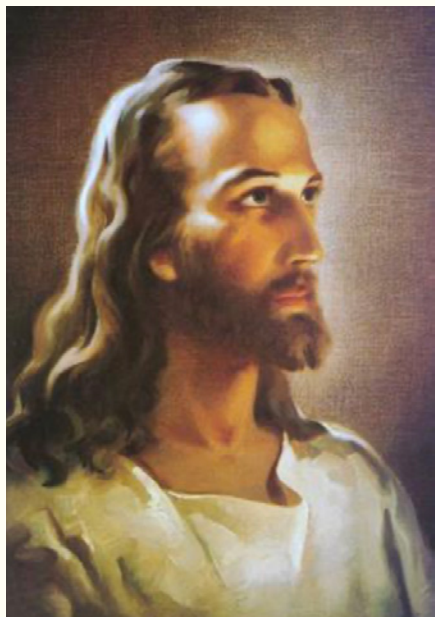




# The Story Behind the 1940s “Head of Christ” Painting



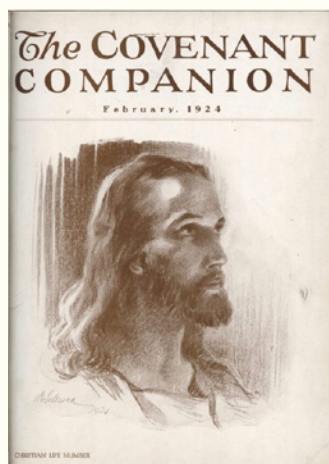
One of the most popular images of Jesus Christ that has been reproduced an estimated billion times is a 1940 painting by Chicago artist Warner Sallman.

As Catholics, we are blessed to be surrounded by many artists’ interpretations of what Jesus looked like or ways He is portrayed in a vast variety of mediums – paintings, carvings, statues, stained glass, etc. - in order to strengthen our prayer life. However,

Sallman’s version is believed to be the most recognizable Head of Christ on the planet.

Sallman’s image illustrates Jesus as a white man with blue eyes, wavy brown hair, and a deep focus ahead – ethnicity and features similar to European artists’ for centuries instead of what he geographically was, a Middle Eastern Jew with darker skin and hair.

## What is the story behind the painting?



Sallman was asked in 1924 to sketch a cover for a Christian youth magazine he worked for – The Covenant Companion. He said he had a vision of Christ in his sleep and when he woke, he sketched it in charcoal pencil.

The sketch is believed to have been inspired by and reflective of Catholic French artist Léon-Augustin Lhermitte’s image of Jesus in the 1892 painting “Friend of the Humble” (Supper at Emmaus). The painting illustrates

Christ among a regular family in their home to represent that He is a humble and gracious friend.

Lhermitte’s Christ has the same forward gaze and handsome features. The painting was printed in *Ladie’s Home Journal* predating the night of Sallman’s vision of, as he described, a “manly” Christ.



It was in the 1930s when Christian publishing house Warner Press asked Sallman to paint his 1924 sketch in full color. A few years later, he created “The Head of Christ” in 1940. He displayed it in his own home and didn’t share with the public until a friend who worked for the Christian publishing house saw it in Sallman’s home.

In 1941, Warner Press printed and sold out of the Head of Christ print within two months - all 100,000 copies. Demands increased and more than one million prints were purchased within that first year by individuals and organizations all over the world.

When World War II came, the image was turned into a pocket-sized prayer card in a campaign that Warner Press dubbed, “Christ in Every Purse”.

Ten years after he turned his sketch into a lifelike painting, Sallman’s image of Christ was proudly displayed in homes, churches, schools, hospitals, offices, and government buildings all over the world. In the 50s judges even displayed the painting in their courtrooms for accusers, defendants, lawyers, and juries to see.

