## Prayer List

**Epiphany** – Rudalph & 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; 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 Borror; 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**

- Next Pastoral Council meeting will be Wed Nov 15 at 5:30 in Parish Hall.
- Helen Chambers is now home if anyone would like to send her a card.
- We will be having a breakfast on Sunday morning, Nov 19 following Mass. everyone is welcome! We will have sausage gravy, biscuits, egg casserole, orange juice and coffee. Please plan to join us. We having several new parishioners and would like to get to know each other. Special thanks to Kay and Harold Root for all the preparations for this event.
- Please check the registry sheets on the back table. Place a check if your information is correct. Add your name, address, phone and email, if missing. Thank you.
- We will be collecting items for the food bank including soap, toothpaste, tissues, feminine products, laundry detergent through November. Place in the containers in the back of the church.

### Announcements for St. Elizabeth

- St. Elizabeth desperately needs Eucharistic ministers. Anyone interested should contact Deacon John.
- CAN needs cereal and instant potatoes.

#### 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 11/06 St. Nicholas Tavelic and Companions Rom 11:29-36 Lk 14:12-14

> **Tuesday 11/07 St. Didacus** Rom 12:5-16ab Lk 14:15-24

Wednesday 11/08 Bl. John Duns Scotus Rom 13:8-10 Lk 14:25-33

Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome Thursday 11/09 St. Benignus Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12 1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17 Jn 2:13-22

> Friday 11/10 St. Leo the Great Rom 15:14-21 Lk 16:1-8

Saturday 11/11 St. Martin of Tours Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27 Lk 16:9-15

> Sunday 11/12 St. Josaphat Wis 6:12-16 1 Thes 4:13-18 Mt 25:1-13

# November 05, 2023MThirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time1

Mal 1:14b-2:2b, 8-10 1 Thes 2:7b-9, 13 Mt 23:1-12

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Joined Parishes website: <u>www.potomachighlandscatholic.org</u>

## 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.

# **Announcements**

• Bishop Brennen will be here on Nov, 8 to consecrate the St. Mary's and Epiphany Catholic Cemetery at 1 p.m.

# 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 being going into a fund for these who have less than we.

# Second Collection

Next Special Collect is on November 12 for Collection for the Archdiocese for the Military Services.

#### 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 Mary B. Wood c/o Sarah Ziems at 145 Blackford Road, Buckhannon, WV 26201

St. Elizabeth:

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

Keep them in your prayers.

## **Exalted Through Humility**

Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples, saying, "The scribes and the Pharisees have taken their seat on the chair of Moses. Therefore, do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you, but do not follow their example." Matthew 23:1–3

Sometimes people's words inspire us, but more often it is the witness they give with their actions that inspires. Additionally, when someone's words do not match up with their actions, they are seen as hypocrites. Jesus is very hard on the scribes and the Pharisees for this reason. "For they preach but they do not practice." They spoke about the Law of God, taught it in a detailed way, but they did not truly practice God's Law as it was intended to be practiced. Jesus goes on to give a list of the ways that these religious leaders failed to live the laws of God. They failed in their charity and encouragement of others, they did everything for public praise and for show, and they sought out honors and meaningless titles. As a result, they cared little for others and cared much about themselves.

At the heart of Jesus' criticism of the scribes and Pharisees was their tendency to exalt themselves in the eyes of others. Jesus corrects this tendency by saying that "the greatest among you must be your servant," and that "whoever humbles himself will be exalted." Therefore, if you wish to be truly great and if you wish to be exalted by God, you must serve with the deepest humility.

Humility begins by seeing yourself in the light of truth. How does God see you? The humble soul seeks to discover this insight by using the eyes of Christ to look at their own soul. It would be truly humbling if we could see ourselves in the full light of the truth. But too often we take on a false image of ourselves and look at our lives through a lens of self-righteousness. We tend to quickly defend our actions, justifying the sins we commit and failing to acknowledge our weaknesses.

What would you see if you looked at yourself with humility? One glaring thing you will see is your sin. Our lives are filled with sin. Sometimes they are serious sins, and at other times less serious, but our lives are undoubtedly filled with sins and imperfections. If we are blind to those sins, then we lack the necessary humility we need to see ourselves in the light of truth.

The virtue of humility will also take us a step further than seeing our sins clearly. It will also help us to see our need for God's grace in order to change, to love, and to serve God and others. We cannot love by our own efforts. It is impossible. The love of charity is only possible when it is God Who lives in us and acts through us. God and God alone is able to work true charity through our actions. Knowing and believing this humble truth is the only way to open the door to that grace.

Reflect, today, upon the humility that you need in order to truly love. When you love others with the pure love of God, you will discover within yourself a need to serve. You will see others as objects of your love. You will discover a burning desire to help them, forgive them, be gentle and merciful to them, and to do all you can to help them discover the truth of their own lives so they will, in turn, humbly turn to God. The scribes and Pharisees failed miserably at this mission, and that is one of the reasons that Jesus used them as an example. Do not follow their lead. Seek to take the opposite approach. Seek humility. Seek the truth. If you do, God will use you in powerful ways and will exalt you on high.

Most humble Lord, You are exalted above all because You were humble beyond all. You knew the truth of Who You are and embraced that truth with all Your might. Please give me Your eyes to see myself as You see me, so that in Your humble gaze, I will see my sin, repent wholeheartedly, and turn to You as the source of all my love. Jesus, I trust in You.

