

# BASILICA OF THE CO-CATHEDRAL OF THE SACRED HEART CELEBRATING 125 YEARS



Pilgrimage Site for: Diocesan Shrine of Santo Niño  
“Annunciation” and “Tree of Life” Meditation Gardens



The Nativity of the Lord, December 25, 2022 & Solemnity of Mary, January 1, 2023

Pastor: Most Rev. Mark E. Brennan  
Bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

Rector: Very Rev. Donald X. Higgs, VF Email: dhiggs@dwc.org  
Associate: Rev. Dominic Athishu Email: dathishu@dwc.org  
In Residence: Msgr. P. Edward Sadie, P.A., S.T.L.



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*The  
Nativity  
of the  
Lord*

## MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 8:15 AM, Vigil 5:30 PM  
Sunday 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 Noon & 5:00 PM  
Monday & Friday 8:15 am  
Tuesday-Friday 12:00 Noon

Mass from the Basilica is live streamed on our  
Facebook & YouTube page, Sundays at 10AM

Mass from the Diocese is being live-streamed at 6 p.m. on  
Saturday, where it remains online. The link is  
<https://dwc.org/home/mass/>

Listen to EWTN on WLUX 1450 AM  
Dunbar|Charleston

<https://www.ewtn.com/radio/schedule>

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday's 4:00-5:00 PM or by appointment.  
304-342-8175

## EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Saturday's 4:00-5:00 PM.



*and the  
Solemnity  
of Mary*



## PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

“We, at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, are a diverse community of the poor, the disadvantaged and hungry, the well-to-do, the youth, elderly, visitors and those seeking refuge.

As a community of many cultures and races, we stand for unity in our diversity by expressing our love of God the Father through prayer and worship, through service to one another, through the ministry of welcoming, through evangelization and ecumenism. With the Bishop, we shall pursue this mission faithfully through the example of Jesus Christ, the power of the Holy Spirit and the gifts and talents of our members.” All are welcome today, especially visitors, guests and those who might be new to the community.

## Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart

TELEPHONE 304-342-8175  
FAX 304-344-3907

### ADMINISTRATION

**Bookkeeper:** Pam Acevedo 342-8175  
email: pacevedo@shccwv.us  
**Office Assistant:** Angela Hodges 342-8175  
email: ahodges@shccwv.us  
**Property Manager:** John Blake 342-8175  
email: jblake@shccwv.us  
**Secretary:** Sheila Kerekes 342-8175  
email: skerekes@shccwv.us

### EDUCATION

**Director of RCIA:** Mike Kawash 549-6453  
Email: mak@ramlaw.com  
**Coordinator of Religious Education:** Sr. Ida Chikara 1-304-709-0026  
Email: idachikara@gmail.com  
**Sacred Heart Early Learning Center:** 6 weeks-2 years  
Andrea Bias, Director 414-5757  
**Sacred Heart Child Development Center:** After School Care  
Crystal Ashcraft, Coordinator 344-1125  
**Sacred Heart Grade School:** K-5/Pre-School (ages 3-4)  
Anne Davis, Principal 346-5491  
**Charleston Catholic High School:** 6-12  
Colleen M. Hoyer, Principal 342-8415

### SACRAMENTS

**Anointing of the Sick, Confession, Infant Baptism, Weddings**  
For information/to schedule any of the above 304-342-8175

### MUSIC

**Music Director:** Mark Haas 342-8175  
Email: mhaas@shccwv.us  
**Principal Organist:** Gregory Gray 380-4786

### OTHER PARISH GROUPS OR MINISTRIES

**Boy Scouts:** Sam Wilkes 546-0614  
**Catholic Charities Office-Family Life Center** 380-0162  
**For information on Catholic Charities**  
**Contact:** Karen or Sam Gross 346-2608  
**Cub Scouts:** Adam Rohrig 276-274-8110  
**Girl Scouts:** Sandi Greenhowe 553-7021  
**Knights of Columbus -St. Michael the Archangel #12630**  
Dick Fauss, Grand Knight 965-6872  
Sam Gross-Faithful Navigator-Fr. Boniface Assembly #1188 346-2608  
**Ministry to Sick/Elderly**  
Sr. Ida Chikara, SJI 1-304-709-0026  
**Mount Olivet Cemetery/Mausoleum** 342-8135  
Wayne Johnson or Sacred Heart Parish  
**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Wanda Dettinger 344-1181  
**Saint John XXIII Pastoral Center** 342-0507  
**SH Christian Service Committee:** Ron Rushworth 382-7768  
**SH Finance Council:** Cindy McGhee-Chair 342-8175  
**SH Gift Shop:** Antonetta Stevens 415-8132 or Kathy Lamb 344-2011  
**SH Pastoral Council:** Jack Walsh-Chair 533-2298

