

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

This Third Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudete Sunday. The term Gaudete, derived from Latin, means 'rejoice'. The Church invites us to rejoice in anticipation of the approaching Feast of Emmanuel.

In today's Gospel, Matthew 11:2-11, John the Baptist asks his disciples to find out if Jesus is truly the Promised One or if they should wait for someone else. Jesus answers, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them." With these words, Jesus shows that He is the Promised One who fulfills Isaiah's prophecy (Isaiah 35:5-6). Jesus also gently reminds John and others, "And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me," as John the Baptist faces a difficult time in prison. Jesus then reminds John of his mission, saying, "Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you." (Isaiah 40:3).

Let us rejoice, for Emmanuel came to us two thousand years ago and remains present with us today. As we prepare to celebrate His birth, may we entrust ourselves, our families, friends, and colleagues to God's saving grace. May God heal any blindness or weakness within our hearts, minds, and souls. May the light of the Star in the East guide us and draw us closer to Emmanuel. Together with our loved ones, may we join the Shepherds, the Magi, the Holy Angels, and people everywhere in joyfully proclaiming God's love and redemption on Emmanuel's birthday this year. Amen.



St. THOMAS CATHOLIC CHURCH Gassaway, West Virginia THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT—A

DECEMBER 14, 2025

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me."

As they were going off, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, "What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? Then what did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine clothing?"

Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces. Then why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you. Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."



Readings of the week:

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17 | Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13 | Genesis 49:2, 8-10 | Jeremiah 23:5-8 | Judges 13:2-7, 24-25 | Isaiah 7:10-14 | Isaiah 7:10-14 |
| Psalms 25:4-9 | Psalms 96:1-3 & 10-13 | Psalms 72:1-4, 7-8, 17 | Psalms 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 | Psalms 71:3-6, 16-17 | Psalms 24:1-6 | Psalms 24:1-6 Romans 1:1-7 |
| Matthew 21:23-27 | Matthew 18:12-14 | Matthew 1:1-17 | Matthew 1:18-25 | Luke 1:5-25 | Luke 1:26-38 | Matthew 1:18-24 |

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Congrats
Madilyn Grace Peters
 on receiving the
First Holy Communion
 today



HAPPY BIRTH DAY

Mary Hailer — Dec. 15

Special Contribution

We have special collection, today, to contribute to the **Retirement Fund for the Religious**.
 Thank you very much for your love and generosity to support this meaningful cause.

Christmas Gifts
 from
Appalachian Christmas Project

Special appreciation to **DIANE REINEKE STOUT**, Director Appalachian Project, together with all the **VOLUNTERS** and **BENEFACTORS** for your great dedication to bring the love, joy and hope of the Emmanuel by sharing Christmas gifts with the young in "Central and Southern WV, sites in OH, Ky VA and in Shelby, NC throughout the years.
 May God's abundant grace and blessings continue to pour upon you, your families and friends in this Holy Season of Advent and Christmas.



Sharing God's Blessings

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Date | Dec 6 + 7, 2025 |
| Collection | 240 & 1428 |
| Mass Attendance | 16 + 11 & 52 |
| Christmas Flower | 435 |

Thank you for your contribution

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 24, 2025
Christmas Eve Mass
 7:00 pm with Singing at 6:30 pm

Thursday, December 25, 2025
The Nativity of Our Lord
 Mass 11:00 am

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of the Lord

12/31/2025 5:00 pm Vigil Mass at Risen Lord
 1/01/2025 11:00 am Mass at St. Thomas

LITURGY SCHEDULE

| Date | Readers | Bring up the Offertory Gifts | Extraordinary Ministers |
|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| December 14 | Candy Teubert | Kathy & Marty Bronkhurst | Pat McPherson / Westley Carpenter |
| December 21 | Westley Carpenter | Jane & Ford Dever | Freddie Friend/ Jennifer Knowles |
| December 24 7pm Mass | Dot Shimko | Candy & Tom Teubert | Mac Bailes/ Pat McPherson |
| December 25 11am | Mac Bailes | Kari & Fred Friend | Candy & Tom Teubert |

Liturgy Schedule
RISEN LORD CHURCH
 SUNDAY MASS: 8:30am

Liturgy Schedule
ST. THOMAS PARISH
 ROSARY: Sunday 10:30a.m.

WEEKEND MASSES:
Sat: 4:00 p.m. (Sunday Vigil)
Sun: 11:00 a.m.

WEEKDAY: Tue & Wed: 4:00p.m.
Thu & Fri: 8:00a.m.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:
 Every Tuesday at 4:00p.m. prior to Mass

RECONCILIATION:

- Any time 30 minutes before or after daily Mass, After Sunday Mass
- Other days by appointment

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 14

Vocation Views:

'Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand.'

Be resolute in following the Lord, whether convenient or difficult.

DIVINE WORD MISSIONARIES & SISTER SERVANTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
 800-553-3321

St. Thomas Food Pantry Distribution

We will be open for Food Pantry recipients on **Wednesday, December 17, 2025** from Noon to 2:00 pm.

Please share the message with all who are in need.
THANK YOU





St. Thomas Food Pantry
Gassaway, West Virginia

**Thank You,
 Thank You !!!**

**to Benefactors & Volunteers
 for St. Thomas Food Pantry
 December 11, 2025:**

**Marian Agostino, Pat McPherson, Connie & John Moore,
 Colleen Mahon, Rose DeProspero, Theresa & Phil Peters,
 Scott Lazur, Toney Marcum, Lydia Bennett, Zeb Bennett,
 Vicki Bennett, Marty & Kathy Bronkhurst, Rick Allen,
 Tom & Candace Teubert, Kari Friend, Allison Evans,
 Maxine Taylor, Matthew Peters, Bethany Peters,
 Phil Peters II, Benjamin Peters.**

**to share the love and joy of the Emmanuel
 with 102 families and 15 Moms
 under the light-snow fall and some radiance of the sun.**

***May God's richest blessings and grace
 pour upon you, your families and friends.***



Thank You

Charleston Catholic School

**for sharing Christmas love, hope and joy with 340
 young people from 140 families in Clay County, WV**

12/06/2025

