

— ST. MARY —  
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH  
STAR CITY

3346 University Ave. Morgantown, WV 26505 • 304-599-3747

December 19, 2021 • Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Mass Times: Saturday, 6:00pm, Sunday, 8:30am, 11:00am, en español a la 1:00pm**  
**Daily Mass\*: Mon.-Fri. 9:00am, Mon. 6:30pm, Wed. 12:00pm** \*please see schedule inside for any changes  
or cancellations. **Radio broadcast at 8:30am** on 1300AM WCLG & 92.1FM, and TuneIn channel Morgan 92.1



FOURTH SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT

“BLESSED ARE YOU WHO BELIEVED  
THAT WHAT WAS SPOKEN TO YOU BY THE LORD  
WOULD BE FULFILLED.”

—LUKE 1:45

## St. Mary Parish

### Pastor

Rev. John P. McDonough  
papajohnwv@msn.com

### Parochial Vicar

Rev. Jose Mauricio Henriquez  
mhenriquez@dwc.org

Rectory Phone: 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

Brenda DeVito  
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  
angelamerinar@gmail.com

### Maintenance & Facility Management

Jonny Petak

### Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

Cynthia Friesen 304-225-1163  
stmarystarcityfaithformation@gmail.com

Nancy Ferrari nickliz@aol.com

### Music & Liturgical Ministries Coordinator

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

### Hispanic Ministries

Maria Garcia 304-685-7595  
stmaryhispanicministry@gmail.com

Tommy Mullenex 304-777-8876  
tommymullenex@yahoo.com

### St. Ursula Food Pantry & Outreach

Sr. Rachel Blais, S.C.  
rachel.blais@gmail.com

#### Phone

304-599-3822

#### Email

stursulaoutreach@gmail.com

### St. Francis de Sales Central School

304-291-5070

### Prayer Requests

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



## 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.

Please pick up a registration form at the church or parish office, or register online at [stmarystarcity.com](http://stmarystarcity.com)  
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 contact the parish office 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 Cynthia Friesen at 304-225-1163 or stmarystarcityfaithformation@gmail.com

**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 and 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**, email or written copy please,  
no bulletin announcements will be taken over the phone

**Email:** stmaryschurch@comcast.net

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

## Spirituality of the Readings – Spaciousness



During Advent we have been celebrating our emptiness.

I suppose this sounds odd, and yet give it a thought. If we were completely filled up we would have no room to let anyone or anything in. We would be like a clump of mud or a great thick mountain. Nice to look at, maybe, but not so good at letting anything else get in.

Somewhere in scripture the people ask God to take their hearts of stone and make them into hearts of flesh. Throughout Advent we have been asking especially for that. For

time to become aware of God and then thank God for the spacious emptiness that a human heart has within it. Living hearts, not stone ones.

Increasing our hearts and our openness can be frightening. But increasing our heart's openness can be frightening. The dark spreads out its kingdom every day here in the Northern hemisphere, even as Christmas comes near. We see less by natural light. And our body systems squirm to readjust.

True confession time: I used to be resentful as the daylight hours became shorter and shorter—and especially when “daylight savings time” collapsed and the dark settled in an hour sooner in the afternoon. It was dark well before I left the office. Depressing.

Such small creatures within so vast a night.

Finally, a few years ago, I saw some wisdom in deprivation and darkness. Increased dark allows human beings to hunker down inside their shelter—cozy and patient, waiting for the light to return, savoring the dark. This helps them reflect upon themselves.

God says as much to Bethlehem in the First Reading. It is as if he says, You are so tiny! You are not even counted among the clans of Judah. You are empty of big ideas, power, royalty and influence. How can you be sufficient to bring forth a ruler of Jerusalem?

Light had already come from within that darkness, of course, sufficiency from insufficiency. King David had been born in Bethlehem, centuries before (see 1 Samuel: 17:12). And of course, Jesus was to be born in the same town. This strange, wide place in the road produced Kings?

Yes.

It is the same way with our souls. Our dimness and our emptiness are where Jesus is to be born on Christmas. Such darkness includes whatever in us that is gloomy, angry, jealous, or just discouraged. The friends who leave us behind, who have a high, family time while we feel so alone: this is where the child will be born.

Watch Mary hasten to her cousin's house, a long trip, on foot, over dirt and sand and rocks, under the hot, hot sun (Gospel). She does not need to be coddled and queenly in order to bring forth the Holy One. She does not spend a second worrying whether the way is too hard. Her soul somehow knows about the soft light that will shine from within her. Everything else is in second place.

Maybe emptiness can speak humbly from within you and me too.

For a minute or two we might quit trying so hard to make everything alright. Let go and let God. That way we will get to know the one whose “origins are old” (First Reading).

