



WELCOME CHRIST LIKE MARY

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

May we like Mary, reflect on everything in our heart and come to realize how we can welcome Christ into our world through our words and actions in this new year.

This weekend we celebrate the last Octave Day of Christmas with the Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God. Through prayerful meditations we are asked to concentrate on Mary, a young bride and teenager with a new baby in her arms – a baby declared King of Kings and Prince of Peace.

The young mother must have been filled with hopes and dreams as she lovingly gazed at the miracle cuddled against her. She knew she was blessed with Joseph – a husband who loved her unconditionally. Naturally she would have had many questions and unknowns, but with grace accepted the will of God to bring Jesus Christ – true God and true man, divine and human – into the world. She made the ultimate resolution to give her whole self for the will of God and be the mother His only son, making her the Queen of Peace.

Mary was faithful to God and the Jewish traditions and customs of her day. She knew well 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:

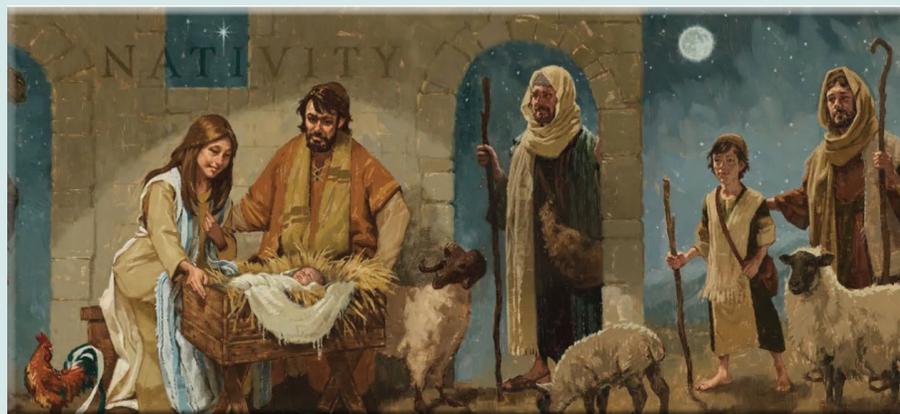
“The angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this

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. They validated and affirmed for the humble couple the significance of their grace filled resolution.

As we make our resolutions, let Mary inspire us to have the resolve to better ourselves, while showing others Jesus Christ in us.



BROOKE COUNTY PARISH GIVING GIFTS OF HOPE

Follansbee's Saint Anthony Parish Jesse Tree Project is a way to show children Christ is among us not just at Christmas but always.

The Brooke County parish delivered a treasure trove of colorfully wrapped presents to 78 children the week of Christmas in the spirit of the Christ child. The presents were for children 3 months old to 18-years-old. Recipients are students and siblings from Brooke Primary North or Brooke Intermediate North schools whose families are struggling to make ends meet.

Many of the children receiving the gifts come from homes who do not know the story of Jesus, nor do they attend a church, said Nancy Deters, coordinator of the program that began 40 years ago thanks to the late Josie D'Ulisse and her son David Owen.

It has always been the hope of the parish that the children who open the gifts get to know God's love through this project, Deters said.

"God gave us our greatest gift (Jesus)," she said. "Maybe these kids will find and know God in that way. Hopefully knowing someone cares.

"This is evangelizing. I wished every family that receives a gift would join us. I would love to see them in our church. It's not about the presents really. It's the message they send and the people who go out of their way to fill a wish. It's about the true Christmas story - Christ being born, coming together for Mass, and listening to beautiful (sacred) music that fills the church."

Each gift that is given from the parish family to the children is a sign of love and hope she said.

"We get lots of requests for toys, and some people just say buy anything, but this year two young girls wanted electric blankets," she said. Deter grew up in Follansbee, spent her 35 years teaching in the same county, and knows first-hand the needs and heartbreaking situations many families are trying to get through. The humble request for a child to ask for a warm blanket as their Christmas present puts an exclamation point on the reason we do this, she added - "we care.

