



## POPE FRANCIS FOCUSES ON THE SEASON OF CREATION

### BEGINNING SEPT. 1ST WITH WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION

The Holy Father hopes Catholics and non-Catholics from around the world will join him as he honors the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on Sept. 1.

This day begins the Season of Creation that extends until the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, October 4.

In his address released earlier this Summer, Pope Francis encourages us to listen to the Voice of Creation – the voice of the earth and its people. If we listen to the voice of creation, we hear “a kind of dissonance. On the one hand, we can hear a sweet song in praise of our beloved Creator; on the other, an anguished plea, lamenting our mistreatment of this our common home.

“In this Season of Creation, we pray once more in the great cathedral of creation, and revel in the ‘grandiose cosmic choir’ made up of countless creatures, all singing the praises of God. Let us join Saint Francis of Assisi in singing: ‘Praise be to you, my Lord, for all your creatures’ (cf. Canticle of Brother Sun). Let us join the psalmist in singing, ‘Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!’ (Ps 150:6).”

As we breathe in the joy of this Season of Creation, we need to be mindful of the shameful truth, he said.

“Tragically, that sweet song is accompanied by a cry of anguish. Or even better: a chorus of cries of anguish. In the first place, it is our sister, mother earth, who cries out. Prey to our consumerist excesses, she weeps and implores us to put an end

to our abuses and to her destruction. Then too, there are all those different creatures who cry out. At the mercy of a “tyrannical anthropocentrism” (Laudato si’, 68), completely at odds with Christ’s centrality in the work of creation,



countless species are dying out and their hymns of praise silenced. There are also the poorest among us who are crying out. Exposed to the climate crisis, the poor feel even more gravely the impact of the drought, flooding, hurricanes, and heat waves that are becoming ever more intense and frequent. Likewise, our brothers and sisters of the native peoples are crying out. As a result of predatory economic interests, their ancestral lands are being invaded and devastated on all sides, “provoking a cry that rises up to heaven” (Querida Amazonia, 9). Finally, there is the plea of our children. Feeling menaced by shortsighted and selfish actions, today’s young people are crying out, anxiously asking us adults to do everything possible to prevent, or at least limit, the collapse of our planet’s ecosystems.”

As our Lord taught us we need to act, even if in the smallest ways so that together we are a mighty force of energy to help our world thrive.

“Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience” our Holy Father wrote in the encyclical *Laudato si’*.

“As persons of faith, we feel ourselves even more responsible for acting each day in accordance with the summons to conversion. Nor is that summons simply individual: “the ecological conversion needed to bring about lasting change is also a community conversion” (ibid., 219). In this regard, commitment, and action, in a spirit of maximum cooperation, is likewise demanded of the community of nations, especially in the meetings of the United Nations devoted to the environmental question.

“During this Season of Creation, let us pray that (the United Nations Climate Change Conference and Biodiversity Conference) can serve to unite the human family (cf. ibid., 13) in effectively confronting the double crisis of climate change and the reduction of biodiversity. Mindful of the exhortation of Saint Paul to rejoice with those who rejoice and to weep with those who weep (cf. Rom 12:15), let us weep with the anguished plea of creation. Let us hear that plea and respond to it with deeds, so that we and future generations can continue to rejoice in creation’s sweet song of life and hope.”

## PRAYER FOR CREATION

Pope Francis published the following prayer in his *Laudato Si'* encyclical.

*Father, we praise you with all your creatures. They came forth from your all-powerful hand: they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love. Praise be to you!*

*Son of God, Jesus, through you all things were made. You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother, you became part of this earth, and you gazed upon this world with human eyes. Today you are alive in every creature in your risen glory. Praise be to you!*

*Holy Spirit, by your light you guide this world towards the Father's love and accompany creation as it groans in travail. You also dwell in our hearts and you inspire us to do what is good. Praise be to you!*

*Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love, teach us to contemplate you in the beauty of the universe, for all things speak of you. Awaken our praise and thankfulness for every being that you have made. Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is.*

*God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth, for not one of them is forgotten in your sight. Enlighten those who possess power and money that they may avoid the sin of indifference, that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live. The poor and the earth are crying out. O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future, for the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty.*

*Praise be to you! Amen.*

## INSTRUCTIONAL MASSES PLANNED FOR THE FAITHFUL

### FIRST TWO WILL BE HELD IN WHEELING, MARTINSBURG VICARIATES

As Catholics, it is easy to fall into a dull routine and take for granted what is happening in the Holy Mass. We know we have an obligation to go. We sit. We stand. We kneel. We recite the same phrases over and over. We go through a lot of motions, but do we truly grasp what is being celebrated... and why?

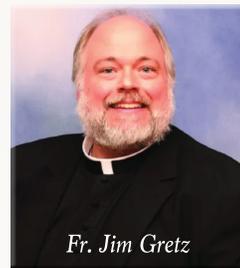
As part of our participation in the National Eucharistic Revival, the Diocese is sponsoring an Instructional Mass, or sometimes referred to as a Teaching Mass. It is the complete Liturgy given with commentary so we can understand the significance of events happening before us and our role in them. Each movement and response during the Mass has a significant meaning. Understanding them will not only enrich your experience but empower you to be fully alive in the love and joy of Christ and His Church.

