

FROM THE OFFICE OF MOST REVEREND MARK E. BRENNAN BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

Bishop Mark Brennan has released a letter to the faithful discussing the various human life issues currently facing the diocese and the country. In it, he discusses the scourge of abortion and the “seamless garment” of interconnected life issues. Issues such as poverty, education racism, and treatment of the elderly are all human life issues. To read Bishop Brennan’s letter to the faithful visit WWW.DWC.ORG.

WEEK of
PRAYER
for CHRISTIAN UNITY
2021

JANUARY 18-25

“Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit” (Jn 15:5-9)



Tomorrow, January 18 marks Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and also the beginning of the worldwide Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. We join Christians across the globe to celebrate this year’s theme, “Abide in my love... you shall bear much fruit” based on John 15:1-17, which ends with “This I command you: love one another.”

During the week we are to concentrate on seeking the wisdom and understanding of Christ as He taught us to see all people as His creation. This observance is not part of our pop culture it is a significant part of our world history. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was first celebrated in 1908 in a Franciscan Convent of the Protestant Episcopal Church in New York. Many nations and millions of people joined the alliance to be united for one week each year to pray for the renewal of the Holy Spirit to bring visible Christian unity and justice for all.

Through the bible we encounter the word of God and His commands. Through prayer every day and especially

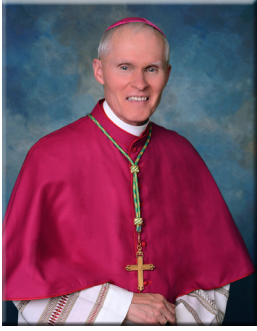
this week we can reflect on His love and what he wants us to do and choose each day.

For the eight days of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity pray before and after you read John’s chapter 15 and listen for the voice of Jesus Christ in your heart. He is telling us that God holds us all together.

This year in the midst of the pandemic and civil unrest we need to embrace the power of prayer and commit to working as one to be a blessing. As Christians we need to keep his commandment to love one another as He has loved us (John 15:12).

The Vatican’s text about the 2021 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity notes, “Spirituality and solidarity are inseparably linked. Abiding in Christ, we receive the strength and wisdom to act against structures of injustice and oppression, to fully recognize ourselves as brothers and sisters in humanity, and to be creators of a new way of living, with respect for and communion with all of creation.”

BISHOP MARK BRENNAN TO CELEBRATE MASS, LEAD ROSARY HONORING THE LEGACY OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



Honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Most Rev. Mark Brennan, Bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, will celebrate a special Mass on January 18 at 12:05 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling. The Mass will be followed by a Rosary recitation to pray for peace and healing in our nation.

While the public is invited to attend, the Mass and Rosary service will also be livestreamed on the diocesan [WEBSITE](#) as well as on the diocesan [FACEBOOK](#) page due to COVID-19 seating limitations in the cathedral.

In his homily Bishop Brennan will honor the significance of the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the call to Christian unity throughout the country. In a letter to the faithful just before the first anniversary of his installation as bishop of Wheeling-Charleston, Bishop Brennan stressed

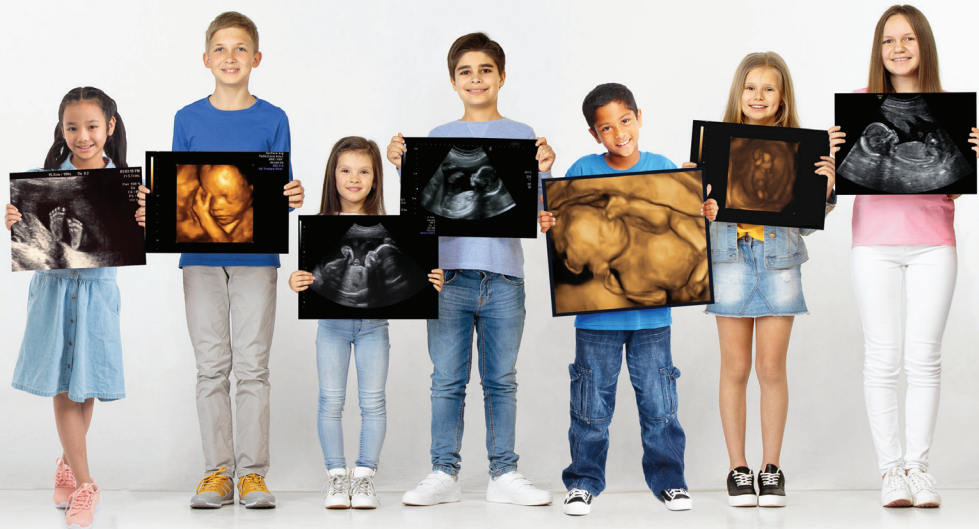
the importance of opening our hearts and minds, as we work for a better society.

“People have the right and obligation to work for justice,” he said in the letter. “It is important that all of us recognize that our attitude towards people affects how we relate to them. As followers of Jesus Christ, who suffered, died, and rose from the dead for all people, regardless of race or origin, we must examine ourselves honestly about how we regard people of different races and ethnic groups. Change begins in the mind and heart; otherwise, any changes in behavior will only be superficial and likely will evaporate like the morning mist.”