"Saint Anthony's is known in our community as a friendly parish - active and very charitable," Deters said. "Whether it is our Friday Friends (weekend food bags given to Brooke Intermediate Schools students), collections of items for the local nursing home, or even our fish fry; you will find this parish exactly how we all should be - friendly, welcoming, and caring."

You know you have touched a heart with your Christian spirit, when you load the Jesse Tree presents in the car of the recipient family and the eyes of the parent or grandparent looking back at you are filled with grateful tears, Deter said.

"That's when you know you are making a special difference," she said, noting it is extra special when those faces are familiar.

"Sometimes the parents of the children receiving the gifts are former students of mine," she said. "They need the help and I love that I'm still here - we at St. Anthony's are here - to help them the best we can. It is truly a gift for us to be able to do it."



Nancy Deters



Karen Panza and Nancy Deters organize more than 250 presents for 78 children, recipients of St. Anthony Parish's Jesse Tree Project.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

First Reading: Numbers 6:22-27

The Lord declares to Moses, Aaron, and his sons – bless God’s people saying, “The Lord bless and keep you... let His face shine upon you ... and give you peace!”

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 67

“May God bless us in his mercy.”

Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

St. Paul tells us that we are all sons and daughters of God.

Gospel: Luke 2:16-21

Luke tells the story of the shepherds finding the Holy Family in Bethlehem. They were amazed and praised God, who purposely sent them – the humble and dedicated keepers of the flocks – to see the Christ Child. Luke additionally notes how Mary held this moment special and reflected upon them in her heart.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT
BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/010123.CFM](http://BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/010123.CFM)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that as we enter into a new year, we work together to welcome Christ in all we say and do, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For governing officials in the state of West Virginia, that all of their work in 2023 be justly focused, as they lead with empathy and compassion, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all the faithful that as a Eucharistic people we glorify Christ’s name by how we treat others, letting go of any grudges, assumptions, and bitterness, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all of our spoken and unspoken special intentions, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

DYNAMIC PLANNING TEAM SOUGHT FOR TEC REVIVAL



As we ring in the new year, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston’s organizers for young adult events is announcing the revival of TEC (Teens Encounter Christ)!

These dynamic spiritually uplifting events are for high school juniors and seniors and underclassmen in college. Participants can be Catholic or non-Catholic. Those attending a TEC retreat can see how God is working and can more fully be welcomed to work in their lives – through the struggles, joys, and triumphs.

It’ll be a gathering for people who might want to become a part of the diocesan TEC movement through retreat leadership, participation, and volunteering. I never know exactly what information you need/want from me to help me promote an event, but here are the basics (put

in the most basic way):

Adults who are interested in supporting the Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) movement in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston are invited to participate in a brainstorming event planning session from 11 am to 2:30 pm, Saturday, Jan. 14th at St. Mary’s Catholic Church, 3346 University Avenue, Star City (Morgantown).

Daniel Maul, director of evangelization and catechesis for the diocese, said the group will outline the event logistics and details, define, and discern the team - directors, members, spiritual directors, Wheat (Support) Team, music ministers, and other volunteers representative of the regions around the state.

To be a part of this forward-thinking planning team email or call Ralph Modena at RALPHMODENA@GMAIL.COM or at 304-716-6164.

For more information about TEC in West Virginia, please contact Maul at 304-233-0880, ext. 376 or at DMAUL@DWC.ORG.





EXPERIENCED WITH CURSILLO?

HELP US RENEW THE MOVEMENT!

Have you ever experienced a Cursillo weekend? Are you a cursillista?

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is trying to resurrect the Cursillo Movement in the diocese and is looking for people who have experience with the apostolic movement.

If you are experienced with Cursillo and would like to join the diocesan efforts in bringing it back to the diocese, please contact Daniel Maul, in the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis, at 304-233-0880, ext. 376, or by email at DMAUL@DWC.ORG, or communicate with Joe Pangilinan, at JOEYPANG@AOL.COM

Catholic Schools Week 2023 January 29–February 4

www.NCEA.org/csw
#CSW23

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	AM	740
Eastern Panhandle	FM	106.5
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	97.7

~Also Streaming in WV at www.rdo.to/WLWL~

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.