



Faith IN WV

JANUARY 19, 2025
DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON



Stand Up for Those Unable to Stand Up for Themselves

*March for Life Brings Focus
to What the Faithful Are Called to Do Everyday*

In a few days the secular news will highlight the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. Millions of pro-life Americans regardless of religion, nationality, age, and background honor this day to promote a genuine change of the minds and hearts of Americans and to develop a greater respect for human life.



MARCH FOR LIFE

This year the national organization has chosen the theme “Life: Why We March” to emphasize the passion and compassion that has energized the event which has reflected on “the basic truth that inspires the pro-life cause: every human life – including the unborn and their mothers – is beautiful, has unique dignity, and worthy of protection” for 52 years.

Catholic marchers and supporters embrace this day as one that raises the awareness and brings to the

importance of praying and taking action to protect and respect life from conception until natural death. Murder and killing are grave sins for human life is truly a gift from God. As the beginning of the Old Testament tells us in Genesis 1:26-27, “God created humans in his image.”

Further in the Psalms (139:13-16) “God formed each person and knows them intimately”; and Jeremiah 1:5 teaches us, “God knew a person before they were born and consecrated them.”

Bishop Mark Brennan has spoken locally and nationally calling all to “do God’s work and not just speak pro-life, pro-baby, and pro-woman. Give our sincere support – through prayer, monetary contributions, and volunteering - to those organizations, programs, and who are in active areas, where we cannot be. Let God move minds and hearts, but we must be the ones who now speak and work for Him. We must walk the walk, not just talk the talk. We can recite words, but we need to perform deeds in order to live the Word and teachings Christ gave us.”

Take this time to check in with the pro-life, respect life, and social ministry activities in your parish and

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neighboring parishes. Be responsible to check out their bulletins, social media, and websites for announcements and events to support.

Together pray for all those traveling to the March for Life event on Friday, January 24th and those who stand and serve the inherent dignity of the human person from conception until natural death.

May legions of angels watch over and protect our pilgrims!

May the Holy Spirit guide our hearts and minds



here at home to especially hold our fellow West Virginians close in prayer and never tire of praying, fasting, and supporting the protection of human life!

Echoing Bishop Mark's call, "Stand up for the truth for those unable to stand up for themselves. Teach our children the value of human life, respect for

their bodies, and importance of supporting and praying for pro-life, pro-child, and pro-women. Make time for silent meditation on God's word and how it applies to your life!"

Give Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life

JANUARY 22ND A DAY OF PRAYER

The Church has named Wednesday, January 22nd a Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. As we call to mind all those who work every day to uphold the dignity of life from conception until natural death, let us make time to pray together:

Let us pray that all in the Church help open hearts and minds to proclaim the dignity of human life, we pray to the Lord.

That all people turn to God in all circumstances and away from hardened hearts filled with bitterness and anger, we pray to the Lord.

That leaders of nations continually breathe in the love of God, remembering to be merciful, compassionate, and uphold justice and peace, we pray to the Lord.

That the laws of the land may reflect the challenging responsibility of the gospel, we pray to the Lord.

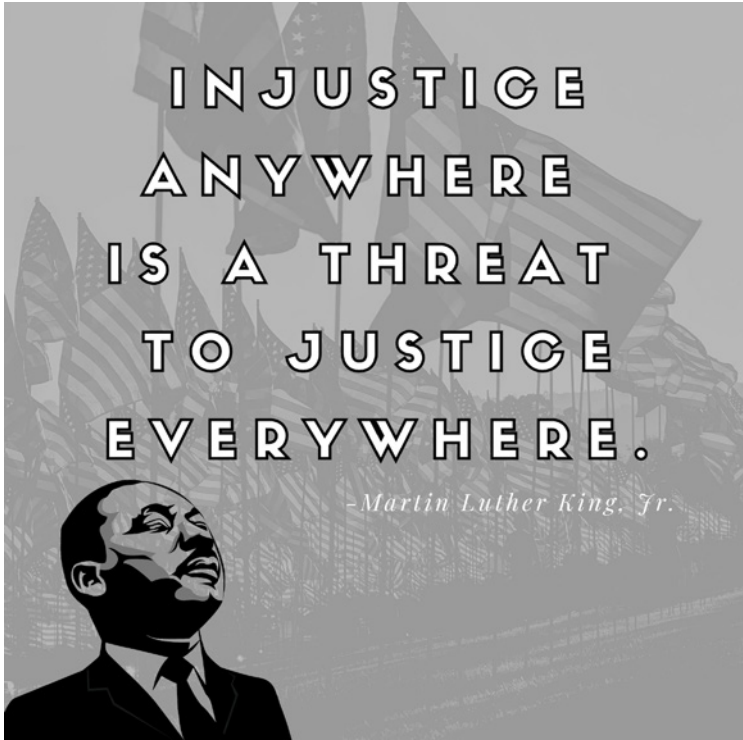
That all souls denied life, hope, and justice—especially the unborn, elderly, poor, disabled, addicted, illiterate, and mentally or physically ill - are surrounded by legions of angels to carry them into the love and light of Christ daily, we pray to the Lord.

