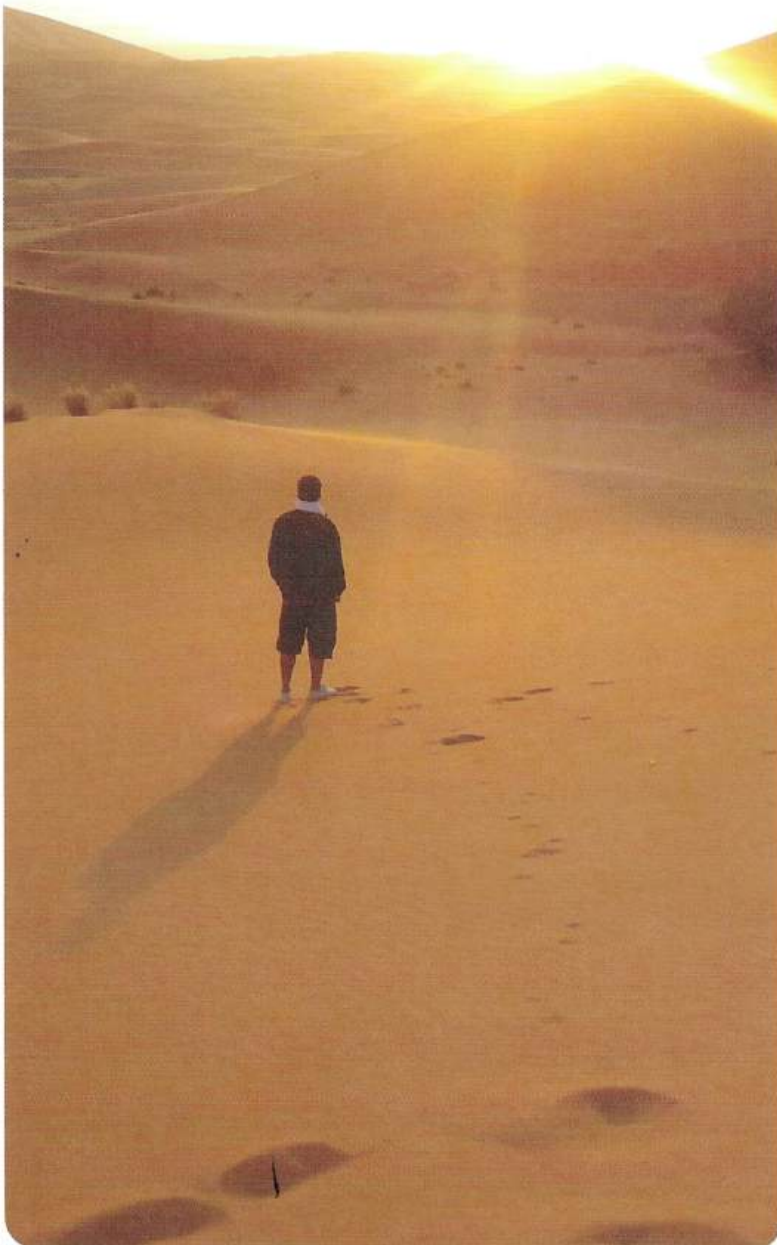


## Living in Fantasy

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Filled with the Holy Spirit,  
Jesus returned from the Jordan  
and was led by the Spirit into the desert  
for forty days, to be tempted by the devil.

LUKE 4:1-2A



**I** *f I Were a Horse* by Elizabeth Bridgman is a children's story about Jenny, who daydreams about being a horse and then accepts her true reality, as she realizes no one will recognize her as a horse. In the end, she finds that she likes herself as she truly is.

The story may also be a metaphor for our human fantasy about sin, by which we try to redefine the world on our own terms, only to realize that life does not go so well when we do this. It is our stealing by which we pretend that something belongs to us rather than to another. It is our lying that attempts to redefine truth in terms of what we want life to be, rather than in what life really is. It is our addictions that redefine the source of meaning and life not as God, but as ourselves and our wants. Lent brings us face to face with who we are—which is not a horse (real or otherwise), but, by God's design, is a daughter or son of God.

