

## 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

- We need 2 Greeters.
- 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.
- 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.

### 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 12/18**

**Bl. Anthony Grassi**

Jer 23:5-8  
Mt 1:18-25

### **Tuesday 12/19**

**Bl. Urban V**

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a  
Lk 1:5-25

### **Wednesday 12/20**

**St. Dominic of Silos**

Is 7:10-14  
Lk 1:26-38

### **Thursday 12/21**

**St. Peter Canisius**

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a  
Lk 1:39-45

### **Friday 12/22**

**Bl. Jacopone da Todì**

1 Sm 1:24-28  
Lk 1:46-56

### **Saturday 12/23**

**St. John of Kanty**

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24  
Lk 1:57-66

### **Sunday 12/24**

**St. Adele**

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16  
Rom 16:25-27  
Lk 1:26-38

## **December 17, 2023 Third 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**

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 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.

## Meeting Christ in the Desert

*"I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord,'" as Isaiah the prophet said." John 1:23*

In the passage above, Saint John the Baptist quotes Isaiah 40:3: "A voice proclaims: In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!" This was a prophecy of Isaiah who was speaking about the return of the Jewish exiles from Babylon back to Jerusalem. Normally, people would travel along the well-watered routes from Mesopotamia to Israel. Those routes were safer than the desert and provided the necessary food and water for the journey. But Isaiah prophesied that the Jewish exiles would travel the shortest route—straight across the desert—and that God would provide for their needs during that journey. Such a journey required much trust in the providence of God.

John the Baptist, in quoting Isaiah, applies this prophecy to himself. He was called to cry out in the desert and point people directly to the Messiah. It was in the desert that they would discover their Savior.

First of all, John cries out in the "desert." His message is for those who experience dryness, destitution, need and loss in life due to sin. His message of repentance is first for those who are without the spiritual nourishment God wants to bestow upon them through grace. The message of John is pointed to those who humbly see the difficult situation they are facing in life and acknowledge their need for the Living Water of the Savior of the World.

Second, this new "straight" way implies that many are not walking the direct path to Christ. Instead, they are taking unnecessary detours in life. John's message is one that calls everyone to

the straight and direct way of repenting of their sins so that they can come to faith in Christ Jesus.

Third, walking through the desert to find Christ requires trust in God's providence. It takes courage to make such a journey. Trust in the ongoing providence of God, Who promises to meet all of our needs, is key. One would not walk straight through the desert if they did not trust their guide.

Advent is a time to reexamine the road you are on. Are you trying to find your own way to happiness? Are you trusting in your own abilities, your own intelligence and your own plan for the future? If so, then listen to the "voice of one crying out in the wilderness." Listen to Saint John speak to you, calling you to the simplicity of the desert, to a greater detachment from all things, to an abandonment of all that is not of God, and to a more willing trust in the providence of God to lead you.

Reflect, today, upon this calling from the desert and listen to the message God is speaking to you, personally. Abandon all worldly concerns, repent of sin, trust in Him and go out to meet Him so that you can more quickly and more easily come to a deeper faith in our Lord during this Advent season.

*My loving Lord, You are there, waiting for me in the darkness and dryness of my sin. You are waiting for me to lead me and guide me through the many challenges I face in life. Please give me the courage and wisdom I need to trust in You enough to follow You wherever You lead. 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 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

## Ministry List for December 24, 2023

Lector: Regina Hedrick

Lector: Kevin McDonald

**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: Jay Bennet and 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.

