

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

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**December 10, 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: Second Sunday of Advent

John the Baptist's life was fueled by one burning passion: to point others to Jesus Christ and to the coming of his kingdom. Who is John the Baptist and what is the significance of his message for our lives? Scripture tells us that John was filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother's womb (Luke 1:15) by Christ himself, whom Mary had just conceived by the Holy Spirit. When Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth, John leapt in her womb as they were filled with the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:41). Like the prophets of the Old Testament, John devoted his entire life to prayer and the word of God. He was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness where he was tested and grew in the word of God. John's clothing was reminiscent of the prophet Elijah (Kings 1:8). The Holy Spirit prepared John for the mission entrusted to him as forerunner of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, the Word of God who became man for our salvation (John 1:1,14).

John's baptism was for repentance - turning away from sin and taking on a new way of life according to God's word. Our baptism in Jesus Christ by water and the Spirit results in a new birth and entry into God's kingdom as his beloved sons and daughters (John 3:5). The Lord Jesus gives us the fire of his Spirit so that we may radiate the joy and truth of the Gospel to a world in desperate need of God's light and truth. His word has power to change and transform our lives that we may be lights pointing others to Christ. Like John the Baptist, we too are called to give testimony to the light and truth of Jesus Christ. Do we point others to Christ in the way we live, work, and speak?

**Readings for Next Sunday,  
December 17, 2023**  
Isaiah 61:1-11  
2 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
John 1:6-28

## Saint of the Week... St. John of the Cross

St. John of the Cross was born in Spain in 1542. As a child John was sent to a boarding school for poor and orphaned children. He was given a religious education from a young age and chose to follow a religious path, even as a child.

At age 21 he joined the Carmelite Order and studied theology and philosophy. He became an expert on the Bible, and became a priest in 1567. Soon after he encountered Theresa of Avila, a charismatic Carmelite nun who asked him to follow her. He was attracted by the strict routine she followed and her devotion to prayer and simplicity.

As Theresa and John worked to reform the Carmelite order to its original rule, they were met with violent disagreement from within. He was imprisoned and came to know "the cross" acutely as he sat month after month in his dark, damp, narrow cell with only his God. This is where he began to write poetry.

After nine months he escaped, rejoined Theresa's nuns where he recovered, and after the Carmelite order was formally split, he traveled and established new houses across Spain. He died at the age of 49 from a skin infection. He was canonized by Pope Benedict XIII in 1726 and is the patron of mystics and Spanish poets.

Source: [catholiconline.org](http://catholiconline.org) and [franciscanmedia.org](http://franciscanmedia.org)



Feast Day: December 14



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, John Stephen Jr., Bill Stine, Patsy Summers, Stefanie Swanger, Maleigha Taylor, Courtney Whiteman.

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

## Mass Intentions Make the Perfect Gift!

If you're looking for a very special and meaningful Christmas gift for someone, consider offering a Mass for them. Mass intentions provide a spiritual gift to those you love through prayer. There are still dates available in 2024. The suggested stipend for a weekday Mass is \$10; weekends \$20.



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 hang pine or holly wreaths on our doors and windows?**

Evergreens do not lose their pins, signifying eternal life. The prickly leaves of holly remind us of Christ's crown of thorns and its red berries represent His blood shed for our sins.



Next week: *Why do we put candy canes on our Christmas trees or give them as treats?*



**Assumption Parish**



Thank you to everyone who made a donation to our Catholic Sharing Appeal on Giving Tuesday! We are now \$2,661 short of our goal with just three weeks to go. If you have not yet supported this year's appeal, kindly consider doing so today. All donations received now come back to our parish.

To donate, you can return the pledge card you received in the mail or visit the CSA website below. Checks can also be accepted at the Parish Office.

[www.csa.dwcministries.org/donate](http://www.csa.dwcministries.org/donate)



We welcome and congratulate Mike Stickley who made his Profession of Faith and first Holy Communion last week! Mike is the husband of Joanne Stickley.



Congratulations to Isla and Cecelia Delilo who were baptized last weekend!

These beautiful girls are the daughters of Michael & Christina Delilo and the grand-daughters of Charlotte & Eugene Delilo.

You are a *Child of God*.  
You are *Wonderfully* made,  
dearly *Loved*, and *Precious* in His sight.

- Psalm 139 -

**Mass Schedule and Intentions**

Date	Time	Intention	Offered by
Saturday, December 9	4:00 p.m.	Souls of John & Hazel Coffman.....	Cindy & Jim Alt
		Intentions of Jean Harber.....	Mary Shannon
Sunday, December 10	8:30 a.m.	Soul of Richard Gibson.....	Kathleen Gibson
Monday, December 11	No Mass		
Tuesday, December 12	No Mass		
Wednesday, December 13	5:00 p.m.	Soul of Kim Ulchak.....	Tammy Dorsey-Dale
		Soul of Leticia Bayla Tabucol.....	Linda Marsh
Thursday, December 14	12 noon	Soul of Mildred E. Willis.....	Mary Alexander
		Souls of Bill & Helen Semenuk.....	Cathy Pardee
Friday, December 15	9:00 a.m.	Souls of George & Jennie Ebner.....	Assumption Parish
		Soul of Sam Alexander.....	Mary Alexander
Saturday, December 16	4:00 p.m.	The Marsh, Roach & Cessna Families.....	Linda Marsh
		Intentions of Dean & Kathy Alt.....	Mike & Joanne Stickley
Sunday, December 17	8:30 a.m.	Soul of Ursula Haught.....	Dena Turner

Please join us 30 minutes before the start of each Mass to pray the Rosary as a parish family.



Each of us is an  
**INN KEEPER**  
*who decides if there is  
room enough for*  
**JESUS!**

The CCD students of Assumption Parish invite you to their very special Christmas program this Sunday, December 10 immediately after Mass in the church!



