



MAY A MONTH TO CELEBRATE MARY OUR BLESSED MOTHER

May! Here in West Virginia the gorgeous colors of our hills and valleys come alive. Dogwoods, rhododendrons, sassafras, and sugar maples awaken. The sweet fragrance of lily of the valley, honeysuckle, and peony fill the air. What a beautiful month to honor our Blessed Mother Mary, Queen of Heaven – Our Lady of Peace!

We honor her and her role as being chosen to be the Mother of God. We pray for her intercession through the Hail Mary, the rosary, novenas, and litanies among others. Today we share a super short but powerful one that was recited habitually throughout the day by St. Teresa of Calcutta:

“Mary, Mother of Jesus, please be a mother to me now.”

It was May who prayed with all sincerity and motherly love for Jesus and all of His followers. We don't worship her, but seriously honor her - our perfect example of true and loving discipleship.

MARY ALTAR

From May 1 to May 31, dedicate a small area of your home for a Mary Altar. It can be as simple as a windowsill or more elaborate like part of an entry table or dining table. Think of it as a little prayer spot, showcasing your favorite items that remind you of Our Blessed Mother. You can start with a sweet statue or artwork of Mary and then add flowers, your rosary(s), and a candle. If you have children, let them help direct what to place in this space. Show off their drawings of her and maybe even write down a personal prayer asking for her intercession.

Let this designated area be one that is a visible reminder of the Holy Mother of God, her importance in our lives and in the life of the Church.

The Church has given significance to each day of the week to help us in our daily prayers. Saturdays are for Mary. The most significant reason is that it was on Holy Saturday when everyone else had abandoned Christ in the tomb. Mary knew what was prophesized. She trusted God. She remained faithful, and while she agonized horrifically witnessing the unthinkable torture of her Son, on Saturday she confidently waiting for his resurrection that was to happen on the third day.

“Mary is close, she can hear us, she can help us, she is close to every one of us,” said Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.

RESOURCES TO HONOR MARY THIS MONTH

PRAYER RESOURCE: FAITHINWV.ORG/RESOURCES/

ONLINE SHOPS: Step out in style – wearables: [TOTALLY CATHOLIC TEES](#), [PETITE FLEUR CATHOLIC](#); and [BLESSED BE GOD BOUTIQUE](#).

Prints, totes, apparel, home décor – [ROOTED ART AND DESIGN](#); [THE LIVING HEART CO](#); [HOUSE OF JOPPA](#); [THE CATHOLIC COMPANY](#); [CATHOLIC TO THE MAX](#); and [NICHOLE LANTHIER](#)

Children's items (including flameless candles) - [SHINING LIGHT DOLLS](#); [CATHOLIC SPROUTS](#) (AGE 0-16 +PARENTS); and [PAPER PLANE PRIMARY](#).

ORGANIZATIONS TO HELP: Parish Rosary Altar Societies; Parish Women's/Mothers' groups; Parish Walking with Mom's in Need programs; [MARY'S REFUGE](#); [CATHOLIC CHARITIES WEST VIRGINIA](#).

Honor Mary, Our Blessed Mother





OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

1311 BYRON STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 230
WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA 26003

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Statement on Antisemitism on College Campuses

As a graduate of a major American university where pro-Palestinian protests and anti-Semitic rhetoric have taken place, I feel compelled to make known how repugnant I find the expressions of antisemitism on many college campuses. I abhor just as much expressions of anti-Moslem sentiment and violence, such as the injuries suffered by a Palestinian student, a student at my alma mater.

The Hamas-Israeli war has elicited strong feelings from many people but strong feelings are not an excuse for using hateful and stereotypical language about Jews and Moslems. While some students and faculty are trying to understand the conflict and make sober judgments, others, including non-students, indulge in intemperate chants and threatening behavior toward those who hold other views. I speak out because, with historical perspective, I know where antisemitism can lead if it goes unchecked; the same is true for Islamophobia.