We might even let that One take up its home within us. It can make itself whatever size is needed for our souls.

What better Christmas could there be?

John Foley, SJ

## Giving Summary

**Sunday Offering—December 5**  
\$8,986.00

**Online Giving**  
\$3,016.35

**Attendance:** 411

At this time of year, through Epiphany, our bulletin publisher requires that we submit our bulletin to them in advance of the normal weekly schedule to accommodate holiday closures and shipping delays. Giving Summaries will be printed in the first available publication after the collection, but may appear delayed when compared to the date of the bulletin. Thank you for your understanding.

### Recent/Upcoming Special Collections

**12/12 Retirement Fund for Religious**

**12/25 Catholic Charities West Virginia**

For ease of accounting, **separate checks are preferred** for all donations to different collections and purposes, including special collections, Mass intentions, memorials, and donations to different funds e.g. Trust Fund for the Poor, Debt Reduction, etc. Thank you for your help!

 **DONATE TODAY**

**GIVE ONLINE!**  
by clicking on the image on our website  
[www.stmarystarcity.com](http://www.stmarystarcity.com).

## THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

### December 19, 4th Sunday of Advent

Saturday, 6:00pm	Pamela Justice Fuller
Sunday, 8:30am	For the People
Sunday, 11:00am	Helen & Joseph Hoclar
Domingo, 1pm	Eileen Klug

Monday 12/20	Late Advent Weekday
9:00am	Kuruvilla Pavakum
6:30pm	Nicholas DiPetta

Tuesday 12/21	St. Peter Canisius
9:00am	Intention of Celebrant

Wednesday 12/22	Late Advent Weekday
9:00am	Intention of Celebrant
12:00pm	Larry R. Lee

Thursday 12/23	St. John of Kanty
9:00am	George Vargo

Friday 12/24	Late Advent Weekday
<b>No 9:00am Daily Mass</b>	
5:00pm(en español)	Por la comunidad de la parroquia
7:00pm	Herbert & Wilda Justice
10:00pm	John Kolar

Saturday 12/25	Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord
10:00am	For the People

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 26, Feast of the Holy Family

**No 6:00pm Saturday Mass**

Sunday, 8:30am	For the People
Sunday, 11:00am	Kathryn V. Folio
Domingo, 1pm	Lisa Gonzales

## Mass Schedule

### Solemnity of The Nativity of the Lord



Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
5:00pm—en español  
7:00pm  
10:00pm

Saturday, December 25<sup>th</sup>  
10:00am  
**No 6:00pm Mass**

### Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God



Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup>  
5:30pm

Saturday, January 1<sup>st</sup>  
10:00am

## THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY

### Sunday, December 19—Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30am	Religious Ed.
9:45-10:45am	Choir—P/H
	RCIA
1:00pm	NA Meeting
5:00pm	Lessons & Carols service in church— Reception to follow in Peace Hall
	HS Youth—Please attend Lessons & Carols
6:00pm	Las Posadas

### Monday, December 20

5:00-6:15pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
7:00pm	RCIA: Introduction to the Sacraments —L/L

7-9:00pm	Boy Scouts
----------	------------

### Tuesday, December 21

6:30pm	Alive in the Word: Advent—L/L
6:30pm	NA Meeting

### Thursday, December 23

~9:20am	Decorating the Church (after 9am Mass)
12:00pm	Al-Anon—L/L
5:00pm	Spanish Mass Music Rehearsal—L/L

### Friday, December 24—Christmas Eve

Parish Office Closed	
5:00pm	Misa en español
7:00pm	Mass
10:00pm	Mass

### Saturday, December 25

10:00am	Mass
<b>No 6:00pm Mass or reconciliation</b>	

### Sunday, December 26—Feast of the Holy Family

No Religious Ed.	
9:45-10:45am	Choir—P/H
1:00pm	NA Meeting



### The Bread and Tabernacle Candle

the week of December 19

are in memory of

**Amelia Barill Marasco & Family,  
and Ron,** from daughter, Silvana.



### Congratulations to

Amibeth Koval and  
Mark Bliss,  
married this weekend.



### The Parish Office will be closed

Friday December 24,  
Christmas Eve

&

Friday December 31,  
New Year's Eve



Catholic Charities West Virginia is on a mission of love to end poverty.

Join us! Please donate.

- Give to the second collection at Christmas masses
- Donate online at: [www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org)
- Mail donations to: 2000 Main Street, Wheeling, WV 26003

*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*  
- Acts 20:35



# Lessons & Carols



## You're Invited to Lessons & Carols

THIS EVENING

Sunday, December 19th  
5:00pm

St. Mary Roman Catholic Church  
Star City, WV

Reception following in Peace Hall  
with light refreshments & karaoke.



