

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

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 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: First Sunday of Advent

The word Advent means "coming" or "arrival." The focus of the entire season is preparation to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ in his First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent. Thus, Advent is far more than simply marking a 2,000 years old event in history. It is celebrating a truth about God, the revelation of God in Christ whereby all of creation might be reconciled to God. That is a process in which we now participate, and the consummation of which we anticipate. Scripture readings for Advent will reflect this emphasis on the Second Advent, including themes of accountability for faithfulness at His coming, judgment on sin, and the hope of eternal life.

In this double focus on past and future, Advent also symbolizes the spiritual journey of individuals and a congregation, as they affirm that Christ has come, that He is present in the world today, and that He will come again in power. So, as the Church celebrates God's inbreaking into history in the Incarnation, and anticipates a future consummation to that history for which "all creation is groaning awaiting its redemption," it also confesses its own responsibility as a people commissioned to "love the Lord your God with all your heart" and to "love your neighbor as yourself." While we typically regard Advent as a joyous season, it is also intended to be a period of preparation. Prayer, Penance and Fasting are appropriate during this season. I wish you all a blessed and a graceful Advent season.

Readings for Next Sunday,

December 10, 2023

Isaiah 40:1-11

2 Peter 3:8-14

Mark 1:1-8

Saint of the Week... St. Ambrose

Saint Ambrose is one of the four original doctors of the Church, and became one of the most important theological figures of the 4th century.

Ambrose was born around 340 AD to a Roman Christian family. He grew up in present-day Germany. It is believed by many that when Ambrose was just an infant, a swarm of bees landed on his face and left behind a drop of honey. To his father, this was a sign that Ambrose would become someone great.

He was educated in Rome, where he studied law, literature and rhetoric. In 372 he was made Governor of Liguria and Emilia. When the Bishop of Milan unexpectedly died, Ambrose was called to become the next Bishop. He refused, however, because he was neither baptized or trained in theology. He attempted to hide, but within a week's time, he was baptized, ordained, and duly consecrated Bishop of Milan in 374.

St. Ambrose was generous to the poor. He considered them not a group of outsiders, but rather those of the united people. To him, giving to the poor was just a repayment of God's resources, which were intended for everyone equally.

St. Ambrose is the patron saint of beekeepers, beggars, learning and Milan.

Source: catholiconline.org



Feast Day: December 7

*"It is not enough just to wish well; we must also do well."
- St. Ambrose*



Tina Blank, Jennifer Boling, Mickey Brooks, Sue Burns, Palma Devic*, Cathy Dorsey, Debbie Kelley Evans, Bill Fazzalore*, Rosalee Freeman*, Scott Furey, Barbara Gratto, Beth Grayson, 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, 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)

Christmas Flower Offerings

Remember or honor your loved ones this Christmas with an offering for the flowers which will decorate our beautiful church. All names will appear in our Christmas bulletin.

If you use offertory envelopes, be sure to include on the envelope who your donation is in memory or honor of. If you do not use offertory envelopes but would like to make a memorial donation, simply use any envelope and include a note with your intentions.





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 put lights everywhere?

Candles and Christmas lights represent Christ, the Light of the World! They also remind us that we are that light for others, showing them the way to Christ.

Next week: **Why do we hang pine or holly wreaths on our doors and windows?**

Assumption Catholic Church



NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival

As part of our National Eucharistic Revival activities and in conjunction with our Jubilee celebration, Fr. Giles will celebrate both Masses next weekend for the third in our Teaching Mass Series, "Understanding and Celebrating the Eucharist."

Next week's focus will be on the Liturgy of the Eucharist. What do we offer as a sign of OUR real presence to the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist? The Mass will begin as usual; Father will give a presentation at the start of the Liturgy of the Eucharist, followed by the rest of the Mass.

After Mass, you are invited to stay in the church for a special Christmas program presented by our CCD students, featuring a live nativity! Donut Sunday will follow in St. Mary's Hall.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Holy Day of Obligation
Friday, December 8, 2023
Mass at 6:30 p.m.

Note that there will not be Mass at 9 a.m. that day.

Advent Prayer Exchange

Everyone who completed an Advent Prayer card at Mass last weekend will receive a card with someone else's name on it today. Throughout Advent, pray for the special intentions of the person or family whose card you receive and just before Christmas, send them a card to let them know who their "secret prayer warrior" has been! Blank cards are still available if you missed it last weekend.

Advent Calendar

On the back page of today's bulletin is our parish Advent calendar full of simple ways to help us remember the true meaning of the Christmas season. Please use it and share it! It is also available for download and print from our website (assumptionkeyserwv.org).



