



Assumption Catholic Church

34 James Street, Keyser, WV 26726

acckwv@gmail.com

assumptionkeyserwv.org

304.788.2488

First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 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: First Sunday of Advent

Marking the beginning of the Church's liturgical year, the four weeks of Advent lead us to the celebration of Christmas. Advent's familiar sights and sounds stir in us a readiness to receive our savior, while sharpening our sense of the world's need for redemption and of the great mystery of God's becoming human for us. Advent is a season of wonder. And nothing surprises us more than God's extravagant giving of gifts. Without even asking, God has given us the gift of life, bestowed on us our unique bodies and minds, our families and situations in which we slowly but surely make our way back to God from whom we have come. But perhaps the biggest surprise of all is the gift God has given us in Jesus, who is God become human. This most surprising gift is the one we concentrate on during our Advent preparation for Christmas.

Advent is a Latin word meaning the coming or arrival. The season of Advent is a time to prepare to celebrate the three arrivals of Christ: His lowly birth in the past, his mysterious coming to the Christian community in the present, and his promised return as our judge at the end of time. Advent was originally celebrated as a kind of "Lent" during the forty days before the feast of Christmas. Gradually, Advent developed its own distinctive character, retaining a slight penitential dimension but emphasizing our joy-filled hope in the coming of the Lord. Today, these two aspects continue side by side. During the first part of Advent, the prophecies of Isaiah and John the Baptist remind us that we are waiting for God's coming and need to prepare. During the latter part of the season the focus shifts more directly on the events leading up to Jesus' birth. These twin perspectives give richness to our observance of Advent, leading us to introspection and renewal, and to the exuberant joy and celebration of Christmas. I wish you all a blessed and graceful Advent season.

Readings for Next Sunday,

December 1, 2024

Baruch 5:1-9

Philippians 1:4-11

Luke 3:1-6

Saint of the Week ... St. Francis Xavier

Jesus asked, "What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?" (Matthew 16:26a). The words were repeated to a young teacher of philosophy who had a highly promising career in academics, with success and a life of prestige and honor before him.

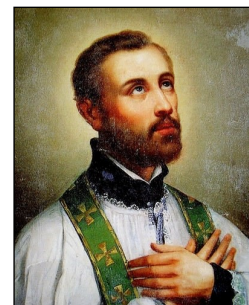
Francis Xavier, 24 at the time, and living and teaching in Paris, did not heed these words at once. They came from a good friend, Ignatius of Loyola, whose tireless persuasion finally won the young man to Christ. In 1534, Francis joined Ignatius' little community, the infant Society of Jesus.

He was ordained a priest in 1537, and sailed to the East Indies, landing at Goa, on the west coast of India. For the next 10 years he labored to bring the faith to such widely scattered peoples as the Hindus, the Malayans, and the Japanese. Wherever he went, Xavier lived with the poorest people, sharing their food and rough accommodations. He spent countless hours ministering to the sick and the poor.

Xavier then traveled to Japan. He learned enough Japanese to preach, instruct, baptize, and establish missions. From Japan he had dreams of going to China, but this plan was never realized. Before reaching the mainland, he died. His remains are enshrined in the Church of Good Jesus in Goa. He and St. Thérèse of Lisieux were declared co-patrons of the missions in 1925.

St. Francis Xavier was canonized in 1622 at the same ceremony as Ignatius of Loyola. He is the patron saint of Catholic missions, sailors, Japan and jewelers.

Source: franciscanmedia.org



Feast Day: December 3



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, Graydon Shade, Helen Shallis, Sparrow Shannon, Esther Shockey, Fran Sommers, Barbara Stanislawczyk, Melissa Stanislawczyk, John Stephen Jr., Michaela Stickley, Bill Stine, Patsy Summers, Stefanie Swanger, Jeremy Taylor, Maleigha Taylor, Courtney Whiteman.

