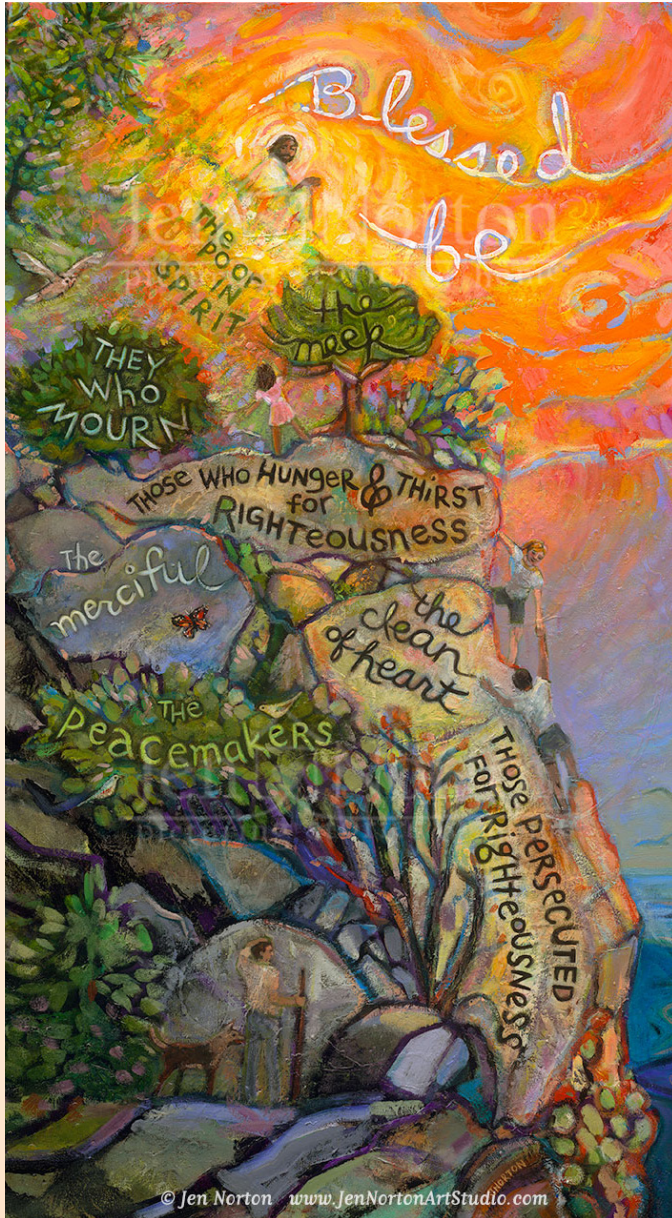




BE BLESSED AND A BLESSING



In today's Gospel, Matthew shares the Beatitudes - the mindset and roadmap we need on our journey through life. It is truly Christ's teachings of how to live - blessed and a blessing.

This was part of the Sermon on the Mount given by Jesus. It was one of the first things Christ did in his early ministry. For more than 2,000 years pilgrims have traveled to Capernaum, the hometown of the first disciples (Peter and Andrew), to trek up the mountain, where Christ preached. It is referred to now as the Mount of Beatitudes and it overlooks the Sea of Galilee.

Today, pull out your bibles and reread what we hear in the Mass (Mathew 5:1-12a). Read as if Jesus is speaking right to you about how He wants us to think and live. He is telling us we should not regard power and prestige as blessings, but instead consider being humble, pure, and merciful as gifts to be embraced.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult and hate you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.



CELEBRATE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK!

JANUARY 29 - FEBRUARY 4

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK FOCUS: MAPPING FOR THE FUTURE

MAP ASSESSMENTS GIVE STUDENTS IN WV CATHOLIC SCHOOLS CLEAR ROADMAP

As Catholic Schools Week begins we continue we highlight for you a few ways our 24 Catholic schools in the diocese are mapping for continued success for students and buildings.

Backed by assessments that are given three times a year, the Catholic Schools of West Virginia provide educators, families, and students the opportunity to identify any learning gaps, as well as identify areas where the student can be challenged at a higher level.