The temptations Jesus experienced in the desert were temptations to define life on his own terms, just as we are often tempted to do. Yet, Jesus was the one who got it right. For him, stones were stones, not bread. Power and glory were God's, not his. He would not put God to the test, thinking he could manipulate God and get God to do what Jesus wanted. Jesus was the faithful one. ●

### Reflect

***What about my life do I struggle to accept?***

# SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH

1003 WYOMING ST, BLUEFIELD, WV 24701

MARCH 8 & 9, 2025

## MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

### Saturday, March 8 - 6:00 PM

✠ Pat Kadar by Family

### Sunday, March 9 - 9:00 AM

✠ Alex Ercoline by Ron & Sherry Ciccolini

### Tuesday, March 11 - 12 Noon

✠ People of the Parish (Pro Populo)

### Wednesday, March 12 - 9:00 AM

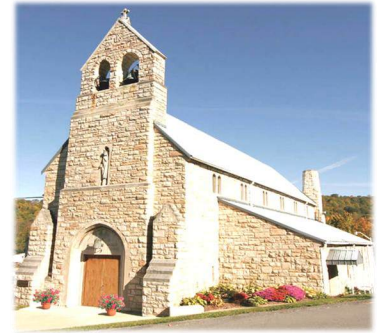
✠ Francis McKenzie by The McKenzie Family

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

✠ Lisa Smith Oakley by Deborah Garton & Fred Butler

### Sunday, March 16 - 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

**March 9:** First Sunday of Lent

**March 9:** Daylight Savings Time Begins

**March 10:** Knights of Columbus Meeting 6 pm

**March 11:** St. Anne's Altar Society Meeting 11am

**March 14:** Stations of the Cross 6:00 pm lead by Youth

**March 16:** Second Sunday of Lent

**March 20:** PPC Meeting 6 pm

**March 21:** Stations of the Cross 6:00 pm lead by Altar Servers

**March 23:** Third Sunday of Lent

**March 24:** Knights of Columbus Meeting 6 pm

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS SCHEDULE

Every Friday during Lent. No Adoration during Lent.

March 14 at 6:00 pm ~ Crusaders Youth

March 21 at 6:00 pm ~ Altar Servers

## 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.*

# First Sunday of Lent

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we enter this holy season of Lent, we are reminded of the forty days that Jesus spent in the desert, preparing Himself for His public ministry. In the Gospel of Luke (4:1-13), we read how the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness, where He fasted and prayed, enduring great hunger, temptation, and solitude. In His isolation, Jesus experienced the full weight of human weakness and temptation, yet He remained faithful to His Father, trusting in His strength.

This time of retreat into the desert was not a moment of weakness, but of profound spiritual growth. Jesus withdrew from the distractions of the world to align His heart fully with the will of His Father. The desert, with all its desolation, became a place of clarity where He faced the devil's temptations with unwavering faith. Jesus teaches us that prayer, fasting, and penance are not meant to be burdensome but are avenues to deepen our relationship with God and prepare our hearts for the joys of Easter.

As we embark on our own Lenten journey, we are called to follow Jesus' example of retreat, fasting, and prayer. Our world today, filled with distractions and busyness, can make it difficult to create space for God. Yet, Lent offers us the precious opportunity to step away from our daily routines and focus on our spiritual needs. Let us take this time to pause, reflect, and return to God with renewed hearts.

## Scripture Reflection

This week, I invite you to reflect on the words of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew (6:16-18), where He teaches us about fasting and prayer:

*"When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not appear to be fasting, except to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you."*

## Three Questions for Reflection:

1. What are the distractions or attachments in my life that keep me from a deeper relationship with God? How can I let go of them this Lent?
2. How can I incorporate more intentional prayer into my daily life during this season of Lent?
3. How can I serve the poor and those in need, both within and outside my community, during Lent?

I humbly ask for your prayers for those journeying through the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA). These men and women are preparing to enter the Catholic faith, and we are called to support them with our prayers, love, and encouragement. Let us also join them in celebrating the Rite of Election, which will take place on the First Sunday of Lent. May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen them on their path toward full initiation into the Church.

