



Happy New Year!

MARY'S RESOLUTION ~ THE GREATEST OF ALL

Happy New Year! Is it a coincidence that we honor Mary on the first day of a new year? Not at all. It is absolutely appropriate to celebrate her and her ultimate resolution, as we all celebrate what we hope for in the new year for ourselves, our families and friends, and the world around us.

In the Catholic Church, January 1st is the last Octave Day of Christmas – the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. Through prayerful reflections we are asked to concentrate on Mary, a young bride and teenager with a new baby in her arms. The young mother must have been filled with hopes and dreams as she lovingly gazed at the miracle cuddled against her. She knew she had a husband who loved her unconditionally. He was a faithful man, protecting, caring, and providing for them. 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 of the Prince of Peace, making her the Queen of Peace.

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

Mary was faithful to God and the traditions and customs of her day. Surely, she knew 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!”

The 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.

May we like Mary, reflect on everything in our heart and come to realize how we can bring Christ to our world in this new year.



TOGETHER WE CELEBRATE THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Like the wisemen, we too are drawn by our faith to come together to celebrate and honor God the Son on this Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord.

The magi were aware of the great significance of the blessed star of Bethlehem, and were drawn by its distinctive light. They traveled from distant lands to reach the small town south of Jerusalem, which was also the birthplace of King David. They were the first visitors of Jesus, Mary and Joseph that came from outside the immediate area.

In Sunday's first reading, Isaiah mentions gold and frankincense, as gifts befitting a king. He prophesies that these gifts would be presented to the one to come - the Savior of the world. However, the magi also brought myrrh which was used in those days to anoint a body after death. This is another prophecy, because this newborn king is also to be a victim, called to suffer, like Isaiah's suffering servant, for the sins of all.

In our parishes and missions, we may not come with the riches of the magi, but we come to Mass with our love of God. Today, well over 2000 years later, we gather thousands of miles from Bethlehem to honor the king of kings. Yet we too are drawn by our faith to this holy place to seek out the Son of God and do him homage. Let us in turn make Christ manifest to others wherever we go.

Let others see Christ in us for that is the greatest gift He wants from us. He came to earth for us, so bring Him your sufferings, loss, fears, worries, and challenges, letting Him fill your spirit with love, joy, and peace.

MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN RECEIVE

Catholic Charities West Virginia is here for our neighbors when they need us the most.

We are unwaveringly committed to our core value of dignity. That means all clients are treated with respect during their most vulnerable moments.

And clients feel this respect deeply. As a result, lives are transformed daily.

Katherine experienced this transformation. She turned to case management when she found herself without a home for her family, including her 1-year old daughter and her boyfriend, JR.

Katherine worked with Catholic Charities Case Manager Joe Sparksman to set goals for herself. Katherine learned about budgeting and saving money. She and Joe identified opportunities and obstacles to reaching her goals.

The family is now thriving in their new home and working toward new goals. “Joe was our mentor. He helped walk us through everything, set us up with the programs we needed to get our life straight,” said Katherine. “We were able to save and pay our first month’s rent at a [new] house [Catholic Charities] connected us with.”

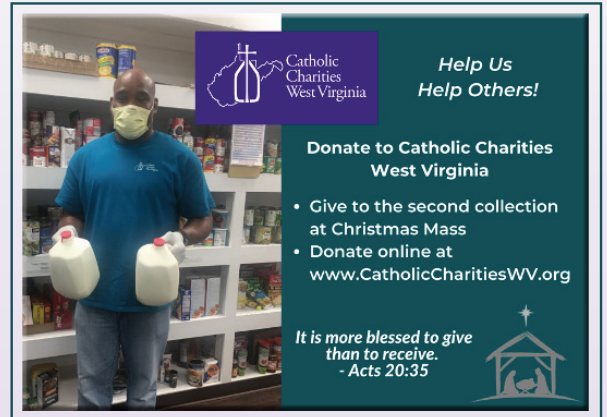
It might feel difficult to give money to someone you’ve never met. But when you donate to Catholic Charities West Virginia, your gift is helping a neighbor in need. And that person is being treated with dignity.

The second collection at Christmas directly goes to Catholic Charities, but it’s not too late for your gift to the annual appeal. Please give generously so your neighbors can receive the services they need to be happy, healthy, and reach their full potential.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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

Providing Help, Creating Hope, Serving All

Please, consider a gift to the Catholic Charities WV Annual Appeal. Catholic charities provides vital children, elderly, nutrition, disaster, refugee and other family services guided by God’s love to enable people to reach their full potential.

For more information or to make a donation now online go to:

WWW.CATHOLICCHARITIESWV.ORG

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

First Reading ISAIAH 60:1-6

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory. Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance. Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you: your sons come from afar, and your daughters in the arms of their nurses. Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of nations shall be brought to you. Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.

Responsorial PSALMS 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

R. (cf. 11) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, with your judgment endow the king, and with your justice, the king's son; He shall govern your people with justice and your afflicted ones with judgment.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Justice shall flower in his days, and profound peace, till the moon be no more. May he rule from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts; the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute. All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him. He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save.

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Second Reading EPHESIANS 3:2-3a, 5-6

Brothers and sisters:

You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for your benefit, namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation. It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Alleluia MATHEW 2:2

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel MATTHEW 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet:

And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures

and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we may reflect the light of Christ in the words we preach and the actions we take so that that light may shine forth to all peoples, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For world leaders, that they may acknowledge an equal dignity for all people no matter their place in society, and then work tirelessly for justice for all so that all nations may be shining lights for everyone to appreciate, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For peace on earth, that the promise of the Prince of Peace may be realized in our attitudes and our behavior, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all those fleeing their home countries because of danger, hardship, or fear, that they may be welcomed in a new home and given the opportunity to live a better life, 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



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A LITTLE CATHOLIC HUMOR

PRAYER PUPS BY JEFFREY SMITH



IT'S A NEW YEAR AND A NEW OPPORTUNITY TO GROW AS A CHRISTIAN.

ENROLL TODAY

WV Catholic Schools

Empowered
by knowledge.
Transformed
by faith.



Register today

wvcatholicschools.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/)