The diocesan schools partner with the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) for their state-aligned, online Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) assessments.

“Our MAP assessments truly serve as a roadmap for us for grade level aptitude, and college and career readiness,” Associate Superintendent Jennifer Hornyak said.

“The NWEA tests are adaptive, meaning students are measured where they are across grade levels instead of just at their grade level,” she said and added, “The online test adjusts during the assessment based on the student’s right or wrong answers. A right answer challenges the student to a harder question. A wrong answer bumps down a level to identify where the student’s ability is in the subject area, resulting in an identification marker of what the child’s needs may be to grow in this subject area. The teacher then can adapt their lesson plan to help the student attain individual goals, grade level goals, and cross grade level goals.”

The MAP testing also identifies college and career readiness.

“That is another asset of the assessment model, providing us a clear look at what opportunities would be best for our students to help them be the best version of themselves after their educational career with us,” Hornyak said.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Hand in hand with student achievement, the Catholic Schools of WV make it a priority to be forward thinking in all areas of operation.

The diocesan Catholic schools follow an Intentional Growth Planning (IGP) model that implements an additional level of accountability and vitality for the Catholic Schools of West Virginia.

Superintendent Mary Ann Deschaine, Ed.S., said the school system must constantly evaluate its operations to not only a key to maintaining a vibrant community of schools, but also a key to the overall success of the students.

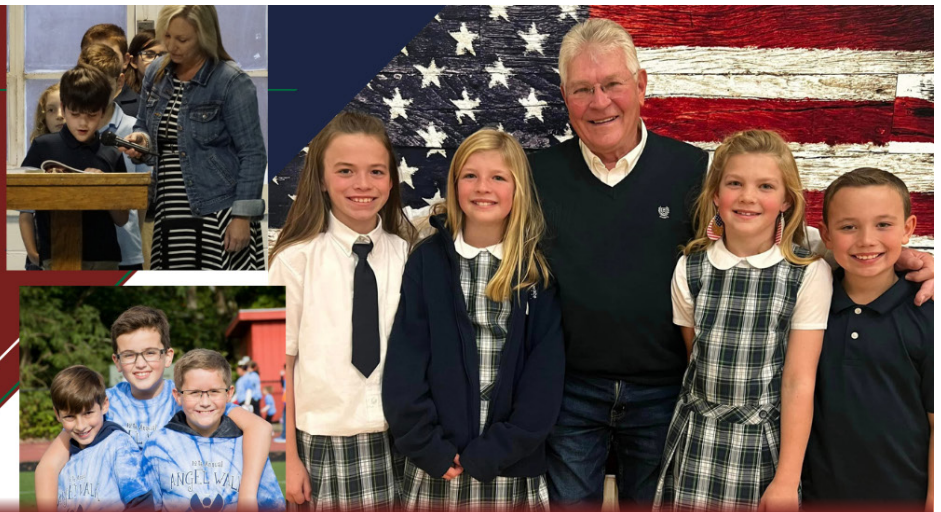
“Just as we expect our students to be better than yesterday in every way, we look at ourselves as a whole system to do the same,” she said, noting the system’s IGP – a four-year roadmap of accountability for stronger Catholic grade and high schools in the state.

“In collaboration with our principals, pastors, parishes, parents, alumni, and diocesan staff we work to continually improve and grow in our Catholic Identity, leadership, academic excellence, enrollment, and operational vitality. Hand in hand with our Cognia accreditation process we continue to evaluate our performance not only in the classroom, but also across the board and then aim higher.”

To learn more about Catholic education in West Virginia go to: [HTTPS://WVCATHOLICSCHOOLS.ORG](https://wvcatholicschools.org).

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS MAP SUCCESS

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
WEEK JAN. 29–FEB. 4



A SNAPSHOT OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

MOUNTAIN MOVER

EMPOWERED BY KNOWLEDGE • TRANSFORMED BY FAITH



WV CATHOLIC SCHOOLS MISSION STATEMENT

The Catholic school communities of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston are committed to providing quality education in the Catholic tradition for all students in a nurturing, Christ-centered environment. We accompany families in challenging children to recognize, develop and share their God-given gifts and talents.

CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES

232 graduates

99.7% graduation rate

99% accepted into over 270 colleges and universities

Graduates offered over 22.7 million in scholarships

Our schools provide an environment that is an extension of our family. We are committed to providing a quality education that is unapologetically Catholic in nature. Lessons in Catholic faith are integrated into all subject areas and activities. With a steadfast focus on our faith, we trust God, through his son Jesus Christ, will continue to guide us to help our children reach their full potential.

- Mrs. Mary Ann Deschaine, Ed.S.
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

OUR FUTURE IS BRIGHT!



MISSION AND CATHOLIC IDENTITY

- Catholic Identity and Program Effectiveness parent survey results are consistently high; based upon parents' positive feedback (4.33 on a 5-point scale) in the Fall of 2022.



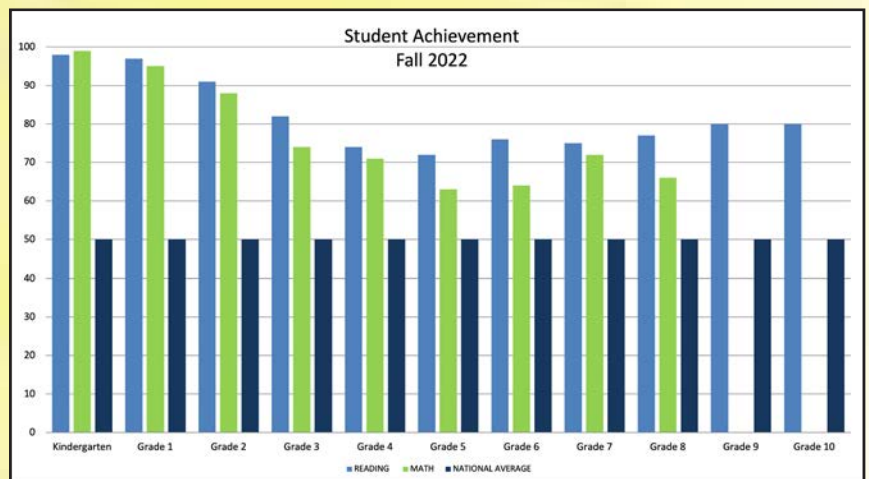
GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

- Over 450 dedicated principals, teachers, and staff play a critical role in the success of our students.
- Enrollment has increased across our WV Catholic schools over the last two academic years.



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

- Average math and reading scores (Student MAP Growth Assessments 2022) are above the 65th percentile for most grade levels.
- Students at all grade levels across the Diocese are high achieving and above the 50th percentile national average (Student MAP Growth Assessments 2022).
- Individual student growth is the priority of our teachers, as we raise the bar for college and career readiness.



OPERATIONAL VITALITY

- Diocesan Tuition Assistance (TAP) was 1.3 million dollars for the 2022-2023 school year, supporting students and their families, both Catholic and non-Catholic.



CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
www.cchsknights.org



CHARLESTON CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
www.charlestoncatholic-crw.org



MADONNA HIGH SCHOOL
www.weirtonmadonna.org



NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL
www.notredamewv.org



PARKERSBURG CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
www.parkersburgcatholic.com



ST JOSEPH CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
www.stjosephhs.org



CORPUS CHRISTI SCHOOL
www.corpuschristiwheeling.com



FAIRMONT CATHOLIC GRADE SCHOOL
www.fairmontcatholic.com



OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH SCHOOL
www.olofps.org



OUR LADY OF PEACE SCHOOL
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PARKERSBURG CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
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SACRED HEART GRADE SCHOOL
www.shgs.us



SAINTS PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC SCHOOL
www.sppcatholic.org



SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES CENTRAL CATHOLIC
www.stfrancismorgantown.com



SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES SCHOOL
www.sfdsbeckley.org



SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCHOOL
www.sfsww.com



SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL
www.stjosephgs.org



SAINT JOSEPH SCHOOL
www.sjswv.org



SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKER GRADE SCHOOL
www.weirtonstjoseph.net



