



MARCH 14, 2021

## ST. JOSEPH OUR MIGHTY PATRON



He is a role model for all Christians, a holy man, devout, and completely human. On 9eWl we not only celebrate the Solemnity of St. Joseph, but the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston also celebrates the Year of St. Joseph that will extend to March 19, 2022.

St. Joseph is the patron of the universal Church. Pope Francis declared a Year of St. Joseph for the whole Church, which began on Dec. 8, 2020 and will conclude on Dec. 8, 2021. As a diocese with St. Joseph as our patron we extend the Year of St. Joseph, honoring the beloved father, guardian of the holy family, and obedient and humble servant of God, through his solemnity in March next year.

The prominent place that Saint Joseph holds in our church tradition can be seen in his patronage, his liturgical feasts, the religious communities that have taken his name, his apparitions with the Blessed Mother, the major shrines and basilicas dedicated to him, the Church documents written about him, the prayers said to him, his place in the liturgy, as well as the studies devoted to him.

"I believe we can all benefit from meditating on St. Joseph's admirable life of faith and love and from seeking his intercession before the Lord on our behalf," said Bishop Mark Brennan.

Like Joseph we need to be present, compassionate, and "ever ready to carry out God's will," Pope Francis said, reminding us that Joseph was an ordinary person just like us.

During this year we are asked to take time reflect on the life of our patron, and to put ourselves in his shoes. God chose him, a poor man, to be the earthly father of Jesus, and husband to the Virgin Mary. He sent an angel to Joseph in a dream to tell him not to divorce Mary, because the child she conceived was of the Holy Spirit. Joseph strong in faith obeyed the command. Before the birth Joseph had to take Mary, who was long into her pregnancy, on a daunting 90-mile trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem for a census declared by the Roman empire. Can we even truly begin to imagine the hardships, the physical toll, the emotional stress, and the overwhelming concern he endured to get Mary there safely?

We all know what happened next, once they finally arrived in Bethlehem – inevitably, it was time for the birth of Christ. Being poor and finding nowhere to stay they took shelter in a stable in a cave among the hills. Our hearts know he surely wanted better accommodations for Mary. However, God's perfect plan was for the Savior of the World to be born in the simplest of places. So, among the animals Jesus was born and placed in a manger. Surely Joseph was captivated by the miracle of birth and was in awe of the newborn in his loving arms. Then God revealed the birth first to the poor shepherds, and then the

Magi approached with gifts. The carpenter must have been so humbled and speechless, watching all of these people pay homage. Certainly, Mary reassured him that indeed God was with them and He entrusted him to be Christ's loving guardian, fatherly role model, and with Mary be His first teacher of life and faith.

"May our faith in God and our devotion to His great servant, St. Joseph, bring us closer to Jesus Christ and one another," Bishop Brennan said.

### PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.  
Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,  
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

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*Celebrate*  
THE  
SOLEMNITY OF ST. JOSEPH

CATHEDRAL OF SAINT JOSEPH  
WHEELING

MARCH 18, 2021

**6 p.m.** - Solemn Vespers

MARCH 19, 2021

**9 a.m.** - Morning Prayer

**12:05 p.m.** - Mass

*Followed by Adoration until 5 p.m.*

**5:15 p.m.** - Stations of the Cross

**6 p.m.** - Mass

**celebrated by Bishop Mark Brennan**

All events will be live streamed at [www.DWC.ORG](http://www.DWC.ORG)

# TIME TO RING IN HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

We all know Saint Patrick of Ireland is famous for using the shamrock to teach Christianity and the Trinity. We are also familiar with the legend that he banished all snakes from the Emerald Isle. Do you know about the bell?

According to legend, there were many bells. It is believed that as St. Patrick helped set up a church or Christian community before he left, he would give the leader a bell. The idea was the bell would be used to call the community to prayer.

However, one bell in particular known as the Bell of the Will of St. Patrick is showcased at the National Museum of Ireland. Faithful Irish believe it may have belonged to St. Patrick when he was in Armagh. The actual bell is about seven inches high and in the shape of sheep bell. It is made out of iron and coated in bronze. In ancient Ireland these bells were venerated as holy objects and therefore given to a bell keeper, who often buried the bells for



Original Celtic and folk art by Hamish Burgess features the shamrock and bell.

safe keeping. The bell was said to have been buried with St. Patrick but retrieved 60 years after his death. It was presented to Armagh as a precious relic. An ornate cover was made for the bell around 1100 AD (more than 600 years after St. Patrick died) at the order of the King Domhnall Ua Lochlainn (aka Donall O'Loughlin). There have been many keepers of the bell through the centuries, but it was finally bequeathed to the nation. The bell is part of a permanent exhibit in the Treasury Gallery at the National Museum of Ireland in Dublin.



## ST. PATRICK'S PRAYER FOR DIVINE PROTECTION

*(The 15 most popular lines)*

Christ with me,  
Christ before me,  
Christ behind me,  
Christ in me,  
Christ beneath me,  
Christ above me,  
Christ on my right,  
Christ on my left,  
Christ when I lie down,  
Christ when I sit down,  
Christ when I arise,  
Christ in the heart of every man who  
thinks of me,  
Christ in the mouth of everyone who  
speaks of me,  
Christ in every eye that sees me,  
Christ in every ear that hears me.



## ST. PATRICK'S DAY IS EXTRA SPECIAL IN WESTON

Irish eyes are smiling upon Saint Patrick School in Weston as they have been spending the month of March celebrating their patron saint. They are learning about St. Patrick's life and legacy, while dabbling into special art projects, donning green, and enjoying special treats.





