

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; 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 09/25
St. Louis Martin and
Zelie Guerin
Ezr 1:1-6
Lk 8:16-18

Tuesday 09/26
St. Paul VI
Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20
Lk 8:19-21

Wednesday 09/27
St. Vincent de Paul
Ezr 9:5-9
Lk 9:1-6

Thursday 09/28
St. Wenceslaus
Hg 1:1-8
Lk 9:7-9

Friday 09/29
St. Michael, Gabriel,
and Raphael
Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or
Rv 12:7-12ab
Jn 1:47-51

Saturday 09/30
St. Jerome
Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a
Lk 9:43b-45

Sunday 10/01
St. Therese of Lisieux
Ez 18:25-28
Phil 2:1-11
Mt 21:28-32

September 24, 2023 **Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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

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 October 22 for the World Mission Sunday Collection.

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.



Desiring the Fullness of Grace for All

“When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Summon the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and ending with the first.’ When those who had started about five o’clock came, each received the usual daily wage. So when the first came, they thought that they would receive more, but each of them also got the usual wage.” Matthew 20:8-10

Is life always fair? It would seem not. We have all experienced situations in life when we felt as though we were cheated. Children are especially sensitive to this and will often complain to a parent when they feel as though they have been treated unjustly. From an earthly perspective, it is true that life is not always fair. But we ought not live by an earthly perspective. We are called to live according to the divine perspective. From that perspective, everything is fair in the end, and true justice is meted out to everyone.

When we consider the question of whether or not life is fair, we should always begin with the Son of God. Jesus was certainly not treated fairly. In fact, it is hard to conclude that anyone who has ever lived received a more unjust treatment than Jesus, at least from an earthly perspective. He was perfect in every way. He treated everyone throughout His life with perfect virtue. He never lied, cheated, stole, etc. Yet we all know what happened to Him. He was falsely accused, dishonestly judged, brutally abused, and murdered on a cross. From an earthly perspective, it is clear that this was not fair.

Jesus’ life, along with ours, must not be evaluated from the perspective of earthly justice. It’s not that treating others unjustly is permissible by the will of God. Each of us has a moral responsibility to act in justice as a minimum requirement. But we are also called to exceed earthly justice and live by the new standard of supernatural grace. From that perspective, Jesus’ suffering and death was not tragic; it was glorious. His Cross was not an instrument of injustice, it was His throne upon which He established His new Kingdom. Once grace enters the picture, all apparent injustice is turned upside down and must be looked at from a different perspective.

The parable we read today presents to us the scenario in which God has chosen to bestow His

grace and mercy in abundance to all who turn to Him. We can never earn the right to His mercy. Nothing we can do will ever give us the right to the gift of eternal salvation. Therefore, this parable especially challenges us to look at Heaven and the life of grace on earth from the perspective of “gift.” All is a gift from God. Whether we convert at the end of our lives, after living sinful lives, or whether we have spent our whole lives serving the will of God, all is a gift in the end, all is grace.

Only when we comprehend God’s goodness and infinite generosity will we be able to overcome our temptations toward jealousy and selfishness. Those who have dedicated their entire lives to the love of God, if it is a genuine love and service of God, will, as a result, take on the perspective of the mind and heart of God. Part of that perspective is the burning desire to generously bestow God’s infinite grace and mercy upon everyone who turns to Him. Even the most hardened sinner who has been the source of much hurt in life is a candidate for the fullness of God’s grace if they repent. This must be our desire. We must be like the landowner in this parable who rejoices when laborers show up in the last hour and then lavishes a full day’s wages upon them. Not only is this fair from the divine perspective, it must become our personal desire as we labor through life.

Reflect, today, upon how deeply you desire to see those who have not yet given their lives to God to come to Him and receive the fullness of grace. Look at them within the context of this parable. Examine how you feel about those laborers who have not yet begun their service of God. Examine, also, your feelings toward those who seem undeserving of the fullness of God’s grace. If you find that you have jealousy, or judge others from the perspective of earthly justice, work to eliminate that perspective so that your heart’s deepest desire is to see God bestow the fullness of mercy upon everyone in this world when they turn to Him with a contrite heart.

Most merciful Lord, You are generous beyond comprehension. You bestow mercy upon those who turn to You from their sin and seek to serve Your holy will. May I be among those who labor in Your vineyard, and may I also be among those who desire to see everyone accept the invitation to receive the fullness of Your grace. 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 October 01, 2023

Lector: Regina Hedrick

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: Barb DiBenedetto and Loretta Alt

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.

