



## Once Upon a Mountaintop

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

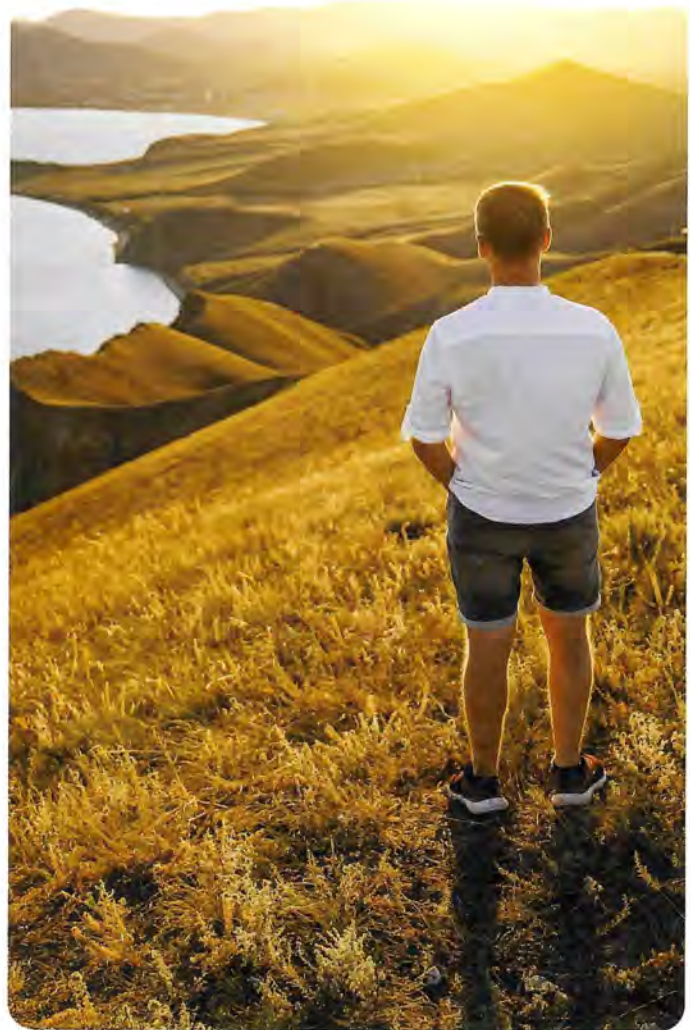
**M**any people, perhaps most people, have had a religious experience of some sort, something akin to that of Peter, James, and John atop the mountain with Jesus. It may or may not have included hearing a voice. Most often it is a deep sense of God's presence beyond anything they have ever known, like a profound realization of what life is about or how it is laced through and through with God. It usually occurs as we are idle, not doing anything in particular, and often when we are younger, yet it is also something that changes our understanding of what life and God are about.

Most people do not talk about such experiences for any number of reasons, partly because there do not seem to be words to describe such a moment in a way anyone would understand, like trying to describe falling in love. Partly because if we tried, we fear others would think us strange. And partly because we can find ourselves wondering whether it was real or simply our imagination. Yet always we remember the moment and know it to be true.

One additional characteristic of such moments is that they tend to take us to a new place in life, as with Abram in the first reading. For him it was to pack up his life and move. More likely for us it is to a life of service, caring, and treasuring all of life now in a new way. ●

Then from the cloud came a voice that said,  
"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am  
well pleased; listen to him."

MATTHEW 17:5B



### Reflect

*If you've had a religious experience,  
is there someone you can talk to about  
how it changed your faith?*

# Sacred Heart Catholic Church

The Power of God

*Based on Psalm 33*

God our Father, I  
praise and thank you.  
You provide justice  
and mercy for the  
whole world.  
You make me want  
to sing and dance for  
joy.

You spoke the whole  
world into being.  
You imagined me  
and now I am alive.

You are so far be-  
yond me.  
I can't understand  
your power.  
All that you say is  
true and enduring.  
The things people do  
don't last.

You are above me in  
the heavens.  
You can see all of the  
earth.  
Yet you know me  
and care about me.

No powerful person  
can save me.  
No possession can  
keep me safe.  
Only You can be my  
salvation.  
You alone deliver me.

I will be patient  
when you don't  
seem near.  
I know you always  
come and defend  
me.  
Who else can I trust  
in?  
You are the only one  
who brings me hope  
and mercy.