**It's Donut Sunday!**  
Please join us following the CCD Christmas program for donuts, coffee and fellowship! Thank you to the Knights of Columbus for hosting this month!

*Your Faithful Stewardship*

December 2-3, 2023

**Offertory**

Offertory Envelopes.....	\$2,576
Loose Donations.....	\$1,206
Christmas Flowers .....	\$759
Poor Box.....	\$187
Votive Candles.....	\$100
Repairs & Maintenance .....	\$10
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$4,838</b>

**Attendance**

Saturday, 12/2 .....	72
Sunday, 12/3 .....	140
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>212</b>

**November Balance Sheet**

November Income.....	\$22,825
November Expenses .....	\$26,333
<b>Balance .....</b>	<b>-\$3,508</b>

**Second Collection**

A second collection is being taken this weekend for the Retirement Fund for Religious. A separate basket is available for this appeal.

**FORMED Subscription Not Renewed**

Our parish subscription to FORMED has expired and has not been renewed due to the low number of parishioners who were using it and an increase the subscription cost.

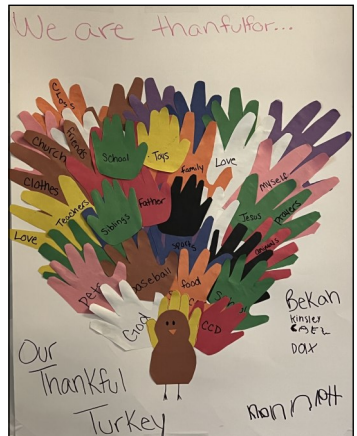
**The Spirit of Giving**



Our high school CCD class meets in the Knights Hall. To thank the Knights for offering the space to them, the students cleaned the hall which also served as a community service project. Shown here are (front) Emerald Welch, Ava Barrick, Kerri Wittman, Abby DelSignore, Amaya Bartlett, Celia Cole; (back) Jack Stanislawczyk, Josh Shoemaker, Austin Smith, Deacon Stanislawczyk.

**We Are Thankful For...**

Students in our Pre-K/ Kindergarten class made this beautiful turkey to decorate their classroom door! On it they included many of the things they are thankful for, including God, church, school, teachers, friends and of course, Father. 😊



The thankful students are Cael Feaster, Hannah Mangold, Dax Ross and Kinsley Smith. Their catechist is Rebekah Rhodes.





## Mission Retreat Planned

You are invited to attend a three-day mission as part of our ongoing Jubilee celebration! The mission will take place at our church Sunday through Tuesday, December 17-19. The retreat master will be Fr. Joseph Tuscan, OFM CAP.

The topics presented:

- Sunday: The Greatest Threat to Holiness Today
- Monday: The Four Last Things
- Tuesday: The Solution...Forgiveness & the Holy Eucharist

The schedule will be the same all three nights: confessions will be heard beginning at 5:30 while the Rosary is prayed. Fr. Tuscan will begin his talk at 6:00 which will last approximately 45 minutes.

At the conclusion of the retreat on Tuesday, a light dinner will be available in St. Mary's Hall. Please contact the Parish Office or Dena Turner (304-813-6600) if you plan to attend the dinner.

A free-will offering will be taken each night of the retreat to support the Capuchin students and elderly friars (checks can be written to Assumption Church).

The Church offers a Plenary Indulgence to those who attend all three talks, and Fr. Tuscan will bestow a blessing on everyone there.

We hope you will be able to join us! Please help spread the word to Catholics in other nearby parishes!

Our Assumption Parish choir will be a part of this wonderful festival, presented by Divine Mercy Parish in Frostburg!



ASSUMPTION PARISH VIRTUS COMPLIANCE STATUS: 87%

If you volunteer in ANY role in our parish but haven't completed Safe Environment training in the past year, you are part of the missing 13%! We must reach 100% by the end of the year! To access the training, visit virtusonline.org. Please contact the Parish Office if you have questions or need access to a computer.

TOGETHER IN HOLINESS™ CONFERENCE SERIES | SJOHNPOLII FOUNDATION

DYNAMIC PRESENTATIONS | CHILDCARE MASS | ADORATION | CONFESSION

**FEBRUARY 10, 2024 | 10:45 AM - 6:00 PM**  
**ST. JAMES THE GREATER CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**CHARLES TOWN, WV**

**FEATURING:**

**Couple \$32**  
 Register by January 8 to grab an Early Bird discount!

**Childcare \$5/child**

**REGISTER HERE**

**RENZO AND MONICA ORTEGA**

### Liturgical Minister Schedule

#### Saturday, December 16

- Lector: Anita Tetreault
- Servers: Sue Harber & Alan Taylor
- EM: Karen Yowler, Bob Yowler (c), Eric Hatfield (c)
- Greeters: Mike & Robin McDowell
- Cantor: Anita Tetreault

#### Sunday, December 17

- Lector: Paul Bogdan
- Servers: Mike & Rosie Landis, Nick McKenzie
- EM: Rosie Landis, Mike Landis (c), Jane Placka (c)
- Greeters: Kenny & Karen Brant
- Cantor: Patrick George

#### Saturday, December 23

- Lector: Kenny Brant
- Servers: Tucker Newlin & Jude Barrick
- EM: Mere Barrick, Sue Harber (c), Jean Harber (c)
- Greeters: Tom & Kathy Finnell
- Cantor: Anita Tetreault

#### Sunday, December 24 (4th Sunday of Advent)

- Lector: TBD
- Servers: TBD
- EM: TBD
- Greeters: Michael & Sonja Stanislawczyk
- Cantor: Patrick George

#### Stonerise EM

- December 14 Pam Williams
- December 21 Joanne Stickley