

ST. MARY

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
STAR CITY

December 13, 2020 • Third Sunday of Advent

“A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.”

~Jn 1:6-7



MASS

**Saturday, 6:00pm,
Sundays, 8:30am, 11:00am**

Daily Mass*: Mon. 6:30pm

Tue.-Thur. 9:00am

*please see schedule inside for any changes or cancellations to this week's Masses

Radio broadcast at 8:30am on 1300AM WCLG & 92.1FM, and Tuneln channel Morgan 92.1

CONNECT

LOCATION

3346 University Ave
Morgantown, WV 26505

PHONE

304-599-3747 / 304-599-1996

EMAIL

stmaryschurch@comcast.net

OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office will remain closed to in-person visits until further notice. We are still accessible by phone or email.

SACRAMENTS

RECONCILIATION

30 minutes prior to each daily Mass

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Upon request

BAPTISM

For children under 7, please call the Parish Office

MARRIAGE

Please call the Parish Office, at least 6 months notice required

FOR MORE INFO, PLEASE SEE PG. 2



www.stmarystarcity.com



Saint Mary Roman Catholic Church, Star City—JOIN us

St. Mary Parish

Pastor

John P. McDonough
papajohnwv@msn.com

Rectory

304-225-0506

Parish Office

Address:

3346 University Ave
Morgantown, WV 26505

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 9:30am-4:30pm
Closed Holy Days & some
Public Holidays

Office Staff

Carmen Riotto DeMasters
Theresa DeMasters

Phone

304-599-3747 / 304-599-1996

Email

stmaryschurch@comcast.net

Website

www.stmarystarcity.com

Mausoleum Accounts & Management

Angela Merinar 304-841-2101

Maintenance & Facility Management

Jonny Petak

Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

Kathy Kerzak 304-225-1163
kkerzak@comcast.net

Nancy Ferrari 304-599-1996
nickliz@aol.com

Music & Liturgical Ministries Coordinator

TamI Alexander 304-698-7625/599-1996
tamialexander@gmail.com
stmarystarcitymusic@gmail.com

Hispanic Ministries

Maria Garcia 304-685-7595
Lola Contreras 304-216-3441
stmaryhispanicministry@gmail.com

St. Ursula Food Pantry & Outreach

Sr. Rachel Blais, S.C.
Virginia Aultman-Moore

Phone

304-599-3822

Email

stursulafoodpantryoutreach@comcast.net

Formation Center & Peace Hall

304-599-9531

St. Francis de Sales Central School

304-291-5070

Prayer Requests

Barbara Fedikovich 304-599-3910
Rena Cyphert 304-599-6642



NEW PARISHIONERS

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all new parishioners and visitors to our church!

We hope that you enjoy your stay, and if you would like to join our family here at St. Mary Parish, we invite you to become a registered Parishioner.

Please pick up a registration form at the church or parish office, or register online at stmarystarcity.com

Are you registered in the Parish?

Registering in a parish is a declaration of your desire to be part of a Catholic community and to make a commitment to the life of the parish family.

Clearly stating your Catholic commitment in all its dimensions brings many advantages, recognition, and responsibility.

At St. Mary Roman Catholic Church, our policy, is that you must be registered and participating in Sunday Mass regularly before a baptism can take place, or for the initial meeting with the pastor in the case of marriage.

Regular attendance is also required for adults who are asked to be a godparent or sponsor at another parish, in order that a letter can be sent stating that they are a practicing Catholic and a registered member of a parish faith community.

Even though you may have attended Mass here for months, or even years, we would like for you to be registered. For more information, call the parish office at 304-599-3747.

Sacraments

BAPTISM: (Birth – Age 7) Parents are required to participate in a preparation program before the celebration of Baptism. Parents must be **registered and attending** Sunday Mass regularly. Please call Kathy 304-225-1163 for information.

