



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY



God commands us to be merciful to others through our prayer life, actions, words, and alms giving. If we are lacking in these areas, we are ignoring God's call. His message is clear and constant. Today is a significant celebration of Christ's mercy.

More than 2,000 years ago at the Last Supper Jesus commanded his apostles to be merciful servants to all people. Mercy is mentioned more than 260 times in the bible.

Less than 100 years ago, He gave St. Faustina, a Polish nun, 14 revelations of love and mercy to share, which she did in her diary - *Divine Mercy in My Soul - The Diary of St. Maria Faustina* (published in 1981) - considered by the church as one of the greatest books of faith.

It was during Christ's first revelation to St. Faustina, when He asked for a feast to celebrate His mercy and this be held the first Sunday after Easter. It was Pope St. John Paul II at the canonization of St. Faustina on April 30th, 2000, that the feast - Divine Mercy Sunday - was declared.

According to her diary entry (699), Jesus told St. Faustina, "My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and a shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day are opened all the divine floodgates through which graces flow. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will

be able to fathom it throughout all eternity. Everything that exists has come from the very depths of My most tender mercy. Every soul in its relation to Me will contemplate My love and mercy throughout eternity. The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My mercy."

During another vision, Jesus directed her to share Christ's message of mercy in an image to be painted for the world to see that includes the words, "Jesus, I trust in You." With the help of her spiritual director Fr. Michael Sopocko, St. Faustina found Eugene Kazimierowski to create the original image of the Divine Mercy painting.

Jesus told her that many graces would pour out on anyone who prayed before the image: "I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I also promise victory over [its] enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I Myself will defend it as My own glory" (*Diary*, 47, 48).

To help us act on Christ's command to be merciful the Catechism of the Catholic Church gives us the Spiritual Works of Mercy and the Corporal Works of Mercy: "The works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities. Instructing, advising, and comforting are Spiritual Works of mercy, as are forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently. The Corporal Works of mercy consists especially in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead. Among all these, giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity: it is also a work of justice pleasing to God:

"He who has two coats, let him share with him who has none and he who has food must do likewise. But give for alms those things which are within; and behold, everything is clean for you. If a brother or sister is ill-clad and in lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit?" (CCC 2447).

Just as Jesus told St. Faustina, "I am giving you three ways of exercising mercy toward your neighbor: the first - by deed, the second - by word, the third - by prayer. In these three degrees is contained the fullness of mercy, and it is an unquestionable proof of love for Me." (*Diary*, 742).

PETTER EAGER TO HELP OTHERS ON FAITH JOURNEY



Jessica Petter hopes to spark the fire within the souls of the faithful across the state of West Virginia as the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's new assistant director of evangelization and catechesis.

Petter is from Arkansas, where she was the youth ministry director for St. Stephen Catholic Church in Bentonville, and before that at St.

Vincent de Paul Parish in Rogers, Arkansas. She earned her degree in theology from Franciscan University of Steubenville. She grew up in a Eureka Springs, Arkansas, a resort town in the Ozark Mountain region. She was raised Catholic, but admits there was a time in her life, when her faith was more of a stale obligation than a joyful part of how she identified herself.

"I understand how we can get stuck and not grow in faith," she said. "It took me years to realize that God loves me for

me. He loves me no matter what, even when I think I'm just a hot mess."

Two things that helped reignite her faith. The first was attending a Steubenville Youth Conference as a young adult and the second was meeting Betsy McNeil. The Steubenville Youth Conferences are held across North America through Franciscan University of Steubenville to energize young adults and adults about God and the Church. She said McNeil continues to be a great spiritual guide and keeps her accountable.

"She wants the best for me and reminds me that Jesus loves us in our brokenness no matter how great or trivial that is," Petter said.

That is exactly what Petter hopes to be for the people of West Virginia, "a spiritual guide on their faith journey and reminder that we don't have to be perfect to be loved by God."

Read more about Petter in the April print edition of The Catholic Spirit available [HERE](#).

BOGGESS, WHELAN, COPOLO EAGER TO WORK ON DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL FOR BECKLEY VICARIATE

Six-part series: Bishop Mark Brennan has reestablished the Diocesan Pastoral Council. In this series we profile the lay members of the commission. The Council represents all six vicariates in the state. Each series will highlight a single vicariate.

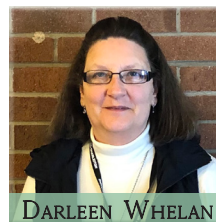
WHEELING – Beckley Vicariate representatives for the reestablished Diocesan Pastoral Council are eager to work with Bishop Mark E. Brennan to enhance the work of the diocese in West Virginia.

Gina Boggress, Darleen Whelan, and Jim Copolo were all born and raised Catholic. Each have been very active in their parishes for decades, and each are happy to be part of the advisory group consisting of laity, religious, deacons, and clergy from around the state. Just as a parish council assists a pastor by providing advice and effort in support of the parish, DPC members will assist Bishop Brennan in his pastoral care for the entire diocese.

