

Blessed Sacrament Parish – January 1, 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*

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

The South entrance doors are unlocked during those hours.

Telephone (Parish Office): 304.744.5523 E-mail: BSCCWV@gmail.com

Web page: www.blessedsacramentwv.org

Pastor: Rev. Paul Wharton E-mail: pjw424@gmail.com Cell Phone for Emergencies: 304-433-7472

Music & Youth Director: Mary Odin E-mail: wmodin@frontier.com 304-767-9479

Faith Formation: Dr. Bob Pennington: rpenningtontheologian@gmail.com

Office Manager: Natalie Zellers Office E-mail: BSCCWV@gmail.com

We stream our Masses on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BSCCWV/>
for anyone who cannot come to Mass in person.

Mass Schedule

Day	Date	Time		Intention
Saturday	12/31	4:00pm	+	Father Leon Alexander
Sunday	1/1	9:00am	+	Kathy Wharton
		11:30am		Intentions of Our Parish Family
Monday	01/02			
Tuesday	01/03			
Wednesday	01/04	Noon	+	Peggy Uhler
Thursday	01/05	Noon	+	Sylvester & Marie Edquist
Friday	01/06	Noon	+	Toni Van Meter
Saturday	01/07	4:00pm	+	Bernie & Margaret Flood
Sunday	01/08	9:00am		Our Parish Family
		11:30am	+	Father Jody DeBias

Important Information About the Parish Office

Through the month of January our office manager, Natalie, will be recovering from surgery and working from home. During this time, you can leave a message on our office phone at 304-744-5523 or send us an email at BSCCWV@gmail.com. If you need to come into the Blessed Sacrament office, please call before you come to be sure that someone is there to help before you make the trip. Our Fr. Paul can be reached at 304-433-7472.

This Week at Blessed Sacrament

Day	Date	Time	Event	Location
Sat	12/31	9:00am	Men's Bible Sharing Group	Room 5/Library and Zoom
		3:00pm	Reconciliation	Reconciliation Room
		4:00pm	Mass – Vigil-Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God	Sanctuary & facebook.com/BSCWV/
Sun	01/01	9:00am	Mass - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God	Sanctuary & facebook.com/BSCWV/
		11:30am	Mass - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God	Sanctuary & facebook.com/BSCWV/
Mon	01/02	6:00pm	Energy Efficiency Meeting	Room 2
Tues	01/03		Our Office is Closed Today	
		Noon	Brown Bag Book Club	
Wed	01/04	10:00am	Bible Study	Room 5 - Zoom
	01/04	Noon	Mass	Chapel
Thur	01/05	Noon	Mass	Chapel
		12:30pm	Vocations Committee	Library
		6:00pm	Dress rehearsal for Epiphany Concert on Thursday	
Fri	01/06	11:15am	Scriptural Rosary	Chapel
		Noon	Mass	Chapel
		12:30pm	Eucharistic Adoration	
		12:30pm	Confessions	Reconciliation Room
		6:00pm	Epiphany Concert	Sanctuary
Sat	01/07	9:00am	Men's Bible Sharing Group	Room 5/Library and Zoom
		3:00pm	Reconciliation	Reconciliation Room
		4:00pm	Mass – Vigil- The Epiphany of the Lord	Sanctuary & facebook.com/BSCWV/
Hygiene Sunday the weekend of January 7 & 8				
Sun	01/08	9:00am	Mass - The Epiphany of the Lord	Sanctuary & facebook.com/BSCWV/
		11:30am	Mass - The Epiphany of the Lord	Sanctuary & facebook.com/BSCWV/

We Remember in Our Prayers

Barbara Baldy, Bo Burdette, Elizabeth Coleman, Matthew Crabtree, Loretta DiGiorgi, Joe Eisel, Marietta Fenton, Andrew Fields, Rose Finch, Rita Finnell, Skip Finnell, Patty Geissinger, Dante Geronilla, Joe Gregg, Bob & Kathleen Groom, Mary Lou Hammock, John Hanna, John & Claire Johnson, John Lordan, Bob Lucas, Louann Lynch-Kelley, Sheila Kerns, Alec Mansfield, Barbara McCormick, Evelyn Miller, Keith Morgan, Bradley Smith, and Sandy Wheeler

Notes from our new Director of Religious Education: Bob Pennington

GOOD NEWS! Youth and Adult Faith Formation programs will return in January.