SAINT MARY'S CENTRAL SCHOOL
www.stmaryswv.org



SAINT MICHAEL PARISH SCHOOL
www.stmikesparishschool.org



SAINT PATRICK SCHOOL
www.stpatswv.org



SAINT PAUL SCHOOL
www.weirtonstpauls.org



SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL PARISH SCHOOL
www.stvincentschool.org

System at a Glance

18 Elementary & 6 High Schools

8% of students represent minorities

Over 494 professional staff

13 counties are served by West Virginia Catholic Schools

99.7% HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE

40% OF CATHOLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE NON-CATHOLIC

4,422 elementary & secondary students

For additional Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Catholic School information visit WVCATHOLICSCHOOLS.ORG

HOPE SCHOLARSHIP WEST VIRGINIA

The **Hope Scholarship Program** is the state of West Virginia's education savings account (ESA) program that will allow parents and families to utilize the state portion of their education funding to tailor an individualized learning experience that works best for them.

Beginning on March 1, 2023, the Hope Scholarship Board will accept applications for the 2023-2024 school year.

To Learn more about the HOPE Scholarship Program, please visit: WWW.HOPESCHOLARSHIPPWV.COM

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD ~ FEB. 2

CELEBRATE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST AND THE COURAGE OF MARY AND JOSEPH

The day of Jesus' presentation in the temple was a sign of Mary and Joseph's humility and respect for their Jewish faith; but for as joyous the moment was, it was also a day that pierced Mary's heart.

The moments were described by Luke and shared the Gospel reading for the day (Luke 2:22-40).

As required by Mosaic Law for all males 40 days after they are born, Jesus was presented at the temple. Most parents brought along a lamb and pigeon as a sacrifice for the mother's purification, but Joseph and Mary were so poor they were only able to offer two turtledoves.

It was the first public introduction of Jesus into the house of God.

At the temple the Holy Family was greeted by an elder priest named Simeon and the prophetess Anna was also there. They like others had waited a lifetime for the promised Messiah. Luke's passage declares that Simeon knew immediately the infant Jesus was the Savior he waited ages to see. He took the child into his arms then proudly raised him high and in a voice of praise

exclaimed in thanksgiving to God, "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel" (Luke 2:29-32).

This beautiful proclamation from Simeon leads to another special custom in the Church - Candlemas. This is the day our parishes will bless the candles they will use throughout the year, and it is also the day when we can take our own prayer candles to church for a blessing.

Let the flame of your prayer candle bring to mind Simeon's elated declaration of affirmation to Mary and Joseph that Jesus is the light for all people, His salvation, and His love for us. Pray in confidence, knowing His light will guide the life of the faithful to eternal happiness.

At Mass your celebrant has the option of ending the Gospel reading at the conclusion of Simeon's great joy (Luke 2:32) or continue with the entire passage that concludes at verse 40.

What happens next in those verses reveal a striking truth - what we now identify as one of the seven piercing sorrows of Mary.

Simeon blessed the Holy Family, then looked at Mary, and said to her (Luke 2:34-35), "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."



Can you imagine young Mary's heart? She was only in her early teens. One minute she is elated to hear that this great priest and prophetess recognized her baby as the one who will save the world, but in the next Simeon voices the prophecy that this Christ Child will also divide the people He was sent to save.

Being devout Jews, Mary knew exactly what Simeon was saying to her for it is written in Psalm 22, the Messiah's feeling of abandonment and mockery; and Isaiah 53, which the prophet proclaims the lamb led to slaughter and tortured for the sins of the people. As we pray today, recalling this whirlwind of emotions don't diminish our Blessed Mother's emotions - her pounding heart, her labored breath, her racing thoughts....

Furthermore, have confidence in Joseph and Mary as our intercessors for they not only walked this earth like us, but also time and time again showed great obedience to God in all circumstances.

Let us pray that in our faithfulness we live in the light of Christ. God, give us the courage to bring our souls and the souls of others out of the darkness. Just as Mary and Joseph, who loved you and trusted you every step, let us have faith beyond all fears. Your plan is greater than our own for we know one day we will join You in heaven and have eternal joy, love, and peace. Amen.