That those we have hurt by our ignorance, selfishness, disrespect, or hatred may have the gifts of mercy and wisdom, we pray to the Lord.

For all filled with regret, remorse, and guilt, may find a family of love, forgiveness, and understanding in our parishes, we pray to the Lord.

HIS DREAM STILL INSPIRES

MLK DAY HONORS 96TH BIRTHDAY



-Martin Luther King, Jr.

As the nation remembers Martin Luther King, Jr., on what would have been his 96th birthday Monday, let us remain thankful his dream still inspires us as we remain a prayerful people working for “justice everywhere”.

Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, referenced the words of the late civil rights leader, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere,” and these words remind us that we are connected and responsible for each other as we seek to fulfill the dream and build a more just society for all God’s children.”

Archbishop Broglio went on to say, “Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. challenged all to live out the principle of solidarity and human dignity. As we commemorate what would have been his 96th birthday, Dr. King’s message continues to have an impact on our lives today. Our Holy Father Pope Francis said in his address to the United States Congress during his Apostolic Visit to the United States:

‘Here too I think of the march which Martin Luther King led from Selma to Montgomery fifty years ago as part of the campaign to fulfill his “dream” of full civil and political rights for African Americans. That dream continues to inspire us all. I am happy that America continues to be, for many, a land of “dreams.” Dreams which lead to action, to participation, to commitment. Dreams which awaken what is deepest and truest in the life of a people.’

“In reflecting on the continuing realities of racial injustice, immigrant families seeking welcome, and economic disparity, these words remind us that we are connected and responsible for each other as we seek to fulfill the dream,” the archbishop said. “As we approach Dr. King’s holiday, let us be inspired by this righteous man’s work and sacrifice to create a more just society for all of God’s children.”



Catholic Leadership
INSTITUTE

2024-2025

DMI Survey Links

Our parishes in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston are on a journey to grow in missionary discipleship to know, love, and serve Christ as a community.

Partnering with the Catholic Leadership Institute, the first step is assessing our parishes’ greatest strengths and opportunities.

That’s why the faithful is being invited in their parishes to take the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey!

Parishioners will share their perspective to help strengthen our parishes and better prepare us for the future – as we journey together striving to bring more of Christ’s love into our parish community.

On Behalf of Bishop Brennan, thank you for taking part in this important evangelization project.

TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO CELEBRATE THE APPALACHIAN PASTORAL LETTERS

Fifty years ago, the 25 bishops of Appalachia took a stand to be advocates for the powerless of the Appalachian region.

The letter was written 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 bishops then united to bring the economic and political inequalities faced by Appalachian communities to life.

Their clarion call was one of awareness and social justice to address issues of poverty,

powerlessness, and environmental concerns within the region; essentially using their platform to advocate for the people of Appalachia based on their lived experiences gathered through extensive community outreach.

The original landmark letter “This Land is Home to Me” written in 1975, was surely 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. More than 200,000 copies of the pastoral letter are in circulation, and it’s been translated into several languages.

The original letter begins, “We have listened to these cries and now we lend our own voice.”

There will be two opportunities this year for the faithful to take a closer look at these significant pastoral letters.

