

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 Hizzt; Bob Hurst; Jonny Kisamore; Diane Janthgato; Katie Johnson; Rick McMiuian; Nora Murray; 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; Deacon John; Kim Kline; Fr Mario; Don Mundy; David Poole; Deacon Rue Thompson; Residents of Pendleton Manor.

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

Announcements for Epiphany

- We are re-organizing the finance council and pastoral council and need volunteers. All help is appreciated. The pastoral council will have a re-organization meeting after Mass on Saturday Oct 14th.
- Jo Oliver will be honored at the Quilt show this year during Heritage Weekend.
- We will be having a welcome reception after each Mass during Heritage Weekend which is sept 22-24.

Announcements for St. Elizabeth

- St. Elizabeth desperately needs Eucharistic ministers. Anyone interested should contact Deacon John.
- Fr. Mario would like to thank all of you for the prayers, visits, cards, and phone calls while he was in the hospital and nursing home following a fall. He has returned to his home and he was at Mass this past Sunday. He looks good. Please continue to keep him in your prayers.
- Sympathy is extended to the family of Jim Hughes who passed away this week.

Announcements for St. Mary'S

- Thank you to everyone who has provided desserts for Birthday Sunday. Additional volunteers are always appreciated to help with refreshments. Sign up individually or with a buddy. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.
- If you would like to join in the music ministry in some way, please see either of the guitarists after Sunday Mass. Talents can include vocalists, musicians, percussionists and anyone who is enthusiastic about this part of the liturgy.

Calendar

Monday 09/18

St. Joseph of Cupertino

1 Tm 2:1-8
Lk 7:1-10

Tuesday 09/19

St. Januarius

1 Tm 3:1-13
Lk 7:11-17

Wednesday 09/20

**St. Andrew Kim Taegon,
Paul Chong Hasang, and
Companions**

1 Tm 3:14-16
Lk 7:31-35

Thursday 09/21

St. Matthew

Eph 4:1-7, 11-13
Mt 9:9-13

Friday 09/22

**St. Lorenzo Ruiz and
Companions**

1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14
Lk 8:1-3

Saturday 09/23

St. Pio of Pietrelcina

1 Tm 6:13-16
Lk 8:4-15

Sunday 09/24

St. John Henry Newman

Is 55:6-9
Phil 1:20c-24, 27a
Mt 20:1-16a

September 17, 2023

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sir 27:30—28:7

Rom 14:7-9

Mt 18:21-35

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.

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 September 24 for the Catholic University of America.

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

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

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

St. Elizabeth:
Don Mundy at 800 J.D. Anderson Dr., Room 228A, Morgantown, WV 26505

Keep them in your prayers.



The Torment of Unforgiveness

'You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?' Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt. So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart." Matthew 18:32-35

Love, kindness, gentleness, mercy...these and many like qualities are easy to think about. They inspire us to be holy by growing in virtue. But sometimes we need more. Sometimes pondering the beauty of the virtues and fruits of the Spirit do not suffice to help us embrace a life of holiness. This is one of the reasons for our parable today.

The Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola present us with a structure by which a spiritual director may lead a retreatant through a thirty day private retreat. Ignatius outlines thirty days worth of meditations. Interestingly, Ignatius does not begin by inviting a person to ponder the beautiful virtues to which they are called. Instead, for the first week, he has the retreatant ponder the horror of sin and the devastating effects that sin has upon a soul. By doing this, the person's eyes are more fully opened to their own sin so that, in the subsequent three weeks, they will be more properly disposed to reflect upon the inspiring life of Christ and His many virtues.

In a sense, our Gospel today is an ideal Gospel to ponder during that first week of an Ignatian retreat. And for that reason, it is an ideal Gospel to ponder anytime we want to get our spiritual lives in order. It is very easy to become complacent in our Christian walk. It is easy to become lukewarm in our prayer and even in our moral life. If that is you to any degree, then this Gospel is worth your careful and thorough attention.

The sin that Jesus addresses in this passage is the sin of unforgiveness. It clearly depicts the wrath of God that will be inflicted upon those who refuse to forgive others. The "wicked servant" to whom this is addressed was a man who was forgiven a "huge amount" by God. This is all of us. Every one of us has been forgiven by God an amount that cost Jesus His very life. The consequence of our sins was the death of the

Son of God. Each of us deserves the penalty of death. But death has now been transformed into the very means of new life through the forgiveness of sins. And if we want to receive the forgiveness of sins and the new life that awaits us, we must fully share in God's forgiveness. Not only must we receive His forgiveness, we must also forgive those who have sinned against us. Completely. Totally. Without reserve.

In this parable, the wicked servant failed to forgive his servant's small debt. In fact, every sin committed against us, no matter how grave in the eyes of God, is a small debt compared to the debt we owe God. For that reason, we must never hesitate to forgive. Never. If this is difficult, and if reflecting upon God's mercy, kindness, compassion and love do not compel you to completely forgive everyone to the fullest extent, then spend time with this parable. "You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?" These are words directed at us when we fail to forgive completely from the depths of our hearts. They are merciful words from Jesus to help us wake up to what we need to do.

In a commentary on this passage from St. Thomas Aquinas, the "torturers" spoken of, to whom we will be handed over if we do not forgive, are the demons. They will torment us when we lack forgiveness toward others. The torture, for now, will come in the form of obsessing over our wounds, dwelling upon thoughts of revenge, holding grudges, and lacking interior peace. This is the work of the demons, and they will torment us this way until we forgive.

Reflect, today, upon the absolute requirement of the Christian life to forgive. Mercy can seem unfair. From the perspective of strict justice, it is. But from the perspective of freedom and the virtues of Heaven, mercy makes perfect sense. Do not hesitate to forgive, for if you can do so from the bottom of your heart, God will lavish upon you the riches of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Most merciful Lord, You have forgiven me a huge debt. The cost of my sin was Your death on the Cross. Please fill my heart with such gratitude for this gift that I, in turn, offer the same depth of mercy to others. May I never waver in this depth of mercy so that I am freed from the torments that come from unforgiveness. 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

St. Mary's Catholic Church

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

Liturgies

Wednesday at 12:00 Noon
Sunday 10:00AM

Ministry List for September 24, 2023

Lector: Lynn Vandevander

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

Lector: Paul Lawrence

Eucharist Minister: Loretta Alt & M.C. Amerman

Please join us for Rosary Prayer on Sunday at 9:30 AM. 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.

