



CELEBRATING FATHERS AND THE MEN WHO MENTOR AND GUIDE US

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

Today we honor our fathers – the young ones new to this exciting, unscripted vocation; the veterans who've weathered countless sleepless nights; and even the fatherless who mentor and guide so willingly by their example with great compassion.

These men are not only our fathers, but also our grandfathers, uncles, neighbors, teachers, coaches, and priests. Whether living or deceased we remember them today for their tireless dedication, love, and especially for our faith formation.

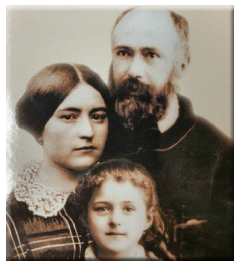
Just as the greatest saint of them all – St. Joseph, who was closest to Jesus and Blessed Mary – a father puts his family first.

Today's Gospel from Matthew 10:26-33, Jesus assures us that God the Father loves and cares for each of us unconditionally.

Looking beyond our own fathers Church history gives us many men to learn from each day. We urge you to spend time this week to research and read about them and even the fathers of saints, popes, and religious that you admire.

Today we highlight a few. These seemingly ordinary men were dedicated to their families like St. Joseph and taught their children and those they served to love God above all.

St. Louis Martin – Father of St. Therese of Lisieux.



St. Louis Martin was a devout Catholic and fathered his children by emphasizing the importance of having a close relationship with God.

"The good Lord gave me a father and a mother more worthy of heaven than of earth," St. Therese said.

Saints Louis Martin and his wife Zélie Guérin Martin were declared saints by Pope Francis in 2015. They are the first married couple to be canonized together. They had nine children, four (two sons and two daughters) died in infancy or early childhood. The other five – all girls – became nuns. Saint Louis Martin was said to be a fun-loving father who affectionally nicknamed his daughters, Marie, "the diamond"; Pauline, "the fine pearl"; Celine, "the dauntless one"; "good-hearted Léonie"; and Thérèse, "the bouquet" and "Little Queen."

Nikolle (Nikola) Bojaxhiu – the father of St. Teresa of Calcutta.



He is described as having a strong Catholic faith, respected in his Albanian community, and was a hard worker professionally and civically.

Nikola Bojaxhiu owned a grocery and a construction company that was key to the growth of his region. However, when young St. Teresa was only eight years old, he died suddenly. Some biographies concluded his death was suspicious

– the result of a politically motivated poisoning. His business partner failed to provide financial support to the Bojaxhiu family, leaving them struggling financially. The example of her father's life and character coupled with the strength of her mother, Drane Bojaxhiu, to keep a respectful, loving, and empathetic household despite their dire straits molded young St. Teresa to be one of the most devoted souls to the poorest of poor in modern times.

Franz Rother and Blessed Father Stanley Rother – two "Fathers" from one family to honor.



Blessed Father Stanley Rother was born in 1935, the son of Franz and Gertrude Rother, and grew up on a farm in Okarche, Oklahoma. Franz fostered the family's love of Christ, making it the center and natural part of their everyday life.



Blessed Father Rother and his siblings attended Holy Trinity Catholic Church and School, where he was an altar server and played sports. After high school he wanted to enter the seminary. His father joked that he should have concentrated more on Latin than Future Farmers of America. He entered Assumption Seminary in San Antonio but failed to finish due to the intense theology and Latin workload. His desire to serve others as a priest did not falter. The young

aspiring priest and Franz along with their pastor in Okarche, Father Edmund Von Elm, approached Bishop Victor Reed, who arranged for him to go to Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland. He succeeded there and Bishop Reed ordained him on May 25, 1963. He served as a parish priest and a missionary for Mexicans and Guatemalans.

He served Guatemala during civil unrest there. He would return to Oklahoma for visits, but not for long, because he felt he needed to return to his Guatemalan people he loved and cared for as his own family.

As he wrote in what would be his final letter to his church back in Oklahoma in 1980, "The shepherd cannot run at the first sign of danger. Pray for us that we may be a sign of the love of Christ for our people, that our presence among them will fortify them to endure these sufferings in preparation for the coming of the Kingdom."

Seven months later he was murdered by three unknown assassins.

