



## THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

On August 15, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, when she was taken up body and soul to heaven, sharing in her son's victory over death and resurrection.

We can marvel at the joys and sorrows of her entire life – the Immaculate Conception, the presentation of Mary by Saints Anne and Joachim in the temple, her fiat-YES to God, faithful from the moment of the Annunciation, the Visitation, the Nativity, escape to Egypt, life in Nazareth, the foot of the Cross, Pentecost, her first holy communion.

Today, as we prepare to honor of the Solemnity of the Assumption, reflect on how we can be a good example for others, inspiring their spiritual journey and supporting strong virtues like our Blessed Mother.

Let us share our respect, joy, and love of Mary for all to see; and not hesitate to ask her to intercede for us.

Let us contemplate what God is asking us to do and then find the courage to say, “Yes” to do God’s will.

Let us mindfully care for others in our neighborhood, nearby nursing homes, or parish community, like Mary cared for Elizabeth for three months.

Let us be confident in our prayers just as Mary was when she called upon her Son at the Wedding Feast at Cana.

Let our faith reflect our trust in the Lord so that upon our



death we see Mary at the gates of Heaven, lovingly welcoming us into the arms of Jesus in paradise.

The bible does not give us an exact account of this glorious moment. We can only imagine that perhaps at her last breath on earth she was taken into the arms of angels as the heavens opened and the most luminous light came down to kiss the earth, welcoming Mary to her eternal home in paradise with her son our Lord, Jesus Christ.

The Assumption is one of the most important Marian feast days in the Catholic Church.

“The great things done in (Mary) by the Omnipotent One touch us deeply, they speak to us of our journey in life, they remind us of the end that awaits

us: the house of the Father,” Pope Francis said.

Because of the Assumption, see life as “not a senseless wandering, but a pilgrimage which, with all of the sufferings and uncertainties, has a sure destination,” the Holy Father said. The final destination is heaven, where the Father awaits us with his genuine love.

Let us all be in awe of the life and faith of the Blessed Mother. May she from the gates of Heaven help us to fix our eyes on Jesus and choose greatness in all we do no matter how great or small the task.

The painting featured with this article is by Mary Fauchaux, artist and owner of Simply Joyful Print available at: [www.etsy.com/shop/SimplyJoyfulPrint](http://www.etsy.com/shop/SimplyJoyfulPrint)

# EUCHARISTIC REFLECTION: MARY'S FIRST COMMUNION

At the National Eucharistic Congress Dr. Edward Sri, best-selling Catholic author and international speaker, engaged an audience of more than 1,000 faithful of all ages with a talk based on one of his books, "A Biblical Walk through the Mass."



While the session was filled with many nuggets of inspiration, foreshadowing, messages, affirmations, and testimony; Sri made many of the attendees tilt their head in awe. He reflected his talk for a moment on Mary and the awesome image of her receiving the Holy Eucharist for the very first time.

He quoted Pope Saint John Paul II, "Mary lived her Eucharistic faith even before the institution of the Eucharist."

However, he questioned, "Have you ever wondered what it would be like for Mary, Our Blessed Mother, and what she must have been thinking at her First Holy Communion? The same Body and Blood sacramentally - within her again!"

He said while Scripture doesn't tell us when exactly she received the Eucharist for the first time, she wasn't at the Last Supper, but she was so close to the apostles she would have heard in great detail what Christ shared and believed wholeheartedly in the sacred mysteries.

"When we come to receive communion, you are there to be united with Him at that very moment - like Mary, receiving the Body and Blood of Christ."

Transform yourself. Go back to those moments - Mary with Christ in her womb, the scene of the Last Supper, with Him at Calvary, His days before the Ascension, and Mary at her first communion - "welcoming once more 'that heart that beat in unison with hers.'"

"Let the past be made present," he said. "Let it transform us. Believe. If you long for transformation in your soul - where do you encounter that? The sacrifice of the Mass. Love. Be gentle. Serve. Blessed are those called to the supper of the lamb. Endure."

## SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION AUGUST 15, 2024

**First Reading: Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a; 10ab**

A woman clothed in the sun with the moon at her feet.

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**Responsorial: Psalm 45**

"The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold."

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**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:20-27**

Christ, the firstfruits; then those who belong to him.

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**Gospel: Luke 1:39-56**

"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we may imitate the Magnificat, feeding the hungry, lifting up the lowly, and showering mercy upon all God's children, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That the Queen of Peace intercede for all nations and bringing world leaders together to bring peace to peoples at war, regions of conflict, and neighborhoods filled with violence, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For expectant mothers and parents of babies and little ones, that our Blessed Mother may watch over them and their children, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That we may share Mary's enthusiasm in bringing the Christ within us to others, from those in need of our assistance to those who wish to share their joy, let us pray to the Lord. . .

*Lord hear our prayer*

# SPECIAL COLLECTION

AUGUST 18TH

for the Education of Seminarians for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.



## 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.

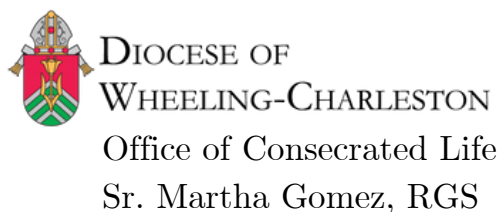
Note: Each session will begin at 7 pm and will be presented via Zoom.

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](mailto:atroiani@csjoseph.org)**



# *Finding Hope in Community*

**Come join us for a day of reflection and integration.  
This will be an opportunity for a time of respite and peace.**

**Saturday, August 24th  
10:00 AM to 3:30 PM**

(a simple soup lunch will be served)

**Bead Making**—in the morning we will create colorful polymer beads to share. Each participant will create enough beads for everyone gathered. These will be used to create bracelets—a remembrance of the gathering and community created.



**Contemplative Doodling**-- In the afternoon, we will share an experience of mindfully creating unique works of art using simple drawing and coloring materials.

No previous art experience is necessary. These art as prayer experiences are about entering into a process of creative expression for self-discovery.

**Location: St. Joseph  
Retreat Center**

**Cost: \$50.00  
(partial scholarship  
available)**

**To register, contact:  
Anna Marie Troiani**

**Phone: 304-907-0171**

**Email:  
atroiani@csjoseph.org**

**Facilitators: Mary Slattery, HM and Carrie Vall, CSJ**

Mary is an art therapist and counselor who has a heart for helping others to “discover their artist within.” Mary currently ministers with Humility of Mary Housing sites in Akron, Ohio where she shares the healing gift of art with clients and residents.

Carrie is a board-certified art therapist who works with individuals and groups in a variety of settings. She is a co-director of the Women’s Outreach Center, in Cleveland, Ohio, which serves women who have experienced homelessness.





## CURSILLO MINI-RETREAT

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17

ST. JOHN XXIII PASTORAL CENTER  
CHARLESTON, WV

The Cursillo leadership group, of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, is planning a mini retreat, for all Cursillistas (individuals who have already attended a Cursillo weekend) who are interested in gathering together, in the name of Jesus Christ and the Cursillo Movement, in our diocese.

It will be held at the St. John XXIII Pastoral Center, in Charleston, on Saturday, August 17th. We will begin at 8:00 AM, with Mass, and finish by 4:00 PM. We plan to do groupings, discuss the needed roles of the Secretariat, as well as pray a rosary, have Eucharistic Exposition, and provide the opportunity for individual Confessions to be heard.

Free lodging, on Friday evening, August 16th, will be available for those individuals and couples who come from a great distance.

A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided, during the retreat.