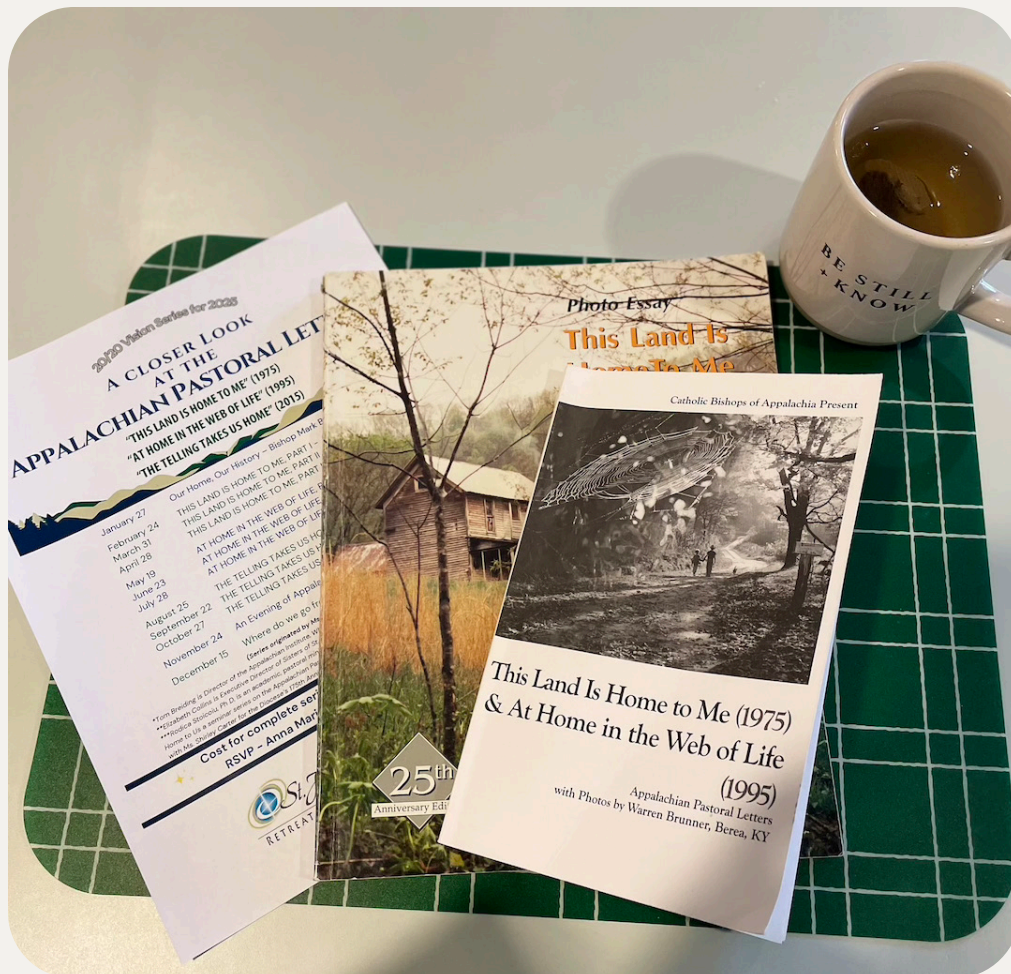
Beginning on Jan. 27th, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston’s Office of Consecrated Life and the St. Joseph Retreat Center will offer 12 sessions throughout 2025 as part of the Vision 20/20 Series. Each will be held over Zoom and begins at 7pm, lasting about an hour.

Bishop Mark Brennan will be the featured speaker for the first session at 7pm, Jan. 27, “Our Home, Our History.”

Tom Breiding, the director of the Appalachian Institute at Wheeling University will present a three-part series on “This Land is home to Me (the 1975 letter) on Feb. 24, March 31, and April 28.

Beth Collins, former director of the Appalachian institute and current executive director of the Sisters of St. Joseph health and Wellness Foundation, will present a three-part series on the follow-up letter “At Home in The Web of Life” written in 1995. Collins’ sessions will be held May 19, June 23, and July 28.

Rodica Stoicoiu, Ph. D, an academic, pastoral minister, and



author, will present a three-part series on the third pastoral letter “The Telling Takes Us Home” written in 2015, at 7 pm, Aug. 25, Sept. 22, and Oct. 27.



RODICA STOICOIU

The final two sessions are for inspiration and mindfulness: An Evening of Appalachian Music – presented by Breiding on Nov. 24; and series’ finale, “Where Do We Go from Here?” – presented by Bishop Brennan on Dec. 15.

The cost for the complete 12-session series is \$120 or participants can pay \$15 per session. To register for the event email Anna Marie Troiani at atroiani@csjoseph.org.

