



THE SOLEMNITY OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

On Monday, June 29th, we honor Saints Peter and Paul. The Church celebrates their life on the same day, because as St. Augustine noted in a 395 A.D. sermon that, "Both apostles share the same feast day, for these two were one." He said they both suffered and were put to death for their love of Christ, making them both martyrs in the earliest days of the church. St. Augustine went on to say, "We celebrate this day made holy for us by the apostles' blood. Let us embrace what they believed, their life, their labors, their sufferings, their preaching, and their confession of faith."

Peter's Story - the Rock of the Church

The New Testament showcases Peter as the leader of the apostles, chosen by Jesus. Peter witnessed the Transfiguration, the raising of a dead child to life, and the agony in Gethsemane.

Jesus told Peter he would be the founder of the Church:

"Blessed are you, Simon (Peter) son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so, I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." -Matthew 16:17b-19.

The bible shows us that Peter was relatable and had human weakness, even in the presence of Jesus.

As a follower of Jesus, he willingly gave up his belongings, but questioned what does he get in return (Matthew 19:27). Peter is also the apostle that declares at the Last Supper he would never deny Jesus, but then, as Jesus predicted, denies him three times before the rooster crowed (Matthew 26:69-74).

Jesus continued to put his trust in Peter, telling him after He rose from the dead to feed his sheep. In that same conversation, Jesus intentionally asked Simon Peter three times over if he loved him, to which he affirmed three times, "Yes!"

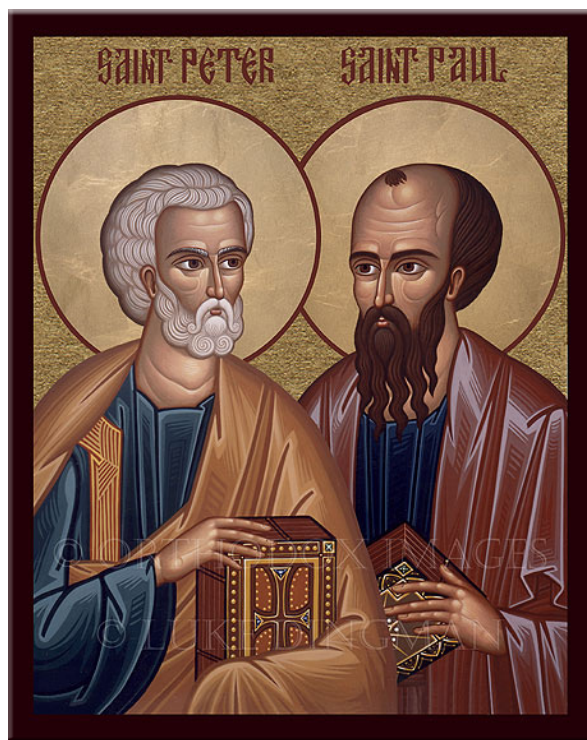
Jesus ended that moment not with a simple "Amen," but with double confirmation, "Amen. Amen I say to you." (John 21:15-19). Jesus spoke with conviction, making sure all present knew there was no denying the love of Christ, when it is truly deep within your heart.

St. Paul's Story - Fierce Foe to Outspoken Defender

St. Paul's original name was Saul. Before opening his eyes to Christianity and Jesus, he was a Pharisee, upholding Jewish law. He was known for his cruel and adamant persecution of Christians.

Paul's conversion stopped him in his tracks. He experienced the Risen Lord on the road to Damascus. It is described for us in Acts chapter 9.

While on the road, he and his group were suddenly surrounded by a bright beaming light from the heavens, causing him to fall to the ground. He heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" Saul was blinded. He was helped up and then lead to Damascus. After three days, Ananias, a true and loyal disciple of Christ, was sent by God to lay his hands on him, so Saul could regain his sight. When Ananias received this directive from God he protested, because he had heard of the heinous and evil things Saul and his men had done to Christians. However, Ananias, was obedient to God. Ananias said, "Saul, my brother, the Lord has sent me, Jesus who appeared to you on the way by which you came, that you may regain your sight and be filled with the holy Spirit." And with that scale like obstructions fell from his eyes immediately and he regained sight. He baptized him and Saul took the name of Paul from that moment on.



Paul spent the remainder of his life preaching the Word of Jesus, the one true Redeemer.

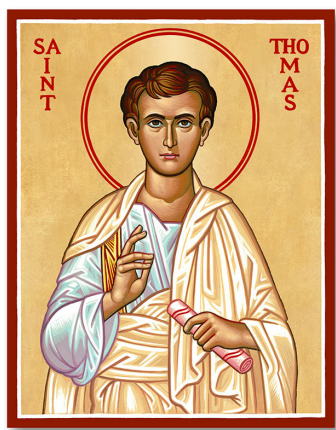
St. Paul is the author of many letters in the Bible. He often relates our duty to share Christ's love through our actions and words, as that of an athlete. We need to evangelize with as much energy and conviction as an athlete training for a race. In 1 Corinthians 9:24 he states, "run as to win!"

