

Safe Environment: To report an incident of suspected child sexual abuse, please contact your local law enforcement agency, or you may confidentially contact WV Child Protective Services at 800.352.6513. In addition to civil authorities, to report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353, Sr. Martha Gomez, ext. 264. Or you may call Rev. Don Higgs, 304.685.2367, the Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504, or Victims Assistance Coordinator Erin McFarland at 304.559.6742. Please visit www.dwc.org under "Accountability" for additional information and reporting methods.

MASS SCHEDULES & INTENTIONS

- Mar 2 Monday: **No Mass**
- Mar 3 Tuesday: 6:00 pm + Fonda & Jim Palmer *by Nancy Hall*
- Mar 4 Wednesday: 6:00 pm + Gennevie & Louis Sims *by Junior & Mona Sims*
- Mar 5 Thursday: 6:00 pm + John Matish *by Jim & Peggy Matish*
- Mar 6 Friday: **6:00 pm Stations of the Cross**
- Mar 7 Saturday: 5:00 pm + Buzzy Book *by Sharon Brisbin*
- Mar 8 Sunday: 10:00 am Sherry Huggins *by Carmie O'Connor*
- UHC 12:00 pm + Margaret & Bill Hall *by Nancy Hall*



Pray for our Shut-ins

Genny Griffin
 Ursula Koreski
 Saundra Knight
 Gertrude Senchina

Mary Sims
*(156 Fazio's Elder Care
 Stoney Lonesome-Monongah)*

Eddie Koreski
 Connie Koreski
 Joe Koreski
(VA Nursing Home)

If you know of anyone that needs to be added to this prayer group call the office at 304-592-2733.

St. Margaret of Castello Adoration Chapel, 43 Mahlon St. Shinnston

Since Covid, our Adoration Chapel had to make major changes in its 24/7 operation. As of now, we are only able to have it open for 3 out of 7 days (from 6:00am - 12:00am). We are sincerely hoping to open it another day during the week. With that said, we began last spring asking for people to consider becoming an adorer on Tuesdays. We were able to fill many hours, but not all. **The hour that still needs an adorer for Tuesday is 11.00pm-12.00am.** If you are interested and able to take any of these hours, please contact the church office. Please consider spending one hour a week in adoration with our Lord, the chapel is such a peaceful and beautiful place!

New Opportunity

If anyone is interested in joining in the St. Ann's choir, as a cantor or, pianist or to play any kind of musical instruments for the liturgical celebrations, please contact Colleen Driscoll.



**POPE
LEO XIV**

**MESSAGE FOR
LENT 2026**

**Listening and Fasting:
Lent as a Time of Conversion**

Listening and Fasting Together: Lent as a Time of Conversion

Dear brothers and sisters,

Lent is a time in which the Church, guided by a sense of maternal care, invites us to place the mystery of God back in the center of our lives, in order to find renewal in our faith and keep our hearts from being consumed by the anxieties and distractions of daily life.

Every path towards conversion begins by allowing the word of God to touch our hearts and welcoming it with a docile spirit. There is a relationship between the word, our acceptance of it and the transformation it brings about. For this reason, the Lenten journey is a welcome opportunity to heed the voice of the Lord and renew our commitment to following Christ, accompanying him on the road to Jerusalem, where the mystery of his passion, death and resurrection will be fulfilled.

Listening

This year, I would first like to consider the importance of making room for the word through *listening*. The willingness to listen is the first way we demonstrate our desire to enter into relationship with someone. In revealing himself to Moses in the burning bush, God himself teaches us that listening is one of his defining characteristics: "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry" (*Ex 3:7*). Hearing the cry of the oppressed is the beginning of a story of liberation in which the Lord calls Moses, sending him to open a path of salvation for his children who have been reduced to slavery.

Our God is one who seeks to involve us. Even today he shares with us what is in his heart. Because of this, listening to the word in the liturgy teaches us to listen to the truth of reality. In the midst of the many voices present in our personal lives and in society, Sacred Scripture helps us to recognize and respond to the cry of those who are anguished and suffering. In order to foster this inner openness to listening, we must allow God to teach us how to listen *as he does*. We must recognize that "the condition of the poor is a cry that, throughout human history, constantly challenges our lives, societies, political and economic systems, and, not least, the Church."

"Lent is a time for us to empty ourselves of worldly distractions and allow God to fill us with His love, His grace, and His peace." (Mother Teresa)

3/7/2026	5:00 pm Mass	3/8/2026	10:00 am Mass
Readers	Gina Tate	Readers	Mary Jo Bastin
Altar Servers	Dominick Spadafore Sophia Spadafore Colton Wright	Altar Servers	Frankie Bowen Ella Bowen Ryan DeMarco
Cup Ministers	Jimmy Gemondo Sandy McDonnell	Cup Ministers	Steven Bee Sam DeMarco
Host Minister	Mickey Arco	Host Minister	Mary Ann Spadafore
Ushers	Cindy Hamrick Mickey Arco	Ushers	Vinnie Demarco John DeMarco

Upcoming Birthdays

- March 3- Patrick Bart
- March 4- Elizabeth Wright
- March 5- Ginny Griffin
- March 6- Cooper Klimek
Buddy McDonnell
- March 7- Zac Bart
- March 8- Nathaniel Bart



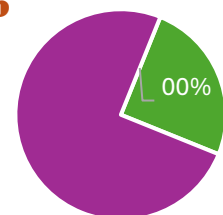
CATHOLIC SHARING APPEAL- 2026

PROGRESS

Goal: \$ 4,800

Raised: \$ 0,000

Gifts: 00



■ Raised ■ Goal ■



- Feb 22nd**
- Regular Collection
\$ 2,263.00
- Faith in Our Future
\$ 861.00
- Ash Wednesday
\$ 702.00
- Attendance**
- Weekend- **139**
- Ash Wednesday - **121**

Thank you for your continued generosity and for your presence.