## Sharing Our Treasure - 12/18/2022

Regular Collection: \$30,767      Candles: \$162  
SMILE: \$170                      Partners In Hope: \$300  
Needy Student: \$20              Social Concerns: \$50  
Religious Retirement: \$1276 (\$4360)

**Thank you for your faithful generosity.**

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at the Basilica  
The Nativity of the Lord, December 25, 2022 &  
The Solemnity of Mary, January 1, 2023

### Vigil of Christmas

12/24 Sat. 4:00 pm For the People  
8:00 pm For the People  
12:00 am For the People

### Christmas Day

12/25 Sun. 9:00 am For the People  
12:00 pm For the People  
5:00 pm NO MASS

12/26 Mon. 8:15 am NO MASS  
12/27 Tue. 12:00 pm NO MASS  
12/28 Wed. 12:00 pm NO MASS  
12/29 Thu. 12:00 pm NO MASS  
12/30 Fri. 8:15 am NO MASS  
12:00 pm NO MASS

12/31 Sat. 8:15 am + Mary A. Collia

### Solemnity of Mary

12/31 Sat. 5:30 pm + Robert "Bob" Miller  
01/01 Sun. 8:00 am + Paul Gursky  
10:00 am + Mary Adelia McLeod  
12:00 pm + Dr. Angel Cinco  
5:00 pm + People of the Parish

01/02 Mon. 8:15 am + Patti Carnemolla  
01/03 Tue. 12:00 pm + Albert E. Dery, II  
01/04 Wed. 12:00 pm + Samuel Femia  
01/05 Thur. 12:00 pm + Alice Riley  
01/06 Fri. 8:15 am + Fr. Eugene F. Klug  
12:00 pm + Phillip Peters

01/07 Sat. 8:15 am + Michael A. Carey  
5:30 pm + Fr. Leon Alexander  
01/08 Sun. 8:00 am + Fr. Pat McDonough  
10:00 am + John Ruddick  
12:00 pm + People of the Parish  
5:00 pm + Don Quarequio

## Ministry Schedule-Week of January 7/8

### Lector Schedule

5:30 PM-1 O'Donoghue  
8:00 AM-Joel Weese  
10:00 AM- Maria Rendingell  
12:00 PM-Marice! Bernardo  
5:00 PM-Debra Basham

### Eucharistic Ministers Schedule

5:30 PM Sr. Ida Chikara, Annette Cipriani  
8:00 AM Mary Agnes & Rex Kern  
10:00 AM Maria Rendingell & Mike Tupta  
12:00 PM Andrew & Heather Workman  
5:00 PM Agnes Smith, Angelita Zamora

## A note from the Rector...

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

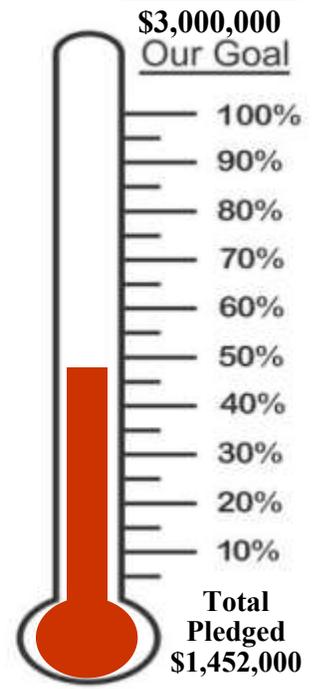
Merry Christmas and Happy Anniversary!

With great joy we celebrate the birth of Jesus. It is also with joy that we welcome Bishop Mark who begins our 125th Anniversary Year with the celebration of Mass on Christmas Eve, recalling the very first Mass celebrated by Bishop Donahue on Christmas Eve of 1897. We are very grateful to our Bishop in spending this Christmas with us.

