



Blessed Sacrament Parish

December 10, 2023

**We, Blessed Sacrament Parish, are a Christ-Centered Community,
Committed to Worship the Father, Committed to Respond to the Spirit's Gifts,
Committed to Loving Service to All God's People.**

Mass Times & Intentions

Day	Date	Time		Intention
Saturday	12/09	4:00 pm	+	Elizabeth O'Leary by Ro DeBias
Sunday	12/10	9:00 am	+	Mary Southam Hamilton by Elizabeth Boyd
		11:30 am *		For the People of Our Parish
Monday	12/11			
Tuesday	12/12			
Wednesday	12/13	Noon	+	Ruth Grassman by Missy Mowrer
Thursday	12/14	Noon	+	Sylvester & Marie Edquist by Sue Bowyer
Friday	12/15	Noon		Not assigned
Saturday	12/16	4:00 pm	+	Mary Ann Wise by Ro DeBias
Sunday	12/17	9:00 am		For the People of Our Parish
		11:30 am *	+	Tom Grishaber by Debbie Wright

*On Sundays at 11:30 Mass our nursery is available for children under the age of 3 years.

We Remember in Our Prayers

Barbara Baldy, Barbara Breese, Bo Burdette, Elizabeth Coleman, Matthew Crabtree, Loretta DiGiorgi, Dakota Earl, Joe Eisel, Marietta Fenton, Bob Galloway, Dante Geronilla, Joe Gregg, Jane Ann Grishaber, Bob & Kathleen Groom, Mary Lou Hammock, John & Arlene Hanna, Gary Hoskins, Rob Hrezo, John & Claire Johnson, John Lordan, Bob Lucas, Linda Lynch, Louann Lynch-Kelley, Sheila Kerns, Alec Mansfield, Evelyn Miller, Keith Morgan, Jim Roberts, Bradley Smith, and Sandy Wheeler

Christmas Brunch, December 25 at 11:00 AM

Our annual Christmas Meal will take place on Monday, December 25, at 11:00 AM in the Parish Hall, immediately following the Christmas morning Mass. It will be brunch instead of dinner. All parishioners are welcome to attend as well as family, friends, and neighbors. Blessed Sacrament will be providing ham, and you can bring a side dish to share if you are able. Sign-up sheets will be available starting this weekend in the gathering space. If you would like to volunteer to help in any way, please contact Terry Mathias at 304-741-0045 or tsmathias@earthlink.net.

Please sign-up now. We will assess what we need and finalize plans on December 17th so do not delay if you know you would like to come.

This Week at Blessed Sacrament

There will be a [Second Collection this weekend for the Retirement Fund for Religious](#)

This is “Warm Up Weekend” Please place your donations of NEW hats, scarves, and gloves in the collection area in the breezeway. These will be wrapped up and given to the women at Recovery Point.

Saturday, December 09

- **Men’s Bible Sharing**- 9:00 am, Room 5
- **Reconciliation** - 3:00pm to 3:30 pm in the Reconciliation Room

Sunday, December 10

- **Youth Music Ensemble** – 10:00am to 10:12am in the Music Room (Room 3)
- **Faith Formation for Adults** – 10:15am to 11:15am – **The Infancy Narratives** – in the Library (Room 5)
- **Youth Faith Formation** – 10:15am to 11:15am (various rooms)
- **Advent Communal Reconciliation Service – 3:00pm in the Sanctuary**
- **Dismas Men’s Group** – Room 5B

Monday, December 11

- **OCIA** - 6:00pm to 8:00pm in Rooms 5A and 5B

Tuesday, December 12 (The office is closed.)

- **GriefShare Meeting** - 6:00pm to 7:30pm in Room 2
- **Pastoral Council Meeting** -6:00pm to 8:00pm in the Parish Hall

Wednesday, December 13

- **Bible Study** – 10:00 am in the Library (Room 5)
- **Bible Sharing** –
Weekly: <https://blessedsacramentwv.org/en/download/december-13-2023-for-third-sunday-of-advent/?wpdmdl=1534&refresh=65732b2d234701702046509>
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89811466699?pwd=UVdFVmo1SmJObUJqc3VqcytQOTdpQT09>

Thursday, December 14

- **Lectio Divina** 11:00am to 12:00pm in the Community Room
- **Youth Meeting** - 5:00 pm to 6:00pm
- **Bell Choir Rehearsal** - 6:00pm to 7:00pm
- **Choir Rehearsal** – 7:00pm to 8:00pm

