



# Assumption Catholic Church

34 James Street, Keyser, WV 26726

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assumptionkeyserwv.org

304.788.2488

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**December 22, 2024**



*May you find Christ here...may you take 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

Do we recognize the indwelling presence of the Lord Jesus in our lives? Blessed are you if you see and recognize the Lord with the "eyes of faith." The word "blessed" [*makarios* in Greek] literally means "happiness" or "beatitude." It describes a kind of joy which is serene and unchangeable, self-contained, and independent from chance and changing circumstances of life. There is a certain paradox for those "blessed" by the Lord. Mary was given the blessedness of being the mother of the Son of God. That blessedness also would become a sword which pierced her heart as her Son died upon the cross. To be chosen by God is an awesome privilege and responsibility. Mary received both a crown of joy and a cross of sorrow. Her joy was not diminished by her sorrow because it was fueled by her faith, hope, and trust in God and his promises.

What is the significance of Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth before the birth of Jesus? When Elizabeth greeted Mary and recognized the Messiah in Mary's womb, they were filled with the Holy Spirit and with a joyful anticipation of the fulfillment of God's promise to give a Savior. What a marvelous wonder for God to fill not only Elizabeth's heart with his Holy Spirit but the child in her womb as well. John the Baptist, even before the birth of the Messiah, pointed to his coming and leaped for joy in the womb of his mother as the Holy Spirit revealed to him the presence of the King to be born. The Holy Spirit is God's gift to us to enable us to know and experience the indwelling presence of God and the power of his kingdom. The Holy Spirit is the way in which God reigns within each of us. Do we live in the joy and knowledge of God's indwelling presence with us through his Holy Spirit?

## 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](http://catholicfaithstore.com)

## Readings for Next Sunday,

December 29, 2024

Sirach 3:2-14

Colossians 3:12-21

Luke 2:41-52



Feast Day: December 26

 Tina Blank, Jennifer Boling, Leslie Bosley, Angela Bowers, Mickey Brooks, Darlene "Bitsy" Brown, Sue Burns, Raymond Clark, Hailey Claire, Linda Davis-Kyle, Palma Devic, Cam Duncan, Bill Fazzalore\*, Scott Furey, Barbara Gratto, Sue Greco, Donna Hanlin, Shawn Hartman, Kathy Jenkins, Sarah Jones, Margie Keister, Sueann Keller-Schwille, Wanda Kinnie, Joanne Knott\*, Jeffrey Labonte, Jim Lambert, Pam Launi, Lance Lupis, Betty McAvoy, Paul & Connie Murray, Randy Nairn, Debbie Pappas, Crystal Pollet, Susie Radcliffe, Katherine Revell, Carla Riggelman, Jeff Roth, Margie Roy, Helen Shallis, Sparrow Shannon, Esther Shockey, Fran Sommers, Barbara Stanislawczyk, Melissa Stanislawczyk, John Stephen Jr., Michaela Stickle, 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 and December 27.
- The Parish Office will be closed December 26-January 3. Emails and voice mails will be checked periodically. The office will reopen on Monday, January 6.

# Christmas Mass Schedule

## **Tuesday, December 24**

4:00 p.m.

Christmas Vigil Mass

6:00 p.m.

Festival of Lessons & Carols

6:30 p.m.

Christmas Vigil Mass

## **Wednesday, December 25**

8:30 a.m.

Christmas Mass



## *Fred L. Selders*

Born into Life

July 8, 1941

Born into Eternal Life

December 14, 2024

The Memorial Mass for Fred was held at our church on Friday. Please keep his wife Tillie, their daughters, and all of his family and friends in your prayers.

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



## **Christmas Collection for CCWV**

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.



*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.*

## **Mass Schedule and Intentions**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Intention</b>	<b>Offered by</b>
Saturday, December 21	4:00 pm	Soul of John & Hazel Coffman .....	Cindy & Jim Alt
		Soul of Joe Harber .....	Sue & Jean Harber
		The Alt, Cobb & Kuh families .....	Dean & Kathy Alt
Sunday, December 22	8:30 am	Soul of Ron Chiccehitto .....	Jan Chiccehitto
		Soul of Michael Mayolo.....	Assumption Parish
Monday, December 23	No Mass		
<i>Christmas Eve</i>			
Tuesday, December 24	4:00 pm	People of Assumption Parish .....	Assumption Parish
	6:30 pm	People of Assumption Parish .....	Assumption Parish
<i>Christmas Day</i>			
Wednesday, December 25	8:30 am	People of Assumption Parish .....	Assumption Parish
Thursday, December 26	No Mass		
Friday, December 27	No Mass		
Saturday, December 28	4:00 pm	Souls of Maureene, Elizabeth & James Lupis .....	Bill Lupis
		Intentions of Meredythe Barrick .....	Howard & Karen Barrick
Sunday, December 29	8:30 am	Soul of Joe Balassone .....	Mary Balassone
		Soul of Jean Quinn .....	Marg Quinn

*Note: There will be no Mass on Thursday and Friday, December 26 and 27.*

# Save the Date!

Our parish family will gather to celebrate Fr. Thomas' birthday and ordination anniversary on Friday evening, January 10. Watch for details in next week's bulletin!

