

**December 2 & 3, 2023**  
Sunday Mass is livestreamed

Office Hours:  
Mon - Thu 9 am - 2 pm

First Sunday of Advent



**Sacred Heart Catholic Church**  
Very Rev. Sebastian Devasya, Assoc. V.E., V.F.,  
Pastor  
PO Box 1310, 507 Harrison St. Princeton, WV 24740  
304-425-3664  
Confessions: Saturday 3:00 - 3:30 pm and by  
appointment  
Saturday 3:00 - 3:30 pm  
[www.facebook.com/sacredheartprinceton](http://www.facebook.com/sacredheartprinceton) Sacred Heart  
Princeton (@shprinceton) • Instagram photos and videos

The word “Advent” comes from the Latin word *“adventus,”* which means “a coming, approach, arrival.” When we expect guests to arrive at our homes, we turn the lights on; we anticipate their arrival and welcome them with joy. In Advent, we prepare our homes and churches as we joyfully anticipate His arrival, and the light also gets brighter as we near Christmas day, the day on which the *Light of the World* was born. St. Gregory of Nyssa wrote,

*“Today, the darkness begins to grow shorter and the light to lengthen, as the hours of light become fewer. [...] Do you see that the beams of light are more intense and the sun higher than it has been? Realize that the true light is now here and, through the rays of the Gospel, is illuminating the whole earth.”*

Advent wreaths and candles are commonly seen in Catholic churches during the liturgical season. Many people also display Advent wreaths in their homes and light a candle each Sunday as families. Read more to learn about the history, traditions, and symbolism behind Advent wreaths and candles and how you can celebrate Advent at home with family and friends.

### Mass Intentions:

Saturday, Dec 2, 4pm -  
✠ **Walter Bowman**  
by Sacred Heart  
Sunday, Dec 3, 11am -  
✠ **Richie Johnson**  
by Gina & Timm Boggess  
Tuesday, Dec 5, 6pm -  
✠ **Denise Colon**  
by Maria Franco  
Thursday, Dec 7, Noon -  
✠ **Mary Constantino**  
by Virginia Manley  
Saturday, Dec 9, 4pm -  
**People of the Parish**  
by Sacred Heart  
Sunday, Dec 10, 11am -  
✠ **David Myers**  
by Cathy & Jimmy Hillyer

### Upcoming Events:

Dec 1, Noon, First Friday Mass, Devotion to Sacred Heart  
Sat, Dec 2, 1 - 3:00 pm Forgiveness (video based series)  
Sun, Dec 3, 6:00 pm Taizé  
Tues, Dec 5, 6:00 pm Advent Penance Service in Princeton  
Wed, Dec 6, 6:00 pm Advent Penance Service in Bluefield  
Dec 7, 6 pm Vigil Mass, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception - Bluefield  
Dec 8, 12 noon HDO Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception - Bluefield  
Dec 8, 6 pm HDO Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception - Princeton  
Sun, Dec 10, 6 pm Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe  
Dec 18, 20, 22, 6:00 pm, Parents Night Out (X-Mas activities for kids)  
Sun, Dec 24, 4:00 pm Children’s Mass  
11:30 pm Carols followed by Midnight Mass  
Mon, Dec 25, 11:00 am Christmas Mass

### Staff

**Pastor:** Fr. Sebastian Devasya  
sdevasya@dwc.org

**Office Manager:** Kim Hickman  
khickman@sacredheartprinceton.org

**Secretary:** Laura Wyatt  
lw Wyatt@sacredheartprinceton.org

**Religious Education:** Laura Wyatt  
lw Wyatt@sacredheartprinceton.org

**Youth Ministry:** Lorin Albin  
lorin@sacredheartprinceton.org

**Newman Center:** Paul Krause  
pkrause@dwc.org



**December 3**

**Eucharistic Reflection: The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Eucharistic Prayer is the heart of the Liturgy of the Eucharist. In this prayer, the celebrant acts in the person of Christ as head of his body, the Church. He gathers not only the bread and the wine, but the substance of our lives and joins them to Christ's perfect sacrifice, offering them to the Father.

The introductory dialogue establishes that this prayer is the prayer of the baptized and ordained, is offered in the presence of God, and has thanksgiving as its central focus.

**Taizé Prayer Service** – You are invited to attend.

**TAIZÉ PRAYER**  
*"Preparing our hearts..."*



Prayer - Music - Reflection  
 Quiet - Scripture

**Sunday, December 3, 2023**  
**6:00 pm**

**Sacred Heart Bluefield** is selling "Sacred Heart Ornaments" The ornaments will be selling for \$20.00 each. Please contact Ann Robinson at 304-887-2424, Theresa Bales at 304-920-8104, or the parish office at 304-327-5623 if you would like to place your order.



**Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe** – Please join us for Spanish Mass on Sunday, December 10 at 6 pm. A reception will follow in the parish hall.