*Heavenly Father,  
As we begin our journey through this holy season of Lent,  
we come before You with humble hearts.  
We thank You for the example of Your Son, Jesus,  
who fasted and prayed in the desert to prepare for His ministry.  
Lord, help us follow His example of retreat, fasting, and prayer.  
Grant us the strength to turn away from the distractions of the world  
and seek You in the silence of our hearts.  
May our fasting bring us closer to You.  
May our almsgiving reflect Your love for the poor and the needy.  
We pray for those journeying through the OCIA and ask that  
You continue to guide them on their path toward full initiation into the Church.  
We ask all this in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ.  
Amen.*

In Christ's love and peace,  
Father Sebastian Devasya



## FAITH FORMATION



### *Faith Formation 2025*

*Scripture: "Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble. Be with me, Lord. "  
Psalm 91*

*The schedule through Spring 2025:*

*March 9, 16, 23, 30: Regular Sessions*

*April 6, 13, 27: Regular Sessions*

*April 20: No Faith Formation ~ Easter Sunday*

*June 8 at 4:30 pm: Confirmation Mass Followed by Dinner*

## 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 12th at 4:30 pm in the School Building.***

*Please prayer for our Catechumen ~ Jacob Lawless and our Candidates ~ Janet Belcher and Cody Jewell*

## CRUSADERS YOUTH



### Upcoming Events

Friday, March 14th at 6:00 pm

Youth to lead Stations of the Cross

## LENTEN SEASON

### Stations of the Cross Schedule

**March 14 at 6pm ~ Lead & Hosted by Crusaders Youth Ministry**

**March 21 at 6pm ~ Lead by Barbara Musolin, Hosted by Altar Servers**

**March 28 at 6pm ~ Lead & Hosted by Centering Prayer Group**

**April 4 at 5:30pm ~ Lead by Bob Buzzo & Hosted by Sacred Heart Food Pantry**

**April 11 at 6pm ~ Lead by Tom Behrmann & Hosted by Knights of Columbus**



## MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

# Men's Prayer Group!

This weekend is the last weekend to provide Men's Prayer Group Interest Survey responses. The completed surveys can be left in the stacked tray at the back of the parish or similar information e-mailed to [Tom.Behrmann@yahoo.com](mailto:Tom.Behrmann@yahoo.com)

**Are YOU  
prepared  
to protect  
God's  
Vulnerable?**



Sacred Heart &  
Diocese of  
Wheeling -  
Charleston

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

**VIRTUS** Online



**ANYTIME**

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



**Local VIRTUS Coordinator:**

Kim Hickman, 304-920-2440  
khickman@sacredheartblfd.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 one of the Bishop's designees at 888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Sister Ellen Dunn, ext. 264; Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; Fr. Dennis Schuelkens, ext. 270 or call the Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504.

## SACRED HEART CENTENNIAL

A short film is being made to highlight our centennial. We are in need of some props. If you can loan any of these items, please contact Theresa Bales at 304-920-8104

- old or leather looking suitcases from the 40s-50s
- An old pull down school map of the world/united states
- Old school desks that had ink wells, 2 if possible
- Old leather trunk



We still have cookbooks, notecards, and ornaments. They will be available until we sell out. This is the last week or so that you can give to the Century Club or make a memorial donation. They are available after church or contact Theresa Bales 304-920-8104 or Ann Robinson 304-887-2421. We can deliver straight to you .

March Ministry Schedule							
Mass Date Time	Sacristan	Rosary Leader	Altar Servers	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Hospitality	Collection Counters
3/8 Sat. 6pm	P.Peretti	D. Garton	E. Peretti	Tom	1.A. Peretti	J. Monaco	D. Duritza
			A. Froy	Behrmann	2.P. Peretti		
3/9 Sun. 9am	T. Lampert	B. Musolin	C. Tran	C. Lampert	1.T. Lampert	R. Malamisura	R. Malamisura
			E. Husband	T. Bales	2.M. Romeo		
3/15 Sat. 6pm	J. McCloud	M. Zalduondo	Purita	TBA	1. J. McCloud	The Pascasio's	D. Shumate M.McCoy
			Buenafe	TBA	2.L. Mariotti		
3/16 Sun. 9am	The Winfree's	C. Mulkey	T. Brown	R. Albert	1.K. Kidd	S. Copolo	
			TBA	B. Musolin	2.C. Havens		
3/22 Sat. 6 pm	P. Peretti	D. Garton	Dave	Valerie	1.P. Peretti	J. Monaco	The Aiello's
			Kelley	Hager	2.D. Garton		
3/23 Sun. Sun	T. Lampert	L. Ajulo	R. Aiello	M. Rebuck	1.W. Aiello	R. Malmaisura	
			A. Zinsmeister	A. Rebuck	2.G. Aiello		
3/29 Sat. 6 pm	P. Buenafe	V. Hager	Purita	Maria	1.L. Mariotti	The Pascasio's	TBA
			Buenafe	Zalduondo	2.T. Behrmann		
3/30 Sun. 9 am	The Winfree's	T. Lampert	R. West	B. Buzzo	1.S. Copolo	B. Buzzo	
			K. Oakes	R. Ciccolini	2.M. Romeo		
					3.TBA		