College campuses are supposed to be places where young people can learn to make mature judgments about the world in which they live and which they will soon be directing. It is the role of administrators and professors to help students engage in that process. Recent events have shown that some of these university-employed adults are unwilling or unable to fulfill this role. They need to examine their consciences. If they are incapable of guiding young people toward maturity, they should resign. It is also unfair that non-students, whose occupation seems to be that of fomenting of trouble, should cause the majority of students to lose the right to go to class because of the disruption on their campus.

The current conflict between Hamas and Israel has complicated historical, political, cultural and religious aspects. I do not have answers to all of its dimensions. As a man of faith in the God who spoke to Abraham, the father in faith of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, however, I will continue to pray for a just and lasting peace between Palestinians and Israelis.

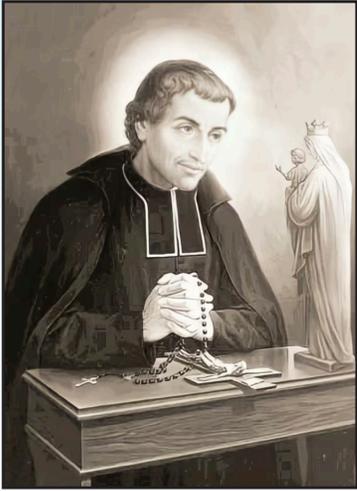
But, given the present situation on the campuses of many universities in our nation, I urge you to raise your voice to say that shouting hateful slogans and intimidating those of other views contribute nothing to the resolution of the present conflict in the Middle East and only exacerbate mutual disdain and distrust in communities of higher education. *Treat others the way you would want them to treat you.* That saying, known to people 2000 years ago and repeated by Jesus, is one that students, faculty, administrators and professional agitators should take to heart.

Sincerely in Christ,

+Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

APPROACH JESUS THROUGH MARY

ST. LOUIS GRIGNION DE MONTFORT



On Thursday, April 28th honor the Memorial of St. Louis Grignon de Montfort. His love of God led 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.”

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.

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA ~ PRAY FOR US.



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

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.”

THE POPE OF THE ROSARY ~ ST. POPE PIUS V



Remember St. Pope Pius V on April 30, the eve of the Marian month. It was in 1569, Pope Pius V officially named the Rosary as a devotional prayer in the Church. Therefore, he is affectionally called “The Pope of the Rosary.”

Saint Pope Pius V also established the Feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary.

The saint was a Dominican friar devoted to praying the standard 15 decades of the rosary (joyful, sorrowful, and glorious) as given through St. Dominic.

Born Antonio Ghislieri in 1504 near Milan, Italy, he was a shepherd boy until he entered the Dominican order at the age of 14, when he took the name Michele. He was ordained a priest in 1528; then at the age of 62 was elected pope, taking the name Pius V, in honor of his predecessor.

It is because of St. Pope Pius V that popes wear white. The tradition came to be after Pope Pius V refused to change out the Dominican white habit after elected pope. His successors acknowledged and honored his holiness by wearing the same garb.

Saint Pope Pius V wholeheartedly gave credit to the Virgin Mary for the Oct. 7, 1571, victory for the Church and Christians of Spain and Venice over Turks, who waged war on all Christianity. The day of the battle at sea was the same day the Rosary Confraternity of Rome gathered to recite the rosary for the Blessed Virgin to intercede and go to Jesus to protect and empower the Christians at battle. Pope Pius V declared the day the Feast of Our Lady of Victory. A year later, his successor, Pope Gregory III, changed the name of the feast to Our Lady of the Rosary to emphasize the power of our Blessed Mother’s intercession.

IT’S MAY! HONOR ST. JOSEPH! WAIT! WHAT?



While we know May is a Marian month, May 1st honors her spouse St. Joseph, but why?

It was a significant and intentional move by the Church.

