



THE Feast OF THE Holy Family

JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

Chosen as the ideal parents to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we honor Joseph and Mary today on this Feast of the Holy Family – Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

We are all called to be holy families. God knows it isn't easy.

When we struggle look to the ideal role models. Find comfort in asking St. Joseph and our Blessed Mother to interceded, because they know the emotions and trials of being a family.

Call upon the Holy Family to strengthen and to encourage those in our life to become all that God has created them to be.

Through Mary we know, "Nothing is impossible for God."

Focus on Joseph and his faithful obedience to ensure the safety of the Christ Child and our Blessed Mother. He trusted God with all his heart as he fled to Egypt to escape the rath of Herod. Let us stay faithful to God and our families under the watch of the angels no matter what is threatened.

Through Mary we learn trust, faithfulness, honor, obedience, and grace. She was blessed among us. Yes, among us – don't lose track of knowing she was human too. Call upon her to approach her Son, our Lord, for our prayerful needs.

A prayer to the Holy Family given by Pope Francis:

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendor of true love; to you we turn with trust. Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection and division; may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth, make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God's plan.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer.

Amen.

Editor's note: The painting featured with this article "The Nativity" is by Brian Jekel and hangs in the hallways of the Diocese of Pittsburgh's Pastoral Center.



VOICES TO HELP BUILD THE CHURCH

Barron, Schmitz, Purvis, Garrett, Roumie, Stefanick and Mother Olga

~ WATCH, LEARN, BE INSPIRED ~

Hopefully you have heard on repeat the many dynamic voices of The National Eucharistic Revival's historical Eucharistic Congress since last summer. Today we highlight seven of them as a resource to inspire you on your journey to fulfill Bishop Mark Brennan's call to lead others to Christ and His Church, which echoes the clarion call from our US Bishops.

Courtesy of EWTN we share the YouTube links to their full speeches recorded live at the National Eucharistic Congress from Lucas Oil Stadium, July 17-21, 2024. These links are also available on our website at: [DWC.ORG/YEAR-OF-THE-EUCHARIST/](https://www.dwc.org/year-of-the-eucharist/)

Watch them on your own, with your friends and family, or even get together with your parish family to have a watch party.

Enjoy!



BISHOP ROBERT BARRON - of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester, is an acclaimed author and speaker. He is also the founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries. Described the congress as the one of the “Great moments” of his priesthood. The audience by his respected wisdom and thought provoking -God can work through us - “he has a role for you that may be nothing in the eyes of the world, but who cares? Whom do you listen to? Which voice? Your job - bring the Light of Christ out into the secular word!”

youtu.be/_wwO9JxiMCM?si=hdUkV7SgR29kE2vo



FATHER MIKE SCHMITZ - most commonly known for his “Bible in a Year” and Ascension Presents podcasts, he titled his speech - *The Greatest Love Story* - emphasizing time and

If we are going to have a revival, reform, renewal, we must repent, he said. His talk

was funny, sincere, point blank, common sense, reverent, honest, loving, compassionate, and thought-provoking all rolled into one. He delivered. Expect nothing less.

youtu.be/12QtWaEFq3E?si=WB10VydC9gN3yIvS



GLORIA PURVIS - Host of The Gloria Purvis Podcast, strong Catholic voice for religious liberty and racial justice, and is the Inaugural Pastoral Fellow at the McGrath Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame. “Let us come together and magnify Him.... You

love God we can do this - mend the bond of the human family. Let us be more joyful in our evangelization and more open in our evangelization. Let us not be afraid.”

youtu.be/QWAxXDYNr38?si=0m_yzeObK8TsBmH



SISTER JOSEPHINE GARRETT - contagious smile and laughter was sweet reinforcement of gratefulness for the moment to be together as the Church. She said, “I’m convinced that God is doing something!” She directly to the bishops - reminding them of their priesthood -

their first love; to the Diocesan priests, encouraging them to “stay rooted in your call and your land”; fellow religious encouraging them to remain “renewed in our conviction - as public intercessors”; families “the load bearing walls” of the Church, emphasizing, “The Body of Christ needs you to not give up on your family; and those who are single, stating “You are not off the hook. Your holiness is a gift for the Church.” She encouraged all to repent in hope and joy for the love of God!

youtu.be/uWlgLLmHgkc?si=BskT-CxeyyhgPPZl



JONATHAN ROUMIE - the actor that plays Jesus Christ in The Chosen and collaborator with Hallow for the 30-Day Gospel Challenge, the Lords Prayer in Aramaic, and more. Roumie in his “If it’s a symbol to hell with it” t-shirt, spoke about God’s purposeful timing for

Roumie was at the congress fittingly “the day after I spent a week filming the Last Supper.” He read Scripture (John 6) as a moment to hear “What it could have been like

when Jesus himself said these words if I may, 'Amen. Amen I say to you. Whoever believes in Me has eternal life. I am the bread of life....'"

youtu.be/H7iZEOxAWoE?si=LoFTIS386Pb5OSNe



CHRIS STEFANICK - he is regarded as one of the most engaging defenders of Christianity today. His in-person seminars reach tens of thousands each year. A graduate of the Franciscan University of Steubenville, he is the founder of Real Life Catholic.

