



LET TODAY REMIND US WE BELONG TO GOD AND HE IS PROUD OF US

Today's gospel tells us Jesus was among the crowd waiting to be baptized by John in the Jordan River. This is the day he began his public ministry. It is the day that the people heard the voice of God declaring Jesus as His son.

Jesus chose to be among the common people that day. He also chose to carry the weight of their sins and go into the depths of the Jordan River to emerge anew filled with the Grace of God the Holy Spirit. After John baptized him, the heavens opened and God the Father said, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

At Baptism we all become children of God. On this day it is declared that we are His, and He is proud of us!

This same joy can also be ours when we celebrate the sacrament of confession. Pope Francis has spoken about it repeatedly to his general audiences. Bishop Mark Brennan and our parish priests also urge us to go to confession with our brokenness and sins so we can receive God's mercy, become new again, and know that God loves us no matter what.

Last year, on the Baptism of the Lord, Fr. Mike Schmitz, during his virtual Mass at a University of Minnesota chapel, urged the faithful to make that same connection, because for most of us we don't remember our baptism.

Father Schmitz described a common feeling leading to the sacrament of confession.

"We think, yeah, the Father could say 'You're mine I'm proud of you,' but then we say 'Look at my life. Look what I've done now.'" He emphasizes that "Confession is where

we renew our baptism. It's right where God reinstates that relationship with us. He makes us new again, but what I wish people knew about confession is how God sees all those people standing in line as they wait to go to confession.

"You feel like this is sinner's row, right? Just like you feel ashamed of yourself. Like here I am in the line because I've screwed up again."

But know the truth about that moment, Schmitz said, "How God sees you at that moment; how God hears your voice as you lay down your sins; how God hears your voice as you surrender your pride as you confess that this is my brokenness, this is what I'm ashamed of. Not only in that moment has God given you love, but in that moment the Father is so proud of you."

He concluded by referring to the practice we all can do that Minnesota Archbishop Emeritus Harry Flynn would ask his parishioners to do in church before Mass.

"He would say, I want you to close your eyes. Picture God the Father looking at you right now. Here is God the Father, who sees you. He knows you. He knows your brokenness. He knows your shame. He knows your strengths. He knows your beauty. He knows the joy that you are. He knows your sorrow. But the Father is looking at you right now and He is smiling. The Father sees you. He knows you, and He is smiling not because you're perfect but because you are here. Not because you're perfect, but His Son went into the depths so that you could be His. He is proud of you."



FAITHINWV.ORG

REFRESHED AND REDESIGNED FOR THE FAITHFUL

Creators hope to inspire visitors find time and the will to pray

As **FAITHINWV.ORG** celebrates its second anniversary the creators of the site are excited to announce a new look and extended focus for the website.

Head to the site and you will not only find the feature stories published in The Catholic Spirit, the FaithInWV e-bulletins emailed each week to the faithful, but you will also find a concentrated focus on prayer to encourage all to pray every day.

As the site says, “God invites us into a relationship with Him built on faith and trust. We can draw closer to Him through prayer. Go to Him with all of our joys, sorrows, fears, anger, worry, and gratitude.”

So, whether you are a cradle Catholic, just getting started in the Church, or somewhere in between, FaithInWV.org hopes to inspire and refresh you and your prayer life. The site was developed and created by the Office of Communications and Marketing in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

While tabs on the page take you to the more than 30 FaithInWV feature stories highlighting inspiring Catholics from all six vicariates around the state, and the more than 90 editions of the FaithInWV weekly e-bulletin, four categories are showcased to deepen your prayer life.

With headings as Family Devotions; Finding Peace; Catholic Tradition; and Resources each provide opportunities for us to be the best version of ourselves, keeping focused and balanced.

Family Devotions is a section developed to help families make the most of their time together. Whether at mealtime, in the car, or a random moment, visitors can use this platform to share traditional and contemporary prayers to grow in faith together. As the site notes, when adults love God our children see and live the faith through witnessing that love. Families who pray together can grow stronger in faith, bringing each member closer to God.

Finding Peace is a section for all, quoting James 5:13, “Is anyone among you suffering? He should pray. Is anyone in good spirits? He should sing praise.” The purpose of this area is to encourage and remind us we are not alone. It is important to note words of a prayer from the heart with sincerity, emotion, and love are never wrong. The prayers on this page are to guide you in your prayer for

yourself or those suffering.

The new Catholic Tradition page is dedicated to the most familiar Catholic prayers across generations. These are treasured prayers that are part of a daily routine. The prayers presented are just a few of those in our cherished traditions.