Amen.

Young-catholics.com

Fr. Sebastian Devasya, Pastor  
P.O. Box 1310  
507 Harrison St.  
Princeton, WV 24740-1310  
304-425-3664

MARCH 4 & 5, 2023

**CONFESSION: SATURDAY 3:00 - 3:30 AND BY APPOINTMENT ONLY,  
PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE  
SUNDAY MASS IS AVAILABLE ON LIVESTREAM  
[www.facebook.com/sacredheartprinceton](https://www.facebook.com/sacredheartprinceton)  
[@shprinceton](https://www.instagram.com/shprinceton) • Instagram photos and videos  
Office Hours: Mon - Thu 9 am - 2 pm**

## Mass Intentions:

Saturday, March 4, 4pm - † **Charley Manley** by Virginia Manley  
Sunday, March 5, 11am - † **Estelle Reed Santon** by Jacob Santon  
Tuesday, March 7, 6pm - † **Deceased Members of Sacred Heart**  
Thursday, March 9, Noon - † **Catherine Kaminski** by Joseph Kaminski  
Saturday, March 11, 4pm - † **B. Santon** by Jacob Santon  
Sunday, March 12, 11am - **Tristen Wyatt (Birthday)** by Laura & Rick Wyatt

## Upcoming Church Events

Fri, Mar 3, Noon, Stations of the Cross, Benediction - ( Men's Group)  
Fri, Mar 10, 7 pm, Silhouette Stations of the Cross by our Youth  
Sun, Mar 12, 9:30 am, Faith Formation Pancake Breakfast by Knights of Columbus  
Tue, Mar 14, 6:45 pm Parish Council  
Fri, Mar 17, Noon, Stations of the Cross, Holy Communion - (Altar Society & Women's Group)  
Fri, Mar 17, St. Patrick's Day  
Wed, Mar 22, 6 pm, CSA with Bishop Brennan  
Fri, Mar 24, Noon, Stations of the Cross, Holy Communion - (Pastoral Council)  
Fri, Mar 31, Noon, Stations of the Cross, Holy Communion - (Anchor Prayer Group)  
Sun, Apr 9, Easter

## Church Staff

**Pastor**-Fr. Sebastian Devasya  
[sdevasya@dwc.org](mailto:sdevasya@dwc.org)

**Office Manager**: Kim Hickman  
[khickman@sacredheartprinceton.org](mailto:khickman@sacredheartprinceton.org)

**Secretary**: Laura Wyatt  
[lw Wyatt@sacredheartprinceton.org](mailto:lw Wyatt@sacredheartprinceton.org)

**Faith Formation**: Laura Wyatt  
[lw Wyatt@sacredheartprinceton.org](mailto:lw Wyatt@sacredheartprinceton.org)

**Youth Ministry**: Lorin Albin  
[lorin@sacredheartprinceton.org](mailto:lorin@sacredheartprinceton.org)

**Newman Center**: Paul Krause  
[pkrause@dwc.org](mailto:pkrause@dwc.org)

# Second Sunday of Lent



Dear loving brothers and sisters in Christ,

The readings for the 2nd Sunday of Lent focus on our personal encounter with God. In the first reading, we hear how Abraham encountered God and trusted in the call. Abraham is called by God to leave his home and kin and go to an unknown land. In an act of great trust, he obeys. He does not know what lies ahead, but he walks in faith. We must also walk in faith, especially during our Lenten journey.

In the second reading Paul writes a letter to Timothy from jail, extending the challenge “bear your hardship for the Gospel.” The second reading reminds us that God is always present in our lives, giving us strength.

In our gospel this Sunday, Jesus brings his disciples away from the noise and business of everyday life and takes them up a mountain to pray. The gospel recounts the story of the Transfiguration, when Peter, James, and John encountered Jesus in all of his glory. They experience the divine presence in the transformed Jesus Christ. Jesus is changed in a very dramatic way; he is transformed beyond all recognition. *His face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light.* Imagine the surprise and shock of those who were with Jesus.

