

# Faith IN WV

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

JULY 5, 2020



## GOD BLESS AMERICA ~ LET SONG BE HEARTFELT PRAYER

Many of us who attended Catholic school or participated in our parish choirs often heard from our parents and teachers, “Singing songs at church are like praying twice.”

Whether singing during Mass or outside of Mass these songs written to lift our spirits, share our joy, remind us of humility, and praise the Lord can and should be read as sincere prayers.

This is true of the song God Bless America. While not a traditional Catholic hymn it is often sung in our parishes before or after Mass in honor of Independence Day.



The song was written in 1918 by a young Jewish immigrant, Irving Berlin. When he wrote it, he was serving in the US Army. He was quoted as saying “It is not a patriotic song, but an expression of gratitude for what this country has done for its citizens.”

Berlin came to America with his parents and siblings at the age of five after an anti-Jewish group attacked his home in Russia. The family made New York’s Lower East Side their home. He was born Israel Baline in 1888 but changed his name legally in 1911 to Irving Berlin.

The song wasn’t released until 1938, when tensions in Europe began because of Adolf Hitler. He did make a few edits to his

original wording before releasing it as follows:

*God bless America, land that I love  
Stand beside her and guide her  
Through the night with the light from above  
From the mountains to the prairies  
To the oceans white with foam  
God bless America, my home sweet home  
God bless America, land that I love  
Stand beside her and guide her  
Through the night with the light from above  
From the mountains to the prairies  
To the oceans white with foam  
God bless America, my home sweet home  
From the mountains to the prairies  
To the oceans white with foam  
God bless America, my home sweet home  
God bless America, my home sweet home*

A most beautiful rendition of the song, viewed more than 3.2 million times and sung by American Christian singer Sandi Patty with lyrics, can be enjoyed at: [HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/oB2\\_j7c0b70](https://youtu.be/oB2_j7c0b70).

## OUR WORLD NEEDS THE LESSON OF ST. MARIA GORETTI

What the world needs now can be found in the story of St. Maria Goretti.

The young saint who died in 1902 at age 11 is the epidemic of mercy and forgiveness.

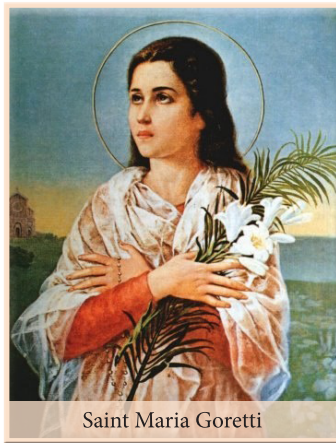
“In today’s society, in which forgiveness is so rare, mercy is ever more important,” Pope Francis said.

We all know it is so hard to forgive and not hold a grudge against someone who hurt us or someone or something we love. Sensationalism in our society makes it so easy to be spiteful, scrutinize, point the finger, and blame others. So many use social media to spread negativity and ugliness yet call themselves Christian. Pretty sure Christ would not click “Like”.

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.

As we celebrate St. Maria Goretti’s feast day on July 6th let us be ever mindful of her example.

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



Saint Maria Goretti

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.

It is important to note that St. Maria never complained of her responsibilities. Some historians note that she actually was encouraging to her mother reassuring her that as long as they had faith in God, Jesus would take care of them.

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 if she ever told. The young man of about 20 continued to sexually harass her until July 5, 1902, when she was all alone in the kitchen, he 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!”

This time she could not fight him off, he stabbed her a total of 14 times. Her body so petite the sharp object went clear through her each time.

St. Maria was found by Giovanni Serenelli and Assunta Goretti, miraculously still alive in a pool of her own blood. They rushed her to the hospital, she told her mother and police that it was Alessandro who committed this heinous crime.

At the hospital, she offered her pain up to Jesus. 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.”

The story doesn’t end there. God’s plan had many more lessons for us.

Six years after the attack, St. Maria appeared to Alessandro in a dream. He said she presented him with 14 white lilies – representing forgiveness – one for each time he stabbed her.

This was the beginning of the young man’s miraculous conversion. According to records, he called for a bishop and confessed his crime. When he was released from

prison, he traveled right to the home of Assunta Goretti to publicly ask for forgiveness. She like her daughter did. It was Christmas Eve. The two actually attended Mass together.

Afterwards Alessandro Serenelli joined a Franciscan monastery and served there as a lay brother.



Alessandro praying before an image of the girl he attacked

In 1935, when the cause for St. Maria’s canonization was opened, it was Alessandro, who testified of her miraculous intercession and sanctity.

She was canonized in 1950 with her mother and her murderer in attendance. In his homily Pope Pius XII declared Maria Goretti, “the sweet little martyr of purity.”



Assunta Goretti and Alessandro Serenelli

There is so much more to this story to inspire us all to be more merciful, forgiving, and stronger in our faith. Let us stay focused on earning Christ’s forgiveness, so we too may be with St. Maria Goretti in heaven.

**St. Maria Goretti, pray for us!**



Saint Maria Goretti 1902



## CORPUS CHRISTI'S PRINCIPAL DICK TAYLOR RETIRES AFTER 44 YEARS

By: Colleen Rowan



The 44 years he spent at Corpus Christi School in Wheeling hold a special place in Dick Taylor, Jr.'s heart. "It's been my vocation," he said the day before his retirement officially began. "It's been my life."