**Choir**—Choir practice will be held on Sundays from 9:45-10:45am in Peace Hall.

All new and returning members are welcome.

Choir will run through Christmas, and perhaps beyond. Please join us!



### Christmas Flowers

If you are making a donation for **Christmas Flowers** this year, please turn in your envelope to the collection basket or Parish Office by **Monday, December 20** for your

intentions to be printed in the Epiphany Bulletin. Intentions received late will not be printed. A donation of \$10 is suggested for each honoree/memorial line.

For those who do not receive offertory envelopes, a Christmas Flowers form is available in the bulletin, hard copies are available at the office and on the CFC entry table.

**Catholic Charities West Virginia helps tens of thousands of our brothers and sisters in need every year.** Your donation allows us to provide hope, provide safety, provide food and provide care.

**In giving, we live honorably before God** who gives us all we have. Through your support, we can continue providing caring and compassionate support to West Virginians in need. Thank you for your heart to give.

Your gift stays local, and helps those right here in Mon County!

### Programs Provided in Monongalia County By Catholic Charities:

- Emergency Assistance
- Wellness Works Food Pantry
- Case Management
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Outreach
- Adult Learning
- WV Birth to Three
- Home Care for Elders

**And Many More!**

## Faith Formation

There will be **NO Faith Formation Classes for 2 weeks**—December 26 and January 2.

**Classes will resume on Sunday, January 9** at 9:30 am.

Middle School class will meet at 6:00 pm on Sunday, January 2.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR  
TO ALL OUR FAMILIES!

Blessings,  
~Cynthia



### Religious give thanks.

A sister writes, "Our prayers belong most of all to the generous benefactors whose donations have made this financial assistance possible." **Thank you for supporting last**

**week's Retirement Fund for Religious collection.** Visit [retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org) to learn how your gift supports elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.



**Daily Mass intentions are still being accepted for 2021. We have a few daily Masses left for the**

**year.** The suggested donation is \$10 for a daily Mass.

**Mass intentions are now being accepted for 2022.** The suggested donation is \$20 for a weekend, \$10 for a weekday. Please call the Parish Office if interested, 304-599-3747.

Please note that any Masses cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances such as a global pandemic, inclement weather, or a funeral, will be moved to the next available 'like' date and time e.g., Daily Mass on Tuesday moved to another Tuesday, 8:30 Sunday Mass moved to another 8:30, as available.



**Memorial Donations for Bread and the Tabernacle candle are now being accepted for the year 2022.** (We have a few dates left for 2021 also.) The requested donation is \$40. Please call the Parish Office if you are interested. 304-599-3747.



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



**St. Ursula Food Pantry needs:**

**\*Coffee, Tea, and Hot Chocolate**

Donate your favorite blend to share some warmth with others!

**Baby & Toddler Program needs:**

**\*Baby Wash & Shampoo**



**Donations for St. Ursula Food Pantry and Outreach may be placed in the labeled bins in the church and narthex, or dropped off in the baskets in the CFC entry.**



**2022 Calendars 'The Way of the Cross'**

from Hastings Funeral Home are available in the church, narthex, and the CFC entry.

**Thank you to Hastings for their kind donation of the calendars!**

If you, or any parishioner you know, are sick or homebound and would like a visit from Fr. John, please contact the Parish Office

**NA Meetings** St. Mary Church, Star City  
Tuesdays-6:30pm, Sundays-1pm

**To find other meetings near you,** visit  
<https://www.na.org/meetingsearch/>

**Al-Anon** (for those affected by someone else's drinking) meets every Thursday at noon at St. Mary Church. Information: call 1-888-425-2666 or [WSO@al-anon.org](mailto:WSO@al-anon.org)

**CONSIDER AN  
END-OF-YEAR  
CONTRIBUTION**





Until further notice, Bishop Brennan asks that all those in attendance at Mass **and any other meetings, social events, or other parish gatherings (including events with food)** wear a mask, other than young children under the age of 2.

Thank you for your cooperation in this act of Christian Charity.



### **The Word Among Us**

If you are looking for a daily resource with readings and reflections, Fr. John recommends "The Word Among Us"

You can subscribe at:  
[https://wau.org/subscribe/mass\\_edition/](https://wau.org/subscribe/mass_edition/)

A version with reflections only is also available at a slightly lower cost  
<https://wau.org/subscribe>



*We wish you and yours a very merry Christmas!*



Aim your camera at the flowcode

Support our parish by  
 making a gift to the  
**Catholic Sharing Appeal**

[dwc.org/CSA](https://dwc.org/CSA)

### **Did you know...?**

**Everything above 50% of our goal comes back to St. Mary Parish! With 56% of our goal already achieved, every penny given from now on will be given back to us.**

The money that we receive from the CSA will go toward improving the HVAC system in the Christian Formation Center, so that all of our classrooms and offices can have functioning heat and air.



