



# Faith IN WV

FEBRUARY 15, 2026  
DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON



## LOVE CHRIST LIKE ST. CLAUDE DE LA COLOMBIÈRE

*Let His Devotion to The Sacred Heart Ignite Our Hearts in the US*

Today, February 15, the Church celebrates the feast of St. Claude de la Colombière (1641-1682)—a Jesuit priest, powerful preacher, and one of the great promoters of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

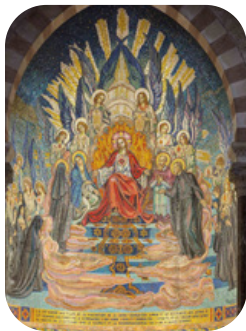
*“May the Heart of Jesus Christ be our school!  
Let us make our abode there.  
Let us study its movements  
and attempt to conform ours to them.  
Yes, O Divine Jesus, I want to live there.”  
- St. Claude e la Colombiere, S.J.*

### Let His Faith Help Us Renew our One Nation Under God

#### Consecrating the US to the Sacred Heart

Let his devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus ignite our hearts, especially now. This June, as part of the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. bishops will consecrate the United States of America to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Parishes around the country will join our bishops in consecrating our nation to the Sacred Heart in June.

Saint Claude is remembered as the spiritual director and supporter of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, the saint who received visions of Jesus revealing



His Sacred Heart. When many people doubted her and even opposed her, St. Claude listened, believed, and encouraged her. Saint Margaret Mary called him the “faithful servant and

perfect friend” that Jesus promised would help her.

That’s what makes St. Claude so inspiring—he wasn’t afraid to believe and stand up for Christ, even when St. Margaret Mary’s visions and claims were ridiculed.

He was a Jesuit priest, a respected homilist, and a confessor for many faithful from the poorest to the most noble, but one of the best things about St. Claude is that his words still speak to us today - very direct, thought provoking, and relatable.

“Jesus is in the midst of us in the Blessed Sacrament. . . Yet does it not often seem as though we ignored this happiness? Do we often visit him? Do we go to him in our needs and consult him in our plans?”

Do we really stop, accept, and grasp that at every single Mass Jesus is literally right there for us in the Eucharist? Or do we just go through the motions or don’t go at all for weeks or months even?

Saint Claude reminds us that Jesus doesn’t just want a quick prayer when things go wrong. He wants our whole heart—our thoughts, our fears, our worries, our plans.

“As Jesus Christ possesses your whole heart, he wishes also to have all your anxieties and all your thoughts. . . trust in his goodness for all the rest.”

In other words: *Give Jesus everything.* Not because He’s demanding, but because He loves us enough to carry what we were never meant to carry alone.

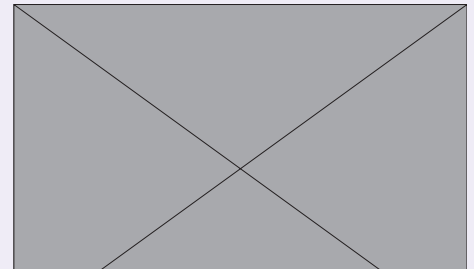
In the Sacred Heart of Jesus we can

*continue...*



Sunday Mass can’t be our only touchpoint with God. Beyond Sunday is a guide to living the Catholic faith more fully each day through Catholic media, podcasts, art, gifts, and trusted voices from the Church to help nourish our own prayer, reflection, and mission.

Intentionally make holy habits by visiting these sites instead of aimlessly scrolling:



Vatican News - [WWW.VATICANNEWS.VA/EN.HTML](http://WWW.VATICANNEWS.VA/EN.HTML) - stay up to date with the latest news from the Pope, Vatican, Church, and the World.



Our Sunday Visitor - [WWW.OSVNEWS.COM/VENERABLE-ARCHBISHOP-FULTON-J-SHEEN-TO-BE-BEATIFIED-DATE-WHERE-](http://WWW.OSVNEWS.COM/VENERABLE-ARCHBISHOP-FULTON-J-SHEEN-TO-BE-BEATIFIED-DATE-WHERE-) - latest headlines include the Beatification of Archbishop Fulton Sheen.

*continue...*

see, feel, and have a relationship with Jesus – a true friend.

People may not always understand us. Friends may disappoint us. Life may overwhelm us. But Jesus never gets tired of us. He never walks away. He never stops loving us.