The series was originated by Shirley Carter, BA, MAAT, Director of Hilltop Campus Ministry and interim director of the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis for the diocese.

When asked how the series originated, Carter responded. “20/20 vision has always been considered perfect, and hindsight is often 20/20. We had just lived through a pandemic, and it was a time to look back, focus, and try to see things more clearly. People were still hesitant and were searching for creative ways to gather, share their faith, and be part of a community. The first year’s series was all covid-related themes... Unmask your Real Self, Testing Positive in a Negative World, The World Needs a Pandemic of Prayer, to name a few.”

Anna Marie Troiani, the Executive Director of the St. Joseph Retreat Center graciously offered to host the series and co-sponsor it with the Diocese. “The concept was so well received, that I wanted to continue the series the following year, and the rest is history. Shirley comes up with the themes and the topics and we work together to seek out interesting and qualified speakers for each session.” Troiani said. Carter then explained that she creates each years series based upon themes relevant to what is happening in the world, the Church, and our Diocese. “While the first series was reaching out to people during Covid, and last year’s was entirely based upon the Eucharistic Revival, the theme of Vision 20/20 for 2025 is relevant to us today as we celebrate the Appalachian Pastoral letters, our Diocesan Anniversary, and the Jubilee Year of Hope.

The second opportunity is in conjunction with our Diocese’ longstanding partnership with the University of Dayton’s Virtual Learning Community of Faith Formation (VLCFF) which offers courses and seminars on varied topics. With approval of, and in consultation with the Directors of the VLCFF, Rodica Stoicoiu and Shirley Carter have developed a seminar for this anniversary year focusing on the Appalachian Pastoral “This Land is Home to Me.” The sessions, which are once a week for three weeks, will be offered online, on zoom, or onsite based upon the needs of the group. The series can be offered for parish groups and vicariate groups as well as individuals who may be interested. The cost is underwritten by the Diocesan Office of Evangelization and Catechesis. Class sizes are limited to 15.

“It has been such an exciting

adventure to develop this seminar with Rodica and to have the overwhelming approval of this initiative by the University of Dayton. It will be piloted and offered in our Diocese, and the VLCFF has agreed to make it a permanent part of their course catalog which is offered internationally,” Carter stated. “This significant document, which was promulgated in our own diocese 50 years ago, is not dead or outdated and now, 50 years later, we can rekindle its relevance to the people in our state as ‘now we lend our own voice’.”

Stoicoiu added: “The seminar ‘This Land is Home to Me’ provides a unique opportunity for us to dive deeply into the complex realities of poverty, powerlessness and suffering experienced by the people of Appalachia as seen through the lens of Catholic social teaching and witnessed in the pages of this Pastoral Letter. This is an exciting chance to gather and reflect on our calling, our hope, and the possibilities of change that we the baptized can bring here and now in our communities.”



Shirley Carter

For more information or to schedule sessions at your parish, contact Shirley Carter at scarter@dwc.org or Rodica Stoicoiu at rodicastoicoiuphd@gmail.com

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)

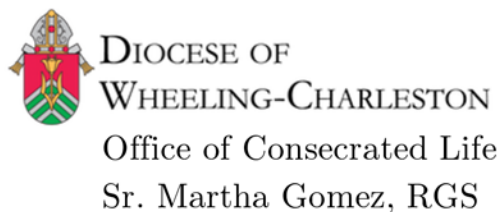
Note: Each session will begin at 7 pm and will be presented via Zoom.

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 II
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





Congratulations to Seminarian Michael Tupta, conferred as Lector of the Church.

ROME - On 12 January 2025, His Excellency John Joseph Kennedy, Secretary of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith conferred the Ministry of Lector, in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception at the Pontifical North American College, Vatican City State, on Seminarian Michael Tupta and 33 other students at the PNAC.

Addressing the new lectors in his homily, Archbishop Kennedy encouraged them to proclaim the Word of God with faithfulness and joy. He went on to say, “by the faithfulness and commitment in your proclamation of the Word of God, the faithful will come to know how strongly you yourself believe in the word that you proclaim.”

As part of the rite, Archbishop Kennedy placed the Holy Scriptures in the hands of each candidate and said, “Take this book of holy Scripture and be faithful in handing on the word of God, so that it may grow strong in the hearts of his people.”