As we continue our Lenten journey, Jesus continues his own journey towards Jerusalem. He knows he will be betrayed, denied, condemned and crucified. Perhaps he feels and senses the disciples fear and anxiety and so wants to reassure them. Jesus gives them a glimpse of things to come; he is revealed to them in all his glory. Maybe this brief glimpse of Jesus in all his glory is also meant for us. Like many who have gone before us, we too experience fear, doubt and even a lack of faith. I believe each of us need to be encouraged and strengthened by Jesus, especially as we continue our Lenten journey. Lent is challenging! Many of us may be tempted to give up and give in. Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus seeing him as changed and transformed. His holy transformation gives us great hope as we see him in the future that is promised to us.

In conclusion, these readings remind us of our call to holiness, that God keeps his promises, that God is always present in our lives, that we will encounter hardships, and to trust in God!

This week, let us ponder these questions:

- Do I hear God's call in my life and am I willing to listen to Him?
- Do I recognize Jesus when I encounter him on a daily basis?
- Can I think of a significant event where I encountered the divine presence?
- What obstacles might prevent you from receiving more from Jesus? Lack of time? Fear? My personal priorities?

***Let us pray:***

*Lord, grant us simplicity of faith and a generosity of service that gives without counting cost. A life overflowing with Grace poured out from the One who gave everything*

*that we might show the power of love to a broken world and share the truth from a living Word. Lord, grant us simplicity of faith and a yearning to share it. Amen.*

Fr. Sebastian

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Feb 24 – Noon - Stations of the Cross, Holy Communion – (Knights of Columbus)  
 March 3 – Noon - Mass, Stations of the Cross, Benediction - (Men's Group)  
 March 10 – Silhouette Stations (Youth) - 7 pm  
 March 17 – Noon - Stations of the Cross, Holy Communion - (Altar Society & Woman's Group)  
 March 24 – Noon - Stations of the Cross, Holy Communion - Pastoral Council  
 Mar 31- Noon - Stations of the Cross, Holy Communion - (Anchor Prayer Group)

## LENT TAIZE PRAYER - Postponed



### SILHOUETTE STATIONS OF THE CROSS



A SPECIAL PRESENTATION OF  
 SILHOUETTE STATIONS OF THE CROSS  
 FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2023 AT 7:00 PM  
 BY OUR YOUTH



## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

"This is my beloved  
 Son, with whom I am  
 well pleased; listen  
 to him." - Mt 17:5b



## Second Sunday of Lent: Clothed in Light



**THE GRACE I SEEK:** to believe that Jesus will transform my whole being in himself

**IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN.**

*Jesus, the Lord of Life, has given himself to you in the Eucharist. He is gazing upon you, his beloved child, with great love at this very moment. Pause for a few moments and wonder at his gift for you. Allow yourself to rest in his loving gaze.*

*Thank Jesus for the gift of himself in the Eucharist.*

**ASK FOR THE GRACE:** Jesus, help me to trust you to envelop me daily with your light and grace.

**SCRIPTURE MEDITATION** — Read slowly, 3-4 times. Allow the words of Scripture to wash over your mind and heart. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you through this passage.

**"The LORD said to Abram: 'Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to a land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.'" (Genesis 12:1-2)**

**REFLECTION QUESTION** — Allow yourself to sit with these questions for a while, being attentive to how the Lord is speaking in your heart.

As you continue this journey of Lent, how has the Lord revealed his blessings to you? Recall concrete examples of the physical and spiritual blessings he has showered upon you. How do these blessings transform your heart so that you are a blessing to others?

**SCRIPTURE MEDITATION** — Read slowly, 3-4 times. Again, allow the words of Scripture to wash over your mind and heart. Let the Holy Spirit speak to you through this passage.

**"Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. [...] Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, 'Lord, it is good that we are here.'" (Matthew 17:1-2, 4)**

**REFLECTION QUESTION** — Allow yourself to sit with these questions for a while, being attentive to how the Lord is speaking in your heart.

The Lord leads us to a place of intimacy with himself, and in that intimacy he transforms us in his light and goodness. Gazing upon the Eucharist, ask Jesus to lead you to intimacy with his heart. Rest in that heart, and say with the disciples, "Lord, it is good that I am here."

*Remain in silence with the Lord. Allow him to speak in the silence, in your heart. Receive his presence. If it helps, write down what you sense the Lord communicating to you during this time of prayer.*

**CLOSING PRAYER** — O God, who have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word, that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. (Collect, Second Sunday of Lent)

**SUNDAY MASS CONNECTION** — At every Mass, Jesus offers himself to the Father for us. We can always join our own offerings with Jesus at Mass. This Sunday, offer your longing to be clothed in Christ so that you become a blessing to others, just like Jesus.


