



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



JESUS, I trust in YOU

Reflect on the miracle of the Mercy of God!

As a Church, we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday on this Second Sunday of Easter.

When Jesus appeared to the disciples after the Resurrection, he told them to show mercy, giving them the power to forgive sins. We too are asked to reflect on Christ's command and forgive those who have sinned against us, just as we beg God to forgive us when we have sinned against him or another.

Many of our parishes will showcase the painting of Jesus as St. Faustina, a Polish nun, saw him in a vision on February 22, 1931.

He is shown raising his right hand in blessing and pointing with his left hand on his chest from which flow forth two rays: one red and one white.

"The rays streaming out have symbolic meaning: red for the blood of Jesus (which is the Life of Souls), and pale for the water (which justify souls)," from *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 (p299). The whole image is symbolic of charity, forgiveness, and love of God, referred to as the "Fountain of Mercy".

Jesus told St. Faustina to share His message with the world, "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*, p742)."

Saint Faustina included on the painting the simple, yet powerful prayer, "Jesus, I trust in You."

In the midst of our sorrow, anger, grief, and anxiety – God gives us the love of the Holy Spirit – peace and comfort.

Put your trust in the Lord and receive His mercy, and without a doubt proclaim, "Jesus, I trust in You!" His plan is greater than our own.

One Mission One Day set for May 3rd 24-hour Online Fundraiser for Catholic Schools

The Catholic Schools in West Virginia have more than 4,250 reasons to motivate you to make a difference on May 3rd.

All 18 grade schools and six high schools will be participating in a 24-hour online state-wide giving day - *One Mission One Day to Make a Difference.*

"One Mission One Day is one of my favorite days of the year," said Heidi Sforza of the Stewardship and Development Office. "It's great to see our schools, communities and parishes all come together to support one another and raise funds! School staff and volunteers have also worked really hard to make this a fun and exciting day for students by creating contests, prizes and giveaways that give everyone a chance to get involved! From dress down passes to pieing teachers and kissing pigs- there's never a dull moment during the DWC Catholic schools giving day!"

Principals and advancement directors have been working together to coordinate creative social media ideas, fun promotions, and friendly competitions that 450-plus staff, 4,259 students, and their dedicated families are excited to promote. All the funds will be directed by the individual schools for areas they declare like tuition assistance, school improvements, special programs, technology upgrades, and teacher bonuses. Organizers in the schools are excited for this opportunity to reach family and friends from near and far online to raise funds and spread school pride.

"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Peter 4:10).

"It's an exciting day to see our schools working together to raise money for their greatest needs," Stewardship and Development Director Krissie Benson said. "All the hard work they put into this day final comes to fruition is a big way!"

Last year the schools raised \$518,000 from 1,791 donors. One Mission One Day was originally created by the school advancement directors and principals of the Northern Panhandle Catholic schools in 2019, raising more than \$50,000. In 2020, One Mission One Day expanded to include 19 schools, raising more than \$234,000. These gifts were greatly crucial for our schools' budgets during the pandemic when all other fundraising events were cancelled.

To help your local school or alma mater go to www. ONEMISSIONONEDAY.ORG and select your school(s) that will receive your gift. Donations will go directly to the school or schools of choice. You can also follow the hashtag #OneMissionOneDay on social media and check in on the leaderboard at OneMissionOneDay.org.

The event kicks off at 12:01AM and continues to 11:59 PM on May 3rd.

Organizers from the individual schools are eager too to see which school will raise the most money and which will have the most donors, because those schools will each receive a \$500 gift from the WV Catholic Foundation.



Honor St. Mark ~ Be an Evangelist



Mark, when we talk about Jesus, getting right to the point – Jesus Christ is the Lord!

the Gospel of Mark is short and to the point as he takes us through the life of Christ. He paints us a great picture of the Redeemer - a

man on the move.

"For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many," Mark 10:45.