## CATHOLIC CHARITIES VOLUNTEERS PROVIDE FREE TAX PREPARATION SERVICES

By: Trina Bartlett, Eastern Regional Director, Catholic Charities West Virginia

Preparing and filing tax returns can often be an unwanted chore, but for many West Virginians it can also be difficult and nearly impossible without help.

‘Joseph and Mildred’ cannot read or write well.

‘Ann’ speaks limited English.

‘George and Margaret’ are hard of hearing.

‘Jessica’ has moved out of her parents’ house and is supporting herself by working at a fast food restaurant.



Catholic Charities West Virginia Program Assistant Siobhán Bertone greets a tax client at the client's car to gather paperwork.

As part of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, Catholic Charities certified volunteers prepare tax returns for low- and moderate-income taxpayers free of charge.

The Catholic Charities Martinsburg office has been able to help all of these individuals and hundreds more through its participation in the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program for low- and moderate-income taxpayers. As part of the program, certified volunteers, recruited by Catholic Charities staff, prepare tax returns free of charge.

Last year, Catholic Charities volunteer tax preparers completed returns for 220 taxpayers who received a total of \$334,648 in federal tax returns and \$29,287 in state tax returns for Eastern Panhandle residents. They were able to accomplish this despite the COVID-19 pandemic. With the extension of the filing season, the volunteers continued to help clients into the summer.

In preparation of this year's tax season, the Catholic Charities team began last fall to plan how they could safely provide tax services. Instead of having the volunteers meet with clients and prepare the taxes at the office, staff and volunteers are meeting clients at their cars to collect documents and then scan them to a secure site. The eight volunteer tax preparers access the documents remotely and then contact the tax clients via phone to complete the returns.

Despite the pandemic, Catholic Charities continues to work with community partners to help vulnerable individuals, and the volunteers are going beyond what is required of them. For example, the manager at a local low-income senior housing program is collecting information and documents from residents. Staff and volunteers are picking up and delivering paperwork directly to the complex. Because of this, clients that have cognitive and physical issues are still receiving the personal tax help they need.

While the VITA tax program is provided in addition to the Martinsburg office's year-round services, the extra work is worthwhile because the tax clients are all very appreciative. As one woman said, "I don't know what I would do if Catholic Charities didn't provide this service."

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia, visit [www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org).



Catholic Charities West Virginia  
*Shining a Light  
on Hope*  
VIRTUAL GALA  
*Save the Date*  
March 16, 2021

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

### First Reading 2 CHRONICLES 36:14-16, 19-23

In those days, all the princes of Judah, the priests, and the people added infidelity to infidelity, practicing all the abominations of the nations and polluting the LORD's temple which he had consecrated in Jerusalem. Early and often did the LORD, the God of their fathers, send his messengers to them, for he had compassion on his people and his dwelling place. But they mocked the messengers of God, despised his warnings, and scoffed at his prophets, until the anger of the LORD against his people was so inflamed that there was no remedy. Their enemies burnt the house of God, tore down the walls of Jerusalem, set all its palaces afire, and destroyed all its precious objects. Those who escaped the sword were carried captive to Babylon, where they became servants of the king of the Chaldeans and his sons until the kingdom of the Persians came to power. All this was to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah: "Until the land has retrieved its lost sabbaths, during all the time it lies waste it shall have rest while seventy years are fulfilled." In the first year of Cyrus, king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD inspired King Cyrus of Persia to issue this proclamation throughout his kingdom, both by word of mouth and in writing: "Thus says Cyrus, king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD, the God of heaven, has given to me, and he has also charged me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever, therefore, among you belongs to any part of his people, let him go up, and may his God be with him!"

### Responsorial PSALMS 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6

**R. (6ab) Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!**

By the streams of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion. On the aspens of that land we hung up our harps.

**R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!**

For there our captors asked of us the lyrics of our songs, And our despoilers urged us to be joyous: "Sing for us the songs of Zion!"

**R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!**

How could we sing a song of the LORD in a foreign land? If I forget you, Jerusalem, may my right hand be forgotten!

**R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!**

May my tongue cleave to my palate if I remember you not, If I place not Jerusalem ahead of my joy.

**R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!**

### Second Reading EPHESIANS 2:4-10

Brothers and sisters: God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ — by grace you have been saved —, raised us up with him, and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come

He might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast. For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them.

### Verse Before the Gospel JOHN 3:16

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so everyone who believes in him might have eternal life.

### Gospel JOHN 3:14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we may shine the light of the Lord upon every corner of the world, making visible the Lord's truth and righteousness to all people, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For people around the world who live in the darkness of war, injustice, and poverty, that they might find hope in our risen Lord, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those preparing for the Easter sacraments, may they take to heart Saint Paul's counsel and live as children of the light, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all of us, that we might always treasure the light of Christ that we received at baptism, the light that produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth, let us pray to the Lord. . .

*Lord hear our prayer*





# LET US GO *Rejoicing* TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD.

PSALM 122

## UPDATED GUIDELINES RELEASED

Bishop Mark E. Brennan released updated guidelines for our churches and facilities.

- New Norms for Reopening Parish Facilities for Meetings and Gatherings
- Updated Liturgical Guidelines
- Music Protocols for Liturgical Celebrations

These are available online at [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org).

## *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](#)



## 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
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
Weirton - Steubenville	FM	97.7

~Also Streaming in WV at [www.rdo.to/WLOL](http://www.rdo.to/WLOL)~

WV Catholic Radio [www.WVCatholicRadio.org](http://www.WVCatholicRadio.org)

## A LITTLE CATHOLIC HUMOR



## ENROLL TODAY

WV Catholic Schools

Empowered  
by knowledge.  
Transformed  
by faith.



**Register today**

**[wvcatholicschools.org](http://wvcatholicschools.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/)