



# Stairway to Heaven

MIGUEL DULICK

**E**ven by the Ascension, after forty days of eating and drinking with the resurrected Lord, the obtuseness of the Apostles still frustrates Jesus. In Acts, they're ready for a fight, "to restore the kingdom to Israel" (Acts 1:6). Matthew reports that "they worshiped, but they doubted" (Matthew 28:17). Pentecost cannot come soon enough, when they will be baptized with the Holy Spirit, and all will be made known.

So the next nine days are crucial. The apostles and other disciples, 120 persons in all, prepare for the arrival of the Holy Spirit, a spiritual retreat, the original "novena." Only then can the apostle go and "make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19).

Jesus, who brought heaven down to earth in the Incarnation, now ascends, taking earth up to heaven, with his resurrection. Saint Paul gives us a hint of how special this interchange is when he wishes for the Ephesians to receive from Jesus "a Spirit of wisdom and revelation" (Ephesians 1:17).

Our own obtuseness can block the Holy Spirit when we think we have all the answers. When I first preached in Honduras, in the village where I live, I was so prepared. I said everything I could think of, all that I had learned in my courses for a masters degree in divinity. But then, when I heard the prayers and insights of poor and simple folks, supported by a rich, personal knowledge of the Lord himself, I cut my sermons in half and let the "saints," as St. Paul liked to call the people, finish the job. Thank you, Holy Spirit! ●



LEARN ABOUT  
THE AUTHORS  
OF OUR PARISH  
COMMUNITY



[Jesus said,] "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

ACTS 1:8

## Reflect

*How can I better cooperate with the Holy Spirit?*

# SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH

1003 WYOMING ST, BLUEFIELD, WV 24701

MAY 16-17, 2026

## MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS



### Saturday, May 16- 6:00 PM

†Pro Populo (People of the Parish)

### Sunday, May 17- 9:00 AM

†Terry Lampert by Ron & Sherry Ciccolini

### Wednesday, May 20 - 5 PM Adoration & 6 PM Mass

†Greg Garton by Fred Butler & Deborah Garton

### Thursday, May 21 - 10:00 AM Mass

† Available to Reserve

### Saturday, May 23- 6:00 PM

† Available to Reserve

### Sunday, May 24- 9:00 AM

†Terry Lampert by St. Anne's Altar Society

### Sacred Heart Princeton

#### Mass Times

Tuesdays:

5 pm - Adoration &  
Confession

6 pm - Mass

Thursdays:

12 Noon - Mass

First Fridays:

12 Noon

Saturdays:

3:30 pm -Confession

4:00 pm - Mass

Sundays:

10:30 am -Confession

11:00 am - Mass

**Confession:** 8:30 AM on Sundays ~ 5:45 PM on Saturdays ~ 5:00 PM on Wednesdays ~ By Appointment

## UPCOMING EVENTS

May 17: Graduation Sunday

May 23-24: 2nd Collection, Catholic Relief Services

May 23: Pentecost Vigil Mass 6:00 PM

May 24: Pentecost Mass 9:00 AM

May 24: Centering Prayer Group 5 PM

May 25: Memorial Day, Office Closed

May 26: Men's Bible Study & Prayer Group 6:30 PM

May 31: Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

May 31: Centering Prayer Group 5 PM

June 5: First Friday Mass 10:00 AM

June 6-7: 2nd Collection: Maintenance

June 6: Corpus Christi Eucharistic Procession at 6 pm Mass

June 7: Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

June 7: Centering Prayer Group 5 PM

## CHURCH STAFF

**PASTOR:** Rev. Joseph Mandokkara Augustine, J.C.L.  
jaugustine@dwc.org

**Deacon:** Rev. Mr. Michael McGinnity

**PASTORAL ASSOCIATE:** Julia Harrison, M.A.A.T.  
julia@sacredheartblfd.org

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

**YOUTH MINISTRY DIRECTOR:** Wendi Aiello  
w.aiello@yahoo.com 304-320-2150

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

**Office Hours:** 304-327-5623  
Monday- Thursday 9:00am-4:00pm  
Friday 9:00am-12:00pm  
After Hours Emergency Line: 304-327-7218

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

*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.*

**May 23-24, 2026**



**REVEAL  
Christ's  
LOVE**

SUPPORT THE CATHOLIC  
RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION




**PENTECOST**



**SATURDAY VIGIL  
MAY 23 6:00 PM**

**SUNDAY  
MAY 24 9:00 AM**



**Altar Flowers**

We are now accepting sponsorship for  
Altar Flowers.

