Holy Rosary Catholic Church December 31, 2023

Happy and Blessed New Year!

What a blessing to begin our New Year every year with the commemoration of the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, and also to celebrate the World Day of Prayer for Peace. As we all



know, Queen of Peace is one of the titles of Mother Mary. It is therefore fitting for the Church on the day we celebrate the solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, we also pray for World peace. Beloved, the wars in Ukraine, Palestine, and certain parts in the world call our attention to turn to our Mother Mary, the Queen of Peace, to pray for peace for us.

As we write our New Year's

resolutions, let us also ask for Mary's intercession. For those who were able to accomplish their 2023 New Year's resolutions, congratulations! For those of us who were unable to meet our 2023 New Year's resolution, don't give up! Look at things you could not accomplish, not as a failure, but a lesson to do better for 2024.

Let me take this opportunity once again to express my profound thanks and appreciation to the parish staff, members of the parish Pastoral council and Finance council, and the variousz societies/organizations for your tremendous love and dedication to our parish. I extend the same appreciation to each and every parishioner for your love and dedication to our parish. Fellow parishioners, as we begin this New Year, let us continue to put our total trust and faith in the mighty God we serve. With faith in God, all will be well in 2024. Let us also continue to pray for the success of the National Eucharistic Congress that will be held in Indianapolis, IN, this summer.

I look forward to your continuing love and dedication to our parish and the diocese in this New Year. I pray the Aaronic blessing you heard in the first reading upon you and your families: "The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let his face shine upon you and be gracious to you! The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!"

Be assured that you and your loved ones will be in my daily thoughts and prayers throughout this coming year also. Please pray with and for me and all your clergy and religious that we'll be faithful to our divine Master, Jesus Christ, and his holy Roman Catholic Church. Thanks again! Wishing you and your beloved family God's blessings in this 2024, Fr. Edward A. Tetteh, SVD

Have You Completed Your Virtus Training?

Virtus training is an effort by the Diocese of Wheeling Charleston to keep all children safe. We will work with the diocese to complete the VIRTUS online program for adult in our parish who is a volunteer. Please consider prayerfully if your ministry requires you to have any contact or association with children or young adults. The training is simple: just go to virtusonline.org to register and complete the training in your own home. If you need help, please call the parish office. Thank you for keeping our children safe!

School of Religion Continues

Classes resume on Sunday, January 7.

Catholic Calendars

2024 Catholic Calendars are available free to our parishioners and are located in the back of the church. Many thanks to Nick and April Cutright, of Heavener and Cutright Funeral Home for sponsoring these calendars for us!

Big Thanks

We are very grateful to you, our dear parishioners, for your Christmas gifts and best wishes over the holidays. We appreciate you very much! Happy New Year, and God bless. Fr. Ed, Fr. John, Deacon Rue and Frater Tin

Discussion at West Virginia Wesleyan

West Virginia Wesleyan College's Religious & Spiritual Life and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion offices are conducting a discussion on Dr. Martin Luther King's sermon "The Drum Major Instinct" which will be facilitated by The Rev. Jeremiah Jasper on Sunday, January 14, 2024 at 2:30 PM in Chambers Lounge of MRC. Clergy and laity are invited to this conversation about service. If you would like a copy of Dr. King's sermon, please contact Father Ed.

Mass Requests for 2024

Do you have a specific mass intention for next year? Would you like to have a mass offered for a loved one or a deceased member of your family? Please drop your intentions (plus your \$5 donation) in an envelope or give it to Father Ed. Specific dates may go quickly, so act now. Please note that Cannon Law requires a parish to offer one mass each weekend for the intentions of its parishioners. Since we only have two masses per weekend, it is difficult to schedule all of your requests on a weekend. We will do the best we can to accommodate your requests. If your chosen date is already taken, we will try to have a mass said as close as possible to your date.

