Faith IN WV
JUNE 14, 2026
DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

Recognize Your Gifts and The Greatest Giver

Jesus' final words in today's Gospel underscore our mission: "Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give" (Matthew 10:8).

Matthew's Gospel summarizes Christ's instructions for the Twelve Apostles "Simon called Peter, Andrew; James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James, the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddeus; Simon from Cana, and Judas Iscariot who betrayed him."

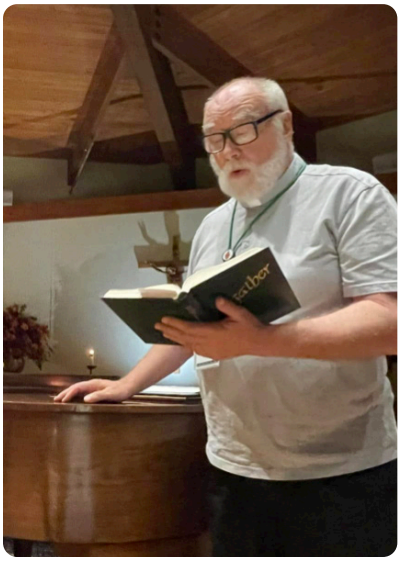
We are to do the same. Trust God. Go out and share Christ to all people. Be a servant leader. Use your gifts, talents, and blessings to do good in the world.

Recognize that those gifts, talents, and blessings are in fact from God, unearned and freely given.

St. Teresa of Calcutta explained Christ's message perfectly:

"You are God's co-worker. . ..
The talents God has given you
are not yours.
They have been given
to you for your use,
for the glory of God."

Recognize that every spiritual grace, talent, and material blessing we possess comes from God. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) teaches us that because we have received His grace freely, we share time, love, and resources with others generously and without expecting repayment.



SIX DIOCESAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL EIGHTH GRADERS WIN THE GOLDEN HORSESHOE AWARD

By: Fr. Bill Mathney

The Golden Horseshoe exam is annually administered to all West Virginia eighth graders. This test determines their knowledge of West Virginia history, geography, culture, government, and personalities. The name "Golden Horseshoe" refers to the prize that the governor of territorial Virginia gave his explorers who travelled across the Blue Ridge Mountains in 1716 to study the unknown western territory, which became the State of West Virginia in 1863. The Golden Horseshoe test, first administered in 1931, is the oldest of its kind in the United States. The top scoring eighth graders in each county earn the Golden Horseshoe medal. This year six eighth grade students from diocesan Catholic schools earned the coveted prize. They received their award at a ceremony at the West Virginia Cultural Center in Charleston on June 9, 2026. The six winners are:

Valentina DiBacco (Weirton Madonna H.S), president of the Madonna Junior High Student Council who participates in athletics and drama. Her West Virginia Studies teacher was Patrick McGeehan.

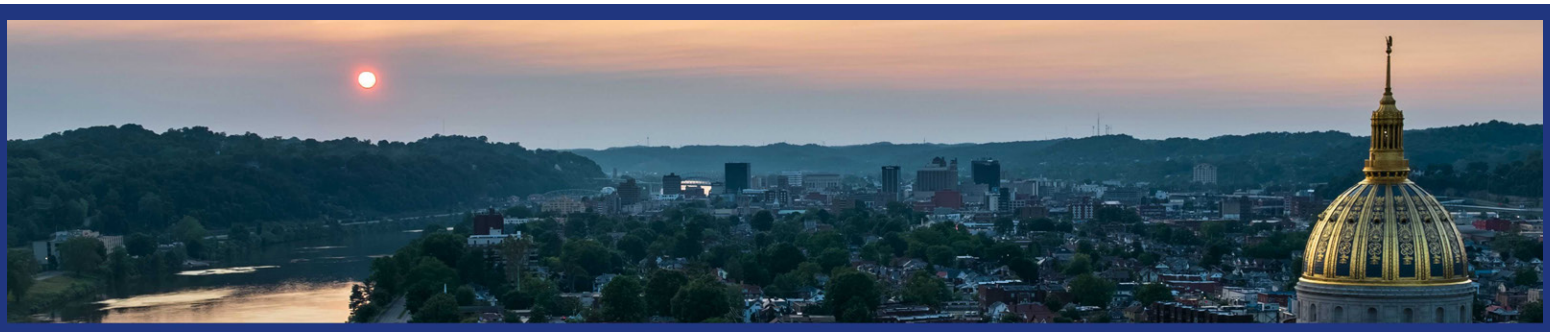
Liliana Gilot (Saint Michael School, Wheeling), class salutatorian and a member of the Wheeling Central Junior High swim team. Her teacher was Brian Dubil.