# 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, 20 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!



## 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. In addition to civil authorities, 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. Please visit [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org) under "Accountability" for additional information and reporting methods.

## 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 December 19, 2021

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45  
Monday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38  
Tuesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45  
Wednesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56  
Thursday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66  
Friday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79  
Saturday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/  
Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25  
Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14  
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20  
Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14  
Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or  
1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52  
©LPI

## 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](http://www.dwc.org) under the accountability tab. If you are the victim of sexual abuse (or any other crime), please contact local law enforcement.

## Sunday, Dec 19, 2021

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (O FLOWER OF JESSE'S STEM)

### Your place on the tree

Family trees are an endless source of fascination. Whether you've explored yours through DNA tests or old photo albums and family stories, you know that a ragtag line of other people's chances and choices contribute to who you are. The Advent Jesse Tree teaches children about many risk-takers and seekers throughout biblical history who contributed to the arrival of Jesus. Folks like Jesse himself, the father of David who contributed to the lineage of the kings of Israel and, without suspecting it, the future King of the Universe. What might your legacy be, and how do you claim your place in the great story?

TODAY'S READINGS: Micah 5:1-4a; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45 (12). *"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."*

## Monday, Dec 20, 2021

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O KEY OF DAVID)

### He's on his way

Today's Great Antiphon—the fourth of seven ancient prayers said during Advent vespers leading up to Christmas Eve—is "O Key of David, come and free us!" Each Antiphon is a call to Christ using a messianic title from prophecy, and today's reminds us that we are captives liberated by God's grace. The answer to our cries is embedded in the titles themselves. The seven titles in Latin—*Sapientia, Adonai, Radix Jesse, Clavis David, Oriens, Rex Gentium, and Emmanuel*—in reverse order form the acrostic ERO CRAS, which means "I am coming soon."

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38 (196). *"The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever."*

## Tuesday, Dec 21, 2021

MEMORIAL OF PETER CANISIUS, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH (O RADIANT DAWN)

### Let the light shine

The Protestant Reformation was an age of strife and contestation, especially in Germany, ground zero of the upheaval in 1517. Into the morass stepped a learned Jesuit scholar, amazing preacher, and gifted writer—Peter Canisius, whose rational arguments in support of Catholicism proved quite persuasive. Peter's three written catechisms were so effective, German-born Pope Benedict XVI told a papal audience in 2011, that later generations of Germans simply referred to them as "the Canisius." On what's the longest night of the year for many, tap the faith of Peter Canisius to reflect upon the ways that Jesus is our Radiant Dawn.

TODAY'S READINGS: Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Luke 1:39-45 (197). *"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."*

## Wednesday, Dec 22, 2021

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O KING OF ALL NATIONS)

### God of surprises

God acts in ways we least expect. The long-awaited Messiah was expected to be a military leader who would lead his people, Israel, to victory and out of oppression. Instead, he was born in a stable to a young woman of the village and a carpenter who would be his foster father. Today that young woman makes a bold proclamation, "He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones

but lifted up the lowly." As we come closer to Christmas, ask God to help you look for him in the unexpected so that he might refashion you. After all, history is full of unexpected saints—why not you?

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56 (198). *"For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed."*

## Thursday, Dec 23, 2021

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O EMMANUEL)

### Hear our plea

What is more poignant than an expression of heartfelt longing? Today anyone taking part in the longstanding tradition of Evening Prayer, or vespers, sings, "O Emmanuel, come to redeem us!" It's a plea of yearning. For centuries on this day near Christmas, Catholics have opened their hearts and prayed for a savior. Let this vulnerable prayer of hope and desire for all that Christmas represents—light, life, salvation—be a kind of mantra as you go about your day.

TODAY'S READINGS: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66 (199). *"When the time arrived for Elizabeth to have her child she gave birth to a son."*

## Friday, Dec 24, 2021

ADVENT WEEKDAY

### Thanksgiving on Christmas Eve

For many Catholics, Christmas Eve is brimming with meal preparation, cleaning, wrapping last-minute stocking stuffers, and Midnight Mass. It can also be a difficult day for those missing loved ones. In whatever situation you find yourself, take a moment and join the church in praying the Canticle of Zechariah, also known as the Benedictus. As he awaited the birth of his son John (later known as the Baptist), Zechariah sang a canticle of gratitude to God for setting us free from all that binds. May this prayer bring freedom and joy to us all!

