



**December 22, 2024**

**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	12/21	4:00pm	+	Eugene Haid by Jack & Anne Dever
Sunday	12/22	9:00 am	+	Robert Lucas by John & Arlene Hanna
		11:30 am		People of Our Parish
Monday	12/23			
Tuesday	12/24	4:00pm 7:00pm		Benefactors of Blessed Sacrament People of Our Parish
Wednesday	12/25	10:00am		Seminarians and Deacon Candidates
Thursday	12/26			NO MASS
Friday	12/27			NO MASS
Saturday	12/28	4:00 pm	+	Jerry Roy by Matt & Linda Higgs
Sunday	12/29	9:00 am	+	Anita Lorenzo by John & Arlene Hanna
		11:30 am		People of Our Parish

**We Remember in Our Prayers**

Barbara Baldy, Barbara Breese, Bo Burdette, Genevieve Chmellik, Mary Cole, Elizabeth Coleman, Matthew Crabtree, Juanita Diehl, Joe Eisel, Marietta Fenton, Bob Galloway, Mary Gargarella, Dante Geronilla, Joe Gregg, Jane Ann Grishaber, Brad Grishaber, Bob & Kathleen Groom, Mary Lou Hammock, John & Arlene Hanna, Gary Hoskins, Rob Hrezo, Claire Johnson, Linda Lynch, Louann Lynch-Kelley, Alec Mansfield, Keith Morgan, Diane Roberts, Bradley Smith, Pat Walker, Sandy Wheeler, Kevin Whelan and the Urecki family



## **This Week at Blessed Sacrament**

### **Saturday, December 21**

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

### **Sunday, December 22**

- **Christmas Pageant rehearsal with Youth Music Ensemble** - 10:00am

### **Monday, December 23**

- **NO OCIA**
- **Bells Rehearsal** – 6:00pm to 7:00pm
- **Choir Rehearsal** - 7:00pm to 8:00pm

### **Tuesday, December 24 *Christmas Eve***

### **Wednesday, December 25 *Christmas Day***

**Second Collection** Catholic Charities West Virginia is the largest private provider of social services in West Virginia. Every year we provide help to tens of thousands of vulnerable West Virginians.

- **Christmas Brunch after 10:00 am Mass**

### **Thursday, December 26**

- **Bells Rehearsal** – 6:00pm to 7:00pm
- **Choir Rehearsal** - 7:00pm to 8:00pm

### **Friday, December 27**

### **Saturday, December 28**

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

### **Sunday, December 29**

- **Youth Music Ensemble** – 10:00am
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### **Blessed Sacrament Parish Online Giving Portal**

[https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/bsp\\_wv](https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/bsp_wv)



Thank you for your generosity.

## **December 25<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Brunch, December 25 at 11:00 AM**

Our annual Christmas Brunch will take place on Wednesday, December 25, at 11:00 AM in the Parish Hall, immediately following the Christmas morning Mass. 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 [tmathias@earthlink.net](mailto:tmathias@earthlink.net).

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**Join us Friday evening,  
January 3, 2025 for our annual**



**Concert**

**from 6:00-7:00pm**

**Blessed Sacrament Parish**

**305 E Street in South Charleston, WV**

featuring our adult choir,  
our handbell choir, our youth, harps,  
and other small ensembles.

We'll also enjoy a

**Post-Concert Cookie Bar**

in the Gathering Space following the concert.

**Come celebrate the season with us!**



The Blessed Sacrament Parish Grief Ministry Team is again offering a workshop entitled **GriefShare** for both parishioners and non-parishioners. The **GriefShare** ministry involves loving support to those suffering the pain of grief from the loss of a loved one.

**GriefShare** is a 13-week workshop that offers a safe, comforting place where you can talk with others about your grief. You'll find support, direction and guidance. Each week you can expect to view a 30-minute video filled with helpful guidance, discussion of grief-related issues, and personal recovery tips through your own individual workbook.

**Our first gathering will be Wednesday, January 15th 6:00—7:30pm in Room 2.** If you are suffering the pain of grief from the loss of a loved one, consider attending the first several sessions; then decide if this workshop is for you.