Liam Harris (Charleston Catholic High School), member of the middle school soccer and tennis teams, West Virginia History Bowl, and a winner of the Young Writers' Contest in Goldenseal magazine. His teacher was Drew Cable.

Lillian Magruder (Saint Francis Central School, Morgantown), class valedictorian, trumpeter in the middle school band, West Virginia History Bowl, and Aquinas Medal winner. Her teacher was Daniel Berry.

Lyla Santorine (Saint Michael School, Wheeling), plays on the school volleyball team, serves on the Student Council, and participates in speech/debate. Her teacher was Brian Dubil.

Audrey Westfall (Saint Patrick School, Weston), "A" Honor Roll, 2nd place in the Regional Social Studies Fair, and first place in the VFW Lewis County Essay Contest. Her teacher was Sydney Bush.



Congratulations Golden Horseshoe Winners!

Six Eighth Graders from Five Catholic Schools Earn Top WV History Honors

Clay in His Hands

Blessed Sr. Aguchita, Pray for Us!

"To love when we are loved
(and) do good when everyone around us
treats us the same way
is no great charity,
it is a pleasant courtesy;
but to love and do good
when we are slandered,
precisely to those
who slander us,
this is charity.
"(Similarly)to be cheerful and courteous
when our heart beats regularly,
when health makes everything easy
and helps the will to act well
is no merit,
but an expansion of the excess
of strength and joy
that we carry within us;
to appear kind, smiling,
friendly, and attentive
to the wishes of others
when our body
is consumed with sickness,
making us unable to think,
and in severe pain,
this is virtue. . .
worth more than life."

- Blessed Sr. Maria Agustina de Jesus Rivas Lopez, lovingly known as "Blessed Aguchita."

She was born on June 13, 1920, and died on Sept. 27, 1990, martyred at the age of 70 in Peru by the Sendero Luminoso (guerrilla terrorists).

A sister of Our Lady of the Good Shepherd, she was serving in the jungle helping women and young families – servant leadership Christ called us all to do just as the Gospel reading for Sunday June 14th tells us.

A year before she was killed, she attended a retreat on non-violence. She was proud of the success she was making – women and children learning how to care for and live off the land, also cultivating a great sense of pride, purpose, and love of God, noted Sr. Martha Gomez, the Delegate for Consecrated Life in Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. Sister Martha belongs to the same community as Blessed Aguchita.

Well aware of her age, Sr. Aguchita wrote to her superior, "I am about to make gigantic strides. It seems these will be the last days of my life. The time is flying, and I will have to use it well; otherwise, I would present myself in eternity with empty hands. The Lord is too delicate. Let me tell you about one day in meditation when I remembered about the great

'dream' I had when I discovered my vocation to be a religious sister: it was to work in the jungle. Years have passed, and I say to myself that the Lord has brought me here to give me pleasure in my old age, before I die – in short, I am clay in his hands."

On Sept. 27, 1990, the guerrilla group attacked her village. They despised her for doing charitable work, believing it was work was to humiliate the people and government of the La Florida territory. She begged them to take only her life and spare the others. They scoffed. A teenager shot her as she was on her knees praying for her villagers' lives and mercy for the executioners.

Three decades later, on that same ground, she was beatified for her heroic virtue and love of Christ, His Church, and His mission to love and serve all people.

Vocations Office Announces Seminarians' Summer Assignments

Our seminarians have finished another year of studies on their discernment and formation journey towards to the priesthood.

Now they are beginning their summer assignments.

Bless their hearts and minds as they enter into these weeks of service learning.

Please, keep them all close in prayer and continue to pray for increased vocations for the Mountain State.

