



Faith IN WV

FEBRUARY 9, 2025
DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON



World Day of Marriage

Sunday, February 9th is World Marriage Day with the theme “Marriage: Source of Hope, Spring of Renewal. Pursue a Lasting Love!”

Beyond the ultimate example of marriage that we find in St. Joseph and Mary, the Catholic Church recognizes several married couples as saints, highlighting their exemplary lives of faith, love, and mutual support in their journey towards holiness. Look to these couples as models, demonstrating how the sacrament of marriage can be a path to sanctity.



SAINTS JOACHIM AND ANNE the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary, are venerated as saints and celebrated for their piety and dedication to God, serving as a model for family life and the nurturing of faith in children. We don't have a wealth of facts on Jesus' maternal grandparents, but it is safe to say their love and trust in God must have

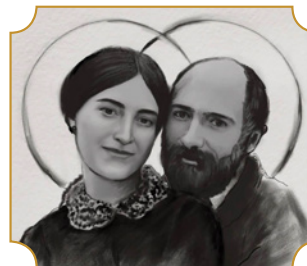
been wonderfully strong and pure. We can only imagine the conversations and traditions Saint Anne and Joachim shared with Mary to make her sweet heart so blessed, ultimately being chosen to be the Mother of the Christ child. As grandparents they surely enjoyed passing down their steadfast faith, stories, songs, and religious customs to young Jesus.



The portrait of Ss. Anne and Joachim is by Litty Nellikunnel of JSH Creative Studio in Dallas: www.etsy.com/shop/JSHCreativeStudio

Catholic wedding painting is by Litty Nellikunnel of JSH Creative Studio in Dallas: www.etsy.com/shop/JSHCreativeStudio

SAINTS LOUIS AND ZÉLIE MARTIN the parents of



Saint Thérèse of Lisieux. The couple was declared saints by Pope Francis in 2015. They are the first married couple canonized together. The Martins had nine children,

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REMINDER

Special Collection: Home Missions

Home Missions Collections, Feb. 8-9, is an opportunity to help strengthen the Church at home by supporting essential pastoral programs (Mass and sacraments, religious education, and ministry training for priests, deacons, religious sisters, and lay people) in financially challenged dioceses and eparchies in the United States. **Read more:** www.usccb.org/committees/catholic-home-missions

four (two sons and two daughters) died in infancy or early childhood. The other five - all girls - became nuns. Their marriage was characterized by deep faith and mutual support and they raised their children in a devout Christian home. "The good Lord gave me a father and a mother more worthy of heaven than of earth," St. Therese said.

The portrait of Ss. Zelig and Louis Martin is by Catholic artist Nichole Lanthier: www.etsy.com/shop/NicholeLanthier

SAINTS ISIDORE AND MARIA: The couple lived



in the 11th Century and are known as the patron saints of farmers. Isidore and Maria did have one child, but he died in infancy. They remained faithful to God and grateful for their marriage. They served God as they worked the farm and home, praying throughout the day during and often feeding

the poor and anyone else passing through needing fed. Isidore believed God would provide as long as they couple remained humble and dedicated to Christ. Legend tells us one day St. Isidore brought home more hungry people than usual. After his wife Maria served many of them, she had to tell her hungry husband that there was nothing left in the pot for them. He calmly told her to check the pot again and when she did she discovered there was plenty for them.

The portrait of Saints Isidore and Maria is by Mary Faucheux of Simply Joyful Prints: www.etsy.com/shop/SimplyJoyfulPrint

Marriage is a vocation that can lead to holiness. Moreover, a strong Catholic loving marriage is a vocation that prays for, fosters, nurtures, and supports all vocations in the Church.

"In many holy marriages each spouse becomes a means used by Christ for the sanctification of the other," Pope Francis said, emphasizing that mutual love and support found in a Christian marriage can be a profound source of grace for all. The husband and wife work to strengthen their faith together and help the other get to Heaven.