Fasting

If Lent is a time for listening, *fasting* is a concrete way to prepare ourselves to receive the word of God. Abstaining from food is an ancient ascetic practice that is essential on the path of conversion. Precisely because it involves the body, fasting makes it easier to recognize what we “hunger” for and what we deem necessary for our sustenance. Moreover, it helps us to identify and order our “appetites,” keeping our hunger and thirst for justice alive and freeing us from complacency. Thus, it teaches us to pray and act responsibly towards our neighbor.

With spiritual insight, Saint Augustine helps us to understand the tension between the present moment and the future fulfilment that characterizes this custody of the heart. He observes that: “In the course of earthly life, it is incumbent upon men and women to hunger and thirst for justice, but to be satisfied belongs to the next life. Angels are satisfied with this bread, this food. The human race, on the other hand, hungers for it; we are all drawn to it in our desire. This reaching out in desire expands the soul and increases its capacity.” Understood in this way, fasting not only permits us to govern our desire, purifying it and making it freer, but also to expand it, so that it is directed towards God and doing good.

However, in order to practice fasting in accordance with its evangelical character and avoid the temptation that leads to pride, it must be lived in faith and humility. It must be grounded in communion with the Lord, because “those who are unable to nourish themselves with the word of God do not fast properly.” As a visible sign of our inner commitment to turn away from sin and evil with the help of grace, fasting must also include other forms of self-denial aimed at helping us to acquire a more sober lifestyle, since “austerity alone makes the Christian life strong and authentic.”

In this regard, I would like to invite you to a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbor. Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves. Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities. In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace.

Together

Finally, Lent emphasizes the communal aspect of listening to the word and fasting. The Bible itself underlines this dimension in multiple ways. For example, the Book of Nehemiah recounts how the people gathered to listen to the public reading of the Law, preparing to profess their faith and worship through fasting, so as to renew the covenant with God (cf. 9:1-3).

Likewise, our parishes, families, ecclesial groups and religious communities are called to undertake a shared journey during Lent, in which listening to the word of God, as well as to the cry of the poor and of the earth, becomes part of our community life, and fasting a foundation for sincere repentance. In this context, conversion refers not only to one’s conscience, but also to the quality of our relationships and dialogue. It means allowing ourselves to be challenged by reality and recognizing what truly guides our desires — both within our ecclesial communities and as regards humanity’s thirst for justice and reconciliation.

Dear friends, let us ask for the grace of a Lent that leads us to greater attentiveness to God and to the least among us. Let us ask for the strength that comes from the type of fasting that also extends to our use of language, so that hurtful words may diminish and give way to a greater space for the voice of others. Let us strive to make our communities places where the cry of those who suffer finds welcome, and listening opens paths towards liberation, making us ready and eager to contribute to building a civilization of love.

I impart my heartfelt blessing upon all of you and your Lenten journey. (LEO PP. XIV, Vatican, 5 February 2026)



St. Ann Catholic Church

Shinnston WV 26431

Physical Address; 610 Pike Street *** Mailing Address; 43 Mahlon Street



March 1st, 2026 (2nd Sunday of Lent)



St. Ann Catholic Church is to glorify God through vibrant worship, compassionate service, and unwavering commitment to teachings of Jesus Christ. Rooted in Catholic tradition and guided by the Holy Spirit, we strive to foster a welcoming community that nurtures faith, fosters spiritual growth, and promotes unity among all God's children. With love as our cornerstone, we seek to embody Christ's message of hope, forgiveness, and redemption, spreading His light to all corners of the world. Together, as disciples of Christ, we are called to share God's love, serve those in need, and build a Kingdom of mercy, justice, and peace.

Administrator

Fr. D. Joseph MCBS

Email; djoseph@dwc.org

Phone; 304-780-8003

Office Manager

Mary K Romeo

Email; romm471@aol.com

Office; 304 520 0559- Personal; 304 203 4429

Administrative Assistant

Mandy Bowen

Email; marandarose@msn.com

Office; 304 520 0559- Personal; 304 672 3853

President-Parish Council

Jimmy Gemondo II

Email; jgemondo1@gmail.com

President-Men’s Group

Sam DeMarco

Email; zmd21@aol.com

Safe Environment Coordinator

Anita Ballard

Email; akballard52@outlook.com

Music- Coordinator

Colleen Driscoll

Email; cdriscollauthor@yahoo.com

President-Finance Council

Mary K Romeo

Email; romm471@aol.com

President-Altar & Rosary Society

Renee Book

Email; Rbook0102@hotmail.com

Director-Religious Education

Mandy Bowen

Email; marandarose@msn.com

Office Hours

Tuesday -Friday

09 Am- 02 Pm

Closed on Monday

Adoration Chapel

St. Margaret of Castello

Adoration Chapel is open on;

Sunday, Wednesday, & Friday

6am to midnight.

For information call

John DeMarco at (304) 669-2057 or



Baptism

Please contact the office to schedule a baptism.

(Instruction sessions are required with your first child).



Marriage

Please contact the office at least **SIX months** prior to the proposed date of marriage.

Confessions

4 to 4. 40pm

on Saturdays.

Or

by appointment.

For appointments, please

call Fr. Joe



Hospital & Sacramental Emergency

Please call; **304-780-8003**

For the Sick & Homebound

Please call the church office if you would like to receive communion or have a home visit.

Office; 304-592-2733/304-592-0077 • Email; stannshinnston@aol.com

Website; stannshinnston.com