

# Catholic Parishes of St. Anthony and Our Lady of the Hills

December 31, 2023

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Issue No. 375



St. Anthony Catholic Church  
1000 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Charleston, WV 25302  
[www.stanthonywv.com](http://www.stanthonywv.com)

Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/stanthonywestvirginia](http://www.facebook.com/stanthonywestvirginia)

## General Directory

### Pastor

**Fr. Thomas Kalapurackal**  
Email: [tkalapurackal@dwc.org](mailto:tkalapurackal@dwc.org)

**Fr. Charles Anemelu**  
(Priest in Residence)

**Deacon David Wuletich**  
Email: [davidwuletich@gmail.com](mailto:davidwuletich@gmail.com)  
Phone: 304-345-9567

### Office

1000 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Charleston, WV 25302  
Email: [secretary@stanthonywv.com](mailto:secretary@stanthonywv.com) Phone: 304-342-2716

### Office Hours:

Monday-Tuesday-Thursday-Friday from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm; Closed Wednesday and holidays.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation:

St Anthony: Saturday 4:15 p.m.—4:45 p.m. Our Lady of the Hills: Tuesday 5:00 p.m.—5:15 p.m.



Our Lady of the Hills Catholic Church  
100 Jackson Drive  
Elkview, WV 25071  
[www.ourladyofthehills.com](http://www.ourladyofthehills.com)

Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/ourladyofthehillswv](http://www.facebook.com/ourladyofthehillswv)

## From the Pastor's Desk



## New Year's Prayer

"God, thank you for a new year. May everyone in our family be willing to begin anew with a clean slate. We know that you are always ready to forgive us. Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another.

As we begin a new year, remind us of our truest values and our deepest desires. Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what you want us to do. Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time."

"New Year's Prayer." *Loyola Press.*, <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/family/holidays-and-special-occasions/other-special-occasions/family-new-years-prayer/>. Accessed 26 December 2023.

**Wishing you, your family,  
and your friends a very  
Happy New Year!**

**Thank  
You!**

I would like to thank everyone for your warm wishes and gifts this Christmas.



## Mass Schedule December 30— January 7

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Saturday 12/30:<br><small>The Holy Family</small>      | SA Mass 5:00 p.m.<br>People of the Parish   |
| Sunday 12/31:<br><small>The Holy Family</small>        | OLH Mass 8:30 a.m.<br>People of the Parish<br><br>SA Mass 10:30 a.m.<br>Roger & Matt Tyler (M. Tyler)         |
| Monday 01/01:<br><small>Solemnity of Mary</small>      | SA Mass 10:30 a.m.<br>People of the Parish  |
| Tuesday 01/02:   | OLH No Mass   |
| Wednesday 01/03:                                       | SA Mass 9:00 a.m.<br>Thanksgiving to St. Anthony (D. Wuletich)  |
| Thursday 01/04:  | SA Mass 9:00 a.m.   |
| Friday 01/05:  | SA Mass 9:00 a.m.   |
| Saturday 01/06:<br><small>Epiphany of the Lord</small> | SA Mass 5:00 p.m.<br>People of the Parish   |
| Sunday 01/07:<br><small>Epiphany of the Lord</small>   | OLH Mass 8:30 a.m.<br>People of the Parish<br><br>SA Mass 10:30 a.m.<br>†Frank Nogoda & Amelia Gould Families |

**Mass Intentions**—In accordance with the guidelines from the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, Mass stipends are deposited in a separate checking account. **If you are writing a check, please make it payable to St. Anthony Mass Account.**

The current suggested level of giving is **\$20 for a weekend Mass or \$10 for a daily Mass.** Any offering, however, is most welcome, and, if you do not have funds to offer, you are encouraged to request your Mass intention.

**Mass Intention requests are scheduled in the order they are received.**

### Prayer List for the Sick & Homebound

**St. Anthony**—Michael McCallister, Robin Holly, Michael Bee, Chris Newman, David Wuletich, Linda Davis, Ursula Paezold, Christine Hansbarger, Barbara Williams, Mary Wuletich, Opal Potesta

**Our Lady of the Hills**—Violet Edwards, Ursula Paezold, Bill & Nancy Audia, Paul Stodola, Patti Stodola, Judy Killough & Family, The Dorseys.

