

## Prayer List

**Epiphany** – Arose family; Rudolph & Maria; Tammie Ayer's; Howard Baker; Edward Banks, Kaleigh Bennett; Ashly Carlson; Anthony Ciccolella; Marlene Ciccolella; Sharon Eye and Family; Robin Highlander; Chuck Hitzt; Bob Hurst; Jonny Kisamore; Diane Janthgato; Katie Johnson; Rick McMiuan; Nora Murray; Sophia Poninska; Jeanne Porreca; Kathy Ratliff; Fransis Rodel; Sam Ross; Bill Santman; Roger Saville; Hamme Tahan; Evelyn; Harley; Manoles Brian Yarworth

**St. Elizabeth** - Susan Adams; Tom DeByl; Chuck Hiett; Deacon John; Kim Kline; Fr Mario; Don Mundy; Deacon Rue Thompson; Residents of Pendleton Manor.

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

### Announcements for Epiphany

- Pastoral Council will meet on THURSDAY, Dec 14, at 5:15 at church hall.
- We will be preparing Christmas decorations after Thursday mass on Dec 21. Then we will decorate after Sunday morning mass on Dec 24. If anyone wants to donate a poinsettia, please have them at church by Dec 24. There will be a table in back for plants.
- We are looking for individuals who would like to be a Eucharistic minister or a Reader for Sunday morning. Please leave your name and number on the back table. We will provide training.

### Announcements for St. Elizabeth

- Sunday Dec 17 will be our annual cookies and punch party following mass. Parishioners should bring Christmas cookies and punch will be provided.
- 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.
- Anyone interested in helping with Christmas celebration music please contact one of the guitarists after Sunday Mass.

## Calendar

### **Monday 12/11 St. Damascus I**

Is 35:1-10  
Lk 5:17-26

### **Tuesday 12/12 Our Lady of Guadalupe**

ZEC 2:14-17  
LK 1:26-38

### **Wednesday 12/13 St. Lucy**

Is 40:25-31  
Mt 11:28-30

### **Thursday 12/14 St. John of the Cross**

Is 41:13-20  
Mt 11:11-15

### **Friday 12/15 Bl. Mary Frances Schervier**

Is 48:17-19  
Mt 11:16-19

### **Saturday 12/16 Bl. Honoratus Kozminski**

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11  
Mt 17:9a, 10-13

### **Sunday 12/17 St. Hildegard of Bingen**

Is 61:1-2A, 10-11  
1 Thes 5:16-24  
Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

## **December 10, 2023 Second Sunday of Advent**

IS 40:1-5, 9-11  
2 PT 3:8-14  
MK 1:1-8

**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](http://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.

### Mass Intentions

#### **Members of the Parish Every Sunday**

Saturday December 16, 2023 – † Marivic Pichay Catama (at Epiphany)

Thursday December 21, 2023 – † Tony and Rose Ciccolella

- 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.

### Christmas Schedule

Christmas Vigil Mass: Epiphany at 4:00pm

Christmas Mass During the Night: St. Mary at 7:00pm

Christmas Morning Mass: Epiphany at 8:00am

Christmas Day Mass: St. Elizabeth at 10:00am

### Second Collection

Next Special Collect is on December 25 for Catholic Charities West Virginia.

### Reminder

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

**St. Mary's:** Home Bound members - Cleo Alt 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 Ziem 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.

## Called to the Desert

*As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." Mark 1:1-3*

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." Mark 1:1-3

These, the opening lines from the Gospel of Saint Mark, present us with Saint John the Baptist. John was the one that Isaiah prophesied would come before the Messiah. John was given the responsibility and privilege of being the one who would be the most immediate preparer for the Savior of the World.

Perhaps if most people were given the task of instructing John on how best to prepare the way for the Lord, they would tell him he must go to the leaders of the people, the civil authorities, the influential and those of status in society to win them over first. Many would conclude that the Messiah needed to have the full support of the leaders at that time. But that's obviously not what John did.

John the Baptist, at the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, was driven not into the homes of the most prestigious and wealthy, not into the halls of the civil governors, and not into the synagogues or Temple. Instead, John was driven into the desert. And in the desert, that dry and deserted place, he drew many people to himself and to his message of repentance.

God continues to call many today to follow in the footsteps of John the Baptist. Though John was a real person sent on a real mission at one particular moment in time, the mission he fulfilled is one that still needs fulfilling in various ways today. The "way of the Lord" still needs to be prepared. The Lord still desires to come to many, and He needs prophets to prepare the way for His continual coming by grace. Are you one of those people?

Truth be told, every one of us, rich or poor, learned or unlearned, young or old, etc., is called by God to prepare the way for His coming by grace every day. We are called to prepare the way by calling others to sincere repentance and conversion of life. This is done by the witness of our actions, by our words and by numerous other ways that God calls. How is God calling you to do His work? He is certainly calling you. You simply need to be open to that calling and generously respond.

Reflect, today, upon that "desert" to which you have been called, so as to prepare yourself and others for the coming of Christ. That desert is any place where there is need and every place where our Lord is not. It might be your family, work environment, community, among friends, or any place that lacks the superabundance of God's grace. Seek to enter those deserts and to be open to be a channel of our Lord's grace to those in need.

*Lord, You desire to come to me and to all of Your children every day. Please use me to not only prepare my own heart and soul for Your divine coming but to also prepare others to meet You. Give me wisdom and compassion, insight and strength, so that I can imitate Saint John the Baptist and prepare the way for Your most glorious coming by grace. Jesus, I trust in You.*

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### **Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church**

2029 State Road 55  
Moorefield, WV 26836  
304-434-2547

#### **Liturgies**

Thursday at 12:00 Noon  
Saturday 4:00PM  
& Sunday 8:30AM

### **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

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## **Ministry List for December 17, 2023**

Lector: Lynn Vandevander

Lector: Tom Parisi

**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.

Eucharist Minister: Kelly Kun and Paul Lawrence

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.

