

WV CATHOLIC SCHOOLS CELEBRATE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK JANUARY 30 TO FEBRUARY 5

It is time to showcase and applaud our Catholic schools across the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. January 30 to February 5 is National Catholic Schools Week.

Our 24 Catholic schools - 18 grade schools and six high schools - work together as a team of educators, faith leaders, and families to nurture high achieving and morally responsible leaders, said Mary Ann Deschaine, Ed.S., Superintendent of WV Catholic Schools.

“Our priority is our students, our privilege is supporting our families, our commitment is to continually improve our schools as we look to the future,” she said. “Through individual and critical thinking; strong self-esteem; empathy; citizenship; and a sound moral foundation all in a Christ-centered environment, each of our 24 schools prepare our students to be the best version of themselves. Catholic School students in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston not only outperform their counterparts academically, but also learn to put faith, accountability, responsibility, and integrity into action every day.”

Despite the pandemic, WV Catholic school students scored above national averages on assessments. The diocesan school system partners with the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) for their nationally normed, state-aligned, online Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) assessments. Given three times a year, the NWEA MAP Growth tests are adaptive, meaning students are measured where they are across grade levels instead of just at their grade level. Based on this assessment data, teachers are able to adapt their lesson plans to help students attain individual goals and grade level goals.

The WV Catholic Schools believe that tracking learning throughout the year, as well as from year to year, is critical to developing and implementing effective teaching and learning strategies, and helps remove roadblocks for students, so the focus remains on positive growth.

Initiatives and programs launched during the 2021-22 school year, as part of the strategic diocesan intentional growth plan, include:

- Increased professional and leadership development for staff
- Collaboration, enrichment, and high-quality education strategies to maximize student learning
- Focus on virtues to prepare our students to be leaders now
- Continued concentration on the formation of the whole child to be successful in life not just in academics

All 24 schools across the state will host a variety of activities for their students and the community. Check with your local Catholic school to find out more or visit WVCATHOLICSCHOOLS.ORG.



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.

Our priority is our students, our privilege is supporting our families, our commitment is to continually improve our schools as we look to the future. Through individual and critical thinking; strong self-esteem; empathy; citizenship; and a sound moral foundation all in a Christ-centered environment, each of our 24 schools prepare our students to be the best version of themselves. Catholic School students in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston not only outperform their counterparts academically, but also learn to put faith, accountability, responsibility, and integrity into action every day.

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



THE WV CATHOLIC SCHOOLS CLASS OF 2021 RECEIVED \$26.5 MILLION IN ACADEMIC AND ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS.

ASSESSMENTS PROVE EXCELLENCE

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PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE

Our 24 schools across the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston honor and reflect on the past as we plan for the future. Each school follows a comprehensive plan strategically focused on the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools (NSBECS). Our plans center around four pillars:

- **Mission and Catholic Identity**
- **Governance and Leadership**
- **Academic Excellence**
- **Operational Vitality**

The diocesan intentional growth plan reflects a strong combination of our individual school plans and guides the work of the Department of Catholic Schools. This growth process is part of our ongoing accreditation through our national accrediting organization, Cognia.

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- ✓ **Increased professional and leadership development for staff**
- ✓ **Collaboration, enrichment, and high-quality education strategies to maximize student learning**
- ✓ **Focus on virtues to prepare our students to be leaders now**
- ✓ **Continued concentration on the formation of the whole child to be successful in life not just in academics**

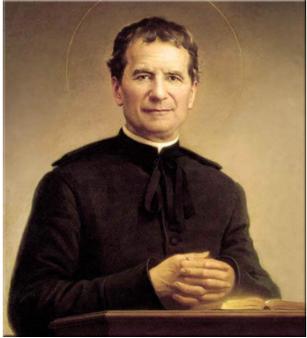
DIOCESAN APPEAL ASSISTANCE

Gifts to the annual diocesan giving program, the Catholic Sharing Appeal (CSA), impact students in all 24 Catholic Schools. The CSA provides funding for the existing Tuition Assistance Fund and School-Based Health Programs. It also funded the School Merit Grants and Technology Upgrade Grants available to each school. CSA funding continues to shine light on Catholic school students to help them reach their full potential.

THIS WEEK'S FEAST DAYS FULL OF LESSONS FOR THE SOUL

The Church celebrates some significant feasts this week. Let them feed your soul and bring you strength and courage.

On Jan. 31, we celebrate the 19th Century saint, **John**



Bosco, a living example of how we should live our faith and lead others to it - with Christian joy. It is fitting we remember this saint during Catholic schools week - he wholeheartedly believed Catholic education and Christian values were crucial, "if you want to have a good society and moral order."

