

GABRIEL'S SHINING ROLE

The Archangel Gabriel's shining role is played out for us in today's Gospel on this fourth Sunday of Advent. In Luke 1:26-38 we hear of the Annunciation – the most infamous passage when Gabriel appeared to the Blessed Virgin Mary.



Wow! What an important job. So, who is this great messenger? What do we know about him?

He is indeed one of the three archangels we know about from the Old and New Testaments. On September 29 we honored the Feast of the Archangels - Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael – as messenger angels, who unceasingly glorify God and present to Him our prayers and petitions. Our catechism teaches us Michael protects, Gabriel announces, and Raphael guides.

What we know about Gabriel specifically is that he gives understanding and insight.

Gabriel is chosen by God to appear and give messages to those on earth who are greatly favored by God.

In the Book of Daniel, Gabriel appeared to explain a vision about the Messiah. Daniel was a prophet who lived in Babylon (present-day Iraq), while the people of Judah were being held captive there. Gabriel appeared on two different occasions to Daniel, offering him and his countrymen hope, assurance, and strength during their long and difficult internment.

Next up we learn a bit more about Gabriel's significance, when he appears in the New Testament to Zachariah about the birth of his son, John the Baptist. The archangel identifies himself in Luke 1:19: "I am Gabriel, who stand before God. I was sent

to speak to you and to announce to you this good news."

Zachariah was performing a religious obligation of burning incense within the temple sanctuary, when Gabriel became visible. Gabriel told him his son would be exceptional and would do much to change the hearts of many.

It was about six months after that moment, when Gabriel appeared as the messenger of the Annunciation before Mary. He addressed with admiration and great respect by words we lovingly pray today, "Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee." He proceeded to tell her of God's ultimate plan for her to be the Mother of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. He impresses these powerful words upon her: "for nothing will be impossible for God."

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (section 328) notes the existence of angels, spiritual beings is "a truth of faith." They are celestial without bodies and separate from saints, the exemplary men and women who have walked among us.

Matthew's Gospel (18:10) and Psalms (103:20) declares, "With their whole beings the angels are servants and messengers of God. Because they 'always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven' they are the 'mighty ones who do his word, hearkening to the voice of his word.'"

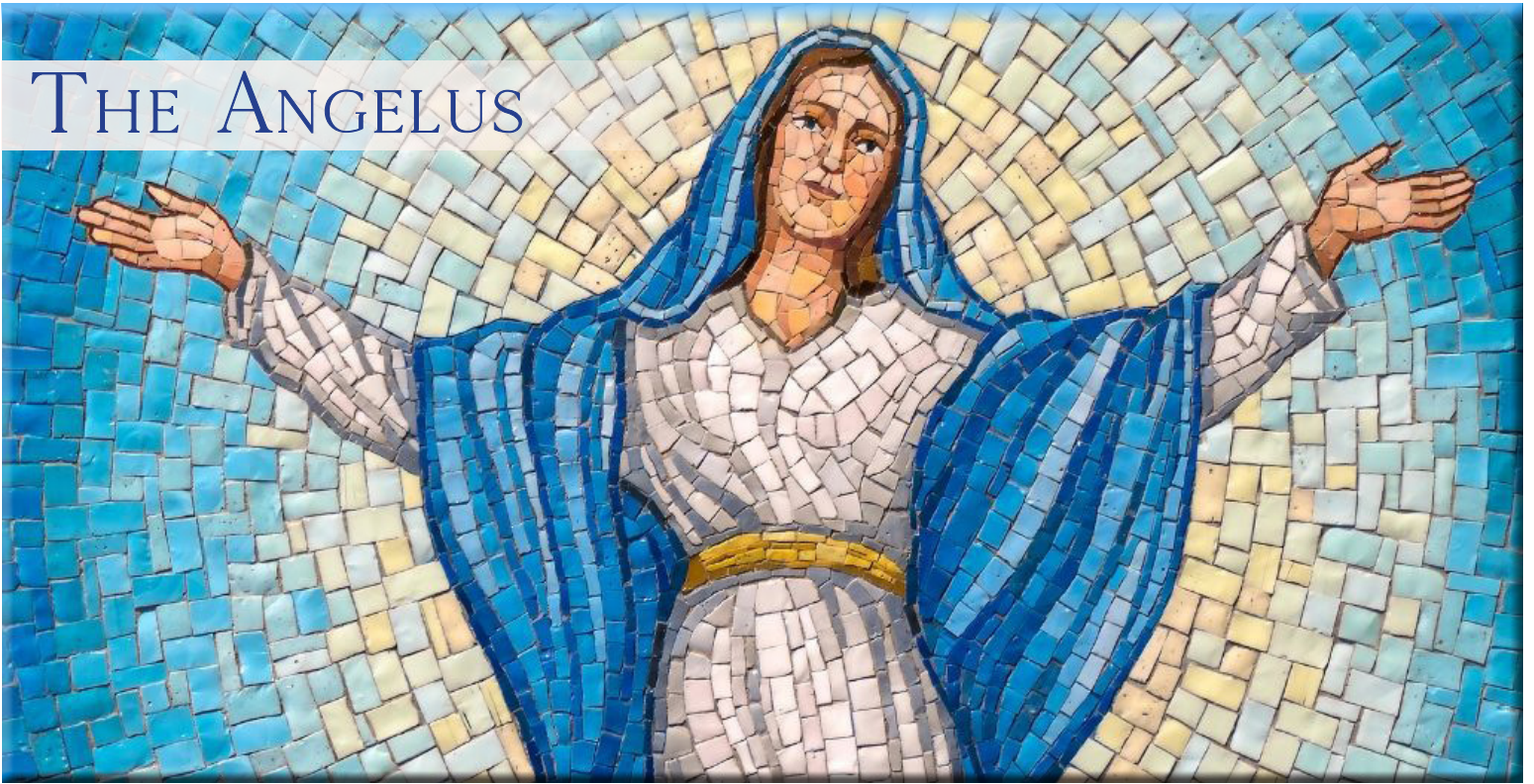
There are nine choirs of angels: Angels, Archangels, Principalities, Powers, Virtues, Dominations, Thrones, Cherubim, and Seraphim. The name angel alone is associated with servant, messenger, and protector.