Friday, December 15

Saturday, December 16

- **Men’s Bible Sharing**- 9:00 am, Room 5
- **Reconciliation** - 3:00pm to 3:30 pm in the Reconciliation Room

Sunday, December 17

- **Youth Music Ensemble** – 10:00am to 10:12am in the Music Room (Room 5))
- **Faith Formation for Adults** – 10:10am to 11:15am – **Chanukah with Rabbi Urecki** – Parish Hall
- **Youth Faith Formation** – 10:15am to 11:15am (various)
- **Blue Christmas Service** – 3:00pm in the Sanctuary
- **Christmas Caroling at Hubbard Hospice** – 4:30pm in the Parish Hall for pizza; depart at 5:15pm

Calendar: Advent and Octave of Christmas

December 1, Friday – Advent materials will be available in our gathering space. If you need candles, a new wreath, an Advent calendar, etc., check out the supplies we have for you. (Donations welcome)

December 3 – First Sunday of Advent

- Christmas tree star donations are due back. Please place these in the gathering area near the tree.

December 10 – Second Sunday of Advent

- 3:00pm Communal Penance Service
- “Warm Up Weekend” – Please bring winter hats, scarves, and gloves to be given to women in local recovery centers.
- Special Collection for Retirement Fund for Religious
- Infancy Narratives presentation – 10:15am - Library

December 17 – Third Sunday of Advent

- Chanukah presentation - 10:15am - Library
- 3:00pm Blue Christmas Service

December 24 – Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Vigils

- Mass Times for this weekend
 - Saturday, 12/23 – 4:00pm
 - Sunday, 12/24 – 10:00am
- Mass times for Christmas
 - Sunday, 12/24 – 4:00pm
 - Sunday, 12/24 – 7:00pm
 - Sunday, 12/24 – Midnight

December 25, Monday – Christmas Day (Holy Day of Obligation)

- 10:00am Mass
- Special Collection for Catholic Charities WV
- Christmas Brunch follows in the Parish Hall

December 31, Sunday

- Masses Times for this weekend
 - Saturday, 4:00pm
 - Sunday, 9:00am and 11:30am

January 1, Monday – Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy Day of Obligation)

- Mass time: 10:00am

January 5, Friday

- Epiphany Concert at 7:00pm

January 7, Sunday – Epiphany (Holy Day of Obligation)

- Mass times for this weekend:
 - Saturday, 4:00pm
 - Sunday, 9:00am and 11:30am

The **SEASON OF ADVENT** is a very special time of year that sometimes gets lost in the bright lights of the Christmas season it precedes. The first day of Advent is the first day of a new Liturgical (or church) calendar and begins a four-week period of preparation for the nativity of Jesus Christ at Christmas. The Advent Season is all about reflecting on how we can prepare our hearts and homes for Christ's birth in the world as it is today. It is a time for faith communities and families to remember, through prayer, reflections, special music, and good deeds what the true meaning of Jesus' birth is. There are many different Christian traditions associated with the four weeks of Advent: wreath, calendar, Jesse Tree, and others.

The Advent season invites us to step away from what can be a frenzied time of parties, shopping, and holiday noise to consider how we commemorate the birth of Jesus, one of the holiest times in Christian faith. It is also a time to reflect on the triumphant return of Jesus at the second coming.

In Memory of . . . Listing (Deadline: Next Sunday 12/17)

We will compile a list of name of our deceased loved ones and include their names in our worship aid for Christmas and our bulletin for the weekend of December 23/24. To have your person's name included, add their name to a list you will find in the gathering space or call our office/send us an email. Donations are welcome toward the poinsettias that will decorate our sanctuary on Christmas. Because we must order the poinsettias before we have the In Memory of . . . List, we may not have enough poinsettias for everyone who places a name on the list.

December 10

The will be an **ADVENT** Communal Reconciliation Service at 3 pm today (December 10). Several priests will be available to allow for the opportunity to confess. Advent is a special way to prepare ourselves spiritually to celebrate Christmas.



EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES

INFANCY NARRATIVES: On Sunday December 10 at 10:15 am in the Library, Fr. Paul will lead a discussion on the stories surrounding the birth of Jesus in the first two chapters of the Gospels according to Matthew and Luke. You will be amazed and inspired by what you learn about the meaning and importance of these sacred stories. You will love them even more than you already do.



RABBI VICTOR URECKI from the B'nai Jacob Synagogue will be here Sunday — December 17 — at 10:10 am in the Parish Hall for some coffee, cookies, and conversation concerning Chanukah and current events affecting Israel and Hamas terrorists in Gaza.



