

## 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; Jo Oliver; Jeanne Porreca; Kathy Ratliff; Fransis Rodel; Sam Ross; Bill Santman; Roger Saville; Hamme Tahan; Evelyn, Harley, & Manoles Brian Yarworth

**St. Elizabeth** - Susan Adams; Lynn Beaty; Jimmy Bennet, Tom DeByl; Jim Hughes; Deacon John; Kim Kline; 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; Mary Idleman; Tommy Kimble, Nola Lawrence; John Lutz, Susan and Steve Mongold; Richard and Toni Ours; Roy Reynolds; Becky Rogers; Darleen Secrist, Liz Simpson, Elizabeth S. A. Sites, Alice Veach; Mary Wood

## Calendar

**Monday 03/20**  
**St. Salvator of Horta**  
2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16  
Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22  
Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a

**Tuesday 03/21**  
**Bl. John of Parma**  
Ez 47:1-9, 12  
Jn 5:17-30

**Wednesday 03/22**  
**St. Nicholas Owen**  
Is 49:8-15  
Mt 5:17-19

**Thursday 03/23**  
**St. Turibius of Mogrovejo**  
Ex 32:7-14  
Jn 5:31-47

**Friday 03/24**  
**St. Oscar Amulfo Romero**  
Wis 2:1a, 12-22  
Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

**Saturday 03/25**  
**Annunciation of the Lord**  
Is 7:10-14; 8:10  
Lk 1:26-38

**Sunday 03/26**  
**St. Catherine of Genoa**  
Ez 37:12-14  
Rom 8:8-11  
Jn 11:1-45

**March 19, 2023**  
**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a  
Eph 5:8-14  
Jn 9:1-41

**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 April 07 for Pontifical Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land.

## Mass Intentions

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

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.

## Reminder

Please remember to send cards this Lenten season to our home bound parishioners including

**Epiphany:** Home Bound members - Ruth Buker, Helen Chambers, Joe Dodd, Patty Gapp, Karolina Yarworth;

at the Winchester Rehab Center - Jo Oliver.

**St. Mary's:** Home Bound members - Richard Bissell, Toni Ours

at the Grant County Nursing Home – Maxine Bissell, Jerry Fetch.

at E.A. Hawse Nursing and Rehab Center in Baker – Luther Alt

Keep them in your prayers on our Lenten journey.

## Announcements for St. Mary's

• 3 Lenten Luncheons will be held on Feb. 22, March 15, and April 5. Our responsibilities include:

- Feb 22: making ham salad and desserts;
- March 15: making desserts;
- April 5: nothing.

Luncheons are \$5.00. CWU needs help serving and cleaning up. For any questions, please see Joyce.

**God needs priests. Is He calling you?**  
**If you are 30-60, you may be surprised.**

### **“First” Friday Visits**

Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary  
558 South Ave., Weston, MA

**Friday, March 31st**  
5:00 PM

Join the Seminary community either **virtually** or **in person**  
for prayer & fellowship

Holy Hour and Evening Prayer

In Person: Dinner with the seminarians and a tour of the Seminary

RSVP or receive more information  
Msgr. William Fay at 781-899-5500 ext. 134  
msgr.fay@psjs.edu

www.psjs.edu



## The Holy Drama of Grace

*When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him. John 9:35-38*

This is the conclusion to the story of the healing of the man born blind. It is the fifth of seven signs (miracles) in John's Gospel that point to the divinity of our Lord. This healing especially confirmed Jesus' teaching from the previous chapter: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12). Jesus was the Light Who came to dispel all darkness, and now He illustrates this fact by opening the eyes of the blind man. This story is quite long and detailed. The details it includes makes it much more than a miracle. It is also a dramatic story revealing both the consequences of rejecting Jesus, as well as the blessings received by one who turns to Jesus in faith.

We begin with the detail that this man has been blind since birth. It was a common misconception at that time that such a birth defect might have been caused by the sins of the parents. In part, this came from a misreading of Exodus 20:5-6 in which God said that He inflicts punishment "on the children of those who hate me, down to the third and fourth generation." Jesus makes it clear that this was not the case; this man's blindness was a result of the natural disorder experienced by humanity as a result of original sin. If humanity had never been cast out of the Garden of Eden, disease and natural disorders would have never existed. For this reason, we should understand that we are all "blind" in the sense of being born into the state of original sin and are, therefore, in need of the grace of spiritual sight.

The healing of this man is done purely on Jesus' initiative. This shows that God's healing action in our lives is always His initiative. But Jesus clearly offered this man healing because He knew the man would eventually come to faith in Him, which is the far more important healing that took place in this story.

After the man is healed, a very interesting drama unfolds. The Pharisees hear of the healing and begin to interrogate the man. Afterwards, they also interrogate the man's parents and then the man for a second time. Throughout their interrogations, two things happen. First, the Pharisees slowly become more agitated, more irrational and end by completely rejecting both this miraculous sign and Jesus Himself. The man, however, begins with what appears to be a bit of ignorance about Jesus, but as he is interrogated and challenged to explain his healing, he deepens and clarifies his convictions, ending in the deepest faith when he cries out to Jesus, "I do believe, Lord." Then we are told that the man worshiped Jesus.

The dramatic unfolding of this story teaches us that when we are given the grace of God by hearing His holy Word spoken and witnessing His mighty hand at work, we must make a choice. Either we will respond in faith and slowly be drawn deeper into that faith, or we will rationalize it away and reject God's saving action in our lives. It is not possible to simply remain indifferent to the Gospel when we hear it spoken or when we see its effects changing us or others.

Reflect, today, upon the two paths this sign from Heaven had on those present to this miracle. You, too, are present to this miracle through your reading of it. How will you respond? Will you imitate the Pharisees and discount the deep spiritual truths this action conveys? Or will you open yourself to the transforming power of this healing? Commit yourself to the path of this blind man. Say to our Lord, "I do believe, Lord." Apply those words to every action of Jesus in your life and allow that faith to lead you into worship of Him Who is the Light of the World.

*Jesus, Light of the World, You came to dispel the darkness caused by original sin. You came to heal our blindness and open the eyes of our souls to Your true Light. Please open my eyes so that I may see, and give me the courage I need to profess my faith in You and worship You with all my heart. Jesus, I trust in You.*

## Lenten Project

If you are looking for a Lenten Project, consider donating items to Grant Memorial Hospital's Infusion and Cancer Center, which serves communities in Grant, Hardy, and Pendleton Counties. Many of you may have a family member, friend, or neighbor who has been affected by cancer or an illness that requires regular infusion therapy. Being able to receive treatments without long-distance travel helps save time and minimizes gas needed for transportation. Items that can be donated for the Chemo/Infusion Care Bags are:

- Reusable Water Bottles
- Puzzle Books - Crossword, Word Search, etc
- Colored Pencils/Crayons
- Chapstick
- Non-Skid Socks/Slippers
- Adult Level Coloring Books
- Soft Bristle Toothbrushes
- Lotion

There will be a collection box at each church that will be picked up at the end of the Lenten Season. Any contributions are greatly appreciated. Thank 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

**Priest in Attendance: Fr. Mario Claro**  
**Home 304-902-9118 and Cell 304-668-1929**  
**Deacon: John Windett**

Lector: Fay Steele

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: Brian Vance

Everyone is invited to **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.