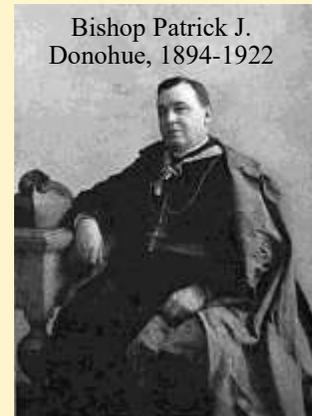
In order to give our staff a little vacation, please be aware this bulletin will be for this Sunday and next Sunday. So--hang on to it.

On behalf of Fr. Dominic, our Religious Sisters, and Parish Staff, I pray that you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May the Lord bless you and your family with peace and joy. I remain,

In Christ,  
Fr. Don



# CELEBRATING 125 YEARS of the Sacred Heart Church Building



Bishop Patrick J.  
Donohue, 1894-1922



Altar used for 1st Mass in 1897.





## Letter to the Faithful – Christmas, 2022

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, it's the time of short days and long nights. We who live in the northern hemisphere are used to winter. As the earth's axis tilts slightly away from the sun, it brings us those shorter days, longer nights and colder temperatures, while the southern hemisphere enjoys summer.

Most of us prefer light to darkness. Some people suffer from seasonal "down moods" or even depression in winter. We cope with the lack of natural light by filling our homes, schools and businesses with artificial light. Candles and oil lamps were once widely used. Now we use electricity. We put up brightly-lit Christmas trees in our homes and often string up lights on the exterior of our houses. Many towns and cities celebrate festivals of light at this time of year. We try to dispel the darkness.

Our sacred Scriptures use night as a metaphor for another kind of darkness, that of sin, ignorance and despair. The Bible speaks of light as God's coming with salvation for His people. Here is how Isaiah the prophet puts it: the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwell in the land of gloom a light has shone [9:1].

St. John calls Jesus Christ, the Son of God, that life-giving light: this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it [1:4-5]. Jesus says of himself, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life [John 8:12].

Although our Savior came in humility, born in a manger and raised in an undistinguished town, the story about him and his Gospel burst forth into the world after his death and resurrection with the power of the Holy Spirit. The early Christians claimed that Christ illuminated their minds with a new way of relating to God and one another. As St. Paul would tell them: You were once darkness but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of the light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth . . . Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness [Ephesians 5:8:11].

If there is a great challenge in seeking to live in and by Christ's light, there is also great joy in doing so. Christ's light helps us see our goal and the path toward it: our destiny is to be with God forever and He shows us the way to get there, the way of love. Just as the sun's light, combined with water and good soil, allows green plants to grow, so the light of Christ's grace, falling on the soil of our good will, which is watered by faith, enables us to grow into the mature human beings we have always been meant to be. We become more and more "the glory of God, the human person fully alive" (St. Irenaeus, 2nd century AD).

We rejoice, then, as we remember the coming of God's Son into the world, because he brought us a light we did not have before. That light allows us to advance without stumbling and, even if we sometimes stumble, Christ's light helps us get up again with the goal clearly in view. We are blessed in knowing where we are going and how to get there. That is the basis for a deep joy, which the troubles and adversities of this life cannot take away.

As we recall the first Christmas and await the Lord's return in glory (which we should not fear but eagerly yearn for), we also have the promise of the Lord's active presence in our lives. Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves, for my yoke is easy and my burden light [Matthew 11:28-30].

How is the Lord active in our lives? He strengthens us through his Word, which encourages, consoles and challenges us. He builds us up through the sacraments, giving us a spiritual birth in Baptism, anointing us with the Holy Spirit in Confirmation and then giving himself personally to us in the Holy Eucharist, as he transforms bread and wine into his Body and Blood. He seeks us out in prayer: Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will enter his house and dine with him and he with me [Revelation 3:20]. We also experience the Lord's loving care through one another, for whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me [Matthew 25:40]. Jesus enters our lives in all these ways as long as we do not bar the door.