The Second Vatican Council emphasized that all the faithful are called to holiness. Married saints illustrate another example for that holiness is not limited to those in religious life but is attainable for each one of us.

Let these saints' lives encourage couples today to strive for a deeper relationship with God and to support each other in their spiritual journeys, thereby contributing to the Church and society as a whole.

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
look on our families with kindness and love.
Strengthen them in the truth of their vocation
and give them the confidence

that, with God's grace,
they can live it
with love and joy!
Amen.

-Bishop Mark E. Brennan

Holy Lives & Events to Learn from This Week

On Feb. 10th we honor the Feast Day of St. Scholastica

(480-543 AD). Born in Italy she is the twin sister of St. Benedict. She lived much of her life in chosen silence, but her life bellowed praise for God.

Saint Scholastica's devotion to God, family, prayer, holiness, service, and resilience provides a framework for living and navigating a faithful and fulfilling life in today's world.

Details of her life are a bit



fragmentary, but Pope St. Gregory the Great, who lived from about 540-604 AD, wrote St. Scholastica lived a silent religious life but once a year would meet up with her twin brother who had been ordained a priest to talk in private usually at her monastery which was about five miles from his.

On Feb. 6, 543, he came to visit her. When it was time for him to go home Scholastica pleaded for him to stay to talk longer. Benedict was adamant he had to leave. Much to his dismay Scholastica prayed God would keep her brother there. Then suddenly a violent storm began, and Benedict could not return to his monastery. He was upset with his sister.

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He said, "Almighty God forgive you, sister." She responded, "See, I have asked you, and He has answered me. What you would not grant to me, our loving God did." He stayed and the two talked through the night. She died a few days later.

On Feb. 11th celebrate Our Lady of Lourdes. Honor the apparitions of Mary to St. Bernadette Soubirous in 1858 by showing compassion to those who are sick and suffering. Equally important is the Blessed Mother's call for us to lead others to know and trust Jesus Christ. Through prayer, penance, and service we can bring healing to others and the world.



Our Lady of Lourdes, you bring hope to the world. Pray for us!

February 11th is the World Day of Prayer for the Sick. As we approach this day consider all those we can accompany through our prayers and dedicate the Healing Prayer of **St. Padre Pio** for them:



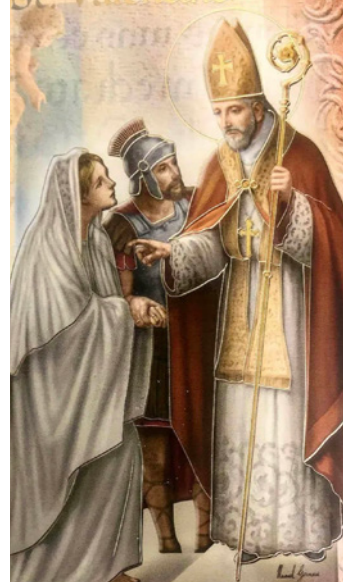
*Heavenly Father, I thank you for loving me.
I thank you for sending your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ,
to the world to save and to set me free.
I trust in your power and grace that sustain and restore me.
Loving Father, touch me now with your healing hands,
for I believe that your will is for me to be well in mind, body,
soul and spirit.
Cover me with the most precious blood of your Son, our Lord
Jesus Christ from the top of my head to the soles of my feet.
Cast anything that should not be in me.
Root out any unhealthy and abnormal cells.
Open any blocked arteries or veins and rebuild and replenish
any damaged areas.
Remove all inflammation and cleanse any infection by the
power of Jesus' precious blood.
Let the fire of your healing love pass through my entire body
to heal and make new any diseased areas so that my body
will function the way you created it to function.
Touch also my mind and my emotion, even the deepest
recesses of my heart.*

*Saturate my entire being with your presence, love, joy, and
peace and draw me ever closer to you every moment of my
life.*

*And Father, fill me with your Holy Spirit and empower me to
do your works so that my life will bring glory and honor to
your holy name. I ask this in the name of the Lord Jesus
Christ.*

Amen.