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

Marriage Banns

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

Wanda Riggelman Kinnie
Roland E. Nairn III

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

Required posting 1 of 3

Most Rev. Mark E. Brennan
**Pastoral Letter on
 Bringing People to Christ**

Dear Brothers and sisters of my beloved
 Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston,

I have written quite a few pastoral letters in
 my five years as your Shepherd. This may be
 the most important one, because it touches on
 the very reason we are a Church. So I ask you
 to take the time to read it and reflect on its
 message.

The above paragraph is the introduction of Bishop
 Brennan's message to the faithful of the Mountain
 State. Your family should have received this letter when
 you arrived. **We ask that you do not drop it in the
 recycling bin as you leave; please take it home with
 you and spend some time contemplating the
 Bishop's important message. Thank you!**

Advent Penance Service
 Wednesday, December 11, 2024
 6:00 p.m.
 led by Fr. Giles

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception
 of the Blessed Virgin Mary**



Holy Day of Obligation
Monday, December 9, 2024
Mass at 6:30 p.m.

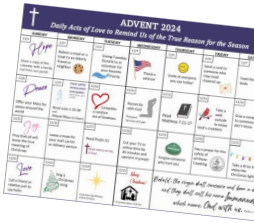
Since December 8 falls on a Sunday
 this year, the obligation is moved
 to December 9.

Advent Prayer Exchange

Everyone who completed an Advent Prayer card 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 prayer warrior has
 been! Blank cards are still available in the Vestibule if
 you missed it last weekend.

Advent Calendar

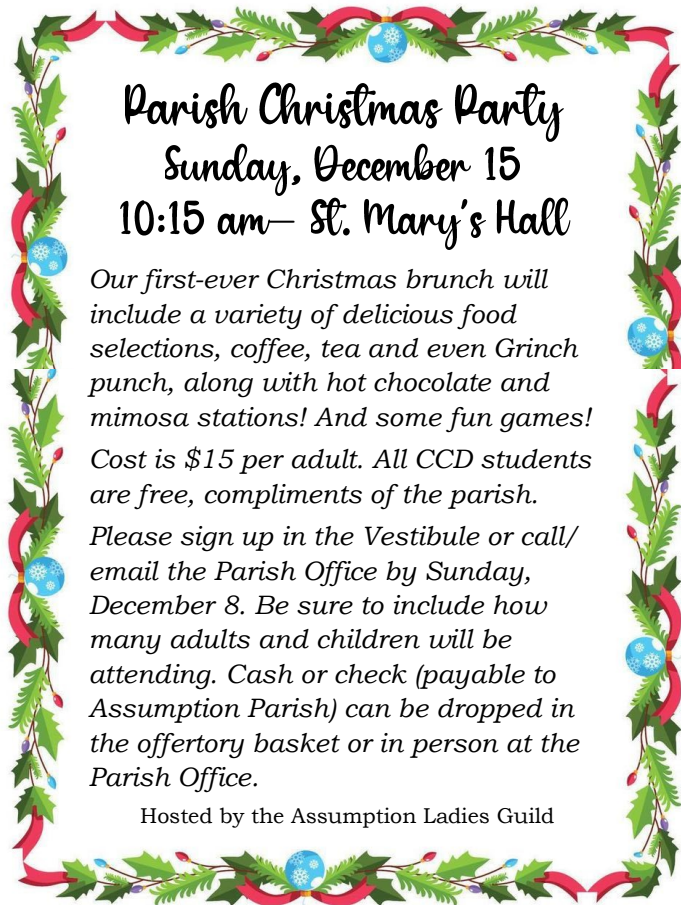
Included with today's bulletin is
 our parish Advent calendar full of
 simple ways to help us remember
 the true meaning of the Christmas
 season. Please use it and share it!
 It is also available for download
 and print from our website. www.assumptionkeyserwv.org