In 2016, Pope Francis recognized Blessed Father Rother as the first martyr of the faith from the United States. The Rite of Beautification took place in 2017 in front of 20,000 people in Oklahoma City. Read more about this story on the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City's website: <https://archokc.org/stanleyrother>.

TAKEOUT EVENT REPLACES CATHOLIC CHARITIES NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER'S SPAGHETTI DINNER



Catholic Charities West Virginia has continued to operate during the coronavirus pandemic to address food insecurity in the Ohio Valley.

It may be a new twist for Catholic Charities Neighborhood's annual event but its guaranteed to have all the flavor of years past.

For more than 20 years the Upper Ohio Valley has supported the Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center's Spaghetti Dinner, the organizations main annual fund raiser.

Originally scheduled for April 28th, the fundraiser has been reformatted as a takeout-only event for the safety

of staff, volunteers and guests amid the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER ON 18TH STREET IN WHEELING WILL HOLD A SPAGHETTI TAKEOUT EVENT ON JUNE 28TH FROM NOON TO 5 P.M.

"Though we're sad that we won't have the pleasure of dining with so many community members in person, we know that we can still provide a fantastic meal to hundreds of people while serving our core mission. We look forward to seeing people for pickup at the end of the month," said Mark Phillips, Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) Northern Regional Director.

Proceeds from the event support the vital services the Neighborhood Center provides to ensure all people can access

the services they need to reach their full potential and work toward lasting and meaningful change.

He said the COVID-19 pandemic emphasized the need for the Center to help ensure food security for people in Wheeling and throughout the Ohio Valley.

"In the 11 weeks since this health crisis began, we have provided over 500 boxes of food to families in need. Over 4,000 hot meals have been served in our doorway. More than 10,000 meals have been delivered to folks who are unable to shop or prepare food for themselves," said Phillips.

The takeout meals on June 28th Spaghetti Dinner meals will include spaghetti, meatballs, sausage, salad and dessert. Dinners will be delivered to cars curbside in front of the Neighborhood



During the coronavirus pandemic, the Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center has delivered more than 10,000 meals to people who are unable to leave their homes or prepare meals.

Center on 18th Street in Wheeling.

Members of the community are encouraged to purchase the tickets in advance for \$8 each online at [CATHOLICCHARITIESWV.ORG/BLOG/CATHOLIC-CHARITIES-NEIGHBORHOOD-CENTER-SPAGHETTI-DINNER-2020](https://www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org/blog/Catholic-Charities-Neighborhood-Center-Spaghetti-Dinner-2020). Everyone who buys a ticket online will be entered into a special drawing for prizes.

To make a monetary donation to the organization call (304) 232-7157 or visit Catholic Charities of WV website at: www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org.

Join Us For A Curbside Take-Out Dinner

24th Annual
Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center

Spaghetti Dinner

Take-Out Only

Sunday, June 28th
12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Purchase tickets at www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org





O'DONNELL LEAVES WV FOR NEW ROLE IN DC PARISH

EXPERIENCES IN SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRIES FUELS NEW FOCUS

He has spent the vast majority of his priesthood building bridges towards a better society. Now it is time for him to cross one to help a new community of faithful to not only deepen their relationships with Christ, but also empower them to work for social justice.

The resume of the charitable ministries Father Brian O'Donnell, S.J., has been involved with is seemingly endless. He has most recently served as the executive director for the Catholic Conference of West Virginia; the Department of Social Ministries for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston; and the Office of Justice and Life. Additionally, he has worked with Catholic Relief Services, WV Council of Churches, Appalachian Institute, Prison Ministries, and Wheeling Jesuit University.

In his various roles he worked with many religious denominations across the state and although their beliefs and practices

were quite different “everyone was on the same page when it came to public policy to uphold the basic and crucial fullness of life for everyone – clean air, food, water, shelter, prison reform, and health care.”

It is that experience that will now benefit the laity living near our nation's capital. There he will serve in a pastoral role for the Catholic community of Holy Trinity Parish in the Georgetown section of Washington, D.C.

Father O'Donnell said his past and future steps are all guided by Christ as he eagerly serves as “a disciple among disciples.”

He said it is John's gospel that has fueled his mission. Just as we are taught in John 14:1-6, our life on earth is a journey and we are to learn and follow in the ways of Jesus Christ to have eternal life.

