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Sharing God's Blessings	
Date	Collection
Feb 15&16	\$1616
Thanks for your contribution	

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Chick Shimko Feb. 23
 Wishing you all Happy
 and Blessed Birthday



The Parish Council and Finance Council Meeting will be held on March 2, 2025 At 12: 15 p.m after Mass.

CCD Class will be held on March 9 and 16
 Parents, please bring your kids to the class

- **OCIA Class will be held on Tuesday February 11, 18 and 25**

All are welcome to join us to share your faith with Catechumens and Candidates.

Please contact Fr. Thien Nguyen for:

- **Anointing of the sick; Holy Communion to the sick or homebound.**
- **Baptism of infants and Children under 7. RCIA/RCIC is for adults and children older than 7. Mee**

+ **Sacrament of Marriage:**
 Arrangements should be made with the pastor at least Six months before a wedding. Please, do not set a wedding date before contacting your pastor. Preparation classes with the pastor are required.

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
EUCCHARISTIC 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 Feb 22 for Delores+ Leo Ruppert
 Rq by Phil + Theresa Peter
SUNDAY FEB 23
FOR PARISHIONERS OF ST. THOMAS
Tue, Feb 24 for Bong Nguyen's ancestors
Wed, Feb 25 Mass at 8:00 am –Since Food Pantry in Clay; for Bong Nguyen's ancestors
Thur Feb 26 -For Benefactors of our parish
Friday Feb 27 - Chi Bong, anh Tay and family

ASH WEDNESDAY MARCH 5, 2025
WHAT IS LENT? Lent is the 40-day preparation for the events surrounding Easter, namely the suffering, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This year, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday on March 5th. **Why do we observe Ash Wednesday?**
 Ash Wednesday (*Dies cinerum*), is the Church's Yom Kippur or the "Day of Atonement." Its very name comes from the Jewish practice of doing penance wearing "sackcloth and ashes." The Old Testament tells us how the people of Nineveh, the Syrian King, Ben Hadad, and Queen Esther fasted wearing sackcloth and ashes.
 The priest dipping his thumb into ashes marks the forehead of each with the sign of the cross, saying the words, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return" or "Repent and believe in the Gospel."
 The ashen cross gives us a firm conviction that a) we are mortal beings, b) our lifespan is very brief and unpredictable. It also gives us a strong warning that we will be eternally punished if we do not repent of our sins and do penance. Ash Wednesday reminds us that we need to purify and renew our lives during the period of Lent by repentance, which means expressing sorrow for sins by turning away from occasions of sins and going straight to God. We need to express our repentance by getting reconciled with God daily, by asking for forgiveness from those whom we have offended and by giving unconditional forgiveness to our neighbors who have offended us. It also challenges us to do prayerful fasting and little acts of penance for our sins, following the example of Jesus before his public ministry. **Please mark your calendars and plan to join us on March 5, for Ash Wednesday Mass with the distribution of blessed ashes at 5:00 p.m.**

*Greetings on the Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time,
 Dear brothers and sisters,*

Today's Gospel presents us with one of the most challenging teachings of Jesus: "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you" (Luke 6:27-28). This command goes against our natural instincts, yet it is at the heart of the Christian life. It is a call to radical love and mercy, modeled by Christ Himself.

The first reading from 1 Samuel narrates the story of David sparing the life of King Saul, who was pursuing him to kill him. David had the perfect opportunity to take revenge, yet he chose mercy over vengeance. He recognized that Saul was the Lord's anointed and left judgment to God. This act of mercy prefigures the teaching of Christ: not to repay evil with evil but to overcome evil with good. In today's Gospel, Jesus challenges us to go beyond human logic. Loving those who love us is natural, but loving our enemies requires divine grace. Jesus asks us to:

- 1) **Love our enemies and do good to them** – True Christian love (agape) is not based on emotions but on a decision to will the good of others, even those who hurt us.
- 2) **Bless and pray for those who mistreat us** – Instead of seeking revenge, we are called to respond with kindness and prayer.
- 3) **Offer the other cheek and give without expecting return** – Jesus is not promoting passivity but calling us to break the cycle of hatred with selfless love.
- 4) **Be merciful as God is merciful** – Our model for mercy is God Himself, who forgives our sins and shows us compassion despite our unworthiness.

Practical Lessons for Our Lives: Forgiveness Frees Us – Holding onto grudges enslaves us, but forgiveness brings peace and healing. Let us learn from David and Jesus to let go of resentment; **Love is a Choice, Not a Feeling** – Christian love is not about liking someone but choosing to act in love even when it is difficult; **Be Imitators of Christ** – Just as Jesus forgave His enemies from the Cross ("Father, forgive them" – Luke 23:34), we too are called to reflect His mercy in our relationships; **Transform the World with Mercy** – In a world filled with anger and division, we are called to be instruments of God's love and peace.

Jesus' command to love our enemies is difficult but not impossible. With the grace of God, we can forgive, show mercy, and be a witness to the radical love of Christ. As we receive the Eucharist today, let us ask for the strength to live out this Gospel challenge and be true disciples of Jesus. "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON • P.O. BOX 230, WHEELING, WV 26003 •
Diocese Announces Disaster Assistance Fund
Thursday, February 20, 2025

WHEELING—Recovery efforts continue across the Mountain State after the severe flooding that occurred earlier this month. Several counties have experienced generational flooding resulting in loss of life, property, and livelihood. More than ten counties in our state remain under a State of Emergency. With many roads just being re-opened, the scope of the devastation is becoming more visible.

Most Rev. Mark Brennan, Bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, has approved a special collection to be held the weekends of **February 22-23 and March 1-2** in all parishes and missions throughout the diocese to support recovery efforts related to the series of disasters that have occurred. Checks should be made out to your respective parish with "Disaster Relief" on the memo line. Donations can also be made on the diocesan website at <https://dwc.org/disaster-relief/>.

All of the money collected will remain in West Virginia and will be managed by Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa). Money will be allocated along a four-tier priority list as follows:

- Parishes in and around the affected area who directly assist families will receive funds to give aid to those in need.
- CCWVa Regional staff will receive funding for direct, short-term recovery assistance to victims.
- Partner agencies who work with CCWVa to administer relief to West Virginia residents affected by the flooding.
- Funds will be given to CCWVa for long-term humanitarian and recovery efforts. This fund assist families long after other organizations have moved out help families and individuals in the rebuilding process to restore safe, secure, and sanitary living conditions.

To help jumpstart the collection and speed funding to assist West Virginia families, Bishop Brennan, has authorized a challenge grant in the amount of \$50,000 through the West Virginia Catholic Foundation. These funds will be immediately distributed for relief efforts in our state. Bishop Mark hopes the donation will spur others to give generously to help our neighbors in need.

Please remember in prayer all those whose lives have been changed in the wake of these disasters. Let us come together now to support our brothers and sisters in Christ who have been injured and lost their homes, cars, employment, and access to food and water.

THANKS YOU! On Feb 12 & 13 In the rain and cold, St. Thomas Food Pantry and Walking with Moms in Need still opened to help those in need. We served 117 families with food and 11 mother with diapers, baby wipes, clothes...

We thank benefactors and volunteers; especially 7 volunteers from Weirton.
*"Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours.
Blessed are you who are now hungry, for you will be satisfied. (Luke 6:21)*



January 21-23, During the last three days, even in extreme cold weather(-7 to 26), parishioners and volunteers of Risen Lord Food Pantry are still faithful. We unloaded, packaged and distributed food for the poor in Clay County. We served about 15,000 pounds of food to 192 families. Thank you all Benefactors and Volunteers.