Even when we fail Him, St. Claude reminds us that Jesus is ready to welcome us back.

In his Prayer of Friendship to Jesus is one of the most touching reminders of Christ's love. He says:

“Jesus, you are my true friend, my

only friend. . .

You are never weary of listening to me,  
You are never tired of doing me good.”

St. Claude teaches us that peace isn't found in having a perfect life—it's found in being close to Christ.

And that's the motivation we all need. May St. Claude de la Colombière pray for us. May we learn to love Jesus with faith and confidence like yours, especially in the Blessed Sacrament and through devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

## SAINT CLAUDE'S PRAYER OF FRIENDSHIP TO JESUS

*“Jesus, you are my true friend, my only friend.  
You take a part in all my misfortunes;  
You take them on yourself;  
You know how to change them into blessings.  
You listen to me with the greatest kindness  
when I relate my troubles to you,  
and you always have balm to pour on my wounds.  
I find you at all times, I find you everywhere,  
You never go away;  
if I have to change my dwelling, I find you wherever  
I go.  
You are never weary of listening to me,  
You are never tired of doing me good.  
I am certain of being beloved by you if I love you;  
my goods are nothing to you,  
and by bestowing yours on me you never grow poor.  
However miserable I may be,  
no one nobler or wiser or even holier  
can come between you and me,  
and deprive me of your friendship;  
and death, which tears us away from all other  
friends,  
will unite me forever to you.  
All the humiliation attached to old age  
or to the loss of honor will never detach you from  
me.  
On the contrary, I shall never enjoy you more fully,  
and you will never be closer to me'  
than when everything seems to conspire against me,  
to overwhelm me, and to cast me down.  
You bear with all my faults with extreme patience,  
and even my want of fidelity and ingratitude  
do not wound you to such a degree  
as to make you unwilling to receive me back  
when I return to you.  
Jesus, grant that I may die praising you,  
that I may die loving you,  
that I may die for the love of you.  
Amen.”*

## US CATHOLIC CHURCH CELEBRATIONS FOR AMERICA'S 250TH

As the Nation celebrates the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has planned two major initiatives will honor our faith, heritage, and devotion to Christ.

1. Consecration of the United States to the Sacred Heart of Jesus -
2. National Eucharistic Pilgrimage – the Blessed Sacrament will be carried in procession along the East Coast of the U.S., from May 25 to the 250th American Celebrations July 2-5 in Philadelphia. From your Jan. 18th FaithInWV: the One Nation Under God pilgrimage is a visible call to action to realign our lives, communities, and country under the sovereignty of Christ. The pilgrimage begins in St. Augustine, Florida, in honor of where the first Mass in our country was celebrated



Catholic Art and Jewelry - [WWW.CATHOLICARTANDJEWELRY.COM](http://WWW.CATHOLICARTANDJEWELRY.COM) - Holy Cards! Vintage holy cards restored, as well as photo restorations of saints and sacred art for your home.



Short on time? Check out Spirit Juice – Reel Homilies weekly with Fr. Tim Anastos - [WWW.SPIRITJUICE.ORG/REELHOMILIES](http://WWW.SPIRITJUICE.ORG/REELHOMILIES) - Fr. Tim is the associate chaplain of St. John Paul II Newman Center at the University of Illinois-Chicago). His one-minute homilies drive home Sunday's Gospel, weaving together Church tradition and pop culture.

at the Our Lady of La Leche Shrine at Mission de Nombres. The route will continue up the Eastern Seaboard through most of the 13 original colonies, reaching as far north as New Hampshire and Maine. Stops will be made in the Archdiocese of Baltimore, our country's very first Catholic diocese, as well as the Archdiocese of Boston to visit significant national historical sites. Explore the route at: [WWW.EUCHARISTICPILGRIMAGE.ORG](http://WWW.EUCHARISTICPILGRIMAGE.ORG)

May these events unite us in prayer, reflection, and hope.

# Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order and the Seven Sorrows Rosary



Nearly 800 years ago, seven devout merchants from Florence left behind wealth and status after the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to them and to a life of prayer, penance, and service. Church history tells us that around 1233 each of the men experienced a vision of Mary to dedicated themselves to prayer. In 1240, they had a joint vision of Mary surrounded by angels. She gave them their mission to create a religious order **Servants of Mary (Servites)**, devoted especially to honoring Our Lady's **Seven Sorrows**. They were canonized together in 1888.

