



FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

This weekend we celebrate the end of the Christmas season with the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus. This moment also marks a beginning – the beginning of Jesus’ ministry.

The event is briefly described by Luke (3:21-22). Jesus at the age of 30 was one of many that gathered to be baptized in the River Jordan. After the baptism, while Jesus was praying, the sky opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in the form of a dove. God the Father’s voice was heard saying, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

Matthew gives a little more detail (3:13-17), noting that Jesus’ cousin, John the Baptist, indicated he didn’t consider himself worthy to baptize Jesus. In verse 11 of that chapter, John declared to the people, “I am baptizing you with water, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

When we are baptized, we are forgiven of original sin and have a new life – we are sons and daughters of God. Jesus was born without sin but welcomed the chance to walk down the muddy banks of the Jordan River to be among the sinners. He wanted to unite with the people and humbly bow his head to be immersed in the river water to set an example for humanity and to fulfill prophecy.

The moment after we are baptized, confirmed, and each time we renew our baptismal vows – we strengthen the power of the Holy Spirit within us.

As we touch our fingers into holy water and bless ourselves, we are reminded who we are and whose we are. We are children of God Most High, redeemed by Jesus Christ on the Cross, members of God’s family, and forgiven and purified by the Passion, death and resurrection of Christ.

As we are reminded of our baptism let us renew our journey with Christ.

Indeed, it is He who is the meaning of our life, the One on whom it is worth keeping our eyes fixed so as to be illuminated by His Truth and to be able to live to the full. The journey of faith that

begins (at baptism) is therefore based on a certainty, on the experience that there is nothing greater than knowing Christ and communicating friendship with him to others; only in this friendship is the enormous potential of the human condition truly revealed and we can experience what is beautiful and sets us free. Whoever has had this experience is not prepared to give up his faith for anything in the world.

– Pope Benedict XVI, January 13, 2013



Making Ordinary Time Extraordinary!

It's time for our priests to don the green, as we say hello to Mark in our Sunday gospel readings.

First a little church calendar refresher. Ordinary Time happens twice. The first begins now and extends through Ash Wednesday (Feb. 17) as Lent begins. Pentecost (May 23) begins the second period of Ordinary Time concluding with the beginning of the Advent Season (Nov. 28). Also, notable we are in Year B for the Catholic church Sunday cycle. This actually began on the first Sunday of Advent (Nov. 29) and extends to Nov. 21, of this year. During Ordinary Time our priests wear green vestments to symbolize hope and life. Our Gospel readings at Mass each Sunday will mostly center around the Gospel of Mark and chapter six of John.

Mark takes us through the life of Christ. His gospel is not flowery, but short and to the point. We need to let that simplicity bring about prayerful time for reflection. Throughout these readings we will hear the words of Jesus, the decisions of his first disciples to leave their homes, jobs, and families in order to follow Christ. His ministry unfolds for us on his journey as he travels from town to town, teaches, cures illnesses, and forgives believers of their sins. We can put ourselves in these readings as the ones being spoken to, a follower, or a simple bystander witnessing miracles before our eyes.

St. Jerome said, "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ."

However, Scripture is not always easy to understand and can be cumbersome. That is exactly when we need to reflect and pray, asking God to give us the grace to understand what He is saying to us. Consider it a challenge. St. Jerome was devoted to the Bible to read it, break it down, meditate on it, speak it with a joyful heart, and act on it, mirroring Christ.

We can learn a lot from the saints and what made them exemplary. During these four weeks honor our saints by reading more about them or watch a movie or documentary depicting their lives. Here are a few: *The Song of Bernadette*, about St. Bernadette Soubirous and released in 1943; *A Man for All Seasons*, about St. Thomas More and released in 1966; *Therese*, about St. Therese the Little Flower and released in 1986; and *Fatima* (the latest movie was released in 2020; the classic movie was from 1952), about Ss. Francisco and Jacinta Marto, and their cousin Sr. Lucia de Jesus.

Read your FaithInWV e-bulletin. Our issues include features stories about the saints. A few to look forward to are St. Francis de Sales (feast day Jan. 24); St. Thomas Aquinas (feast day Jan. 28); St. John Bosco (feast day Jan. 31); and St. Brigid of Ireland (feast day Feb. 1). Share these stories with your friend group, children in your lives, and anyone you are moved to evangelize.

Check out a few of our favorite website resources: [THE CATHOLIC ICING](#), [PRAY MORE NOVENAS](#), [THE CATHOLIC GENTLEMAN](#), and [FRANCISCAN MEDIA](#).

Prayer for Ordinary Time

As I walk the path of Ordinary Time, help me to count the many ways you are present – in the comings and goings of family, friends, coworkers, and acquaintances; in the sounds of the seasons and the beauty of your magnificent creation; in the daily routines and responsibilities that make up the rhythm of my days. Make all time extra-ordinary as I seek to become more attuned to your presence. Amen.



MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

By: Beth Zarate, Catholic Charities West Virginia President and Chief Executive Officer

I am incredibly proud to be a part of Catholic Charities West Virginia and our work as the social service arm of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. Working together we serve vulnerable West Virginians while addressing the most pressing community issues and focusing on solutions to eradicate poverty. We are called to put our faith in action and embrace the challenges of today. The pandemic has brought much uncertainty and many service modifications. I have seen our staff rise to the challenges with great ingenuity, compassion, resilience, courage and integrity. We are reminded daily to trust that God is working in our lives.

