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Congratulations to Matthew Peters & Genevieve Harman, who received their First Communion on Gaudete Sunday, December 15, 2024.

Sharing God's Blessings

Date	Collection
Dec 14 & 15	\$ 805
<p>By November 16, CSA 2024, we raised \$5,585 (114%) of \$4920, Our Building insurance will be \$11,618; the sharing of CSA this year will use to pay for our building insurance. Thanks for your support !</p>	

Poinsettia Memorial

Donor:	In Memory of...
Kevin Carpenter	Russell Carpenter
Pat McPherson	Joe D. McPherson; Joe + Theresa McPherson, Dorothy Young & Gerald Young
Sue Cunningham	The Cunningham + Morton Family and friends.
Connie Moore	Moore, Ashley, and Lazur families.
Kelli Jarvis	Margarita & Bobby Christensen, Sharron Covington, Peggy Lynn , Michelle
Joe & Marian Agostino	Koller, May + Agostino family
Rose Deprospero;	Bill & Virginia, Dom , Tony, Rose and Jesusa Ann
Kathy Frame	Robert & Beverly Milky
Theresa + Phil Peters	John + Steve Peters; Kathlyn + Dick Minnich; Don + Frances Peters; Eva+ Darius James; Ella Grace Taylor
John Taylor	Ruth & John Taylor, Cam Taylor & Ella June Patton; Hellen Teets, Betty Johnson, Leo Ruppert
Maxine Taylor	Orpha & Eva Turner Kenneth, Earnest Turner
Kathy + Marty Bronkhurst	Sienna Cavallo
Rick & Chris Allen	Miles Christian Allen

Thank you all for your generosity. Total flower donation is \$475.
Flowers make our church more beautiful for God's glory.

Greetings on the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Greetings

Dear brothers and sisters,
On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, celebrate love. The love of the Holy Trinity, our Blessed Mother, and the love we give to others when we think and act in confident faith.

Like Mary in the Gospel today. In the last two weeks, we moved our hearts and our feet to share our love and hope by serving 475 families at our food pantries(141 at St. Thomas and 334 at Risen Lord). We provided more than 23,000 pounds of food, 1,200 Christmas gifts, many winter clothes, and toys. We also helped 19 mothers who in need of diapers, baby wipes, clothes for their children.



As we enter the Christmas season of 2024 and embrace the Jubilee Year of Hope, we are reminded of the transformative power of Christ's birth and the promise of renewal that the Jubilee Year of Hope offers. Christmas is a time to celebrate the light of the world, Jesus Christ, who came to bring hope, joy, and peace to all. His message of love and redemption continues to guide and uplift us, no matter the challenges we face.



This year, as we celebrate the Jubilee Year of Hope, we are invited to experience a deep spiritual renewal. The Jubilee calls us to reflect on the blessings we have received, to offer forgiveness, and to embrace new beginnings. It is a year to reignite our faith, to heal divisions, and to work together toward a future filled with compassion and unity.

The birth of Jesus Christ, which we celebrate during Christmas, is the ultimate symbol of hope. His arrival in a humble manger marked the beginning of God's promise to redeem and restore the world. As we reflect on this message of hope, we are invited to become bearers of hope to others, sharing love and compassion, lifting others up, and walking alongside those who are struggling.

Bishop Mark Brennan emphasizes in his letter, 'Pastoral Letter on Bringing People to Christ,' that: *"The season of Advent is a season of hope. Pope Francis has announced that the central theme of the Jubilee Year in 2025 will be hope. Jesus wants us to share our hope for forgiveness and eternal life with others. If you are willing to do so, you may confidently hope to hear these words from the Lord when you die: Well done, my good and faithful servant . . . Come, share your master's joy [Matthew 25:23]. Be the good, faithful servant Jesus calls you to be and you will be rewarded beyond measure by the Lord with a joy that will never end."*

Therefore, in this season of Christmas and the Jubilee Year of Hope, let us open our hearts to the possibilities of a brighter tomorrow. Let us also remember that hope is not passive. It calls us to action—action in our faith, in our community, and in our world. This year, may we commit to living out the hope we celebrate, working to bring about justice, healing, and peace in every corner of our lives. Let us be inspired by the example of Christ's love and strive to be beacons of hope to those around us. May we carry the light of Christmas into the new year, bringing peace and joy to all who cross our paths.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Blessed Jubilee Year of Hope! ~ Fr. Thien

Jubilee Year of Hope

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis has designed 2025 as the Jubilee Year of Hope focusing on the theme "Pilgrims of Hope". It is no secret that our world is in need of hope - the true and lasting hope that only Jesus Christ can provide.



In order to inaugurate this special Jubilee Year, every Cathedral (and Co-Cathedral in some locations) throughout the world has been asked to celebrate a solemn opening on Sunday, December 29, 2024, the Feast of the Holy Family. What better time to celebrate hope as we contemplate the hope that dwelled in the home of Mary and Joseph as they raised the child Jesus.

Bishop Mark Brennan will be celebrating this special liturgy at 10:30 AM at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Wheeling. The Rite of Opening of the Jubilee Year is unique in that it has three distinct parts, including a procession to the Cathedral, reminding us that we are indeed "Pilgrims of Hope". This is truly meant to be diocesan celebration, and we are encouraged to participate in Wheeling or Charleston, (Basilica of the Co-Cathedral at the same day and time) whichever is more convenient.

For more information, visit: www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.htm

Also, the Diocese has sent us prayer cards that contains an adapted Prayer for the Jubilee written by Pope Francis. They will be available to all parishioners on the weekend of December 28-29.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

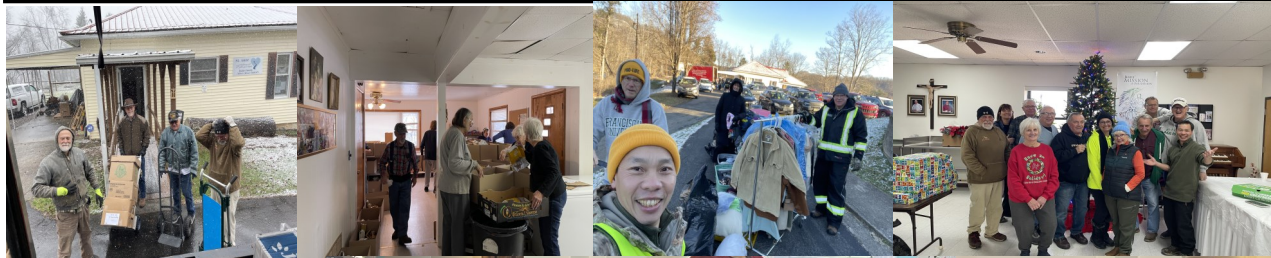
Victoria Bennett Dec. 24
Colleen Mahon Dec. 28

Wishing you all Happy and Blessed Birthday

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... 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."



Congratulations to Matthew Peters and Genevieve Harman, who received their First Communion on Gaudete Sunday, December 15, 2024. Thank you to all those who helped with the Christmas Party at St. Thomas on December 15, 2024. There was much joy in our parish.



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 to the kids' families.

On Dec 19, Risen Lord Food Pantry served 334 families and gave more than 900 Christmas' presents to people in Clay. Thank you all Benefactors and Volunteers. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas.