Please be sure to register if you are planning to attend. You can register via the QR Code on the flyer. If you need help contact the church office

*Join Us in Celebrating*  
the Success of the 2022 Catholic Sharing Appeal  
with Bishop Mark E. Brennan

**Tuesday, February 28, 2023**  
St. Francis de Sales Parish, Morgantown


**Thursday, March 2, 2023**  
St. Francis Xavier Parish, Parkersburg


**Monday, March 6, 2023**  
St. Leo Parish, Inwood

 **Wednesday, March 22, 2023**  
Sacred Heart Parish, Princeton

**Tuesday, March 28, 2023**  
St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Wheeling

Receptions begin at 6PM.  
Please RSVP using the QR code or by contacting  
Cayla Morando at [cmorando@dwc.org](mailto:cmorando@dwc.org).

 Scan using your smart phone  
[dwc.org/CSA](http://dwc.org/CSA)

 CATHOLIC SHARING APPEAL

The Diocese encourages reporting to the appropriate civil authorities first and foremost as well as to the appropriate church authorities. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, please contact one of the Bishop's designees at 304-233-0880. The proper extensions are listed below.

- Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263
- Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353
- Rev. Dennis Schuelkens, ext. 270

## VIRTUS

### Sacred Heart &

#### The Diocese of Wheeling Charleston

are committed to providing a culture of safety, especially for our children. A significant way we achieve this goal is through the Safe Environment process for employees and volunteers. Anyone who volunteers directly or indirectly with children and/or vulnerable adults must comply with the following requirements: background check, completion of awareness training, and acknowledgement of our Sex Abuse policy and related reporting Requirements and Code of Conduct documents.

**WHO:** Faith Formation teachers, Lectors, Eucharistic ministers, Hospitality, Altar Servers, Sacristans, Choir, Food servers and many more! Email notifications are going out now.

*Please follow the directions sent to you.*

***If you help out at Sacred Heart, you should be VIRTUS trained!***

#### HOW TO BECOME TRAINED:

Log on to [www.virtusonline.org](http://www.virtusonline.org)

**REMINDER:** New Background checks need to be done every three (3) years! Log on to do yours.

*Call the Church office for more info!*

# Religious Education



## Schedule:

### Faith Formation

**Mar 5 - Virtus Training**

**Mar 12, 19, 26**

### Youth Sunday:

**Mar 19**

**Apr 16**

### Youth Ministry:

**Mar 10 @ 7 pm**

**Stations of the Cross**

## Faith Formation:

**K-2**

### Lesson Theme:

God tells us to listen to Jesus .

**Word of the Week:**  
Respect

**Grades: 3-6**

### Lesson Theme:

We share our visions.

**Word of the Week:**  
Transfiguration

## Why Do We Give Alms?

Charitable giving is a very ancient practice; almsgiving was normative long before the time of Jesus. The Lenten call to almsgiving means making the needs of other people our own. One of the central lessons of the cross is compassion; the heavy

burdens we carry help us to appreciate the suffering in others. Sharing our material goods is often just the beginning of real Christian giving. We are also called to share our time tending to people in need.

[Why we pray, fast and give alms during Lent - Teaching Catholic Kids](#)

# Youth Ministry

**Come spend time with your peers and have some fun?  
Please join us at:**

Youth Group Lesson on Quiet  
Time: Date: TBD  
Youth Group Room

St. Patrick's Day Youth Night:  
Date: TBD  
Youth Group Room

Dinner /lunch will be provided

POC is Laura Wyatt at  
304-425-3664 or  
[lwyatt@sacredheartprinceton.org](mailto:lwyatt@sacredheartprinceton.org)

## National Catholic Youth Conference

Nov 16-18 in  
Indianapolis, IN

It is a three day experience of prayer, community, evangelization, catechesis, serve and empowerment for Catholic teenagers.