As we begin this New Year, I am thankful to you for your generosity of spirit and heart. I am reminded that we are better together, that we must work shoulder to shoulder to meet all adversity and that with God all things are possible. My prayer is that in all things we resolve to be kinder to ourselves and each other, forgive mistakes and offenses, build trust and work together!

At Catholic Charities we work to be experts in resources and networks, at comprehensive assessment of people and how to best meet their needs, at helping our clients navigate the mountains of paperwork in social systems, at compassionate and caring services, and at instilling a plan - a hope for the future. Four of the most important words we can say are "Let's make a plan?"

My plan for 2021 is to continue to lead a team that embraces challenges and one that is willing to take on really big ideas in service to others. To pray daily for the wisdom to make good choices and the grace to handle every situation. To fully honor our mission and vision for a West Virginia where all people can access the services they need to be happy, healthy and reach their full potential.

Wishing you a 2021 with much hope and promise!

Blessings,

Beth

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia, visit WWW.CATHOLICCHARITIESWV.ORG.

The Mission of Catholic Charities West Virginia: Guided by God's love, Catholic Charities collaborates with community partners, parishes and families to provide caring and compassionate services to people in need and work toward lasting and meaningful change.

Catholic Charities West Virginia
Shining a Light on Hope

VIRTUAL GALA

*Save
the Date*
March 20, 2021



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

First Reading ISAIAH 42:1-4, 6-7 or IS 55:1-11

Thus says the LORD:

Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased, upon whom I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations, not crying out, not shouting, not making his voice heard in the street. a bruised reed he shall not break, and a smoldering wick he shall not quench, until he establishes justice on the earth; the coastlands will wait for his teaching. I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.

Responsorial PSALMS 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 or IS 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6

R. (11b) The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Give to the LORD, you sons of God, give to the LORD glory and praise, Give to the LORD the glory due his name; adore the LORD in holy attire.

R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

The voice of the LORD is over the waters, the LORD, over vast waters. The voice of the LORD is mighty; the voice of the LORD is majestic.

R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

The God of glory thunders, and in his temple all say, "Glory!" The LORD is enthroned above the flood; the LORD is enthroned as king forever.

R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Second Reading Cf. JOHN 1:29

Peter proceeded to speak to those gathered in the house of Cornelius, saying: "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word that he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him."

Alleluia LUKE 1:38

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

John saw Jesus approaching him, and said: Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel MARK 1:7-11

This is what John the Baptist proclaimed:

"One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we may continue to fulfill Christ's mission, welcoming all those who seek the Lord, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For leaders around the world, that they may strive to bring forth justice to their nations and peace across their borders, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those who prepare adult catechumens or new parents for baptism, that they may be strengthened in their ministry as they pass their faith and wisdom to their sisters and brothers, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all of us, that we may be conscious of our call as baptized Christians to carry out Christ's mission and serve others as he did, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,

and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

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



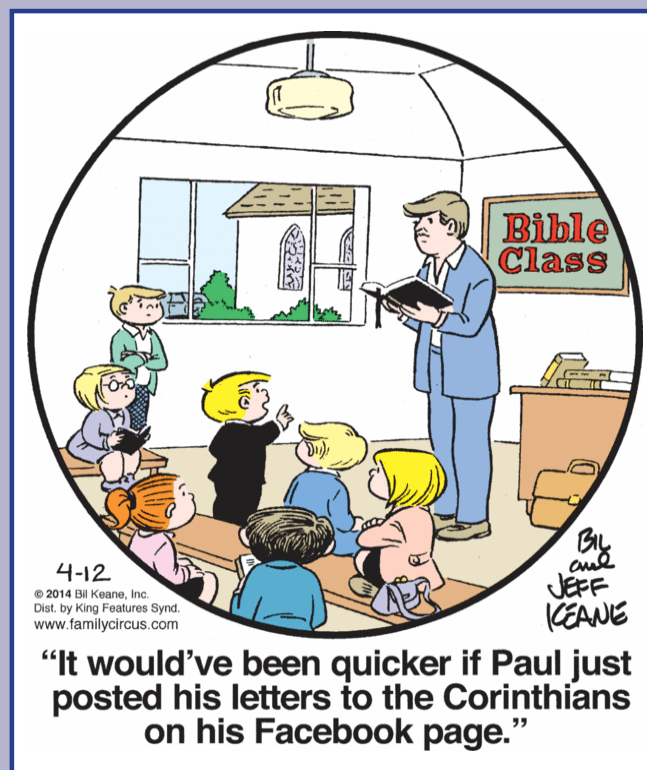
WV CATHOLIC RADIO BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOU

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
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WV Catholic Radio www.WVCatholicRadio.org

A LITTLE CATHOLIC HUMOR



THE LATEST AND UPCOMING NEWS FROM THE CATHOLIC

Spirit

THE CATHOLIC SPIRIT IS NOW AVAILABLE BY E-MAIL!!

Join our e-list to receive The Catholic Spirit by e-mail. To be added, please e-mail Colleen Rowan, CROWAN@DWC.ORG, with "The Catholic Spirit e-list" in the subject line. Please provide your preference of: "E-mail only" or "E-mail and Printed Copy."

Those selecting e-mail only, will no longer receive a printed copy. The Catholic Spirit is available under "Downloadable Spirit" at

THECATHOLICSPIRITWV.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/)