



## Dear friends in Christ,

It is natural to hope to experience God's presence at special times in our lives – the joy of family occasions, at a shrine, on pilgrimage, or even in times of quiet prayer. Many who go on a spiritual retreat will find that away from the busyness of their regular lives, the presence of God can appear to be more tangible and real. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus would often escape to a deserted place to listen to the voice of the Father. Today, he climbs the mountain and teaches his disciples what we now know as the beatitudes.

In our desire to encounter God we can fall into the trap of thinking that a genuine meeting with God must be accompanied by particular emotions. Our emotions then become the proof we rely on to affirm that we have indeed had an authentic encounter with him.

But the spiritual life isn't always accompanied by consoling feelings or emotions. Instead, it can consist largely of routine prayers and rituals and even include as much suffering and grief as there is joy and celebration. Therefore, today's Gospel gives us hope and reassurance that God's presence with us is not dependent upon how we *feel* at any given moment.

Indeed, the beatitudes remind us that God is there for us at all times of our lives – from moments when we are faced with trials to great moments of gladness and hope. It is in those unexpected places and moments when God draws near to us. No matter what we do or don't do, God is always there with us. In Psalm 139 the psalmist asks, *Where can I go from your spirit? From your presence, where can I flee?* (7) He then runs through a list of possible places to escape – the heavens, the ends of the seas, the darkness, even in the womb, and yet he ultimately knows that God is there in each and every place.

In the eyes of the world, those listed in the beginning of the beatitudes – the poor in spirit, those who mourn or hunger for righteousness, the persecuted – are more likely to be perceived by others as God-forsaken rather than as blessed. But Jesus reassures us that God, who is the source of all blessedness, meets us in our weakness, our sadness, and our hunger for salvation, as well as in our attempts to do what is right and just.

As we prepare to share this Eucharist together, let us give thanks to God for his faithfulness – that he comes to dwell with us not only in our emotional peaks but also in our emotional valleys. **Amen.**

## St. Vincent de Paul – St. Sebastian Conference

Our Mission Statement – A network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need.

- Jesus' Mission: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor..." (Luke 4:16-21)
- Gospel Values: (Beatitudes): Blessed are the poor..." (Mt. 5:2-11, Lk. 6: 20-22)
- Last Judgement: "Whatever you did for the least of my brethren , you also did for me." (Mt. 25:36-46)
- Greatest Commandment: "Love one another." / "Love your neighbor as yourself..."
- (Lk. 6:32-37; Lk. 10:25-28; Jn. 13:34-35) 20:28)
- Service: "The Son of Man did not come to be served..." (Mt. 20:28)

## Gasper River

Registrations are open and coming in fast! Please visit [www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org](http://www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org) to get signed up for our 19th summer.

Applications are also open now for 2026 summer staff. If you or someone you know is one year removed from high school, visit the website to apply for the greatest joy you will ever have!

Visit the website for more information and to join the team at Gasper River!

## Lazarus Retreat

We are pleased to announce signups are now open for the Lazarus Retreat #8 at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp Feb. 13-15, 2026. This retreat is for high school youth from across the diocese and is a onetime experience. Deadline to sign up is Monday, February 2, 2026, or once we are full.

## Women's Retreat

St. Charles will be carpooling from the church at 6:45 AM February 7, 2025, to the Women's Retreat "Joy, Laughter & Holiness" at St Ann's Church in Morganfield. Join us for an inspirational retreat. Contact Kelly Joiner 270-952-0696 or email [kejoner3@gmail.com](mailto:kejoner3@gmail.com)

Collections from Saturday, Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> was added to Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Financial Report – January 18, 2026