"This DPC group led by the direction of the Holy Spirit is made up of many wonderful people which include very informed and vocal young people," said Copolo of Sacred Heart Mission in Powhatan. He is a former Parish Council President and Finance Committee Member. He also proudly served as a Delegate to the Ninth Diocesan Synod. He is looking forward to contributing to the Peace and Justice Committee to which he was appointed.

Boggress has been a lifelong member of Sacred Heart Parish in Princeton and is currently the Catechetical leader for Sacred Heart, overseeing youth and adult Faith Formation, including

RCIA; and she serves as a Spiritual Director Intern for the West Virginia Institute for Spirituality based in Charleston.



Throughout the years other ministries included: parish council, finance council, lector, Eucharistic minister, catechist, bookkeeper, past board member for Catholic Charities state and local, Anchor prayer group, building and grounds committee, women's prayer group facilitator, and married couples prayer group facilitator.

Boggress will serve the DPC for one year and is on the Pastoral Concerns Committee.

While each member brings a wide range of experience to the DPC, members acknowledge and focus on the fact that they represent the many faithful of their region, Whelan said.

Whelan, who for more than three decades has been a member of St. John the Evangelist in Summersville, will serve on the DPC for a two-year term and sit on the Lay Life and Ministry Committee.

"We are called to share our gifts and talents - they are not given to us for our benefit; they are given to us so that added to others' gifts and talents we can build up God's people. 'Where your treasure is, there your heart will be,'" Whelan said.

Read the full story in The Catholic Spirit [HERE](#).



NEWS FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES WEST VIRGINIA

FURTHERING TECHNOLOGICAL LITERACY IN WEST VIRGINIA

By: Katie Hinerman Klug, Catholic Charities West Virginia
Marketing Communications Specialist



Since January, Kevin has worked with Catholic Charities' adult education instructor in McDowell County to improve his computer skills. He continues to achieve and work toward his goals!

Kevin, a resident of Northfork, WV, had lost his job due to cutbacks related to COVID-19. He came to our Catholic Charities McDowell County Adult Learning Center in Welch with two goals: to improve his computer skills and to obtain gainful employment.

Our adult learning center provides services to help adults pass the High School Equivalency (HSE) exam, learn basic computer skills, prepare for vocational program testing or conduct a job search.

Kevin has greatly improved his computer skills and knowledge and even obtained a LinkedIn computer certificate.

Kevin is enjoying his newfound confidence. "I've learned so much since I started and I feel much more confident using computers now," he said.

Kevin has applied to enroll in a Commercial Driver Licensing Program and hopes to start that training during the next available class.

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia, visit www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org.

The Mission of Catholic Charities West Virginia: Guided by God's love, Catholic Charities collaborates with community partners, parishes and families to provide caring and compassionate services to people in need and work toward lasting and meaningful change.

RESOURCES FOR YEAR OF THE FAMILY



The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston will celebrate the Year of St. Joseph through the Solemnity of the great guardian of the Holy Family on March 19, 2022. The office of evangelization

and catechesis has provided our parishes and Catholic schools with a wealth of resources to make the year special.

Below is a list of websites parents and grandparents can access to make the Year of St. Joseph fun for their children and grandchildren.

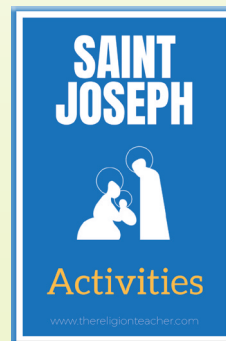
- Teaching Catholic Kids offers an introduction to who St. Joseph is, St. Joseph traditions from around the world, prayers, and more. You can access it [HERE](#).
- Popular for Catholic moms is Catholic Icing, a website dedicated to making our Catholic faith interactive and fun. Check out the site and specifically St. Joseph ideas [HERE](#).
- My Catholic Kids has a simple profile of St. Joseph and coloring page free to download [HERE](#).
- The Religion Teacher online offers a number of additional websites to celebrate our great guardian [HERE](#).

"May our faith in God and our devotion to His great servant, St. Joseph, bring us closer to Jesus Christ and one another," Bishop Mark Brennan said. "Let us be united in faith and love to do it."

CELEBRATING ST. JOSEPH WITH CHILDREN

Just before Easter, Pope Francis inaugurated the year of "Amoris Laetitia Family" (Latin for "the joy of love") which will conclude on June 26, 2022.

Pope Francis wants the year to be filled with activities to strengthen the family and their faith life so they can "experience the Gospel of the family as a joy that fills hearts and lives."



There are many great Catholic websites offering a wide range of prayers, activities, and discussions. The Office of Evangelization and Catechesis has suggested a great one to start with is by Loyola Press, which you can access [HERE](#).