Let us remember...

Both St. Peter and Paul give us great hope. Neither was perfect. Both failed Jesus during their life, Peter by denying Him three times; and Paul, with having a hand in the horrific persecution of Christians before his conversion. Yet both men were forgiven and were so profoundly moved by the Spirit they spent the rest of their lives working to bring others closer to God.

Lord, help us to find the humility and conviction of Saints Peter and Paul. Give us the wisdom and courage to do your will. Amen.

FEAST DAY OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE



The Church celebrates the feast day of St. Thomas the apostle on July 3rd. Thomas is the apostle we know that wanted proof of Jesus' resurrection. As we are told in the bible in John 20:24-29, Thomas wasn't with the other apostles when the Jesus first appeared to the disciples after the Resurrection. When they told him, "We have seen the Lord," Thomas said he could not believe it unless he could touch Jesus' wounds. Jesus later presented himself to the apostles and invited Thomas to inspect His hands, His feet, and His side. Jesus used him as an example, saying, "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

Saint Thomas the Apostle's Story from Franciscan Media:

Poor Thomas! He made one remark and has been branded as "Doubting Thomas" ever since. But if he doubted, he also believed. He made what is certainly the most explicit statement of faith in the New Testament: "My Lord and My God!" and, in so expressing his faith, gave Christians a prayer that will be said till the end of time. He also occasioned a compliment from Jesus to all later Christians: "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed" (John 20:29).

Thomas should be equally well-known for his courage. Perhaps what he said was impetuous—since he ran, like the rest, at the showdown—but he can scarcely have been insincere when he expressed his willingness to die with Jesus. The occasion was when Jesus proposed to go to Bethany after Lazarus had died. Since Bethany was near Jerusalem, this meant walking into the very midst of his enemies and to almost certain death. Realizing this, Thomas said to the other apostles, "Let us also go to die with him" (John 11:16b).

Reflection:

Thomas shares the lot of Peter the impetuous, James and John, the "sons of thunder," Philip and his foolish request to see the Father—indeed all the apostles in their weakness and lack of understanding. We must not exaggerate these facts, however, for Christ did not pick worthless men. But their human weakness again points up the fact that holiness is a gift of God, not a human creation; it is given to ordinary men and women with weaknesses; it is God who gradually transforms the weaknesses into the image of Christ, the courageous, trusting, and loving one.



JESUS IN THE MIDDLE: TRINITY ENCOUNTERED

By: Sister Ellen Dunn, OP

Somewhere early in my graduate studies in theology, I had the joy and the challenge of meeting a very real and life-giving Jesus—one who broke out of the plaster of statues, who emerged from the words of the Gospels, one I experienced in the faces of family and friends. The learnings helped me have a whole new perspective on God made flesh in Jesus.

Once I grasped the simple truth that Jesus is the embodiment of God, the God Jesus calls Father, the mystery of the incarnation came alive for me. Following that new way of encountering Jesus and being among his 'followers', I got new insight into who the Holy Spirit is for us. I understand the Spirit as Jesus' own Spirit, the way I carry the 'spirit' of my mom, of my dad, of my loved ones here on Mother Earth. This suggests to me how I can relate to the Holy Spirit Jesus sent us and promised us as a source of inspiration and wisdom for our everyday.

Looking backwards, I understood that I grew up in the light of the church's 'high Christology', Jesus at a distance. Then after Vatican II, a new viewpoint revealed a 'lower Christology' -- Jesus closer up -- which unfolded in prayers and preachings and publications. A new faith understanding became possible, revealing a different God image. The new God image invited a different prayer approach which followed for me in these passing years!

All of this makes me wonder: what about YOU and your grasp of Trinity? Father-God, Son become one of us, and Holy Spirit dwelling within.

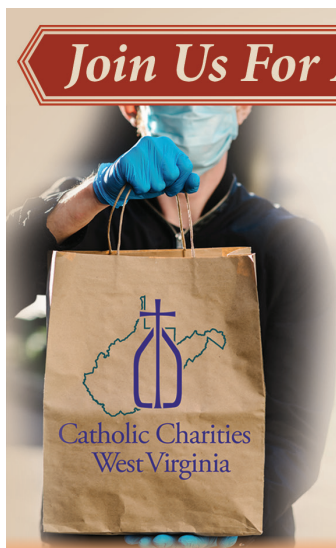
Join Us For A Curbside Take-Out Dinner

**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



WV CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ANNOUNCE PLAN FOR WELCOMING STUDENTS BACK IN AUGUST

WHEELING— West Virginia Catholic Schools Superintendent Mary Ann Deschaine, Ed.S., has set a clear goal to welcome staff and students back into the building in August for the 2020-2021 school year.

