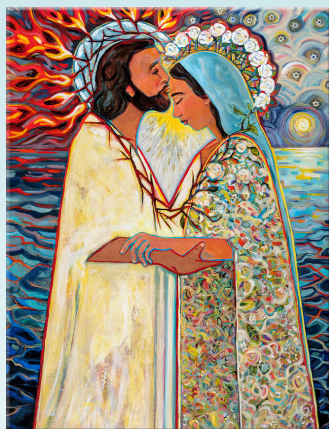




CELEBRATE THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY QUEEN OF HEAVEN



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.

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

We can only imagine that perhaps at her last breath on earth she was lovingly taken into the arms

of angels as the heavens opened and the most luminous light came down and graced the earth, as a path for Mary to be fully assumed into heaven and into the precious embrace of her Son our Lord and Savior.

Pope Francis said faith is the defining virtue of Mary and the Assumption is a foreshadowing of what awaits each one of us who work hard through our faith to seek to have the courage, trust, hope, and love our Blessed Mother revealed throughout her life.

"The Gospel also shows us the truest reason for Mary's greatness and her blessedness: it is faith - the heart of Mary's entire story," he said. "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."

Because of the Assumption, we can see life as "not a senseless wandering, but a pilgrimage which, with all of the sufferings and uncertainties, has a sure destination," he said. The destination is heaven, where the Father awaits us with boundless love.

However, until that destination is reached, God has given his people a sign of consolation and hope for the journey, Pope Francis said.

In honor of the Solemnity of the Assumption, reflect how we can be a good example for others, inspiring their spiritual growth and strong virtues.

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.

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 BREAD OF LIFE DISCOURSE

Sunday as we celebrate the Assumption of Mary, don't deprive yourself of missing the last verses of the Gospel of John's *Bread of Life Discourse* in chapter six, which compliments and concludes the readings from the last few Sundays. John 6:51-59.

Most notably, Jesus emphasized and repeated that he is the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation - "I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh." The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" (John 6:51-52).

Receiving the Eucharist at Mass each week can become habitual to the point we do so without thought. We can lose sight or take for granted the transubstantiation - when the bread and wine

truly become the Body and Blood of Christ. Our Catechism declares the Eucharist is the "source and summit" of our



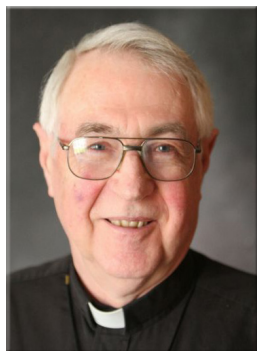
Catholic faith. Let us not lose sight of the ultimate sacrifice for us. Let us not take for granted the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ - this amazing mystery when the angels and saints are present among us at Mass.

We have shared on the [DWC FACEBOOK](#) many times the remarkable short film, *The Veil Removed*, since its first release in December of 2019. The video presents the Liturgy of the Eucharist with the imagery

to emphasize the true Body and Blood of Christ with the angels and all the Saints. Today we encourage you to click this link and view it THEVEILREMOVED.COM. It never gets old.

May the Eucharist remain active in our daily lives.

FORMER PASTOR OF ST. JOHN'S CHAPEL IN SWEET SPRINGS PUBLISHES CLOUD OF WITNESSES AND RETURNS TO MONROE COUNTY FOR MARIAN FEAST



Have you ever challenged yourself to think about who is in your "own Cloud of Witnesses, the people in your life who have died but still influence you positively in a significant way?"

Father Harry Winter, O.M.I., who served in the southern region of West Virginia throughout the 1980s into 1991, leaves the readers of his book, pondering that thought.

Winter recently published the book, *Cloud of Witnesses - The Floyd-Lewis Chronicles*. It showcases the history of Virginia Governor John Floyd Jr, his wife Letitia Preston Floyd, and their descendants including their eldest daughter Letitia Floyd Lewis. This family rivaled the importance of the President John Adams family in Fr. Winter's opinion. His book tells why.

Cloud of Witnesses also highlights the family's conversion to the Catholic faith and the prominent family's influence on the Appalachian region, specifically the area of Sweet Springs in Monroe County. The area is home of the historic Old Sweet Springs Resort, which is currently part of a historic revitalization project lead by the Sweet Springs Resort Park Foundation, Inc., (SWEETSPRINGSRESORTPARK.ORG). The region was a retreat and recreation destination for many affluent and influential families. Eight of the first 10 Presidents of the United States had stayed in the grand hotel built in 1833, and the chapel on the property - St. John's - is the oldest Catholic church in West Virginia, older than the state itself. It was established in 1859.

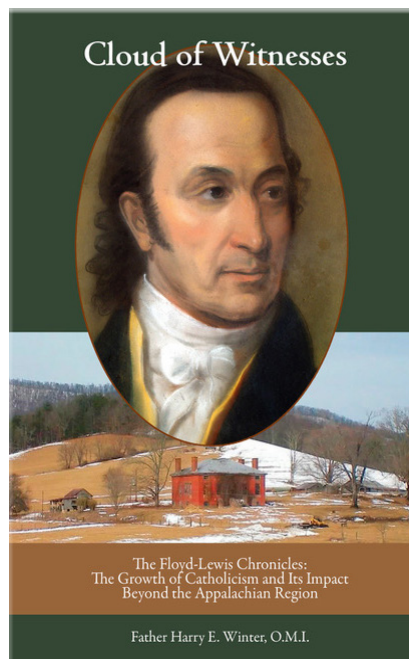
Father Winter served as pastor in Monroe County from 1982-91, residing at St. Andrew's in Union, while also serving St. John's in Sweet Springs and St. Peter's, in Peterstown.