Donvito Cortese
Institute for Priestly Formation
(Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska)

Chris Nelson

Dominick Beckman

Sebastian Lasko

Immersion with the Poor Program
(Louisa, KY)

Thomas Lough

Andrew Dean

St. James the Greater Parish
(Charles Town, WV)

Joseph Derico
St. Joseph's Parish
(Huntington, WV)

Timothy Kawash
St. Margaret Mary Parish
(Parkersburg, WV)

Dcn. Michael Aiello
St. Michael's Parish
(Wheeling, WV)

Bryan Tedeschi
Basilica of the Co-Cathedral
(Charleston, WV)

Nathan Schmidt
St. Frances De Sales Parish
(Beckley, WV)

Michael Tupta
St. Joseph's Parish
(Martinsburg, WV)

St. Germaine is how 19th Century French artist William-Adolphe Bougereau interpreted her inner beauty, despite the deformities that her stepmother could not look past.

The Astounding Story of St. Germaine

She had a wicked stepmother. Her room was in the barn with the sheep she tended. She was ridiculed, made fun of, and had boiling water poured on her as a form of undo punishment.

There was no Prince Charming, nor a delightful fairy godmother with a magic wand. But there was a truly awesome grace about her. She had within her the Light of Christ that could not be extinguished.

Her story is true, not a fairytale.

St. Germaine Cousin, pray for us. We remember her on her feast day, June 15.

Saint Germaine was phenomenal. Her heroic virtue, merciful heart, and fortitude was astounding. Despite all the living hell she endured as a young girl until she died at the age of 22, St. Germaine Cousin remained devoted to God and taking care of His creation – the animals on her farm, the people she would come across – and even prayed for mercy to be shown to her stepmother and father.

Germaine was born in 1579 to parents Laurent and Marie (Laroche) Cousin. Marie died when Germaine was still an infant. Unthinkably, Germaine would never be wrapped in the unconditional love of a parent again.

It was evident at birth that Germaine had a deformed right hand, later learning her limb was paralyzed and the child was overall poor health.

Laurent was an unsuitable father for her. He made ample time to work as a farm hand and seek a new wife but was bitter about caring for his daughter. He remarried a woman named Hortense. She outwardly didn't tolerate Germaine even cold heartedly making the child fend for herself, eating only scraps left over from them and the children they would have. When just old enough to lead a flock of sheep, Germaine was forced out of the house and made to sleep in the barn.

Tending to the sheep, Germaine could see the Catholic Church in the village - Pibrac, France. Trusting God would protect her sheep from harm, she'd leave them to go to Mass every day. She was captivated learning about Jesus, the Virgin Mary, the Eucharist, and Holy Scripture.

continued...

She couldn't read or write, but immersed herself in her faith, prayer, and talking to God and Mary. She even made a rosary knotting string for each decade.

She treated others with the most baffling kindness and genuine grace. Villagers whom Hortense had convinced to be disgusted by the girl soon were humbled by the child's charity, devotion, and joy. It was evident she loved God the Almighty Father and the Blessed Mother beyond all measure.

Children from the village would even visit her in the fields to listen to her share stories of Jesus.

Records note that villagers witnessed a flooded river in her village part for St. Germaine to cross so she wouldn't be late for Mass. Because of this and many more miraculous events the townspeople looked upon her as extraordinary in God's sight, which only angered her stepmother even more.

One day she went off to town to share her bread for the day with the poor. Her stepmother had followed her. Making it to the town square, the nasty stepmother accused the Germaine of stealing food and made her in front of all around open her apron to reveal the bread. However, when she did it wasn't bread that was inside the apron it was beautiful flowers that would not have been in bloom at that time of year.

The child handed her stepmother one of the prettiest blooms saying, "Please accept this flower, Mother. God sends it to you in sign of His forgiveness."

Saint Germaine died in 1601, at the age of 22 in the barn she slept.

On the night she died two monks said they saw the night sky above the barn light up with countless stars and angles descending.

She was buried in her childhood parish in Pibrac opposite the pulpit. When accidentally exhumed in 1644, during a renovation, her body was found incorrupt.

In 1793, during the French Revolution, the casket was desecrated by a man named Toulza and three others who anti-Catholic officials sent to destroy any relics to undermine the Church. The men dug a hole in the sacristy of the church and threw in her body that had remained incorrupt for 182 years. They threw lime and water on the precious relics. After the French Revolution, her body was found mostly intact. It is now enshrined in wax in an ornate reliquary to venerate at the Church of Mary Magdalene and additional relics are in nearby the Basilica of St. Germaine in Pibrac.

