



HAPPY  
INDEPENDENCE  
DAY

GOD BLESS AMERICA!

On this Independence Day let us pray to God that we never tire of being a nation that defends liberty and freedom, while having a strong faith in the Almighty to bless our land and increase our compassion to serve others.

We call to mind the saints and blessed of our great nation with this special litany:  
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, founder of the Catholic Schools in the US, pray for us.

St. John Neumann, founder of the first diocesan Catholic school system in US, pray for us.

St. Marianne Cope and St. Damien de Veuster, who cared for the lepers of Hawaii, pray for us.

St. Katharine Drexel, missionary to Native Americans and African Americans, pray for us.

Saint Junípero Serra, founder of the Spanish missions in California, pray for us.

St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Native American and consecrated virgin, pray for us.

St. Mother Théodore Guérin, missionary in Illinois and Indiana, pray for us.

Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, missionary to German immigrants in Wheeling, Pittsburgh, Steubenville, Cumberland, Detroit, and New Orleans, pray for us.

St. Isaac Jogues, North American missionary and martyr, pray for us.

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, missionary in the US and founder of six institutions for the poor, abandoned, uneducated and the sick, pray for us.

St. Rose Philippine Duchesne, known by Native Americans as the “Woman Who Prays Always,” pray for us.

Blessed Sister Miriam Teresa, author, poet, and prolific writer of Greater Perfection, pray for us.

Blessed Father Stanley Rother, missionary and martyr of Guatemala from Oklahoma, pray for us.

Blessed Father Solanus Casey, who taught us to thank God ahead of time for our needs, pray for us.

Through the intercession of Mary and for the sake of our children, grandchildren and all who come after us, let us always be “One Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

*Editor's note: To learn about the lives of these saints and blessed mentioned above [CLICK HERE](#).*

# VENERABLE ANTONIETTA “NENNOLINA” MEO, PRAY FOR US!

On July 3, we remember a young life mirrored the Christ's light and love. She is Venerable Antonietta “Nennolina” Meo, one of the youngest on the road to sainthood. At just five years old, she was diagnosed with bone cancer and had to have one of her legs amputated. Nurses said she embraced the pain as if it were not only a badge of courage. Adults were in awe of her will and determination.



She was fitted with a prosthetic leg, but her parents and medical staff knew each step would cause her great pain. She admirably said, “May each step I take be a little word of love.”

Cancer spread throughout her body, but that did not stop her desire to attend her Catholic school and catechism classes in Rome, where she would go “enthusiastically, because I learn so many beautiful things about You and Your saints,” as she wrote in a letter to Jesus. Little Nennolina had written more than 100 letters to Baby Jesus, the Blessed Mother Mary, God the Father, the Holy Spirit, St. Therese of the Child Jesus, and St. Agnes. In the last letter she was writing to Jesus she wrote about herself, “Your little girl sends you lots of kisses.”

In 1937, she died at the age of six. Her relics are in the Basilica Santa Croce, in Rome; the church she attended. Her letters have been published in a book called Lamp and Lily. The name came from a quote in one of her letter's where she wrote, “Dear Jesus, I want to be your lamp, the flame that signifies the love of the heart, and your lily that signifies the purity of the soul.”

## ST. MARIA GORETTI SWEET LITTLE MARTYR OF PURITY

Saint Maria Goretti, who died in 1902 at age 11, is the epitome of mercy and forgiveness, especially “in today's society, in which forgiveness is so rare, mercy is ever more important,” Pope Francis said.

As true followers of Jesus, Christians “must let go of resentments and forgive those who have wronged them so that they may experience God's forgiveness,” Pope Francis said.

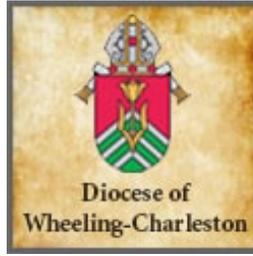
St. Maria Goretti was born in 1890, one of six children from a very poor Catholic farming family in Italy. As the family moved about to find work, they ended up in a small town about 40 miles outside of Rome so her father, Luigi Goretti, could work as a sharecropper. A year later, he died of malaria as a result of the mosquito infestation in the swampy region. St. Maria's mother, Assunta Goretti, had no choice but to take on her husband's work in the fields. Leaving young St. Maria to care for her younger siblings and do all of the household chores. The family shared a home, part of an old warehouse, with another poor family – Giovanni Serenelli, a widower, and his son Alessandro. St. Maria would do household work for the Serenellis as well.



When her mother was out working in the fields Alessandro Serenelli had tried to force himself on young St. Maria, but she was able to fight him off. He had threatened her, and her family's lives if she ever told. The young man of about 20 continued to harass her until July 5, 1902, when she was all alone in the kitchen, he viciously attacked her. It is recorded that she again fought him protesting that, “This is a sin! God does not want it,” and told Alessandro he “would go to hell!” He stabbed her a total of 14 times.

St. Maria was found miraculously still alive by her mother and the boy's father. They rushed her to the hospital.

She offered her pain up to Jesus, and in her last words before she died on July 6, 1902, she said, “I forgive Alessandro Serenelli... and I want him with me in heaven forever.”



Catholic Charities West Virginia and the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) has been working for social change across the United States for over 53 years. Created by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, CCHD works with a two-pronged approach. One arm educates Americans about the realities of poverty. The other arm confronts the unique challenges of those living in poverty by funding community and economic development projects. These organizations work in innovative ways to build self-reliance and power for those in poverty.

## In West Virginia for 2022, CCHD funded:

### HOH Share and Grow Ohio Valley

HOH Share empowers those who are most vulnerable, the homeless and poor, with a proactive approach to community organizing. Grow Ohio Valley sees sustainable agriculture as an economic driver for West Virginia.

In the past five years, organizations in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston have been granted more than \$455,000 to do the good work of CCHD.

The annual collection for CCHD is July 15 and 16, 2023. Your support for this collection makes a difference for West Virginians living in poverty and those across the United States.



CCHD is providing funding to HOH Share, Inc. to empower our most vulnerable with a proactive approach to community organizing.



CCHD is providing funding to Grow Ohio Valley who sees local food and sustainable agriculture as an economic driver for West Virginia

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME

**First Reading: 2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16a**

The Shunem woman honored the prophet Elisha as a holy man of God, providing him with accommodations and hospitality. In return the prophet promised her and her husband, who had been without children, a son.

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 89**

“For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.”

**Second Reading: Romans 6:3-4, 8-11**

When we are baptized, we are raised from the dead. Be dead to sin and live for God in Christ.

**Gospel: Matthew 10:37-42**

Whoever does not take up the cross is not worthy of Christ. So, take up your cross for God. Even in the face of persecution have faith in God for the reward is unimaginably great in heaven.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

[BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/070223.CFM](http://BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/070223.CFM)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we may always assist others in carrying their crosses, especially those who are no longer able to carry them by themselves, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our political leaders, that use their position and energy to bring justice and peace instead of selfish indulgences and division, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those who carry the cross of anxiety and depression, that they may find hope and consolation in Christ, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our parish community, that when we celebrate the Eucharist, we offer thanks to God for all the blessings we have received, let us pray to the Lord. . .

*Lord hear our prayer*

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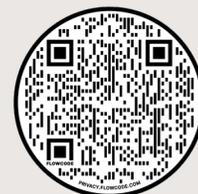
*Liturgy of the Hours*

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!

[EBREVIARY.COM](http://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](http://DWC.ORG).