CELEBRATE THOSE CALLED TO CONSECRATED LIFE

PRAY FOR ALL CALLED TO SERVE AND BE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

By Sister Martha Gomez, R.G.S. Delegate for Consecrated Life
For the Diocese of Wheeling-Chalreston



As we celebrate the “World Day for Consecrated Life” the Church, let us recognize the gift that a consecrated person is not only for the life of the church, but also for the well-being of humanity. This celebration is typically attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord and Candlemas (February 2)- the day the

Catholic Church has the ritual of the blessings of candles that are used during the liturgical year as a “symbol of Christ the Light of the World.”

The Church will also celebrate all those who have responded to the call for Consecrated Life at the weekend Masses in our parishes on February 4-5, 2023.

We consecrated men and women continue to celebrate God’s call to serve the Church in this time and place in many ways. We do our best to listen to God in the silence of our hearts and place Him ahead of all our endeavors and desires. We humbly asked to be worthy of bringing His light to others. “You are the light for the world.” Says the Lord. Mt. 5:14-16

We have just left behind the beautiful seasons of Advent and Christmas, and it is still resounding in my heart the richness of the readings we have heard. The Prophets in the Old Testament invited us “O house of Jacob, come let us walk in the light of the Lord!” Isaiah 2:5 In the past God spoke to our ancestors the prophets; in these days, he has spoken to us through His Son. The Entrance Antiphon of the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Mass at Dawn) gave us the Great News “Today a light will shine upon us, for the Lord is born for us; and he will be called Wondrous God, Prince of peace, Father of future ages: and his reign will be without end.” Isaiah 9:6 The Gospel acclamation on

Christmas Day culminate this promise “A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, and adore the Lord. For today a great light has come upon the earth.” Isaiah 60.

On the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, we heard the Magi saying” Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw His star at its rising and have come to do him homage.” Mt 2:12 “We also see the His star in those who suffer persecution, displacement, and poverty.

The brightness of God illumined the holy city Jerusalem, and the nations will walk by its light. Revelations 21:23. We want to also to walk in the light by doing what is right in the eyes of the Lord.

“Every nation on earth will adore you.” Psalm 72:17. We join our brothers and sisters all over the world to reach out to those who are in need.

The Celebration of the Baptism of the Lord brings us to the end of the Christmas season and introduces us to the second manifestation which occurs on His Baptism in the Jordan. “The heavens were opened, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, listen to him.” Mt. 3:13-17. In the Baptism of the Lord, we were given the gift of been united with Christ Priest, Prophet, and King. The call to serve others. To heal the broken hearted.

The liturgy wisely directs us to the celebration of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. On this day I would like to invite all of you to let your light shine for all the world to see by spreading kindness to all we meet on our life journey.

I express my heartfelt gratitude to all who consecrate their life to God, and to those who extend their support and words of encouragement, but most importantly by their fervent prayers.

I also would like to take this opportunity to invite you - young adults - to think of becoming a brother or a sister or a Consecrated Virgin (person), for the Glory of God, and the good of all.

Blessings!

THE CALL TO CONSECRATED LIFE

Two religious sisters of the Missionary Sisters Servants of the Word, serving in the Eastern Panhandle, share a little insight into their vocation and what God's call and love is teaching them. For more information about Consecrated Life and the call to religious life contact the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Office of the Delegate for Consecrated Life - Sister Martha Gomez at mgomez@dwc.org.

SISTER ALICIA RAMOS MORLES, H.M.S.P.



My Name is Sister Alicia Ramos and I am a consecrated sister with the Missionary Sisters Servants of the Word.

For me, consecrated life is a gift that God has given me out of his goodness and mercy. I did nothing to deserve or to be worthy of this gift.

Through this vocation God manifests to us His love so that we in turn can make it manifest to the people who God places in our path.

To be called by God is something special. There are no words to describe how much God gives through the vocation of consecrated life. Certainly this is not the most important vocation for all vocations are important but it is a gift of God's mercy and through this vocation, we are able to help others find the path that leads to eternity.

-Sister Alicia Ramos Morles, H.M.S.P.