**Please contact the church office at 304-744-5523 by January 9<sup>th</sup> to register.** If you have any questions, you are encouraged to contact one of the team members:

Pam Council, Team Leader, 734-664-1527 or [pamcouncil@yahoo.com](mailto:pamcouncil@yahoo.com)

Ro DeBias, 304-382-3359 or [rodebias@aol.com](mailto:rodebias@aol.com)

Missy Mowrer, 304-545-4776 or [granmissy@gmail.com](mailto:granmissy@gmail.com)

Jeanne Haas, 304-382-2631 or [haasjeanne@hotmail.com](mailto:haasjeanne@hotmail.com)

Debbie Burdette, 304-545-6917 or [Dburdette23@gmail.com](mailto:Dburdette23@gmail.com)

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## **New Wednesday Morning Bible Study to Begin!!**

Faith, Hope and Love: The Seven Catholic Epistles by Steven Binz will start on **Wednesday, January 15** at 10AM in room 5 and on Zoom. New people are always welcome. Notify Jeanne Haas [304.382.2631] if you would like more information or to register.

Here is a description of this new Bible Study:

*Because the seven letters provide a unique window into early Christian theology and practice, they should ideally be read together. Known as the “pillars” of the community in Jerusalem, James, Peter, and John offer the church a collection of letters that serves as a complementary, non-Pauline apostolic witness. The great Christian virtues of faith, hope, and love recur throughout these letters and form a thematic unity within the collection. These letters sought to address the challenges encountered by the whole church: refuting false teachings, strengthening believers in the ethical practice of the faith, and upholding their strength in the face of oppression from others.*

## Volunteers Needed!

**Ushers/Greeters are in urgent need of volunteers.** Greeter/Ushers are old and young, male and female, families and single folks. Everyone is welcome to be a part of this ministry. Greeters arrive about 20 minutes before Mass and say hello to people as they arrive. They answer questions about our facility, hand things out, and generally make us feel welcome. Greeters also help us to recruit individuals and families to bring up the Bread and Wine during the Offertory. Some of their tasks are quite visible, such as passing the plates for the collection and directing the communion procession. They also prepare the church before Mass and hand out bulletins as we leave. They take on many small tasks that help Mass to run smoothly and minimize distractions so that we can all pray. If you are interested, please sign up on the sheet in the gathering space or email the office at [BSCCWV@gmail.com](mailto:BSCCWV@gmail.com)



**A call to bakers**, requesting that anyone interested in donating a batch of cookies for the January 3 concert. If they are baking for Christmas, perhaps they want to add to a batch they are already making to minimize the effort. If you will let Shelley Nason know what type of cookie you are making no later than 1/2, she can make a card with the type of cookie for display. Shelley Nason, [shelleynason@outlook.com](mailto:shelleynason@outlook.com), 603-682-1284.



### **A Volunteer Needed for Manna Meal Pick Up From Kroger**

A number of parishioners are part of a group picking up donated groceries from the West Side Delaware Avenue Kroger's and transporting them to Manna Meal. We have an opening for another. It involves going to several departments at Kroger's, transporting what is given to the loading dock, loading your vehicle and then transporting what is collected to Manna Meal where their staff unloads. This is done Tuesdays and Wednesdays around 9 a.m. or so. A van, hatch back or truck are ideal vehicles to utilize. Since there are several of us volunteering, an individual volunteer generally is only scheduled no more than a couple of times a month. Volunteers are scheduled around any conflicts they might have each month.

**If interested email Don Becher at [donbecher@gmail.com](mailto:donbecher@gmail.com)**

*Thank You!*

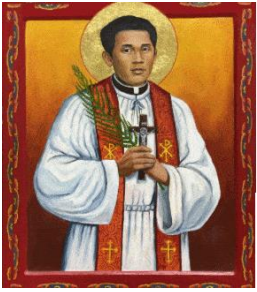
**THANK YOU FOR THE BLANKETS AND COATS!** The staff of United Way expressed a sincere thank you for the number of coats and blankets donated this year for the warming center and others needing them for the winter. It was another banner year! A demonstration of parishioners' continuing generosity.