We as a Church honor their memorial on Feb. 17, the day that the last of the seven founders, St. Alexis Falconieri, died in 1310.

The seven founders and their followers over time structured the **Seven Sorrows Rosary** to reflect on Mary's suffering alongside Christ. This devotion invites us not to run from suffering, but to stand faithfully at the foot of the Cross. While we cannot take away another's pain, we can remain present in love—just as Mary did.

Let the lives of the seven Servite founders remind us to serve rather than be served, to offer our gifts generously to God, and to walk with Mary as she leads us closer to Christ.

For a video of how to say the Seven Sorrows Rosary, check out this one by with Fr. Mark Mary and Ascension Presents: [YOUTU.BE/WxONFCCSUYK?si=BxJZFB7QJPB5CBMq](https://youtu.be/WxONFCCSUYK?si=BxJZFB7QJPB5CBMq)



## The Servite Seven Sorrows Rosary, focuses on:

1. The prophecy of Simeon (Luke 2:25-35)
2. The flight into Egypt (Matthew 2:13-15)
3. Loss of the Child Jesus for three days (Luke 2:41-50)
4. Mary meets Jesus on his way to Calvary (Luke 23:27-31; John 19:17)
5. Crucifixion and death of Jesus (John 19:25-30)
6. The body of Jesus being taken from the Cross (Luke 23:50-54; John 19:31-37)
7. The burial of Jesus (Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42; Mark 15:40-47)

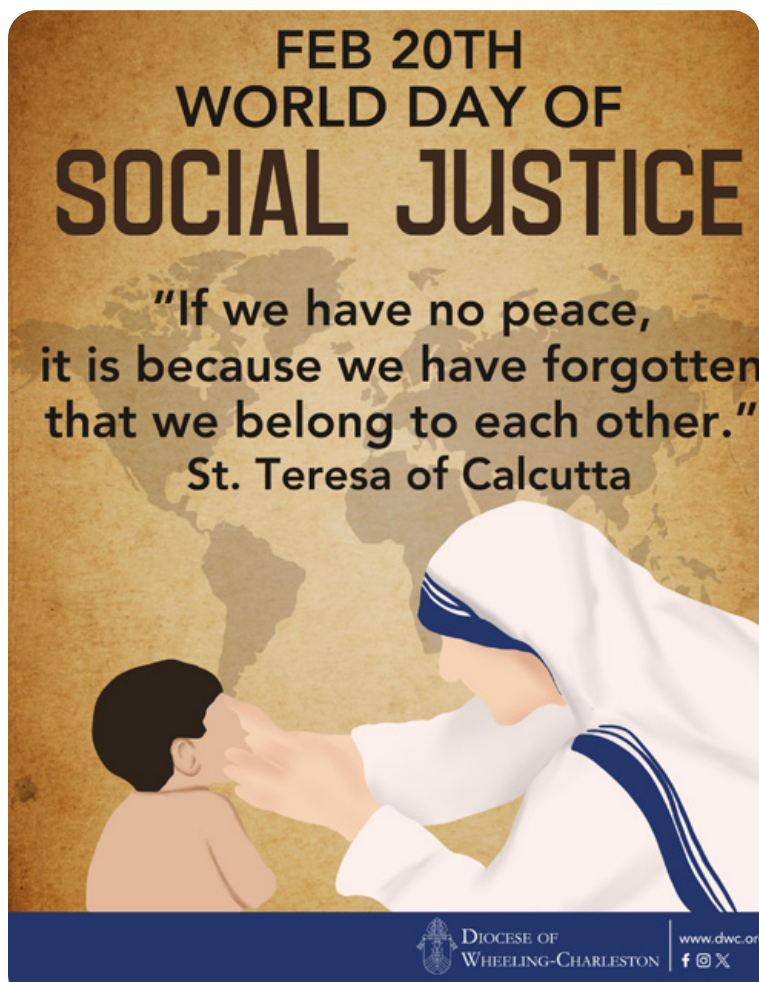
These events in Mary's life remind us that she can relate to everything a mother suffers. She heard the hard truth from Simeon on what was to be a joyful day; she had to flee with her newborn son and Joseph to find safety; was filled with panic of losing track of a child; and was totally helpless as she watched her son be tortured, mercilessly mocked, and horrifically die upon the cross. Pray with her, so she intercedes for us for she knows suffering like no other. She also is the ultimate example of faith, loyalty, hope, and love. Cry out to her in all sufferings now and at the hour of our death.