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For more information please visit

[DWC.ORG/2024-CURSILLO](https://dwc.org/2024-cursillo)

To register for the retreat or receive more information, please contact Daniel Maul at [dmaul@dwc.org](mailto:dmaul@dwc.org), or 304-233-0880, ext. 376



*Celebrate*  
**Five with 5**

## for Bishop Brennan's Fifth Anniversary

As we honor the fifth anniversary of the installation of Bishop Mark Brennan as the Bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, we call upon the faithful to **Celebrate Five with 5!** This is an opportunity for us to commemorate Bishop Mark's milestone year with gifts Christ taught us were the greatest to give – prayer and works of mercy. Starting Tuesday, August 6th and throughout the year faithful will be able to go online to [DWC.ORG/CELEBRATE-FIVE](https://dwc.org/celebrate-five) and gift their five.

As we learned on his installation day on August 22, 2019, the motto Bishop Mark chose for his Coat of Arms, “Living the Truth in Love,” emphasizes that it is in the love of Jesus Christ that we receive the strength to live as God called and Jesus instilled in us.

**Gift of Prayer:** Choose to mirror the prayers of Bishop Mark. His daily prayerful habits include: praying the rosary during a road trip, praying for pregnant women as well as the husband/father; praying for engaged/newly married couples; praying for the intentions of the faithful of the diocese; and praying for Vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life.

**Gift of Deed:** opportunities abound through Catholic Charities WV and our local parish and Catholic organizations' efforts. Corporal Works of Mercy: Feed the hungry; Give Drink to the thirsty; Shelter the homeless; Visit the sick – the present of your presence with the sick physically, mentally, and spiritually; Visit the prisoners – if not in person do it through ministry of cards/prayers/Mass intentions; Bury the dead – Respect for life God created through prayer, in Mass intentions, or by visiting a cemetery; and Give alms to the poor – gifts of treasure in a way that is pleasing to God.

Also, prayerfully consider honoring Bishop Mark Brennan's installation anniversary with a donation to support the ministries at Catholic Charities West Virginia. The link to donate is at: [dwc.org/celebrate-five](https://dwc.org/celebrate-five).

# 19TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

## First Reading: 1Kings 19: 4-8

Exhausted in the desert, Elijah prayed for death. An angel woke him, gave him food and water – twice – strengthened by the heavenly food he walked 40 days to the mountain of God.

## Responsorial: Psalm 34

“Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.”

## Second Reading: Ephesians 4:30-5:2

Be kind, compassionate, and forgiving – imitators of God. Christ gave himself as a sacrificial offering. Live in love.

## Gospel: John 6:41-41

The crowds were baffled at Christ’s words, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” He addressed them again saying – “I am the bread of life... bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die.... The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world,”

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we may provide for all who hunger and thirst physically, mentally, and spiritually, listening especially to our clarion call here in the US to Walk with One in our Eucharistic Revival Missionary Year, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For world leaders to work together peacefully to end hunger and hatred, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those who have reached a point in their journeys through life where they feel they cannot go on, that by the grace of God they may find strength to endure and hope in the future, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That each one of us take St. Paul’s advice in his letter to the Ephesians to heart and be kind to one another, compassionate, and forgiving, living in love as Christ loves us, let us pray to the Lord. . .

*Lord hear our prayer*

## WV CATHOLIC RADIO BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOU

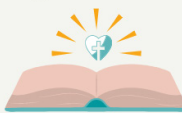
Berkeley Springs - Hancock, MD	FM	96.3
Berkeley Springs	FM	107.9
Clarksburg-Bridgeport	FM	97.5
Dunbar - Charleston	AM	1450
Eastern Panhandle - coming soon	FM	88.5
Grafton - Clarksburg	AM	1190
Montgomery - Beckley	FM	89.7
Purgitsville	FM	98.7
St. Marys - Parkersburg	FM	105.3
Star City -Morgantown	FM	89.7
Summersville	FM	91.3
Wheeling - Martins Ferry, OH	FM	90.7
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## Liturgy of the Hours

# LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!

[EBREVIARY.COM](http://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](http://DWC.ORG).