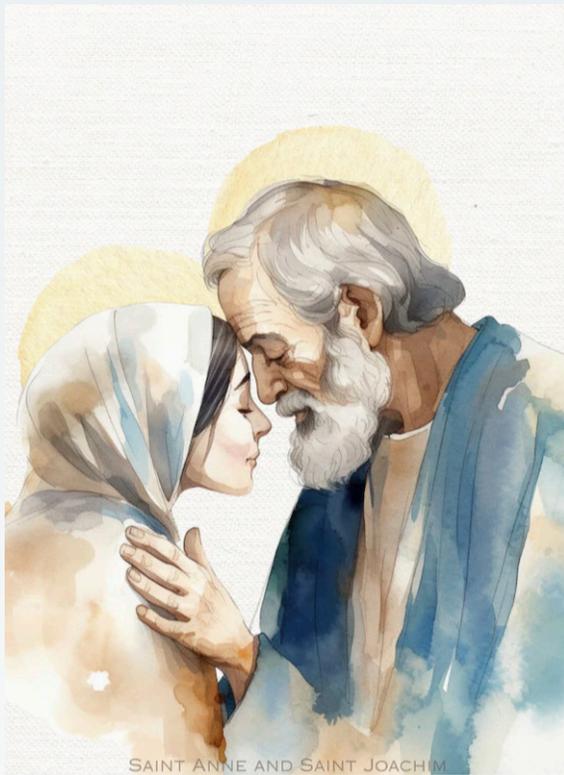




HAPPY FEAST OF THE GRANDPARENTS!



SAINT ANNE AND SAINT JOACHIM

On July 26, we celebrate the feast of the grandparents - Saints Joachim and Anne, parents of Our Blessed Mother Mary.

While don't have a wealth of facts on Jesus' maternal grandparents it is safe to say their faith, love, and trust in God must have been wonderfully strong and pure.

Saints Joachim and Anne are mentioned in writings that complement the bible - the Proto-Evangelium of James the Less. It includes the account of the life of Mary, beginning with Joachim and Anne longing for a child. Joachim went into the desert or wilderness to fast and pray for forty days and forty nights. Anne relentlessly prayed. One day when she was weeping, an angel appeared to her promising she would conceive. Joachim and Anne did not doubt God, and they vowed to consecrate their child to the Lord. When Mary was three the holy couple presented her to the priests at the temple. The priest at her reception said, "The Lord God has magnified your name for all generations; through you the Lord will reveal deliverance to the children of Israel in the last days."

Researching the Hebrew meaning of the name Joachim you will discover it means God prepares, raised by Yahweh, and God has

granted a son. In Hebrew, Anne means God has given grace.

We should have no doubt Joachim and Anne were overjoyed being the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We can only imagine the conversations and traditions Saint Anne and Joachim shared with her to make sweet Mary's heart so blessed, ultimately being chosen to be the Mother of the Christ child.

As grandparents they surely enjoyed passing down their steadfast faith, stories, songs, and religious customs to young Jesus.

Today we can and should be doing the same for our children and grandchildren in our homes - the domestic church. Pope Francis, Bishop Mark Brennan, and our parish priests continually emphasize the significance of evangelizing and our responsibility to nurture the love of the Holy Family, Trinity, biblical teachings, and the Eucharist. This duty and privilege are made easier with countless resources available online to enhance our faith life and help us evangelize all ages. The FaithInWV e-bulletin, our diocesan social media, and the FaithInWV website (FAITHINWV.ORG) are resources to inspire and refresh your relationship with God.

Make an effort to grow in faith outside the Mass with simple steps like asking your pastor, parish school's religious education coordinator, the parish DRE (Director of Religious Education), or campus minister to share their favorite Catholic websites, videos, and books.

Saints Joachim and Mary, pray for us.

CELEBRATE THE PATRON SAINTS OF SIBLINGS

Feast of Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus is celebrated July 29. This is only the third year the Church has honored the siblings on the liturgical calendar.