RECONCILIATION: 30 minutes prior to each daily Mass

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION: Children 7-14 years of age, and Children 15 years of age and older & Adults— *The Order of Christian Initiation*, RCIA please contact Please contact Kathy Kerzak (304) 225-1163 /kkerzak@comcast.net for information

MARRIAGE: Engaged couples planning to marry at St. Mary Church should be practicing Catholics, participating in Sunday Eucharist regularly. Also, they must participate in a Marriage Preparation Program. Call the Parish Office for information. At least **six months notice** is required. *No date for a wedding will be set over the phone.*

HOLY COMMUNION TO THE SICK & HOMEBOUND: When a parishioner is confined to home or hospital because of illness or advanced age, call the Parish Office. We will be happy to make arrangements to bring Holy Communion.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Upon request and communally as scheduled

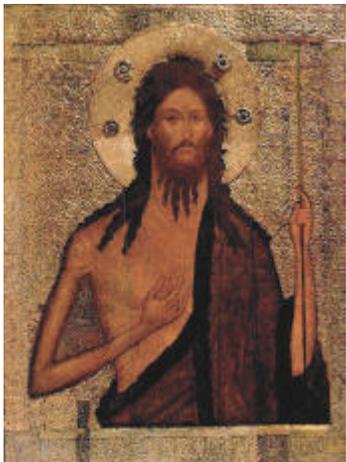
Bulletin Deadline:

Tuesday@Noon, written copy please

Email: stmaryschurch@comcast.net

Subject line: attn: Bulletin, and include topic of announcement

Spirituality of the Readings – Holy Darkness



Darkness can terrify us, can consume us, as we know from our 2020 experience.

And yet, the right kind of darkness can give us peace. A night of good sleep, for instance, or a “lovely soft day”—as the Irish call those shady, rainy, drizzling days that make Ireland green.

Once I had an experience of lovely, soft darkness. It took place in Hawaii—strangely, since light abounds there. A brother Jesuit and I decided to climb all the way up the side of one of Maui’s volcanic mountains—with a guide and with friends of his, I am happy to say—and then climb down into the crater itself.

Fine, but no one had mentioned that there was a great dark cave at the other end of the crater floor. It was a “lava tube,” formed when a huge molten stream begins to cool and harden on the outside while the inside keeps flowing and emptying. This leaves a tube, into which we were ushered, following trustingly. We took a few curves, and suddenly there was not a scrap of natural light left for us, only a single electric bulb hanging from above. We settled down on various rocks.

The guide put out the light.

He had warned us ahead of time, very kindly and all, but the words “put out the light” did not sound comforting to my ears. It is what Shakespeare’s Othello said as he blew out the candle and then again as he took the life of the sleeping Desdemona. Creepy.

Off it went. Perhaps a dozen of us had made the trip, and we simultaneously stopped our movements and our nervous talk. Deep, unrelieved darkness settled around us and around everything else. Eyes open, eyes closed, it was all the same. No light, no shadow, no least spark. Obviously we felt trapped and afraid, lost in a strange place, our eyes suddenly useless.

No. Against all reason, we felt great rest, great peace.

“I’ll turn the light back on now,” the guide whispered after several minutes, but we revolted.

“No, no, leave it off. Give us more time.” We sat, unseeing, consoled by the warmth and depth of absolute night.

When the tiny little bulb did finally go on again, our own eyesight surprised us. Seeing was like a memory that had slipped away. The dark had formed a resting place, it seemed, where our souls could re-charge, our eyes recover their innocence. Maybe the daylight world had become too ordinary, too usual, just something to reveal tools to be used. Now it seemed miraculous, a gift given by God, even if by means of an insignificant incandescent bulb.

In Sunday’s Gospel, the people hunger for light. “Are you the light?” they shout to John the Baptist. Will you “bring glad tidings to the poor, heal the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives and release the prisoners” (First Reading)?

“I am pointing you toward the light,” the Baptist seemed to say. “He will be here soon. Hold onto my arm.”

What is your experience of darkness? Maybe it is the opposite of quiet. Maybe terror is its name. If so, know that, however unrelieved your night may be, there is still, always, the promise of light. When you have been deprived for a long, long time, even one speck of light will change everything.