Please contact the office  
or Sherry Ciccoloni to secure your  
preferred dates.


Options Include:  
Urns on the Altar  
Floor Arrangement  
Urns on the Altar & Floor Arrangement



Daily Devotional Booklets  
available to pick-up at Mass.

APRIL | MAY | JUNE 2026

**Living Faith**  
Daily Catholic Devotions



...he took bread, said the blessing,  
broke it, and gave it to them.  
LUKE 24:30

## *Sacred Heart Adult Grief Support Group*



*Our volunteer run Adult Grief Support Group is a chance to talk and not face grief alone. The group has changed their meeting times to every Third Friday of the month.*

### Next Meeting

RESCHEDULED TO: May 22 at 4:30 pm in Church Lounge

## Knights of Columbus®

The Knights of Columbus is a fine group of gentlemen who support the church with many activities throughout the year. They meet twice a month on Mondays.



### Next Meeting

June 8 at 6:00 PM

## Men's Bible Study & Prayer Group!



All Men of the Parish are invited to our bimonthly Men's Prayer group meetings. The structure for the group consists of prayer, formation, Bible Study, and fraternity.

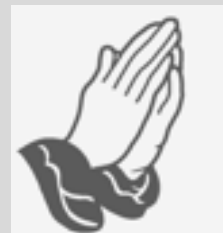
### Next Meeting

May 26th at 6:30 Pm in the Lounge

## *Centering Prayer Group*

Centering prayer is a silent, contemplative prayer method rooted in Catholic tradition, aiming to foster a deeper relationship with God.

**The Centering Praying Group gather every Sunday at 5 pm to converse and to participate in centering prayer.**



May 2026 Ministry Schedule								
Mass Date Time	Sacristan	Rosary Leader	Altar Servers	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Hospitality	Collection Counters	Music
Sat. 5/16 6 pm	P. Peretti	T. Lowery	P. Buenafe	1.D. Crigger 2M. Zalduondo	1.P. Peretti 2.J.McCloud	1. I. Pascasio	D. Shumate	Dan Grey
Sun. 5/17 9 am	C. West	L. Ajulo	1.T. Brown 2.C. Tran	1.B. Buzzo 2. C. Ott	1. K. Kidd 2.S. Copolo	1.K. Brown 2.R. Ciccolini 3.T.J. Longworth	M.McCoy	Jack Roland
Sat. 5/23 6 pm Mem.	J. McCloud	M. Zalduondo	1. A. Peretti 2. E. Peretti	1. <b>TBA</b> 2.V. Hager	1.J. McCloud 2. L. Mariotti	1. L. Bolyard		Dan Debbie
Sun. 5/24 9 AM Mem.	M. Malamisura	M. Malamisura	1. R. Aiello 2. C. Tran	1.M. Rebuck 2.A. Rebuck	1. G. Aiello 2. W. Aiello	1.B. Buzzo 2.C. Asbury	The Aiello's	Jack Hobe
Sat. 5/30 6 PM	P. Buenafe	D. Crigger	1. P. Buenafe	1.D. Crigger 2.M. Zalduondo	1.T. Behrmann 2.C. Saunders	I. Pascasio	Tommie Jo	Dan Theresia
Sun. 5/31 9 AM	C. Havens	<b>TBA</b>	1.K. Oakes 2. R. West	1.T. Bales 2.J. Barber	1.M. Malamisura 2.A. Robinson	1.C. Havens 2.S. Copolo	Ron	Jack Mary-Ann

**OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY**

With Deepest Sympathy we announce that Thomas McDonough passed away May 9, 2026

We send our sincerest condolences to Thomas's wife Columbia of North Tazewell, his daughters Janet McDonagh (Michael) and Julie Hart (Ron) as well as his son Fr. John McDonough and many nieces and nephews.