One of the most popular Christmas carols begins, "Joy to the world, the Lord is come." I hope you will let the joy of this holy season seep into your minds and hearts. While Christmas music on the radio and TV movies will disappear on December 26, the Church refuses to let Christmas go and prolongs it until the Solemnity of the Epiphany (the Three Kings), which will be January 8, 2023. Don't take down your Christmas decorations too soon. Why not gather the family around the Christmas creche on the evenings after December 25 and read the Scriptures assigned for those days, adding some petitions and other prayers? Maybe you could even sing some Christmas carols, some of the most beautiful music ever composed! This is a spiritual way to dispel the darkness, as we learn to live as children of the light.

The Lord Jesus Christ has come as the world's light, freeing us from sin and ignorance, for in him we find forgiveness of sins and the truth about God, ourselves and the world. If we keep our word of faith to him, we can also trust that he will keep his word to us and overcome our last enemy: death. Then Paul's words will come true: Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead and Christ will give you light [Ephesians 5:14]. So, rejoice in the Lord always, I shall say it again: rejoice! [Philippians 4:4].

Sincerely in Christ,  
+Mark E. Brennan Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston



**Don't Forget!**  
This year the 4pm Christmas Eve Mass will include Children's Christmas Carols before Mass and a Children's choir during Mass.



Please keep in your prayers **Dr. Angel Cinco** who died December 2nd 2022. Our prayers and condolences for his family and friends. Eternal rest grant to him, O Lord.

### How Do You Say, "Yes" to God?

Mary's MAGNIFICAT serves as a guide to help us say "Yes" to God in our daily lives. The Magnificat is found in Luke 1:46-55.

John Michael Talbot's book, **HOLY IS HIS NAME: A Journey through Mary's MAGNIFICAT** that inspires and challenges us through prayer, meditation and action to imitate Our Blessed Mother's "Yes" to God.

This Adult Prayer Enrichment Program will begin on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 and conclude on February 14, 2023. The group will meet in the Sacred Heart Cordis Center from 10:15-11:30 a.m. The cost of the book is \$20.00 and will be available for purchase during the first class session.

**PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED** by Calling or Texting Bob Harrison at 304-932-8246 or e-mail [DRBOBWV@AOL.COM](mailto:DRBOBWV@AOL.COM) by January 4, 2023, the registration deadline.



The Knights of Columbus wish all of the parishioners of the Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral a very Merry Christmas and hope that this year is a special time with your families.

We also wish to thank everyone who has supported the Knights of Columbus in all of its activities throughout this past year, especially those who have been generous in their donations to the Risen Lord Food Pantry

The Knights of Columbus is always looking for new members. Join up on line by logging on to [kofc.org/joinus](http://kofc.org/joinus). Simply fill out the form answering a few simple questions for a free one year membership. Enter the following ONLINE MEMBERSHIP CODE [blessedmcgivney](http://blessedmcgivney)



### Get behind our Diaper Drive!

**What:** Diaper Drive to collect diapers, training pants and baby wipes (or the funds to buy them!) for babies in need in the Kanawha Valley. All diaper sizes, especially large sizes (4, 5 or 6). All sizes of training pants. Unscented baby wipes.

**When:** Now through December 31, 2022

**How:** Buy a package (or more!) of diapers, training pants and/or baby wipes at your local grocery or discount store and donate them to us. Or shop online for direct delivery to: Gabriel Project of West Virginia 1207 Jefferson Road South Charleston, WV 25309 Phone: 304-205-5865 Unsure of what to purchase? Use our "wish list" registries: Walmart: <https://www.walmart.com/registry/registryforgood> Type 25301 into your location box, hit enter, then scroll down and click on Gabriel Project of West Virginia Amazon: <https://smile.amazon.com/hz/charitylist/1s/1QRMINNMYMTA> Target: <https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/gpbabyitems>

**Why:** Diapers are the most requested baby item by our clients. The average child uses over 2,700 diapers in their first year alone. Diapers are not covered by public assistance. For low-income families it is a difficult choice between buying a sufficient quantity of diapers and other essential household needs.

Diapers collected during our drive will go directly to families in our community. Please donate!