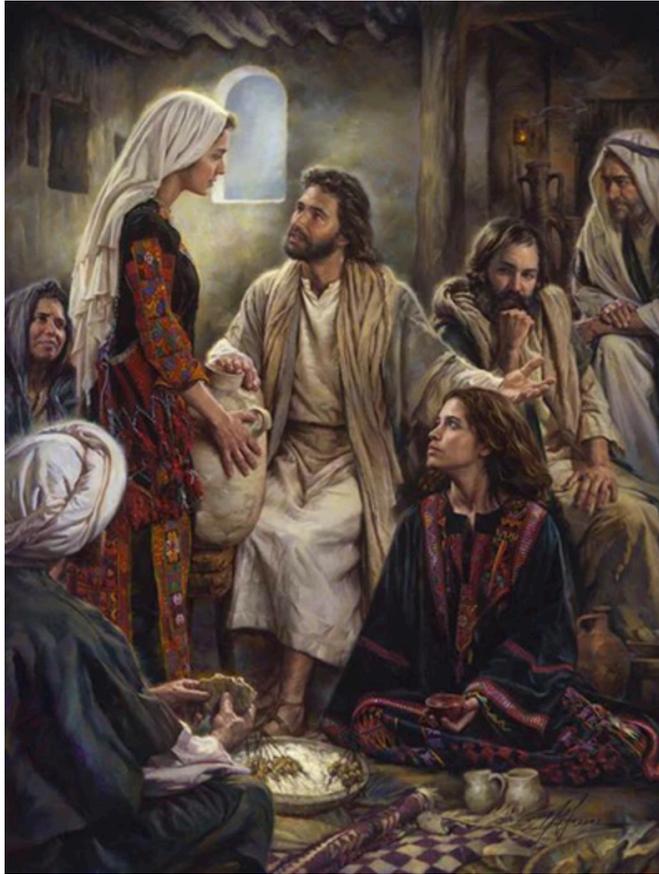
In the 2021 decree combining the veneration of the three siblings and friends of Christ, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments noted, “In the household of Bethany, the Lord Jesus experienced the family spirit and friendship of Martha, Mary and Lazarus, and for this reason the Gospel of John states that he loved them. Martha generously offered him hospitality, Mary listened attentively to his words, and Lazarus promptly emerged from the tomb at the command of the one who humiliated death.”

The memorial of St. Martha was already included on the General Roman Calendar, but St. Lazarus and St. Mary had been left out for what can be described as theological technicalities – specifically because the identity of Martha’s sister Mary. The decree explained that these uncertainties “have been resolved in recent studies and times,” and Martha’s sister should be distinguished as Mary of Bethany.

The Gospels describe the trio, their relationship with Jesus, and thus, great lessons He glorified through them. Most notably we know Luke’s (chapter 10) that describes Christ’s visit to their home. Once he arrived Mary stopped what she was doing to sit and listen to Jesus. Martha on the other hand worked tirelessly, continuing to tidy up the house and prepare the food and drinks for their honored guest, as was customary of the Middle East culture. Martha considered this a duty with a sign of great love and respect for her guest. However, she became annoyed at her sister for ignoring her share of

the responsibilities.

Jesus noticed Martha is so distracted and tells her to stop her work and listen to Him. This story is a reminder of how “busy” we can all get. Like Martha, God wants us to stop our routines and simply make time for Him.



In John (11:1-44) their love for Jesus and total faith is illustrated for us again. John writes of the time when the family sent word to Him that Lazarus was very ill. After being in the tomb for four days, Martha heard Christ was finally coming so she set out to meet up with him. She was upset saying, “If you had been here, brother would not have died.” She quickly added. “[But] even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you.”

Once in the village Mary too proclaimed “if you had been here my brother would not have died.” She fell to his feet crying with all the Jews

with her – “And Jesus wept (John 11:35).”

Then going to the tomb and having it opened called, “Lazarus, come out!” Lazarus wrapped in burial clothes came to life and walked out of the tomb.

Let us honor them for their steadfast faith. May we all hope to live our lives with such attentiveness, reverence, and genuine love of Christ, making time for him without hesitation. Together they are the patron saints of siblings.

Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, pray for us!

Editor’s note: The painting accompanying this article is by contemporary American artist Nathan Greene. It and other powerful Christian images illustrating God’s love for us are available at WWW.NATHANGREENESTUDIO.COM

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

God permits repentance for our sins. He is merciful and gives hope.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 86

“Lord, you are good and forgiving.”

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-27

The Spirit comes to our aid and intercedes for us.

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-43

Explaining the parable of the weeds in the field Christ said to his disciples, “He who sows good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom.

The weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil.” Heed the Word of God, nurture your faith, and avoid all evil for the evildoers will be condemned to hell.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/072323.CFM

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that the Eucharist – the True Body and Blood of Christ – strengthens us to be a loving nurturing safe haven for all seeking eternal happiness, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That leaders in government will respect life at all stages, especially those whose voices cannot be heard, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For grandparents and the elderly, that their hearts be blessed for sharing the love of their faith and honoring the sacred traditions of Christ’s Church, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all of us, that we honor the wisdom and dignity of our elders by showing them compassion and being mindful to include them in our lives and prayers, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer



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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.