## REMINDER

### Advent Prayer Exchange

A reminder to everyone who has been participating in the Advent Prayer Exchange: remember to send the person or family you've been praying for a Christmas card to let them know who their prayer warrior has been!



While we are blessed to have met our 2024 Catholic Sharing Appeal goal earlier this year, we can continue to accept donations through December 31. If you are contemplating your end-of-year giving, consider making a contribution to this important appeal. All dollars donated to the Catholic Sharing Appeal come back to our parish to help us fund our many programs and projects.

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

## Your Faithful Stewardship

December 14-15, 2024

### Offertory

Offertory Envelopes.....	\$3,185
Loose Donations.....	\$630
Christmas Flowers.....	\$55
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$3,870</b>

### Attendance

Saturday, December 14.....	83
Sunday, December 15.....	122
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>205</b>



Fr. Thomas celebrated the Rite for Entrance into the Catechumenate for **Matthew and Jackson Nugent** at Mass last Sunday. They will continue their preparations

to enter the church next year. Also shown are Julie Alt (left) and Nancy Starcher (right) who stood in for their sponsors.

We also congratulate and welcome **John Gustafson** who was received into Full Communion in the Catholic Church at the Vigil Mass last week!



Photo courtesy Michael Stanislawczyk

Our CCD students presented their Christmas program following Mass last Sunday. Thanks to all the performers, narrators, assistants, teachers, musicians and choir members for helping!

## Liturgical Minister Schedule

### Christmas Vigil, 4 p.m.

Lector: Kerri Wittman  
Servers: Mike Landis, Jeff Kuhn, Remy Kuhn  
EM: Rosie Landis, Sue Harber (c), Jean Harber (c)  
Greeters: Sue & Jean Harber  
Cantor: Linda Marsh

### Christmas Vigil, 6:30 p.m.

Lector: Michael Stanislawczyk  
Servers: Martin & Micah Alt  
EM: Beverley Iser, TBD (c), TBD (c)  
Greeters: Beverley Iser  
Cantor: Julie Alt

### Christmas Morning, 8:30 a.m.

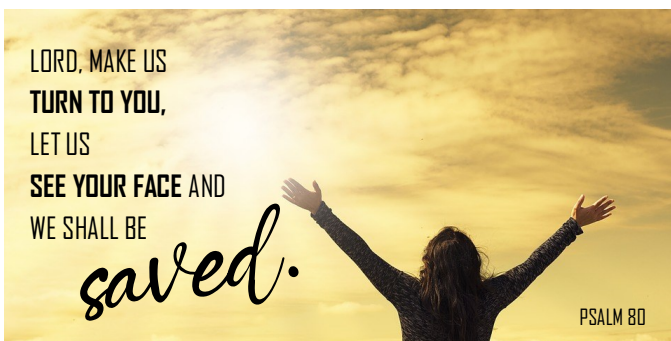
Lector: Karen Yowler  
Servers: Jane Tetrick & Alan Taylor  
EM: Karen Yowler, Bob Yowler (c), Beverley Iser (c)  
Greeters: Denny Dolechek  
Cantor: Patrick George

### Saturday, December 28

Lector: Karen Yowler  
Servers: Tucker Newlin & Jude Barrick  
EM: TBD  
Greeters: Bill Lupis & Mary Shannon  
Cantor: Anita Tetreault

### Sunday, December 29

Lector: Derek Stephen  
Servers: James & Tess Maybury and Liam Dupuis  
EM: Pam Williams, Jane Placka (c), Beverley Iser (c)  
Greeters: Denny Dolechek & Marvin Whetzel  
Cantor: Julie Alt



Our parish held its first ever Christmas brunch last Sunday following the CCD program. Approximately 90 members of our church family braved the icy weather to enjoy a brunch catered by Berries and Brie Charcuterie, along with desserts, mimosas, Grinch punch and hot chocolate! Thank you to the Ladies Guild for hosting the event and a special thanks to Marie DelSignore and Nyssa Smith for planning the wonderful party!

