

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

Today, we celebrate the Fourth and final Sunday of Advent. We are called to reflect on God’s merciful and amazing love, as well as the humility, trust, and obedience shown by Jesus, Mary and Joseph. In today’s Gospel, Matthew 1:18-24, St. Matthew tells us about the incarnation of the Son of God, Emmanuel, through the Holy Spirit. Jesus is the Son of God and is God himself. As St. John writes, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:1, 14). St. Paul also says in his Letter to the Philippians 2:6-8, “Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God, something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on the cross.”

Just as Jesus showed humility, trust and obedience, Mary also accepted God’s will for her, saying, “I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done according to your words” (Luke 1:38). In today’s Gospel passage, St. Joseph listens to the angel and welcomes Mary and Jesus into his life and home. Joseph, too, allowed God’s will to guide him.

As we reach the last Sunday of Advent and prepare to celebrate the birth of Emmanuel, let us use these days to thank and praise God for his merciful love in sending his Only Begotten Son into the world—not to condemn us, but to give us everlasting life (John 3:16). As we welcome Emmanuel into our hearts, our families, our nation and our world, let’s pray for the grace to grow in humility, trust, and obedience like Jesus, Mary and Joseph. May God’s will be shown through our words and actions each day. Amen.



ST. THOMAS CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gassaway, West Virginia
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT—A
DECEMBER 21, 2025

Gospel

Matthew 1:18-24

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."



All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

Readings of the week:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
2 Samuel 1:24-28	Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24	Isaiah 9:1-16	Isaiah 52:7-10	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59	1 John 1:1-4	Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
R. Ps. 1 Samuel 2:1-7	Psalms 25:4-5, 8-9	Psalms 96:1-3, 11-13 Titus 2:11-14	Psalms 98: 1-6 Hebrews 1:1-6	Psalms 31:3-6, 8, 16-17	Psalms 97:1-2, 5-6	Psalms 128:1-5 Colossians 3:12-21
Luke 1:46-56	Luke 1:57-66	Luke 2:1-14	John 1:1-18	Matthew 10:17-22	John 20:1-8	Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

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 website: <https://stthomasgassaway.org>

Sharing God's Blessings

Date	Dec 13 + 14, 2025
Collection	742
Mass Attendance	6 + 22

Thank you for your contribution

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

Congrats Madilyn Grace Peters
 on receiving **First Holy Communion**
12.14.2025



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 4:00 pm Vigil Mass at Risen Lord

01/01/2025 11:00 am Mass at St. Thomas

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 21

Vocation Views:

'When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel had commanded him.' God's invitation demands a response. If He is calling you, pray for the courage to respond wholeheartedly, as did St. Joseph.

DIVINE WORD MISSIONARIES & SISTER SERVANTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Special Collection

We have special collection to contribute to the **Retirement Fund for the Religious.**
 Thank you very much for your love and generosity.

HAPPY BIRTH DAY

Victoria Bennett — Dec. 24

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Date	Readers	Bring up the Offertory Gifts	Extraordinary Ministers
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
December 28	Jennifer Knowles	Harmans	Westley Carpenter & Fred Friend

St. Thomas Food Pantry

Special Thanks!!!

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.

In the last several days, we also served 32 more families.

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

Family Night

12/11/2025



Special Thanks

Angel Tree 

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all those who have picked up an Angel Tree ornaments and purchased gifts for the children in our county. You have made 10 children very happy this Christmas season. Thank you all for being so thoughtful, generous, and caring. Marian

Christmas Flowers 

Thank you very much to everyone for your generous contributions for the Christmas Flowers.

We will provide the details after it is finalized.

**Risen Lord Food Pantry
Maysel, West Virginia**

**Thank You,
Thank You !!!
to Benefactors & Volunteers
for Risen Lord Food Pantry
December 18, 2025:**

**Ann Hall, Mike Mance, Vicky Grose, Eva Tax, Cheryl
Hensley,
Kathy and Larry Schoonover, Megan, Mitchell, Madison
and Michael Murphy,
Rick Allen, Tom Tuebert,
Friends from Wheeling:
John and Nick Turziano**

**Your sacrifice and support made it possible
to share the love and joy of Thanksgiving
with 323 families.**

May we all be rejoicing with the Emmanuel !!!

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

