

## Prayer List

**Epiphany** – Rudolph & Maria; Tammie Ayer's; Howard Baker; Edward Banks, Kaleigh Bennett; Ashly Carlson; Sharon Eye and Family; Robin Highlander; Chuck Hiztt; Bob Hurst; Jonny Kisamore; Diane Janthgato; Katie Johnson; Rick McMiuan; Nora Murray; Kathy Ratliff; Fransis Rodel; Sam Ross; Bill Santman; Hamme Tahan; Evelyn, Harley, & Manoles Brian Yarworth

**St. Elizabeth** - Susan Adams; Lynn Beaty; Jimmy Bennet, Tom DeByl; Jim Hughes; Deacon John; Chad Kimble; Kim Kline; Mary Catherine Loudermilk; Fr Mario; Don Mundy; Deacon Rue Thompson; Ruth Zimmers; Residents of Pendleton Manor.

**St. Mary's** – Luther and Cleo Alt; Maxine Bissell; David Brosh; Jerry Fetch; Dick Henderson; Gina Hinkle; Jim Hughes; Tommy Kimble, Nola Lawrence; John Lutz, Susan and Steve Mongold; Richard and Toni Ours; Roy Reynolds; Becky Rogers; Liz Simpson, Elizabeth S. A. Sites, Alice Veach; Mary Wood

### Announcements for Epiphany

- Jan 28 is a Memorial Mass for Jack Welton with a small reception afterwards.
- Sat Feb 18 we will have. Mardi Gras get together after Saturday eve Mass. light dinner and Bingo. All are welcome. Can anyone make a King Cake?

### Announcements for St. Elizabeth

- Please bring in new socks to be donated to the high school students. We have many students who come each day without the added layer of warmth and protection. Colorful, fun patterns are great. Thank you!

### Announcements for St. Mary's

- If you know of someone at home who might be in need of Communion visits, please let Liz know.

## Calendar

### **Monday 01/23**

#### **St. Marianne Cope**

Heb 9:15, 24-28  
Mk 3:22-30

### **Tuesday 01/24**

#### **St. Francis de Sales**

Heb 10:1-10  
Mk 3:31-35

### **Wednesday 01/25**

#### **Conversion of Saint Paul**

Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22  
Mk 16:15-18

### **Thursday 01/26**

#### **St. Timothy and Titus**

2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5  
Mk 4:21-25

### **Friday 01/27**

#### **St. Angela Merici**

Heb 10:32-39  
Mk 4:26-34

### **Saturday 01/28**

#### **St. Thomas Aquinas**

Heb 11:1-2, 8-19  
Mk 4:35-41

### **Sunday 01/29**

#### **Servant of God Brother Juniper**

Zep 2:3; 3:12-13  
1 Cor 1:26-31  
Mt 5:1-12a

**January 22, 2023**

**Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Is 8:23—9:3  
1 Cor 1:10-13, 17  
Mt 4:12-23

**Pastor: Fr. Dan Pisano**

**General Office email address:** stmarypetersburgwv@gmail.com

**Rectory address: 5 Pierpont St., Petersburg, WV 26847**

**St. Elizabeth website:** setonparishwv.org

### Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment

Please call the number for St. Mary's or send an email if there is a need for a hospital or home visit. During the current pandemic, visits are restricted, face mask is recommended as is social distancing.

Any information for the bulletin and Mass intentions should be forwarded to the general office email address, by Thursday evening.

### Second Collection

Next Special Collect is on February 12 for Church Missions within the United States.

### Mass Intentions

#### **Members of the Parish Every Sunday**

Saturday January 28, memorial service for Jack Welton at Epiphany.

This is the 5 o'clock Vigil Mass on Saturdays. Stay for wine and cheese and other goodies following Mass.

Saturday March 11, Paul & Ruth Crifasi

Note: Please call the office or email St. Mary's to schedule a Mass Intention for someone. On weekday and weekend Mass, we will begin celebrating the Mass for someone's intention. An offering generally made and that offering will be going into a fund for these who have less than we.