December 31 – Holy Family A Vocation View: The voice of God is first heard in the voice of a mother and father. (Sir 3:2) Make a commitment to make your home a domestic church where the Lord's call can be heard and nourished. DIVINE WORD MISSIONARIES and SISTER SERVANTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT 1-800-553-3321

Happy Golden Anniversary to Mariann and David Jack who celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in December! They were married at Holy Rosary Church by Fr. Michael Kerwick on December 29, 1973. Can You Help? This year Kennedi Lewellyn will be traveling to Honduras with Global Medical and Dental Brigades to provide medical, dental, and public health assistance to those in need. They would appreciate your donation to buy supplies such as soaps, toothpaste, and sunscreen to provide free hygiene packs to under resourced communities. If you are interested in helping, please reach out to Kennedi or Krista Lewellyn, or go directly to give.wvu.edu. Thank you for your generosity!

Prayers, Please: Jalen Welcome, Tori Odom, Dolores Reynoso, Christine Kate Deasy, Linus Deasy, Rosemary Austin, Phil Halligan, Pat Dagneault, David Daignault, Randy Trent, Macyah Riley, Ellie McCarthy, Barbara Bengle, Frances Beckes, Daphne Johnston, Tony Derico, Helen Kee, Kay Sienkiewicz, Shanna Ericcson, Vonda Allman, Louise Hawkinberry, Dennis Cortes, Mary Kriner, Jeanne Madigan, Jane Baxter, P.T.Garton, Joseph Moore, Colleen Hoover, Alina Vernarsky, Eleanor Betler, Stephen Tilson, Anthony Lewellyn, Carolyn Collins Heater, Cindy Raffety, Bruce Maine, Angie Murphy, Jerry Hull, Janey Notary.

Please pray for men and women in the military and please pray for those who have died. And don't forget to pray for our first responders. *Please pray for our Homebound*: Mary Stump, Ron Frye, Rocenia Asbury, Lorraine McLean, James McCartney, Shirley Linger, William McLea, Barbara Hillberry, Donnie Cox, Rose DeProspero, Linda Coyner, Jerry Stankus, Jean Lantz, Janine Robinson, Barbara Elmore, Helena Bessinger, Alan and Jimmie Jo Simms.



The practice of requesting a Mass to be offered for loved ones, living or deceased, is a beautiful and wonderful part of our Catholic Tradition. Continuing in this long-standing practice, you can remember someone who has died recently or many years ago. But intentions do not have to be just for the dead. They make beautiful gifts for any special occasion: birthday, anniversary, in thanksgiving for a prayer answered, etc. You can also offer an intention for someone who is struggling with a serious illness or other life trauma.

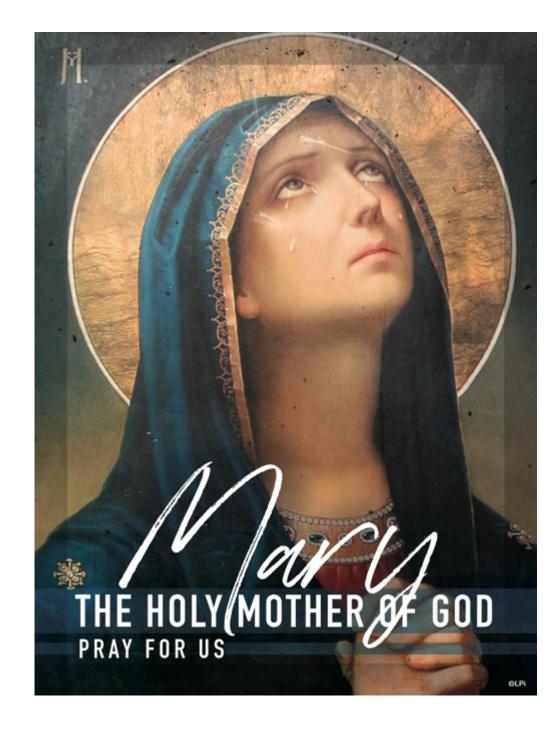
Sat. Dec. 30 -7 pm	Frank Williams	Holy Rosary	
Sun. Dec 31 - 9 am Sun. Dec. 31 – noon	Parishioners Sacred Heart Parishioners	Holy Rosary Sacred Heart	
Mon. Jan. 1 - 9 am	Fr. Edward Sabo	Holy Rosary	1
Tues. Jan. 2 - 7:30 am	Mary Stanley	Holy Rosary	†
Wed. Jan. 3 6 pm Holy Hour	We pray for vocations to the permanent deaconate, priesthood & religious life.	Holy Rosary Holy Hour	
Wed. Jan. 3 - 7 pm	Guy Derico+	Holy Rosary	1
Thurs. Jan. 4 - 7:30 am	Jimmie Bradshaw	Holy Rosary	Ī
Fri. Jan. 5 – pm First Friday 6 pm (Eucharistic Adoration)	John and Matt We pray for peace, love and justice in our world.	Holy Rosary	
Sat. Jan. 6 - 7 pm	Our Parishioners	Holy Rosary	1 r
Sun. Jan. 7 - 9 am Sun. Jan. 7 - noon	Edward Sienkiewicz+ Sacred Heart Parishioners	Holy Rosary Sacred Heart	

