



Faith IN WV

MARCH 16, 2025
DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

Stations of the Cross with St. Joseph

During the month of March the Church honors St. Joseph, whose Solemnity is March 19th.

Father Edward Looney of the Diocese of Green Bay, presents the Stations of the Cross, inviting the faithful to walk with St. Joseph beside his Son:



1st Station: Jesus Is Condemned to Death

Saint Joseph knew to some extent that this would one day happen, because Simeon prophesied this in the temple, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted" (Luke 2: 34).

Dear St. Joseph, please pray for me, that I may receive the grace of a happy and holy death.



2nd: Jesus Takes Up His Cross

Saint Joseph was a carpenter. Imagine Jesus in his woodshop making a cross. Now He picks up, accepts, and makes His own cross for us.

Dear St. Joseph, help me to accept the crosses of life that I am handed.



3rd Station: Jesus Falls for the First Time

Saint Joseph, who took Jesus as his own, remembered that first fall of Jesus. Any parent does, as they look on and see the hurt and pain of their child. For the first part of his life, Jesus had Joseph who could come

to his aid.

Dear St. Joseph, in my stumbles in life, be an intercessor for me.



4th Station: Jesus Meets His Mother

Mary and Jesus lock eyes. The glance of Jesus consoles her suffering heart, if only for a moment. Saint Joseph is not there. She is alone, without her spouse.

Dear St. Joseph, be present to families who encounter the illnesses and sorrows of their loved ones.



5th Station: Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus Carry His Cross

The Roman soldiers summoned a bystander to help Jesus carry the Cross. Joseph protected Jesus during his infancy (fleeing to Egypt), when even then someone wanted to put him to death.

Dear St. Joseph, ask the Lord to send me the people I need when I need them most.



6th Station: Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

Consider the care and love of St. Joseph for Jesus as a child. With fatherly love, he attended to Jesus' wounds. With a father's touch, he wiped the tears of Jesus.

Dear St. Joseph, pray for me that I may be more aware of those who need help.



7th Station: Jesus Falls for the Second Time

After an angel tells St. Joseph it is safe to return home from Egypt. Think of what it must have been like for St. Joseph as he returned the Holy Family to Nazareth. His return to daily life was an act of trust. When

we fall trust the Lord's plans.

Dear St. Joseph, help me to trust in God like you did.



8th Station: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

Jesus speaks to the gathered women, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.” As Jesus expresses these words during his Passion, imagine what he shared

with St. Joseph during those hidden years. Surely his words taught, healed, and consoled his father.

Dear St. Joseph, pray for me, that the words Jesus speaks might transform and change my heart.



9th Station: Jesus Falls for the Third Time

Maybe life seemed heavy at times for St. Joseph. Maybe he did not understand everything that was happening in his life. St. Joseph had a lifetime to understand the mysteries of the kingdom.

Dear St. Joseph, pray for me, that I may gain wisdom and understanding of the divine mysteries.



10th Station: Jesus Is Stripped of His Garments

In birth, a child is born naked, only to be clothed by his parents. And now Jesus in death is stripped of his garments. As an infant, the Christ child needed to be tended to, and most certainly St. Joseph attended to

his needs.

Dear St. Joseph, tend to my wounds, intercede for me, that I might be clothed in the love of God.



11th Station: Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross

These nails are not the carpenter’s nails.... They are nails of torture... nails of our salvation.

Dear St. Joseph, help me to be silent, so I may never crucify anyone by my words.



12th Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross

By Jesus’ entrusting of Mary to St. John, we know that St. Joseph had already passed from this life. As Jesus draws his last breath, let us recall the last breath of St. Joseph, who died in the company of Mary and Jesus.

Dear St. Joseph, watch over families who have experienced a recent loss; be with the widowers and comfort the bereaved.



13th Station: Jesus Is Taken Down from the Cross

As Jesus is taken down from the Cross, he also descends to the depths of the netherworld.... He gives life to all who awaited salvation and redemption. Now, the gates of eternal paradise are open.

Dear St. Joseph, please pray for my family and friends who are still in Purgatory. By your prayers and those of Mary, may they soon come to enjoy the vision of Heaven.



14th Station: Jesus Is Laid in the Tomb

The body of Jesus has been anointed, and for three days Christ sanctifies the tomb for all who believe in him. Let us not forget that wherever St. Joseph was buried, Jesus would have visited.

Dear St. Joseph, please pray for me as I draw my dying breath.

For Fr. Looney’s Aleteia article [CLICK HERE](#).

Access a video by [CLICKING HERE](#).

Editor’s note: The photos of the Stations of the Cross were taken at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston.

The painting in the graphic below of St. Joseph is from St. Joseph Church in Martinsburg and is by WV native, Catholic artist Christopher Santer.



Celebrations around the Diocese for The Solemnity of St. Joseph

March 19, 2025

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE!](#)

SAINT PATRICK



FAST FACTS ABOUT ST. PATRICK:

Full name: Patricius Magonus Sucatus

Born around: 389 AD

Father: was a deacon

Grandfather: reportedly a priest (it was in the days when celibacy was not required).

March 19: The anniversary of his death

Not Irish: He was likely from Britain or possibly Scotland – modern scholars debate which.