His message at the congress, "Stop asking small of God. He made you! He made the universe! Pray and ask Him, 'Lord unleash Heaven on me and make me a river of living water flowing through You.'"

youtu.be/LccklgQU8SA?si=MtKIqDiva4qL5oqb



MOTHER OLGA OF THE SACRED HEART - this saintly petite founder and servant mother of the Daughters of Mary of Nazareth in the Archdiocese of Boston, moved the audience to tears by sharing stories, prayers, and humble wisdom that is truly moving mountains and helping souls reach Heaven. She began her talk by praying and softly singing "Lord, Prepare Me to Be A Sanctuary" with the audience 50,000 strong.

youtu.be/36UcdlG_6VU?si=kE0EBpj7A68jjHWM

A Concert for Christmas & Epiphany

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2025 AT 3PM

**CATHEDRAL OF SAINT JOSEPH
1300 EOFF STREET, WHEELING, WV**



featuring

Cathedral Schola • St. Michael Parish Handbell Choir
Katie Shaffer, *flute* • Erin Marion, *oboe*
Chad Carter, *handbells* • Robert Troeger, *organ*
Deborah Podolski Breiding, *piano* • Amanda Sable, *vocalist*
Christie Greenwood, *vocalist* • Braden Mills, *vocalist*

Free Admission

Donations will be accepted for the Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center



THE Cathedral of St. Joseph

Mary's Resolution – The Greatest of All

In the Catholic Church, January 1st is the last Octave Day of Christmas – the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God.

As we make our resolutions, let Mary inspire us to have the resolve to better ourselves, while showing others Jesus Christ in us, inviting others to know Him and celebrate His Presence.

Mary was faithful to God and the traditions and customs of her day. Surely, she knew the lessons in the Old Testament and took to heart the message that is shared in the first readings we hear and read at Mass on this day. It is a blessing from Moses written in Numbers 6:24-27: “The LORD bless you and keep you! The LORD let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace!”

Today's Gospel message is from Luke (2:16-21) who shares that Mary cherished the story the shepherds told her and Joseph of the many angels that appeared and one spoke to them.

So, what did the angel say? Luke shared their words in 2:8-20 and many faithful can recite it word for word: “The angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.’”

Luke goes on and writes, “And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: ‘Glory to God in the highest. And on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.’”

Mary and Joseph wholeheartedly knew what they so lovingly agreed to months before when the angel of God appeared before them, but imagine to their surprise when the shepherds came to see their infant son. The shepherds were a tangible reminder of the miracle God promised.

The shepherds further validated and affirmed for the humble couple the significance of their grace filled resolution.

May we like Mary, reflect on everything in our heart and come to realize how we can bring Christ to our world in this new year.

O Mary, Mother of God and our mother,
we offer ourselves to your loving care.

Today we choose you as our mother,
guide and friend.

May we always be faithful to you,
and desire, say, and do only what is pleasing to you.

O most tender and loving mother,
we beg you through the goodness
of our Lord Jesus Christ, your Divine Son,

to keep us especially dear to you
and to obtain for us the strength to lead a holy life,
a life of goodness, purity, and love,
offered to God in thanksgiving and praise.

Be present with us at all times, O Blessed Virgin Mary,
and especially at the hour of our death.

Then, Mary, protect us from the Evil One,
the enemy of our souls.

Guide us safely into the presence of Jesus,
the Risen Lord,

so that we may, with you and all the saints,
share His life, happiness and love, forever.

Amen.

Editor's note: the digital painting of Mary, “Mary Knows the Way” is by Studio Full of Grace from Elkader, Iowa, available at: www.etsy.com/shop/StudioFullOfGrace





BE A SHEPHERD

LEAD OTHERS TO CHRIST

The shepherds were the first evangelizers for the Church. Out of sheer amazement, joy, and hope they shared stories of the angels, the sight of the infant Jesus, and the presence Joseph and Mary.

God calls each one of us to be shepherds for others leading flocks of people to find Jesus and the Church.

The Sisters of the Good Shepherd recently shared a reflection activity for their Sisters and friends of the congregation by Sr. Barbara Beasley.

The sheep recognize his voice (Christ). He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. They follow because they are familiar with his voice (Jon 10:3-4). His call is quiet – inviting us to come closer, pause the noise, and truly listen.

His voice is one of mercy, love, and hope – extended even when undeserved.

He calls us to reconciliation to heal wounds and forgive past mistakes, allowing God to transform us.

