

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.
- Our Nativity statues at Epiphany were all restored in a year long project by Cathy Hottinger. A special thank you to her talent.

Announcements for St. Elizabeth

- On January 7th: we will have our annual Biscuit and Gravy Brunch following mass.
- CAN needs for the month of January are: saltine crackers and cereal.

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

Christmas Monday 12/25

St. Eugenia
Is 52:7-10
Heb 1:1-6
Jn 1:1-18

Tuesday 12/26 St. Stephen

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59
Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday 12/27 St. John the Evangelist

1 Jn 1:1-4
Jn 20:1a and 2-8

Thursday 12/28 Holly Innocents

1 Jn 1:5—2:2
Mt 2:13-18

Friday 12/29 St. Thomas Becket

1 Jn 2:3-11
Lk 2:22-35

Saturday 12/30 St. Egwin

1 Jn 2:12-17
Lk 2:36-40

Sunday 12/31 St. Sylvester I

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14
or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3
Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17
or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19
LK 2:22-40

December 24, 2023 Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

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.

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.

Special Mass 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
January 1st is the Feast of Our Lady, and generally a Holy Day of Obligation. For the year 2024, the obligation to attend Mass on that day has been annulled for this year only.

Second Collection

Next Special Collect is on December 25 for Catholic Charities West Virginia.
Bishop approved a special collection for the Holy Land during the weekend of January 13-14, 2024

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 Ziemis 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.

Gazing Upon the Mother of God

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." Luke 1:26-28

What an amazing experience this would have been. This humble servant of God, a young girl, was visited by the archangel Gabriel and greeted with the salutation, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." Try to imagine her experience. She was humble beyond comprehension, filled with every heavenly virtue, loved God with all her heart and suddenly came face-to-face with this glorious and most magnificent archangel. And this heavenly visitor showered the deepest of praises upon this lowly servant of the Lord.

At first, in her humility, Mary simply pondered this greeting. She pondered it in her heart through prayer and faith. Then the archangel spoke further: "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Though Mary inquired further about how this could be, she quickly gave her consent: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." And it was these words of this young woman that continuously echoed in her heart throughout her life.

Mother Mary was great for many reasons. She was the Immaculate Conception—the one singularly conceived without sin in the womb of her own mother. She was the one chosen by the Father to bring forth the Savior of the World as her only begotten Son. But her greatness is especially found in her ongoing submission to the will of God. "May it be done to me according to your word." This is what she said over and over throughout her life. This is her perfect "fiat" to her God. All she knew was surrender and submission to

all that God asked of her. And it is this, more than anything else, that made her the worthy Mother of God.

Though none of us were immaculately conceived within our mother's wombs and none of us have remained without sin throughout our lives, we must all strive to be inspired by this holy woman. We must all ponder her deep humility and her willing acceptance of God's will in her life. And we must all strive to imitate her fiat and her perfect virtue.

Imitation of our Blessed Mother is accomplished by first coming to know her, understand her and love who she is. Gazing upon her interior beauty and holiness presents us with the vision of the perfection to which we are all called. As we prayerfully gaze upon her heart and come to understand her virtues more clearly, we will be inspired to open our own hearts so as to imitate her by the grace of God. This prayerful exercise is one of the best and quickest ways to obtain the heights of holiness to which God has called us.

Reflect, today, upon this holy daughter of the Most High. She is not one we can "figure out." Instead, she is one whom we can come to know through prayer and through God's inspiration. Ponder her prayerfully. Be open to her inspiration. And allow the Holy Spirit to also overshadow you so that you will more closely be able to imitate her in her holy virtues.

My dearest Mother, you lived a life of perfect virtue and holiness. You continuously pondered the mysteries of God in your heart and always surrendered to the will of God with perfection. Please inspire me so that I may not only learn from you but also be able to share in the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit given to you. Mother Mary, pray for us. 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 31, 2023

Lector: Luke Kesner

Christmas Vigil Mass 4pm: Matthew Wright

Lector: Fay Steele

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: Brian Vance

Eucharist Minister: Lisa Vance and M. C. Amerman

Christmas Vigil Mass 7pm: Paul Lawrence
Eucharist Minister: Kelly Kuh 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.