Throughout writings we will hear the words of Jesus, the decisions of his first disciples to leave their homes, jobs, and families in order to follow Christ. Mark tells us how

We honor St. Mark the Evangelist Jesus' ministry unfolded for us as He traveled from town on April 25th. It is easy to mimic to town, teaching, curing illnesses, and forgiving believers of their sins. Mark makes it easy for us to put ourselves in these readings as the ones being spoken to, a follower, or a simple bystander witnessing miracles before our eyes.

Compared to the other Gospels, A prayer from the Basilica of the National Shrine of the **Immaculate Conception:**

> May God give us, like Mark, the wisdom and grace to preach the Gospel of Christ.

Let us pray,

O God, who raised up Saint Mark, your Evangelist, and endowed him with the grace to preach the Gospel, grant we pray, that we may so profit from his teaching, as to follow faithfully in the footsteps of Christ. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Shortest way to Jesus is through Mary ST. LOUIS DE MONTFORT

On Thursday, April 28th we honor the Memorial of St. Louis Grignion de Montfort. His love of God lead him to a powerful devotion to Mary with the mantra, "Totus Tuus" (totally yours). The saint was born in 1673 in France and was ordained a priest in 1700. He is fondly known as an "Apostle of the Rosary." His most moving preaching became books, including The Secret of the Rosary and True Devotion to Mary, still influence and encourage Catholics today.

St. Louis said, Mary is the "safest, easiest, shortest and most perfect way of approaching Jesus."

He said the rosary is "the most powerful weapon to touch the Heart of Jesus, Our Redeemer, who loves His Mother."

He evangelized countless souls to Jesus through Mary. He urged the faithful to be fully and formally consecrated to the Blessed Mother. St. Louis' devotion inspired him to



create a 33-day program, Total Consecration to the Blessed Virgin, which includes prayers and readings to become closer to Mary and working for her intercession to Christ. The program can be found within the True Devotion to Mary and also through a number of Catholic online resources like the Catholic Company by CLICKING HERE. St. Louis didn't get to see the fond popularity of his manuscript- True Devotion to Mary. He died in 1716, at the age of 43 and the book was not published until 1853.

As we enter into May, the Month of Mary, let us be open our hearts and mimic the devotion St. Louis de Montfort has exemplified. Pray the rosary (for help online see our prayer resources at FAITHINWV.ORG).

"When the Holy Rosary is said well, it gives Jesus and Mary more glory and is more meritorious than any other prayer," St. Louis de Monfort.

MASS FOR HEALING SET FOR MONDAY

Emphasizing the need for our continued prayers for healing and protection from sexual abuse, Bishop Mark Brennan will celebrate a Mass for Healing at St. Michael Parish in Wheeling at 6pm, April 25.

The diocese has also created an online rosary video series to help you join in this crusade at <u>DWC.ORG/PRAY-THE-</u> ROSARY/.

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA PRAY FOR US.



of Siena. We celebrate her memorial on April 29.

She is honored as a Doctor of the Church for contributing and strengthening the Church through her prayers and spiritual

writings. Her thoughts and teachings are captured in The Dialogue on Saint Catherine of Siena, which she simply called, "my book." She left all of her writings in the hands of Blessed Raymond Capua, who published them in The Dialogue. He also wrote The Life of St. Catherine of Siena, a biography of her life based on their conversations.

From a young age she would have visions of saints, angels, and Jesus. Her first was when she was six. She was out with her little brother Stephen, when she abruptly stopped, because she became captivated by a vision of Jesus with St. Peter, St. Paul, and St. John the Evangelist. She said Jesus smiled at her and blessed her. Capua wrote, "From this moment Catherine seemed to be no longer a child; her virtues her manners, and her

"God is closer to us than thoughts were superior to her age, and would have done water is to fish," a quote honor to men of mature years. The first of divine love from 600 years ago, inflamed her heart and enlightened her understanding; written by St. Catherine her will strengthened, her memory developed, and her every action became conformed to the rules of the Gospel."