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

1311 BYRON STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 230
WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA 26003

November 27, 2023

Dear Monsignors and Fathers,

One of the great gems in the crown of pastoral life in the Church is the presence and service of religious men and women. Eventually most religious sisters, brothers and priests have to retire from active ministry. We have to help them.

The annual collection for retired religious will be taken up in our Diocese on the weekend of December 9-10, 2023. This collection has helped many religious communities in our country since it began in 1988. It is a simple fact that, having taken vows of poverty, religious do not usually have the resources to take care of all their needs when they reach an age when they can no longer actively serve. Yet they have given of themselves for many years to God's people. It is our duty as Catholics to show our esteem and appreciation for their loving service.

Have you had personal experience of religious? Did a religious sister or priest help you discern your vocation? Did you see up close the effective ministry of a religious community in a Catholic school, hospital or parish and find it inspiring?

Some of your people may have had that experience as well. Please ask them to make a generous response to the collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. All the proceeds will help religious congregations around our country. You might consider having a religious speak at your Masses or do so yourself.

Most of all, ask your parishioners to remember our elderly religious sisters, brothers and priests in their prayers. That spiritual support is a welcome expression of love in a world in which it seems love has grown cold.

Thank you for considering this matter. God be with you as you serve your parish.

Fraternally in Christ,

+Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston



Monetary Donations for Christmas Food Boxes: Now – December 31
Through your donations, our parish can help the Good Shepherd Food Pantry in Coalburg (near East Bank) buy \$13,500 of food for a 255 hungry families in the eastern part of our county.

We have \$9,005 so far!!! Thank You!!!

December 17

Blue Christmas Service

Not everyone is up and cheery for the Christmas holidays. Some of us are feeling blue dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other disease that puts a question mark over the future, and several other trials make parties and joviality painful for us. A **BLUE** Christmas service seeks to acknowledge whatever shade of **BLUE** we may have, support one another, and find comfort and strength in God. Blessed Sacrament Parish will hold a blue Christmas Service on **Sunday, December 17 at 3:00pm**. It is open to the public.

Christmas Caroling! – 4:30pm in the Parish Hall (pizza/salad and cookies); 5:15pm depart for Hospice

Following the Blue Christmas service, our children, youth, and adult friends will meet in the Parish Hall for a bite of pizza/salad and cookies and a quick caroling “rehearsal” before heading up to Hubbard Hospice House.

Volunteers are needed to bake cookies! Join us for any part of the fun, at home or on the road. We expect to be home by 7:00pm.



Cats have befriended so many religious men and women, deacons, priests, cardinals, even popes.

Cats in Church History — Andrea Landini

Italian Painter Andrea Landini(1847-1935) painted a number of fictional Cardinals. The Cardinals are placed in embarrassing positions such as playing with kittens or having part of their vesture stolen by their pets.

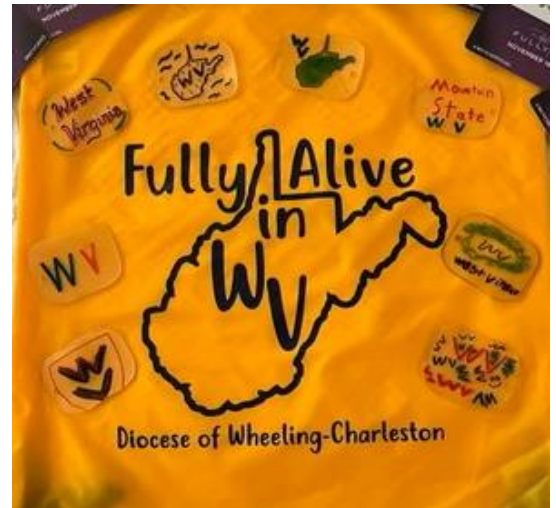




YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS
In case you missed it,
THANK YOU!



for
ould



Christmas Photo Opportunity



Are you interested in taking a photo with a Christmas background?

We have set up an area in the gathering space, all are welcome to use this area for pictures.

Many apps can be downloaded to your smartphones to customize your picture, such as MiniPhotobooth.

<https://miniphotobooth.co/>

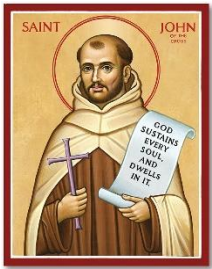
To turn on the lights press the green push button on the floor underneath the small tree to the left.