Documents note more than 400 miracles and extraordinary graces have been received through Saint Germaine.

Painting by Raoul du Fraud de Pibrac, c. 1910.

Reclaiming the Desert Fathers

Honor St. Romuald on June 19

When St. Romuald was a young boy in Italy his father made him watch as he killed a relative in a duel. Romuald was so disturbed by the event he ran away ending up at a monastery. Not only did he seek penances to make reparation for the murder, but he also found a path to learn more about Christ's love, mercy, and hope. Young Romuald fell totally in love with Christ, the Word of God, the Eucharist, and the prayer life of the Church often in extreme reverent solitude.

This was during a time of religious persecution and division. It became a time when St. Romuald would help change that, bringing back from early Christian life "desert Fathers" – hermits who dedicated their life to turn off the distractions of the world in order to enter devout prayer and contemplation.

Saint Romuald spent 30 years of his life in the latter half of the tenth century, as a missionary around Italy founding hermitages and monasteries including the Camaldoli Monastery in Tuscany (where the Camaldolese Benedictine Order was founded).

Part of his rule of life for his monasteries included his guidance to his monks and hermits,

"Sit in your cell as in paradise. Put the whole world behind you and forget it. Watch your thoughts like a good fisherman watching for fish. The path you must follow is in the psalms—never leave it. take every opportunity you can to sing the Psalms in your heart and to understand them with your mind. And if your mind wanders as you read, do not give up; hurry back and apply your mind to the words once more. Realize above all that you are in God's presence and stand there with the attitude of one who stands before the emperor. Empty yourself completely and sit waiting, content with the grace of God, like the chick who tastes nothing and eats nothing, but what his mother brings him."

It is reported that St. Romuald's father sought the mercy of God and repented for his terrible sins and entered a monastery.

As we reflect on the life of St. Romuald and the Church's call for hermits and monks, stop and give yourself the gift of silence, quiet prayer, and stillness.

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

CURSILLO

& Department of Faith Formation

invites you to

CURSILLO WEEKENDS

POSTPONED

MEN'S: **DATE TBD**

WOMEN'S: **DATE TBD**

de colores

John XXIII Pastoral Center

100 Hodges Rd, Charleston, WV 25314

FOR MORE INFORMATION

CONTACT:

CURSILLO@DWC.ORG

Save the Date

P.A.C.E.

Parish Administration & Collaborative Education

OCTOBER | 21-22 | 2026

ST. JOHN XXIII PASTORAL CENTER

CHARLESTON, WV

Juneteenth
Remembering Freedom's Delayed Arrival
Justice, Liberation, & Human Dignity

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he anointed bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, and recover sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free." — Luke 4:18

West Virginia has recognized Juneteenth since 2021, after the unanimous passage in the United States Senate and subsequent passage in the House, and President Biden's signing the bill making Juneteenth a federal holiday.

Honoring Juneteenth is honoring justice and human dignity.

Many states, including Texas, have long recognized Juneteenth, but only some observed it as an official holiday.

The 2021 declaration of the national holiday came without many of us understanding or taking the time to learn about the purpose of the holiday.

Juneteenth celebrates the anniversary of the end of slavery in the US and honors those who continue to advocate for dismantling racism.

While it was on Jan. 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which stated that all persons held as slaves in rebellious states shall be set free,

slavery continued in Texas for another two years!