As you say each of the seven courses, walk along with Mary through her life as the young Mother of Jesus- our Blessed Mother.

Go to Hallow for more information and how to say the Seven Sorrows Rosary: [HALLOW.COM/BLOG/7-SORROWS/](https://HALLOW.COM/BLOG/7-SORROWS/)


# World Day of Social Justice – Feb. 20

## Catholic Social Teaching – Every Human Life Sacred



**FEB 20TH  
WORLD DAY OF  
SOCIAL JUSTICE**

**“If we have no peace,  
it is because we have forgotten  
that we belong to each other.”  
St. Teresa of Calcutta**

 **DIocese OF  
WHEELING-CHARLESTON** | [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org)  
f @ X

As the world honors Feb. 20th as World Day of Social Justice, be mindful of the essential part of our faith – Catholic social teaching – to help those struggling with unemployment, social exclusion, and poverty.

As the Catechism of the Catholic Church explains, “To receive in truth the Body and Blood of Christ given up for us, we must recognize Christ in the poorest, his brethren” (no. 1397).

Here in West Virginia, whether “poverty” is poor in spirit, poor health, working poor, or at the government poverty level, we are all called to serve.

We are blessed with many opportunities to work to help secure social justice through the Church, Catholic Charities, Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Sharing Appeal, Knights of Columbus, Mary’s Refuge, local parish projects, Catholic school community service efforts, and Catholic organizations events.

“We are called to reach out and to build relationships of love and justice. Catholic social teaching is based on and inseparable from our understanding of human

life and human dignity. Every human being is created in the image of God and redeemed by Jesus Christ and therefore is invaluable and worthy of respect as a member of the human family. Every person, from the moment of conception to natural death, has inherent dignity and a right to life consistent with that dignity. Human dignity comes from God, not from any human quality or accomplishment,” - United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Sharing Catholic Social Teaching.

The Church’s Fundamental teachings for social justice declare that every human life is sacred; we are responsible for protecting human dignity with rights and meeting responsibilities; solidarity (what is it like to walk in the shoes of these people facing hard times); and subsidiarity (accepting responsibility and asking, ‘what can we do to come together and make a difference to provide the most fundamental things -food, water, clothing, security).

Recall the life and wisdom of St. Teresa of Calcutta, “If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.”



## LENTEN SEASON

	FEB. 18	ASH WEDNESDAY
	FEB. 22	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
	MARCH 29	PALM SUNDAY
	APRIL 2	HOLY THURSDAY
	APRIL 3	GOOD FRIDAY
	APRIL 4	HOLY SATURDAY
	APRIL 5	EASTER SUNDAY

 **DIocese OF  
WHEELING-CHARLESTON** | [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org)  
f @ X

# Saint Peter Damian – February 21

“May Christ be heard. . .”

Saint Peter Damian – he just wanted to be left alone.

It’s not hard to relate to this simple desire of St. Peter Damian, who the Church honors on Feb. 21st. He was a quiet gentleman but not so quiet that people ignored him. Quite the contrary.

Peter was born about 988. He was a humble monk just wanting to live quietly in prayer and away from any limelight.

However, God had different plans for him. Saint Peter Damian’s love for God was calming and – thanks be to God – contagious. People who knew him and knew of him were drawn to him wanting to imitate his holy habits and demeanor. His leadership skills, peaceful nature, and theological intelligence could not be kept a secret.

His reputation flowed far beyond his monastery.

Pope Stephen IX made him Cardinal Bishop Peter Damian of Ostia to help reform the Church. He took the position only out of obedience for the faith. He worked tirelessly to restore discipleship among religious and priests, vows of obedience and poverty, and expose those living too comfortably. He worked



in that role for 10 years before being allowed to return to life in the monastery.

However, two years later the Church called upon St. Peter Damian again. This time, he was sent to Frankfurt for it was believed he was the only one who could prevent Henry IV from divorcing his wife, Bertha. Four years later after fulfilling other missions of the Church, he was returning to his beloved hermitage, when he

fell ill. He was taken in by a Benedictine monastery, where he ultimately died.

St. Peter Damian, Doctor of the Church, is an example of one who was blessed with the gift of counsel, compassion, and leadership among believers and non-believers; and was obedient to God by sharing those gifts even if it meant going out of his comfort zone, being away from the place he loved most, and down a path that was way more challenging than one he would have chosen for himself.