### St. Charles - Amount Needed: \$1,550.00 weekly.

Regular Collection	\$1,809.00	(+259.00)
Christmas Offering	\$ 50.00	

## Financial Report – January 18, 2026

### St. Sebastian- Amount Needed: \$3,210.00 weekly.

Regular Collection	\$2,950.00	(-260.00)
Mass Intentions	\$ 5.00	

## Mass Schedule

February 1 – February 8

### Sunday – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian 

Brother Conrad Fleischman

-10:30am - Mass at St. Charles

Sabrina Whitehouse Evans

### Monday – No Mass

### Tuesday – Fourth Week in Ordinary Time

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian - Mark Vollman

### Wednesday – Fourth Week in Ordinary Time

-5:30pm – Mass at St. Charles – Bill & Minnie Logsdon

### Thursday – St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr (Memorial)

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian – JoAnn Hayden

### Friday – St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs (Memorial)

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian – Gail Clayton

### Saturday – Fourth Week in Ordinary Time

-3:00pm - Confession

-4:00pm - Mass at St. Sebastian – All Parishioners

### Sunday – Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian – Alvin Bickett

-10:30am – Mass at St. Charles – David Albin

## Happy Birthday - St. Sebastian



Kellie Watkins – Jan. 30

Neil Scott – Feb. 4

Sid Hayden – Feb. 7

## Happy Anniversary – St. Sebastian



Kevin & Lisa Vaught – Feb. 2

Scott & Marie Caraway – Feb. 7

## Please Pray for our Military

1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. James (J.P.) Dye, John Randall Zaremba, Major Jack Kaina, Major Bradley Summers, Lance Corporal Marine Joseph Ryan Hunter, Lt. Col. Michael Rezebek, A.B. Phillip Wilson, Specialist 4 Chaz McKay, Sgt. Adam Dickey, and Joseph Kyle Ward (US Air Force).

## Prayer List for Members of our Community

Bernadine Edwards, Charles May, Jerry Abney, Bob Guenther, Helen Kraus, Jimmy & Gail Clayton, Ethan Settle, Blakley Owens, Tasha Miller, Theresa Rust, Mark Logsdon, Mike Logsdon, Rondy Humphrey, Wesley Robinson, Jimmy Tichenor, Jason Evans, Brenda Cooper, Darrell Henderson, Sharon Anderson, Janine Goatee, Kevin Fee, Kristin Bucio, John Pinkston, Jillian Phillips.

## Join us for Lenten Day of Prayer on March 28 at Mount Saint Joseph

Lent is traditionally a time when Catholic Christians recommit themselves to more serious prayer, along with fasting and almsgiving. On March 28, 2026 – the Saturday of the fifth Week of Lent – all are invited to join Sister Cheryl Clemons in Maple Hall at Mount Saint Joseph (8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, Ky.) for a Day of Prayer and Reflection titled "Deepening Our Prayer Life: Advice from the Four Saint Teresas." Throughout the day, Sister Cheryl will offer insights on prayer from Saint Teresa of Avila, Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein), and Saint Teresa of Calcutta. The day will include quiet prayer and reflection and opportunities for small group sharing. Lunch will be provided. The cost to attend is \$60. Sign up online by going to this link: <https://ursulinesmsj.org/calendar/> and click on the event and then the Register box. If you have any questions, call Doreen Abbott at 270-229-2006 or email [doreen.abbott@maplemount.org](mailto:doreen.abbott@maplemount.org).

## Happy Birthday - St. Charles



John Logsdon – Feb. 3

Kim Staples – Feb. 6



## Ministry Schedule

### Saturday, February 7, 2026

St. Sebastian Euch. Min: Volunteer  
Lectors: Michael Cooper

### Sunday, February 8, 2026

St. Sebastian Euch. Min: Patricia Hayden  
Mike Vollman  
Laurie Scott  
Lectors: David Scott  
Macie Caraway

Gift Bearers: Mr. & Mrs. Lance Green  
Altar Servers: Will Searcy  
Liam Cooper

Money Counters: Josh Searcy  
Neil Scott  
Donuts: Chuck & Becky Cheatham

St. Charles Euch: Min: Derek Miller  
Teresa Marcum  
Lectors: Marsha Logsdon  
Derek Miller  
Gift Bearers: Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Fee  
Money Counters: Teresa Marcum  
Rondy Humphrey