The Instructional Masses will fulfill your Sunday obligation and teach why we do what we do as Catholics, so we can fully participate. Bernadette McMasters Kime, D. Min., said it is in the Mass we are given the gift of the Eucharist and then sends us out into the world as disciples of Christ.

Whether you are a cradle Catholic, convert, considering becoming Catholic, enrolled in RCIA, confirmation candidate, marrying a Catholic, etc., an Instructional Mass is designed for you. All are welcome to the Holy Mass.

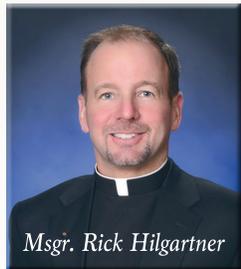
The first in the series of Instructional Masses will be held in September with one in the Northern Panhandle and the other in the Eastern Panhandle.

At 4 pm, Sept. 18, St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Wheeling will welcome Fr. Jim Gretz, D. Min, to Celebrate the Mass for the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Father Gretz, a priest in the Diocese of Pittsburgh is the pastor of St. Matthew Parish, a congregation combining four parishes serving the Pittsburgh communities of Etna, Millvale, Reserve Township, and Glenshaw. He is the former director of the office of Liturgy and Worship for the Diocese of Pittsburgh.



Fr. Jim Gretz

At 4 pm, Sept. 25, St. Leo Parish in Inwood will welcome Msgr. Rick Hilgartner. He is the former Secretariat for



Msgr. Rick Hilgartner

Divine Worship for the USCCB, associate director of the National Liturgy Office, and president of National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM).

Please, continue to watch The FaithInWV e-bulletin, The Catholic Spirit, and social media for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston for announcements of additional Instructional Masses to be held throughout the state.

The National Eucharistic Revival began on June 19, the Feast of Corpus Christi. This three-year focus begins with a diocesan year, inviting diocesan staff, bishops, and priests to celebrate Jesus's true presence in the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ with events, celebrations, and enrichment programs.

"The Eucharist is nothing less than Jesus Christ in person," Bishop Mark Brennan has repeatedly said in the last year and a half in interviews specifically about the US Bishops revival plan, and also letters to the faithful of West Virginia. "A genuine belief in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist is essential to Catholic faith and to receiving the benefits of our Holy Communion."

## TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### First Reading: Sirach 3:17-18, 20

Be humble, serve with humility, and God will find favor in you.

### Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 68

“God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.”

### Second Reading: Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a

St. Paul tells us we will be in no greater awe than in our encounter with God, as he contrasts the Old Covenant with the New Covenant.

### Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14

Jesus teaches us to be kind and generous to those who cannot repay us. Humble yourself for the reward is great in heaven.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT  
BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/082822.CFM](http://BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/082822.CFM)

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we celebrate and protect all of God’s glorious creation, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our religious sisters and all those discerning religious life, may they be abundantly blessed for their pure hearts filled with the desire to serve, nurture, and care for all people in prayer and deed, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our diocese and parishes, may we work together as we plan and participate in the three-year Eucharistic Revival in order to refresh our hearts to an active faith, knowing we are in Jesus’ true and loving presence in the Eucharist, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our personal intentions that we hold close to our heart and share only to you, our loving Father, let us pray to the Lord. . .

*Lord hear our prayer*

## NEWS FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES WEST VIRGINIA

### HELPING FAMILIES STRETCH THEIR BUDGETS



*Catholic Charities West Virginia's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Outreach Program helps West Virginians in need apply for*

Jeremy and his wife found themselves struggling to keep food on the table for their family of five when Jeremy’s hours were cut back at work. While his income had slowed, the bills did not. Medical issues did not slow, the family car still needed gas, and the kids still needed to eat.

Catholic Charities was able to help Jeremy and his family not only with their immediate food needs, but also with obtaining Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits through our SNAP Outreach Program.

With help from Catholic Charities, Jeremy and his family were able to get back on their feet. Jeremy used his extra time to obtain his contractor’s license. His career is on an upswing, and he has started his own small business and now helps others who are struggling.

Jeremy said, “Charity isn’t about accepting help; it’s about understanding that we all need help and that God uses each of us to be his hands and feet.”

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia and how to support your neighbors in need, please visit [WWW.CATHOLICCHARITIESWV.ORG](http://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.*

# JOIN US FOR MASS AND LEARN WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

Sept. 18 • 4pm

St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Wheeling  
Father Jim Gretz

Sept. 25 • 4pm

St. Leo Parish, Inwood  
Msgr. Rick Hilgartner

The Instructional Masses fulfill our Sunday obligation and teach why we do what we do as Catholics, so we can participate with purpose.

An informal reception will follow Mass.

*These are the first in a series of Instructional Masses to be held throughout the state honoring the National Eucharistic Revival.*

## 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
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	97.7

~Also Streaming in WV at [www.rdo.to/WLOL](http://www.rdo.to/WLOL)~

## ENROLL TODAY

WV Catholic Schools

Empowered  
by knowledge.  
Transformed  
by faith.



Register today

[wvcatholicschools.org](http://wvcatholicschools.org)



*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).