“The theme of my life has been to build bridges,” he said. “They are necessary if we want to serve like Christ.”

Thus, it made perfect sense for Father O'Donnell to spend the greater part of three decades helping behind the scenes as an advocate for fair health care, mental

and behavior health services, hunger, opioid addiction recovery, mine safety, and pro-life.

“When you get a broad and deeper look at the issues, it presses you to want to do more,” he said. “There are so many dedicated people out there, but it is often as if we are rolling a boulder up hill and it takes years to make progress.”

He said along the way you meet more and more people who have ideas to make the load easier and sometimes you find out that even though “our efforts aren't always successful they were worthwhile.”

He will always cherish working with the people of West Virginia and his time serving at Wheeling Jesuit University.

“It's been very humbling,” Father O'Donnell said. “I've been able to work with and meet some real heroes fighting for social and spiritual justice in West Virginia and all over the world. It is bittersweet leaving, but for all of us comes a time we are challenged to make a change, and after contemplating in prayer this is my time.”

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

On June 24 we celebrate the Nativity of St. John the Baptist. This is a significant solemnity, one of the oldest feasts in the Church dating back to 506 A.D.

Typically, the Church observes the feast day of a saint at their death – the day they entered into heaven. There are two exceptions are the Blessed Mother Mary and St. John the Baptist, who were cleansed of original sin one at conception the other in the womb respectively.

It is in the Gospel of Luke we learn about the birth of this great prophet, who prepared the way for the coming of Jesus Christ. John was the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth, who although had prayed for children were childless and considered way too old for children. Despite the latter, our wonderful God

sent the Archangel Gabriel to appear to Zechariah, telling him Elizabeth would



give birth to a son, who will be filled with the Holy Spirit even in her womb, and

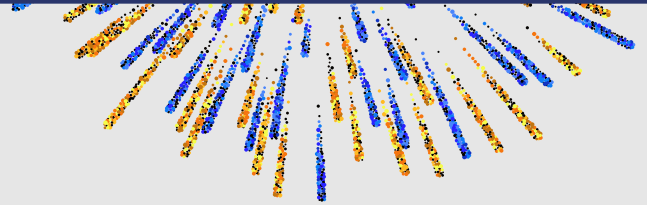
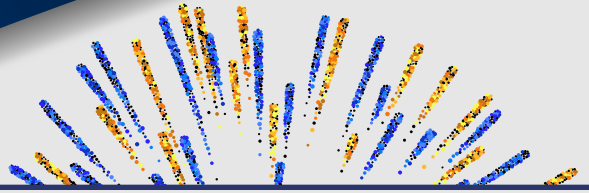
they were to name him John.

The Nativity of St John the Baptist comes three months after the celebration of the Annunciation (March 25), when the Archangel Gabriel told the Blessed Virgin Mary that her cousin Elizabeth was in her sixth month of pregnancy, and the child would be born six months before the Christmas celebration of the birth of Jesus. The exact dates are not what we celebrate, but a way to link our history.

Let the Nativity of St. John the Baptist renew in us the saving grace of the Lord, encouraging us to share his love to others not only by our words, but also through our actions.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY WEST VIRGINIA



Lord God,

We thank you for the people of West Virginia, those who in a civil conflict two centuries ago chose union over disunion and those who strive today to strengthen our union with one another, that we may ensure justice and live together in peace.

We rejoice and thank you for our State's majestic beauty, its mountains, valleys, rivers and wildlife, and for those who work strenuously to preserve these resources for generations to come and prevent their degradation.

We thank you for a sturdy, intelligent and industrious population, for the hospitality and generous friendship West Virginians offer to all even as we implore you to heal the wounds that disease and addictions have caused to many of our neighbors.

Give us the strength to build on the legacy our forebears have left us, rejoicing in our common bonds and working together to overcome obstacles that keep us from loving one another, as Jesus your Son taught us.

Help us respect every human person regardless of age, race, religion, nationality or sex, aware that you created us all in your divine image and likeness.

Guide our actions and bless our efforts so that we may ensure a future full of prosperity and hope for all West Virginians.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

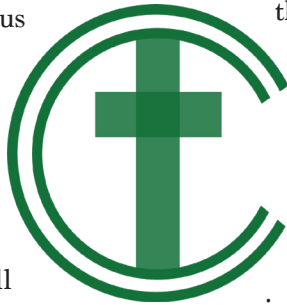
Amen.