Above the doors of St. John's Chapel are the words, "One Lord, One Faith, and One Baptism." This mantra was echoed in the promise made to Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Bishop Francis Schulte in 1986 to "faithfully maintain St. John's Chapel, so that our Catholic faith may be witnessed in this Sweet Springs Valley." The promise honors their ancestors and all who made the chapel possible as their "Cloud of Witnesses."



This reference, just as the title of the book, is a compliment to Saint Paul's writing - Hebrews 12:1, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us* and persevere in running the race that lies before us...."

The great apostle is telling us that we need to have confidence as we run our race, because we are surrounded everyday by great prophets and saints who are cheering us on.



Faith is a big part of the lives of the Floyd-Lewis family. Father Winter eloquently describes the individuals of the past as the grand witnesses to our history and now the work of the revitalization of it.

Winter is a priest for the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. He took his first vows on Sept. 8, 1958 and was ordained in Rome on Dec. 16, 1964. He

is currently the pastor in residence, St. Mary's Church, Georgetown, Mass. He will return to Monroe County this weekend to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption Mass at 6 pm, Aug. 15th at St. John's in Sweet Springs along with Fr. James Conyers, who oversees the chapel along with his duties as pastor for St. Charles Borromeo, White Sulphur Springs; St. Catherine Siena, of Ronceverte; Chapel of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in Williamsburg; and St. Louis King of France Chapel, in Lewisburg.

The historic Sweet Springs chapel will open its doors at 4 pm on Aug. 15th in order for visitors to tour the church before the celebration.

The Feast of the Assumption Mass at St. John's has long been a special event for the region. While the church is only open for special services, Fr. Conyers celebrates this weekend's special feast with as many as six other priests participating. Father Winter was the last resident priest for St. John.

Also keeping up with tradition, an ice cream social will follow the Mass on the lawn in front of the chapel. Father Winter will be available after Mass for book signing.



NEWS FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES WEST VIRGINIA

FLOOD RECOVERY IN CAMERON

By Katie Hinerman Klug, Marketing Communications Specialist



On June 20, many Cameron, West Virginia residents' lives were changed as heavy rainfall caused flash flooding in the Marshall County town. Volunteers in the surrounding area immediately began assisting families whose homes were damaged.

"As soon as we heard on the news about a flash flood in Cameron, our team stepped up," said Diana Bell, Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center Coordinator. "It's heartwarming to see the outpouring of support when one of our neighboring communities is in crisis."

The team at the Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center received donations and purchased items including fans, bottled water, and cleaning supplies to the affected residents. The Neighborhood Center kitchen team also jumped into action, preparing sandwiches for volunteers.

While local offices can coordinate supplies to meet immediate needs for flood survivors, Catholic Charities West Virginia's (CCWVa) efforts also extend to helping families reach long-term recovery.

The CCWVa Disaster Services program works to return people to safe, secure and healthy housing.

"Through our disaster partner network throughout the state, we are able to connect needs to resources," said Lora Pierce, CCWVa Disaster Services Specialist. "CCWVa accompanies families and communities on the path to recovery."

CCWVa is a part of Cameron's newly formed Long-Term Recovery Committee. The agency also applied and was awarded a \$10,000 grant from Catholic Charities USA Disaster Operations to assist survivors in recovering from this flood.

"There is still a need for volunteers to help rebuild," said Pierce. "Without volunteers, the expense of hiring contractors to complete the work is massive."

Volunteers are being coordinated locally through Appalachian Outreach. If you or your group would like to volunteer, please contact Rose Hart at 304-280-3817 or RHART1703@AOL.COM.

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.



TEENS ENCOUNTER CHRIST
WEST VIRGINIA

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, 2021

10:00am - 5:00pm

Saint John XXIII Pastoral Center
Charleston, WV

Please visit

dwc.org/tec-reunion to register.

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

First Reading REVELATION 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab

God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant could be seen in the temple. A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was with child and wailed aloud in pain as she labored to give birth. Then another sign appeared in the sky; it was a huge red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on its heads were seven diadems. Its tail swept away a third of the stars in the sky and hurled them down to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman about to give birth, to devour her child when she gave birth. She gave birth to a son, a male child, destined to rule all the nations with an iron rod. Her child was caught up to God and his throne. The woman herself fled into the desert where she had a place prepared by God. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have salvation and power come, and the Kingdom of our God and the authority of his Anointed One."

Responsorial PSALMS 45:10, 11, 12, 16

R. (10bc) The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold.

The queen takes her place at your right hand in gold of Ophir.

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

Hear, O daughter, and see; turn your ear, forget your people and your father's house.

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

So shall the king desire your beauty; for he is your lord.

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

They are borne in with gladness and joy; they enter the palace of the king.

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

Second Reading PHESIANS 4:30–5:2

Brothers and sisters:

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through man, the resurrection of the dead came also through man. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the first fruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end, when he hands over the Kingdom to his God and Father, when he has destroyed every sovereignty and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death, for "he subjected everything under his feet."

Alleluia

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Mary is taken up to heaven; a chorus of angels exults.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel LUKE 1:39-56

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." And Mary said: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm, and has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever." Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we may continue to grow in holiness as we hear the word of God and observe it, as did Mary, the Mother of God, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For women around the world, that they may receive the honor and respect that is due to all children of God, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For young people, that they may respond generously and willingly if the Lord calls them to ordained or consecrated life, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That we may each strive to bring Christ into our world, imitating the Blessed Virgin Mary in taking on this responsibility, 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



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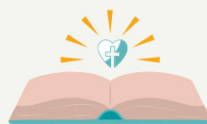
A LITTLE CATHOLIC HUMOR



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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/)