“We are working with our principals and pastors to lay out a plan to have their students in school five days a week,” Deschaine said. “As we move forward with these plans we have been and will continue to take exhaustive measures to keep the health and safety of our children and staff a critical priority.”

The Department of Catholic Schools is excited to have the traditional five-day in school plan in place, but in order to do so they will continually be alert of federal, state, and county mandates.

Deschaine is confident that no matter what the schools face in the future they are focused and ready to “adapt, instruct, encourage, and challenge our students in the classroom or whenever necessary go to a distance learning situation without hesitation at basically the flip of the switch. That confidence, positive adaptability and flexibility is a huge life lesson for our children,” Deschaine said.

What can Catholic school parents expect this fall? Deschaine listed the following, noting this is just the beginning of the extensive list of measures the schools are taking for a healthy and secure bricks and mortar classroom, but also a compassionate and welcoming environment: detailed instructions on entrance and exit procedures; heightened cleaning measures before, during, and after school; sanitizing of surfaces and materials multiple times a day; temperature checks; masks in designated areas; creative lab and curriculum scheduling to ensure academic benchmarks are met or surpassed; lunch area and times adjusted for healthiest, safest, and most enjoyable environment; physical education restructuring to focused more about individual wellness/activities; and regulations for choir/band to be in accordance to CDC and Diocesan mandates. Services provided to the Catholic schools through the county will be based on the individual county school mandates to be announced later this summer.

“Our world is ever-changing, and our WV Catholic Schools embrace that, while at the same time continue to maintain a Christ-centered learning environment which includes a focus on the social, emotional, physical, and mental well-being of each child.

“We recognize that social emotional learning is key to the successful development of a child,” she said. “It is critical to life experiences. Making those moments for peer interaction possible is our job. Taking the responsibility to do so in the safest and most secure way is our responsibility and privilege.” She added that classrooms in the buildings will look a bit

different, as extra furnishings will be removed in order to afford the children and teachers more square footage for safe distancing.

Between now and the start of school everyone in the building will be trained on proper CDC cleaning procedures. Janitorial and maintenance staff will receive individualized training for proper cleaning techniques, how to use required additional sanitizing equipment, and how to recognize potential concerns and the action steps necessary to resolve them. The Department of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston will be providing enhanced e-learning and distance engagement trainings for teachers in each building.

Prior to the start of school, during August 3-7, students in grades Kindergarten-10th grades will have the opportunity to take the NWEA assessment. This assessment will identify any areas where a student may need extra help, but also help staff develop prescriptive individualized educational plans.

“Our students take the NWEA assessment three times a year to assess progress and identify academic growth,” Deschaine said. “We don’t rely on a once a year assessment system. So, this August assessment will highlight what we need to do to have a successful start to our academic year.”

Deschaine said the schools will be contacting their families with enrichment opportunities to be held over the summer. Some will be subject area specific, while others will be a cross curriculum bridge program.

Guidelines for before and after care programs are also being developed, so they can be offered safely for the staff and students. She said each building will announce its own start date, but all Catholic schools will be in session by August 24th at the latest.

“It is important to understand that no matter what the circumstance - weather, building issue, or health/safety concern - our Catholic schools continue to learn, lead, and succeed whether under the roof of the building or apart. These last few months have proven we are well equipped and prepared. We forge ahead confidently in our academic journey. We do not settle for pass-fail curriculum. We push forward and do not slack whether we are together in one building or together through an e-platform classroom. We as a Catholic school system will continue to give our students responsibility, challenges, and accountability - expectations and character that make us stand out.”

Catholic school offices across the state will continue registrations for the 2020-2021 school year through the summer. Contact your area Catholic school for more information. You can also call the Department of Catholic Schools Office at 304-233-0880 for assistance.

MARISTS LEAVE BUCKHANNON AFTER MORE THAN A CENTURY OF MINISTRY

By: Colleen Rowan

For 118 years, the Society of Mary priests and religious have served the faithful Catholics of Central West Virginia. This month, the people of Buckhannon's Holy Rosary Parish said goodbye to their pastor, Father



Joseph McLaughlin, SM, and pastoral associate, Brother Roy Madigan, SM.

They are the last of the Marists to serve the parish, and are now moving on to new assignments within their order.

"What a privilege and pleasure it has been for me to be part of that community of faith for almost 15 years," said Brother Madigan. "I hope and I pray that, in my own quiet way, I have added something of value to that community that has become 'home' for me."