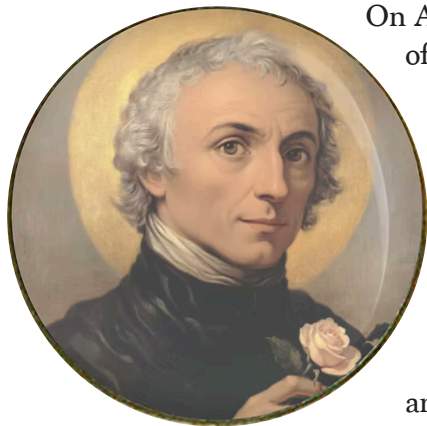
We all have our favorite images of Christ that comes to mind when we pray. Let this article give us a little nudge to reflect on what that image is, why it is important to us, and what it inspires us to be and do.

*Editor’s note: this article was inspired by and shares information talked about on the [99% Invisible Podcast](#) and the [John Kohan article on The Sacred Art Pilgrim](#).*

# Saint John Baptiste de la Salle

*“Young people need good teachers, like visible angels.”*

– St. John Baptiste de la Salle



On April 7, honor the Memorial of St. John Baptiste de la Salle by calling upon his intercession to bless all teachers, staff, and students in our Catholic and public schools, and in his words for each to be certain “That God is with you, will help you, and inspire you in all that you do.”

At a time when education was only for the “haves”, completely ignoring the “have nots”, St. John Baptiste was determined and succeeded to bring education in a formal classroom setting to all children despite the socio-economic status they were born into, thanks to his trust in God. He not only opened schools for the working poor and forgotten but also organized a group of laity and religious to serve and lead them.

Religion was integrated into core subjects in these public schools all over France. He was forward thinking also in the areas of individualized education planning. Students were placed in groups of abilities and achievement enabling them to better learn at their own challenging pace.

His wisdom is evident in his quotes and writings that inspire not only educators, but all of us, reminding us to use our gifts from God, be a good example, and pray always.

For teachers and school leadership: “To be entrusted with the teaching of the young is a great gift and grace of God.”

For all of us baptized in the Church: “God has chosen you to make Him known to others.”

John Baptiste de la Salle, called Jean-Baptiste, was the oldest child of 11 children of nobleman Louis and Nicholle (Moet de Brouillet) de la Salle. He was born on April 30, 1651. The family lived in Reims, France. Four of his siblings died in infancy.

Their faith was strong and reverent, evident in his certainty that he was to dedicate his life to God and serving all people as a priest.

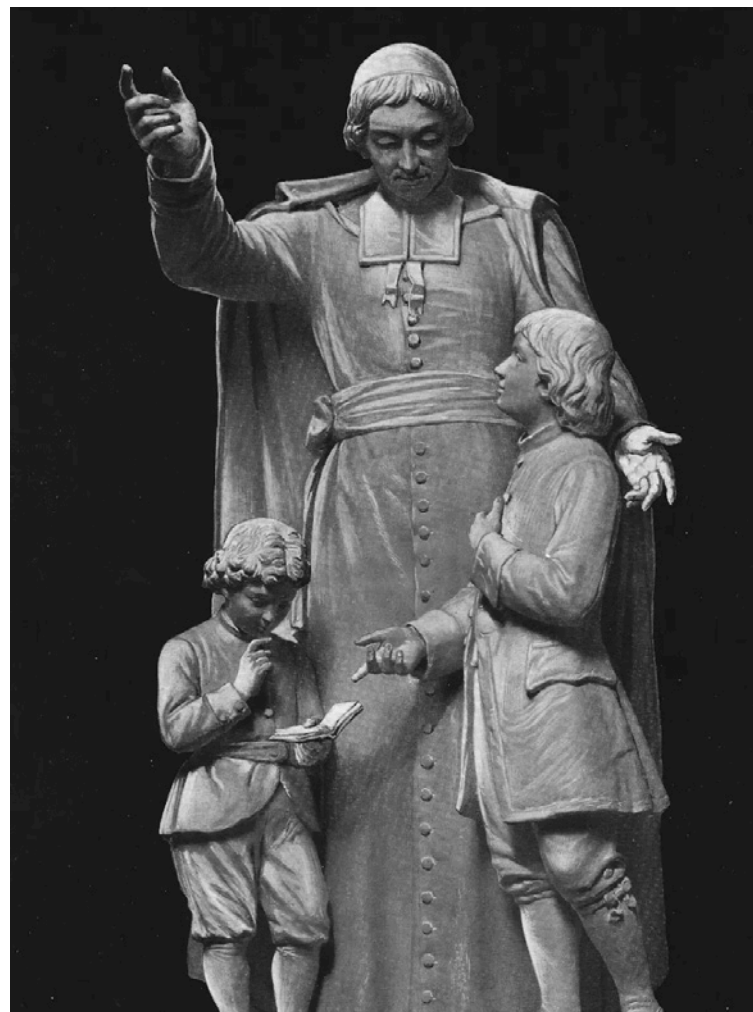
While in seminary his mother passed away and within 18 months his father died. At only 21-years-old, he returned home to care for four brothers and two sisters who were still quite young. After he was certain that his family’s estate and his siblings were well cared for, he returned to seminary. He was ordained a priest on April 9, 1678.

