



BE CONFIDENT IN FAITH, WORRY NOT ~ OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

As we celebrate the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12, let us take to heart the advice she gave to Saint Juan Diego, a humble member of his Aztec community – be confident in faith, worry not.

“Let not your heart be disturbed... Am I not here, who is your Mother? Are you not under my protection? Am I not your health? Are you not happily within my fold? What else do you wish? Do not grieve nor be disturbed by anything.” (Our Lady of Guadalupe to Juan Diego)



We are all faced with anxiety, stress, struggles, and challenges, but Our Lady of Guadalupe reminds us through the story of St. Juan Diego that she is always with the faithful.

In 1531, when Our Blessed Mother appeared to Saint Juan she was adamant that a church be built in her honor on the Tepeyac Hill near Mexico City. The bishop of Mexico, Juan de Zumarraga, didn't believe St. Juan, when he told him about Mary's apparition and request. So Mary had him gather roses in his cloak to give to the bishop. These specific roses were impossible to have grown in that region, let alone that season without a miracle. Saint Juan did as Mary instructed and when

he went to the bishop and opened his cloak, the roses fell to the ground and to their surprise the cloak had now taken the beautiful image of Our Lady of Guadalupe appearing on it. The chapel was built, and the bishop made accommodations for St. Juan to live in a small home near the chapel, where the cloak was displayed for veneration. Saint Juan lived the rest of his life taking care of the church, remaining in prayer, and boundless love of God and neighbor. He died in 1548 and was declared a saint in 2002.

The cloak is preserved in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, shows a woman with native features and dress. She is supported by an angel whose wings are reminiscent of one of the major gods of the traditional religion of that area. The moon is beneath her feet and her blue mantle is covered with gold stars. The black girdle about her waist signifies that she is pregnant. Thus, the image graphically depicts the fact that Christ is to be “born” again among the peoples of the New World, and is a message as relevant to the “New World” today as it was during the lifetime of Juan Diego, according to Vatican reports.

Pope Saint Pius X wrote this prayer of intercession in 1908:

Our Lady of Guadalupe,
Mystical Rose,
make intercession for the holy Church,
protect the Sovereign Pontiff,
help all those who invoke thee in their necessities,
and since thou art the ever-Virgin Mary
and Mother of the true God,
obtain for us from thy most holy Son
the grace of keeping our faith,
sweet hope in the midst of the bitterness of life,
burning charity
and the precious gift of final perseverance.
Amen.

“Always stay close to this Heavenly Mother, because she is the sea to be crossed to reach the shores of Eternal Splendour,” said St. Padre Pio, who adored Mary and the Marian apparitions. “Some people are so foolish that they think they can go through life without the help of the Blessed Mother.”

HELPING BABIES AND TODDLERS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS THRIVE

Piper is an amazing little girl. At nearly two years old, she was tested for — and eventually diagnosed with — Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Her mother, Darian, remembers getting started with Catholic Charities West Virginia's Birth to Three program (BTT) while they were waiting for Piper's results.

Piper received speech, developmental, and occupational therapies. "Due to the long wait for her ASD evaluation, we were extremely excited to have Birth to Three come and start working with her in the meantime," Darian stated. "These three women, along with the program in general, have been life-changing to us!"

"Now, my girl makes uninterrupted eye contact, she responds to 'Piper' and 'Sis,' she listens to simple commands, she says new words every week, she uses simple sign language, and most importantly, she interacts with other children!" Darian elaborated.

During the holiday season, our staff and an army of volunteers put on a truly impactful event for BTT families. Santa's Silent Night is specially designed to include children with sensory issues in holiday traditions. Here's what Piper's mother loved about the event:

"I remember opening the [invitation] and immediately feeling so thankful. It hadn't even crossed my mind about how difficult a mall trip to visit Santa would be. When we walked into Santa's Silent Night, it was low-lit, quiet, and peaceful. I instantly burst into tears! I have never seen such a thoughtfully put-together event. We had the BEST time!"

West Virginia Birth to Three is a system of services and supports for children ages birth to three who have a delay in their development or may be at risk of developmental delay. Qualifying families receive professional services at no cost, regardless of income. To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia and this program, 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.



"Birth to Three has very literally changed our entire lives. My daughter has a better quality of life because of it. We are thankful every day for this amazing program!"

-Darian

NORTHERN PANHANDLE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS TO SHARE CHRISTMAS SONG AND PRAYERS

The eight Catholic schools in the Northern Panhandle are excited to be collaborating to present the gift of song and prayer for the Ohio Valley.

On Saturday, Dec.18, the schools, which include St. Joseph the Worker School, St. Paul School, and Madonna High School, all of Weirton; Corpus Christi School, St. Michael School, St. Vincent de Paul School, and Central Catholic High School, all of Wheeling; and Our Lady of Peace School, of Marshall County, will join together to perform classic Christmas Carols at 7 pm at the Nutcracker Village in Steubenville, Ohio.