If you are a teen between the ages of 14-18 (high school) and would like to attend this conference contact: Laura Wyatt at 304-325-3664 or

[lwyatt@sacredheartprinceton.org](mailto:lwyatt@sacredheartprinceton.org)

## Camp Carlo

**Huttonsville, West Virginia  
June 25 – July 29, 2023**

This camp is open to students in grades 3 through 12. The rate is \$325.00 per child with scholarships available. Early Bird Special Rate of \$275 applicable through June 1, 2023. There are 5 one-week camps from which to choose. Please contact Camp Carlo Director, Deacon Raymond Godwin at [rgodwin@frontiernet.net](mailto:rgodwin@frontiernet.net) or Camp Carlo Assistant Director, Maggie Moran at [mmoran@dwc.org](mailto:mmoran@dwc.org) for more information.

# Adult Faith Formation

## Women's Group

Thursdays at 10:15 am  
in the Conference  
Room

## Men's Group

First and Third  
Thursday at 10 am in  
the Narthex

## Book Study

March 8, at 6 pm In  
the Conference Room

## This Week on Formed

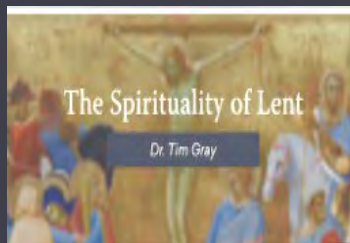
[formed.org/signup](https://formed.org/signup)



**The Story of Saint Perpetua**  
Watch this inspiring animated movie about the life of Saint Perpetua. Born from a noble Roman family, she converts to Christianity despite a new decree prohibiting new conversions in the Roman Empire. Ultimately, she gives her life for Christ.

<https://watch.formed.org/videos/the-story-of-saint-perpetua>

## “Formed” for Kids

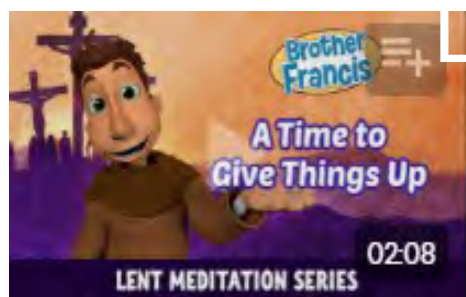


### The Spirituality of Lent

Looking to take Lent more seriously this year? Join Tim Gray for ideas for a Lenten



The **Cat.Chat** Family teaches your children the most important lessons on the Catholic Faith with catchy songs, jokes, and even juggling and unicycling adventures. Moses the family cat will entertain viewers to no end in the midst of learning about their exciting Catholic



### [Lent with Brother Francis: Episode 2 - A Time to Give Things Up](#)



Have you ever wanted to live more liturgically but not known how? We want to help all families by providing these discussions on liturgical living during Lent to be a resource for the Domestic Church—the home. We pray that these discussions bless you and



#### Who we Serve

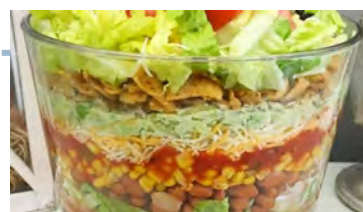
Our Homebound Ministry brings the Eucharist to our parish members and other Catholics who are unable to join our community at Sunday Mass. Many of those we visit are parishioners who are homebound for any number of reasons. Our homebound visits include those in local assisted living facilities, residential care, and rehabilitation facilities within our parish boundaries. These people are our family members, friends, and neighbors. The Ministry to the Sick & Homebound is committed to bringing the most holy Eucharist to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

#### Let us know about a homebound parishioner

Is someone you know a homebound Catholic who would like to receive Eucharist? Let us know by contacting Gina Boggess at 304-920-7047.

#### Become a Minister to the Homebound:

Is God calling you to bring Christ in the Eucharist to those unable to join us for Sunday Mass? Homebound Ministers receive Initial Training and Ongoing Support and are commissioned as Eucharistic Ministers in order to perform this important and rewarding service to others. If you are interested in the Ministry or just want to know more please contact Gina Boggess or the parish office.