Here is a link to a Parish Survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XSL22XZ>) so we can learn the days and times that parents would prefer Youth Religious Education programs. The link to the survey will also be found in your email.

More GOOD NEWS! 1st Communion Class registration will open January 2.

More details will be shared at the Sunday Masses January 1.

Also, we are looking for someone to help with Youth Faith Formation classes.

Date and time of programs to be announced. If you or someone you know may be a good fit for this, please contact me at: rbpenningtontheologian@gmail.com

Last, I welcome all parishioners to email me if they would like to share insights about past or present activities related to religious education. I invite people to share whether they served as a ministry leader, teacher, parent, student, or any other capacity whatsoever. I've heard from several people after Mass about how much they enjoyed RCIA and other faith formation programs and it would be of great help to me to hear specifics by email. My email is: rbpenningtontheologian@gmail.com

Are you Being Called?

What is our Pastoral Council?

Our Pastoral Council is the body of parishioners who are responsible to keep the whole parish community focused on the Mission, the Goals and the Objectives that we have discerned to be God's will for us. They are the primary body that advises and works with the pastor and staff about the well-being of the parish community as it strives to carry out its Mission. All parishioners of all ages are eligible to serve on the council and to recommend new members.

How is the Council structured?

The Council strives for consensus on questions that are posed rather than majority vote. Consensus means a result that all members can live with, even if it is not our strongest preference. Council members serve a 4-year term. The Council usually meets the second Monday of each month at 7pm.

There is no limit to the number of terms that members can serve. There is also no limit to the number of parishioners who can serve on the Council.

Traditionally, the first meeting of the new Council Session will be in January. However, the retirement of our Pastor, Deacon, and Pastoral Associate and the breaking in of our new Pastor has thrown us off this timeline.

How does one recommend new members for the Pastoral Council?

Pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit for yourself and for all parishioners. Every parishioner may recommend as many people as they wish. Any parishioner may also recommend him/herself. There will be an ample supply of blank recommendation forms in the gathering space after each Mass for the next 3 weeks.

Those who are recommended will be invited to attend our next meeting and a time of prayerful discernment.

Please send your recommendations to Blessed Sacrament by January 8

- by dropping it in the collection box,
- by mailing it to the parish office
- by emailing to blessedsac@suddenlinkmail.com

If you would like to reach out to any member of the Pastoral Council for more information, please see the list below:

Chip Counsil, Matt Davis, Rick Brennan, Pam Counsil, John F. Gianola, Tim Norris, Ken Holz, Jack Dever, Anne Dever, Laura Jennings, Katie Smithberger, Joe Gresham, Philip Maramba, Matt Hayes, David Lewia, and Charlie Wilson

Events to Mark on Your Calendar!



Friday, January 6th

Concert from 6:00-7:00pm

**Featuring the Choir, Handbell Choir,
Youth Music Ensemble, Harp Ensemble,
and soloists of Blessed Sacrament.**

**Cookies will follow in the
Gathering Space!**

Hygiene Sunday - Saturday and Sunday, January 7 & 8

What is a Hygiene Kit?

A hygiene kit is used to hold personal care items that clean, comfort, and groom a person's body. Most hygiene kits are used for homeless people, or emergency situations like natural disasters. These kits are meant to be used as a short-term solution until regular supplies and facilities are available.

What Items are Needed for Hygiene Sunday?

For both men and women:

Toothbrush, toothpaste, body wash or bar of soap, shampoo/conditioner, body lotion, deodorant, lip balm, disposable razor

Additional items for women's kits only:

Hairbrush, feminine napkins (not tampons; napkins are more universally used)

Additional items for men's kits only:

Comb, shaving cream



January 1, 2023

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

Nm 6:22-27 | Gal 4:4-7 | Lk 2:16-21

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Today's readings remind us of the central role Mary plays in the story of Jesus and the story of our salvation. We may be tempted to place her on a pedestal – as well we should – she is the Mother of God! At the same time, today's Gospel reminds us she is not divine herself, but human – and she bore the incarnate flesh of the Son of God in his divine and human nature. She went through the sleepless nights and the uncertainties of parenting in all its stages. She learned early on what it takes many of us a lifetime to learn – often in fits and starts – absolute trust in God. As we celebrate this solemnity, we can bring our uncertainties, fears, and struggles to Mary our mother, asking for the grace to follow her faithful example.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Of course there's nothing wrong with New Year's resolutions, and I always admire people who have thought about them in advance. Me? I'm often tongue-tied on January 1 when someone asks me what my resolutions are (hmm ... maybe I should think about kicking that procrastination habit in 2023?) This is why Mary's reaction to the visit of the shepherds strikes me so profoundly. The shepherds pay homage to Jesus and spread the word that God's Son has been born. Mary, Luke writes, "kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." As we move into a new year, so rich with possibility, we might follow Mary's example and reflect before jumping head-long into this or that goal or New Year's resolution. Instead, perhaps we can take the day – or a week or a month – to prayerfully reflect on how we can best put our faith in Jesus into action. How can we witness to our faith in our daily lives? What changes might help us do that? We can ask God to help us draw up a list of ways that we can be more faithful to him.

PRAY Pray the Hail Mary, reflecting on each line with gratitude. If you have more time, give yourself a "mini-retreat" by reading or reflecting on a book or devotional about Mary.

Liturgical Ministers – December 31/January 1

	4:00pm	9:00 am	11:30 am
Lectors	Joe Deegan	Peg Nagem	Mary Pat Peck
Altar Servers	Chip Counsil	Gary and Madison Ferrell	Tommy Ross Eip Shawler
Cantors	Matt Leary	Rory Isaac	Mary Odin
Communion Principal	Tony Ciliberti	Peggy Musilli	Todd Witsberger
Communion to the Sick		Mike Burgess Laura Hayes David Elliott	
Greeters/Ushers	Mike Granata John Providenti	Shelley Nason	Ken McNeil Emilie McNeil

Liturgical Ministers – January 7 & 8

	4:00pm	9:00 am	11:30 am
Lectors	Joe Deegan	Susan Churchill	Don Becher
Altar Servers	Karen Lewia	Eli Simonton Nathanial Simonton	Jeanne Jarrett
Cantors	Jeanie Walter	Need Volunteer	John Shawler
Communion Principal			
Communion to the Sick		Molly Belcher Susan Bowyer Ann Bradley	
Greeters/Ushers	Mike & Pat Habenschus	Dan & Nancy McLaughlin	Greg & Linda Ayers

31 Club this week

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

Sun	January 1	Mary Henderson / Mark Houchins / Terry & Maureen Mathias / Mary Gargarella / Bev Schissler
Mon	January 2	Linda Lynch
Tue	January 3	Sister Frances Kirtley
Wed	January 4	Missy Summey
Thu	January 5	Mary Ann Johnson / Mike Burgess
Fri	January 6	Ro DeBias
Sat	January 7	Lou Ann Lynch Kelly / Mike Roderick / Sue Nelsen



"Hurry! Our New Year's resolutions start in ten minutes."



Why and How to Have Mass Offered for One's Intention

Offering Mass for a special intention is a long-standing tradition in the Catholic Church. Special graces are obtained for whom or what intention the Mass is said. Masses are offered for many reasons — the souls in purgatory, remembrance for someone who is deceased, healing of one who is sick, thanksgiving, in honor of a birthday or anniversary, a worthy or special intention such as peace in the world, etc. The intention is for whom or what the priest is praying as he celebrates Mass. Whenever and wherever the Eucharist is celebrated, the Church shares in the graces of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Because there are more requests for Mass Intentions that can be fulfilled in a year, we are implementing a new policy for scheduling.

1. All Mass intentions need to be scheduled with Natalie at the parish office.
2. Mass Intentions are only scheduled one year at a time, namely the First Sunday of Advent through the Solemnity of Christ the King.
3. To ensure that the recently deceased may be remembered at a Sunday (or Saturday night) Mass or weekday Mass in a timely fashion, some dates will not be assigned an intention until a few weeks ahead of time.
4. The scheduled dates are subject to change if the Mass schedule changes.

Mass Intentions are filled on a first come first served basis. Certain dates are excluded. Some days there will be no Mass or Mass may be postponed. If so, it will be rescheduled. The suggested offering is \$10.00 per Daily Mass intention, and \$20.00 per Sunday Mass intention. Requests with no offerings are welcome and will be accepted. Mass Intentions are published in the Bulletin.