TODAY'S READINGS: Morning: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Luke 1:67-79 (200). *"In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness."*

## Saturday, Dec 25, 2021

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

### The weary world rejoices

The efforts of people of goodwill everywhere in the quest for peace and justice continue, and our leader is born anew today! Spiritual author and priest Henri Nouwen put it well: "The world is not whole. . . . But it is into this broken world that a child is born, who is called Son of the Most High, Prince of Peace, Savior. I look at him and pray, 'Thank you, Lord, that you came. . . . Your heart is greater than mine.'" Our hope and our hearts increase today. Rejoice!

TODAY'S READINGS: Night: Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (14); Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18. (16). *"And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."*

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



©2021 TrueQuest Communications. TakeFiveForFaith.com; mail@takefiveforfaith.com. All rights reserved. Noncommercial reprints permitted with the following credit: Reprinted with permission from TakeFiveForFaith.com. Scripture citations from the New American Bible Revised Edition. For more information about TAKE FIVE and our regular contributors, go to PrepareTheWord.com. **Free daily email and app available online at TakeFiveForFaith.com/subscribe.**

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

Lectionary: 12

### Reading I

Mi 5:1-4a

Thus says the LORD:  
You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah  
too small to be among the clans of  
Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to be ruler in Israel;  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient times.  
Therefore the Lord will give them up,  
until the time  
when she who is to give birth has  
borne,  
and the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the children of Israel.  
He shall stand firm and shepherd his  
flock  
by the strength of the LORD,  
in the majestic name of the LORD,  
his God;  
and they shall remain, for now his  
greatness  
shall reach to the ends of the earth;  
he shall be peace.

### Reading II

Heb 10:5-10

Brothers and sisters:  
When Christ came into the world, he  
said:  
“Sacrifice and offering you did not  
desire,  
but a body you prepared for me;  
in holocausts and sin offerings you  
took no delight.  
Then I said, ‘As is written of me in

the scroll,  
behold, I come to do your will, O  
God.’”

First he says, “Sacrifices and offerings,  
holocausts and sin offerings,  
you neither desired nor delighted in.”  
These are offered according to the law.  
Then he says, “Behold, I come to do  
your will.”

He takes away the first to establish the  
second.  
By this “will,” we have been consecrat-  
ed  
through the offering of the body of Jesus  
Christ once for all.

### Gospel

Lk 1:39-45

Mary set out  
and traveled to the hill country in haste  
to a town of Judah,  
where she entered the house of Zechari-  
ah  
and greeted Elizabeth.  
When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting,  
the infant leaped in her womb,  
and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spir-  
it,  
cried out in a loud voice and said,  
“Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.  
And how does this happen to me,  
that the mother of my Lord should come  
to me?  
For at the moment the sound of your  
greeting reached my ears,  
the infant in my womb leaped for joy.  
Blessed are you who believed  
that what was spoken to you by the Lord  
would be fulfilled.”

Take out Pages 11-14 to bring  
back for use at Christmas Mass.

Take out Pages 11-14 to bring back for use at Christmas Mass.

# The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Mass during the Night (December 24th)

Lectinary: 14

## Reading I

Is 9:1-6

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
upon those who dwelt in the land of  
gloom  
a light has shone.  
You have brought them abundant joy  
and great rejoicing,  
as they rejoice before you as at the  
harvest,  
as people make merry when divid-  
ing spoils.  
For the yoke that burdened them,  
the pole on their shoulder,  
and the rod of their taskmaster  
you have smashed, as on the day of  
Midian.  
For every boot that tramped in battle,  
every cloak rolled in blood,  
will be burned as fuel for flames.  
For a child is born to us, a son is giv-  
en us;  
upon his shoulder dominion rests.  
They name him Wonder-Counselor,  
God-Hero,  
Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.  
His dominion is vast  
and forever peaceful,  
from David's throne, and over his

kingdom,

which he confirms and sustains  
by judgment and justice,  
both now and forever.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do  
this!

## Reading II

Ti 2:11-14

Beloved:

The grace of God has appeared, saving  
all  
and training us to reject godless ways  
and worldly desires  
and to live temperately, justly, and de-  
voutly in this age,  
as we await the blessed hope,  
the appearance of the glory of our great  
God  
and savior Jesus Christ,  
who gave himself for us to deliver us  
from all lawlessness  
and to cleanse for himself a people as  
his own,  
eager to do what is good.

## Gospel

Lk 2:1-14

In those days a decree went out from  
Caesar Augustus  
that the whole world should be enrolled.  
This was the first enrollment,  
when Quirinius was governor of Syria.  
So all went to be enrolled, each to his  
own town.  
And Joseph too went up from Galilee  
from the town of Nazareth  
to Judea, to the city of David that is  
called Bethlehem,  
because he was of the house and family  
of David,  
to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed,  
who was with child.  
While they were there,

the time came for her to have her child,  
and she gave birth to her firstborn son.  
She wrapped him in swaddling clothes  
and laid him in a manger,  
because there was no room for them in  
the inn.