**Re: Prayer Quilt Ministry:** Dear Friends at Blessed Sacrament,

Thank you so much for the beautiful prayer quilt and your special prayers for me. I will treasure this always. You are truly a blessing in my life. God bless you all! - Mary Cole

### **Christmas Food Baskets for the Good Shepherd Food Pantry in Coalburg, WV**

Good Shepherd Food Pantry organizes the purchase and distribution of food to 300+ needy families in the eastern part of Kanawha County. It's a blessing to all involved. **Thanks to the generosity of so many parishioners, we are sure to meet our goal of \$17,500 for food baskets after this weekend!**



On June 19, 1988, Pope John Paul II canonized a group of 117 martyrs who died for the Roman Catholic Faith in Vietnam during the nineteenth century. The group was made up of 96 Vietnamese, 11 Spaniards, and 10 French. Eight of the group were bishops, 50 were priests and 59 were lay Catholics. Some of the priests were Dominicans, others were diocesan priests who belonged to the Paris Mission Society. One such diocesan priest was St. Theophane Venard.

St. Andrew Dung-Lac, who represents this group of heroes, was a Vietnamese diocesan priest. He came from a poor, non-Christian family and was taught by a Christian lay catechist. He worked in the missions with the priests of the Foreign Mission Society of Paris. He was imprisoned and repeatedly tortured during the persecutions of Minh-Meng, the emperor of Vietnam between 1820 and 1840 who was famed for persecutions of the Christians. Among the many Vietnamese and international martyrs who died alongside St. Andrew Dung-Lac was Saint Peter Thi. This feast day, and the witnesses of the lives of the martyrs, give testament to the sufferings inflicted on the Vietnamese Church, which are among the most terrible in the long history of Christian martyrdom. Their memorial is November 24. source: <https://aci.archchicago.org/asian-icons/st-andrew-dung-lac>

## Spiritual Icebreakers and Soup Starters 129

*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.*

### PRAYER

The feast day of your birth resembles You, Lord  
 Because it brings joy to all humanity.  
 Old people and infants alike enjoy your day.  
 Your day is celebrated  
 from generation to generation.  
 Kings and emperors may pass away,  
 And the festivals to commemorate them soon lapse.  
 But your festival  
 will be remembered until the end of time.  
 Your day is a means and a pledge of peace.  
 At Your birth heaven and earth were reconciled,  
 Since you came from heaven to earth on that day  
 You forgave our sins and wiped away our guilt.  
 You gave us so many gifts on the day of your birth:  
 A treasure chest of spiritual medicines for the sick;  
 Spiritual light for the blind;  
 The cup of salvation for the thirsty;  
 The bread of life for the hungry.  
 In the winter when trees are bare,  
 You give us the most succulent spiritual fruit.  
 In the frost when the earth is barren,  
 You bring new hope to our souls.  
 In December when seeds are hidden in the soil,  
 The staff of life springs forth from the virgin womb  
 — St. Ephraim the Syrian (AD 306-373)





## MYSTIC MORSELS

The ox and the donkey understood more of the first Christmas than the high priests in Jerusalem.

— Thomas Merton

Any one thinking of the Holy Child as born in December would mean by it exactly what we mean by it; that Christ is not merely a summer sun of the prosperous but a winter fire for the unfortunate.”

—G.K. Chesterton

I am not alone at all, I thought.  
I was never alone at all.  
And that, of course,  
is the message of Christmas.  
We are never alone.  
Not when the night is darkest,  
the wind coldest,  
the world seemingly most indifferent.  
For this is still the time God chooses.  
— Taylor Caldwell

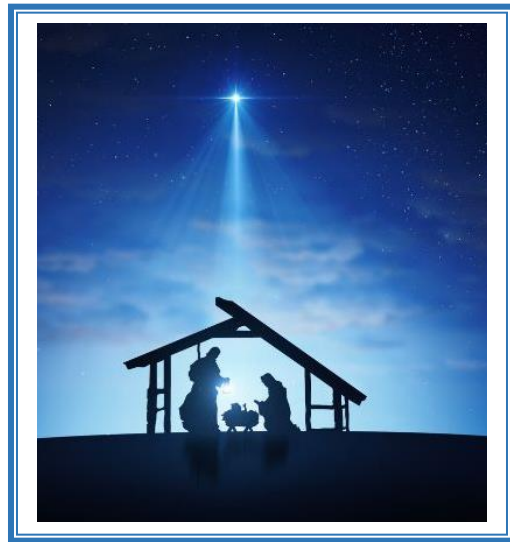
## POEM

Before The Paling Of The Stars

Before the paling of the stars,  
Before the winter morn,  
Before the earliest cockcrow  
Jesus Christ was born:  
Born in a stable,  
Cradled in a manger,  
In the world His hands had made  
Born a stranger.