### Sacred Heart Grade School News...

SHGS students, faculty, & staff wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May God bless us all in 2023! *Anne Davis, Principal*

Need Some Prayers? Who Doesn't! You are invited to our St. Monica Flocknote Prayer eGroup! St. Monica's prayer group has been active since 2017, and it's been very rewarding during Covid shutdowns to stay connected and pray daily for our parish family's requests. The prayer requests are shared via Flocknote to our 50+strong prayer warrior group. Join us and give the gift of prayer for your fellow parishioners' intentions! If you wish to know more, submit a request, or be added to the list to see requests and pray with us—just email Diane: [dianekimble79@gmail.com](mailto:dianekimble79@gmail.com)



### Religious Education News...

We give thanks and praise to the Lord for protecting us throughout this year and for the many blessings we received from Him. A special thanks to our Catechists for the wonderful work you do in our parish, accompanying our children on their faith journey. May the Lord bless you and your families. We have no classes on Christmas and New Year's Day, our classes will start on January 8th, 2023. Wishing you all Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

### The Pope's Monthly Intention December- Volunteer Not-for-Profit Organizations

We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

# THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD



## Wonderful, Marvelous

Glorious and generous God,  
with the angels and saints,  
we raise our voices joyfully  
for the gift of an infant.  
May Christ be born in us

through the Eucharist,  
as we acknowledge  
that the wood of the cradle  
anticipates the wood of the cross.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Sunday, December 25, 2022 Good News, Great Joy, Alleluia

*Today's readings (Mass during the Night): Isaiah 9:1-6; Psalm 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14.* Christmas breaks into our lives with the hopeful image of light. "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light," we hear in the reading from Isaiah. Sickness, death, and much human frailty have been part of our lives in the recent past. More than a promise of better days to come is needed. Isaiah's prophecy offers abundant hope as we hear, "Upon those who lived in a land of gloom a light has shone." The light is given to us because "a child is born to us," a child who will be called "Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace."

This Christmas, as we deal with uncertainty, let us be surprised with Christmas hope! Let us be amazed that God sent his Son to redeem us! Through Jesus, God offers us another path. As St. Athanasius said, "God became human so that humanity might become divine." How can we be anything but astounded that God has invited us into life with him?

During the Christmas season, seek ways to extend a kindness that is out of the ordinary. After all, God has done that for us, and as St. Paul said in his Letter to Titus, through Christ, God has cleansed us "as a people of his own, eager to do good." May your kindnesses be a light to others.



## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, December 26

#### St. Stephen

Today is special for permanent deacons as they celebrate the feast of their patron, St. Stephen, the first martyr. Acts recounts how the saint was stoned after he performed “great wonders and signs among the people.” While being stoned, Stephen called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Psalm 31 echoes the suffering of Jesus on the cross and the cry, “Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.” May we allow St. Stephen’s courage to inspire us as we seek to live as disciples of Christ. *Today’s readings: Acts 6:8–10, 7:54–59; Psalm 31:3cd–4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17; Matthew 10:17–22.*

### Tuesday, December 27

#### St. John, Apostle

St. John, the apostle, is known as the disciple “whom Jesus loved.” The Gospel text shows this disciple running to the tomb, arriving before Peter. Upon entering the tomb, the disciple “saw and believed.” In the first reading, St. John passes on his belief. “What we have seen and heard, we proclaim now to you,” he states. If there is a funeral at your church this week, try to attend to support the family of the deceased. During the Christmas season, grieving families especially need love and concern from the parish. *Today’s readings: 1 John 1:1–4; Psalm 97:1–2, 5–6, 11–12; John 20:1a, 2–8.*

### Wednesday, December 28

#### Feast of the Holy Innocents

The Gospel today tells of “the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity.” If you are with children today, offer them special love and give thanks to God for the blessing of their lives. With the children, make a simple manger from paper, popsicle sticks, or a cardboard box, as a reminder of Jesus’ cradle. If there is a community pantry nearby, donate and deliver diapers or baby supplies for the needy. *Today’s readings: 1 John 1:5–2:26–4; Psalm 124: 2–3, 4–5, 7b–8; Matthew 2:13–18.*

### Thursday, December 29

#### Octave of Christmas

The days after Christmas are called the *Octave of Christmas*. Similarly, the first eight days of Easter are called an *octave*. In both seasons, the days of the octave invite the faithful to an extended reflection on what we are celebrating. Today, spend time with the Gospel text of Simeon’s prayer and then with his words to Mary. Incorporate Simeon’s prayer, known as the *Nunc Dimittis*, into your nightly prayers. *Today’s readings: 1 John 2:3–11; Psalm 96:1–2a, 2b–3, 5b–6; Luke 2:22–35.*