From the time he was nine years old Saint John Bosco would tell his mother he wanted to be a priest, and he would help children love Jesus and all of His creation too.

In 1841, he was ordained Father John Bosco (also called Don Bosco for "Don" was Italian for father). He made it his mission to teach youth to get to know God, reflect on their faith, and celebrate the sacraments frequently.

The feast of **St. Brigid of Kildare** is celebrated Feb. 1. If we learn nothing else from her, let us be certain that God's love was clearly visible through this compassionate saint; and we too should strive to let others see Christ in us through our words and actions.



St. Brigid
(Brigid)

She was born around the year 450, but documentation is unclear. Historians report she was the daughter of a pagan chieftain, and her mother was one of his slaves. Her mother raised her Catholic until she was 10, when she was returned to her father. She was known to sell off or give away his possessions in order to help the poor. Needless to say, when he found out he was furious and tried to sell her to another royal family. The king he presented her to was Christian and impressed with her selfless spirit, giving away her entitled riches to the poor. The king said, "Her merit before God is greater than ours."

Wednesday is the Feast of the **Presentation of the**



Lord. The presentation and purification proved Joseph and Mary's humility and respect of their faith, Jewish laws, and the house of the Lord.

According to Luke 2:22-39, Jesus was taken to the temple when he was 40 days old for His presentation and Mary's purification. This was the first

public introduction of Jesus into the house of the Lord. When Jesus, Mary, and Joseph went to the Temple they presented two turtledoves for Mary's purification. Jesus was presented into the hands of the priest and thus to God. In accordance with what we know of customs from the Old Testament, Jesus was blessed and then given back after the family gave to the Temple treasury in thanksgiving and praise to God.

We also know that the old prophet Simeon and the prophetess Anna were there. They waited a lifetime for the Messiah. Simeon held Jesus and exclaimed, "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."

On Saturday, Feb. 5, we honor **St. Agatha**. She is

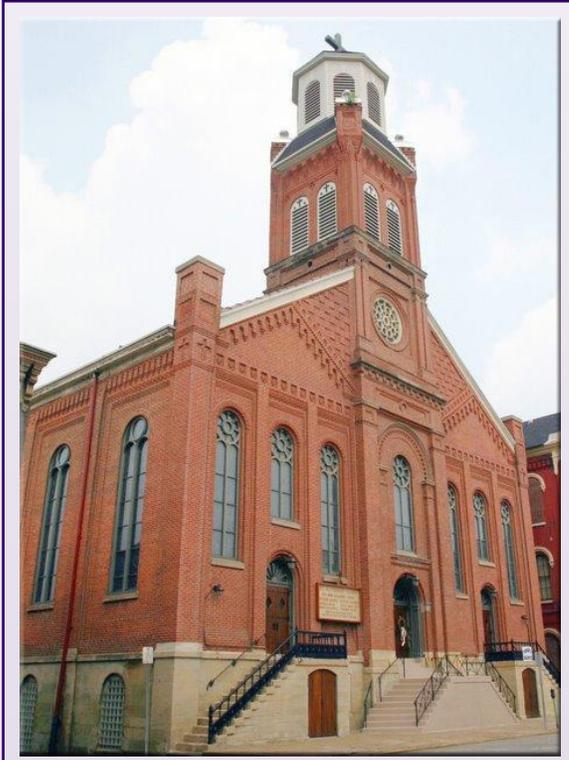


mentioned in the Canon of the Mass (the longest version of the Eucharistic prayer), recognizing her as a significant martyr in the Church. She was a woman of breathtaking beauty, but rejected all men for she considered herself a bride of Christ. Church legend tells us she was tortured and mutilated for this love of Christ and His teachings; however, she was miraculously healed. She

prayed that God would have mercy on her and as she slept in her prison cell her soul was received in heaven. She died a martyr around the age of 22. Her story teaches us courage, commitment, and perseverance. When we are assaulted, or in the midst of life's worst trials, St. Agatha reminds us to keep our faith for God is always with us and His love will lead us to everlasting joy in heaven.

WARMING HEARTS AND HANDS IN WHEELING

Winters in Wheeling can be brutal. The cold weather puts many of our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness at increased risk of illness and even addiction relapse. Unfortunately, social distancing requirements related to the pandemic mean that the Neighborhood Center on 18th Street is not large enough to accommodate a warming center along with regular services.



ST. ALPHONSUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) partnered with Fr. Wiley and the parishioners of St. Alphonsus Catholic Church, who graciously opened their doors. CCWVa operates a warming center in their parish hall.

