

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 Hitzt; Bob Hurst; Jonny Kisamore; Diane Janthgato; Katie Johnson; Rick McMian; 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; Tom DeByl; Deacon John; Kim Kline; Fr Mario; Don Mundy; Deacon Rue Thompson; Residents of Pendleton Manor.

St. Mary's –Cleo Alt; Maxine Bissell; Paul Borrer; 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 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 10/23
St. John of Capistrano
Rom 4:20-25
Lk 12:13-21

Tuesday 10/24
St. Anthony Mary Claret
Rom 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21
Lk 12:35-38

Wednesday 10/25
St. Antonio de SantAnna Galvao
Rom 6:12-18
Lk 12:39-48

Thursday 10/26
St. Peter of Alcantara
Rom 6:19-23
Lk 12:49-53

Friday 10/27
Bl. Bartholomew of Vicenza
Rom 7:18-25a
Lk 12:54-59

Saturday 10/28
Sts. Simon and Jude
Eph 2:19-22
Lk 6:12-16

Sunday 10/29
St. Narcissus of Jerusalem
Ex 22:20-26
1 Thes 1:5c-10
Mt 22:34-40

October 22, 2023

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 45:1, 4-6

1 Thes 1:1-5b

Mt 22:15-21

Pastor: Fr. Dan Pisano

General Office email address: stmarypetersburgwv@gmail.com

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

Joined Parishes website: www.potomachhighlandscatholic.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 November 12 for Collection for the Archdiocese for the Military 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

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.



Resolving Conflict

The Pharisees went off and plotted how they might entrap him in speech. They sent their disciples to him, with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are a truthful man and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. And you are not concerned with anyone's opinion, for you do not regard a person's status. Tell us, then, what is your opinion: Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?" Matthew 22:15-17

It has been said that "the enemy of my enemy is my friend." In other words, two people who are enemies with each other will often join together if they see an opportunity to jointly attack an even greater enemy. This is what was happening in today's Gospel. Jesus was considered the greatest enemy of the Pharisees and the Herodians, and both of these groups joined together in a plot to trap Jesus even though they greatly disliked each other.

The Pharisees were very nationalistic and were strict observers of the Law of Moses. It was their view that the people should not have to pay taxes to the Romans, and many of the people agreed. The Herodians supported the Romans and, therefore, were supporters of Herod, the Jewish ruler appointed by the Roman Emperor. One of Herod's responsibilities was to obtain taxes from the Jews for use by the Roman government. Those who opposed the paying of taxes to the Romans could even be put to death.

This joint questioning of Jesus had one goal: to get Him in trouble. If Jesus said it was unlawful to pay taxes to Caesar, Herod's soldiers could arrest Him. If Jesus said that the people should pay taxes to Caesar, the Pharisees could turn the people against Him. It appeared to be a lose-lose question posed to Jesus. Of course, Jesus' answer was perfect. Without violating the Law of God, He also refrained from violating the civil law. Upon hearing His answer, all who heard Him "were amazed, and leaving him they went away."

The lesson learned from this passage is an especially important lesson to apply to family life. It is very common for conflicts to arise from time to time among those who are close to each other. When that happens, we can often take the approach of trying to trap the other person and trip them up with our deceptive reasoning. When this happens between two people, the conversation often turns into a shouting

match with each party seeking only to find fault with the other. The solution to such situations is simple. Every conflict must be resolved by the truth. Jesus did this perfectly. He did not attack when He was attacked. He did not defend Himself irrationally. He did not shy away from the confrontation. He did not manipulate the truth to His own advantage. Instead, He spoke openly and honestly the full truth and refused to engage his opponents in their trickery.

Consider this question. What if you were in Jesus' position and the Pharisees came to you, asking you this question? What would you be tempted to answer? Most likely, you would try to answer them in such a way that appeased them. You might whisper, "We shouldn't pay the taxes but don't tell that to the Herodians." And if the Herodians were to ask you that question, you might be tempted to give a different answer that appeased them.

Oftentimes, when we feel as though another person is trying to trap us, condemn us, or challenge us, we become more concerned about our defense than with the honest truth. We can become afraid to say anything that will give them reason to attack us. We will be tempted to twist our answers rather than speak forthrightly with sincerity and honesty. This will never resolve a conflict. The only way to resolve anything is with the truth.

Reflect, today, upon how you work to resolve conflict when it arises. Are you more like the Pharisees and Herodians whose only goal was to trick, trap and win? Do you see the other as an enemy in those moments? Or do you strive to be like Jesus who didn't shy away from the conversation, answering honestly and directly? Of course, the truth was easy for Jesus since He was without any fault. In our lives, the truth may require that we admit our sin and apologize when confronted. However, if the truth, the full truth and nothing but the truth is our goal, then our conversations will imitate Jesus and, most often, a peaceful resolution will ensue.

My truthful Lord, Your wisdom is perfect and Your words are truth. Please give me the gifts of wisdom and all truth, especially when conflicts arise. In those moments, please keep me from reacting in an angry and defensive way so that I can always be an instrument of the unity You desire. 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 29, 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: Pat Colton

Eucharist Minister: Loretta Alt and Jay Bennett

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.