Merry Christmas



Nota Bene – Something Old in the New Year

At the recommendation of the Liturgy Committee and with the approval of the Pastoral Council, we will be closing the large wooden doors to physically separate the Gathering Space and the Church in January. This will enable both areas to better serve our needs. In years past, these doors were only opened during Christmas and Easter celebrations to allow for overflow crowds. With COVID 19, the wall was opened to allow more room for us spread out. We had hoped to close the wall in September, but waited due to talk about an uptick in the number of new cases.



SAINT OF THE WEEK:

Saint John of the Cross

December 14

John was born into poverty and was raised by his mother and the Church after his father died at a young age. These two mothers imparted to his mind a solid formation in Catholic doctrine and to his soul an ardent love for the Lord Jesus. John was ordained a priest for the Carmelites in 1567. He loved solitude and contemplation and so considered entering the strictest of Orders, the Carthusians. But a chance meeting with Saint Teresa of Ávila redirected John's vocation. He quickly joined her project to recapture the original purity of the Carmelite Order. Many customs had attached themselves to the Order over time like barnacles on a ship. Now was the moment to scrape off the barnacles. John set out to found new, reformed Carmelite houses and to reinvigorate existing ones.

The reforms John and Teresa implemented were practical. The monks and nuns were to spend more hours chanting the breviary in common, to do more spiritual reading, to spend more hours in silence, to practice contemplative prayer, to abstain completely from meat and to endure longer, more radical fasts. Needed changes to his beloved Carmelites would mean the disruption of comfortable patterns of life. John's ideas had enemies, and for his efforts he suffered exile, hunger, public lashings, imprisonment, and defamation from the hands of his own fellow Carmelites!

Saint John was a contemplative who wrote with elegance and artistic flourish about falling in love with God. His *Dark Night of the Soul*, *Spiritual Canticle*, *Ascent of Mount Carmel*, and *Living Flame of Love* are, on their surface, poetic masterpieces of the Spanish language. At a deeper level, they each describe, in surprising detail and through various biblical metaphors, the soul's search for Christ and its joy in finding Him, or its pain in losing Him.

source: <https://mycatholic.life/saints/saints-of-the-liturgical-year/14-december-saint-john-of-the-cross-priest-and-doctor-memorial/>

Spiritual Icebreakers and Soup Starters 75

Icebreakers give us something to talk about. Soup starters make for a good beginning. Here is some spiritual kindling to use, think about, and pray with this week.

MYSTIC MORSELS

Saint John of the Cross (1542-1591)

God does not fit in an occupied heart.
Deny your desires and you will find what your heart longs for.
If a man wishes to be sure of the road he treads on,
he must close his eyes and walk in the dark.
As the sun, when it rises in the morning, will enter your house
if you but open the window-blind, even so will God enter the soul
that is empty and fill it with divine blessings.

POEM Comfort

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem. —Isaiah 40.1

My people,
as you light candles and sing songs
I hear your hope and longing, yes,
but do not minimize the darker songs beneath that,
the deep energy beneath your yearning:
your grief and your terror.

I see that shadow of what you have lost,
what you have done, what you fear of yourselves,
the looming threat, the smoking ruins.

My people, do not be afraid.
My arms are around you.
I murmur gently to Jerusalem
even in the throes of your fear and anger,
the rage, the devastation, the unthinkable.
I know. I see the splinters of the manger,
the swords of the soldiers,
the nails of the cross. I see them.
And I am coming, not to vanquish,
but to comfort. To heal. To hold you,
with you, always.

Even in your despair, be at peace.
Be still enough to hear me speaking tenderly.
— Steve Garnaas-Holmes @ www.unfoldinglight.net



PRAYER

Jesus, may all that is in you flow into me.
May your body and blood be my food and drink.
May your passion and death be my strength and life.
Jesus, with you by my side enough has been given.
May the shelter I seek be the shadow of your cross.
Let me not run from the love which you offer.
But hold me safe from the forces of evil.
On each of my dyings shed your light and your love.
Keep calling to me until that day comes.
When with our saints, I may praise you forever. Amen
— David Fleming, SJ

Liturgical Ministers – December 9 & 10

	4:00 pm	9:00 am	11:30 am
Lectors	Tony O'Leary	Victoria Russo	Felix Maramba
Altar Servers	Vince Stricker Carla Stricker	Jackson Davis Liz James	Bob Danielson
Cantors	Jeanie Walter	Rory Isaac	Olivia Hayes
Communion Principal	Ro DeBias	Rob Plutro	Jackie Lilly
Chalice Minister	Ted Streit Bill Frame	Molly Belcher Peggy Musilli	Carolyn Frye Pat Garnett
Communion to the Sick		Mike Burgess Molly Belcher Missy Summey	
Greeters/Ushers	Pat & Mike Habenschuss	Pat Cochran Sue Manahan	Shelley Nason Renee Norman