As a tiny child will on Christmas night.

John Foley, SJ

Giving Summary

Due to the holiday bulletin publishing schedule, Last Sunday’s Offering was not available at the time of printing. Please see future publications for this information.

For ease of accounting, **separate checks are preferred** for all donations to different collections and purposes.

Recent/Upcoming Special Collections

12/13—Retirement Fund for Religious

12/25—Catholic Charities, West Virginia



Wear a mask. Save lives.

Wear a face cover

Wash your hands

Keep a safe distance



DONATE TODAY

GIVE ONLINE!

by clicking on the image on our website
www.stmarystarcity.com.

THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

December 13, Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday, 6:00pm	For the People
Sunday, 8:30am	Tom Fedikovich
Sunday, 11:00am	Mothers of the Koloff & Medlick Families

Monday 12/14 St. John of the Cross
6:30pm In honor of Jacob

Tuesday 12/15 Advent Weekday
9:00am Kathy Koloff

Wednesday 12/16 Advent Weekday
9:00am Charles Robey

Thursday 12/17 Advent Weekday
9:00am Betty Wheeler

In the event of Closing of school due to inclement weather, there will be no Daily Mass or Prayer Service.

In the event of a funeral, morning Mass will be cancelled

December 20, Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, 6:00pm	Pamela Justice Fuller
Sunday, 8:30am	Betty Wheeler
Sunday, 11:00am	For the People



The Tabernacle Candle the week of December 6th is in memory of **Mary Peluchette**, by granddaughter, Mary Lynn Cocco.



Christmas Flowers

A Christmas flower donation form can be found on **page 9** of the bulletin (There is no envelope this year). Please return your form to the collection basket or Parish Office by **Monday,**

December 21 for your intentions to be printed in the Epiphany Bulletin. Intentions received late will not be printed. You can also find a printable form on our website.

Our New Address is:

3346 University Ave
Morgantown, WV 26505

Please direct all correspondence to this new address. We will also be closing our P.O. Box.

The Parish Office has relocated to the Formation Center, room A. We remain closed to in-person visits, except by appointment. You may still contact us by phone or email.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY

Sunday, December 13—3rd Sunday of Advent

8:30/9:30	Religious Ed. (Refer to schedule)
1:00pm	NA Meeting
5:30pm	Advent Evening Prayer
6-8:00pm	Middle School Youth— Peace Hall

Tuesday, December 15

6:30pm NA Meeting

Wednesday, December 16

7:00pm Catholic Homeschoolers Bible Study

Sunday, December 20 —4th Sunday of Advent

No Religious Ed.

1:00pm NA Meeting
5:30pm Advent Evening Prayer

No Youth Group

Calendar Correction There is **no** reconciliation on Fridays (as was listed in the December events calendar published in the 11/29 bulletin.)



Advent Evening Prayer will be held Sundays, December 13 & 20, at 5:30pm.



Eternal Rest for Carl Straub, and consolation to his family, especially his wife, Janice.



Eternal Rest for Carl Barill, and consolation to his family, especially his wife, Marjorie.

Little Blue Books of Advent

Little blue books can be found in the church, and on the table in the Christian Formation Center entry. Take one for yourself and one for a friend!