A Funeral Mass was held on Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> in memory of Thomas.

If you would like to send a condolence card to Fr. McDonough, please view the address below:  
Fr. John McDonough  
3346 University Ave.  
Morgantown, WV 26505

**Liturgy+Picnic = LitNic**

**LOOKING FOR HOST FAMILIES!**

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 goods and drinks. Those attending will bring a potluck dish. LitNics begin at 6 PM on Wednesdays for the months of June- August. Specific dates will be announced soon.

**If you would like to host a Litnic please contact Ann Robinson at 304-887-2421.**

## Sacred Heart Prayer List

**Parishioners:** Stephanie Blevins, George Bowling, Mary Bruch, Ron Ciccolini, Benny Disibbio, Carolina Ferrare, Angie Genovesi, Julia Harrison, Daniel Kirk, Claire Lampert, Tommie Jo Longworth, Mary Malamisura, Sabrina Mazol, Aalannah McPeak, John Monaco, Feleesha Moran & Family, Annette & Claude Morgan, Laura Rogers, Sharon Rothausen, Audrey Snyder, Chris Taylor

**Homebound Parishioners:** Joanne Ercoline, Lou Ercoline, Mary Claire Keenan, Sue Mazol, Joan Monaco, Ernesto Pascasio, Barbara Pickett, Rosalie Rochetti, Mitzi Romeo, Miriam Salaita, Anna H. Switch

**Friends & Family:** Leia Allen, Ethan Atwell, Vera Lee Austin, Jean Bailey, Ann Beck, Mark Burnette, John Burton, Patrick Clark, John Clark, Amy Compton, Josh Ellison, Fr. Chapin Engler, George "Hooger" Fisher, John Genovesi, Tom Harrison, Peyton Havens, Tom Heneger, Linda Henegar, Rick Longworth, Conner McKenzie, Delores Millsap, Walt "Buddy" Pierce, Annette Pike, Dee Puckett, Nick Pullano, Dr. Amanda Hale Reese, Nicole Romano, Mike Starre, Kandi Stephenson

If anyone is interested in sponsoring or contributing to a Saturday Social Meal, please contact Sherry Ciccolini at 304-320-0397



*Altar Flowers for this weekend are in memory of*  
*The Garton & Butler Families*  
*by*  
*Fred Butler & Deborah Garton*



**Catholic Sharing Appeal**

We have raised \$8,725 which is 29% of our goal of \$29,970.



A reminder that the first 50% of our goal goes towards ministries all over the diocese, the second 50% and over raised goes straight towards Sacred Heart in Bluefield. Support Your Parish Today!

Weekly Collection	wkend May 9/10	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Envelopes	4,556.00	90,463.00	100,500.00
Maintenance	10.00	4,320.00	2,000.00
Loose Offertory	554.00	9,081.05	9,750.00
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$ 5,120.00</b>	<b>\$ 103,864.05</b>	<b>\$ 112,250.00</b>
Food Pantry	744.00	9,952.00	0.00
<b>Attendance:</b>	6pm: 55	9am: 138	

**Please Note:** All Diocesan second collections are required to be forwarded to the Diocese within 2 weeks. Please be sure to submit your Diocesan collections in a timely manner. Thank you very much.

**IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY AND A PRIEST IS NEEDED, PLEASE CALL:**

Parish Office (304) 327-5623      Princeton Office (304) 425-3664      After Hours Emergency Line: 304-327-7218

**In case of serious or life-threatening sickness or the actively dying:** {Please consider, if Fr. Joseph 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 Joseph 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.



# HAPPY GRADUATION!

## High School:

**Olivia English** ~ She is graduating from Bluefield High School. She was student body Vice President, in the Honor Society, and the National Technology Society. Olivia will be attending Bluefield State University in the Jumpstart Nursing Program. Daughter of Bobby and Carla English and Granddaughter of Carl and Linda Mariotti.