Saint Valentine's Day is February 14. The record and



life of third century St. Valentine is unfortunately mostly legend instead of concrete facts. Most of us know of St. Valentine as a bishop known for marrying couples in a secret Christian ceremony and then helping them escape persecution by anti-Christian rulers. It is believed this same saint was eventually martyred for trying to convert the pagan emperor and then refusing to denounce faith.

May we take time this day to embrace the same love and joy St. Valentine had for God, risking his own life to unite couples in the holy sacrament of matrimony and share the love of Christ with the world.

February 14 is also the Feast Day of Ss. Cyril and Methodius.

They are not only siblings but also the co-patrons saints of Europe, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Czech Republic, and Slovakia. Saints



Cyril and Methodius promoted Christian values including reconciliation, unity, and peace. The two ninth century saints were Byzantine Christian missionaries that evangelized the Slavic people by translating the liturgy, New Testament, Psalms, and other books of the Old Testament for them.

Let us be like Ss. Cyril and Methodius and evangelize by communicating in a language for others to understand God's love, mercy, and peace.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF A PIVOTAL LETTER FOR APPALACHIA



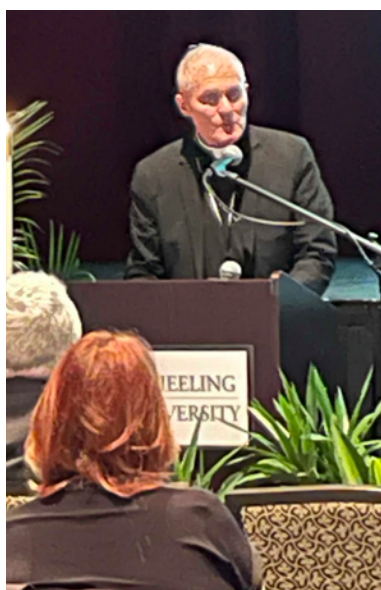
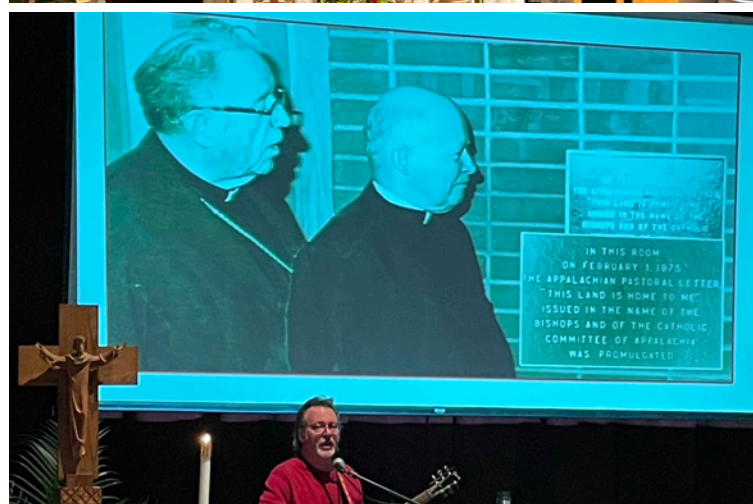
A glimpse of a special 50th Anniversary celebration at Wheeling University to honor a 1975 document that changed the course of action for Appalachia - *This Land is Home to Me*.

Signed by 25 bishops of Appalachia who took a stand to be advocates for the powerless of the Appalachian region the letter changed lives. Last week nearly 100 attendees came from all over WV, OH, PA, and KY to attend the evening at Wheeling University with special presentations organized by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, the Clifford M. Lewis, SJ Appalachian Institute (at WU), and the Catholic Committee of Appalachia. The event also included a prayer service, Mass in the Chapel of Mary and Joseph; dinner at Swint Hall; a Festival of Appalachian Music and Art at Mt. de Chantal Conservatory; and a farewell social for all those attending.