As Lent calls us to reflect, repent, and renew, let St. John Baptiste be a role model.

Reflect on a favorite prompt of his teaching - *what are you doing to share and be an example of the Gospel?*

Remember no matter what challenges we face heed St. John Baptist de La Salle’s words, “Throw yourself into God’s arms. He will carry you when the road is rough.”

*Editor’s note: Make it a holy habit to pray and support all teachers, schools, students, and all religious education/formation programs. Our Catholic schools will be seeking your support on May 6th - One Mission One Day - in order to provide extra funding for specific programs and needs.*



# SAINT STANISLAUS BISHOP OF KRAKOW



On April 11, the Church honors the memorial of St. Stanislaus Bishop of Krakow and martyr - a symbol of faith, dignity, and patriotism for Poland.

Born near Krakow on July 26, 1030, Stanislaus loved his Christian faith and was an example for his peers. That reputation followed him through the priesthood and into his duties as bishop, which began in 1072. He continued to boldly preach the Gospel and worked tirelessly to spread Christianity in Poland.

What we know about the young bishop has been handed down by generation to generation.

Poland's King Boleslaus (also spelled Boleslaw in records) appeased the energetic bishop, helping him open several Benedictine monasteries. The Polish people warned Stanislaus not to trust the king, claiming he was only being kind so the bishop would turn a blind eye. It was Boleslaus' own brother, Wladyslaw Herman, that convinced to take a more detailed look at the king's immoral ways.

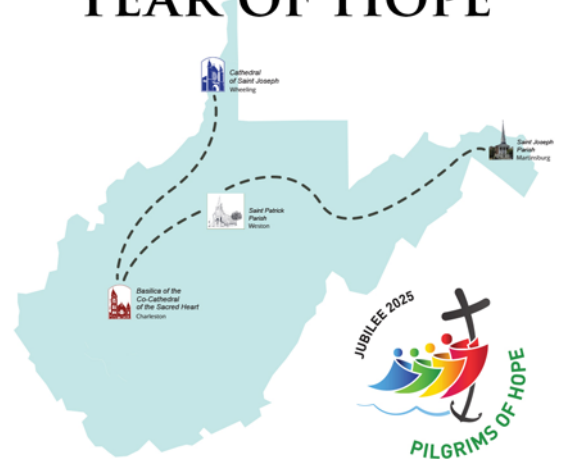
Soon, the bishop of Krakow had seen enough, and he called out the king for his unjust and evil governing. He excommunicated the king, no longer allowing him to participate in the life of the Church.

Boleslaus was outraged. He sent his men to kill the bishop. However, upon getting up to St. Stanislaus, the men's hearts softened and couldn't harm him.

The king took it upon himself, so while the bishop was saying Mass, Boleslaus ran up to the sanctuary and killed him.

The Polish people overthrew Boleslaus, and Wladyslaw Herman became their king.

## DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON WEST VIRGINIA PILGRIMAGE SITES FOR JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE



- **Cathedral of St. Joseph**  
*1300 Eoff Street, Wheeling*
- **Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart**  
*1032 Virginia Street East, Charleston*
- **St. Patrick Church**  
*210 Center Avenue, Weston*
- **St. Joseph Parish 225**  
*S. Queen Street, Martinsburg*

Through December 28, 2025, Catholics are invited to visit any and all of these locations to obtain a Plenary Indulgence by completing:

- **Reverent Prayer (at site):**  
Rosary, Stations of the Cross, Liturgy of the Hours, or Mass.
- **Confession** - within 20 days before or after pilgrimage.
- **Holy Communion**
- **Pray for the Pope**

For information and updates go to: [dwc.org/jubilee-year-2025](http://dwc.org/jubilee-year-2025)

# 2025

## HOLY THURSDAY CHURCH PILGRIMAGE

WHEELING - There is an ancient Roman tradition to visit multiple churches after the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday night and to pray and "keep watch" before the Blessed Sacrament at the Altar of Repose in each of those churches. In the spirit of this tradition, everyone is invited to join the faithful of the Wheeling area for a Holy Thursday Pilgrimage this year on the evening of April 17th. During the pilgrimage, the faithful will have the opportunity to visit six churches in the Wheeling area to pray before the Blessed Sacrament. A special booklet has been created which allows the pilgrims to follow along the narrative of Jesus' time in the Garden of Gethsemane as well as provide opportunities for personal prayer and meditation.

The bus will depart the Cathedral at 9:00pm and return at approximately 11:45pm. If you are interested in riding one of the busses, please sign up by contacting Kim Stillion at 304-233-0880, ext. 261, or by e-mailing [KSTILLION@DWC.ORG](mailto:KSTILLION@DWC.ORG) to reserve a seat by April 14th.

If you would like to visit the churches but would prefer to follow behind the bus in your own vehicle or go on your own, you can find the itineraries below:

**Bus departs from the Cathedral of St. Joseph at 9:00p.m.**

**Stop 1 (9:15pm-9:30pm)**

St. Alphonsus  
(2111 Market St, Wheeling)

**Stop 2 (9:45pm-10:00pm)**

Our Lady of Peace  
(690 Mount Olivet Rd, Wheeling)

**Stop 3 (10:15pm-10:30pm)**

St. Vincent de Paul  
(2244 Marshall Ave, Wheeling)