First Presbyterian Church  
 Wednesday, March 12th  
 11:45-1:00 pm  
 Call for Reservations: 304-327-9727  
 208 Tazewell Ave. Bluefield, WV 24701

Sacred Heart Princeton  
 Friday, March 14th  
 After Stations of the Cross at 7 pm  
 In Church Hall

## 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, 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

### UPDATING PRAYER LIST

**We are making our update to the Sacred Heart Prayer List. The prayer list will be refreshed starting April 1st. If you would like your loved one to remain on the prayer list, please call the parish office at 304-327-5623 or email lucy at lbrinegar@sacredheartbfd.org**

Weekly Collection	WEEKEND MAR 1-2	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Envelopes	5,732.00	35,056.00	33,600.00
Maintenance	322.00	1,319.00	1,050.00
Loose Offertory	493.00	3,591.26	4,400.00
Holiday Flowers	125.00	675.00	1,000.00
Holy Day Collections	60.00	300.00	1,750.00
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$ 6,732.00</b>	<b>\$ 40,941.26</b>	<b>\$ 41,800.00</b>
Food Pantry	1,010.00	8,158.00	0.00
Memoria Contrib	670.00	51,420.00	0.00
DWC: Latin American/Home Missions	5.00	664.50	800.00
DWC: Black & Native American Mission	15.00	507.50	400.00
DWC: Disaster Relief	1,945.00	3,558.24	0.00
DWC: Diocesan Priest Retirement Fund	50.00	50.00	1,500.00
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>6pm: 60</b>	<b>9M: 97</b>	

#### 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,

**Who decided that fish isn't meat? I really dislike fish; also, it bugs me when my friends eat lobster for dinner on Fridays in the name of "sacrifice."**

Latin is the official language of the Catholic Church. Canon law, as written in Latin, states that we must abstain from *carne* (meat), a word that refers to warm-blooded animals that walk on the ground. By that definition, fish is allowed.

You make an excellent point about the lobster dinners and the nature of sacrifice. In the document "Questions and Answers About Lent and Lenten Practices," the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops states, "While fish, lobster, and other shellfish are not considered meat and can be consumed on days of abstinence, indulging in the lavish buffet at your favorite seafood place sort of misses the point. Abstaining from meat and other indulgences during Lent is a penitential practice. On the Fridays of Lent, we remember the sacrifice of Christ on Good Friday and unite ourselves with that sacrifice through abstinence and prayer."

As we enter Lent, we must remember that our acts of penance should be more than thinking about just giving something up, like meat. Our fasting isn't just an external discipline—sacrifice for the sake of checking a box. It's supposed to be a sacrifice that leads us closer to God. When we take that deeper step ourselves, then we can invite our friends to go deeper, too. ●



SWEET MARSHALLOW / SHUTTERSTOCK

**Fr. Paul Borowski, CSsR / DearPadre.org**

## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

**Jesus opposes the attractions of evil...by responding to temptations with the word of God, which says not to take advantage...to obtain privileges. Because true happiness and true freedom are not found in possessing, but in sharing; not in taking advantage of others, but in loving them; not in the obsession of power, but in the joy of service.**



VATICAN MEDIA

ANGELUS, ROME, MARCH 6, 2022

<b>Monday</b> March 10 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Lv 19:1-2, 11-18 Mt 25:31-46	<b>Thursday</b> March 13 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25 Mt 7:7-12	<b>Saturday</b> March 15 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Dt 26:16-19 Mt 5:43-48
<b>Tuesday</b> March 11 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Is 55:10-11 Mt 6:7-15	<b>Friday</b> March 14 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Ez 18:21-28 Mt 5:20-26	<b>Sunday</b> March 16 <i>Second Sunday of Lent</i> Gn 15:5-12, 17-18 Phil 3:17-4:1 or 3:20-4:1 Lk 9:28b-36
<b>Wednesday</b> March 12 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Jon 3:1-10 Lk 11:29-32		

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

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