Únase a nosotros para la misa en español el domingo 10 de diciembre a las 6 pm. Seguirá una recepción en el salón parroquial.

**Silent Auction** – Bids are being accepted on the Handmade Nativity stable and grounds loving carved by Greg Saffell using our old church pew. Minimum bid \$50. All proceeds go to help our youth on their February Pilgrimage to St. Mary's Seminary retreat weekend. Located in the Narthex.



*Support the Youth's Pilgrimage to St. Mary's*

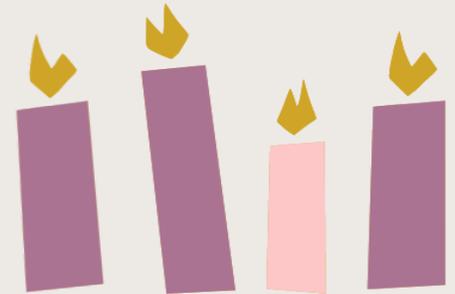
**SILENT AUCTION**

**Tender Mercies Ministry** – It is Holiday season; Tender Mercies has 700 hams on order for Christmas. Tender Mercies has seen a rise in the homes they are helping. If you can help with the drive you can send a tax-deductible donation to Tender Mercies Ministry, PO Box 669, Princeton, WV 24740. Any gains over the goal to reach will go straight back into the ongoing support of the food pantry.

**Second Collection - December 10 - Retirement Fund for Religious** provides funding to any religious institute in the U.S. that is listed in the religious institute section of the OCD with an identifying OCD number, and that has an unfunded past service liability. It distributes financial assistance from the fund to religious institutes based on a formula and criteria approved by the conferences of major superiors and bishops. Annual appeal begun in 1988 and approved through 2027.

**Advent Penance Service** - Will be held in Princeton and Bluefield with 6 priest available to hear confessions on Tuesday, December 5 at 6 pm and in Bluefield on Wednesday, December 6 at 6 pm.

**Advent Penance Service**  
**Sacred Heart Catholic Church**  
 Tuesday, Dec 5 - 6 pm - Princeton    Wednesday, Dec 6 - 6 pm - Bluefield



**Let Every Heart Prepare**

## Religious Ed Schedule of Events

- Dec 3, 10, 17 **Faith Formation** K- 5 @ 9:30 am | class rooms
- Dec 3, 10, 17 - **RCIA** @ 9:30 am | Conf. room
- Nov 26 - **Faith Formation** | No CLASS  
**OCIA** | No CLASS
- Nov 30 - **Women's Prayer group** @ 10:15 am | Conf. room  
**Men's group** @ 10:15 am | Narthex
- Dec 2 - **Parish Study** | Forgiven @ 1 - 3 pm
- Dec 3 - **YM** | YM night @ 6 pm
- Dec 17 - **Faith Formation** | Christmas party
- Dec 18, 20, 22, 6:00 pm, **Parents Night Out** (X-Mas activities for kids)
- Dec 24 - **Faith Formation** | 4:00 pm Children's Mass/pageant
- Jan 6 - **YM** | Epiphany Progressive Dinner
- Feb 4 - **YM** | Mount 2000 Retreat

- Youth Ministry** - Contact Lorin Albin
- Faith Formation** - Contact Laura Wyatt
- OCIA** - Contact Laura Wyatt
- Women's Prayer Group** - Contact Susie Pace
- Men's Group** - Contact Jime Cosgrove or Bill Picknally
- Walking with Purpose (WWP)** - Contact Laura Wyatt or KD Coleman
- Adult Education** - Contact Laura Wyatt

**PARENTS NIGHT OUT**  
Drop your kids off for some fun games & activities

**DEC 18, 20, & 22**  
SACRED HEART PRINCETON

**PARTY HIGHLIGHTS:**  
Crafts - Movies - Gingerbread House snacks - hot cocoa  
Santa may stop by  
**HO-HO-HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

Scan QR code to register or Contact: Laura Wyatt e 304-425-3664

## Religious Education

### Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

Welcome to this incredible journey of faith and self-discovery!

#### December 3: Mary, Mother of God

This session is about Mary (Jesus' mother) and some of the many Catholic traditions surrounding her.

Next weeks lesson

#### December 10: Discernment

**This Week on Formed – What Is the Immaculate Conception?** Join Drs Tim Gray and John Sehorn as they examine Mary under her title of the Immaculate Conception. This dogma of the Catholic faith, promulgated in 1854 by Pope Pius IX, speaks of Mary's conception and what it means to the Church.  
<https://watch.formed.org/videos/what-is-the-immaculate-conception>



### What Is The Immaculate Conception? (kids version)

<https://watch.formed.org/short-answers-to-big-questions/videos/what-is-the-immaculate-conception-1>



### Faith Formation

Christmas is coming fast. Please be sure to check your emails with more information about the Christmas Pageant and Party.