The Resources options is just that, a sample of online resources to enrich your prayer life. This page features a few of our creators’ favorites which include: Catholic Inspired (for families with younger children) WWW.CATHOLICINSPIRED.SITE; Catholic Icing by Lacy Lynch (for families with children preschool and up) WWW.CATHOLICICING.COM; Pray More Novenas (website puts prayers right in your inbox) WWW.PRAYMORENOVENAS.COM; and Catholic All Year by Kendra Tierney (for families of all ages) CATHOLICALLEYEAR.COM.

An important tab on the page is the Contact Us link. Creators of the site hope to keep the page evolving and refreshed. The hope is that visitors not only continue to share their FaithInWV feature story ideas, but also their own prayers and favorite Catholic enrichment websites through the Contact Us link at the top of the main page.

Faith is a lifelong journey. It starts with prayer. #FaithInWV

#FaithInWV Home E-Bulletins Stories Contact Us

#FaithInWV

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.
In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the
will of God for you in Christ Jesus.
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

God invites us into a relationship with Him built on faith and trust. We can draw closer to Him through prayer. Go to Him with all of our joys, sorrows, fears, anger, worry, and gratitude.
Whether you are a cradle Catholic, just getting started in the Church, or somewhere in between, FaithInWV hopes to inspire and refresh your prayer life.

DEEPEN YOUR PRAYER LIFE

Family Devotions
This is to help you as a family to make the most of your time together. Whether at mealtime, in the car, or a random moment more than one of you are together, use this platform as an opportunity

Finding Peace
Is anyone among you suffering? He should pray. Is anyone in good spirits? He should sing praise.
James 5:13
You are not alone. God is

Catholic Tradition
The most familiar Catholic prayers across the generations. These are treasured prayers that are part of our daily routine.

Resources
A sample of resources to enrich your prayer life.

FOLLOWING THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 25 BAGS HELP NEIGHBORS IN NEED

HAPPY NEW YEAR! This is the time when many of us are making New Year's Resolutions. Years ago, Monsignor Dean Borgmeyer resolved to learn a new skill. "I sat next to a woman in a Greyhound station and was mesmerized at how easy crochet looked. In the time we waited for our bus, she had completed a scarf. I was 'hooked.' I bought a How-To book, yarn, and a hook and struggled to master a technique."

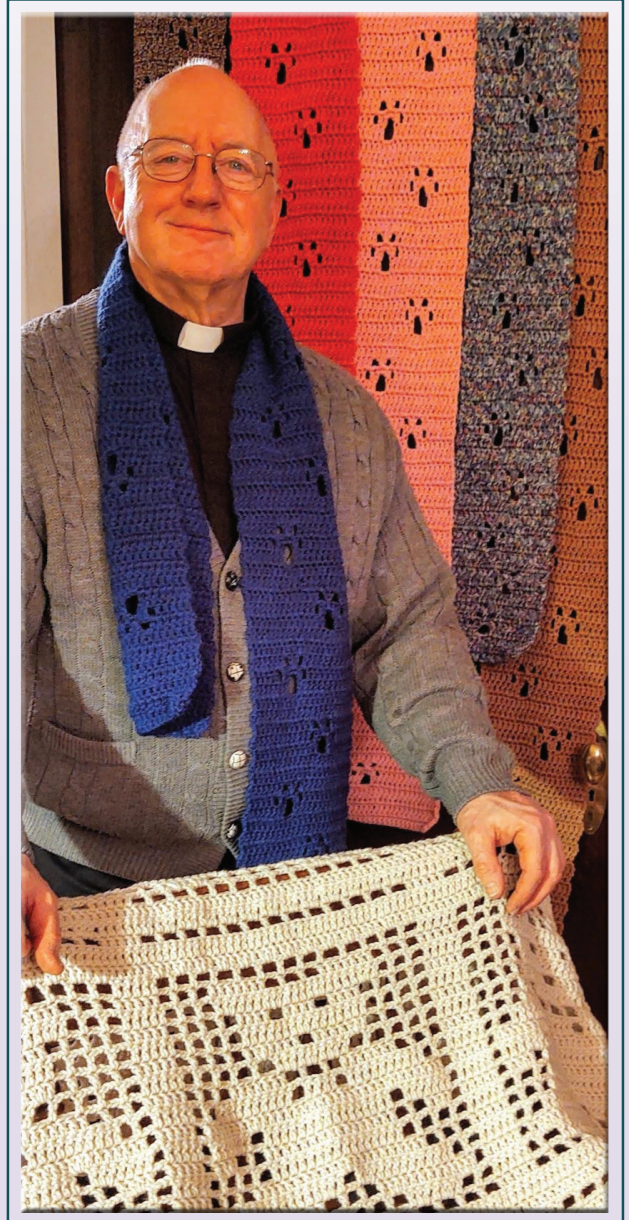
Father Dean committed to learning this craft, and now he uses his skill to bless his sisters and brothers in the community. He donates scarves and afghans to provide warmth to people experiencing homelessness in the Huntington area.