Envelopes: \$1,545 Loose: \$188 Attendance 12/23: 55 12/24: 69 Christmas Eve: 126 Christmas Day: 48

Last Week's Offering

Thank you for all of your kind donations in 2023!

Psalm Response: "The Lord remembers his covenant forever."





On the menu: Soup & Eggrolls Guests welcome to bring appetizers 6PM TO ?? SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31 PARISH HALL Open to Everyone!!

Adventure Club Fun!

The January Adventure Club activity is **tubing** at Canaan Valley State Park. This adventure will take place on Saturday, January 20, 2024 from 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

**We need you to sign-up on the sheet in Marist Hall by 12/31/23 to ensure that tickets will be able to be purchased. Please include your phone number for contact in case of changes. **Please only sign up if you are planning to attend since we will be purchasing tickets in advance of this adventure!

**Must be at least 4 years old AND 42 inches tall to tube.

Offering both burial and cremation services since 1998

Cost of tubing will be covered by the Adventure Club!



Ministers	Sat.	Sun.	Sat.	Sun.
	Dec. 30	Dec. 31	Jan. 6	Jan. 7
Lectors	Sr.	Pat M.	Rosanne	Lindsay Z.
	Francesca	Andrea E.	W.	Addison Z.
Greeters	John K.	Charlie M.	Diana T.	Donna & Joe
Musicians	Sarah Z.	Ed P.	Lena Rose	Ed P.
	Jalna J.	Diane P.	Shirley L.	Diane P.
Eucharistic Ministers	Elliot L. John K.	Mary S. BrendaA. Amy W.	John W. Rue T.	Mike E. Charlie M. Tracy M.

		Ner Fit			
\mathbb{Q}	Holy Rosary Church Parish Hall SCHEDULE				
	December 5	Silver Sneakers			
15	December 12	SoulCore	2		
	December 19	Silver Sneakers	H		
•	December 26	Walking			
•	January 2	Silver Sneakers			
	January 9	SoulCore	15		
	January 16	Silver Sneakers			
Č	January 23	Walking			
×,	January 30	Silver Sneakers	×.		
\sim	February 6	Walking			
Y	February 13	Silver Sneakers	Ŀ		
<u> </u>	February 20	Walking	1		
	February 27	Silver Sneakers			
Λ	e ¹ ¹ ¹ ¹ ¹	0 🛛 🔓 🖊 🖓			

Our Diocese is serious about Safe Environment in each parish. Anyone who volunteers in our parish in ANY way MUST complete the online VIRTUS training and background check. The Diocese has hired an outside company to check parish compliance in February of this year. PLEASE go online today to make sure you have an online account. www.virtusonline.org

- Reminders: Please make sure you are registered in the parish. New parishioners should call the office or drop your information in the collection basket.
- Please note that envelopes were ordered only for those who used them last year on a consistent basis last year. There are a few boxes of no number envelopes left in the hall. You may use them, but please add your name and address to these blanks.
- Anyone volunteering in any position at Holy Rosary parish must sign up for VIRTUS TRAINING. (SAFE ENVIRONMENT) PLEASE CHECK ONLINE TO MAKE SURE THAT YOUR INFORMATION IS UP TO DATE.



Father Ed's Homily for December 31 The Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph Theme: Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, a perfect Model for us all

s we celebrate the feast of Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph during the Octave of Christmas, the Church offers the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as a perfect model of holy family for us to emulate. We are all called to be holy families. The late Pope, Benedict XVII said it well: "We are called to holiness: it is the very measure of Christian living" (General Audience, April 13, 2011).