### Friday, December 30

#### Feast of the Holy Family

The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph is celebrated on a weekday this year, since there is no Sunday between Christmas and the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. Celebrate this feast with your family and include a guest who is a “family of one” to join you. Prepare a special dessert, meet at a favorite restaurant, or volunteer to serve a meal to those who have no family to share the holidays with. Make peace with an estranged family member. *Today’s readings: Sirach 3:2–6, 12–14 or Colossians 3:12–21 or Colossians 3:12–17; Psalm 128:1–2, 3, 4–5; Matthew 2:13–15, 19–23.*

### Saturday, December 31

#### The Light Shines in Darkness

Today’s Gospel proclaims Jesus as the incarnate Word of God, stating, “In the beginning was the Word, / and the Word was with God, / and the Word was God.” In your Bible, this text is the prologue to the Gospel of John and can be read as a preview of the chapters ahead. The rest of the brief chapter tells of the incarnation. Read this Gospel over meditatively, stopping to ponder phrases such as “the true light, which enlightens everyone.” *Today’s readings: 1 John 2:18–21; Psalm 96:1–2, 11–12, 13; John 1:1–18.*



# MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD



## Intercede

Loving God,  
you gave us your Son through Mary,  
who advocates for all of humanity.  
At home, Mary nurtured the Son of God.  
In our homes, she protects and cares for us.  
Bless all who seek Mary's help.

Through the intercession of  
the Blessed Mother,  
may we receive the grace to face challenges  
and setbacks,  
and the wisdom to recognize our blessings.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

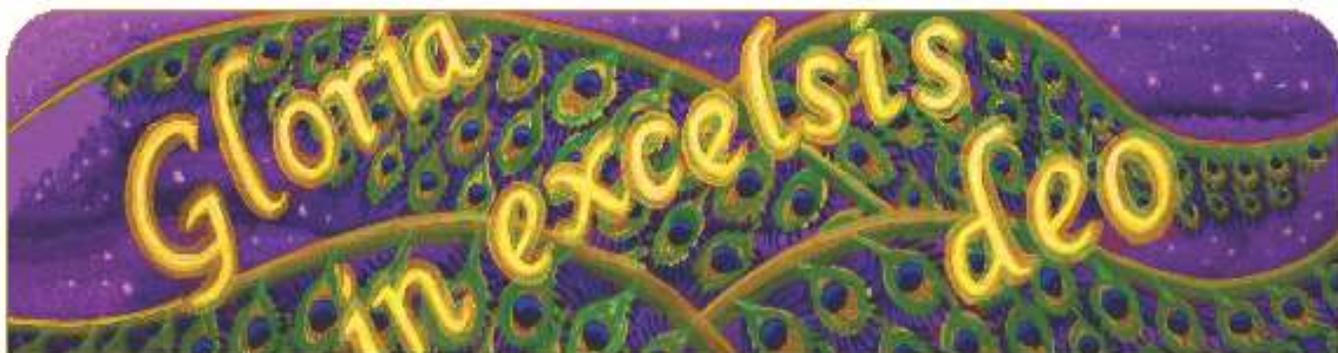
**Sunday, January 1, 2023**

## Rich Blessings

*Today's readings: Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21.* Today's readings are filled with blessings. In the reading from Numbers, Moses is given a blessing for the Israelites; in the refrain for the responsorial psalm, we ask God to bless us; from Galatians, we hear that we are adopted children of God; and in the Gospel, the shepherds see the infant Jesus, certainly a blessing.

It is up to us to continue to carry the blessings we have received into the world, just as the shepherds "made known the message that had been told them." Not only can you let others know of the good news that has been passed on to

you, but you can bless others. Write down the words of the first reading: "The LORD bless you and keep you! / The LORD let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! / The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace!" Use this text to bless children, friends, and relatives during this last week of the Christmas season. Parents could use the blessing in the reading from Numbers to bless a child before bedtime. Teens could use these words to conclude their weekly youth ministry gatherings. Consider other people in your life who would appreciate being blessed.



## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, January 2

#### Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzen

The first reading promises eternal life. Note that “antichrist” in the reading means “against Christ.” This week, think of a way that you can be for Christ, perhaps in a conversation, at a meeting, or simply while relaxing after a festive holiday event. Go gently into the new year: begin each day with the Morning Offering prayer. Much is written about the friendship of Sts. Basil and Gregory, as evident from historical manuscripts. Each made strong theological arguments for the orthodoxy of Christianity. In prayer, ask these saints to grant you the courage to persist in your faith. *Today’s readings:* 1 John 2: 22–28; Psalm 98: 1, 2–3ab, 3cd–4; John 1:19–28.

### Tuesday, January 3

#### Holy Name of Jesus

The Christmas season continues with the psalmist’s joyous reminder “All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.” Perhaps as a child, you were taught to bow your head when someone spoke Jesus’ name. You will notice that this pious practice is a habit for many Catholics. Children can be taught to do this out of respect for the name of Jesus. More important to remember is to always speak Jesus’ name with love and kindness. *Today’s readings:* 1 John 2:29–3:6; Psalm 98:1, 3cd–4, 5–6; John 1:29–34.

### Wednesday, January 4

#### St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

In 1975, Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton was the first native-born American to become an official saint of the Church. She was born into a wealthy family and married at age twenty. After becoming a widow, she became Catholic in 1805 and established the first free Catholic school in the United States and then founded an order of vowed religious women. *Today’s readings:* 1 John 3:7–10; Psalm 98:1, 7–8, 9; John 1:35–42.

### Thursday, January 5

#### St. John Neumann

St. John Neumann was born in Bohemia, which had an overabundance of priests during the time he expected to be ordained. With ordinations in the country paused, he set his sights on becoming a missionary in the United States. He was ordained in New York soon after his arrival in 1836. Several years later, he joined the Redemptorist congregation of priests and dedicated his life to education and to the poor. As a bishop, he founded the first Catholic diocesan school system in the United States. *Today’s readings:* John 3:11–21; Psalm 100:1b–2, 3, 4, 5; John 1:43–51.

### Friday, January 6

#### Family Tree

The long form of St. Luke’s Gospel today tells the genealogy of Jesus. The challenge for today is to diagram or draw Jesus’ family tree. If possible, work with a younger child on this project, helping with the pronunciation of the biblical names of Jesus’ relatives. Talk about your family and where your relatives were born. *Today’s readings:* 1 John 5:5–13; Psalm 147:12–13, 14–15, 19–20; Mark 1:7–11 or Luke 3:23–28 or Luke 3:23, 31–34, 36, 38.

### Saturday, January 7

#### Festivities

“They have no wine,” Mary comments to Jesus, encouraging him to begin his ministry. This account in the Gospel of John portrays Jesus as reluctant to show God’s glory in this gathering of friends and family. Jesus replies to Mary, “My hour has not yet come.” Still, he instructs the waiters, “Fill the jars with water.” In your prayer today, examine whether you are holding back from doing God’s will. Is there someone trying to encourage you to use your talents for the glory of God? *Today’s readings:* John 5:14–21; Psalm 149:1–2, 3–4, 5, 6a and 9b; John 2:1–11.



## Christmas in January

When does Christmas end? It depends. If you are asking about the social celebration in the United States, it comes to an end on Christmas Day. Stores take down their decorations. “After-Christmas” sales begin. Holiday music disappears from radio stations. And in many homes, people pull down the tree, package up the manger, and tuck away the stockings.

Food is about the only thing left. You’ll probably still have Christmas cookies and leftovers from the big family dinner. But otherwise, evidence of Christmas goes into hiding until sometime next autumn.

It’s different at church. Most Catholic churches in the United States will leave their Christmas decorations up through the end of the liturgical Christmas season, which extends from Christmas Day through the Solemnities of Mary, Mother of God (January 1); Epiphany (the following Sunday); and the Baptism of the Lord (usually the Sunday after Epiphany, but in some years the very next day). The priest and deacon will switch from white vestments to green ones when Ordinary Time begins in earnest after observing the Baptism of the Lord.

This is why you may still see poinsettias and other decorations lasting well into January—but only at church. The decorations are one way that we express our complete belief in the meaning of this day. We have too much to celebrate on December 25. To grasp the full meaning of that day, we extend Christmastime well into January.

