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Sharing God's Blessings

Date	Collection
Dec 14 & 15	\$ 697

By November 16, CSA 2024, we raised \$5,535 (113%) of \$4920, Our Building insurance will be \$11,618; the sharing of CSA this year will use to pay for our building insurance. Please keep the bard raising. Thanks for your support !

**CCD Class
 Dec 1 & 8**

**Parents, please bring your kids to the class
 Next OCIA Class will be on Friday
 December 20 at 6:00 p.m**
 All are welcome to join us.

MASS ETIQUETTE

- Remember to **be silent, turn off, and put away your cell phones**, tablets, and gaming devices prior to the start of Mass.
- Keep in mind the Communion fast**—we are to fast from food and drink (water and medicine excluded) one hour before receiving Holy Communion. **This includes chewing gum.** Even you are not planning to receive the Holy Communion, chewing gum is generally not appropriate in a church, including during Mass, for Catholic teaching. Let us prepare our body and soul to worthily receive and worship our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.
- When we are in the church (specifically in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament), **we should keep our volume to a reverential whisper, if conversation is necessary. This is to promote prayer with Christ in the Eucharist and to prepare our hearts and minds for Mass and express our reverence to the present of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.** Community time is best for after Mass in the hall or outside the church. Thank you for your mindfulness!

LITURGY SCHEDULE
SATURDAY: 5:00 p.m
SUNDAY 11:00 a.m

WEEKDAY: Tue, Wed, Thu at 5:00 p.m.
 Friday at 8:00 a.m
Holy Day of Obligation at 6:00 p.m
EUCHARISTIC ADORATION:
 Every Tuesday at 5:00 p.m prior to Mass
RECONCILIATION: Any time 30 minutes before or after daily Mass, After Sunday Mass
Other days by appointment
MASS INTENTIONS
Saturday Dec 14 —Mass at 5:00 p.m
For Beata P's intention
SUNDAY DEC 15TH
FOR PARISHIONERS OF ST. THOMAS
Dec 17 – For Beata's Intentions
Dec 18—Mass at 8:00 am since Fr. Thien help Food Panty in Clay *-For Beata's Intentions*
Dec 19— For Beata's Intentions
Dec 20— For Beata's Intentions



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Mary Hailer Dec. 15
Wishing you all Happy and Blessed Birthday

Future Event

December 15, **First Communion and Christmas party.**
 Dec 24 Christmas Eve – **Mass at 8:00 p.m**
 Dec 25 Christmas Day --- **Mass at 11:00 a.m**
Mass at Risen Lord - Dec 25 Christmas Day at 8:30 a.m

GOT LIFE QUESTIONS? OCIA

Have you or someone you know?
 Expressed an interest in becoming Catholic?
 Been baptized as a child, but not received the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist?
 Have a child older than 7 who's not baptized?
 The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is the process for adults who desire to join the Catholic faith and for those seeking more information on the Catholic Church.
 If you are *interested in learning more about the Catholic faith, please let Fr. Thien know.* 304-364-5895) or tdnguyen@dwc.org



**Greetings on the Third Sunday of Advent
 Gaudete Sunday -Rejoice Sunday!**

Dear brothers and sisters,
 We are closer to our celebration of Christmas! This Today is called “*Gaudete Sunday*” because today’s Mass (in its Latin, pre-Vatican II form), begin with the opening antiphon “*Gaudete in Domino semper*” – *Rejoin in the Lord always*). During the season of Advent, we await the celebration of Christ’s birth and His coming again at the end of time. Over four weeks, we prepare our hearts for Christmas in penitential reflection. But in the middle of the season, *Gaudete Sunday* calls us to rejoice in hope! (*Gaudete* means “rejoice” in Latin). The First reading reminds us about the reason for that joy:

*Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged!
 The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
 a mighty savior;
 he will rejoice over you with gladness,
 and renew you in his love,
 he will sing joyfully because of you,
 as one sings at festivals. (Zep 3:17)*
 The second reading and the entrance antiphon proclaim,
 “*The Lord is near.*”

This *Gaudete Sunday* the Catholic Church uses the color rose to indicate a joyful feast day. Advent wreaths have four candles that remind us that Christ is the light of the world. One of these candles is rose or pink. We light it on *Gaudete Sunday*, the third Sunday in Advent, to represent joy and anticipation of Christmas. The priest wears rose vestments to remind us that Christmas is coming.

It is not yet Christmas. Yet *Gaudete Sunday* reminds us that Christmas will bring us joy. I pray that you are preparing well for the celebration of Christmas, making room for the Lord.

Let us ask ourselves, as did Alexander Pope, the challenging question, “**What do I profit, if Jesus is born in thousands of cribs all over the world ... but is not born in my heart and in my life?**” ~ Fr. Thien

THANKS ALL VOLUNTEERS!

On Dec 12, at St. Thomas Food Pantry we gave more than 9,000 pounds of food to 141 families. We also gave winter coats and more than 400 Christmas presents. We also assisted 18 mothers in need by delivering diapers, baby wipes, clothes and toys.

A volunteer from Weirton, Cindy H shared that a recent widow with no winter coat received an answer to her prayers. When we found a coat that fit her, the widow wept and said, “**God is great. Thank you, Jesus.**”

She gave all the glory to God, said the volunteer working with her. The volunteer continued, “The person who was with her said that all she'd been praying for was a coat for Christmas gift. We found a matching set of gloves and a hat...then I found a warmer pink one and put it on her head. I told her to wear it when she was feeling sassy. It made her laugh and help dry the tears...”

The Gospel today Saint John remind the crowds and us...“*Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise.*”

The Church has been encouraging all of us to practice the love of our neighbor by practicing the Corporal Work of Mercy:

- To feed the hungry;
- To give drink to the thirsty;
- to clothe the naked;
- shelter the homeless;
- To visit the sick;
- visit the imprisoned;
- to bury the dead.

The spiritual works of mercy are:

- To instruct the ignorant,
- To counsel the doubtful,
- To admonish sinners,
- To bear wrongs patiently,
- To forgive offenses willingly,
- To comfort the afflicted,
- To pray for the living and the dead.

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At Risen Lord church in Clay, On Dec. 7, 2024 Charleston Catholic High School (CCHS) students along with the Risen Lord church sponsored the annual Christmas party for about 280 kids who had their pictures taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus, enjoyed hot chocolate and homemade cookies, and picked up stockings, presents, and food boxes. CCHS students distributed about 280 presents along with more than 200 food boxes, "bring so much joy for the kids in Clay County," Thank you CCHS for bringing many smiles to the kids' faces. They make someone's Christmas more blessed this year again! Also Thanks Appalachian Christmas Project for giving us 1200 presents for those who come to Food Pantries at St. Thomas and Risen Lord.