Now there were shepherds in that region  
living in the fields  
and keeping the night watch over their  
flock.

The angel of the Lord appeared to them  
and the glory of the Lord shone around  
them,

and they were struck with great fear.

The angel said to them,

“Do not be afraid;

for behold, I proclaim to you good news  
of great joy

that will be for all the people.

For today in the city of David

a savior has been born for you who is  
Christ and Lord.

And this will be a sign for you:

you will find an infant wrapped in swad-  
dling clothes

and lying in a manger.”

And suddenly there was a multitude of  
the heavenly host with the angel,  
praising God and saying:

“Glory to God in the highest

and on earth peace to those on  
whom his favor rests.”

## The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Mass during the Day

Lectionary: 16

### Reading I

Is 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of him who brings glad  
tidings,

announcing peace, bearing good  
news,

announcing salvation, and saying to  
Zion,

“Your God is King!”

Hark! Your sentinels raise a cry,

together they shout for joy,

for they see directly, before their eyes,  
the LORD restoring Zion.

Break out together in song,

O ruins of Jerusalem!

For the LORD comforts his people,  
he redeems Jerusalem.

The LORD has bared his holy arm

in the sight of all the nations;

all the ends of the earth will behold  
the salvation of our God.

### Reading II

Heb 1:1-6

Brothers and sisters:

In times past, God spoke in partial and  
various ways

to our ancestors through the prophets;  
in these last days, he has spoken to us  
through the Son,

whom he made heir of all things

and through whom he created the uni-  
verse,

who is the refulgence of his glory,

the very imprint of his being,  
and who sustains all things by his  
mighty word.

When he had accomplished purifi-  
cation from sins,  
he took his seat at the right hand of  
the Majesty on high,  
as far superior to the angels  
as the name he has inherited is  
more excellent than theirs.  
For to which of the angels did God ever  
say:

*You are my son; this day I have begot-  
ten you?*

Or again:

*I will be a father to him, and he shall  
be a son to me?*

And again, when he leads the firstborn  
into the world, he says:

*Let all the angels of God worship him.*

---

## Gospel

**Jn 1:1-18**

In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.  
He was in the beginning with God.  
All things came to be through him,  
and without him nothing came to  
be.

What came to be through him was  
life,  
and this life was the light of the hu-  
man race;  
the light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness has not overcome  
it.

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.  
The true light, which enlightens every-  
one, was coming into the world.

He was in the world,  
and the world came to be through  
him,  
but the world did not know him.  
He came to what was his own,  
but his own people did not accept  
him.

But to those who did accept him  
he gave power to become children of  
God,  
to those who believe in his name,  
who were born not by natural genera-  
tion  
nor by human choice nor by a man's de-  
cision  
but of God.

And the Word became flesh  
and made his dwelling among us,  
and we saw his glory,  
the glory as of the Father's only  
Son,  
full of grace and truth.  
John testified to him and cried out, say-  
ing,  
"This was he of whom I said,  
'The one who is coming after me ranks  
ahead of me  
because he existed before me.'"  
From his fullness we have all received,  
grace in place of grace,  
because while the law was given through  
Moses,  
grace and truth came through Jesus  
Christ.  
No one has ever seen God.  
The only Son, God, who is at the Fa-  
ther's side,  
has revealed him.

OR:

Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God.  
All things came to be through him,  
and without him nothing came to

be.

What came to be through him was  
life,

and this life was the light of the hu-  
man race;

the light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness has not overcome

it.

The true light, which enlightens every-  
one, was coming into the world.

He was in the world,  
and the world came to be through

him,

but the world did not know him.

He came to what was his own,  
but his own people did not accept

him.

