

Faith IN WV

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

DECEMBER 26, 2021



FOR TODAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID A SAVIOR HAS BEEN BORN FOR YOU WHO IS

Christ the Lord

LUKE 2:11



CHRISTMAS STORY SHARED IN 1965 BY PAUL HARVEY IS A PARABLE TEACHING THE NEED FOR CHRISTMAS



PAUL HARVEY was an iconic radio broadcaster who is most known for his “The Rest of the Story” segments from 1951-2008. His largest audience was over 24 million strong, and each broadcast began with a bold, “Hello, Americans.” This Christmas we share his message from 1965. It was a story by an unknown author he ended

up sharing every Christmas for many years. He called it the “Christmas Story of the Man and the Birds,” to teach people of all faiths the need for God to come to earth as true God and true man.

You know, THE Christmas Story, the God born a man in a manger and all that escapes some moderns, mostly, I think, because they seek complex answers to their questions and this one is so utterly simple. So, for the cynics and the skeptics and the unconvinced I submit a modern parable.

Now the man to whom I’m going to introduce you was not a scrooge, he was a kind, decent, mostly good man. Generous to his family, upright in his dealings with other men. But he just didn’t believe all that incarnation stuff which the churches proclaim at Christmas Time. It just didn’t make sense and he was too honest to pretend otherwise. He just couldn’t swallow the Jesus Story, about God coming to Earth as a man. “I’m truly sorry to distress you,” he told his wife, “But I’m not going with you to church this Christmas Eve.” He said he’d feel like a hypocrite. That he’d much rather just stay at home, but that he would wait up for them. And so, he stayed, and they went to the midnight service.

Shortly after the family drove away in the car, snow began to fall. He went to the window to watch the flurries getting heavier and heavier and then went back to his fireside chair and began to read his newspaper. Minutes later he was startled by a thudding sound. Then another, and then another. Sort of a thump or a thud. At first, he thought someone must be throwing snowballs against his living room window. But when he went to the front door to investigate, he found a flock of birds huddled miserably in the snow. They’d been caught in the storm and, in a desperate search for shelter, had tried to fly through his large landscape window.

Well, he couldn’t let the poor creatures lie there and freeze, so he remembered the barn where his children stabled their pony. That would provide a warm shelter if he could direct the birds to it. Quickly he put on a coat, galoshes, tramped through the deepening snow to the barn. He opened the doors wide and turned on a light, but the birds did not come in. He figured food would entice them in. So, he hurried back to the house, fetched breadcrumbs, sprinkled them on the snow, making a trail to the yellow-lighted wide-open doorway of the stable. But to his dismay, the birds ignored the breadcrumbs, and continued to flap around helplessly in the snow. He tried catching them. He tried shooing them into the barn by walking around them waving his arms. Instead, they scattered in every direction, except into the warm, lighted barn.



And then, he realized, that they were afraid of him. To them, he reasoned, I am a strange and terrifying creature. If only I could think of some way to let them know that they can trust me. That I am not trying to hurt them, but to help them. But how? Because any move he made tended to frighten them, confuse them. They just would not follow. They would not be led or shooed because they feared him. “If only I could be a bird,” he thought to himself, “and mingle with them and speak their language. Then I could tell them not to be afraid. Then I could show them the way to safe, warm ... to the safe warm barn. But I would have to be one of them so they could see, and hear and understand.”

At that moment the church bells began to ring. The sound reached his ears above the sounds of the wind. And he stood there listening to the bells--“Adeste Fidelis”--listening to the bells pealing the glad tidings of Christmas. And he sank to his knees in the snow.

Listen to this story from Paul Harvey himself here: [HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/ECJUk5KUe4M](https://youtu.be/ECJUk5KUe4M)

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS LEARNING ABOUT WV HOPE SCHOLARSHIP WITH THE REST OF THE STATE

Earlier this year the WV Legislature passed House Bill 2013, now known as the Hope Scholarship to provide funds for families enrolling in private school, alternative instruction programs, or home schools

beginning in the Fall of 2022. This education savings account is set up by the state and managed through the West Virginia Treasurer Riley Moore's office.

As with any scholarship, there are qualifiers and stipulations. Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Mary Ann Deschaine, Ed.S., has been trying to learn everything she can about how the state-run program will work.

"This is an exciting opportunity for all children and families in the state of West Virginia, who are seeking to enter into a private or home school situation," Deschaine said. "We are learning about the Hope Scholarship program right alongside everyone else."

What do the schools know about the program? The same information that is available online through the treasurer's office: [HTTPS://HOPESCHOLARSHIPWV.COM](https://HOPESCHOLARSHIPWV.COM).