Mass Schedule

December 24th 6:00pm
December 24th 10:00pm
December 25th 10:00am

No Daily Mass

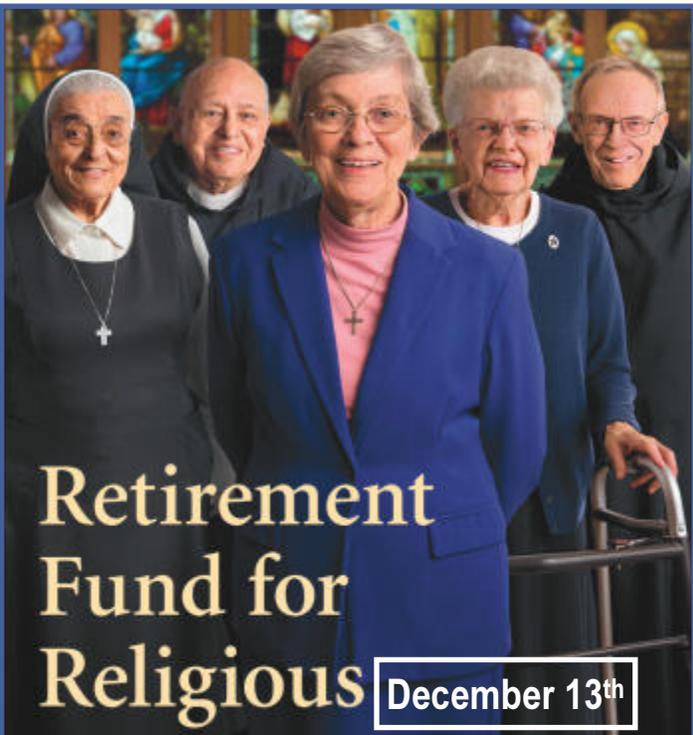
Monday, 28 December
Tuesday, 29 December
Wednesday, 30 December



December 31st 6:00pm
January 1st 10:00am



We have Hearing Assistance Devices available for use during Mass. If you would like one, please ask an Usher.



Retirement Fund for Religious

December 13th

Please give generously

Make a difference. "Every dollar makes a difference in covering our expenses," says a Trappist abbot. Hundreds of US religious communities struggle to provide for aging members because most senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little pay. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps these communities bridge the gap, offering support for medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please be generous.

CATHOLIC DOCTRINE



Survey of Catholic Doctrine (January 3 – February 6)

A five-week course offered through the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF).

This is a hybrid model offering both live weekly lectures (through Zoom) as well as a rich variety of online resources.

We will look at some of the major doctrines of the Catholic Church

This course is being underwritten by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, who pays 100% of the tuition.

The course instructor is Dr. Rodica Stoicoiu.

For further information or to register, please contact Jeanne McKeets at the Diocese at jmckeets@dwc.org.



St. Ursula Food Pantry needs:

**** Soup and Cereal ****

Baby & Toddler Program needs:

***Diapers** (All sizes, but especially 4, 5, 6)

***Toddler-sized Winter Clothing** (Especially 3T, 4T, & 5T. No other children's clothing is being accepted at this time)

St. Ursula Food Pantry & Outreach needs volunteers for several jobs

Including:

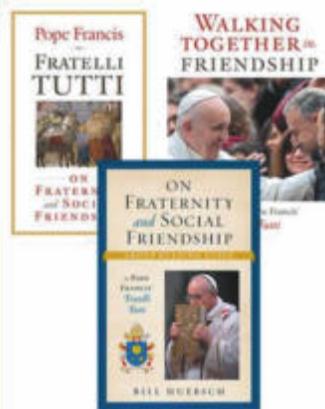
***Regular Volunteers to help on first and third Wednesday** afternoon at St. Ursula's pantry distribution (using curbside pickup model).

***Volunteers to help as available** with sorting donations of baby clothes and toys.

Call (304)599-3822 to speak with Ginny or Sr. Rachel. Thank you!

Fratelli Tutti

On Fraternity and Social Friendship



On October 4th, Pope Francis issued his latest encyclical Fratelli Tutti, On Fraternity and Social Friendship. This is Pope Francis' "cry from the heart" to all people of earth to see beyond their differences-indeed, to work with their differences-and begin to grow together to build a new and peaceful world.

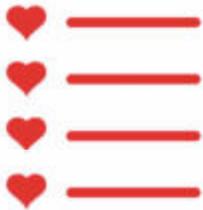
(23rd Publications)

Beginning in January, we will read and examine the eight chapters (92 pages total) over five weeks via ZOOM (online virtual meetings) using Bill Huebsch's Reading Guide and the document itself. The materials can be purchased at Twenty-third Publications for \$12.95 plus shipping (<http://www.twentythirdpublications.com/fratellitutti.html>), or we can purchase for reimbursement.