The first of May, known as “May Day” in the mid-19th Century, honored laborers around the World. A century later though there was a movement to rename it and change the distinction to “Communist Worker’s Day,” as a way to influence communism on society.

Upset, but putting his concerns before God, Venerable Pope Pius XII made the bold decision to call upon the faithful to pray for St. Joseph’s intercession.

He said there is “no better protector” than the Terror of Demons, to guard the world from evil and specifically to denounce communism.

“Go to Joseph!” That is the direction of Venerable Pope Pius XII, to the faithful on May 1, 1955, when he declared the day as the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker. He said the Guardian of the Redeemer will go directly to Christ with our prayers.

As we honor St. Joseph the Worker on this feast day, let us remember him as a great example of how to be a dedicated, loving, and humble worker, father, and spouse. He worked with dignity in all those roles not only to provide, but for God. He worked with our Blessed Mother to raise, nurture, and teach Jesus. He tirelessly worked to honor Mary and protect her and the Son of God, especially when they had to escape danger time and time again.

Look to St. Joseph and let him teach all of us how to work for God, family, and community.

As the patron of the universal Church and our diocese, he watches over the faithful. Ask him to intercede and obtain mercy and courage for us, while defending us from all evil.

FOURTH CENTURY SAINT ~ RELEVANT FOR TODAY



Saint Athanasius lived in the Fourth Century. We honor him on the anniversary of his death, May 2, 373.

What does this saint of old teach us that is relevant to today? Defend and protect your faith. Remain true to God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit – three in one.

Saint Athanasius lived at a time when Christianity was attacked from all angles – even from within. He boldly objected any controversial thinking that God the Father and Christ were not one in the same.

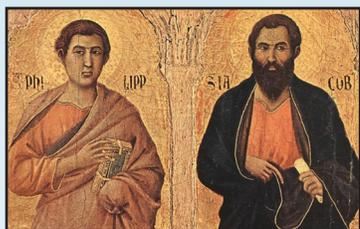
Athanasius, a Christian born in Egypt, would serve as bishop. He fought hard against heresies when provoked. He didn't just speak up but adamantly shouted to exclaim his position.

He was considered one of the earliest doctors of the Church.

His emphasis was based and supported by the Word of God and focused on knowing God as creator of all things.

He wrote, “For of what use is existence to the creature if it cannot know its Maker? How could men be reasonable beings if they had no knowledge of the Word and Reason of the Father, through Whom they had received their being? They would be no better than the beasts, had they no knowledge save of earthly things; and why should God have made them at all, if He had not intended them to know Him? But, in fact, the good God has given them a share in His own Image, that is, in our Lord Jesus Christ, and has made even themselves after the same Image and Likeness. Why? Simply in order that through this gift of Godlikeness in themselves they may be able to perceive the Image Absolute, that is the Word Himself, and through Him to apprehend the Father; which knowledge of their Maker is for men the only really happy and blessed life.”

MARTYRED FOR THEIR FAITH ~ SS PHILIP AND JAMES, PRAY FOR US!



The feast of Saints Philip and James on May 3rd is a day to celebrate two men who chose to be followers of Christ and upon the Resurrection went out into the world to preach the gospel.

Jesus chose both men to be his apostles. Philip is mentioned in the gospel of John, which tells us Philip was from Bethsaida (the same as Andrew and Peter) and was the third man approached by Christ to “Follow me.” He was also the apostle that

went to Nathanael and affirmed Jesus was indeed the Messiah “We have found the one about whom Moses wrote in the law, and also the prophets, Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth (John 1:43-51).”