Priest and king lay fast asleep  
In Jerusalem,  
Young and old lay fast asleep  
In crowded Bethlehem:  
Saint and Angel, ox and ass,  
Kept a watch together,  
Before the Christmas daybreak  
In the winter weather.

Jesus on His Mother's breast  
In the stable cold,  
Spotless Lamb of God was He,  
Shepherd of the fold:  
Let us kneel with Mary maid,  
With Joseph bent and hoary,  
With Saint and Angel, ox and ass,  
To hail the King of Glory.  
— Christina Rossetti



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

<b>Sun</b>	12/22	Susan Churchill / Jean Wood
<b>Mon</b>	12/23	Ron Teufel / Felix Maramba / Pam Counsil / Ro DeBias
<b>Tue</b>	12/24	Mary Ellen Providenti
<b>Wed</b>	12/25	Elaine King / Todd Witsberger / Tina McCready / Melissa Coleman
<b>Thu</b>	12/26	Kelley Endres / John Wharton
<b>Fri</b>	12/27	Fr. John Finnell / Joan Wilson
<b>Sat</b>	12/28	Bernie Mabe / Smithberger Family / Edd McDevitt

 <p><b>MANNA MEAL</b> SO THE HUNGRY CAN EAT</p> <p><b>MANNA MEAL/KROGER PICK UP SCHEDULE</b></p>	<p><b>DECEMBER</b> December 24 Tony O'Leary/Anne Davis December 31 Tony O'Leary/Anne Davis</p>																																		
<p><b>JANUARY</b></p> <table> <tr><td>January 1</td><td>Dennis Thornburg</td></tr> <tr><td>January 7</td><td>Matt Leary</td></tr> <tr><td>January 8</td><td>Anne Davis</td></tr> <tr><td>January 14</td><td>Don Becher</td></tr> <tr><td>January 15</td><td>Kelley Endres</td></tr> <tr><td>January 21</td><td>Matt Leary</td></tr> <tr><td>January 22</td><td>Don Becher</td></tr> <tr><td>January 28</td><td>Don Becher</td></tr> <tr><td>January 29</td><td>Don Becher</td></tr> </table>	January 1	Dennis Thornburg	January 7	Matt Leary	January 8	Anne Davis	January 14	Don Becher	January 15	Kelley Endres	January 21	Matt Leary	January 22	Don Becher	January 28	Don Becher	January 29	Don Becher	<p><b>FEBRUARY</b></p> <table> <tr><td>February 4</td><td>Don Becher</td></tr> <tr><td>February 5</td><td>Anne Davis</td></tr> <tr><td>February 11</td><td>Dennis Thornburg</td></tr> <tr><td>February 12</td><td>Kelley Endres</td></tr> <tr><td>February 18</td><td>Matt Leary</td></tr> <tr><td>February 19</td><td>Anne Davis</td></tr> <tr><td>February 25</td><td>Dennis Thornburg</td></tr> <tr><td>February 26</td><td>Kelley Endres</td></tr> </table>	February 4	Don Becher	February 5	Anne Davis	February 11	Dennis Thornburg	February 12	Kelley Endres	February 18	Matt Leary	February 19	Anne Davis	February 25	Dennis Thornburg	February 26	Kelley Endres
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**Introduction to Scripture:** A five-week course is being offered through the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF). This is a LIVE IN-PERSON course which is being held at Ascension Parish in Hurricane, WV, on five consecutive Wednesdays

from January 22 – February 19, 2025, 7:00pm-8:30pm. The *Introduction to Scripture* course will focus on how the Bible came about, what were some of the cultural factors which influenced the events around the writing of the Old and New Testaments, and what Church documents today tell us about the Bible. You are about to begin an interesting journey. This course cannot cover everything you need to know for navigating into the world of the scriptures, but you will be given a few basic concepts to begin the journey. The course is being underwritten by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Office of Evangelization & Catechesis, who pays 100% of the tuition and the cost of the books associated with the course. The course facilitator is Gerri Wright. To register or for questions, please contact Gerri Wright at [gwright@dwc.org](mailto:gwright@dwc.org) or 304.342.0507 with your name, address, phone number, and email. **Please register as soon as possible, but no later than Monday, January 13, 2025.** There are limited spots available.