CHARLESTON CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL ANNOUNCES GRADUATION PLAN

By Martina Hart

CHARLESTON – Charleston Catholic High School announced plans for their graduation ceremony to take place at Haddad Riverfront Park in Charleston on Saturday, June 20. A detailed proposal to safely hold the event amid the coronavirus pandemic had just been approved the week prior. The school administration had been working with the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department, the City of Charleston, as well as the Department of Catholic Schools and the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to make sure that they were following all health guidelines. “It’s been such a long process because every time we get something shaped out, then the circumstances would change and the guidelines would change, and we go



back to the drawing board,” said Colleen Hoyer, principal of Charleston Catholic High School. “So, we’ve been through multiple plans and multiple ideas, and so this one was finally just approved on Friday afternoon.” Attendance will be limited to the 66 seniors, each with their immediate household who will be able to sit together in designated areas with six feet of space between households. In addition to the traditional cap and gown, they will also wear masks (as will everyone else in attendance). Faculty and staff have been invited as well. The event will be livestreamed to enable extended family and friends to follow online. “We will start with Baccalaureate Mass at 9:30 Saturday morning, and after Mass we will go straight into a graduation ceremony with the student speakers and distribution of

diplomas,” Hoyer explained. The Mass will be concelebrated by Father Donald X. Higgs, president of CCHS and rector of the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart and Father Binu Emmanuel, C.S.T., high school chaplain and vice rector. Hoyer heard back from families that everybody is getting excited for graduation. “They were anxious for an opportunity to celebrate together, and I’m glad that we are able to provide them that opportunity,” she said, adding that Haddad Riverfront Park, an amphitheater on the Kanawha River will be a great venue. “We like the downtown location. It’s still close to school, but we feel like an outdoor venue is the safest way to bring that group together for a ceremony, and we felt like Haddad would get us outside, still be downtown, and I think it’s a really pretty spot with the river as our backdrop. I think it will be a special experience.”

For more news and information from The Catholic Spirit visit THECATHOLICSPIRITWV.ORG or follow on Facebook at WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/THECATHOLICSPIRITWV



THE CATHOLIC SPIRIT IS NOW AVAILABLE BY E-MAIL!

This is being made available to enhance communication, but at the same time cutting the cost of printing.

You are invited to join our new e-list to receive The Catholic Spirit by e-mail. Joining the e-list gives you the option to receive The Catholic Spirit by e-mail only and to be removed from the list to receive the print version if you choose.

To be added to the e-list, send an e-mail to Colleen Rowan, CROWAN@DWC.ORG, with “The Catholic Spirit e-list” in the subject line. Please let us know your preference saying: “E-mail only, and remove me from print mailing list” or “I would like both print and e-mail versions.”

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. Issue dates are the first and third Friday of each month. This is a day earlier than mail delivery of the print version.

Beginning with the June 5, 2020, the electronic version of every issue of The Catholic Spirit will now be available under “Downloadable Spirit” at WWW.THECATHOLICSPIRITWV.ORG.



RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM
WEEK

June 22–29

Beginning June 22, the Feast of Saints Thomas More and John Fisher, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops celebrates Religious Freedom Week. Join us in promoting religious freedom For the Good of All.

All people desire to know their Creator. All people have a natural impulse to seek the good and to live in accordance with that good. All people can flourish when they pursue the truth about God and respond to the truth.

Religious freedom means that all people have the space to flourish. Religious freedom is both an American value and an important part of Catholic teaching on human dignity. When we promote religious freedom, we promote the common good and thus strengthen the life of our nation and the community of nations.



(CNS composite photo/Public domain)

Learn more at www.usccb.org/ReligiousFreedomWeek!

www.usccb.org/freedom

Twitter: @USCCBFreedom

For text and action alerts, text "FREEDOM" to 84576



MASS READINGS FOR THE TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading JER 20:10-13

Jeremiah said:

"I hear the whisperings of many: 'Terror on every side! Denounce! let us denounce him!' All those who were my friends are on the watch for any misstep of mine. 'Perhaps he will be trapped; then we can prevail, and take our vengeance on him.' But the LORD is with me, like a mighty champion: my persecutors will stumble, they will not triumph. In their failure they will be put to utter shame, to lasting, unforgettable confusion. O LORD of hosts, you who test the just, who probe mind and heart, let me witness the vengeance you take on them, for to you I have entrusted my cause. Sing to the LORD, praise the LORD, for he has rescued the life of the poor from the power of the wicked!"