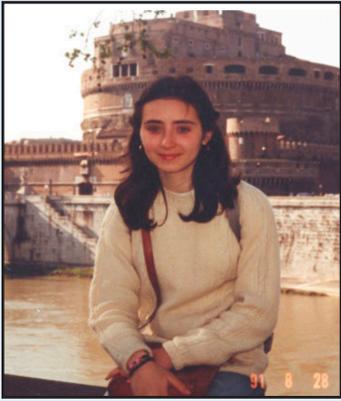
James, who was also called “James the Less,” was either younger or smaller than the other Apostle named James. His mother was close to our Blessed Mother and stood with her at the cross. Christ appeared to James after His Resurrection. After Christ's Ascension it was James who went out to begin the Christian church community in Jerusalem. He was the author of the first Epistle and was then referred to as “James the Just.” St. Paul calls him one of the pillars of our faith.

In his letter (James 5:13-20) he writes about the significance our role in the faith is by specifically addressing the power of prayer, confession, intercession, and conversion.

Both men were martyred for the faith. Even though they did not die at the same time or place the Church honors these men together, because their remains/relics were moved and buried at the Basilica of the 12 Holy Apostles in Rome, on the same day.

Lord, give us the confidence and loyalty of these great saints in order to have a positive influence in your name in this world. AMEN!

BLESSED SANDRA SABATTINI - THE HOLY FIANCEE PRAY FOR US!



Sandra Sabattini had a grateful and giving heart because she was grounded in Christ. She let others see Christ in her - a God that loves and shows mercy for all even those who feel unlovable. She is the first engaged woman to be beatified. We remember her on May 2, the anniversary of her death in 1984.

She was a medical student, engaged to the young man of her dreams, and was a member of a group, the Pope John XXIII Community, that served youth, poor, sick, and those with drug additions.

She kept a diary from the time she was 10. In it we learn her thoughts - "Life lived without God is just a way of passing time... boring or fun, time to be filled in while waiting for death."

Blessed Sandra didn't claim to be perfect by any means. In her own words she describes her struggles, and challenges with character and acceptance. She would often talk to her peers and others of the need to not only avoid evil but also aim for greatness.

"Today there are too many merely good Christians, while the world needs saints," she wrote.

Her diary entries and miscellaneous notes were published by her priest friend Fr. Oreste Benzi after her death.

Blessed Sandra died from injuries sustained after she was hit by a car on her way to her community meeting at the age of 22.

Not long before she had told her mother she had a dream about dying. Two days before her accident she wrote this in her diary:

"This life is not mine that is evolving rhythmically by a regular breath that is not mine, enlivened by a peaceful day that is not mine. There is nothing in this world that is yours. Be aware of this! It is all a gift that the 'Giver' can act on whenever and however He wants. Take care of the gift you have been given, make it more beautiful and fuller for when the time comes."

That quote illustrates Blessed Sandra's belief that everything is a gift from God, who intervenes in his time and how he wants to. Our job is to take care of the gift of life and nurturing not only our souls, but also to make things better for others - when we do our best we are preparing for when the time comes that we leave this earth.

TUESDAY
MAY 7TH

#OneMissionOneDay



MAY 7TH = ONE MISSION ONE DAY

24-HOUR ONLINE FUNDRAISER FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Just a reminder for the 24 Catholic Schools in West Virginia. There are more than 4,400 reasons to motivate you to make a difference on Tuesday, May 7th.

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 to benefit their programs, facilities, and projects for more than 4,400 students.

The first Diocesan wide Catholic schools giving day was held in 2020 and since then, more than \$1.67 million has been raised for Catholic schools across the state. Each year the giving day has grown bigger and better and has become a crucial fundraising event each of our schools count on.