**Stop 4 (10:45pm-11:00pm)**

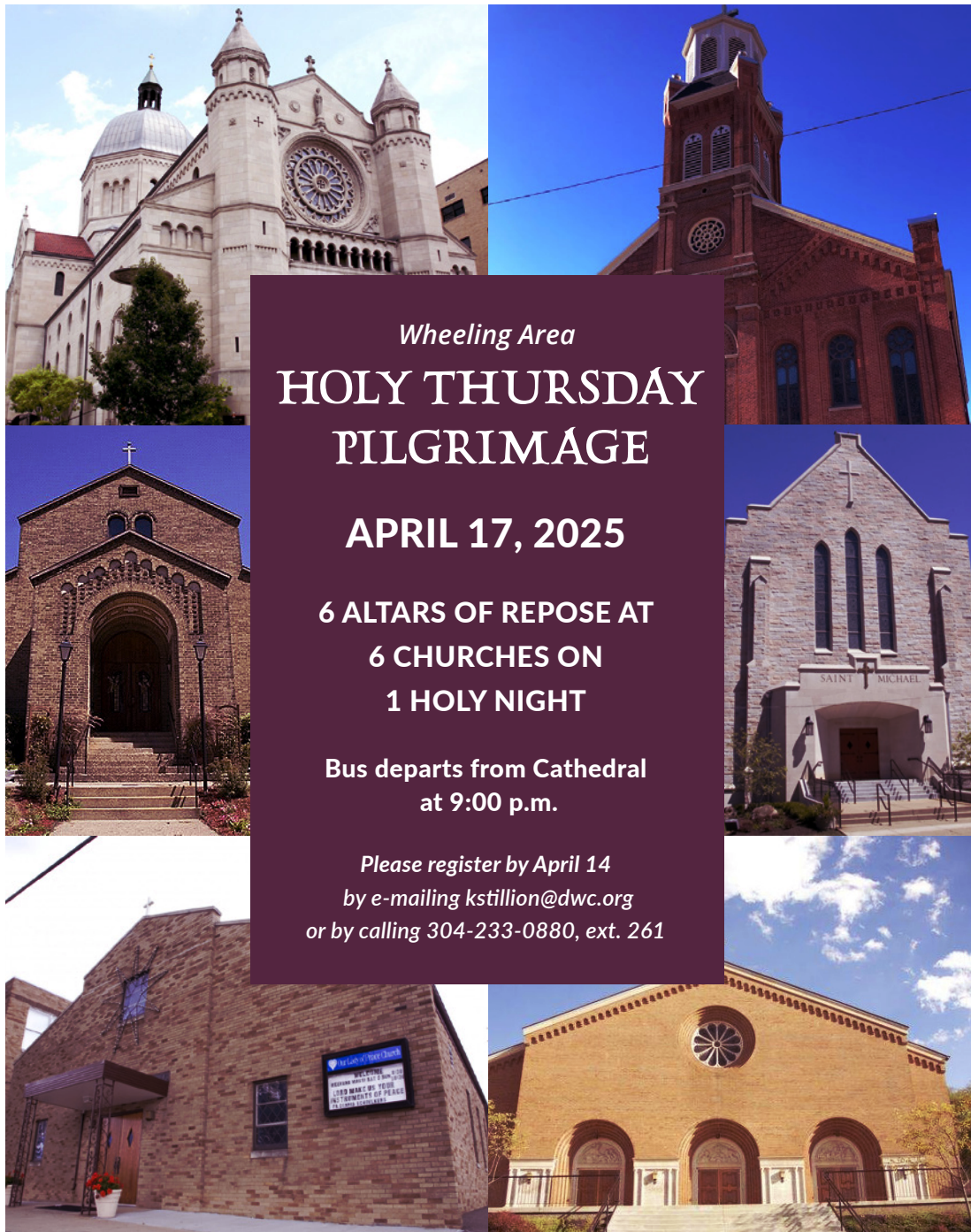
St. Michael  
(1225 National Rd, Wheeling)

**Stop 5 (11:15pm-11:30pm)**

Corpus Christi  
(1518 Warwood Ave, Wheeling)

**Stop 6 (11:45pm-Midnight)**

Cathedral of St. Joseph  
(1300 Eoff St, Wheeling)



*Wheeling Area*  
**HOLY THURSDAY  
PILGRIMAGE**

**APRIL 17, 2025**

**6 ALTARS OF REPOSE AT  
6 CHURCHES ON  
1 HOLY NIGHT**

**Bus departs from Cathedral  
at 9:00 p.m.**

*Please register by April 14  
by e-mailing [kstillion@dwc.org](mailto:kstillion@dwc.org)  
or by calling 304-233-0880, ext. 261*

# CONNECTING CAMPUS TO COMMUNITY

One of the roles of Campus Ministry, in addition to accompanying students on their faith journeys, is to connect them with the communities near their respective campuses. This is often accomplished through various service projects when needed.

A great example of this happened this past weekend when Elisa Thompson, the Co-President of the Sustainability Club and a student at West Liberty University, organized efforts of the club to help the Sisters of the Congregation of St. Joseph prepare their community garden at Mt. St. Joseph for spring planting.

Elisa is an active student in Campus Ministry and Shirley Carter, the Director of Hilltop CM at West Liberty, helped connect the two groups.

"I was so happy to work with Elisa in reaching out to Sr. Kathleen Durkin of the Congregation for this project," Carter stated. "It not only aligned with the mission of the club but helped the Sisters as well who, in turn, help the community."

According to Thompson, "our club goals are to better our campus and wheeling community through promoting sustainable practices and education, and we had fun doing it!"

Other club members who helped were Co-President Lorelei Eagle, Samuel Trusty, Ayden Ash, and Daniel Pitts.



