

Assumption Catholic Church

150
YEARS
1874 - 2024



Do Whatever He Tells You. JOHN 2:5

Assumption Catholic Church

34 James Street, Keyser, WV 26726

acckwv@gmail.com

assumptionkeyserwv.org

304.788.2488

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023



May You Find Christ Here...May You Bring Christ to the World!

Mass Schedule:

Saturday, 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, 8:30 a.m.
Wednesday, 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, 12 noon
Friday, 9:00 a.m.

Confessions:

Saturdays, 3:00-3:45 p.m.
Weekdays, 30 mins. prior to Mass

Fr. Thomas A. Sebastian CST, Pastor
tanatharackal@gmail.com, 681.404.2521

Rev. Mr. Larry Hammel, Deacon
LawrenceVHammel@gmail.com

Kelli Wittman, Office Manager

Kelley Kuhn, Director of Religious Education

Linda Davis-Kyle, Music Director & Organist

Patrick George, Organist

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Bulletin Deadline:

Wednesday, 12 noon

Sunday Reflection: Fourth Sunday of Advent

How does Mary respond to the word of God delivered by the angel Gabriel (Luke 1:26-38)? She knows she is hearing something beyond human capability. It will surely take a miracle which surpasses all that God has done previously. Her question, "how shall this be, since I have no husband" is not prompted by doubt or skepticism, but by wonderment! She is a true hearer of the Word and she immediately responds with faith and trust. Mary believed God's promises even when they seemed impossible. She was "full of grace" because she trusted that what God said was true and would be fulfilled. Mary is the "mother of God" because God becomes incarnate when He takes on flesh in her womb. When we pray the Nicene Creed, we state our confession of faith in this great mystery: "For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man."

What is the key that unlocks the power and grace of God's kingdom in our personal lives? Faith and obedience for sure! God gives us grace and he expects us to respond with the same willing obedience and heartfelt trust as Mary did. When God commands, he also gives the help and means to respond. We can either yield to his grace or resist and go our own way. Do we believe in God's promises and do we yield to his grace?

Readings for Next Sunday,

December 31, 2023

Sirach 3:2-14

Colossians 3:12-21

Luke 2:22-40

Saint of the Week... St. Stephen

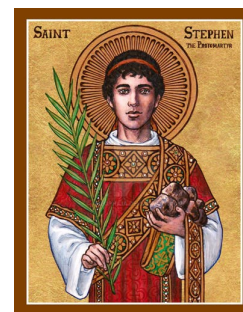
St. Stephen was one of the first deacons ordained by the church. He belonged to the group of seven deacons selected by the Apostles to help them extend their pastoral care to those in need. As the oldest of the seven, St. Stephen was given the title "Archdeacon." He was also recognized for his exemplary gift as an evangelist. Miracles and great preaching were attributed to him.

St. Stephen's popularity stirred up animosity among the Jews. Different members of the synagogues would challenge Stephen's teachings but he bested them in debates. This only fueled further hostility among his enemies and soon they made false testimonies against him. St. Stephen was charged with speaking blasphemous things against Moses and God. This accusation provoked a public outcry and the local population demanded that he be tried and sentenced. In front of Sanhedrin, the supreme rabbinic court in Jerusalem, he gave a long speech about the history of Israel and the blessings that God had given upon His chosen people.

He talked about how Israel had become disobedient. He then denounced his listeners as "stiff-necked" people who turned against the Holy Spirit just as their ancestors did. The crowds watching the trial were enraged after being rebuked. Stephen then looked up and told them that he saw the heavens open and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. The crowds, however, covered their ears and dragged him out of the city where they stoned him to death.

St. Stephen is the patron saint of deacons, altar servers, casket makers, horses and stone masons. He is often depicted with stones, a Gospel book, and a martyr's palm branch.

Source: catholicfaithstore.com



Feast Day: December 26



Tina Blank, Jennifer Boling, Mickey Brooks, Sue Burns, Palma Devic*, Cathy Dorsey, Debbie Kelley Evans, Bill Fazzalore*, Rosalee Freeman, Scott Furey, Barbara Gratto, Sue Greco, Larry & Marianne Hammel, Kathy Jenkins,

Sarah Jones, Margie Keister, Sueann Keller-Schwille, Wanda Kinnie, Joanne Knott*, Jeffrey Labonte, Pam Launi, Betty McAvoy, Debbie Pappas, Susie Radcliffe, Charles Ravenscroft, Caroline Reeves, Katherine Revell, Carla Riggelman, Jeff Roth, Margie Roy, Sparrow Shannon, Esther Shockey, Justin Smith, Fran Sommers, Melissa Stanislawczyk, John Stephen Jr., Bill Stine, Patsy Summers, Stefanie Swanger, Maleigha Taylor, Courtney Whiteman.

*Resident of Keyser Healthcare Center
(135 Southern Drive, Keyser WV 26726)

Christmas Week Notes

- There will be no weekday Masses December 26-29.
- The Parish Office will be closed December 26-31. Emails and voice mails will be checked periodically. The office will reopen on Tuesday, January 2.

Marriage Banns

In accordance with Canon 1067, we announce that the following individuals are preparing to be married:

Sharon Lee Criner Griffith

Michael Wray Frye

If there are any known impediments to this proposed marriage, please contact the Parish Office.