If you are interested please contact the Parish Office and provide your name, phone number, email address and the day of the week you would prefer to meet. This will be facilitated by Nancy Ferrari. For additional questions, contact Nancy at nickliz@aol.com.

How the **CARES Act** Impacts Your Charitable Giving This Year

Earlier this year, the President signed into law the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Securities Act (CARES) in response to COVID-19 and the subsequent economic downturn. By expanding charitable giving tax incentives, Congress acknowledged and endorsed the critical work of non-profits. The CARES Act includes significant tax relief and charitable giving benefits for the 2020 tax year.



Raising the Charitable Giving Deduction Cap

If you itemize charitable deductions, the CARES Act allows you to deduct much greater amounts of your cash contributions. The adjusted gross income (AGI) limit for cash contributions was increased for individual donors. You can now elect to deduct up to 100% of your AGI (increased from 60%).



Universal Deduction for Donations Up to \$300

For those who do not itemize their charitable giving, the CARES Act will allow these individual taxpayers to deduct cash donations to charity of up to \$300 on their 2020 federal tax return, even though they take the standard deduction. Married-filing-jointly taxpayers will get an “above-the-line” deduction of up to \$600. This new deduction will reduce your adjusted gross income (AGI) and reduce your taxable income.



What about IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD)?

Individuals over 70 ½ years old can donate up to \$100,000 from an IRA directly to a qualified charity through a qualified charitable distribution (QCD). In doing this you can avoid taxable income.



**The tax information provided is general and educational in nature and should not be considered as legal or tax advice. The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, including our schools and parishes, do not provide legal or tax advice. Always consult an attorney or tax professional regarding your specific legal or tax situation.*



FRANCISCANS INTERNATIONAL

Advent Reflections
on Human Rights
and Women

RUTH

Following a famine, Naomi and her family moved from Bethlehem to the land of Moab. There, her two sons married Moabite women, Ruth and Orpah. When tragedy struck, leaving the three women widowed, Naomi decided to return to Bethlehem and released her daughters-in-law from their marital obligation. Orpah returned to her family but Ruth remained faithful, saying, "Wherever you go I will go... Your people shall be my people and your God, my God" (Ruth 1:16). Despite encountering many difficulties along the way, Ruth's love and commitment to Naomi was justified in the end. She married Naomi's relative, Boaz and both became the parents of Obed, the father of Jesse, who was the father of King David.

MIGRATION

The story of Ruth is a story of faithfulness and love, but it is also the story of a foreigner and of the difficulties migrants and refugees find in a foreign land. Whether it is climate-induced, or brought about by war, natural disasters, or lack of economic opportunities, global migration is one of the most pressing issues in the world today. Women and girls are the most vulnerable migrants and refugees, and they often face unspeakable violence in the form of physical and sexual assault, and even death. Moreover, women experience multiple and intersecting oppressions before, during, and after their migration journey. Sexism, misogyny, racism, xenophobia, homophobia and transphobia collude with other forms of gender-based violence to inflict harm on migrant and refugee women and girls.

Our response to the global migration crisis must therefore work to develop and promote gender-responsive policies and a compassionate, human rights-based approach to migration that recognizes and defends the innate dignity of all women.



Franciscans International
A voice at the United Nations

Sunday, Dec 13, 2020

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Discern the spirit

Often we get an intuition, a burning in the heart that feels motivating. It may tell us to speak up or shut up; to reach out or keep our hands off a situation; to admit we need help or to stop leaning on others. Do we obey the prompt, or ignore it? The problem with following what may be a divine nudge is that we can't always discern the Holy Spirit from a lesser kind.

Discernment involves prayer, familiarity with scripture, consultation with faithful others, and sometimes spiritual direction. Above all, it needs to be practiced. Befriend the Spirit!