We are so grateful for this partnership! Now, people who have nowhere else to go are welcome from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily. Together and through collaboration with the Soup Kitchen of Greater Wheeling, we serve three meals each day.

“As the weather gets colder, people just don’t have somewhere they can comfortably be for the day,” said Mark Phillips, CCWVa Northern Regional Director. “There are places you can stay for an hour, like the library. But at our place, it doesn’t matter what you like look or what you’re bringing with you. We don’t ask questions. People can access resources and get a hot meal.”

One aspect of our ministry here stands out from many other warming centers in the state: Peer Recovery Coaches are available on site for anyone who needs support with substance use disorder (SUD). Peer Recovery Coaches have not only been through extensive training, they’ve also been through their own trials with SUD. They offer

nonjudgmental companionship, a witness to what’s possible, and support for those seeking – and remaining in – recovery.

“At Catholic Charities, we get involved in both sides of recovery,” said Phillips. “We help people access recovery programs, and we support people who are coming home from those programs.” Phillips noted that with few halfway houses existing in the Wheeling area, it is essential for CCWVa to offer financial assistance for deposits and first month’s rent for people coming home to jobs.

The warming center at St. Alphonsus is truly a community effort. Besides our partnerships with the parish and the Soup Kitchen of Greater Wheeling, House of Hagar sends a Peer Recovery Coach to the warming center. And we always need helping hands. If you’re available to prepare meals, serve meals, make coffee, or simply spend time with people, please reach out to our Volunteer Coordinator, Keith Miller: (304) 232-7157 or kmiller@ccwva.org.

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.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19

The word of the LORD came to me, saying: Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you. But do you gird your loins; stand up and tell them all that I command you. Be not crushed on their account, as though I would leave you crushed before them; for it is I this day who have made you a fortified city, a pillar of iron, a wall of brass, against the whole land: against Judah's kings and princes, against its priests and people. They will fight against you but not prevail over you, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.

Responsorial PSALM 71:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 15-17

R. (cf. 15ab) I will sing of your salvation.

In you, O LORD, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame. In your justice rescue me, and deliver me; incline your ear to me, and save me.

R. I will sing of your salvation.

Be my rock of refuge, a stronghold to give me safety, for you are my rock and my fortress. O my God, rescue me from the hand of the wicked.

R. I will sing of your salvation.

For you are my hope, O Lord; my trust, O God, from my youth. On you I depend from birth; from my mother's womb you are my strength.

R. I will sing of your salvation.

My mouth shall declare your justice, day by day your salvation.

O God, you have taught me from my youth, and till the present I proclaim your wondrous deeds.

R. I will sing of your salvation.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 13:4-13 (or Cor.12:31-13:13)

Brothers and sisters:

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, it is not pompous, It is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing. For we know partially and we prophesy partially, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things. At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known. So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Alleluia Luke 4:18

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, and to proclaim liberty to captives.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel Luke 4:21-30

Jesus began speaking in the synagogue, saying: "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing." And all spoke highly of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They also asked, "Isn't this the son of Joseph?" He said to them, "Surely you will quote me this proverb, 'Physician, cure yourself,' and say, 'Do here in your native place the things that we heard were done in Capernaum.'" And he said, "Amen, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own native place. Indeed, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah when the sky was closed for three and a half years and a severe famine spread over the entire land. It was to none of these that Elijah was sent, but only to a widow in Zarephath in the land of Sidon. Again, there were many lepers in Israel during the time of Elisha the prophet; yet not one of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian." When the people in the synagogue heard this, they were all filled with fury. They rose up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town had been built, to hurl him down headlong. But Jesus passed through the midst of them and went away.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we may be strengthened in our mission to spread the Good News, finding in the Lord refuge and protection, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our leaders, that they may courageously uphold the dignity of all human life, especially those who are marginalized by our society, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For teachers, administrators, and staff of Catholic schools, that they may be blessed in handing down Christian values to the youth in their care, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our students, families, and all who support Catholic education in our diocesan schools, PSR, RCIA, and adult faith formation classes, let them confidently put their faith in action to make our world a better place, 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 BLESSING



Happy Catholic Schools Week

ENROLL TODAY

WV Catholic Schools

*Empowered
by knowledge.
Transformed
by faith.*



Register today

wvcatholicschools.org



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
Wheeling - Martins Ferry, OH	FM	90.7
Weirton - Steubenville	FM	97.7

~Also Streaming in WV at www.rdo.to/WLOL~

WV Catholic Radio www.WVCatholicRadio.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/)