Required posting 2 of 3




The Christmas season has become so hectic and commercialized...is our focus still on the birth of the Lord?

Answer to last week's question:

Why do we place a star or an angel atop our Christmas trees?

A bright star represents the star of Bethlehem which appeared in the sky to lead the Wise Men to the newborn King; an angel atop a tree symbolizes the heavenly messengers who announced the birth of our Lord.





Joseph Francis Harber

Born into Life
October 17, 1936
Born into Eternal Life
December 18, 2023

Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord, and let the perpetual light shine upon him. May Joe's soul and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.



Our choir will present the Festival of Lessons and Carols - a service of Scripture and song - beginning at 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve prior to the 6:30 Mass.



Catholic Charities West Virginia

Catholic Charities West Virginia helps tens of thousands of our vulnerable brothers and sisters every year. Your donation helps to provide hope, safety, food and care.

A collection will take place at all Christmas Masses across the state for Catholic Charities West Virginia. Thank you in advance for your generosity to this most important appeal! A separate basket will be available.

Mass Schedule and Intentions			
Date	Time	Intention	Offered by
Saturday, December 23	4:00 p.m.	Souls of Carmela & Larry DeMasi	Dena Turner
		The Wise & Calemine Families	Jean Harber
		Intentions of Meredythe Barrick	Howard & Karen Barrick
Sunday, December 24	8:30 a.m.	Soul of Domenick Greco	Sue Greco
		Soul of Joe Harber and the Intentions of Regina Harber	Sue & Jean Harber
<u>Christmas Masses</u>			
Sunday, December 24	4:00 p.m.	People of Assumption Parish	Assumption Parish
	6:30 p.m.	People of Assumption Parish	Assumption Parish
Monday, December 25	8:30 a.m.	People of Assumption Parish	Assumption Parish
Tuesday, December 26	No Mass		
Wednesday, December 27	No Mass		
Thursday, December 28	No Mass		
Friday, December 29	No Mass		
Saturday, December 30	4:00 p.m.	Souls of Maureene, Elizabeth & James Lupis	Bill Lupis
		Intentions of Mike Stickley	Mike & Rosie Landis
Sunday, December 31	8:30 a.m.	Soul of Joseph Balassone	Mary Alexander
<i>Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God*</i>			
Monday, January 1	4:00 p.m.	Souls of Bob & Rosemarie Myers	Kelli Wittman

The Solemnity of Mary on January 1 is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year since it falls on a Monday.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Sunday, December 24

4:00 p.m.
Christmas Vigil Mass

6:00 p.m.
Festival of Lessons & Carols

6:30 p.m.
Christmas Vigil Mass

Monday, December 25

8:30 a.m.
Christmas Mass



Beautiful Eucharist

Please pick up a copy of "Beautiful Eucharist," the latest book from Dynamic Catholic, when you leave the church today. Our thanks to the generous parishioner who donated these books for all of us!

"Encountering Jesus in the Eucharist should be like touching Heaven, and that should change the way we live here on earth!" ~ Matthew Kelly

2024 Offertory Envelopes

If you haven't yet picked up your 2024 offertory envelopes, they are available in the back of the church, including those who requested them last week. If you do not currently use weekly envelopes but would like to start, please contact the Parish Office.

Liturgical Minister Schedule

Christmas Vigil, 4 p.m.

Lector: Kerri Wittman
Servers: Evelyn Cole & Tess Maybury
EM: Kelley Kuhn, Mere Barrick (c), Charlotte Delilo (c)
Greeters: The Kuhn Family
Cantor: Linda Marsh

Christmas Vigil, 6:30 p.m.

Lector: Paul Bogdan
Servers: Sommer & Micah Alt
EM: Beverley Iser, TBD (c), TBD (c)
Greeters: Jay & Kelly Stanislawczyk
Cantor: Patrick George

Christmas Morning, 8:30 a.m.

Lector: Pam Williams
Servers: Rosie Landis & Jane Placka
EM: Pam Williams, Beverley Iser (c), Mike Landis (c)
Greeters: Doug & Jane Placka
Cantor: Patrick George

Saturday, December 30

Lector: Karen Yowler
Servers: Sommer & Micah Alt
EM: Alan Taylor, Bob Yowler (c), Karen Yowler (c)
Greeters: Dena Turner & Mary Shannon
Cantor: Linda Marsh

Sunday, December 31

Lector: TBD
Servers: James & Tess Maybury
EM: Tina Stephen, Pam Williams (c), David Minnich (c)
Greeters: Denny Dolechek & Marvin Whetzel
Cantor: Julie Alt

2024 Wall Calendars Celebrate Jubilee Year



To help commemorate our Sesquicentennial Jubilee, our 2024 parish wall calendar is a very special keepsake edition that features all of our beautiful stained glass windows!

Thank you to Dean Nofsinger and the Markwood Funeral Home for sponsoring our calendar each year! Be sure to pick one up as you leave church today.

Your Faithful Stewardship

December 16-17, 2023

Offertory

Offertory Envelopes.....	\$2,710
Loose Donations.....	\$739
Christmas Flowers.....	\$65
Total.....	\$3,514

Attendance

Saturday, 12/16.....	62
Sunday, 12/17.....	116
Total.....	178