Let his words echo in our hearts:

“May Christ be heard in our language,  
may Christ be seen in our life,  
may he be perceived in our hearts.”

“Let the serenity of your spirit  
shine through your face...  
Let words of thanks  
break from your lips.”

~St. Peter Damian (Letter 28 circa. 1048-1051).

*Although the letter was addressed to clergy, its message is also relevant for all of us to embrace especially during Lent.*



# Are You Ready to Stay with Christ & Keep Watch?

## Let Ash Wednesday Mark Your “YES”

On His last night with the disciples Jesus had a simple request of them, “Stay with me and keep watch.”

Matthew (26:36-46) describes the Agony in the Garden. It was after the Last Supper. Jesus was with his disciples at Gethsemane. He told them to stay alert and keep watch while he prayed. Specifically, he confided in Peter, James, and John that he was terribly “distressed and full of sorrow,” requesting they stay with him. He turned away from them in prayer. When He turned back to them, they were all asleep. It hadn't even been an hour.

This happened three times before the Judas and the crowd with swords and clubs came to arrest Him.

As we approach Ash Wednesday, let's ask ourselves: Can Christ count on me to stay with Him and keep watch this Lent? Will we be his disciplined disciples?

Will we choose Jesus over comfort?

Will we choose Him over instant gratification?

Will we choose Him over ego, convenience, and the easy way out?

Will we love him when it costs us something?

Lent is our opportunity to build on our relationship with God – to stay with Him.

Acknowledge this time as a season sacrifice and action for Christ.

Stop giving energy away, and instead listen to God's voice in the Bible, at Mass, in Adoration, and in moments of peace when we intentionally steal away a few minutes for ourselves.

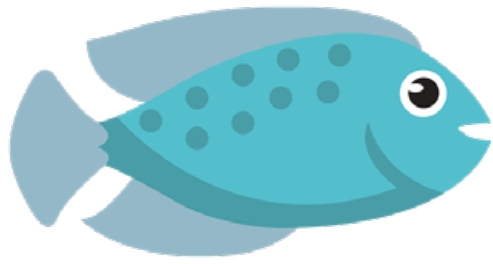
In St. Paul's letter to the Romans (5:3-4) he tells us that our sacrifices and sufferings are not in vain:

**“Suffering produces endurance,  
and endurance produces character,  
and character produces hope.”**

This Lent when it comes to almsgiving give in love - your time, talents and treasure - freely & willingly because you love God.

*Editor's note: the emotional portrait with this article is Agony In The Garden circa 1898, by Frans Schwartz*





# Time to get HOOKED!



Lenten Fish Fries, Special Mass Times, & More Featured on [DWC.ORG](http://DWC.ORG)

We have created a page on our website to provide the details on Lenten fish fry information, Mass times and more.

Go to [DWC.ORG/FISH-FRIES](http://DWC.ORG/FISH-FRIES) to see a list of our parishes that have provided us with their Lenten events, including fish fries.

During Lent, more fully unite with Jesus in the desert through abstaining from meat and fasting. These practices are a conscience effort to help us grow closer to God by giving up certain foods and choosing instead more prayer, generosity, and kindness.

Our obligation - **Fasting and abstinence** (less food and no meat) on **Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Additionally, Abstinence from meat on all Fridays during Lent.**

- **Abstinence from meat:** Catholics **14 and older**
- **Fasting:** Catholics **18 to 59**, usually defined as **one full meal and two smaller meals** that don't equal another full meal. **Exceptions include** Catholics who are sick, elderly, or pregnant.

For more information go to: [WWW.USCCB.ORG/PRAYER-AND-WORSHIP/LITURGICAL-YEAR-AND-CALENDAR/LENT/CATHOLIC-INFORMATION-ON-LENTEN-FAST-AND-ABSTINENCE](http://WWW.USCCB.ORG/PRAYER-AND-WORSHIP/LITURGICAL-YEAR-AND-CALENDAR/LENT/CATHOLIC-INFORMATION-ON-LENTEN-FAST-AND-ABSTINENCE) AND [HTTPS://WWW.VATICAN.VA/ARCHIVE/COD-IURIS-CANONICI/ENG/DOCUMENTS/CIC\\_LIB4-CANN1244-1253\\_EN.HTML](https://WWW.VATICAN.VA/ARCHIVE/COD-IURIS-CANONICI/ENG/DOCUMENTS/CIC_LIB4-CANN1244-1253_EN.HTML)

## Ash Wednesday

Let our ashes remind us to renew our faith, reflect, repent, and grow to be better Christians.