> She would write that God said to her, "I loved you without being loved by you, even before you existed (in fact it was love that moved me to create you in my own image and likeness).... But you must give this love to other people, loving them without being loved by them."

Saint Catherine became a voice for peace and order in the Church. As a spiritual director for common people, royals, and governmental leaders, popes even sought her guidance. Blessed Capua said her words can come across as soft and gentle like a child, but also profound like a great prophet.

Let us remember how close God really is to us. As St. Catherine said, "He is with us. He is within us. When we cry, he showers love down on us. When we rejoice, he dances too. He created us to desire him. We are restless without him. He knows us better than we know us. He created us with purpose and intent. When we doubt, when we fear, when we do not know what to do, we can call to him, and he will remind us that he never left. A fish pulls oxygen out of water to breathe. God is closer. God is our breath. He sustains us."

WORLD YOUTH DAY LISBON • 2023 **REGISTER BY MAY 15, 2022 TO SECURE A SPOT!** A \$300 deposit is due at time of registration. **CLICK HERE to learn more and register.**

CATHOLIC CHARITIES WEST VIRGINIA

WALKING WITH NEIGHBORS AS WE WALK WITH JESUS

By Trina Bartlett, CCWVa Eastern Regional Director

The personal care closet at our Martinsburg office helps meet a basic need for many individuals and families by providing hygiene and cleaning supplies that cannot be purchased with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. It is often the first step in Catholic Charities staff members developing a supportive relationship with our clients who may not feel seen.

For more than two years, Cheryl Gregory has been doing a regular inventory of the personal care closet, developing shopping lists, finding the best prices, purchasing items and then helping us stock our shelves. Cheryl also serves on our fundraising committee and donates her homemade crafts for the auction. If that weren't enough, she has convinced her husband, Jim, to make trips to the Martinsburg office every other week to pick up our recycling.

We appreciate Cheryl and all of our volunteers who help work toward our mission!

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia, please visit <u>www.</u> <u>CatholicCharitiesWV.org</u>.

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.



Blessed Carlo Acutis Youth Adventure Camp

With Him on the Mountain

We are a Catholic youth adventure camp that ministers to youth through rock climbing, equestrian activities, archery, Adoration, overnight backpacking, outdoor Mass and more! Register your camper at *CampCarlowv.org* by **June 1st** to receive our early bird rate of \$275.

<u>June 26th – July 2nd</u>, A "catch all week" from 3rd grade through 12th grade.

<u>July 3rd – July 9th</u>, Rising 6th graders to 8th graders.

<u>July 10th – July 16th</u>, Rising freshmen to seniors in high school.

<u>July 17th – July 23rd,</u> A "catch all week" from 3rd grade through 12th grade.

<u>July 24th – July 30th,</u> "A Camp Carlo Summer Vacation" free program for 7-12 year olds who receive support from the government or Catholic Charities.

> Contact Assistant Director, Sadie Shields, for more information: <u>sshields@dwc.org</u> or 1 (304) 476-9015



Volunteer Cheryl Gregory stocks the personal care closet at the Catholic Charities Martinsburg office.



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

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First Reading: Acts 5:12-16

Even the shadow of Peter healed the sick.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 118

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his steadfast love endures forever.

Second Reading: Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19

The vision of Christ revealed. Jesus said, "I am the first and the last, ... I died, and behold I am alive for evermore...."

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Gospel: John 20:19-31

Christ appears to the disciples and breathed the Holy Spirit upon them. Thomas not there protested, saying he needs to see the hands for himself before he believes. More than a week later Jesus returned to the disciples in the house and before Thomas said, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." There is life in the name of Jesus!

CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/042422.CFM

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we choose to do the work of Christ Jesus each day, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all leaders of nations, states, and communities, that they govern with compassion, humility, and a service minded heart, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all those who entered into the Church at the Easter vigil, that they may see and follow the light of Christ and be a beacon of hope and encouragement to others discerning their faith, let us pray to the Lord...

