



# *Assumption Catholic Church*

34 James Street, Keyser, WV 26726

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assumptionkeyserwv.org

304.788.2488

***Third Sunday of Advent***

***December 14, 2025***



*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**

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**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 Address**

50 James Street

**Office Hours:**

Monday - Thursday

9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Bulletin Deadline:**

Wednesday, 10 a.m.

## Sunday Reflection: Third Sunday of Advent

Why did Jesus praise John the Baptist as the greatest person born of a woman and yet immediately declare that those who enter the kingdom of God would be greater than John (Matthew 11:11)? To understand this, we must recognize the unique and pivotal role John the Baptist held in salvation history. John was the last and most eminent of the prophets of the Old Covenant, the one who bridged the hopes of Israel with their fulfillment in Christ.

Every prophet, in essence, pointed toward the coming of the Messiah, but John carried this mission to its highest form: he did not merely speak of the Savior; he personally prepared the way for Him. By his preaching, his baptism, and his steadfast witness, John called people to repentance and readiness, directing their hearts toward the Lord. At the River Jordan, he boldly proclaimed, "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world" (John 1:29), inviting all to recognize and embrace Jesus as the promised Messiah.

When Jesus responded to John's disciples, He asked a penetrating question: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? A man dressed in fine clothing?" and continued, "Why did you go out to see John the Baptist? Was it because you hungered for the Word of the Lord?" (Matthew 11:7-8). In this, Jesus emphasizes that John was not simply a messenger or spokesperson for God, but the faithful witness—the friend of the Bridegroom—whose mission was to illuminate the presence of the Messiah in the midst of His people. John's life was marked by courage, humility, and unwavering commitment. He spoke truth to power and ultimately paid the supreme price for his faithfulness, laying down his life to prepare the way for Jesus, the Savior of the world. Jesus' words about John also invite us to a profound reflection on our own discipleship. Just as John bore witness to Christ, so are we called to proclaim the good news of God's kingdom with courage and conviction.

### Readings for Next Sunday,

**December 21, 2025**

Isaiah 7:10-14

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-24

## Saint of the Week... St. Lucy

St. Lucy is a virgin and martyr of Syracuse in Sicily. She was born to rich and noble parents in the year 283. Her father was of Roman origin, but his early death left her dependent upon her mother. Like so many of the early martyrs, Lucy had consecrated her virginity to God, and she hoped to devote all her worldly goods to the service of the poor.

Her mother arranged a marriage for her, but for three years Lucy managed to postpone the wedding. Lucy prayed at the tomb of Saint Agatha to change her mother's mind about her faith. As a result, her mother's long illness was cured, and she consented to Lucy's desire to live for God.

Saint Lucy's rejected bridegroom, Paschasius, denounced Lucy as a Christian. The governor planned to force her into prostitution, but when guards went to fetch her, they could not move her even when they hitched her to a team of oxen. The governor ordered her to be killed instead. After a gruesome torture which included having her eyes torn out, she was surrounded by bundles of wood which were set afire, but the fire quickly died out. She prophesied against her persecutors, and was then executed by being stabbed to death with a dagger.

According to later accounts, Lucy warned Paschasius he would be punished. When the governor heard this he ordered the guards to gouge out her eyes. Another account reports that it was Lucy herself who removed her eyes in an attempt to discourage a persistent suitor who greatly admired them. When her body was being prepared for burial, they discovered her eyes had been restored. This led to her to be known as the patroness of the blind and eye ailments.