For more info contact Laura Wyatt  
lw Wyatt@sacredheartprinceton.org  
or 304-425-3664

### Youth Ministry

**Youth ministry night will on Dec 3 at 4:30 pm.**

**Dec 5 at 6 pm is Advent Penance Service**

### The Woman's Prayer Group

The Woman's Prayer Group will begin its Advent journey with Week 1: The Way of Nazareth from "Prepare Your Heart: A Guided Advent Journal for Prayer and Meditation" by Fr. Agustino Torres, CFR.

We will also discuss the Mass readings for the 1st Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

As we begin this season of Advent, we are reminded of the great hope that comes with the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This year, we are once again called to prepare our hearts and minds for His coming, to make room for him in our lives and our world.

As we look around us, we see a world that greatly needs hope and healing. From the ongoing wars to the many crises we face personally, and as a global community, it can be easy to feel overwhelmed and discouraged. But as Christians, we know that our hope is not in the things of this world but in our faith in Christ.

During this season of Advent, let us recommit ourselves to living out our faith in tangible ways. Let us be agents of hope and healing in our communities, reaching out to those struggling and in need. Let us be beacons of light in a dark and uncertain world.

As we journey through this season of Advent, may we be reminded of God's great love for each of us. May we open our hearts to receive this love anew and share it with others. May we always remember that no matter our challenges, we are never alone, for God is always with us.

Let us pray:

God of hope, who brought love into this world,  
be the love that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought peace into this world,  
be the peace that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought joy into this world,  
be the joy that dwells between us.

God of hope, the rock we stand upon,  
be the center, the focus of our lives  
always, and particularly this Advent time.

Amen

In joyful hope,

Father Sebastian

## ADVENT WREATH

The Advent wreath is a centuries-old Christian tradition. Potentially overlooked by the candles it holds to light the way for the birth of Jesus, the Advent wreath itself symbolizes many themes and beliefs central to the Christian faith. In parishes, Advent wreaths are placed anywhere on the altar, on a side table, or even hung from the ceiling. In the home, you might place your Advent wreath on an entry or dining table or another location where you, your family, and your guests can enjoy the wreath during the Advent season.

## HISTORY OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The origin of the Advent wreath has been traced back to Germany, though the exact dates are unknown. Historians have suggested that pre-Christian Germanic peoples would light candles around wreaths in the dark winter months in anticipation of the warmer, lighter months in springtime. This tradition likely evolved into an "Advent wreath" at some point during the Middle Ages, transforming the pagan tradition into a Christian one. Rev. William Saunders explained that "By 1600, both Catholics and Lutherans had more formal practices surrounding the Advent wreath." Ultimately, the Advent wreath tradition spread beyond Germany and into other areas of the world, namely throughout the western Church.

## ADVENT WREATH MEANING

The circular shape of the Advent wreath symbolizes God's infinite love for us – it is never-ending, just like the true Light of the World, Jesus, who leads us into eternal life with Him. The materials of the Advent wreath similarly lead us to reflect on the everlasting nature of God; traditionally, Advent wreaths have been made of evergreen leaves, such as pine or fir, which maintain their green color beyond the season in which they are collected. Nowadays, there are many modern interpretations of Advent wreaths that still help us celebrate the traditional meaning of the wreath: preparing the way for the Light of the World, Jesus. Battery-operated/LED wreaths are a good example of this as they simulate the four candles but don't require lighting each week.

## ADVENT CANDLE

### WHAT DO THE FOUR CANDLES OF ADVENT SYMBOLIZE?

The four candles of Advent represent the four Sundays of Advent, and they respectively symbolize hope, peace, joy, and love. In some homes and parishes, people will also light a fifth candle on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day to represent the birth of Jesus; this candle, when added to the Advent wreath, is typically white and larger than the other candles and is placed in the center of the wreath.

## ADVENT CANDLE WEEKS, NAMES & COLORS

- Advent week 1 – Hope: Prophecy Candle (purple)
- Advent week 2 – Peace: Bethlehem Candle (purple)
- Advent week 3 – Joy: Shepherd's Candle (pink)
- Advent week 4 – Love: Angel's Candle (purple)

## PRAYER FOR LIGHTING ADVENT CANDLES – HENRI NOUWEN

Each person or family might approach lighting Advent candles in a different way, which is totally okay! Some families will let different members light a candle each week and say a prayer. What matters most is that the candles remind you of the overflowing hope, peace, joy, and love that the birth of Jesus means for each of us. If you're struggling to find the words for prayer, this Advent prayer from Fr. Henri J.M. Nouwen encapsulates what many of us feel and hope for during the Advent season:

Lord Jesus, Master of both light and darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our  
preparation for Christmas.  
We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear Your voice each day.  
We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.  
We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of Your Kingdom.  
We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of Your presence.  
We are Your people, walking in darkness yet seeking the light. To You, we say,  
"Come, Lord Jesus!"