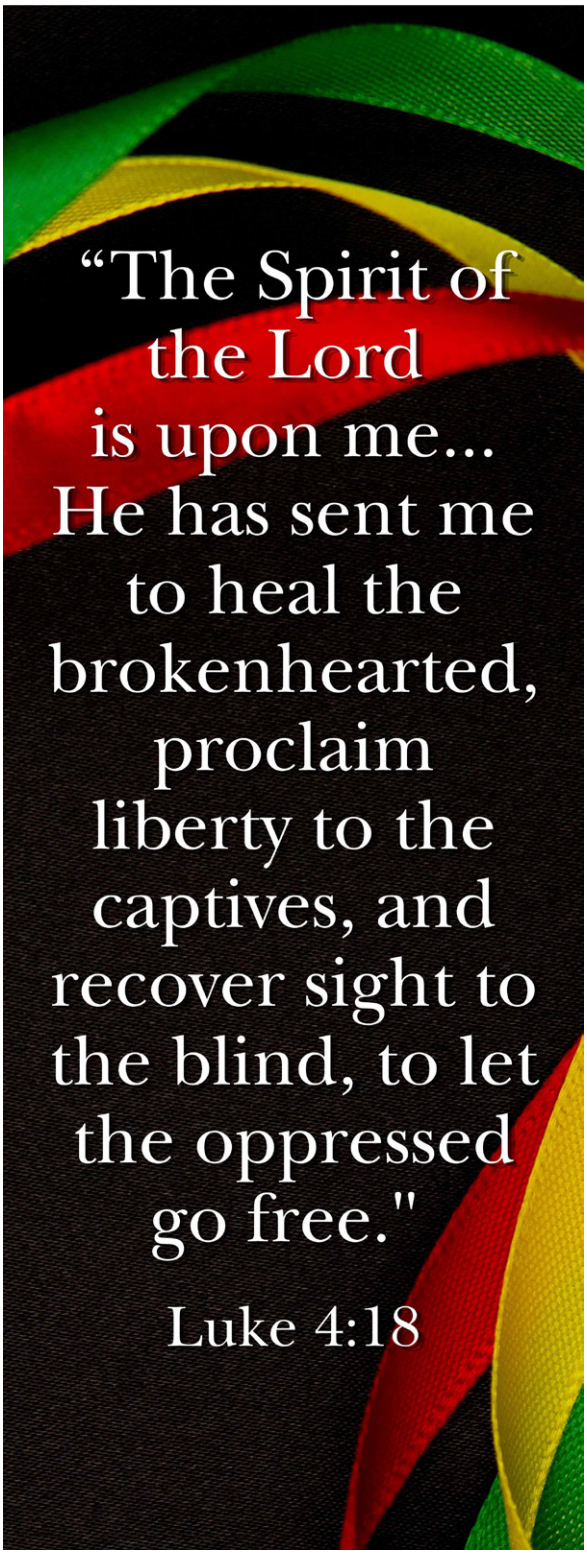
It wasn't until Federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, in 1865, to enforce that all enslaved people be set free.

According to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, large celebrations on June 19 began in 1866 and continued regularly into the early 20th century. African Americans treated this day like the Fourth of July, and the celebrations contained similar events. In the early days, Juneteenth celebrations included a prayer service, speakers with inspirational messages, reading of the Emancipation Proclamation, stories from former slaves, food, games, rodeos, and dances.

The celebration of June 19 as Emancipation Day spread from Texas to the neighboring states of Louisiana, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. It also became recognized in Alabama, Florida, and California as African American Texans migrated.

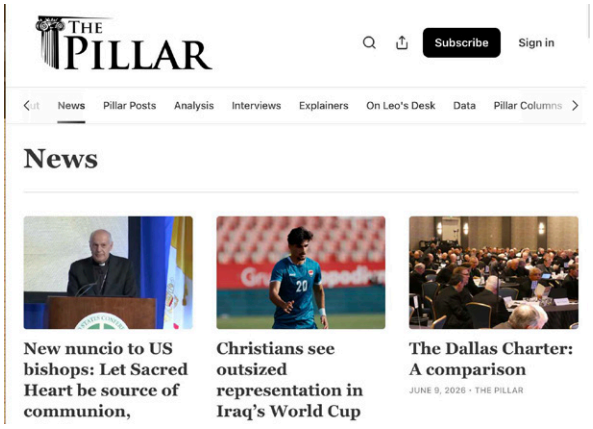
Texas House Bill 1016 passed in the 66th Legislature, Regular Session, declared June 19, "Emancipation Day in Texas," a legal state holiday effective starting in 1980.

The original resolution passed in WV states, "Juneteenth symbolizes freedom, celebrates the abolishment of slavery, and reminds all Americans of the significant contributions of African Americans to our society."