In the Gospel reading, St Luke gives us the account of the presentation of the Child Jesus in temple of Jerusalem. According to Mosaic law (Lv 12 :2-8), every first-born son must be presented and dedicated to God in the temple 40 days after his birth. During this consecration of the first-born son, the parents must offer a year-old lamb as a burnt offering and a turtledove or young pigeon as expiation of sin. The parents who could not afford a lamb must offer instead 2 turtledoves or 2 young pigeons as Mary and Joseph did since they were poor. Jesus, God the Son, is without sin, but his family being devout Jews, faithful observers of the Jewish law, presented and consecrated him to God in accordance with the Jewish law.

As we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family, the holy Mother Church offers us as a perfect model for us to look up to. There are many lessons for us to learn and live in our daily family life also:

First, the fact that the family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph is called Holy Family does not mean every day was 'Christmas,' joyful, no pains/challenges in their family. Big NO! Their family was just like any family you might know of with ups and downs, but they held on to their faith in God no matter the challenges family life brought to them. Here are some of the challenges in the life of this family we called the Holy Family--Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. As you know well, before Mary and Joseph came together, Joseph found out Mary was pregnant, and it was the work of the Holy Spirit. How many of you men would trust/believe your wife that her conception is the work of Holy Spirit, not due to infidelity? For the women, just imagine you're in Mary's shoes. How would you convince your husband or future husband, as in the case of Mary, that your pregnancy is the work of the Holy Spirit and that you did not cheat on him? Let us look at other challenges/difficult moments in the life of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Jesus was born in a manger because there was no room for him in the inn; they became refugees in Egypt because King Herod was looking for the baby Jesus to kill; at age of 12, Jesus was missing, and it took 3 days to find him in the temple in Jerusalem, etc. Beloved, these are just a few of some of the difficulties and challenges this Holy Family went through. This should remind you that when you are going through a difficult time in your family, please turn to them because they know what you are going through. This Holy Family will certainly intercede for you if you call upon them.

Secondly, Mary and Joseph were true parents, a God-fearing couple. They taught Jesus well. As responsible parents, they brought Jesus up faithfully in their Jewish culture. They also protected and saved his life from King Herod who wanted to kill him. They provided all that he needed as their son to grow and accomplish the mission God called him to do. If you recall your marriage preparation, the Church reminds you of your Catholic Christian responsibilities. It is your responsibility as a Catholic Christian to educate your children in our Catholic faith and also provide for them whatever they need to become responsible citizens and good Catholic Christians. Are you faithful to these responsibilities you promised Jesus Christ and his Church you would do at your marriage preparation and during baptism of your children? Remember, the Catholic Church calls the Christian family, the domestic church, because it is in the family that children are first formed to become true Christians and good citizens.

Thirdly, there is no such human family as a perfect family. If you disagree with me and you think you know a perfect human family, kindly call or write to me and I will gladly reach out this perfect family, please. All families go through rough times, but what may make them 'holy' is how they address the challenges, ups and downs that life brings them. For me, a holy family is the Christian family that no matter what, they put all their trust and faith in God. I am blessed to meet such families in every parish I go. I am always grateful to God for these holy families because they are the example of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. They strengthen my Catholic Christian faith.

Beloved, let us always remember that: "We do not choose families, but we choose friends." I believe our families are God's precious gifts to us. I truly believe that God did not mistakenly put you in your family. If we let go and put God always in the center of our families, our families will continue to be examples of holy families to us and the world.

We can't talk about our biological families and not mention our church family. I love my Catholic Church and will never trade it for anything. I am blessed to be a Roman Catholic Christian and that I belong to a church family that can be found throughout the world. It has survived for almost 2,000 years and continues to survive by the grace of God. Yes, the Church is both divine and human. That is to say, our Roman Catholic Church was instituted by Jesus Christ but governed by human beings. It is holy since it is founded by Christ but human because we have human beings working in it. Let us continue to pray to the Holy Spirit and the saints to continue to lead and guide our beloved Catholic Church.

As we celebrate the feast of Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, let us also



celebrate the gifts and blessings of our own families. Let us thank God for blessing us with our biological families and church families. May Holy Mother Mary and St. Joseph continue to be models for the holy family. Happy and blessed Feast of Holy Family to you all.