Bishop Mark calls for each of us to quiet our minds for prayerful self-examination. Further, he again asks the faithful to read [OPEN WIDE OUR HEARTS](#), the US Bishops’ Pastoral Letter on Racism. The writing is not just words on paper, but direction for us to be empathetic and informed about racism in a broad context that includes immigrants and Native Americans, as well as African Americans.

ABORTION

DOES NOT END THE LIFE OF A POTENTIAL HUMAN BEING...



ABORTION ENDS THE LIFE OF AN ACTUAL HUMAN BEING WITH GREAT POTENTIAL



DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

If you or someone you know is facing an unplanned pregnancy, get support at 888-550-1588 (call/text)



BISHOP BRENNAN TO LEAD NATIONAL HOLY HOUR

Catholics across the country are encouraged to observe a nationwide prayer vigil Jan. 28 - 29, marking the 48th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court’s 1973 decision legalizing abortion through the ninth month of pregnancy.

The vigil begins with a live broadcast at 8 pm on Jan. 28th from the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. with a rosary, followed by Mass. After the Mass throughout the night, holy hours led by bishops from around the country will be broadcast on the USCCB’s website WWW.USCCB.ORG. Bishop Mark Brennan of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston will be featured on the livestream at 5 am from the Cathedral of St. Joseph.



Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

January 22

On Friday we join the Catholic bishops of the United States in prayer and penance as a Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of the Unborn.

It is also the anniversary of the 1973 Supreme Court ruling which legalized abortion throughout the United States in its companion decisions *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton*. Since that time, more than 56 million children have lost their lives and millions of women and families have been wounded by abortion.

As a people of faith, we know our prayers are heard. On this particular day let us pray for the right to life from conception until natural death. We are asked to fast, pray, and give alms to the less fortunate.

On Dec. 28th the Church celebrated the Feast of the Holy Innocents. On that day we were reminded of the ugly truth that King Herod had all children under the age of two killed out of fear that one of them was Jesus, the newborn king. Our faith teaches us these innocent victims will wear the crown of martyrs in heaven forever honored by the angels and saints as the first witnesses to the newborn King. The lives lost to abortion are also remembered as present-day innocents. As a faith community we pray for all who were aborted, their parents, and those considering abortion.

Sadly, many people know someone personally who is suffering because of an abortion. The Catholic church has resources for comfort and peace if a friend confides in you that she had an abortion. You can respond in

a way that brings her closer to healing with the Church's help at WWW.HOPEAFTERABORTION.COM and the national agency to help mothers choose life at WWW.LOVELINE.COM. Even a woman who doesn't go to church or think of herself as religious can be afraid that God will never forgive her for having an abortion. She should know that God loves and forgives those who are sorrowful. He wants to comfort them and give them His peace.

The topic of abortion can be both emotional and controversial. It is important to be knowledgeable in order to know the key teachings of the church. The Respect Life organization's website has posted an article to give an overview and highlight key points - Another Look at Abortion. Check out the article to help you be better prepared to witness to the sanctity of human life: RESPECTLIFE.ORG/ANOTHER-LOOK-AT-ABORTION. This resource site presents what we need to know about abortion including what the law allows, the effects of abortion, what the church teaches, and what are to do as faithful.

Ask Mary to intercede for us:

Mary, patroness of America, renew in us a love for the beauty and sanctity of the human person from conception to natural death; and as your Son gave His life for us, help us to live our lives serving others. Mother of the Church, Mother of our Savior, open our hearts to the Gospel of life, protect our nation, and make us witnesses to the truth.

NOVENA “9 DAYS FOR LIFE”

From Jan. 21 to Jan. 29 the 9 Days for Life is a novena will be offered for the protection of human life. Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life.

Resources to participate can be found on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website and directly at Live the Gospel of Life.

Heavenly Father, thank you for the precious gift of life.

Help us to cherish and protect this gift, even in the midst of fear, pain, and suffering.

Give us love for all people, especially the most vulnerable, and help us bear witness to the truth that every life is worth living.

Grant us the humility to accept help when we are in need and teach us to be merciful to all.

Through our words and actions, may others encounter the outstretched hands of Your mercy.

*We ask this through Christ, our Lord.
Amen.*

FROM HOMELESS TO HOUSED

By: Katie Hinerman Klug, Catholic Charities West Virginia Marketing Communications Specialist

Most of us can relate with the desire for a home-cooked meal. For Reggie Smith, he desired to cook that meal himself in his own kitchen.

“I just want a home-cooked meal... to cook a meal for myself,” said Reggie.

Reggie and Kelly had both lost their jobs during the coronavirus pandemic. They were without housing when their daughter Kaliyah was born in the summer of 2020.

“Having a baby with all of this going on, it was really tough,” said Reggie. “We were just trying to stay as safe as possible.”

The family chose to stay in a hotel where they could minimize their newborn baby’s exposure to the virus, rather than staying at a homeless shelter where they would share a space with countless others.

The Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) team was able to work with Reggie through its stabilization program, which helps individuals or families who are in or near a financial crisis. Through this program, trained staff meet with individuals to

identify action steps and available community resources, while also providing financial assistance when needed and appropriate.