But to those who did accept him  
he gave power to become children of  
God,

to those who believe in his name,  
who were born not by natural genera-  
tion

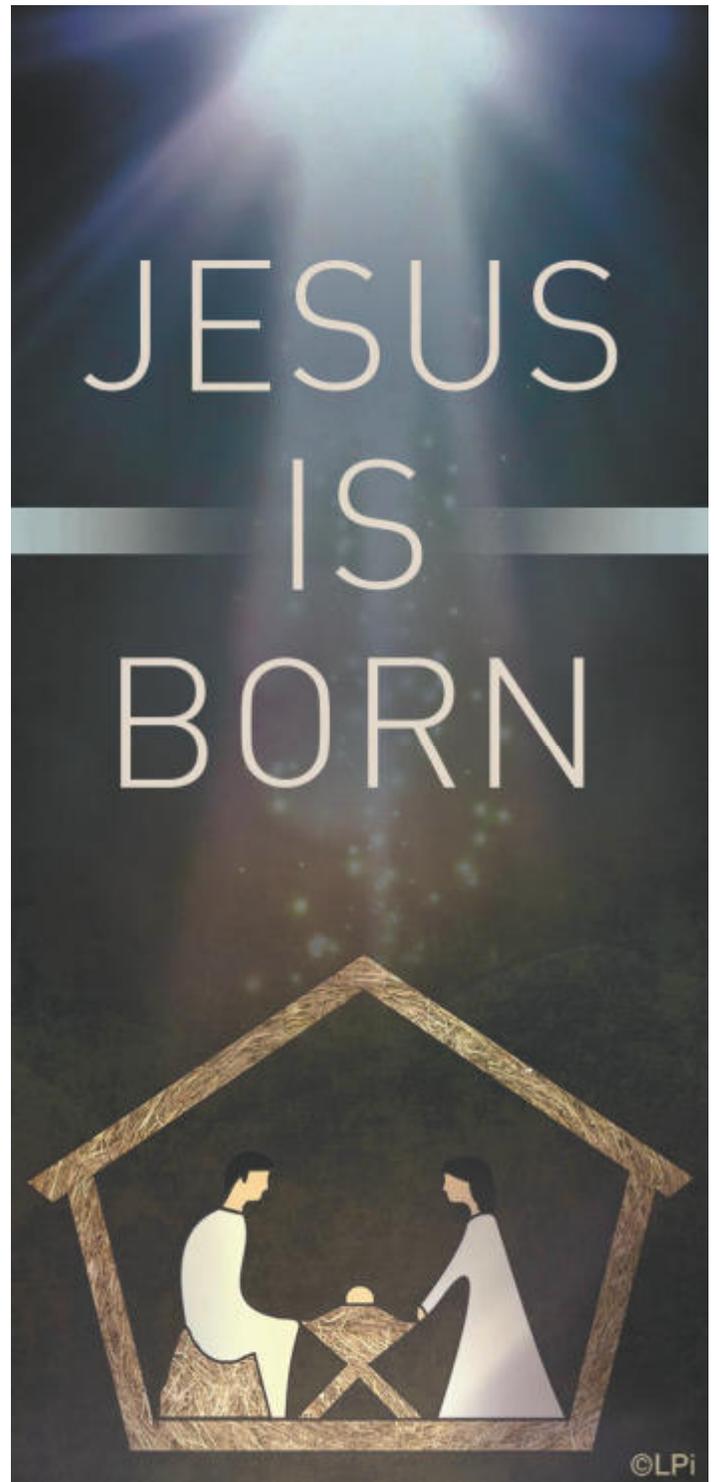
nor by human choice nor by a man's de-  
cision

but of God.

And the Word became flesh  
and made his dwelling among us,  
and we saw his glory,  
the glory as of the Father's only

Son,

full of grace and truth.





**McCulla**  
Funeral Home

William B. McCulla, LLC  
770 Fairmont Rd. • Morgantown  
(304) 291-3458  
www.mcculla.com



**THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE**



**support our**  
**ADVERTISERS**

Change the way you feel about going to the dentist!



**DEVITO**  
DENTAL SOLUTIONS

Located in Westover, DeVito Dental Solutions provides a spa-like atmosphere to relax our patients. We offer complete preventative, restorative, and cosmetic options to our patients. Contact us today for all your dental needs!

729 Fairmont Road,  
Westover, WV 26501

**304-292-1764**

[www.drCarolynDeVito.com](http://www.drCarolynDeVito.com)



**NEVER MISS A BULLETIN !**

Sign up to have our weekly parish bulletin emailed to you at [www.parishesonline.com](http://www.parishesonline.com)




**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS\***

**Council 2954**  
**St. Mary Church**

To Join, Contact Rodney A. Pyles, Grand Knight  
**304-599-6496 • rod.pylz@gmail.com**

**AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME!**

**ADVERTISE HERE NOW!**

Contact **Jason Novicky** to place an ad today!  
[jnovicky@4LPi.com](mailto:jnovicky@4LPi.com) or  
**(800) 477-4574 x6542**



**Wild & Wonderful Travels**  
Escape with us!



The beach is calling



**Kenneth Main**  
Travel Agent

Call or Text **304-223-8500**  
[www.travels.biz](http://www.travels.biz) • [wildwonderfultravels@yahoo.com](mailto:wildwonderfultravels@yahoo.com)  
Owned and operated by a parishioner



**Cardinal Pediatrics**  
**304-599-8000**

**Same Day Sick Visits**  
**24 hr Emergency Calls**  
**Evening / Saturday Hours**

**SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!**



Helping You Find Your Forever Home!  
  