Source: catholicnewsagency.com



Feast Day: December 13



Jan Biser, Tina Blank, Jennifer Boling, Leslie Bosley, Angela Bowers, Kara Breedlove, Mickey Brooks, Darlene "Bitsy" Brown, Sue Burns, Braely Burton, Hailey Claire, Abby Clark, Raymond Clark, Linda Davis-Kyle, Gloria DeMasi, Palma Devic, Marion Dorsey, Curtis Drew, Cam Duncan, Dave & Jean Dunn, Lucas Dupuis, Scott Furey, Marilyn George, Barbara Gratto, Sue Greco, Donna Hanlin, Shawn Harbaugh, Shawn Hartman, Marion Hollingsworth, Leroy House, Kathy Jenkins, Diana Jiang, Sarah Jones, Charity Jones Kasraoui, Margie Keister, Sueann Keller-Schwillie, Joanne Knott\*, Jeffrey Labonte, Pam Launi, Bill Lupis,

Angelo Luvara, Franci Lyons, Rhonda Martin, Margaret McGee, Cindy Mills, Steve Miner, Wanda & Randy Nairn, Debbie Pappas, Cathy Pardee, Diane Parrish, Crystal Pollet, Susie Radcliffe, Katherine Revell, Carole Rhodes, Carla Riggelman, George Rosedale, Charlotte Sanders, Helen Shallis, Sparrow Shannon, Esther Shockey, Crystal Snitz, Fran Sommers, Barbara Stanislawczyk, Melissa Stanislawczyk, John Stephen Jr., Patsy Summers, Stefanie Swanger, Maleigha Taylor, Nathaniel Taylor, Nick Trager, Shawn Whetzel, Courtney Whiteman, Becky Whitlock\*, Barbara Willis.

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

# Welcome

## Rite for Entrance into the Catechumenate and of Welcoming the Candidates

This Sunday our parish celebrates this special Rite for those enrolled in our Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) program. Please welcome them to our parish family and keep them in your prayers as they continue their journey of faith.

### Catechumen

Jennifer Mitchell

### Candidates

Aleah Horner

Daniel Jones

Kathie Shank

### What is OCIA/OCIC?

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) and the Order of Christian Initiation of Children (OCIC) is the process by which the Catholic community welcomes adults and children over the age of 7 into the Catholic Church.

### What is this Rite?

This Rite recognizes the Catechumen's decision to begin the process of becoming a member of the Catholic Church through Baptism and welcomes the Candidates (those who have been baptized in another faith or baptized Catholic as a child but never catechized in the Catholic faith) into the process of full communion with the Catholic Church through Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.

## Advent Penance Service

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

6:00 p.m.

Fr. Giles, Fr. Arul, Fr. Thomas

## Christmas Schedule

### Wednesday, December 24

4:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Vigil Mass

### Thursday, December 25

8:30 a.m.

Christmas Mass

### Friday, December 26

No Mass

### Wednesday, December 31

5:00 p.m.

### Thursday, January 1

9:00 a.m.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

*Holy Day of Obligation*

## Mass Schedule and Intentions

Date	Time	Intention	Offered by
Saturday, December 13	4:00 pm	Soul of Fred Selders .....	Eddie & Dorothy Sandoval
		The Harber Family .....	Sue & Jean Harber
		Intentions of Bob Konka .....	Bob Konka
		Intentions of Sam & Sara Fazzalore .....	Marion Dorsey
Sunday, December 14	8:30 am	Souls of Lorenzo & Barbara Grubbs .....	Karen & Howard Barrick
		Souls of Frank, Dotty & Mike Raschella .....	Sue & Jean Harber
		Soul of Betty McAvoy .....	Art DeMasi
Monday, December 15	No Mass		
Tuesday, December 16	No Mass		
Wednesday, December 17	6:00 pm	Advent Penance Service	
Thursday, December 18	12:00 pm	Souls of Bill & Helen Semenuk .....	Cathy Pardee
		Intentions of Sue & Jean Harber .....	Mary Shannon
		Intentions of Assumption Daily Prayer Warriors .....	Anonymous
Friday, December 19	9:00 am	Soul of Ron Willis .....	Mike & Rosie Landis
		Deceased Members, Circsosta & Calemene Families .....	Carole Rhodes
		Intentions of Meredythe Barrick .....	Howard & Karen Barrick
Saturday, December 20	4:00 pm	Souls of John & Hazel Coffman .....	Cindy & Jim Alt
		Soul of Steve Mehalik .....	Mr. & Mrs. Bill Pillar
		Soul of Mary Balassone .....	Barb Willis & family
		The DeMasi Family .....	S & J
Sunday, December 21	8:30 am	Souls of Doris Tetrack & Jordan Placka .....	Their Loving Family
		Intentions of Francy Lyons .....	Mike & Joanne Stickley