Reggie Smith and his family are working toward their goals in their home with help from Catholic Charities West Virginia

“We were able to connect Reggie with a realtor who could find a rental for them that met their needs and was in their price range,” said Kat Hagedorn, CCWVa Case Manager.

CCWVa assisted with the security deposit and first month’s rent, as well as kitchen tools, blankets and other household supplies.

“I’m just so thankful that they [CCWVa] opened the door for us with a deposit,” said Reggie. “I thank God for them. They gave me hope to keep pushing.”

Reggie, Kelly and Kaliyah are thriving in their new home, and Kelly has been able to return to work while Reggie cares for their daughter during the day.

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

First Reading 1 SAMUEL 3:3b-10, 19

Samuel was sleeping in the temple of the LORD where the ark of God was. The LORD called to Samuel, who answered, "Here I am." Samuel ran to Eli and said, "Here I am. You called me." "I did not call you," Eli said. "Go back to sleep." So he went back to sleep. Again the LORD called Samuel, who rose and went to Eli. "Here I am," he said. "You called me." But Eli answered, "I did not call you, my son. Go back to sleep." At that time Samuel was not familiar with the LORD, because the LORD had not revealed anything to him as yet. The LORD called Samuel again, for the third time. Getting up and going to Eli, he said, "Here I am. You called me." Then Eli understood that the LORD was calling the youth. So he said to Samuel, "Go to sleep, and if you are called, reply, Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening." When Samuel went to sleep in his place, the LORD came and revealed his presence, calling out as before, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel answered, "Speak, for your servant is listening." Samuel grew up, and the LORD was with him, not permitting any word of his to be without effect.

Responsorial PSALMS 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10

R. (8a & 9a) Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

I have waited, waited for the LORD, and he stooped toward me and heard my cry. And he put a new song into my mouth, a hymn to our God.

R. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

Sacrifice or offering you wished not, but ears open to obedience you gave me. Holocausts or sin-offerings you sought not; then said I, "Behold I come."

R. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

"In the written scroll it is prescribed for me, to do your will, O my God, is my delight, and your law is within my heart!"

R. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

I announced your justice in the vast assembly; I did not restrain my lips, as you, O LORD, know.

R. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

Second Reading 1 CORINTHIANS 6:13c-15a, 17-20

Brothers and sisters:

The body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body; God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? But whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one Spirit with him. Avoid immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the immoral person sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been purchased at a price. Therefore glorify God in your body.

Alleluia JOHN 1:41, 17b

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

We have found the Messiah: Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel JOHN 1:35-42

John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" — which translated means Teacher —, "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they went and saw where Jesus was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon. Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. He first found his own brother Simon and told him, "We have found the Messiah" — which is translated Christ —. Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Cephas" — which is translated Peter.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church and all leaders of the faithful, that they inspire us to keep our eyes remain fixed on the Eucharist, which can transform our suffering world, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our leaders, who have responded to the call to serve others in public office, that they may work humbly and tirelessly to serve the common good, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That all our citizens may work to hasten the day when this country truly lives out the ideals for which Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. fought and gave his life, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those who are struggling to hear the Lord's voice in their lives or understand the nature of their call, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer



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

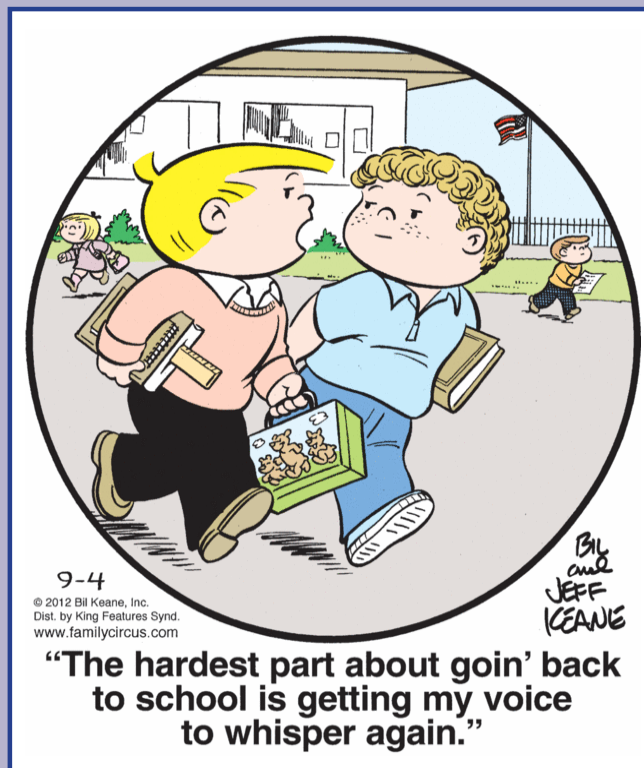
Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!

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](#)



A LITTLE CATHOLIC HUMOR



WV CATHOLIC RADIO BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOU

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Berkeley Springs	FM	107.9
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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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Weirton - Steubenville	FM	97.7

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WV Catholic Radio www.WVCatholicRadio.org

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/)