The seminarians, currently in their first year of theological formation for the priesthood, will have three additional years of theological, spiritual, and pastoral formation before being ordained to the priesthood in their home dioceses.

The Pontifical North American College serves as the American seminary in Rome. Founded in 1859 by Blessed Pius IX, the College has formed over 5000 priests near the heart of the Church for service in dioceses around the United States, Canada, and Australia. The College strengthens the bonds between Rome and local Churches worldwide, and it allows its students a first-hand encounter of the Church’s rich religious and cultural heritage.

Note: photos were provided by Pontifical North American College Photo Service.

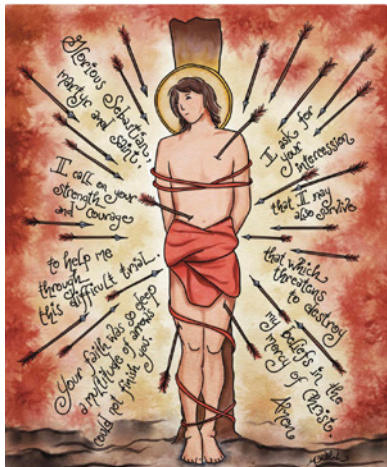


Reflect This Week



JANUARY 20

THE FEAST DAY OF ST. FABIAN – Believe it or not – Legend has it that one day in the mid 200s, a farmer needed to travel into Rome. Once he entered the city a dove as white as snow landed on top of his head. The clergy, who was gathering that day to elect a pope, saw this and took it as a sign from the Holy Spirit. That is all it took! Fabian was unanimously elected pope! He remained in that position for 14 years, dying a martyr in 250 A.D. St. Cyprian described Pope St. Fabian as an “incomparable” holy gentleman. January 20th is his feast day.



THE CHURCH ALSO HONORS ST. SEBASTIAN ON MONDAY. Saint Sebastian was a Roman soldier in the third century and probably most known today as the patron saint of athletes. Athletic himself, Sebastian was dedicated to God, helping others and praying for and over them. Legend tells us that he healed a woman who could not speak by making a reverent Sign of the Cross over her. For his Christian beliefs St. Sebastian was tied to a tree and shot by archers countless times, but wouldn't die. The assailants gave up. After he healed with the help of St. Irene he returned to publicly and proudly proclaim his Christianity and denounced the emperor for his cruelty to Christians. The emperor had him beaten to death. (Art by: Monica Welch of Dovetail Ink www.etsy.com/shop/DovetailInk)



JANUARY 21 IS THE FEAST DAY OF ST. AGNES, patron saint of young girls. She was stunningly beautiful, and many wanted her hand in marriage. However, Agnes wanted nothing to do with them. Her faith was so much a part of who she was, she considered herself married to God. Legend says that the dejected men became angry and turned her into authorities for being Christian in an anti-Christian rule. She refused to deny her faith. Angels protected her from disgrace and unthinkable harm when she was drug through the streets and then sent to a brothel at the age of 12 or 13. Those who tried to attack her were made blind. The governor had her killed. Parents pray for her intercession for the protection of their children. (Art by Jessica Coe of The Living Heart Co www.etsy.com/shop/Thelivingheartco)



JANUARY 23

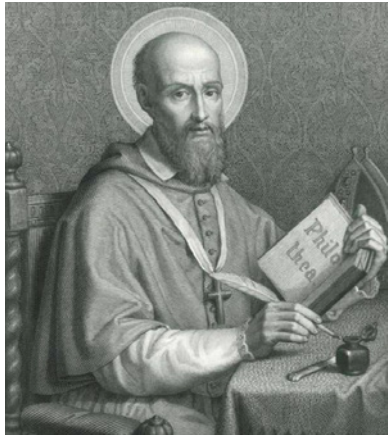
THE CHURCH HONORS ST. VINCENT OF SARRAGOSSA, a deacon and the patron saint of winemakers – but not for a pleasant reason. Legend has it that he was tortured in many ways for being a Christian – stretched, pressed on a wine press, branded with hot irons, and thrown onto broken glass – he died a martyr for he refused to denounce Christ. He died in the year of 304 A.D.



