

Prayer List

Epiphany – Rudolph & Maria; Tammie Ayer's; Howard Baker; Edward Banks, Kaleigh Bennett; Ashly Carlson; Marlene Ciccolella; Sharon Eye and Family; Robin Highlander; Chuck Hiztt; Bob Hurst; Jonny Kisamore; Diane Janthgato; Katie Johnson; Rick McMiuan; Nora Murray; Jo Oliver; Jeanne Porreca; Sophia Poninska; 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; Jeannie Stark; Deacon Rue Thompson; Ruth Zimmers; Residents of Pendleton Manor.

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

Announcements for Epiphany

- Welcome to all of our new parishioners. We want to invite you to participate more fully in our parish life. We are in need of people who would like to serve as Ministers in the church - Greeters, Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers to take up collections at Mass, arrange Social events, etc. (particularly at the morning Mass and special evening Masses(like Ascension). We will provide any training you may need, accommodate any special concerns you may have. We are fairly flexible. Just talk with Louise, Vicki or Sharon or leave your name and phone number on the back table. Please step forward and volunteer to help in any way. It takes many parts of the body to make the Body whole.

Thanks to all who give their time and effort to the church.

Announcements for St. Elizabeth

- St. Elizabeth's desperately needs Eucharistic ministers. Any one interested should contact Deacon John.
- The CAN needs for May are: crackers and canned fruit.

Calendar

Monday 05/15
St. Isidore the Farmer
Acts 16:11-15
Jn 15:26—16:4a

Tuesday 05/16
St. Margaret of Cortona
Acts 16:22-34
Jn 16:5-11

Wednesday 05/17
St. Paschal Baylon
Acts 17:15, 22—18:1
Jn 16:12-15

Thursday 05/18
St. John I
Acts 18:1-8
Jn 16:16-20

Friday 05/19
St. Theophilus of Corte
Acts 18:9-18
Jn 16:20-23

Saturday 05/20
St. Bernardine of Siena
Acts 18:23-28
Jn 16:23b-28

Sunday 05/21
St. Cristobal Magallanes and Companions
Acts 1:1-11
Eph 1:17-23
Mt 28:16-20

May 14, 2023
Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17
1 Pt 3:15-18
Jn 14:15-21

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 May 28 for Catholic Relief Services.

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

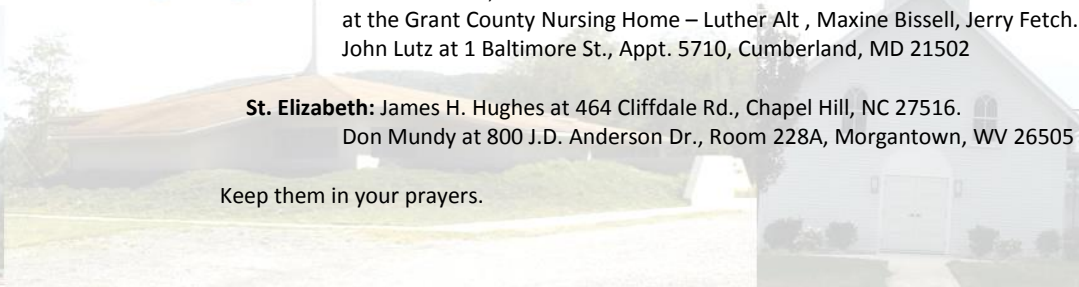
Please remember to send cards to our home bound parishioners including

Epiphany: Home Bound members - Ruth Buker, Helen Chambers, Joe Dodd, Patty Gapp, Karolina Yarworth;
at E.A. Hawse Nursing and Rehab Center in Baker - Jo Oliver.

St. Mary's: Home Bound members - Cleo Alt, Richard Bissell, Susan Mongold, Toni Ours, Darlene Secrist, and Alice Veach
at the Grant County Nursing Home – Luther Alt , Maxine Bissell, Jerry Fetch.
John Lutz at 1 Baltimore St., Appt. 5710, Cumberland, MD 21502

St. Elizabeth: James H. Hughes at 464 Cliffdale Rd., Chapel Hill, NC 27516.
Don Mundy at 800 J.D. Anderson Dr., Room 228A, Morgantown, WV 26505

Keep them in your prayers.



Obedience, Truth and Freedom

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows him. But you know him, because he remains with you, and will be in you."
John 14:15-17

Imagine a spouse or a friend saying to you, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." Such a statement might cause you to react with surprise. Ordinarily, we do not see obedience to another as a sign that we love them. However, what if a parent were to say to a child, "If you love me, you will be obedient." That statement is easier to accept because of the unique role of a parent to their children. In regard to our love of God, obedience to His divine will is the greatest act of love we can offer. This is because God's will is perfect. It's exactly what we need in life. It's what we were made for. And it is the one and only way to achieve the human fulfillment that we seek. Only God can say such a thing to us because only God is God.

Jesus followed up His call to obedience by saying that obedience to Him will result in Jesus and His Father bestowing the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth upon you. The Holy Spirit will remain "with you, and will be in you." This is such a profound statement from our Lord. In fact, so much of what He says within this sermon given at the Last Supper is profound beyond comprehension.

One clear thing this tells us is that obedience to God leads to a discovery of the Truth. And as Jesus says elsewhere, "If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31-32). Obedience leads to Truth. Truth leads to freedom.

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This begs the question: Do you want to be free? Clearly you do. We cannot not want to be free. Meaning, we are obliged to want freedom, just as we are obliged to want happiness. Why?

Because the desire for freedom and happiness is written upon our very nature. It is a desire that we cannot escape. It's how we are wired. However, it is quite possible to become confused about the way we achieve these desires. For many, obedience is not always understood as the pathway to that desired freedom and happiness.

Consider, again, a child. Imagine a parent telling that child not to eat a certain wild berry that grows behind their house because the parent knows the berry is poisonous and will cause the child to become sick. If the child disobeys and eats the berry anyway, he will learn the important lesson that he should have been obedient. Or if the child were to get in a fight with his brother and was angry and crying, the parent may tell him to say he's sorry and reconcile with his brother. If the child refuses, he will remain angry and crying. But if he obeys, then he and his brother will once again be able to have fun together.

On a grand scale, this is what God does for us. He is the perfect Father Who always knows what is best for us. For that reason, we must not only conform to His will, we must desire it, seek it out and desire to be obedient to the greatest degree. This is the path to Truth. It is the path to freedom. It is the path to the happiness we desire.

Reflect, today, upon your own level of obedience to the will of God and your understanding of the importance of that obedience. Do you realize that God's will is perfect? Perhaps you do intellectually, but how about practically? When you read through the Scriptures and hear Jesus' commands of love, do you seek to follow them without hesitation? For example, do you forgive those who seem undeserving? Can you say, with our Lord from the Cross, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do?" Reflect upon anything this past year that was difficult for you to embrace from God. Ponder it, pray over it and seek to obey whatever He has revealed to you. Doing so will be the first step toward the fulfillment of your deepest desires in life.

Most glorious Jesus, Your will is perfect in every way. Obedience to Your will leads to the fulfillment of my life and my every desire. Please bestow the Spirit of Truth upon me so that I will always know Your will and embrace it with all my might. 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

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: Tom Parisi

Eucharist Minister: Barb DiBenedetto and MC Amerman

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.

Ministry List for May 21, 2023