**Jay Rollo**  
 Sales Agent, MRP, REALTOR®  
 304-692-5467  
 jay@vvhre.com



125 Granville Square, Suite 115, Morgantown, WV 26501

**STAND OUT**  
 with a PREMIUM DIGITAL AD  
 on **PARISHESONLINE.COM**



CONTACT US AT 800-477-4574

**HARTLEY AND SON**  
 Bodywork, Auto Painting  
 Mechanical Repair  
 681-753-8604  
 678 Fairchance Road  
 Morgantown, WV 26508



**THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE**



WHY WAIT?  
**Start LIVING With Us**



- Updated Apartments
- Personal Grocery Shopping
- Restaurant-Style Dining
- Not-for-Profit Community
- Wildlife Viewing
- Wellness Programs
- Top-Class Chef
- Paved Walking Paths

Whatever your passion, you'll find friends to share it with here at The Village.

304-285-5575 | Heritage-Point.com



**Dominic J. Raymond, II DDS**



**We Specialize In Smiles  
 Family Dentistry**

56 Mileground Rd. • Ste. A  
 Morgantown, WV 26505  
**(304) 296-CARE**  
 Visit Us On the Web At:  
**drraymond.com**  
 Parishioner

**MARY KAY**

**Holly L. Sabatino**  
 Independent Beauty Consultant  
 471 Aspen Street,  
 Morgantown  
 WV 26505  
 304-376-2851

hollysabatino@marykay.com  
 www.marykay.com/hollysabatino  
*Faith First, Family Second, Career Third*

**Smith**  
 FUNERAL & CREMATION CARE  
 ~Cherished & Lovingly Remembered~

108 Holland Ave., Morgantown  
 304-292-9494  
 C. Jason Smith, II - LIC, Owner &  
 Cathy Smith - LFD, Owner

**www.smithfcc.com**

**MATT HEFFERIN**



304.607.4376  
 matt@hhiwv.com  
 www.hhiwv.com

Proudly Serving Morgantown, WV & Surrounding Area

**The Wine Bar**  
 Great Pastries  
 Valley

NOW SERVING BRUNCH  
 Saturdays & Sundays  
 10% Off your Brunch  
 with this Bulletin

304.241.1687 | www.vintnervalley.com

**AFFORDABLE**  
 Landscaping Supplies  
 Mulch • Riverstone • Wall Block • Pavers  
 304-291-3400 | aflswv.com

**Hastings**  
 Funeral Home, Inc  
 304-292-8664  
 Edward Dan Hastings  
 Grant Smith Hastings, LIC.  
 www.hastingsfuneralhome.com

831 Venture Drive  
 Morgantown, WV 26508

**Davis Kitchen Tile**  
 MORE QUALITY PARTIES

304-296-3243  
 www.daviskitchenandtile.com

**Polce**  
 SEAL COATING, LLC



P.O. Box 369  
 Dellslow, WV 26531  
 Cell: 304.290.4361  
 Office & Fax: 304.864.4004  
 polcesealcoating@hotmail.com

**Drs. Weidman and Hazy III, PLLC**  
 Specialists in Orthodontics

Alvin F. Weidman, D.D.S., M.S. | Michael A. Hazy III, D.D.S., M.S.  
 (304) 598-2500 | (304) 842-5211  
 918 Chestnut Ridge Road, Suite #5 | 112 Hill Street  
 Morgantown, WV 26505 | Bridgeport, WV 26330  
 www.mountaineerorthodontics.com

**SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!**

**Morgantown Catholic Daughters  
 Court St. Ursula**

*Come join us.*  
 Contact the Church Office

**TERRA CAFE**



Fresh Salads, Sandwiches,  
 Coffee and Smoothies,  
 Special Brunch and Lunch  
 Made from Scratch  
 Soups, Pastas, Eaters,  
 and Cupcakes

**BEST OF MORGANTOWN  
 BEST BREAKFAST**

304.554.CAFE • www.terracafev.com  
 425 Industrial Ave. • On the Rail Trail in Star City

**FREE AD DESIGN**  
 WITH PURCHASE OF THIS SPACE

**CALL 800.477.4574**

**MORGANTOWN VETERINARY CARE™**  
 304-599-3111  
 morgantownvetcare.com



**CLASSICS RESTAURANT**



1384 Greenbag Rd  
 DAILY FOOD AND BEVERAGE SPECIALS,  
 CURBSIDE SERVICE  
 PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

**We've Missed You!**  
 Welcome Back to Mass

Stay connected to our faith community no matter where you are by signing up to get our bulletin delivered straight to your email!

**www.ParishesOnline.com**