In the next issue of The Catholic Spirit, a history of the Marists' dedicated service to God's people and ministry here in our Mountain State will be featured. A few days before leaving for his new assignment in San Francisco, Father McLaughlin took a moment to talk about the Marists and their history in the area and the people of this great parish.

Look for the story in the July 3 issue.

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.

ONLINE GIVING CONTINUES FOR PARISHES

After the public celebrations of Masses were suspended because of the COVID-19 pandemic, parishes have relied on parishioners mailing in their weekly offertory and online giving to replace physical Sunday collections.

Donations can be made to any of the parishes in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston through the diocesan website at DWC.ORG.

Your gift goes entirely to the designated parish. These funds help your parish to continue their ministries in this critical time when we are all not able to gather together to celebrate the Eucharist. Pastors agree these funds are critical to cover the fixed needs of the church, but also to continue the vital ministries our communities depend upon. Whether they be food pantries, soup kitchens, or

other Christian outreach programs, now more than ever our parishes are not only in great need but are greatly needed.

To give to your parish go to their website or simply go to: DWC.ORG/SUPPORT-YOUR-LOCAL-PARISH scroll down to find your church and click the donate button on the far right side of the listing.

#ISupportMyWVParish
CLICK HERE
to contribute to your parish offertory



MASS READINGS FOR THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading 2KINGS 4:8-11, 14-16A

One day Elisha came to Shunem, where there was a woman of influence, who urged him to dine with her. Afterward, whenever he passed by, he used to stop there to dine. So she said to her husband, "I know that Elisha is a holy man of God. Since he visits us often, let us arrange a little room on the roof and furnish it for him with a bed, table, chair, and lamp, so that when he comes to us he can stay there." Sometime later Elisha arrived and stayed in the room overnight.

Later Elisha asked, "Can something be done for her?" His servant Gehazi answered, "Yes! She has no son, and her husband is getting on in years." Elisha said, "Call her." When the woman had been called and stood at the door, Elisha promised, "This time next year you will be fondling a baby son."

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

R. (2a) Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

The promises of the LORD I will sing forever, through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness. For you have said, "My kindness is established forever;" in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness.

R. Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Blessed the people who know the joyful shout; in the light of your countenance, O LORD, they walk. At your name they rejoice all the day, and through your justice they are exalted.

R. Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

You are the splendor of their strength, and by your favor our horn is exalted. For to the LORD belongs our shield, and the Holy One of Israel, our king.

R. Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading ROMANS 6:3-4, 8-11

Brothers and sisters:

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.

If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him. As to his death, he died to sin once and for all; as to his life, he lives for God. Consequently, you too must think of yourselves as dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus.

Alleluia 1PETER 2:9

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation; announce the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel MATTHEW 10:37-42

Jesus said to his apostles:

"Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. "Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me. Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man's reward. And whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because the little one is a disciple— amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward."

PRAYER INTENTIONS


For Pope Francis, Bishop Brennan, and all Church leaders, that the Holy Spirit may guide them as they minister to the world and our local communities, we pray . . .

For national and local government officials, that they may enact policies that promote justice and peace, we pray . . .

For couples who will be uniting themselves in marriage this summer, that they may always treat one another with love and respect, and be open to welcoming children, we pray . . .

For those affected by the Coronavirus, that they may experiencing healing and that a vaccine may 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

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

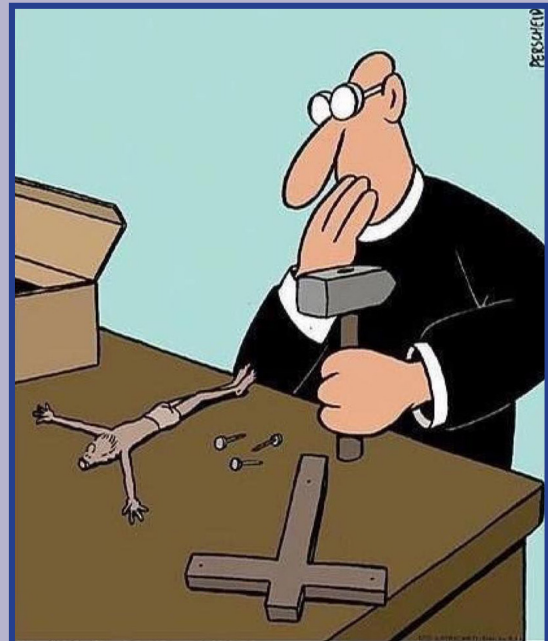


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A LITTLE CATHOLIC HUMOR



Suddenly, Father Schober was not sure whether he
really should have bought the new crucifix at Ikea.



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/)