SISTER JESSICA BERNAL, H.M.S.P.

Hello, my name is Sister Jessica, H.M.S.P.

For me, consecrated life is a gift from God to me and to the World.

Through a life of poverty, chastity and obedience, God reminds us that true happiness and fulfillment are found in Him alone and not in the finite things of this world. It is a foretaste of the eternal happiness that we will all come to experience in heaven being perfectly united to him who is Love.

As a young sister, consecrated life has taught me that young people are in fact made for true love and having a young heart and mind are no obstacles for this noble love... if only we allow ourselves to be guided and helped by those who have stood in our shoes at one time. JMJ

-Sister Jessica Bernal



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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13

The Prophet Zephaniah tells the people of Judah to stay humble and seek humility as we seek the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 146

Blessed are the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Just as Zephaniah preaches we must be humble, St. Paul tells us that God chose the least likely to shame the arrogant. For He cares for the ones who serve like Christ served, and who love like Christ taught us to love.

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12a

Sharing Christ's word, Matthew echoes the sentiments of Zephaniah and what St. Paul later wrote to the Corinthians – Jesus said it is the meek and lowly that will inherit the land. Blessed are they!

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT
BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/012923.CFM](http://BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/012923.CFM)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we seek the light of Christ to get us out of the darkness with a mindset of confidence that the faithful will see eternal happiness just as Jesus promised if we live a life guided by the beatitudes, let us pray to the Lord. . .

May all leaders - and likewise us as we lead - lead in a spirit of humility, acknowledging that they cannot bring true righteousness and justice on their own, let us pray to the Lord. . .

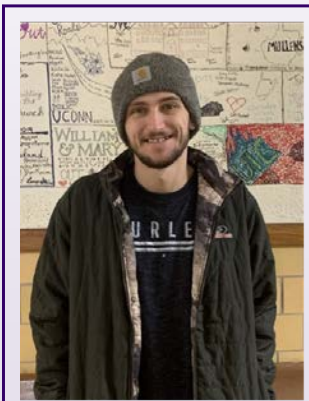
For all who work, volunteer, and support our Catholic schools, let them be blessed ten-fold for the sacrifices they make so our children are immersed in our Christian faith and Catholic identity, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those who hunger, mourn, and are persecuted unjustly, that they may be consoled by their faith in our God of mercy, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer



MAKING LASTING AND MEANINGFUL CHANGE



Logan Holdren enrolled in adult education classes at Catholic Charities West Virginia to better his circumstances.

At Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa), we provide caring and compassionate services to people in need and work toward lasting and meaningful change. Logan Holdren's story is an example of our services helping a person to make those lasting and meaningful changes in his life.

Logan Holdren dropped out of high school in the 11th grade.

"I didn't like school. I kept missing days and didn't want to do any of my work," said Logan. "Then, my mom got sick, and I didn't want to go any more for sure. So, I quit."

Logan turned to drugs, and quickly, things spiraled out of control.

Logan knew he needed to make changes to his life. His sister told him about the Mullens Opportunity Center (MOC) and the Adult Education classes offered by CCWVa's McDowell Learning Center.

In addition to enrolling in the High School Equivalency class offered by Catholic Charities' Adult Education Instructor Michelle Montz, Logan entered an addiction treatment program with Southern Highlands.

"I was amazed about how easy it was to get back into the flow of learning," Logan said.

When Logan earned his High School Equivalency, he was thrilled. He enrolled in the WV Transition Jobs Program (formerly the WV Empowered Employment Program), which helps people in recovery gain employment and on-the-job training by assisting employers in paying wages.

Logan started his new job in January.

Education is just one of the many vehicles Catholic Charities employs to create lasting and meaningful change in the lives of those we serve.

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



BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS YOUTH CAMP

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So you want to be a Camp Carlo Counselor?



If you're committed to growing in faith, modeling faithful Catholic community life to young people, and living the adventure of His Creation, we want YOU at Camp Carlo for Summer 2023!



Contact Assistant Director, Maggie Moran, for more information: mmoran@dwc.org or 1 (757) 995-4486

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/WL0L~



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by knowledge.
Transformed
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Register today

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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.