Oftentimes, the most powerful things in life are the things we cannot see- the Holy Spirit, the power of the sacraments, the power of God's grace in our hearts, and the power of the angels in our lives. Angels help us fight the spiritual battles in our souls, families, and culture. There are thousands of angels protecting us, guiding us, and helping

us get to heaven. Angels are mentioned throughout Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation. They want to be involved in our decisions, daily challenges, and journeys to heaven.

THE ANGELUS



The Angelus is a beautiful meditative prayer that is traditionally said three times a day – dawn, midday and dusk (or 6 am, noon, and 6 pm). It shows our respect to Mary and encourages us to imitate her. The Angelus exemplifies Mary’s fiat, which means “let it be done.” That was her response to God through Archangel Gabriel.

Therefore, the Angelus is a great prayer to remind us and teach the children in our lives that we should not always ask God to do things for us but show him we are willing to do for him.

Jared Dees, who created The Religion Teacher (<https://www.thereligionteacher.com>) and The Angelus Prayer (theangelusprayer.com) websites, provides information for teachers and the faithful about the Catholic devotion to “add joy, peace, and purpose into everyday life.”

Praying the Angelus everyday gives us the opportunity to purposefully pause, remember the amazing mystery of the Incarnation, and honor our Blessed Mother Mary.

ANGELUS

The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary: And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Behold the handmaid of the Lord: Be it done unto me according to thy word.

Hail Mary ...

And the Word was made Flesh: And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary ...

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, thy grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, thy son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection, through the same Christ Our Lord.

Amen.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COMMUNITY CENTER OPENS IN CHARLESTON

By: Katie Hinerman Klug, Catholic Charities West Virginia Marketing Communications Specialist



Catholic Charities West Virginia opened the Catholic Charities Community Center of Charleston in partnership with the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart

Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) recently opened its new Catholic Charities Community Center on Quarrier Street in Charleston, West Virginia.

“We’re excited our new location is in the midst of the community we serve,” said Bill Hagy, CCWVa Western Regional Director.

The center is a part of the campus of the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart.



From left: Very Rev. Donald Higgs, Rector of the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart; Beth Zarate, Catholic Charities West Virginia President and Chief Executive Officer; Most Rev. Mark E. Brennan, Bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

“We are so grateful to be working with Father Higgs and his parish family,” said Beth Zarate, CCWVa President and Chief Executive Officer.

“Our common goal to serve the most vulnerable is enhanced by the great teamwork, problem solving, communications and genuine belief in love in action,” Zarate said.

“We are all motivated to bring our best in serving the poor.”

The Catholic Charities Community Center in Charleston houses programs including Basic Needs Assistance, Case Management, HomeCare, Disaster Services and SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) Outreach.