Specifically, students are eligible for the program if they are:

- A resident of West Virginia
- Entering kindergarten for the first time in the Fall of 2022
- Current K-11 student enrolled full time (or at least 45 days during the time of application) in a public elementary or secondary school in West Virginia in 2021-2022
- Current private and home school students are not eligible for the program at this time

Moore has shared with Deschaine and noted on the FAQs on the scholarship's website that current non-public school students will eventually be eligible for the program, "If the participation rate of the combined number of students in the Hope Scholarship Program and students eligible who have applied to participate in the Hope Scholarship program in 2024 is less than five percent of net public school enrollment adjusted for state aid purposes for the previous school year, then, effective July 1, 2026, all students will be eligible to participate in the Hope Scholarship Program" the website details.

"The stipulation for current private school and home school families fluctuates as it is presented currently, and therefore, we cannot be exact on predicting when and how much will be made available to our current families," Deschaine said. "As the program unfolds, my office will be following along closely, as will our principals, pastors, and advisory boards."

According to the West Virginia Hope Scholarship website, under the current school aid formula, each eligible student would receive \$4,600 annually that can be used toward private school, alternative instruction programs, or home school.

Deschaine emphasized this scholarship is not run, managed, or determined by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston or the Department of Catholic Schools in the Diocese.

The state stipulates that money in the Hope Scholarship education savings account will be administered through a third party. The treasurer's office reports that each family awarded would have access to an account for each eligible student in their household. All purchases would be pre-approved by the state. The funds awarded can only be spent on education expenses such as tuition and fees, extracurriculars, tutoring, materials, supplies, textbooks, transportation, etc.

The website notes that there is not a date or deadline set yet for when families can apply for the Hope Scholarship. It does define that applications will be available no later than March 1, 2022, and that Moore's office is to advertise the availability.

While the Catholic schools of West Virginia continue to learn about the Hope Scholarship, current public school and young families are welcome to learn if Catholic schools are the right fit for their children.

All 24 Catholic schools in the state are preparing for Catholic Schools Week set for Jan. 29 through Feb. 5, many are planning to host open houses and schedule student shadow days for children and families to see what makes West Virginia Catholic schools exceptional, Deschaine said.

"Our PK-12 focus is to encourage individual and critical thinking; deepen faith; build self-esteem; and develop a sound moral foundation rooted in the gospel," Deschaine said. "We are unapologetically Catholic with a mission focused on providing our students with a strong foundation for the future – spiritually, academically, emotionally, and socially – all in a Christ-centered environment. We challenge our students to be the best version of themselves – to be as God sees and wants them to be."

West Virginia Catholic schools welcome families to learn more about Catholic education. The common application and re-enrollment period for West Virginia Catholic schools begins in February.

For information on the Catholic Schools of West Virginia go to: WVCATHOLICSCHOOLS.ORG.

Special Collection

TO HELP KENTUCKY DISASTER RELIEF



Most Rev. Mark Brennan, Bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, has approved a special collection to be held the weekend of January 1st and 2nd, 2022, in all parishes and missions throughout the diocese to support recovery efforts related to the recent natural disasters that have occurred in Kentucky, leaving severe damage and significant loss of life. Donations can also be made at your parish or on the diocesan website at WWW.DWC.ORG/DISASTERRELIEF.

Proceeds from this collection will support the humanitarian and recovery efforts of Catholic Charities agencies on the ground, working in the communities affected by the tornadoes.

Please remember in prayer all those who have lost their lives in the wake of these disasters, as well as all those who have been injured and lost their homes, cars, employment, and access to food and water, especially as we prepare for the Christmas Season.

As we hold the victims and first responders in our prayers during these critical days, let us also spend time in prayer and discernment as we prepare for this upcoming collection. Let us come together now to support our brothers and sisters in Christ who are suffering this horrible loss.

CHRISTMAS ~ THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD ~ MASS DURING THE DAY

First Reading ISAIAH 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings glad tidings, announcing peace, bearing good news, announcing salvation, and saying to Zion, "Your God is King!" Hark! Your sentinels raise a cry, together they shout for joy, for they see directly, before their eyes, the LORD restoring Zion. Break out together in song, O ruins of Jerusalem! For the LORD comforts his people, he redeems Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm in the sight of all the nations; all the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God.

Responsorial PSALMS 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6

R. (3c) All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done wondrous deeds; his right hand has won victory for him, his holy arm.

R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

The LORD has made his salvation known: in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice. He has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness toward the house of Israel.

R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation by our God. Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands; break into song; sing praise.

R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

Sing praise to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and melodious song. With trumpets and the sound of the horn sing joyfully before the King, the LORD.

R. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

Second Reading Hebrews 1:1-6

Brothers and sisters:

In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son, whom he made heir of all things and through whom he created the universe, who is the refulgence of his glory, the very imprint of his being, and who sustains all things by his mighty word. When he had accomplished purification from sins, he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high, as far superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say: *You are my son; this day I have begotten you?* Or again: *I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me?* And again, when he leads the firstborn into the world, he says: *Let all the angels of God worship him.*

Alleluia

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, and adore the Lord. For today a great light has come upon the earth.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel JOHN 1:1-18 (or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. John testified to him and cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'" From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that our proclamation of Christ's birth to our world may bring hope and joy, peace and good will to all peoples, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For world leaders, that they may find in their hearts the will to sow justice and peace for their citizens and their neighbors, bringing wars, armed conflict, and abuse of human rights to a lasting end, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those who struggle to find joy in the holiday, those who suffer from illness, loss, and hardship, that God's grace may find them in unexpected and tender ways, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all of us gathered here on this joyous day, that we may see the presence of Jesus in each other, in all whom we know, and in all whom we have yet to meet, that we may be blessed and blessing in the world, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH ~ DEC. 26

First Reading SIRACH 3:2-6, 12-14 (or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28)

God sets a father in honor over his children; a mother's authority he confirms over her sons. Whoever honors his father atones for sins, and preserves himself from them. When he prays, he is heard; he stores up riches who reveres his mother. Whoever honors his father is gladdened by children, and, when he prays, is heard. Whoever reveres his father will live a long life; he who obeys his father brings comfort to his mother. My son, take care of your father when he is old; grieve him not as long as he lives. Even if his mind fail, be considerate of him; revile him not all the days of his life; kindness to a father will not be forgotten, firmly planted against the debt of your sins —a house raised in justice to you.

Responsorial PSALMS 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10

R. (cf. 1) Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways! For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork; blessed shall you be, and favored.

R. Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the recesses of your home; your children like olive plants around your table.

R. Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Behold, thus is the man blessed who fears the LORD. The LORD bless you from Zion: may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

R. Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Second Reading COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

(or Col 3:12-21; 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24)

Brothers and sisters:

Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Alleluia Col 3:15a, 16a (or Cf. Acts 16:14b)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Let the peace of Christ control your hearts; Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel LUKE 2:41-52

Each year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that our family of faith may find favor before God in the way that we care for our most vulnerable members, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For leaders of nations, that they may take the shared values of the whole human family and work together to bring justice and peace to all peoples, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our country, that we may strive to live up to our name, "United," seeing and treating our brothers and sisters of different backgrounds, races, demographics, and regions as part of one diverse American family, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all of us, that we may treat members of our families with kindness, humility, patience and compassion, forgiving them when they let us down, putting on love over all, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

Christmas Mass²⁰²¹

CELEBRATE THE MASS OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
FROM THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOSEPH
WITH US THIS CHRISTMAS

We hope you will join Bishop Mark Brennan as he celebrates
Mass for the Nativity of the Lord at the
Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling at 6 pm, Friday, 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. 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

WHEELING

WBOY/NBC

CLARKSBURG/MORGANTOWN

WDVM

MARTINSBURG

WOWK

CHARLESTON/HUNTINGTON

WVNS

BECKLEY/BLEUEFIELD

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



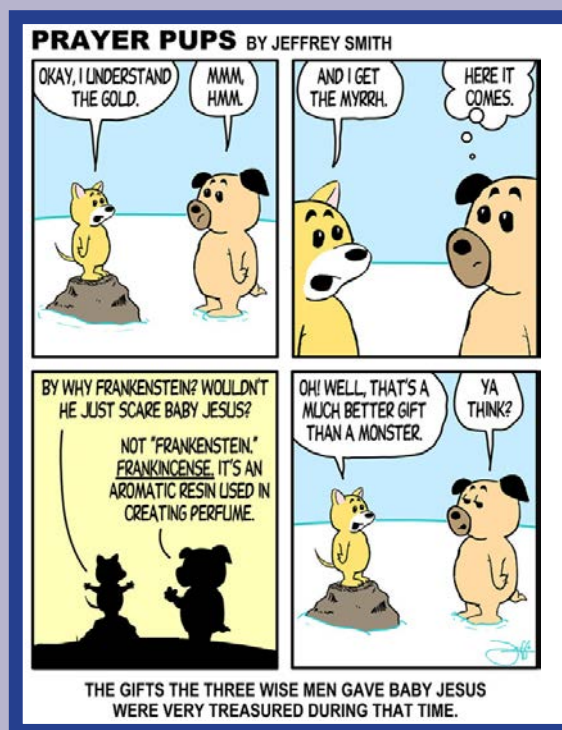
WV CATHOLIC RADIO BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOU

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

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WV Catholic Radio www.WVCatholicRadio.org

A LITTLE CATHOLIC HUMOR



ENROLL TODAY

WV Catholic Schools

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by knowledge.
Transformed
by faith.



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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/)