This Land is Home to Me was a voice for the beautiful mountains, hills, valleys, and people of Appalachia that

were suffering and ignored. The bishops in 1975 composed the public letter in response to concerns raised by the Catholic Committee of Appalachia in 1974 regarding the economic and political inequalities that characterized the Appalachian region after committee members had traveled throughout Appalachia, listening to individuals, community groups, volunteers and church workers.

The document was an answer to generations of prayers from the people of all backgrounds living in the 397 counties and 13 states (Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and all of West Virginia) that are part of the Appalachian Mountain region. The letter is considered one of the most significant statements to emerge from the U.S. Catholic Church. It's become a model for groups all over the world that want to promote social justice.



YOU HAVE A FRIEND IN JESUS!

Saint St. Claude de la Colombière (1641-1682) left his mark on the world in many ways. He was a Jesuit priest, a great friend, a homilist, a spiritual director, and a confessor for many faithful from the poorest to the most noble including St. Margaret Mary Alacoque (who helped formally establish the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus through her visions).

Saint Claude's spiritual writings and commitment to the Sacred Heart are reflected in his "True Friend" prayer, emphasizing the importance of building a deep, personal relationship with Jesus.

In honor of his feast day, February 15, quiet your world and join him in his prayer.



TRUE FRIEND

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.

Love & Charity

Lessons of love and charity from Saints Therese of Lisieux, St. Francis de Sales, Catherine of Sienna, and Teresa of Calcutta were embraced during Catholic Schools week by students from Parkersburg Catholic Elementary.



Just in time for Valentine's Day, the students raised more than \$250 on their pajama day so they could put together some surprise care packages for the nine young mommas staying at Mary's Refuge.

Principal Katy McLean was excited to share that after learning about the loving pro-life maternity home in Martinsburg, WV; she and her students were eager to spoil the young ladies with little gifts to make them feel special like chocolate, pampering bath items, cozy slipper socks, press on nails, and more.

The saints give us many lessons on love and charity. Our Catholic schools in WV are blessed to be able to spread those lessons into all of our classes, activities, and service-learning projects every day - intentionally Catholic, living Christ's lessons of love, mercy, and hope.

Blessed Carlo Acutis, a millennial who will be canonized this summer, said, "Life is a gift, because as long as we are on this planet, we can grow in our ability to love. The

more we learn to love, the more we will enjoy eternal blessedness with God."

Catholic schools are pro-life! Helping women who choose life is love and charity in action. Mary's Refuge, named in honor of the Blessed Mother, is that safe haven home, where mothers-to-be find more than a stable roof over their heads, but also prenatal care, parenting classes, and educational resources. These mothers receive physical, emotional and spiritual support.

The mothers living at Mary's Refuge are from a wide range of backgrounds and are in different spots on life's journey, but each now a part of a community working to take positive steps towards a better, brighter future.

Saint quotes to inspire our love and charity:

"Kindness is my only guiding star. In its light, I sail a straight route. I have my motto written on my sail: "To live in love."
- Saint Therese of Lisieux

"You learn to speak by speaking, to study by studying, to run by running, to work by working, and just so, you learn to love by loving. All those who think to learn in any other way deceive themselves." - St. Francis de Sales

"Charity is the sweet and holy bond which links the soul with its Creator: it binds God with man and man with God." - Saint Catherine of Siena

"Let us more and more insist on raising funds of love, of kindness, of understanding, of peace." - Saint Teresa of Calcutta

"Everything fades, anyway. ... What will make us truly beautiful in the eyes of God is only the way in which we loved him and how we loved our neighbors." - Blessed Carlo Acutis



DIOCESAN HISTORY TO CELEBRATE

On February 12, 1875, the Holy See announced that Martinsburg native Fr. John Joseph Kain would be the bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling.