Liturgical Ministries – December 16 & 17

	4:00 pm	9:00 am	11:30 am
Lectors	John Priestley	Brian Caldwell	Rick Brennan
Altar Servers	David Bowles	Chip Council Maureen Mathias	Felix Maramba Pippa Maramba
Cantors	Joe Deegan	Jack Dever	Heather White
Communion Principal	Ron Teufel	Missy Summey	Kathy Lester
Chalice Minister	Ro DeBias Natalie Zellers	Bob Sherrard Ann Bradley	Terry and Maureen Mathias
Communion to the Sick		Susan Bowyer Ann Bradley Bob Sherrard	
Greeters/Ushers	Bev & Rob Schissler	Susan Churchill Nancy or Dan McLaughlin	Jeanne Haas Anna Sites

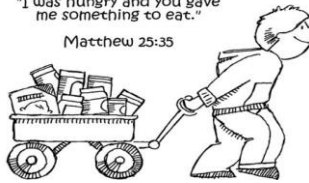
31 Club this week

31 Club members commit to praying for vocations one day each month.

Sun	12/10	Jane Roy
Mon	12/11	Joe Deegan / Tony O'Leary
Tue	12/12	Nancy McLaughlin
Wed	12/13	Mike Granata
Thu	12/14	Shelley Nason / Kathy Pojman
Fri	12/15	Moon Musilli and Peg Musilli
Sat	12/16	Mary Odin / Connie Jarzynski / Theresa O'Leary / Pippa Maramba

MANNA MEAL/KROGER PICK UP SCHEDULE

"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat."
Matthew 25:35



November – December

December 12 – Dennis Thornburg December 13 – Tony O'Leary
 December 19 – Rob Schissler December 20 – Rob Schissler
 December 26 – Tony O'Leary December 27 – Matt Leary

Cookie and Coffee Volunteer Schedule



December 10 -
 December 17 -
 December 31 -

To volunteer/learn more, please contact Jennifer DePond – jdepond@me.com





DYNAMIC PRESENTATIONS | CHILDCARE
MASS | ADORATION | CONFESSION

FEBRUARY 10, 2024 | 10:45 AM - 6:00 PM
ST. JAMES THE GREATER CATHOLIC CHURCH
CHARLES TOWN, WV

FEATURING:



RENZO AND
MONICA ORTEGA

Couple \$32

Register by January 8 to grab
an Early Bird discount!

Childcare \$5/child



REGISTER
HERE

PRESENTED BY



GABRIEL PROJECT

of West Virginia, Inc.

Get behind our Diaper Drive!



What: Diaper Drive to collect diapers, training pants and baby wipes 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, 2023

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

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!

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church
305 E St
South Charleston, WV 25303
www.blessedsacramentwv.org
Phone: (304) 744-5523
E-mail: BSCCWV@gmail.com



Our parish office is open on
Monday and Wednesday-Friday from 9:00am to 3:00pm.

The South entrance doors are unlocked during office hours.
The North entrance doors are unlocked on days that there is a Mass.

<p>Pastor: Rev. Paul Wharton</p> <p>E-mail: pjw424@gmail.com Cell Phone: 304-433-7472 (For emergencies only after 8:00pm)</p>	<p>Office Manager: Natalie Zellers 304-744-5523 Office E-mail: BSCCWV@gmail.com</p>
<p>Music & Youth Director: Mary Odin E-mail: wmodin@frontier.com Phone: 304-767-9479</p>	<p>Director of Religious Education Mike Granata E-mail: mikegranata3@gmail.com Phone: 304-561-8063</p>
<p>Parish Therapy Cat Walter Email: WalterCatechist@gmail.com</p>	
<p>Blessed Sacrament Parish Pastoral Council: Chip Council, facilitator, Pam Council, Jackson Davis, Matt Davis, Anne Dever, Jack Dever, Christine Fernandes, David Lewia, Molly Linehan-Belcher, Philip Maramba, Terry Mathias, Katie Smithberger, and Charlie Wilson</p>	



How to Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children

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 one of the Bishop’s designees at 888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: 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. Please visit www.dwc.org under “Accountability” for additional information and reporting methods.