“Our Western Region of Catholic Charities continues to drive Catholic involvement throughout all areas served; in so doing, we not only ask for God’s blessing for the people

we serve, but also to strengthen the staff and volunteers who reach out to them every day in His spirit of charity,” said Hagy.

Bishop Brennan blessed the new facility on November 10, 2020.



Bishop Brennan blesses the new Catholic Charities Community Center of Charleston

“While at the site, Bishop Brennan formalized the dedication of our new Charleston site with a special apostolic blessing for each of us, our facility and all those we serve,” said Hagy. “We are immensely blessed to have him here to take note of our efforts as well as our challenges for the future.”

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia, visit [CATHOLICCHARITIESWV.ORG](https://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.*

Thank You in Advance

The Diocesan wide collection for Catholic Charities will again be during the Christmas Masses. Thank you in advance for giving hope!

Over the course of 2020 – a particularly challenging year for all of us – thousands of people across the state came to Catholic Charities West Virginia searching for **help and hope**.

We *help* people meet their basic needs.

And we walk with them as they take *hopeful* steps to improve their well-being.

When you give to Catholic Charities West Virginia, you give the gift of help and hope. Your support brings glad tidings all year.

Christmas Mass²⁰²⁰

ENJOY LIVE MASS OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
FROM THE CO-CATHEDRAL THIS CHRISTMAS

We hope you will join Bishop Mark Brennan as he celebrates
Mass for the Nativity of the Lord at the
Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart
in Charleston at 8 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 24.

The Mass will be livestreamed on our website, DWC.ORG, and
also available on our diocesan Facebook page at
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/DIOCESEOFWHEELINGCHARLESTON.

The faithful may also view the Mass on television. See below
for a list of channels broadcasting the celebration.

If you are able to attend Mass in person, please check with
your parish for Mass times and safety precautions.

May God bless you and your family as you prepare for the
coming of Christ.

**CHRISTMAS MASS WILL BE BROADCASTED
AT MIDNIGHT ON THE FOLLOWING CHANNELS**

WTRF-TV7

WBOY/NBC

WDVM

WOWK

WVNS

WHEELING

CLARKSBURG/MORGANTOWN

MARTINSBURG

CHARLESTON/HUNTINGTON

BECKLEY/BLEUEFIELD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading 2 SAMUEL 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16

When King David was settled in his palace, and the LORD had given him rest from his enemies on every side, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!" Nathan answered the king, "Go, do whatever you have in mind, for the LORD is with you." But that night the LORD spoke to Nathan and said: "Go, tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Should you build me a house to dwell in?' " "It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock to be commander of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you went, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you. And I will make you famous like the great ones of the earth. I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance. Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them as they did of old, since the time I first appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also reveals to you that he will establish a house for you. And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever."

Responsorial PSALMS 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29

R. (2a) Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

The promises of the LORD I will sing forever; through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness. For you have said, "My kindness is established forever"; in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness.

R. Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

"I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant: Forever will I confirm your posterity and establish your throne for all generations."

R. Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

"He shall say of me, 'You are my father, my God, the Rock, my savior.' Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him, and my covenant with him stands firm."

R. Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading ROMANS 16:25-27

Brothers and sisters:

To him who can strengthen you, according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith, to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia LUKE 1:38

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel LUKE 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we may continually prepare our own house, growing in holiness as we build the kingdom of God on earth, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For leaders of all nations that they are seek to to settle disagreements without senseless loss of life, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those who find the Advent and Christmas seasons difficult to endure because of loss or loneliness, that they may find comfort and hope in Christ and the Holy Family, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all who feel excluded during this season, and for tolerance and respect for those of other faiths or no faith at 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



A LITTLE CATHOLIC HUMOR



www.comic-express.com

"They say they are three kings."

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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
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WV Catholic Radio www.WVCatholicRadio.org

THE LATEST AND UPCOMING NEWS FROM THE CATHOLIC

Spirit

THE CATHOLIC SPIRIT IS NOW AVAILABLE BY E-MAIL!!

Join our e-list to receive The Catholic Spirit by e-mail. To be added, please e-mail Colleen Rowan, CROWAN@DWC.ORG, with "The Catholic Spirit e-list" in the subject line. Please provide your preference of: "E-mail only" or "E-mail and Printed Copy."

Those selecting e-mail only, will no longer receive a printed copy. The Catholic Spirit is available under "Downloadable Spirit" at

THECATHOLICSPIRITWV.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/)