The Shepherds voice is our profound call to listen to Him and follow Him – the way, the truth, and the life.

In Bishop Mark Brennan's latest pastoral letter written to all the faithful in West Virginia, he asked all of us to take seriously the challenge to lead others to Christ and the Church.

"You can do your part to lead others to Jesus Christ," he said. "Your reward?"

The answer is found in Matthew (25:21) "Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into your Master's joy."

Where do we start follow Bishop Mark's three practical application steps:

1. **ASK GOD** for opportunities to speak of your faith to persons who will listen.
2. **TELL WHY** following Jesus Christ and belonging to His Church matter to you. You're an expert on your faith life.
3. **OFFER HELP** if the person needs it: prayer, a Catholic website, a pamphlet or book, or a talk with a priest.

"Christ said – Go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you and, behold, I am with you always to the close of the age (Matthew 28:19-20)."

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

First Reading: Sirach: 3:2-6, 12-14

Those who fear the Lord honor their parents.

Responsorial: Psalm 128

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

Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-21

Clothe yourselves with heartfelt mercy.

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

Mary and Joseph find Jesus teaching in the Temple

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)



FEAST OF MARY THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

First Reading: Numbers 6:22-27

The Lord bless you and keep you.

Responsorial: Psalm 67

May God bless us in his mercy.

Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

We too are the sons and daughters of God.

Gospel: Luke 2:16-21

Mary reflected on all these things in her heart

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For Christians of every denomination, that we may grow ever closer as one family in Christ, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all those who hold public office, that they may use their power to develop a society where all God's children are treated with justice and fairness, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For the faithful that we be ever mindful to welcome all into our Church as one family of God, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For this parish family, that we may take seriously Bishop Mark Brennan's call to be Christ for others by word and deed; all while working hard to bring others to Christ and His Church, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Holy Father, Pope Francis, and for all the Church, that like the shepherds in today's Gospel, we may spread the good news we have learned about God's Son as we glorify and praise God, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For peace in areas of hostility around the world, so that all God's children may be kept safe from the horrors of invasion or war and may live without the debilitating fear of armed conflict, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For mothers, grandmothers, and expectant mothers, that the Blessed Virgin Mary may watch over them and hold their children in her everlasting maternal care, let us pray to the Lord. . .

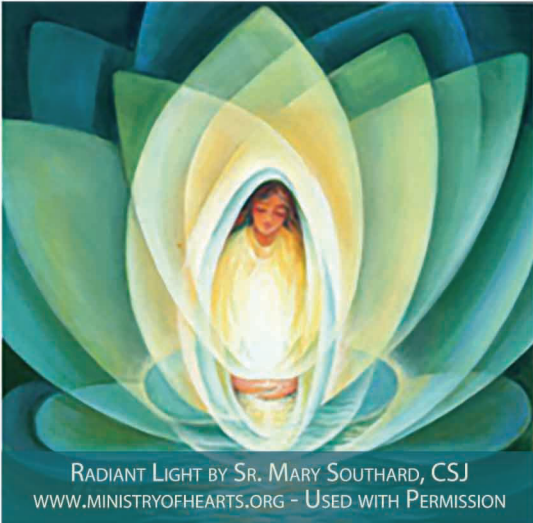
That we may take the time to realize all the wonderful blessings we have received from God, so that we may reflect on them in our hearts as Mary did when the shepherds visited the manger, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

WOMEN'S RETREAT
ARE YOU A MARTHA OR A MARY?
LIVING A BALANCED LIFE.

Presented by Janet Schaeffler, OP

March 28-30, 2025 • St. John XXIII Pastoral Center, Charleston



RADIANT LIGHT BY SR. MARY SOUTHARD, CSJ
 WWW.MINISTRYOFHEARTS.ORG - USED WITH PERMISSION

The Scripture story of Jesus coming to the home of Mary and Martha (and Lazarus) is well-known to us.

What is the message for us, women living in 2025? Through this Scripture passage, what is God saying to us about our lives? Is it what we often hear – or might there be several messages?

- Do I feel too busy, to rushed?
- How – really – do I balance everything today?

What really are the answers to which Jesus challenges us – and comfort us.

For more information and to register visit:
www.dwc.org/2025-Womens-Retreat

WV CATHOLIC RADIO
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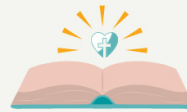
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Dunbar - Charleston	AM	1450
Eastern Panhandle - coming soon	FM	88.5
Grafton - Clarksburg	AM	1190
Montgomery - Beckley	FM	89.7
Purgitsville	FM	98.7
St. Marys - Parkersburg	FM	105.3
Star City -Morgantown	FM	89.7
Summersville	FM	91.3
Wheeling - Martins Ferry, OH	FM	90.7
Weirton - Steubenville	FM	97.9

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Liturgy of the Hours
LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!

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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.