### Liturgical Ministries – December 21 & 22

	4:00pm	9:00 am	11:30 am
<b>Lectors</b>	P Frame	D Becher	K Lester
<b>Altar Servers</b>	W Stella R Brennan	G & M Ferrell	J Mattix J Crane
<b>Communion Principal</b>	T Witsberger	P Musilli	C Frye
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	D Lewia A Davis	M Belcher J Lilly	K Lester J Priestley
<b>Communion to the Sick</b>		M Belcher D Elliott S Bowyer	
<b>Greeters/Ushers</b>	J Haas J Providenti	D Elliott S Manahan	The Crane Family

## Liturgical Ministries – December 24 & 25

	<b>Christmas Eve 4:00pm</b>	<b>Christmas Eve 7:00 am</b>	<b>Christmas Day 10:00 am</b>
<b>Lectors</b>	B Caldwell	C Stricker	TBD
<b>Altar Servers</b>	D Bowles R Brennan	G & M Ferrell	C Council
<b>Communion Principal</b>	R Brennan R Teufel C Frye	V Stricker T Witsberger	P Musilli
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	C & P Council	J Priestley M P Peck	C Council T Streit
<b>Greeters/Ushers</b>	D Elliott	D McLaughlin	B Cornell S Nason

## Liturgical Ministries – December 28 & 29

	<b>4:00pm</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>11:30 am</b>
<b>Lectors</b>	M P Peck	P Nagem	T McLane
<b>Altar Servers</b>	C & V Stricker	E & N Simonton	F & P Maramba
<b>Communion Principal</b>	R Teufel	T Mathias	R Brennan
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	T Streit S Churchill	B Sherrard A Bradley	C & P Council
<b>Communion to the Sick</b>		B Sherrard A Bradley L Hayes	
<b>Greeters/Ushers</b>	D Lewia J Providenti	B Cornell S Manahan	P Cochran R Norman

**Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church**

**305 E St**

**South Charleston, WV 25303**

[www.blessedsacramentwv.org](http://www.blessedsacramentwv.org)

**Phone: (304) 744-5523**

**E-mail: BSCCWV@gmail.com**



Our parish office is open 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.

**Second Collections - cash, envelopes, or checks made out to Blessed Sacrament may be placed in a marked box in the Gathering Space.**

<p><b>Pastor: Rev. Paul Wharton</b>  E-mail: <a href="mailto:pjw424@gmail.com">pjw424@gmail.com</a>  Cell Phone: 304-433-7472  (For emergencies only after 8:00pm)</p>	<p><b>Deacons</b>  Tony O’Leary - cell: 304-395-6208 / email: <a href="mailto:aoleary@dwc.org">aoleary@dwc.org</a>  Tommy Ross – cell: 304-590-5003 / email: <a href="mailto:tross@dwc.org">tross@dwc.org</a></p>
<p><b>Office Manager:</b>  Natalie Zellers  304-744-5523  Office E-mail:  <a href="mailto:BSCCWV@gmail.com">BSCCWV@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Director of Religious Education</b>  Mike Granata  E-mail: <a href="mailto:mikegranata3@gmail.com">mikegranata3@gmail.com</a>  Phone: 304-561-8063  <b>Acting Director:</b> Theresa O’Leary  <a href="mailto:mtoleary93@gmail.com">mtoleary93@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>Music &amp; Youth Director:</b>  Mary Odin  E-mail: <a href="mailto:wmodin@frontier.com">wmodin@frontier.com</a>  Phone: 304-767-9479</p>	<p><b>Parish Therapy Cat</b>  Walter  Email: <a href="mailto:WalterCatechist@gmail.com">WalterCatechist@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>Blessed Sacrament Parish Pastoral Council:</b>  Chip Counsil, Rick Brennan, David Lewia, Molly Linehan-Belcher, Philip Maramba, Terry Mathias, Dan McLaughlin, Jonathan Perry, Katie Smithberger, Charlie Wilson</p>	

St. Paul Catholic Radio - WLUX-AM 1450 Charleston/Dunbar



**DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON**

**How to Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children**

The Diocese encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. 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, you may also report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel or volunteers of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, by contacting one of the Bishop’s designees 1311 Byron St., PO Box 230, Wheeling, WV 26003 Fax: 304.233.4086 Phone 304.230.1504 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. You may also visit [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), under “Accountability” for additional reporting mechanisms.”