Mass Schedule and Intentions

Date	Time	Intention	Offered by
Saturday, November 30	4:00 pm	Soul of Mary Balassone	The Regina Kelley Family
		Souls of Gwen & Gina DeMasi	Their Loving Family
Sunday, December 1	8:30 am	Soul of Doris Tetrick	Kelli & Kerri Wittman
Monday, December 2	No Mass		
Tuesday, December 3	No Mass		
Wednesday, December 4	5:00 pm	Soul of Angela Dorsey	Marion Dorsey
		Soul of Richard Gibson	Kathleen Gibson
Thursday, December 5	12:00 pm	Souls of Bill & Helen Semenuk	Cathy Pardee
		Soul of Mildred Willis	Mary Balassone
Friday, December 6	9:00 am	Souls of James & Inez Dorsey	Marion Dorsey
		Intentions of Jean Harber	Mary Shannon
Saturday, December 7	4:00 pm	Souls of Joe Altobello & Jackie Altobello	Mike & Joanne Stickley
		Intentions of Marion Dorsey	Margaret McGee
Sunday, December 8	8:30 am	Soul of Tom Harbaugh	Michelle Brill
		Soul of Doris Tetrick	Kelley & Jeff Kuhn

Join us to pray the Rosary 30 minutes prior to each weekday Mass.



Parish Christmas Party Sunday, December 15 10:15 am— St. Mary's Hall

Our first-ever Christmas brunch will include a variety of delicious food selections, coffee, tea and even Grinch punch, along with hot chocolate and mimosa stations! And some fun games!

Cost is \$15 per adult. All CCD students are free, compliments of the parish.

Please sign up in the Vestibule or call/ email the Parish Office by Sunday, December 8. Be sure to include how many adults and children will be attending. Cash or check (payable to Assumption Parish) can be dropped in the offertory basket or in person at the Parish Office.

Hosted by the Assumption Ladies Guild



First Friday Eucharistic Adoration

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is held on the first Friday of each month, including this Friday, December 6. Join us for Mass at 9 a.m. followed by Adoration from 9:30-10:30.

Christmas Flower Offerings

Remember 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 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.



Your Faithful Stewardship

November 23-24, 2024

Offertory

Offertory Envelopes.....	\$3,205
Loose Donations.....	\$1,245
Total.....	\$4,450

Attendance

Saturday, November 16.....	56
Sunday, November 17.....	116
Total.....	172

Upcoming Diocesan Collection

The annual collection for retired religious will be taken next weekend. Having taken vows of poverty, our retired 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.

Liturgical Minister Schedule

Saturday, December 7 (Knight's Mass)

Lector: Logan Stanislawczyk
Servers: Mike Landis & Paul Bogdan
EMs: Alan Taylor, Jean Harber (c), Janet Corley (c)
Cantor: Linda Marsh
Greeters: Larry & Tammy Dale

Sunday, December 8

Lector: Geoff Newlin
Servers: Tucker Newlin & Jude Barrick
EMs: Mike Landis, Jane Placka (c), Kelley Kuhn (c)
Cantor: Patrick George
Greeters: Michael & Sonja Stanislawczyk

Saturday, December 14

Lector: Celia Cole
Servers: Sue Harber, Alan Taylor & Morgan Gustafson
EMs: Bill Lupis, Eric Hatfield (c) & Mary Wagoner (c)
Cantor: Julie Alt
Greeters: Dena Turner & Mary Shannon

Sunday, December 15 (Youth Mass)

Lector: CCD Students
Servers: CCD Students
EMs: David Minnich, Charlotte Delilo (c), Rosie Landis (c)
Cantor: Linda Marsh
Greeters: CCD Students

Keyser Healthcare Center EM

December 5 Dave Dunn
December 12 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.

GIVING TUESDAY

December 3, 2024

Giving Tuesday is a global day of giving and sharing that takes place each year on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving.

During this season of joy and giving, we call to mind the wonderful gifts God has bestowed upon us. Even in the most trying times, we still have so much for which to be grateful.

On December 3, consider supporting a charity. Our parish supports many local organizations; donations for the following can always be left in the Vestibule and will be delivered to the appropriate location: Faith in Action food pantry; Food for Thought; Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes; Warm the Children; warming center for the homeless; Staggers and Hope Meadows recovery houses.



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

thank you