**Madison Rebuck** ~ She is graduating from Bluefield High School. Madison is in the drama club, Bible club and in theater. She was just in their spring play "Mean Girls". Madison will be attending Concord University, majoring in psychology. Daughter of Michael and Ashley Rebuck and Granddaughter of Debby Rebuck.

**Sophia Tran** ~ She is graduating from Princeton Senior High School. Sophia was a member of the Key Club, Fellowship of Christian Athlete's, National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, and the soccer team. She was awarded the top scholar and is ranked 4th in her class out of 230. Sophia will be attending West Virginia University to major in Biology and pursue an Optometry Degree. Daughter of Anthony and Tracey Tran.

**Grant Ward** ~ He is graduating from Graham High School. Grant is still finalizing his college decision and field of study. Son of Dr. Steve and Laura Ward and Grandson of John and Pat Zachwieja.

**Keagan Wills** ~ He is graduating from Bluefield High School. Keagan will be doing an apprenticeship in plumbing to get his journeyman and then plans to become a master plumber. Son of Katie Kidd and Grandson of Randy and Karen Kidd.

## College:

**Omolara "Lara" Victoria Ajulo** ~ She is graduating from Bluefield State University with an A.S in Nursing. Lara's future plans are to become a skilled and compassionate registered nurse who makes a real difference in patients' lives. Daughter of the late Joseph and Mary Falasinnu.

**Jackson Ward** ~ He is graduating from West Virginia University with a degree in Finance. Jackson will be attending WVU Medical School this Fall. Son of Dr. Steve and Laura Ward and Grandson of John and Pat Zachwieja.

**Brandon Williamson** ~ He is graduating from Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Virginia with a B.A. in History and a Minor in Classical Studies. Son of Brad and Christina Williamson and Grandson of Tullio and Linda Ramella.

# Dear Padre,

*I am scared of the end times and predictions of these dates. I feel saved, but I don't truly know if I would be accepted into heaven. What are the Catholic teachings on the end times/rapture?*

No one but our heavenly Father knows the precise time of our Lord's return. (See Mark 13:32-37.) If this uncertainty about when Jesus will return evokes more apprehension than anticipation, it doesn't help that prophets of doom make predictions based on a distorted understanding of apocalyptic literature in the Bible. An example of this literary form includes the Book of Revelation. It contains elements of a final judgment and cosmic struggle between good and evil written in highly symbolic and imaginative language; however, it wasn't intended to provide a literal description or timeline of how the world ends. In 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, St. Paul also uses apocalyptic imagery to say that all the faithful will be "caught up" ("rapt up") to meet the Lord at his Coming. Some use this single text to vividly imagine true believers being "raptured" from the earth and escaping the destruction of humankind at the end times, but it's a misinterpretation. For Catholics, these apocalyptic passages offer hope and guidance: despite the powerful forces of evil, Christ will overcome. His death and resurrection already ushered in the last age. We don't know how long this age will last before the final consummation, hence the need to be watchful and prepared. ●



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

## A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

*Where are you...when the poor are blamed for their poverty, forgotten and discarded, in a world that values profit more than people? [W]here are you in a hyper-connected life where loneliness corrodes social bonds and makes us strangers even to ourselves?...*

*Fraternity...means rediscovering the face of the other...the very image of God in the face of the poor, the refugee, and even the adversary.*

ADDRESS TO MEETING  
ON FRATERNITY, ROME,  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2025



## 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*.

### Monday

May 18  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 19:1-8  
Jn 16:29-33

### Tuesday

May 19  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 20:17-27  
Jn 17:1-11a

### Wednesday

May 20  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 20:28-38  
Jn 17:11b-19

### Thursday

May 21  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 22:30; 23:6-11  
Jn 17:20-26

### Friday

May 22  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 25:13b-21  
Jn 21:15-19

### Saturday

May 23  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 28:16-20, 30-31  
Jn 21:20-25

### Sunday

May 24  
Pentecost Sunday  
Acts 2:1-11  
1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13  
Jn 20:19-23