*Pictured in the Sisters of St. Joseph's community garden are from left to right in front: Elissa Thompson and Lorelei Eagle; second row Samuel Trusty, Ayden Ash, and Daniel Pitts.*



## DIocese of Wheeling-Charleston



## Broadcast of Holy Week and Easter Masses

**MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER - Holy Thursday**

April 17 at 6:00 p.m. - *Live Stream*

**PASSION OF THE LORD - Good Friday**

April 18 at 3:00 p.m. - *Live Stream*

**EASTER MASS - Sunday, April 20**

*Live Stream and Broadcasted*

**10:30 a.m.** - WVNS/FOX - Beckley/Bluefield

WOWK/CBS - Charleston/Huntington

WBOY/ABC - Clarksburg/Fairmont/Morgantown

WTRF/ABC - Wheeling/Northern Panhandle

*Live Stream at [www.dwc.org/Mass](http://www.dwc.org/Mass)*

Closed Captioning Provided.

Easter Mass broadcast is sponsored by the Welty Corporation.



# FATHER SEBASTIAN DEVASYA HOLY YEAR ITALY PILGRIMAGE

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Email:  
[gina@sacredheartprinceton.org](mailto:gina@sacredheartprinceton.org)



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# Quo Vadis

DISCERNMENT

# Retreat

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Welcoming boys grades 6th - 12th!

PRAYER KAYAKING CAMP FIRES  
HIKING GAMES CHALLENGES



11 am June 30 to 1 pm July 3, 2025



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**Kearneysville, WV**

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DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

SEMINARIAN RETREAT LEADERS:  
Middle School Breakouts



**Peter Russman**

St. James, Charles Town  
*Pontifical College Josephine, Columbus, OH*

High School Breakouts



**Michael Tupta**

Co-Cathedral, Sacred Heart, Charleston  
*Pontifical North American College, Rome*



**Joe Derico**

St. Patrick, Weston  
*Pope St. John Paul II, Washington, DC*



**IT'S FREE!**

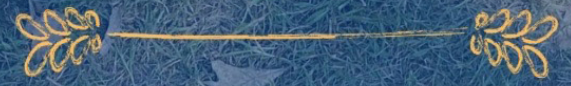
Register now at [WVPriests.org](http://WVPriests.org)





What is  
God  
asking of  
You?

Missionary Sisters  
Servants of the  
Word



*Discernment  
Retreat*

for Women  
18-30 years old



August 29th -30th

*Priestfield Pastoral  
Center*

*4030 Middleway Pike  
Kearneysville WV.*

*25430*

*Diocese of  
Wheeling-Charleston*

To sign up:  
WestvirginiaMission@hmsp.org



## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

### First Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21

God gives us life – water in the desert... rivers in the wasteland. Praise God.

### Responsorial: Psalm 126

“The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.”

### Second Reading: Philippians 3:8-14

Saint Paul tells the Philippians, having faith is having it all! He declared that his faith is the most important thing in his life.

### Gospel: John 8:1-11

“Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her” (John 8:7). Christ saves the adulterous woman from execution and forgives her sinfulness, giving her a new chance at life. This is a reminder to us all – look at our own sinfulness. Don’t judge others. God’s love and mercy are greater than we could ever imagine.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, from the Pope to those in the pews that we choose to be merciful and respectful instead of condemning or having bitter judgement, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all who play a role in law enforcement, that they may exercise their authority fairly and justly, while be protected by St. Michael the archangel as they keep us all safe, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those in prison, that they turn toward our Redeemer and forever away from evil, as they seek forgiveness and pray for those whom they’ve hurt, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those who will be welcomed into the Church at Easter, that they may see God giving them energy for great renewal so that they may be a light and sign of hope for others, 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
Keyser - coming soon	FM	98.9
Montgomery - Beckley	FM	89.7
St. Marys - Parkersburg	FM	105.3
Star City -Morgantown	FM	89.7
Summersville	FM	91.3
Wheeling - Martins Ferry, OH	FM	90.7
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*Liturgy of the Hours*

## LITURGY OF THE HOURS

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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](http://DWC.ORG).