Responsorial PSALM 69:8-10, 14, 17, 33-35

R. (14c) Lord, in your great love, answer me.

For your sake I bear insult, and shame covers my face. I have become an outcast to my brothers, a stranger to my children, Because zeal for your house consumes me, and the insults of those who blaspheme you fall upon me.

R. Lord, in your great love, answer me.

I pray to you, O LORD, for the time of your favor, O God! In your great kindness answer me with your constant help. Answer me, O LORD, for bounteous is your kindness; in your great mercy turn toward me.

R. Lord, in your great love, answer me.

"See, you lowly ones, and be glad; you who seek God, may your hearts revive! For the LORD hears the poor, and his own who are in bonds he spurns not. Let the heavens and the earth praise him, the seas and whatever moves in them!"

R. Lord, in your great love, answer me.

Second Reading ROMANS 5:12-15

Brothers and sisters:

Through one man sin entered the world, and through sin, death, and thus death came to all men, inasmuch as all sinned— for up to the time of the law, sin was in the world, though sin is not accounted when there is no law. But death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin after the pattern of the trespass of Adam, who is the type of the one who was to come.

But the gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, how much more did the grace of God and the gracious gift of the one man Jesus Christ overflow for the many.

Alleluia

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Spirit of truth will testify to me, says the Lord; and you also will testify.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel MT 10:26-33

Jesus said to the Twelve:

"Fear no one. Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known. What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light; what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna. Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Everyone who acknowledges me before others

I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father."

PRAYER INTENTIONS

That the Church may be an example to the world of God's unconditional love and care for all humanity and creation, we pray . . .

That leaders of nations, states, and local communities may promote justice, peace, and harmony toward all those they serve, we pray . . .

That fathers everywhere may always nurture their children in following Christ, we pray . . .

That those still experiencing the effects of the Coronavirus will know healing and hope and that a vaccine will be developed soon, we pray . . .

Lord hear our prayer





Join us as we celebrate the ORDINATION TO THE SACRED PRIESTHOOD of Deacon Justin Golna



The Ordination will be livestreamed
on the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's
website & Facebook page.

June 27, 2020
11:00a.m.
from
The Cathedral of Saint Joseph
Wheeling, WV



PRAYER TO OVERCOME RACISM

Mary, friend and mother to all, through your Son, God has found a way to unite himself to every human being, called to be one people, sisters and brothers to each other.

We ask for your help in calling on your Son, seeking forgiveness for the times when we have failed to love and respect one another.

We ask for your help in obtaining from your Son the grace we need to overcome the evil of racism and to build a just society.

We ask for your help in following your Son, so that prejudice and animosity will no longer infect our minds or hearts but will be replaced with a love that respects the dignity of each person.

Mother of the Church, the Spirit of your Son Jesus warms our hearts: pray for us. Amen.



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](http://EBREVIARY.COM/LITURGY-OF-THE-HOURS)



WV CATHOLIC RADIO BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOU

Berkeley Springs - Hancock, MD	FM	96.3
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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

You can find LoL Radio online at LoLRadio.org

YOUTH MINISTRY CONTINUES

YOUNG WV CATHOLICS invites teens to be part of



Instead of feeling cooped up, encourage your teen to feel energized by participating in the PROJECT YM LIVE event and Young WV Catholics Zoom conversation. Office of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry Interim Director, Shawn Madden, invites you to find out more and sign up at:

www.youngwvcatholics.com/ymlive.html

Project YM, a national youth ministry organization, streamed its first hour-long live youth night last week. It was attended online by more than 9,000 households! The event at projectym.com/live had games, prizes, a solid message, and engaging prayer. Help middle and high school students you know by sharing this opportunity.

DAILY MASS

The live streaming of the noon Mass from the Cathedral of St. Joseph will discontinue after the June 12th broadcast. We will continue the live stream of the Saturday at 6pm Mass, and it 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 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/)