While it is the 150th anniversary of this announcement the declaration is also interesting because Fr. Kain was only 34 years old and a West Virginian. He was reluctant to leave the ministry of the parish and mission priest, but he did so for the betterment of the diocese.

John Joseph Kain was born in March of 1841, but would celebrate it as May 31, 1841, the day he was baptized. He went to St. Charles College in Maryland and St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Richmond (the entire Eastern Panhandle of our state was part of the Richmond diocese until 1974) at the age of 25, in the year 1866. His first assignment was his childhood parish – St. Joseph in Martinsburg. He was also assigned to serve in missions in the regions within and around Leesburg, VA, and Harpers Ferry, WV.

Not only did his duties included serving the faithful and evangelizing the people, but it was also to help rebuild the communities after the Civil War.

His installation as the second bishop for the Diocese of Wheeling was in May 1875. He succeeded Bishop Richard Whelan, who died in 1874. Bishop Kain expanded his servant leadership ministry to meet the needs of newly arrived immigrants from all over Europe who came to work in the coal mines and mills of West Virginia; and he

was consulted on issues of labor unions and education.

Bishop Kain took over in a time of great debt in the diocese and horrific hard financial times for the people of WV.



Within the 18 years he served as our bishop he opened 15 parishes and six schools. His service to the diocese ended in 1893, when he was then appointed to be the Archbishop of St. Louis. He was so successful as a leader of the Church many dioceses wanted him to be the successor of other bishops across the country, but he was able to refuse those positions until the Church leaders needed him in St. Louis.

However, Kain didn't leave Wheeling until he was certain his beloved diocese was in good hands. He was able to help select his successor Bishop Patrick J. Donahue.

Bishop Kain remained in St. Louis until his death on Oct. 13, 1903. He was 62.

Fun fact: Bishop Kain was baptized by Father Richard

Whelan. It was one of the last baptisms Whelan celebrated before being installed as Bishop of Richmond in 1841. In 1849, Whelan as Bishop of Richmond convinced the Provincial Council of Baltimore to divide the Diocese of Richmond into two dioceses – Richmond and Wheeling – with the Allegheny Mountains to be the natural barrier; and on July 19, 1850, the Holy See established the Diocese of Wheeling. The Wheeling, Virginia diocese became a two-state diocese in 1863, when WV became the 35th state.

Lenten Mission for Charleston Vicariate

Ascension Catholic Church of Hurricane and the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Office of Youth and Young Adult Discipleship will be hosting For the Love of God, a Lenten Mission for the Charleston Vicariate with acclaimed Catholic speaker, musician, author, and comedian Chris Padgett.

For four evenings, beginning March 9th and concluding March 12th, Catholics of all ages are welcome to attend the event at the church – 905 Hickory Mill Road - with your family and friends.

On March 9-11th the evenings will begin at 6pm with refreshments with the presentation beginning at 6:30. The final night will be a Lenten Penance Service at 6:30 pm.

Gather with to listen, learn, pray, and reflect during this special Lenten retreat. Chris will blend storytelling, music, and comedy into a truly unique experience to help deepen our connection with family and community, and strengthen our relationship with God.

A free will offering will be taken.



DIocese of Wheeling-Charleston

ASCENSION
CATHOLIC CHURCH OF HURRICANE

Lenten Mission

“For the Love of God”
Presented by
Chris Padgett
March 9 - 12, 2025

9th - 11th: Refreshments at 6 PM
Event at 6:30 PM
12th: Lenten Penance Service
at 6:30 PM

Ascension Catholic Church
905 Hickory Mill Rd
Hurricane, WV 25526

Schedule/Themes:

Sunday, 3/9 - Called to Be Love

Monday, 3/10 - What Keeps Us from Love

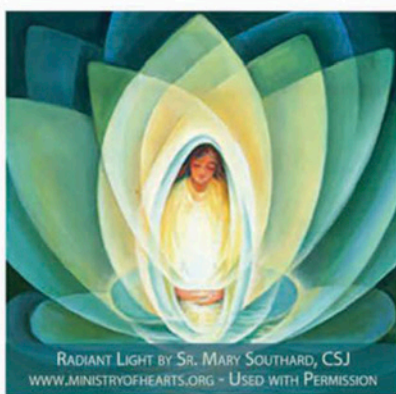
Tuesday, 3/11 - Sharing the Love, ending with Adoration

Wednesday, 3/12 – Lenten Penance Service

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



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

20/20 Vision Series for 2025

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE APPALACHIAN PASTORAL LETTERS

“THIS LAND IS HOME TO ME” (1975)
“AT HOME IN THE WEB OF LIFE” (1995)
“THE TELLING TAKES US HOME” (2015)

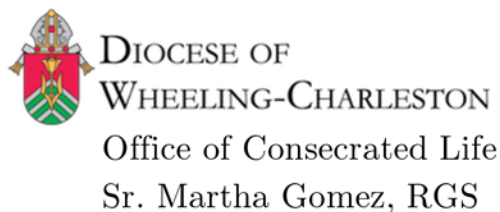
Note: Each session will begin at 7 pm and will be presented via Zoom.

January 27	OUR HOME, OUR HISTORY – Bishop Mark Brennan
February 24	THIS LAND IS HOME TO ME, PART I – Tom Breiding
March 31	THIS LAND IS HOME TO ME, PART II
April 28	THIS LAND IS HOME TO ME, PART III
May 19	AT HOME IN THE WEB OF LIFE, PART I – Beth Collins
June 23	AT HOME IN THE WEB OF LIFE, PART III
July 28	AT HOME IN THE WEB OF LIFE, PART III
August 25	THE TELLING TAKES US HOME, PART I – Rodica Stoicoiu
September 22	THE TELLING TAKES US HOME, PART II
October 27	THE TELLING TAKES US HOME, PART III
November 24	AN EVENING OF APPALACHIAN MUSIC – Tom Breiding
December 15	WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? – Bishop Mark Brennan

(Series originated by Ms. Shirley Carter, B.A., M.A.A.T.)

✦ Cost for complete series: \$120.00 Or \$15.00 per session. ✦

RSVP – Anna Marie Troiani: atroiani@csjoseph.org



Quo Vadis Retreat

Middle School Discernment Retreat

Boys in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades are invited!

11 am on June 30
through 1pm on July 3

Priest Field Pastoral Center

Kearneysville, WV

Campers will enjoy outdoor activities including:

**Prayer • Kayaking • Discernment
Camp Fire • Games**

Opportunities for Charitable and Spiritual
Works of Mercy

The camp is staffed by laypeople, priests
and seminarians from the
Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

RETREAT IS FREE!!!



FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8

Isaiah answers God's call – "Here I am, send me!"

Responsorial: Psalm 138

"In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord."

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Paul tells the Corinthians to have faith in Christ who died for our sins to save us: Christ called me – one who persecuted the church of God – yet with His mercy and the grace of God, I serve Him and preach, so you believe.

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

Simon Peter, James, and John left everything, even their boats and followed Jesus.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we humbly answer God's call like Isaiah, Simon Peter, James, and John, though feeling unworthy, given fearless grace to follow and serve, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For world leaders, be an example like St. Scholastica, guided by compassion, humility, and service for the common good, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For married couples and those preparing for marriage, that they honor this blessed vocation with devotion and loyalty, turning to you for guidance and strength in all of their needs, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all who are sick, those caring for them and those who feel helpless in their compassion for them – may they all feel your boundless love and find peace and tranquility, 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
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

~Listen on LoL Stream at www.rdo.to/WLOL~

ENROLL TODAY

WV Catholic Schools

*Empowered
by knowledge.
Transformed
by faith.*



Register today

wvcatholicschools.org



Liturgy of the Hours LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!

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.