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28 (8). *"Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances."*

Monday, Dec 14, 2020

MEMORIAL OF JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Be a light in the darkness

We have so many options in our modern world that it's easy to walk away from any organization or community that we struggle with and simply join ones that are more agreeable to us. But what if we stayed and worked to make them better instead? Saint John of the Cross did exactly that and reformed his Carmelite order, despite imprisonment for his efforts. When you feel disillusioned with institutions you love, be guided by John's writing—considered among the greatest in all of Spanish literature—about darkness leading to the light.

TODAY'S READINGS: Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a; Matthew 21:23-27 (187). *"By what authority are you doing these things?"*

Tuesday, Dec 15, 2020

ADVENT WEEKDAY

The darkness before dawn

Two days ago we celebrated Gaudete Sunday with refrains of rejoicing. Two days from now, we'll begin to pray the O Antiphons—seven days to laud the fast-approaching Messiah. What to make of this in-between time, when scripture shows Jesus chiding religious leaders and Old Testament prophets preach fire and brimstone? "The day in which we now find ourselves is still night," wrote Saint Augustine. But the promise of salvation is sure. "Keep your attention closely fixed on it, as you would on a lamp shining in a dark place until the first streaks of dawn appear."

TODAY'S READINGS: Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Matthew 21:28-32 (188). *"Tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God."*

Wednesday, Dec 16, 2020

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Usher in a renewed Advent

This Advent season is so different from any other in our lifetimes, and the holidays may not allow for worship in person with our faith communities or celebrations with beloved families. For many of us, this brings sadness to these Advent days as we mourn the loss of familiar rituals. The poetic words of theologian, educator, and civil rights leader Howard Thurman remind us that the work of Christmas is to "find the lost, heal the broken, feed the hungry . . . rebuild the nations and bring peace among others." Let us pray for the grace to overcome any disappointment we feel and focus on feeding the hungry, having compassion for the broken,

and rebuilding the relationships around us. In such practices, we will find Advent hope and peace.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25; Luke 7:18b-23 (189). *"The poor have the good news proclaimed to them."*

Thursday, Dec 17, 2020

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O WISDOM)

Heavenly sounds

Today is the first of the O Antiphons, an Advent tradition from the seventh century whereby for a week the church's evening prayer salutes the coming Messiah by different names each evening. Tonight monasteries, parishes, and ordinary Christians will sing or recite "O Sapientia" (Wisdom). Reading about the loveliness of this prayer is no substitute for hearing it. Let the ethereal sound of this ancient tradition uplift your prayer today. Here is "O Sapientia" sung by Dominican friars in Oxford, England.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17 (193). *"Thus the total number of generations from Abraham to David is fourteen generations."*

Friday, Dec 18, 2020

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O SACRED LORD)

A call to rescue and restore

The calamities that piled up in 2020 point surely to the longing of today's O Antiphon. A wave of global pandemic, quarantine, massive unemployment, fires, floods, and protest for racial justice crests, resonating with the yearning for freedom. More than ever, we yearn for the Leader who will restore justice and rescue us with mighty power. And at a time when more people are exiled from their homes than ever before in human history, we commemorate Migrants Day with a plaintive call: *Come, Lord Jesus to our human mess. We need you as we have throughout the centuries.*

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25 (194). *"O sacred Lord of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai mountain: come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free."*

Saturday, Dec 19, 2020

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O FLOWER OF JESSE'S STEM)

Creation is full of surprises

The image of "Jesse's Stem" in today's O Antiphon comes from the Book of Isaiah. Using the image of a tree much like we use a family tree to trace our lineage, Isaiah traces the lineage of the kings of Judah forward from Jesse, the father of King David, to the hoped-for Christ, the new king who might restore the monarchy to its former greatness. But like the birth of John the Baptist, the actual coming of the Christ would be a surprise, a new revelation of a heavenly Kingdom. Reflect on the various ways God has surprised you in your life.

TODAY'S READINGS: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25 (195). *"O Flower of Jesse's stem, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples."*

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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Safe Environment Reporting

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.