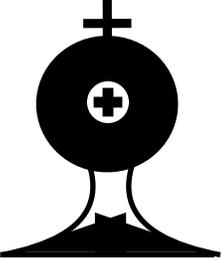
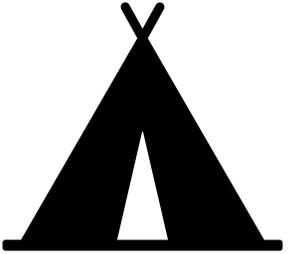
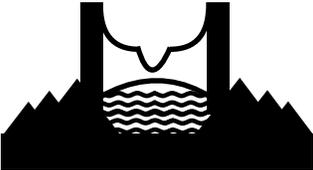
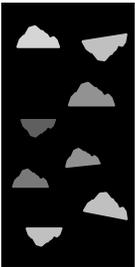
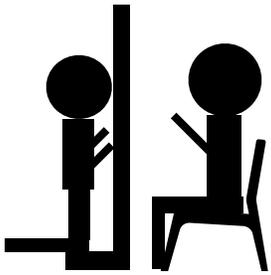
To help your local school or alma mater go to www.OneMissionOneDay.org and select your school(s) that will receive your gift. Donations will go directly to the school or schools of choice. Share the hashtag #OneMissionOneDay on social media and see your post on the OMOD website. You can also help your school by helping them spread the word - like and share their social media posts! Don't forget to check in on the leaderboard at ONEMISSIONONEDAY.ORG.

The event kicks off at 12:01AM May 7th and continues to 11:59 PM on May 7th, but if you'd like to get an early start, donations begin online April 30th. Organizers from the individual schools are eager too to see which school will raise the most money, which will have the most donors, and which school will have the most peer 2 peer fundraisers because those schools will each receive a \$500 gift from the WV Catholic Foundation.

GIFTS GO DIRECTLY TO THE SCHOOL YOU CHOOSE



Camp Carlo

Eucharist 	Swimming 	Campfire 	Tent Camping 
Horseback Riding 	Hiking 	Canoeing 	Creek Stomping 
Giant Swing 	Rock Wall 	Crafts 	Confession 

Interested in a Catholic Summer Camp?

Grow in your faith while having fun outdoors with LOTS of FUN ACTIVITIES! Register today at campcarlowv.org.

**June 30th - July 6th
July 7th - July 13th
July 14th - July 20th
July 21st - July 27th**

20/20 VISION SERIES

A YEAR WITH THE SAINTS

Join us as we journey throughout the year focusing on various Saints and their legacies, presented by those among us who live out these legacies in their lives and in their communities.

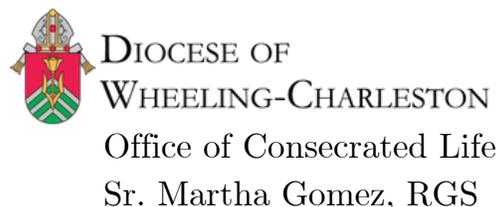
Note: Each session will begin at 7 pm and will be presented via Zoom.

January 29	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton – Sr. Mary Clark, SC
February 26	St. Brigid of Kildare – Sr. Karen Kirby, CSJ
March 18	St. Joseph – Sr. Kathleen Durkin, CSJ
April 29	St. Mary Euphrasia – Sr. Martha Gomez, R.G.S.
May 20	Blessed Virgin Mary – TBD
June 24	Marcellin Champagnat – Brother John Byrd, FMS
July 29	St. Ignatius of Loyola – Lou Volpe
August 26	St. Dominic – Sr. Ellen Dunn, OP
September 30	St. Lorenzo Ruiz – Fr. Carlos Melocoton
October 28	Jesuit Martyrs – TBD
November 18	Servant of God Dorothy Day – Kate Marshall
December 16	St. Stephan – Deacon John Yaquinta

(Series originated by Ms. Shirley Carter, B.A., M.A.A.T.)

Cost for complete series: \$120.00 Or \$15.00 per session.

RSVP – Anna Marie Troiani: atroiani@csjoseph.org





NATIONAL Eucharistic Pilgrimage

Be Part of this Historic Event!

*The pilgrimage comes to the Northern
Panhandle of West Virginia June 20-24*

FROM THE EAST

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Route



Welcome perpetual pilgrims to the Mountain State!