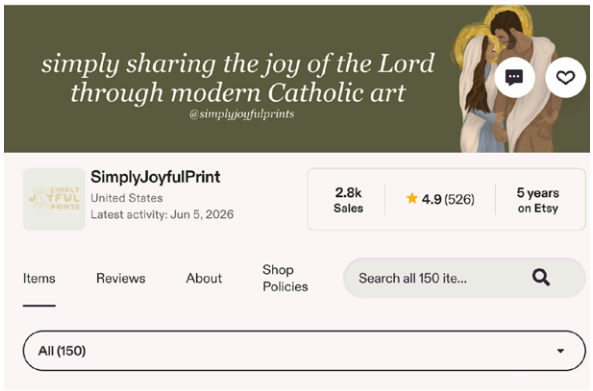
BEYOND SUNDAY

Sunday Mass can't be our only touchpoint with God. BEYOND SUNDAY is a guide to living the Catholic faith more fully each day through Catholic media, podcasts, art, gifts, and trusted voices from the Church to help nourish our own prayer, reflection, and mission.



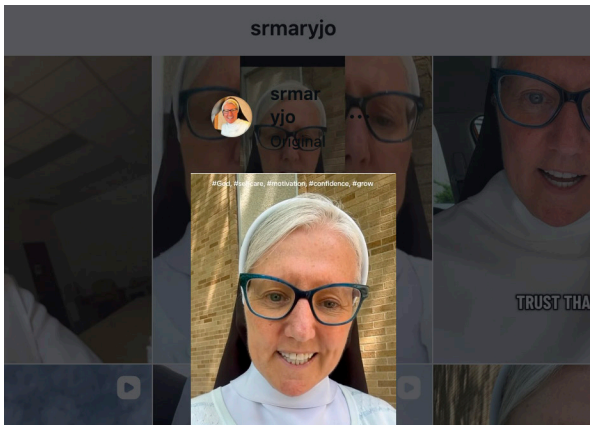
News - The Pillar – "We believe that serious Catholic journalism is a service to Christ and the Church - and that journalism can be done in a uniquely Catholic way, which takes the doctrine of the Catholic Church to be true, which treats people with respect, and which looks for the truth above all else, without getting bogged down in partisan agendas or mudslinging."

WWW.PILLARCATHOLIC.COM/T/NEWS



Home Accents – Simply Joyful Print – Owners Derrick and Mary Faucheux (Mary is the artist too) have a simple goal – simply share the joy of the Lord! The Catholic couple sells prints, digital downloads, prayer cards, stickers, stationary, and Carlo Cards (trading cards – check them out).

WWW.ETSY.COM/SHOP/SIMPLYJOYFULPRINT



Social Media – Sr. Mary Jo on Instagram – Sister Mary Jo Sobieck, OP, popular for her "Good Morning, Sunshine. . . today's pitch" greeting, has nearly 100,000 followers on Instagram @srmaryjo. She's a spunky Dominican out of Springfield, Illinois, giving tidbits and food for thought. Oh, and search her – you'll soon find out why she says, "today's pitch". Sister's got an arm and a sense of humor!

WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/SRMARYJO

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Exodus 19:2-6a

God makes the Israelites a holy nation – "dearer to me than all other people," God told Moses.

Responsorial: Psalm 100

"We are his people: the sheep of his flock."

Second Reading: Romans 5:6-11

Christ died for our sins and by his blood we are saved from wrath.

Gospel: Matthew 9:36-10:8

Jesus summoned the Twelve and sent them out, for Christ was set to bring back "the lost sheep."

CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we as a family take seriously our call from Christ to share the Good News by our words and actions, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our national and local leaders, that they use their positions of power to serve those with the least amount of power, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That summer opens our eyes to opportunities to enliven and refresh our mind, body, and spirit, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That those among us who are sick in mind or body may know the healing presence of Christ through our outreach, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

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
Keyser - coming soon	FM	98.9
Montgomery - Beckley	FM	89.7
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	97.9

~Listen on LoL Stream at WWW.RDO.TO/WLOL~

Radio Luz de Vida streaming at www.rdo.to/WLOL2

ENROLL TODAY

WV Catholic Schools

Empowered by knowledge. Transformed by faith.

Register today

wvcatholicschools.org

Liturgy of the Hours

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour! 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.