## Taco Salad With Fritos

### Ingredients

- 1 Fritos original corn chips bag 10.5 oz
- 6 cups romaine lettuce, washed and chopped
- 2 1/2 cups Mexican blend shredded cheese
- 1 tomato, diced
- 1/2 cup red onion, iced
- 16 oz can pinto beans, rinsed and drained
- 1/2 cup black olives, sliced
- 1 cup salsa
- 1 can southwest corn 15.25 oz

### Guacamole Ingredients:

- 2 ripe avocados
- 1/2 cup plain Greek yogurt
- 2 Tbsp lime juice
- 2 Tbsp tomatoes, diced
- 2 Tbsp red onions, diced
- 1/4-1/2 tsp salt (to taste)

### Instructions

1. Slice your avocados in half and remove the pits and skins. In a bowl, mash your avocados with a potato masher.
2. Stir in your Greek yogurt, tomatoes, red onions, lime juice, and salt, and set the guacamole aside.
3. Using clean hands, crush half your bag of Fritos chips and place them into the bottom on your trifle dish.
4. Spread 3 cups of your romaine lettuce on top of your Frito chips layer. Top your lettuce with the pinto beans.
5. Spread your corn out evenly on top of that. Pour your salsa on top of your corn.
6. Add 2 cups of your shredded cheese on top of your salsa.



Second Sunday of Lent  
Music for March 5, 2023

Mass of Remembrance  
Mass Readings on pg. 211  
Word & Eucharist

Entrance: G877  
“How Good, Lord, to Be Here!”

Responsorial Psalm: G33  
Let Your Mercy Be On  
(vs. refrain 1)

Presentation of Gifts: G593  
“I want to Walk as a Child of  
the Light”

Communion: G590  
“Christ, Be Our Light”

Closing Hymn: G483  
“Forty Days and Forty Nights”

## Collection

	weekend Feb 25-26	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Envelopes	2,411.00	28,401.16	26,000.00
Loose Offertory	33.00	676.40	700.00
Maintenance	27.00	517.00	0.00
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$ 2,471.00</b>	<b>\$ 29,594.56</b>	<b>\$ 26,700.00</b>
Dioc: Catholic Relief Services	762.00	1,442.00	0.00
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>4pm: 38</b>	<b>11am: 110</b>	
<b>Ash Wed Attendance:</b>	<b>noon: 86</b>	<b>6:30p: 104</b>	

### Second Collection: Diocesan Priests' Retirement Fund March 12, 2023

– provides the support for retirement benefits, medical expenses, assisting in the cost of nursing homes stays, and group living expenses for the diocesan priests who have served the people of our diocese as their vocation in life.

## Parish Council

Deb LaMothe (Chair)	Vickie Blankenship
Harold Cofer	Gerry Cosgrove
Mike Flanigan	Renee Green
Anthony Heltzel	Zack Romano
Santina St. John	
Ad Hoc:	Gina Boggess
Kim Hickman	Laura Wyatt
Susie Pace	

## Finance Council

Charlie Pace (Chair)	Gina Boggess
Richard Flanigan	Kevin Garrett
Shelby Neri	Gene Richardson
Frank Sinicrope	Fred St. John
Ad Hoc:	Kim Hickman

## March Ministry Schedule

DATE	Lector	Extraordinary Minister	Greeter	Video	Sacristan	Altar Server	Counter
3/4 4p	M. Gaspersich	K. Bailey	J. Gaspersich	N/A	T. Byron	C. Pace	S. Pace
3/5 11a	M. Flanigan	G. Richardson	K. Hickman	Picknally	M. Shay	M. Shay	
3/11 4p	B. Schumacher	C. Pace	S. Pace	n/a	T. Byron	T. Byron	J. Cosgrove
3/12 11a	G. Boggess	H. Cofer	Blankenship	Picknally	D. Richardson	D. Richardson	
3/18 4 p	M. Tinio	V. Manley	M. Gaspersich	n/a	T. Byron	T. Byron	J. Choate
3/19 11a	YOUTH	W. Picknally	YOUTH	T. Wyatt	D. Richardson	YOUTH	
3/25 4 p	M. Bacho	K. Bailey	F. Bacho	n/a	T. Byron	C. Pace	T. Settle
3/26 11a	G. Saffell	R. Modena	S. Neri	Picknally	D. Richardson	D. Richardson	

## Please include the following in your Daily Prayers

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### Parishioners:

Catherine Belcher  
Ruth Boyd  
Deloris Caccamo  
Ron Ciccolini  
Romulo DelaRosa  
Dale & Mary Lu Geiger  
Angie Grbac  
Cynthia & Gordon Harmon  
Cyndi Jones  
Nancy Larkin