Lenten

# STUDY SERIES



"Conversion and Renewal: A Lentent Journey with Christ."

6 PM Each Thursday at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Wheeling

---

**Week 1: Thursday, February 19th.**

**"The Mass Explained: Why We Do What We Do"**

Explore each part of the Mass, its scriptural roots, and spiritual meaning.

Presented by Justin Golna, Judicial Vicar, DWC

---

**Week 2: Thursday, February 26th.**

**"The Real Presence: Understanding the Eucharist"**

Presented by Fr Carlos, Pastor St Michael, Wheeling

---

**Week 3: Thursday, March 5th**

**Faith Sharing and Witness Testimonials**

Presented by Deacon Tom and Michelle McFadden

---

**Week 4: Thursday, March 12th.**

**Conversion and Renewal: The Journey of Lent"**

Repentance, confession, spiritual combat, and growth in holiness.

Presented by Fr Joseph Wiley, Pastor Corpus Christi, Warwood

---

**Week 5: Thursday, March 19th.**

**"The Seven Last Words of Christ"**

Forgiveness, suffering, hope, trust, surrender.

Presented by Fr John Soplonski, Vocation Director, DWC

---

**Week 6: Thursday, March 26th.**

**"Walking with Jesus to Calvary: The Passion Narratives"**

Study the Passion in the gospel of John

Presented by Fr Jeelson Stephen, Pastor St. Vincent de Paul, Wheeling

**All are welcome.**

**Study series will be held in the church,**

**2244 Marshall Avenue, Wheeling**

**304-242-0406**



# St. Joe's Parish Lenten Mission

with Deacon Harold Bunke-Sivens  
a.k.a. the Dynamic Deacon!

229 California Ave. Weinton, WV 26062  
Questions? Call 304-723-2054

March 22-24, 2026

7:00 - 8:00 PM: Talk  
8:00 PM-TBD: Confession,  
Meet & Greet, Book Sales,  
& Refreshments!

Deacon Harold Bunke-Sivens – known around the world as the “Dynamic Deacon” – is one of the most sought-after speakers in the Church today. He is a powerful and passionate evangelist and preacher, whose no-nonsense approach to living and proclaiming the Catholic faith will challenge and inspire those who hear him.



Scan the QR Code to  
Register for Free!

# LAETARÉ

Charleston-Area Young Adults Group

**Our Charleston-Area Young Adult Group consists of members from all across the Charleston area. Please consider joining if you are interested in forming quality friendships with other Catholic Young Adults in the area!**

## Why Join???

- Active Community
- Bible Studies
- Cookouts
- Game Nights
- Volunteer Opportunities

**JOIN NOW!**



**Use your camera to scan the QR code if you want to keep up to date through our GroupMe chat!**

## SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### First Reading: Sirach 15:15-20

In the Book of Sirach Ben Sira teaches us that God gave us free will. We should trust God, seek his wisdom, follow his commands, and make good choices.

### Responsorial: Psalm 119

“Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord.”

### Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

Saint Paul is telling us for those who truly love Christ that the joys of heaven far exceed the joy we see, hear, or have on earth.

### Gospel: Matthew 5:17-37

Christ tells the crowd came to fulfill the Old Testament - the law and the teaching of the prophets. He further explains the commandments giving more examples and higher standards for how they must be upheld.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we welcome the Holy Spirit into our minds and hearts, giving us the wisdom to grow in understanding of the eternal joys of following the Commandments and Christ's example, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For legislators, civil authorities, and members of the judicial system, that they may exercise judgment and mercy in creating, enforcing, and applying our laws, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those suffering in broken relationships, that they may receive the support and hope they need, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That we may grow in discernment, recognize the wisdom of God's commands, and keep them with all our heart, let us pray to the Lord. . .

*Lord hear our prayer*



## 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
Keyser - coming soon	FM	98.9
Montgomery - Beckley	FM	89.7
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

~Listen on LoL Stream at [www.rdo.to/WLOL](http://www.rdo.to/WLOL)~

Radio Luz de Vida streaming at [www.rdo.to/WLOL2](http://www.rdo.to/WLOL2)

## 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).