**Please call Father Thomas Kalapurackal at 304-342-2716, if you would like a visit and to receive communion or a home blessing.**

### Stewardship Report for December 23 & 24, 2023

#### St. Anthony

Attendance Saturday—33 Sunday—38

#### Our Lady of the Hills

|                                  |           |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Offertory                        | \$ 462.13 |
| Christmas                        | 25.00     |
| Retirement Fund for Religious    | 25.00     |
| Catholic Charities West Virginia | 50.00     |

Attendance Sunday—40

### Stewardship Report for December 24 & 25, 2023

#### St. Anthony

Attendance Christmas Eve—120 Christmas Day—33

#### Our Lady of the Hills

|                                  |           |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Christmas                        | \$ 702.00 |
| Catholic Charities West Virginia | 695.00    |
| Offertory                        | 40.00     |

Attendance Christmas Eve—47

**Thank you for your generosity. May God bless you!**

*"Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do."*

—Pope John XXIII



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](http://www.dwc.org) under "Accountability" for additional information and reporting methods.

## Music for Liturgy



|                     |                                       |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Entrance:</b>    | Angels We Have Heard on High — #87    |
| <b>Gloria:</b>      | Mass of Christ the Savior — #915      |
| <b>Offertory:</b>   | Away in a Manger — #76                |
| <b>Communion:</b>   | The Snow Lay on the Ground— #91       |
| <b>Recessional:</b> | Good Christian Friends, Rejoice — #90 |



## December Birthdays

- 1 David Wuletich
- 8 Christian Magaña
- 8 Carter Wells
- 10 Marjorie Azevedo
- 12 Pat Booker
- 14 Terry Hess
- 17 Craig Arnold
- 21 Dottie Hess
- 24 Jansen Mosier
- 27 Tina Stodola
- 30 Sophia Arnold
- 30 Thurman Arnold
- 30 Nikki Bowling
- 30 Andrew Ferguson

**Please notify the office if your birthday is not listed or the date is incorrect.**

**Thank you!**

## Minister Schedule

|  | December 31, 2023      | January 7, 2024                 |
|--|------------------------|---------------------------------|
|  | <b>The Holy Family</b> | <b>The Epiphany of the Lord</b> |
| <b><u>St. Anthony</u></b><br><b>5:00 p.m. Mass</b> |                        |                                 |
| Lector:  | R. Stonestreet         | M. Doneghy                      |
| Eucharistic Minister:                              | J. Bowles & Volunteer  | J. Polak & D. Hess              |
| <b>10:30 a.m. Mass</b>                             |                        |                                 |
| Lector:  | B. Ashworh             | S. Kawash                       |
| Eucharistic Minister:                              | B. Morton & Volunteer  | B. Morton & S. Kawash           |
| Counters:  | K. Layne & S. Spencer  | C. Joseph & S. Bossie-Maddox    |
| <b><u>Our Lady of the Hills</u></b>                |                        |                                 |
| Lector:  | G. Kozera              | M. Swecker                      |
| Eucharistic Minister:                              | L. Kozera              | C. Lothes                       |

**Bulletin & Mass Announcements**—The deadline this week for bulletin announcements is **Wednesday at 5:00 p.m.** & for Mass announcements is **Friday at 9:00 a.m.** Thank you!



You are invited to Bible Study led by Deacon David on Thursdays at 2:00 p.m. in the SA Parish Center.



## Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God: January 1

Since the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God on January 1, 2024 falls on Monday this year, it is not observed as a Holy Day of Obligation. **Mass will be celebrated at St. Anthony at 10:30 a.m.**

## Important Announcements

- **The office will be closed on Monday, January 1, 2024.**
- **At Our Lady of the Hills, the 5:30 p.m. Mass on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, is cancelled.**

## Belated Congratulations to Father Thomas Kalapurackal



**On Tuesday, December 26, 2023, Father Thomas celebrated the 35th Anniversary of his Ordination.**

**Father Thomas, THANK YOU for your caring and devoted ministry to our parishes. May God bless you with many more years in His service.**

A reception to celebrate his anniversary will be held at St. Anthony following the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, January 7, 2024, in the St. Anthony Parish Center. Please plan to join us to commemorate this wonderful occasion with Father Thomas.

**Saint Anthony Food Bank Initiative**—During December, we will be collecting gift cards to support the new food bank program of Catholic Charities. This food bank will be run by the Catholic churches of the Kanawha Valley and will serve all those in need with an emphasis on helping our Catholic community. Gift cards can be any denomination and can be from Kroger, Piggly Wiggly, Walmart, Dollar General, etc. After purchasing a gift card, place it in the red envelope, write the amount of the gift card on the envelope, and place the envelope in a slot on the wall hanging in the back of the church.