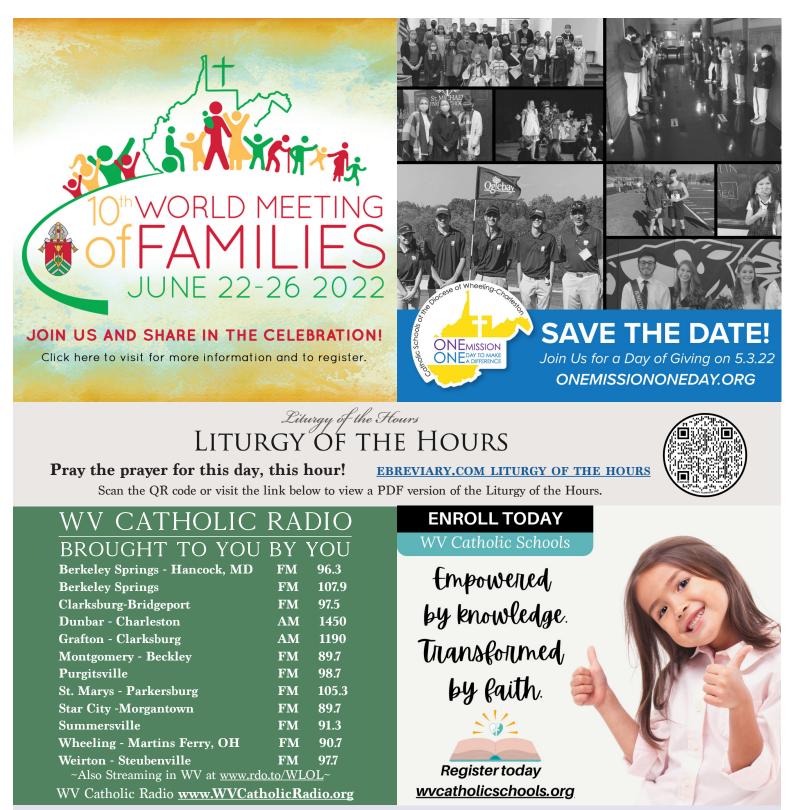
For all of our personal intentions and the intentions of our family and friends, that God fill our hearts with peace and confidence in knowing His plan is greater than our own, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

PRAY THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

- 1. Holding your Rosary, make the Sign of the Cross with the Crucifix.
- 2. On the first bead, begin with an optional opening prayer (such as this shortened version of St. Faustina's Prayer for Sinners, Diary p72): God will not deny His mercy to anyone. Heaven and earth may change, but God's mercy will never be exhausted. Oh, what immense joy burns in my heart when I contemplate Your incomprehensible goodness, O Jesus! I desire to bring all sinners to Your feet that they may glorify Your mercy throughout endless ages.
- 3. On the next three beads, pray one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and the Apostles Creed.
- 4. Next, on the large bead, pray: Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.
- 5. On the 10 small beads, pray: For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.
- 6. Repeat steps 4 and 5 for the next four decades of the Chaplet.
- 7. Conclude by repeating three times: Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.
- 8. End with an optional closing prayer: Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself. Amen.
- 9. With the Crucifix, make the Sign of the Cross.

For more resources on the Divine Mercy go to: www.thedivinemercy.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 <u>DWC.ORG</u>.

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: <u>HTTPS://WWW.EWTN.COM/TV/WATCH-LIVE</u>
- St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York has daily Mass live streamed at 7am: <u>HTTPS://SAINTPATRICKSCATHEDRAL.ORG/LIVE</u>
- Catholic TV also streams its daily Mass: <u>HTTP://CATHOLICTV.ORG/MASSES/CATHOLICTV-MASS</u>
- Daily Mass Online at Notre Dame' Basillica 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-masses/