The site provides fun activities, prayers, crafts, and much more. Parents can also find articles on How to Raise Kids

Who Care, 10 Tips for Better Meal Times, Turning to God in Times of Tragedy, profiles of saints, and other Catholic resources.

Let the grace of God shower over your family. Let this Year of the Family put into action a number of good habits to nurture your faith.

To read the Amoris Laetitia [CLICK HERE](#). As it begins, "The Joy of Love experienced by families is also the joy of the Church."

SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY

First Reading ACTS 4:32-35

The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common. With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favor was accorded them all. There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the feet of the apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need.

Responsorial PSALMS 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

R. (1) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting. (Or: Alleluia.)

Let the house of Israel say, "His mercy endures forever." Let the house of Aaron say, "His mercy endures forever." Let those who fear the LORD say, "His mercy endures forever."

R. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting. (Or: Alleluia.)

I was hard pressed and was falling, but the LORD helped me. My strength and my courage is the LORD, and he has been my savior.
The joyful shout of victory in the tents of the just:

R. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting. (Or: Alleluia.)

The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.
By the LORD has this let us be glad and rejoice in it.

R. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting. (Or: Alleluia.)

Second Reading 1 JOHN 5:1-6

Beloved: Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is begotten by God, and everyone who loves the Father loves also the one begotten by him. In this way we know that we love the children of God when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whoever is begotten by God conquers the world. And the victory that conquers the world is our faith. Who indeed is the victor over the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ, not by water alone, but by water and blood. The Spirit is the one that testifies, and the Spirit is truth.

Alleluia JOHN 20:29

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord; Blessed are those who have not seen me, but still believe!

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel JOHN 20:19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we may be a compassionate and forgiving people as we preach repentance for the forgiveness of sins to all the nations, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For world leaders, that they may always grow in wisdom and insight and that they may be committed to the truth as they exercise their leadership, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That we may open our minds and hearts to the truth that all people are children of God, so that we may fight racism, sexism, and any evil that mocks this sacred truth, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all who are preparing for receiving their First Holy Communion, and for all of us when we receive the Eucharist, that we may know our Lord in the breaking of the bread, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

LET US GO *Rejoicing* TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD.

PSALM 122

UPDATED GUIDELINES RELEASED

Bishop Mark E. Brennan released updated guidelines for our churches and facilities.

- New Norms for Reopening Parish Facilities for Meetings and Gatherings
- Updated Liturgical Guidelines
- Music Protocols for Liturgical Celebrations

These are available online at www.dwc.org.

Liturgy of the Hours LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!

Scan the QR code or visit the link below to view a PDF version of the Liturgy of the Hours.

EBREVIARY.COM LITURGY OF THE HOURS



WV CATHOLIC RADIO BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOU

Berkeley Springs - Hancock, MD	FM	96.3
Berkeley Springs	FM	107.9
Clarksburg-Bridgeport	FM	97.5
Dunbar - Charleston	AM	1450
Grafton - Clarksburg	AM	1190
Montgomery - Beckley	FM	89.7
Purgitsville	FM	98.7
St. Marys - Parkersburg	FM	105.3
Star City - Morgantown	FM	89.7
Summersville	FM	91.3
Wheeling - Martins Ferry, OH	FM	90.7
Weirton - Steubenville	FM	97.7

~Also Streaming in WV at www.rdo.to/WLOL~

WV Catholic Radio www.WVCatholicRadio.org

A LITTLE CATHOLIC HUMOR

FOLLOWING FATHER'S EXAMPLE A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. EPHESIANS 5:1-2

ENROLL TODAY

WV Catholic Schools

Empowered
by knowledge.
Transformed
by faith.



Register today

wvcatholicschools.org

MASS ONLINE

Saturday 6pm Masses will continue to be livestreamed from the Cathedral of St. Joseph, and will be available on our website each Sunday at DWC.ORG.

Below are four options for enriching your spirit through daily Mass online.

- EWTN airs daily Mass from Our Lady of Angels Chapel, in Irondale, Alabama, at 8am, noon, and 7pm: [HTTPS://WWW.EWTN.COM/TV/WATCH-LIVE](https://www.ewtn.com/tv/watch-live)
- St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York has daily Mass live streamed at 7am: [HTTPS://SAINTPATRICKSCATHEDRAL.ORG/LIVE](https://saintpatrickscathedral.org/live)
- Catholic TV also streams its daily Mass: [HTTP://CATHOLICTV.ORG/MASSES/CATHOLICTV-MASS](http://catholicTV.org/masses/catholicTV-mass)
- Daily Mass Online at Notre Dame' Basilica of the Sacred Heart is live at 11:30 am Monday-Friday: [HTTPS://CAMPUSMINISTRY.ND.EDU/MASS-WORSHIP/BASILICA-OF-THE-SACRED-HEART/WATCH-MASS/SPECIAL-MASSSES/](https://campusministry.nd.edu/mass-worship/basilica-of-the-sacred-heart/watch-mass/special-masses/)