ON JAN. 23RD THE CHURCH ALSO CELEBRATES THE LIFE OF ST. MARIANNE COPE. A German nun who served as teacher and principal in New York. She also established two hospitals one in Utica the other Syracuse. Twenty years after entering religious life in the US she traveled to Hawaii to provide care for people with leprosy, who were otherwise left for dead. She promised all of her fellow sisters who worked for the “outcasts” they would not contract the disease. None did. She died in 1918. A shrine and museum dedicated to her is in Syracuse, NY.



LAST BUT NOT LEAST FOR JAN. 23, YOU MAY WANT TO LEARN ABOUT SISTER BLANDINA SEGALE who was born on this day in 1850, in Italy. She was a sister of the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati. She helped open several public and Catholic schools, and hospitals in Santa Fe and Albuquerque. Her diary, published in 1932, “At the End of the Santa Fe Trail” accounts for many of her great works of courage and empathy. Armed with common sense, determination, and a sense of humor she was able to get through hard times including dealing with and disarming infamous characters such as Billy the Kid and Geronimo. She is on the road to sainthood and may be declared Venerable in the Year of hope.



ON JAN. 24TH CELEBRATE ST. FRANCIS DE SALES – a holy man who preached caution to those who proclaim to be faithful, but enjoy finding fault in others, judge, gossip, and stir trouble. He said, “to be an angel in prayer and a beast in one’s relations with people is to go lame on both legs.” He was a writer, bishop, spiritual guide, and Doctor of the Church for his influence and evangelization countless souls. His works include: The Art of Loving God; Roses Among Thorns; The Sign of the Cross; and Philothea (Lover of God) - An Introduction to the Devout Life, which is his most famous work.



THE FEAST OF THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL IS JANUARY 25. It is one of the most widely known conversion stories in history. Paul (or Saul), feared by the early Christians for his cruelty, is thrown from his horse along the road to Damascus. While on the ground he encounters Christ (Acts of the Apostles 9:1-19, Galatians 1: 13-14). Jesus asked, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” Paul replied, “Who are you, sir?” Jesus responded, “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting” (Acts 9: 4 - 5). Jesus then sent Saul into Damascus to wait for further instructions. Saul was shaken and blinded by the experience. When a Christian named Ananias came and baptized Saul, his blindness went away. As a result of this encounter Saul became a follower of Christ. Paul would go on to proclaim the Gospel the Gentiles. He spent the rest of his life traveling, establishing churches, and is the author of numerous epistles to the people to whom he ministered. His letters are the earliest records of the life and

history of the early Church. He is the author of first and second Thessalonians, Galatians, Philippians, first and second Corinthians, Romans, and Philemon. The epistles to the Ephesians, Colossians, Titus, and first and second Timothy bear Paul’s name, but it is believed that they were written after his death.

Christ’s words to St. Paul remind us that when we persecute others, we persecute Christ.

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!!!



SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5

What has been forsaken and desolate is now delightful.

Responsorial: Psalm 96

“Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations.”

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

St. Paul tells the Corinthians that the Holy Spirit bestows gifts upon each of us in different ways.

Gospel: John 2:1-11

Jesus transforms water to wine at the wedding feast of Cana.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we may all discern the gifts the Holy Spirit has blessed us with, using them to serve others, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our country, as we remember Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr., that we may always work toward moral justice, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all who will attend the March for Life in Washington, D.C. this week, as well as those of us who will support their efforts in prayer; may we grow in number to protect life from conception until natural death, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all who are married and those preparing for marriage, that their love may be a sign of the love God has for us, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

WV CATHOLIC RADIO BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOU

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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

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ENROLL TODAY

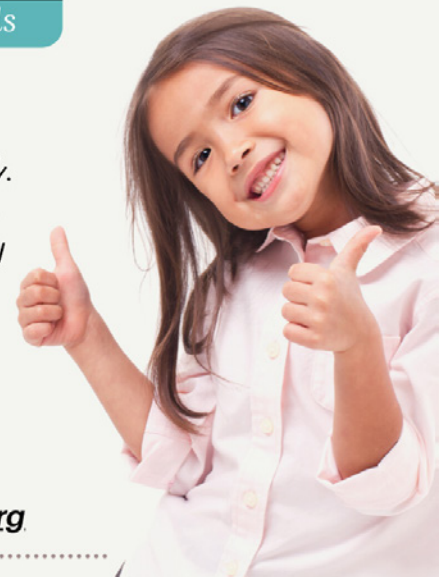
WV Catholic Schools

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by knowledge.
Transformed
by faith.*



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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.