**In case of an emergency and a priest is needed, please call:**

- **The Parish Office**  
(304) 425-3664
- **Bluefield Parish Office**  
(304) 327-5623
- **Kim Hickman**  
(304) 920-2440

**In case of illness:** Please call the parish office to let us know if you, a family member, or a parishioner is sick. We can place your name on the prayer list. If requested, Fr. Sebastian will arrange for distributing Holy Communion in the home.

**Nursing homes, rehabilitation centers and anyone who is hospitalized** are not permitted to contact the church. If someone you know is in the hospital, please call the church office.

**In case of serious or life threatening sickness or the actively dying:** The church should be contacted as soon as possible. People deserve the opportunity to confess their sins, profess their faith, be anointed, and receive Holy Communion – the foretaste and pledge of eternal life. PLEASE don't wait until after the person is unconscious or so sedated that he or she cannot communicate. It is imperative with current situations, that there be enough time for Fr. to go through the appropriate protocol to visit the actively dying.

**Please include the following in your Daily Prayers**

- |                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Catherine Belcher       | B.J. Asbury        |
| Ruth Boyd               | Linda Berghof      |
| Deloris Caccamo         | Lou Berentes       |
| Ron Ciccolini           | John Bowers        |
| Romulo DelaRosa         | John Caccamo       |
| Dr. David Garcia        | Rita Calhoun       |
| Dale & Mary Lu Geiger   | Christopher Castle |
| Angie Grbac             | Regina Church      |
| Cynthia & Gordon Harmon | Judy Clayton       |
| Cyndi Jones             | Linda Cunningham   |
| Nancy Larkin            | Nancy Dickerson    |
| Valarie Laxton          | Russell Edmunds    |
| Christina Laxton        | Kimiko Fetto       |
| Robert Laxton           | Kyle Geiger        |
| Kaitlyn Laxton          | Mike Goff          |
| Keith Laxton            | Patricia Gupton    |
| Jim Lintz               | Myles Harris       |
| Jim & Diane Luciano     | Velma Hartwell     |
| Tanya Marx              | Wylie Rae Henson   |
| Jaelynn Mendoza         | Brenda Ivelise     |
| Annette Morgan          | Ruby Jones         |
| Dr. Jun Neri            | Langan Family      |
| Patricia Nester         | Lucas Llado        |
| Alan Rieger             | Richard Lockhart   |
| Vivian Romano           | Sandy Morefield    |
| Deborah Saffell         | Tina Mullins       |
| Gareth Settle           | Wayne Mullins      |
| Felomina Yongque        | Carolyn Munther    |
| Carrie Yurkovich        | Susan Nelson       |
|                         | Rex Neely          |
|                         | Agnes Sedi         |
|                         | Sherry Sisk        |
|                         | Bryan Staten       |
|                         | Agnes Tokarski     |
|                         | Jamie Willoughby   |
|                         | Richard Wentz      |
|                         | Brent Younts ianna |

**Collections**

	weekend Nov 25-26	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Envelopes	2,557.00	151,585.52	154,000.00
Loose Offertory	331.00	9,815.55	4,500.00
Memorial Flowers	70.00	1,131.00	1,000.00
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$ 2,958.00</b>	<b>\$162,532.07</b>	<b>\$ 159,500.00</b>
Tender Mercies	100.00	2,030.00	2,250.00
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>4pm: 40</b>	<b>11am: 115</b>	



**Thank You for Your Donations**

Raised \$41,105  
38 Gifts  
211 % of Goal

**December Ministry Schedule**

DATE	Lector	Extraordinary Minister	Greeter	Video	Altar Server	Counter
<b>December 2</b> <b>4 pm</b>	B. Schumacher	K. Bailey V. Manley T. Settle	C. Prox	N/A	T. Byron	S. Pace
<b>3</b> <b>11 am</b>	Z. Romano	K. Suehs Y. Suehs B. Barrett	Hillyer's	Picknally	B. Fanning G. Kaklis	
<b>9</b> <b>4pm</b>	G. Saffell	M. Marks T. Marks T. Byron	TBA	N/A	C. Pace	Cosgrove
<b>10</b> <b>11 am</b>	J. Cox	L. Wyatt G Richardson M. Cox	S. Neri A. Bisaha	Picknally	BJ Carter	
<b>16</b> <b>4pm</b>	J. Gaspersich	V. Manley K. Bailey C. Pace	M. Gaspersich	N/A	L. Kessinger	Choate
<b>17</b> <b>11 am</b>	A. Dumapit	A. Heltzel W. Picknally R. Modena	J. Hickman	K. Hickman	Jos Flanigan Jac Flanigan	