Mass Schedule and Intentions

Date	Time	Intention	Offered by
Saturday, December 2	4:00 p.m.	Souls of Joe Altobello & Jackie Altobello	Mike & Joanne Stickley
		Soul of Margie Konka and the Intentions of Bob Konka	Linda Marsh
Sunday, December 3	8:30 a.m.	Soul of Leticia Bayla Tabucol	Margaret McGee
Monday, December 4	No Mass		
Tuesday, December 5	No Mass		
Wednesday, December 6	5:00 p.m.	Soul of Tom Melody and Deceased Members of the Melody Family	Sharon Melody
Thursday, December 7	12 noon	The Harber Family	Jean Harber
		Soul of Anita Martel	Tammy Dorsey-Dale
<i>Holy Day of Obligation</i>			
<i>Feast of the Immaculate Conception</i>			
Friday, December 8	6:30 p.m.	People of Assumption Parish	Assumption Parish
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

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



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!

Your Faithful Stewardship

November 25-26, 2023

Offertory

Offertory Envelopes.....	\$2,082
Loose Donations.....	\$342
Total.....	\$2,424

Attendance

Saturday, 11/25.....	86
Sunday, 11/26.....	104
Total.....	190

Second Collection

A second collection is scheduled for next weekend for the Retirement Fund for Religious. These donations help hundreds of U.S. religious communities to provide for their aging members. Please be as generous as you are able.



Next Sunday = Donut Sunday!

Please join us after Mass next Sunday (December 10) following the CCD Christmas program for donuts, coffee and fellowship! Thank you to the Knights of Columbus for hosting this month's event.

Annual Collection for Retired Religious

The annual collection for retired religious will be taken up in our Diocese next weekend. This collection has helped many religious communities in our country since it began in 1988. It is a simple fact that, having taken vows of poverty, religious do not usually have the resources to take care of all their needs when they reach an age when they can no longer actively serve. Yet they have given of themselves for many years to God's people. It is our duty as Catholics to show our esteem and appreciation for their loving service. Most importantly, please remember our elderly religious sisters, brothers and priests in your prayers.

Liturgical Minister Schedule

Saturday, December 9

- Lector: Doug Minnich
- Servers: Alan Taylor & Sue Harber
- EM: Mary Wagoner, Cathy Pardee (c), Jean Harber (c)
- Greeters: Sue & Jean Harber
- Cantor: Julie Alt

Sunday, December 10 (Youth Mass)

- Lector: CCD students
- Servers: CCD students
- EM: Kelley Kuhn, Charlotte Delilo (c), Nancy Starcher (c)
- Greeters: CCD students
- Cantor: Linda Marsh

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

Stonerise EM

- December 7 Dave Dunn
- December 14 Pam Williams




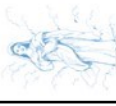
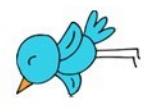








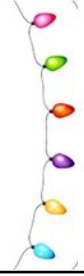

To report an incidence of suspected child sexual abuse, please contact your local law enforcement agency, or you may confidentially contact WV Child Protective Services at 800.352.6513. In addition to civil authorities, to report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, please contact the Diocese at 888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880. Please visit www.dwc.org under "Accountability" for additional information and reporting methods.



ADVENT 2023

Daily Acts of Love to Remind Us of the True Reason for the Season



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
12/3 <i>Hope</i> Share a copy of this calendar with a family not from our parish	12/4  Attend our Parish Christmas Dinner	12/5 Deliver a meal or a treat to an elderly friend or neighbor 	12/6  Thank a veteran	12/7 Smile at everyone you see today! 😊	12/8  Feast of the Immaculate Conception Read Luke 1:26-38 and Attend Mass (6:30pm)	12/9  Feed the birds
12/10 <i>Peace</i> Offer your Mass for peace around the world	12/11 Send a card to someone who may need cheered up 	12/12  Complete a random act of kindness	12/13 Cut your TV or online time by 30 minutes and spend it in prayer	12/14  Read Matthew 7:21-27	12/15  Take a walk outside to enjoy God's creations	12/16 Give a compliment to someone you don't know
12/17 <i>Joy</i> Attend the 3-day Retreat which begins today!	12/18 Leave a treat for your mail carrier or delivery person	12/19 Read Psalm 51  <i>Have mercy on me, O God.</i>	12/20  Sing a Christmas song	12/21  Forgive someone who hurt you	12/22 Say a prayer for the safety of all those traveling 	12/23  Take a drive to enjoy the Christmas lights
12/24 <i>Love</i> Christmas Vigil Masses: 4:00 & 6:30 pm	12/25 <i>Merry Christmas!</i>  Christmas Mass: 8:30 am	Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel which means, God with us. <small>Matthe w 1:23</small>		Assumption Catholic Church 150 YEARS 1874 - 2024		