Will or Estate Planning

Are you thinking of remembering St. Mary Church in your will or estate plans? A bequest through a Last Will and Testament is the simplest way of creating a lasting legacy of support for St. Mary Church. Bequests should be made out to:

“The Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, or his successors in office,” with a specification of the purpose for which the bequest is to be used, e.g. “for the use of St. Mary Parish”

Readings for the week of December 13, 2020

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17

Friday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25

Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25

Next Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

**Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service
ReportBishopAbuse.org (800) 276-1562**

The Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service has been established to receive reports of sexual abuse and related misconduct by bishops, and to relay those reports to proper Church authorities for investigation. Where a report includes a crime, such as the sexual abuse of a minor, it will also be reported to civil authorities. Otherwise, reports will be kept confidential. If you have any other kind of complaint about a bishop—such as parish assignments, church closings, or homily contents—please address those directly to your diocesan or eparchial bishop instead. Sexual abuse by a priest, deacon or a staff member or volunteer of the Church should be reported to the Office of Safe Environment for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. So, to be sure you get the help you need, phone numbers and addresses may be found at www.dwc.org under the accountability tab. If you are the victim of sexual abuse (or any other crime), please contact local law enforcement.



Christmas Flowers



Please Print all names to avoid misspellings!

Envelope # _____

Name/ Family : _____ Phone : _____

In Memory/Honor of: _____

In Memory/Honor of: _____

In Memory/Honor of: _____

In Memory/Honor of: _____

Suggested: \$10 donation per honoree/memorial

Please *print* all names to avoid misspellings in the bulletin.

For intentions to appear in the **Epiphany bulletin**, this form must be returned in the collection or to the Parish Office by **Monday, 21 December**. Intentions received after will not be printed.

3346 University Ave, Morgantown, WV 26505

Total Enclosed: _____

Or : I donated online to the Christmas Flowers fund.

Please make checks payable to St. Mary Church, memo: Christmas Flowers

For security, please do not mail cash!

FIRST READING**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET ISAIAH**

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the
poor,
to heal the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives
and release to the prisoners,
to announce a year of favor from the LORD
and a day of vindication by our God.
I rejoice heartily in the LORD,
in my God is the joy of my soul;
for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation
and wrapped me in a mantle of justice,
like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem,
like a bride bedecked with her jewels.
As the earth brings forth its plants,
and a garden makes its growth spring up,
so will the Lord GOD make justice and praise
spring up before all the nations.

The Word of the Lord.

SECOND READING**A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF SAINT PAUL TO THE THESSALONIANS**

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.
In all circumstances give thanks,
for this is the will of God for you in Christ Je-
sus.
Do not quench the Spirit.
Do not despise prophetic utterances.
Test everything; retain what is good.
Refrain from every kind of evil.
May the God of peace make you perfectly holy
and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body,
be preserved blameless
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
The one who calls you is faithful,
and he will also accomplish it.

The Word of the Lord.

A READING FROM THE**THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN**

A man named John was sent from God.
He came for testimony, to testify to the light,
so that all might believe through him.
He was not the light,
but came to testify to the light.
And this is the testimony of John.
When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests
and Levites to him
to ask him, "Who are you?"
He admitted and did not deny it,
but admitted, "I am not the Christ."
So they asked him,
"What are you then? Are you Elijah?"
And he said, "I am not."
"Are you the Prophet?"
He answered, "No."
So they said to him,
"Who are you, so we can give an answer
to those who sent us?
What do you have to say for yourself?"
He said:
*"I am the voice of one crying out in the desert,
'make straight the way of the Lord,'"*
as Isaiah the prophet said."
Some Pharisees were also sent.
They asked him,
"Why then do you baptize
if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prop-
het?"
John answered them,
"I baptize with water;
but there is one among you whom you
do not recognize,
the one who is coming after me,
whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."
This happened in Bethany across the Jordan,
where John was baptizing.

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD.

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