"The joint choir performance is going to be a great event," said Kim Edmiston, Advancement Director for St. Paul School. "The 8 Northern Panhandle Catholic Schools have been collaborating on this event since summer! We are so excited that it's finally time to join our voices for Christmas."

The individual schools have been working with their local

music teachers with tracks provided to all the schools by Jay Yelenic of St. Vincent de Paul School and Matt White of Central Catholic High School. Carrie Shultz from St. Paul School will be directing the choir at The Nutcracker Village.

Prior to the pandemic the schools collaborated in 2020 to present "Lord, Let Me Walk" a Lenten reflection with prayer, song, interpretation, and meditation at the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

"We have learned in the past that when we gather our Catholic Schools together amazing things happen," Edmiston said, as she recalled the hundreds of people from the four counties in the Northern Panhandle, who attended their last event to celebrate their faith through music and prayer.

For those unable to attend, the performance will be shared on the [DIOCESAN FACEBOOK PAGE](#).



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading ZEPHANIAH 3:14-18a

Shout for joy, O daughter Zion! Sing joyfully, O Israel! Be glad and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has removed the judgment against you he has turned away your enemies; the King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst, you have no further misfortune to fear. On that day, it shall be said to Jerusalem: Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged! The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; he will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love, he will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals.

Responsorial ISAIAH 12:2-3, 4, 5-6

R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

God indeed is my savior; I am confident and unafraid. My strength and my courage is the LORD, and he has been my savior. With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation.

R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Give thanks to the LORD, acclaim his name; among the nations make known his deeds, proclaim how exalted is his name.

R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Sing praise to the LORD for his glorious achievement; let this be known throughout all the earth. Shout with exultation, O city of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!

R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Second Reading PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

Brothers and sisters:

Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Alleluia ISAIAH 61:1 (cited in Lk 4:18)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel LUKE 3:1-6

The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What should we do?" He said to them in reply, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He answered them, "Stop collecting more than what is prescribed." Soldiers also asked him, "And what is it that we should do?" He told them, "Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages." Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people.

PRAYER INTENTIONS


For our Church, that we may always heed John the Baptist's call to share what we have with those who have none, to act honorably and honestly, and to repent of our sins as we joyfully proclaim the coming of the reign of God, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That world leaders may look beyond past divisions and rivalries and work together to bring justice and peace, especially in areas beset by trauma and fear, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That the people of the Americas may find in Our Lady of Guadalupe a model of compassion and kindness to those who are unable to offer anything material in return, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all those who are suffering from loss at this time of year, that they may be comforted in their grief and find joy in God's love for us all, 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



WV CATHOLIC RADIO BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOU

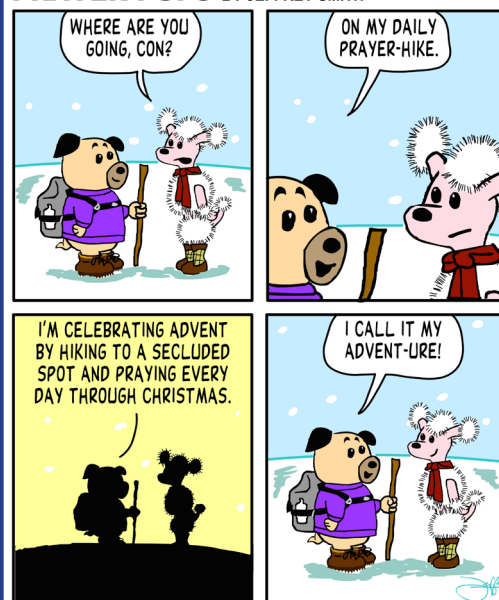
Berkeley Springs - Hancock, MD	FM	96.3
Berkeley Springs	FM	107.9
Clarksburg-Bridgeport	FM	97.5
Dunbar - Charleston	AM	1450
Grafton - Clarksburg	AM	1190
Montgomery - Beckley	FM	89.7
Purgitsville	FM	98.7
St. Marys - Parkersburg	FM	105.3
Star City - Morgantown	FM	89.7
Summersville	FM	91.3
Wheeling - Martins Ferry, OH	FM	90.7
Weirton - Steubenville	FM	97.7

~Also Streaming in WV at www.rdo.to/WLOL~

WV Catholic Radio www.WVCatholicRadio.org

A LITTLE CATHOLIC HUMOR

PRAYER PUPS BY JEFFREY SMITH

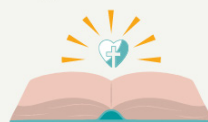


ADVENT IS A TIME OF ANTICIPATION,
HOPE AND NEW BEGINNINGS.

ENROLL TODAY

WV Catholic Schools

Empowered
by knowledge.
Transformed
by faith.



Register today

wvcatholicschools.org



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/)