## Assumption Parish

\$18,400  
goal

\$0

*Almost  
there!*

\$17,276  
(94%)  
as of today

### Help us reach our goal!

All donations after 50% come back to our parish!  
Return the pledge card you received in the mail,  
visit the CSA website listed below, or drop a check  
made payable to "Catholic Sharing Appeal" in the  
offertory basket or at the Parish Office. Donations  
must be postmarked by December 31. Thank you!

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

## Your Faithful Stewardship

December 6-7, 2025

### Offertory

Offertory Envelopes .....	\$3,565
Loose Donations .....	\$1,085
Christmas Flowers .....	\$802
Votive Candles .....	\$145
Poor Box .....	\$316
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$5,913</b>

### Attendance

Saturday, 12/6 .....	78
Sunday, 12/7 .....	90
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>168</b>

### Diocesan Collection

The annual collection for retired religious is being taken today. This is our opportunity to show our appreciation for those who have faithfully served our parish and our fellow Catholics over the years but can no longer actively serve. A separate basket for this important appeal is available.

### November Balance Sheet

Income .....	\$16,581
Expenses .....	\$10,079
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$6,502</b>

THE LORD HAS DONE  
GREAT THINGS FOR US;

*we are filled with joy!*

PSALM 126:3

## Gaudete Sunday

The word "Gaudete" (pronounced gaw-DEH-tay) is Latin for "rejoice." For the past two weeks, we have been preparing for the arrival of the Lord Jesus. On this third Sunday, we are now most of the way through the journey, making it appropriate to "rejoice" as the goal of the season approaches!

### Mass Intentions

#### Make the Perfect Gift!

If you're looking for a special and meaningful Christmas gift for someone, consider offering a Mass. Mass intentions provide a spiritual gift to those you love through prayer. There are still many dates available in 2026. The suggested stipend for a weekday Mass is \$10; weekends \$20.

### Liturgical Minister Schedule

#### Saturday, December 20

Lector: Cathy Pardee  
Servers: Sue Harber, John Gustafson, Morgan Gustafson  
EMs: Cathy Pardee, Jean Harber (c), John Gustafson (c)  
Cantor: Julie Alt  
Greeters: Larry & Tammy Dale

#### Sunday, December 21

Lector: Derek Stephen  
Servers: Jane Placka & Pippa Dolechek  
EMs: Jane Placka, Nancy Starcher (c), Beverley Iser (c)  
Cantor: Mike Dupuis  
Greeters: Tony & Marie Del Signore

#### Saturday, December 27

Lector: Alan Taylor  
Servers: Mike & Rosie Landis, Harper Newlin  
EMs: Alan Taylor, Mary Wagoner (c), Bill Lupis (c)  
Cantor: Mike Dupuis  
Greeters: Mike & Robin McDowell

#### Sunday, December 28

Lector: Michael Stanislawczyk  
Servers: James & Tess Maybury  
EMs: Charlotte Delilo, Rosie Landis (c), Mike Landis (c)  
Cantor: Julie Alt  
Greeters: Tina Stephen & Melissa Stanislawczyk

#### Keyser Healthcare Center EM

December 18 Cindy Alt  
December 24 Joanne Stickley

### IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

#### FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

- Rear of the church by the Holy Water
- Sacristy door on the left

#### AED UNIT

- Wall outside the restroom

#### FIRST AID KIT

- Wall outside the restroom