Valarie Laxton  
Christina Laxton  
Robert Laxton  
Kaitlyn Laxton  
Keith Laxton  
Jim Lintz  
Jim & Diane Luciano  
Fr. Greg Lyttle  
Jaelynn Mendoza  
Annette Morgan

Dr. Jun Neri  
Patricia Nester  
Esther Piconi  
Alan Rieger  
Deborah Saffell  
Jacob Santon  
Gareth Settle  
Felomina Yongque  
Carrie Yurkovich  
Jane Walthall



## Please include the following in your Daily Prayers

---

Linda Berghof (mother of Jackie Mercado)  
Mary Berentes,  
Lou Berentes (friend of Monica Mills)  
John Bowers  
John Caccamo (brother of Pat)  
Rita Calhoun (Aunt of Tanya Marx)  
Irene Charney  
Regina Church (friend of Monica Mills)  
Judy Clayton (sister of Loretta Lintz)  
Matthew Cosgrove (Jim Cosgroves nephew)  
Linda Cunningham  
Rachel Denton  
Kimiko Fetto (friend of Bill Picknally)  
David Frei & Mary Piper (son-in-law & daughter of Carrie Yurkovich)  
Kyle Geiger  
Mike Goff  
Myles Harris  
Velma Hartwell  
Wylie Rae Henson (Kay Bailey's granddaughter)

Brenda Ivelise  
Ruby Jones (Aunt of Rachel Colosi)  
Lucas Llado (grandson of Maria Franco)  
Richard Lockhart  
John Mills (brother of Gary Mills)  
Sandy Morefield (friend of Gaspersich family)  
Tina Mullins (friend of Tanya Marx)  
Wayne Mullins (brother of Delores Caccamo)  
Carolyn Munther (mother of Lisa Black)  
Susan Nelson (Bill Picknally's daughter),  
Rex Neely  
Allan Perry  
Agnes Sedi  
Sherry Sisk  
Bryan Staten  
Agnes Tokarski (Bill Picknally's sister)  
Jamie Willoughby (niece of Sharon Buttaci)  
Richard Wentz (brother in law of Rick & Laura Wyatt)

### 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.

# Dear Padre,

## *What is the value of lighting a candle in church?*

Lighting candles is one of many customs that can be found in most of the world's religions. Lit candles, in church or at home, in front of a picture or statue of a favorite saint, serve a symbolic function. The light of the candle represents our desire that our prayer may be constant, as St. Paul urged (1 Thessalonians 5:17). The candle burns while we go about our daily tasks, symbolizing our desire to be at prayer with God. Similarly, Tibetan Buddhists spin prayer wheels and believe that as long as the wheels spin, a prayer is offered. Candles give light and banish the darkness. For Catholics they symbolize the light of Christ, by whose death and resurrection we are saved.

Lighting a candle isn't a required act. You can pray without lighting candles, without statues, without anything but your faith in God. However, we Catholics love our symbols. We like to engage all of our senses in our prayer experience: beautiful churches, colored light, incense, great music and, yes, candles.

One extreme position to avoid is lighting a candle hoping it will cause something else to happen, like the sudden cure of a loved one or relief from financial ruin. We are to avoid all appearance of using candles as if they have an untapped, magical power. Nevertheless, lighting a candle as a part of our prayer is a comforting custom and most things (and people?) look lovelier by candlelight. ●

**Fr. Rick Potts, CSsR / DearPadre.org**



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## **Do you have a question for the Padre?**

Go to **DearPadre.org** to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
March 6	March 7	March 8	March 9	March 10	March 11	March 12
<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Third Sunday of Lent</i>
Dn 9:4b-10	Is 1:10, 16-20	Jer 18:18-20	Jer 17:5-10	Gn 37:3-4,	Mi 7:14-15,	Ex 17:3-7
Lk 6:36-38	Mt 23:1-12	Mt 20:17-28	Lk 16:19-31	12-13a, 17-28	18-20	Rom 5:1-2, 5-8
				Mt 21:33-43,	Lk 15:1-3,	Jn 4:5-42
				45-46	11-32	



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## **A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS**

***Do not be afraid to let yourself be guided by the Holy Spirit. Holiness does not make you less human, since it is an encounter between your weakness and the power of God's grace. For in the words of León Bloy,... "The only great tragedy in life is not to become a saint."***

**GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE (ON THE CALL TO HOLINESS IN TODAY'S WORLD), MARCH 19, 2018**