Gather with them for Masses, Eucharistic Adoration, Eucharistic Processions, praise and worship, and special programs as they share their experiences. Watch the Eucharistic Procession on the Ohio River led by Bishop Mark Brennan and Bishop Paul J. Bradley and receive a blessing. Pilgrimage events are open to all! Full schedule is on the right.



Participating Northern Panhandle Parishes

Weirton:

St. Joseph the Worker
Sacred Heart of Mary
St. Paul's

Wheeling:

Cathedral of St. Joseph
St. Alphonsus



Pilgrimage Events

Thursday, June 20, National Eucharistic Pilgrimage Kickoff in Weirton

St. Joseph the Worker Church: Meet the perpetual pilgrims and gather for Mass, Adoration, and praise and worship—8-9 a.m.

Eucharistic Procession from St. Joseph the Worker to Sacred Heart of Mary Church with Adoration and Benediction to follow—begins at 9:30 a.m.

Sharing Session & Reflection by Perpetual Pilgrims at Sacred Heart of Mary—11 a.m.-noon

Eucharistic Adoration with praise and worship at St. Paul Church—7-8 p.m.

Friday, June 21

Morning Mass with the perpetual pilgrims at Sacred Heart of Mary—8:30-9 a.m.

Breakfast with Perpetual Pilgrims at Sacred Heart of Mary—9:30-10:30 a.m.

Sunday, June 23

"Put Out into the Deep" on the Ohio River!"

Bishop Mark Brennan and Bishop Paul Bradley, apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Steubenville, will board a sternwheeler and lead a Eucharistic Procession down the Ohio River. Boatercade with the two bishops leaves the Steubenville Marina at noon and will stop at four sites on both sides of the river where faithful can receive a blessing. Blessing sites: Steubenville Marina, Wellsburg Wharf, Wellsburg-Brilliant Bridge, Mazeroski Park (Ohio), Pike Island Lock and Dam, and Heritage Port in Wheeling. Final destination is Bellaire Marina in Bellaire, Ohio.

Arrival of National Eucharistic Pilgrimage in Wheeling—7:30-8:30 p.m. Cathedral of St. Joseph. Bishop Brennan and the faithful of Wheeling will welcome the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage at the cathedral.

All-Night Eucharistic Prayer Vigil—8:30 p.m. (June 23) -8 a.m. (June 24) at the cathedral.

Monday, June 24

Mass at the cathedral celebrated by Bishop Brennan—8:30-9:30 a.m.

Solemn Eucharistic Procession through the streets of Wheeling from the cathedral to St. Alphonsus Church—9:30-10 a.m.

For more information, visit:

www.eucharisticpilgrimage.org/st-elizabeth-ann-seton-route

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 9:26-31

Barnabas reported to the Apostles how Saul (Paul) had seen the Lord on the way.

Responsorial: Psalm 22

“I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.”

Second Reading: 1 John 3:18-24

This is his commandment: that we may believe in Christ and love one another to remain with Christ.

Gospel: John 15: 1-8

“I am the vine; you are the branches.” Remain with Christ and bear fruit abundantly.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we may bear fruit when we speak out boldly in the name of Jesus, as we love one another as he commanded us to do, and while we remain on the true vine, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That those in public office may work together, like interconnected branches on a vine, for the common good, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those who suffer in hunger and poverty, especially children and babies, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That like branches on a vine we may work together as a community of faith to bear fruit for the benefit of all, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

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
Eastern Panhandle - coming soon	FM	88.5
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	97.9

~Listen on LoL Stream at www.rdo.to/WLOL~

ENROLL TODAY

WV Catholic Schools

*Empowered
by knowledge.
Transformed
by faith.*



Register today

wvcatholicschools.org



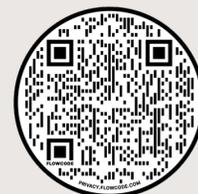
Liturgy of the Hours

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!

EBREVIARY.COM LITURGY OF THE HOURS

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



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.