### **The Favor of God Was upon Him**

**Meditation:** Do you know the favor of the Lord? After Jesus' birth, Mary fulfills the Jewish rite of purification after childbirth. Since she could not afford the customary offering of a lamb, she gives instead two pigeons as an offering of the poor. This rite, along with circumcision and the redemption of the first-born point to the fact that children are gifts from God. Jesus was born in an ordinary home where there were no luxuries. Like all godly parents, Mary and Joseph raised their son in the fear and wisdom of God. He, in turn, was obedient to them and grew in wisdom and grace. The Lord's favor is with those who listen to his word with trust and obedience. Do you know the joy of submission to God? And do you seek to pass on the faith and to help the young grow in wisdom and maturity?

#### ***The Holy Spirit reveals the presence of the Savior of the world***

What is the significance of Simeon's encounter with the baby Jesus and his mother in the temple? Simeon was a just and devout man who was very much in tune with the Holy Spirit. He believed that the Lord would return to his temple and renew his chosen people. The Holy Spirit also revealed to him that the Messiah and King of Israel would also bring salvation to the Gentile nations. When Joseph and Mary presented the baby Jesus in the temple, Simeon immediately recognized this humble child of Bethlehem as the fulfillment of all the messianic prophecies, hopes, and prayers. Inspired by the Holy Spirit he prophesied that Jesus was to be "a revealing light to the Gentiles". The Holy Spirit reveals the presence of the Lord to those who are receptive and eager to receive him. Do you recognize the indwelling presence of the Lord with you?

#### ***The 'new temple' of God's presence in the world***

Jesus is the new temple (John 1:14; 2:19-22). In the Old Testament God manifested his presence in the "pillar of cloud" by day and the "pillar of fire" by night as he led them through the wilderness. God's glory visibly came to dwell over the ark and the tabernacle (Exodus 40:34-38). When the first temple was built in Jerusalem God's glory came to rest there (1 Kings 8). After the first temple was destroyed, Ezekiel saw God's glory leave it (Ezekiel 10). But God promised one day to fill it with even greater glory (Haggai 2:1-9; Zechariah 8-9). That promise is fulfilled when the "King of Glory" himself comes to his temple (Psalm 24:7-10; Malachi 3:1). Through Jesus' coming in the flesh and through his saving death, resurrection, and ascension we are made living temples of his Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16-17). Ask the Lord to renew your faith in the indwelling presence of his Spirit within you. And give him thanks and praise for coming to make his home with you.

#### ***Mary receives both a crown of joy and a cross of sorrow***

Simeon blessed Mary and Joseph and he prophesied to Mary about the destiny of this child and the suffering she would undergo for his sake. There is a certain paradox for those blessed by the Lord. Mary was given the blessedness of being the mother of the Son of God. That blessedness also would become a sword which pierced her heart as her Son died upon the cross. She received both a crown of joy and a cross of sorrow. But her joy was not diminished by her sorrow because it was fueled by her faith, hope, and trust in God and his promises. Jesus promised his disciples that "no one will take your joy from you" (John 16:22). The Lord gives us a supernatural joy which enables us to bear any sorrow or pain and which neither life nor death can take away. Do you know the peace and joy of a life surrendered to God with faith and trust?

#### ***The Holy Spirit renews our hope in the promise of God***

Simeon was not alone in recognizing the Lord's presence in the temple. Anna, too, was filled with the Holy Spirit. She was found daily in the temple, attending to the Lord in prayer and speaking prophetically to others about God's promise to send a redeemer. Supernatural hope grows with prayer and age! Anna was pre-eminently a woman of great hope and expectation that God would fulfill all his promises. She is a model of godliness to all believers as we advance in age.

Advancing age and the disappointments of life can easily make us cynical and hopeless if we do not have our hope rightly placed. Anna's hope in God and his promises grew with age. She never ceased to worship God in faith and to pray with hope. Her hope and faith in God's promises fueled her indomitable zeal and fervor in prayer and service of God's people.

#### ***Our hope is anchored in God's everlasting kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy***

What do you hope for? The hope which God places in our heart is the desire for the kingdom of heaven and everlasting life and happiness with our heavenly Father. The Lord Jesus has won for us a kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17). The Holy Spirit gives hope to all who place their trust in the promises of God. God never fails because his promises are true and he is faithful. The hope which God places within us through the gift of the Spirit enables us to persevere with confident trust in God even in the face of trials, setbacks, and challenges that may come our way.

Is there anything holding you back from giving God your unqualified trust and submission to his will for your life? Allow the Lord Jesus to flood your heart with his peace, joy, and love. And offer to God everything you have and desire - your life, family, friends, health, honor, wealth, and future. If you seek his kingdom first he will give you everything you need to know, love, and serve him now and enjoy him forever.

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