## A New Era of Hope

*From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matthew 4:17*

In Matthew's Gospel, from which we read today, we hear the first words spoken by our Lord as He begins His public ministry: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Up until this point, Matthew's Gospel presented us with Jesus' genealogy, His birth, the story of the Magi, the Holy Family's flight into Egypt, the slaughter of the Holy Innocents, Jesus' baptism, the preaching of Saint John the Baptist and Jesus' forty days in the desert. Now, after these introductory stories of Jesus' life, we enter into His public ministry.

Recall that John had just been imprisoned, thus concluding his public ministry. Therefore, the time for the preaching and ministry of the Son of God had arrived. And though Jesus continues the theme of repentance started by John, Jesus takes John's words further. Jesus adds something that John could not: "The kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Since we are still at the beginning of the season of Ordinary Time, it's important to understand this transition from the Old Testament prophets, of which John was the last, to the New Testament preaching of our Lord. The difference is that all that had been prophesied and pointed to in the Old Testament had now arrived. Saint Jerome, in commenting upon this passage, says that as the Old Testament Law ceased, the Gospel commenced. And, of course, the fulfillment of this new era of the Gospel was only a few short years away when our Lord would offer up His life for the salvation of many.

As Jesus begins His preaching, His words are challenging but also very hopeful. By saying that "the kingdom of heaven is at hand," Jesus stirs interest and holy curiosity among His first listeners. His call to repentance was softened by His new proclamation about the Kingdom.

One helpful insight we can take from these first words of Jesus' public ministry is that this is the best way to share the Gospel with those who do not yet follow Christ. Oftentimes, when we see someone living in serious sin, we want to judge and condemn. But usually what they need the most is hope—hope that there is something much greater that comes from repentance. Certainly we need to speak against sin. But one of the most effective ways to do so is by initially offering the listener hope of something much better than the sin with which they struggle—specifically, the hope of the Kingdom of God.

Reflect, today, upon the newness of the ministry of Jesus, the newness of the first proclamation of the Gospel. As you do, try to imagine the holy curiosity that many would have had as they first listened to Jesus preach. Soon He would follow up His preaching with many signs and wonders that would confirm His message. But at first, Jesus simply instilled a hope in His hearers. As you ponder this, think about those in your life who also need this initial sense of hope and holy curiosity about the Gospel and pray that God will inspire you and use you to be an instrument of this merciful message.

*Lord, as You began Your public ministry of proclaiming the Kingdom of Heaven, You instilled hope and a holy curiosity in the minds and hearts of Your first hearers. Please continue this good work and use me as You will to be an instrument of this hope in those I encounter every day. Jesus, I trust in You.*

### Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church

2029 State Road 55  
Moorefield, WV 26836  
304-434-2547

#### Liturgies

Thursday at 12:00 Noon  
Saturday 5:00PM  
& Sunday 8:00AM

After Christmas, the Sunday mass will begin at 8:30.

### St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

545 Walnut Street  
Franklin, WV 26807  
304-358-7012

#### Liturgies

Tuesday at 12:00 Noon  
Sunday 12:00 Noon

Lector: Jim Hughes

**Priest in Attendance: Fr. Mario Claro**  
**Deacon: John Windett**

The 3rd Sunday of each month is Birthday Sunday at **St. Elizabeth**. Please stay after Mass and celebrate everyone who has a Birthday that month with some sort of dessert and good conversation.

### St. Mary's Catholic Church

4 Grant Street  
Petersburg, WV 26847  
304-257-1057

#### Liturgies

Wednesday at 12:00 Noon  
Sunday 10:00AM

Lector: Joe Mohr

Eucharist Minister: Sherri Mohr & Loretta Alt

Starting in August, we will have **the First Friday Mass** every first Friday of the month at 11AM.

The first Sunday of each month is Birthday Sunday at **St. Mary's**. Please stay after Mass and celebrate everyone who has a Birthday that month with some sort of dessert and good conversation.