You could do the same at your home. Leave some decorations in place—both inside and outside the house. Let your home be a place where Christmas is too big to be restricted to one day. Let the spirit of the season extend into the New Year, spreading its joy that Christ is born for us.

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### A Prayer for Christmas

Let your goodness, Lord, appear to us, that we, made in your image, conform ourselves to it.

In our own strength we cannot imitate your majesty, power and wonder; nor is it fitting for us to try.

But your mercy reaches from the heavens, through the clouds, to the earth below.

You have come to us as a small child, but you have brought us the greatest of all gifts, the gift of eternal love.

Caress us with your tiny hands, embrace us with your tiny arms, and pierce our hearts with your soft, sweet cries.

Amen.

St. Bernard of Clairvaux

### PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

O God our Father, we thank you for protecting us and bringing us safely through another year. Help us to grow not only in body, but also in heart and mind. May we look upon each new day as another chance to follow you more closely. As the new year unfolds, may we be more merciful towards others and more generous in serving you. Amen.

PrayerLibrary.org



### Hello and Merry Christmas!!

My name is Clare Tupta, daughter of Michael and Maria Tupta. It is with joy I announce I have been selected to serve in Uganda, Africa for a two-week mission trip this upcoming May! I am inviting you into the mission by asking for your prayerful consideration of a small donation towards my trip to which it is my goal to fundraise \$1,750. This trip is through the Mother Teresa Scholar Program at Ave Maria University, which I am blessed to be a part of. On mission, we will be visiting the homebound and the imprisoned, serving at Our Lady of the Rosary school and orphanage, and much more! Most importantly, I ask for your prayers for a fruitful time of service. If you feel so inclined, here is the link to my donation page - thank you and God bless! <https://gofund.me/29fccd98>





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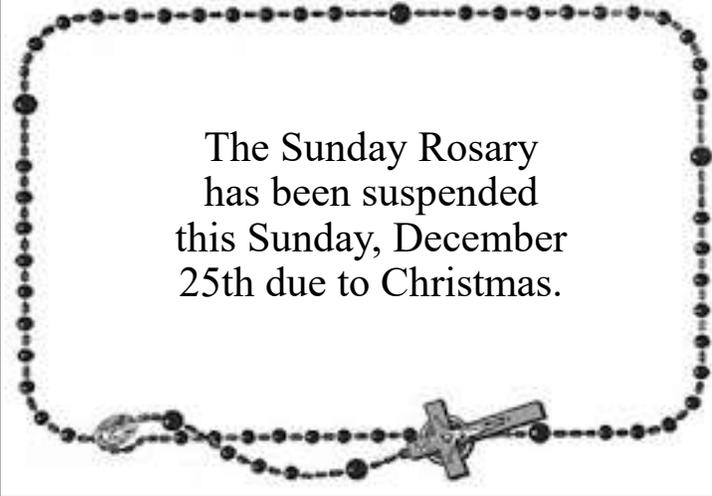
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The Sunday Rosary  
 has been suspended  
 this Sunday, December  
 25th due to Christmas.

**New Mausoleum to be built at Mount Olivet Cemetery-the only Catholic Cemetery in Kanawha County.**

The church has consulted with Tim White at Barlow Bonsall Funeral Home to help us get the mausoleum built. You may contact him at (304)342-8135 or his cell phone at (304)395-4824 for more information or to set up a private meeting. This may be done either virtually or in person. Affordable monthly payment plans are available.



*“Lord Jesus Christ, by your own three days in the tomb, you hallowed the graves of all who believed in you and so made the grave a sign of hope that promises resurrection even as it claims our mortal bodies” – Rite of Committal*

For your information, this QR code is a quick way to get to the parish giving page.



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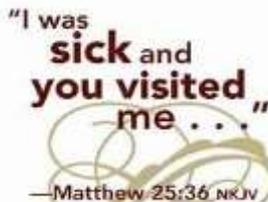
Consider having your church contributions sent directly to the Church from your bank; please contact your own bank to do so. Almost every bank offers this service. If possible please have your parish ID included on the check. Many parishioners are opting to do this.

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**Pastoral Care** is offered to all parishioners. If you would like a visit or the Eucharist brought to your home, the hospital or assisted care facility, you can contact Sr. Ida at 1-304-709-0026.

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 Diocese at 888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880.

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