Twenty-two of those years at the school were in the role of principal.

"As an alumnus of Corpus Christi, I have been very fortunate to know Mr. Taylor as a teacher, co-worker, boss,

and friend," said Shannon Wall, the new principal of the school. "His love for his Crusaders is undeniable and it is impossible to count the number of lives he has touched throughout his 44 years. The halls of Corpus Christi will not be the same without him, but I am beyond excited for him to begin a new chapter in his life. There is no doubt that he deserves this time to relax and enjoy making memories with his family. I wish him nothing but happiness in his retirement and look forward to working with him as I take on my new role as principal."

See the full story in the July 3 issue of The Catholic Spirit.

For more news and information from The Catholic Spirit visit [THECATHOLICSPIRITWV.ORG](http://THECATHOLICSPIRITWV.ORG) or follow on Facebook at [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/THECATHOLICSPIRITWV](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/THECATHOLICSPIRITWV)

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By joining the e-mail list, you will receive an e-mail on each issue date of The Catholic Spirit with a link to the full issue.

The Catholic Spirit will now be available under "Downloadable Spirit" at

[THECATHOLICSPIRITWV.ORG](http://THECATHOLICSPIRITWV.ORG).

## FR. JUSTIN GOLNA ENTERS THE PRIESTHOOD



It is our greatest blessing and honor to announce and introduce FATHER JUSTIN GOLNA! We celebrated his ordination on June 27th. Let us continue to pray for him. Bishop Mark Brennan's homily at Father Golna's ordination was full of encouragement for the new priest and the faithful. "God says have no fear, because I am with you. Preach charity and justice. Show the world what unity of faith and life look like. Justin, Jesus loves you, shepherd his people. He is your friend. Rely on his friendship." GOD BLESS FR. GOLNA! Let heaven and earth rejoice this day and everyday he serves you, Lord!

## MASS READINGS FOR THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### First Reading ZECHARIAH 9:9-10

Thus says the LORD:

Rejoice heartily, O daughter Zion, shout for joy, O daughter Jerusalem! See, your king shall come to you; a just savior is he, meek, and riding on an ass, on a colt, the foal of an ass. He shall banish the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem; the warrior's bow shall be banished, and he shall proclaim peace to the nations. His dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

### Responsorial PSALM 145:1-2, 8-11, 13-14

**R.** (cf. 1) **I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God. or Alleluia.**

I will extol you, O my God and King, and I will bless your name forever and ever. Every day will I bless you, and I will praise your name forever and ever.

**R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God. or Alleluia.**

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness. The LORD is good to all and compassionate toward all his works.

**R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God. or Alleluia.**

Let all your works give you thanks, O LORD, and let your faithful ones bless you. Let them discourse of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might.

**R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God. or Alleluia.**

The LORD is faithful in all his words and holy in all his works. The LORD lifts up all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

**R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God. or Alleluia.**

### Second Reading ROMANS 8:9, 11-13

Brothers and sisters:

You are not in the flesh; on the contrary, you are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit that dwells in you. Consequently, brothers and sisters, we are not debtors to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

### Alleluia CF. MATTHEW 11:25

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

### Gospel MATTHEW 11:25-30

At that time Jesus exclaimed:

“I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to little ones. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.” “Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

That the Church around the world, shepherds the flock with compassion and a humble heart, welcoming to all, we pray . . .

That those in positions of authority in our great nation exercise their responsibility with wisdom and empathy, respecting the life and dignity of all people, we pray . . .

That today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance, we pray . . .

That we continue to love one another as Christ has loved us, we pray . . .

*Lord hear our prayer*






**Enroll Today**

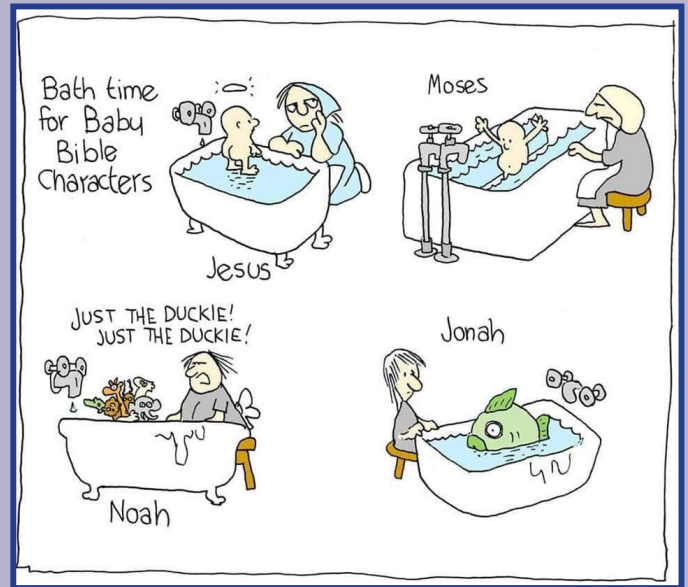
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## A LITTLE CATHOLIC HUMOR



*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](http://EBREVIARY.COM) [LITURGY OF THE HOURS](#)



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St. Marys - Parkersburg	FM	105.3
Star City -Morgantown	FM	89.7
Summersville	FM	91.3
Wheeling - Martins Ferry, OH	FM	90.7

You can find LoL Radio online at [LoLRadio.org](http://LoLRadio.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](http://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/)