Manna Meal Pick Up Schedule

January 4. Matt Leary
 January 11 Greg Ayers
 January 18 Don Becher
 January 25 Tony O'Leary
 February 1 John Ellison
 February 8 Matt Leary
 February 15 Don Becher
 February 22 Tony O'Leary

Spiritual Icebreakers and Soup Starters 27

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



POEM: New Year Resolve

The time has come
To stop allowing the clutter
To clutter my mind
Like dirty snow,
Shove it off and find
Clear time, clear water.

Time for a change,
Let silence in like a cat
Who has sat at my door
Neither wild nor strange
Hoping for food from my store
And shivering on the mat.

Let silence in.
She will rarely speak or mew,
She will sleep on my bed
And all I have ever been
Either false or true
Will live again in my head.

For it is now or not
As old age silts the stream,
To shove away the clutter,
To untie every knot,
To take the time to dream,
To come back to still water.

— May Sarton (1912-1995) from *Collected Poems 1930-1993*

MYSTIC MUSINGS:

Enter the new year with hope, knowing that you can do nothing of yourself. Walk in faith, and that faith will grow and grow! And you will begin to understand that God can do all things in you. So in total simplicity and childlikeness, in a faith that sings of your desire for him, in a love that celebrates with an untarnished hope, face this new year without fear! Why should you be afraid when the Lord is with you? We live in the resurrected Christ. Together, upholding each other in love and joy and faith, we shall restore that which needs restoring in the church.
— Catherine Doherty



On New Year's Day,
we hope the new season
brings new flowers and new joys.
But—come what may—
those who suffer and worry for Love
will live joyful lives.
Love's rich power is creative and friendly.
Love is kind and has a sweet temperament.
Love soothes with compensation
every new sadness.
Love knows the repeated blows
I must endure for her.
From now on, though, I'll rely on Love.
totally,
with a sad heart, joyful.
—Hadewijch, Poems in Stanzas

PRAYER: Remember us, O God; from age to age be our comforter. You have given us the wonder of time, blessings in days and nights, seasons and years. Bless your children at the turning of the year and fill the months ahead with the bright hope that is ours in the coming of Christ.
You are our God, living and reigning, forever and ever. R/. Amen.

The Epiphany of the Lord – January 8th

Reading I Is 60:1-6

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory. Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance. Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you: your sons come from afar, and your daughters in the arms of their nurses. Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of nations shall be brought to you. Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13.

R. (cf. 11) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, with your judgment endow the king, and with your justice, the king's son; He shall govern your people with justice and your afflicted ones with judgment.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Justice shall flower in his days, and profound peace, till the moon be no more. May he rule from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts; the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute. All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him. He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Reading II Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6

Brothers and sisters: You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for your benefit, namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation. It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Alleluia Mt 2:2

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel Mt 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: *And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.*"

Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

Our Pastoral Council

Chip Counsil, co-facilitator	Matt Davis	Rick Brennan	Pam Counsil	John F. Gianola
Tim Norris, co-facilitator	Ken Holz	Jack Dever	Anne Dever	Laura Jennings
Katie Smithberger	Joe Gresham	Philip Maramba	Matt Hayes	David Lewia
				Charlie Wilson

Council members are always grateful to hear about any concerns our parishioners have.

If you do not know any of the members personally, you may send a note or email to our parish office for them.

Items for the Bulletin – Deadline

Tuesday afternoon is the deadline for all articles, notices, corrections, etc. for the bulletin that will be published for the weekend.

Our Mailing Address: 305 E St

You may have noticed the sturdy outdoor mailbox near our south entrance. With it we can have dependable mail delivery whether our building is locked or unlocked. (During COVID, we needed a PO Box for our mail delivery.) **Please change our address in your contacts list back to 305 E Street, So. Charleston, WV 25303.**

Other Items

St. Paul Radio - West Virginia.....Presents Catholic radio on: WLUX 1450 AM Dunbar; WNUX 89.7 FM Beckley; WOUX 105.3 Parkersburg Visit www.sprwv.org for a link to stream Catholic radio to a smart phone

The Catholic Spirit Our diocesan newspaper, <http://thecatholicspiritwv.org/>

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

Go to www.dwc.org to find a directory for all priests (active and retired), religious, diocesan employees, parish addresses, etc.

The main telephone number is 304-233-0880. The main address for our diocese is P.O. Box 230, Wheeling, WV 26003.

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.

Diocesan Financial Audit <https://dwc.org/2021-auditors-report/>