Now Father Dean says, "Give me a skein of yarn and an H-size hook, and I am a content man! I have made MANY afghans and scarves over the years. The bear pattern is my favorite... I hope the scarves will be of great comfort to those who will be receiving one."

Father Dean's creations are a beautiful complement to the Matthew 25 Tote Bags we distribute in the Catholic Charities West Virginia Western Region. In this 16-county region that includes Charleston and Huntington, volunteers and donors work together to provide personal care supplies to our neighbors experiencing homelessness. Because of these supplies, our community can also dream, make plans, and look forward to a fresh start.

People need these supplies year-round. To that end, we are searching for parishes and schools to partner with us in supporting this vital program. If you are interested in donating or volunteering for this ministry of love, please contact our Western Region Director, Bill Hagy: BHAGY@CCWVA.ORG.

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia, visit www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org.



#FAITHINWV.ORG

Do you know someone we should feature for our FaithInWV profile story?

Do you have a prayer or favorite Catholic enrichment websites to share?

Or just have questions for us here at FaithInWV?

Let us know by **CLICKING HERE** or email: JBIBEY@DWC.ORG.

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

First Reading ISAIAH 42:1-4, 6-7 (or Is 40:1-5, 9-11)

Thus says the LORD:

Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased, upon whom I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations, not crying out, not shouting, not making his voice heard in the street. a bruised reed he shall not break, and a smoldering wick he shall not quench, until he establishes justice on the earth; the coastlands will wait for his teaching. I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.

Responsorial PSALM 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10

R. (11b) The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Give to the LORD, you sons of God, give to the LORD glory and praise, Give to the LORD the glory due his name; adore the LORD in holy attire.

R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

The voice of the LORD is over the waters, the LORD, over vast waters. The voice of the LORD is mighty; the voice of the LORD is majestic.

R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

The God of glory thunders, and in his temple all say, "Glory!"
The LORD is enthroned above the flood; the LORD is enthroned as king forever.

R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Second Reading ACTS 10:34-38 (or Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7)

Peter proceeded to speak to those gathered in the house of Cornelius, saying: "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word that he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him."

Alleluia Cf. MARK 9:7 (or Lk 3:16)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The heavens were opened and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, listen to him.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel LUKE 3:15-16, 21-22

The people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For all of us, the Church, that we may realize the call we received in baptism and with the assistance of the Holy Spirit, help us bring light to all who dwell in, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That government leaders use their power to advance justice and promote peace, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all who prepare adults for initiation or parents whose children will be baptized, that they may be blessed in their ministry, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That we may all realize our baptismal calling to minister to others and that many may respond to that call through ordained and lay ministry, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,

and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

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



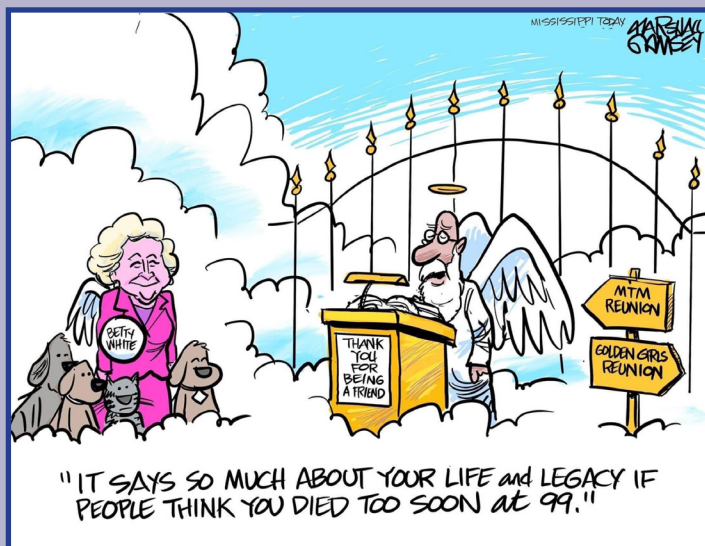
WV CATHOLIC RADIO BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOU

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

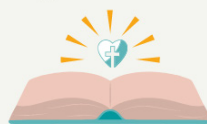
A LITTLE CATHOLIC HUMOR



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/)