Teen years: He was kidnapped and taken to Ireland as a slave.

Evangelizer: He used a three-leaf clover/shamrock to teach about the Trinity; and that tale about him driving snakes out of Ireland, was most likely symbolism for driving out pagan beliefs. He is the patron of Ireland and continues to strengthen Catholicism and Christianity around the world today.

RING IN ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

Have you heard about the bell? According to legend, there were many St. Patrick bells.

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

The Bell of the Will of St. Patrick is showcased at the National Museum of Ireland. Faithful Irish believe it belonged to their patron saint. 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 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. There have been many keepers of that 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, pray for us!



The Breastplate

Saint Patrick's Breastplate is actually a prayer to shield us from evil. It is believed he wrote this prayer for divine protection in 433 AD and would have used it in his efforts to convert the pagan people of Ireland to Christianity. The lengthy prayer, also known as the Lorica Prayer, is most recognizable in its shortened version of 15 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....

Saint Cyril Teaches Us

Stand up for Faith and the Holy Eucharist



On March 18, we honor the feast day of St. Cyril of Jerusalem. He was born in 315 A.D., and was most notably the Bishop of Jerusalem. He held that position for 37 years, but 16 of those he was exiled from his own diocese because he stood up for the divinity of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. He is considered a great catechist, servant of the Trinity, and Doctor of the Church.

He defended Christ's presence in the Eucharist, declaring, "Since He Himself has declared and said of the bread: 'This is My Body,' who shall dare to doubt anymore? And when He asserts and says: 'This is My Blood,' who shall ever hesitate and say it is not His Blood? Do not think it mere bread and wine, for it is the Body and Blood of Christ, according to the Lord's declaration."

In his *Catechetical Lecture*, Saint Cyril references the Wedding in Cana - if Christ could change water into wine, why could He not change wine into His own Blood?

For centuries after, many holy men and women were baffled about why anyone claiming to be reverent doubt the real presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

He taught that God shows mercy on all who seek forgiveness. In his words, "God loves human beings, and loves them in no small measure. Don't say I have fornicated and Committed adultery. I have done dreadful

things not only once, but often. Will he ever forgive me? Listen to the psalmist; 'How great is the abundance of your goodness O Lord.' Your accumulated offenses do not surpass the abundance of God's mercies. Your wounds are not greater than the physician's skill. Just give yourself up in faith. Tell the physician your ailment. With David say, 'I will confess my sin to the Lord, and you forgave the wickedness of my heart,' and the same shall be done to you. So, you will both receive forgiveness for your former sins and also be counted worthy of the heavenly gift. You will thus inherit the heavenly kingdom with all the saints in Christ Jesus."

For the forty days of Lent, he taught about the bible and the creed by explaining it simply, line by line. Saint Cyril also reminded Christians that actions are greater than words.

We close with this quote, a motivation for our Lenten journey from St. Cyril:

"Our actions have a tongue of their own; they have an eloquence of their own, even when the tongue is silent. For deeds prove more than words."

Saint Cyril, pray for us, and encourage us to do good deeds for the love of the Lord.



DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON WV PILGRIMAGE SITES FOR JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE

- **Cathedral of St. Joseph** 1300 Eoff Street, Wheeling
- **Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart** 1032 Virginia Street East, Charleston
- **St. Patrick Church** 210 Center Avenue, Weston
- **St. Joseph Parish** 225 S. Queen Street, Martinsburg

Through December 28, 2025, Catholics are invited to visit any and all of these locations to obtain a Plenary Indulgence by completing:

- **Reverent Prayer** (at site): Rosary, Stations of the Cross, Liturgy of the Hours, or Mass.
- **Confession** - within 20 days before or after pilgrimage.
- **Holy Communion**
- **Pray for the Pope**

For information and updates go to:
dwc.org/jubilee-year-2025

Our History of the Patronage to St. Joseph

In Honor of the Solemnity of St. Joseph – March 19



For the Universal Church: The history of Saint Joseph's patronage began in 1868, when Blessed Jean-Joseph Lataste, OP, wrote a letter to Blessed Pope Pius IX asking him to declare St. Joseph the Patron of the Universal Church, and in turn he offered his life for the declaration. The Dominican

priest was very devoted to St. Joseph calling upon him to guide him in his ministry to women in prison and aid him in establishing a religious order for them and other once wayward women – The Dominican Sisters of Bethany. During this time the Church was facing tumultuous circumstances. More than 500 letters were sent from bishops, priests, and faithful from around the world to the Holy See, asking the Church to be dedicated under the patronage of the Guardian of the Redeemer. It was Blessed Jean-Joseph Lataste's letter that convinced Blessed Pope Pius IX to declare the St. Joseph the Terror of Demons patron for the entire Church. He like Blessed Jean-Joseph Lataste was certain this decree would further protect and strengthen the Church and the faithful.

Blessed Jean-Joseph Lataste died at the age of 36 of tuberculosis, a year after he wrote his moving letter. On Dec. 8, 1870, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Blessed Pope Pius IX proclaimed St. Joseph Patron of the Universal Church.

For Our Diocese and Cathedral

In 1850, Blessed Pope Pius IX erected the Diocese of Wheeling, and St. James Parish in Wheeling (then Virginia), built in 1828, became St. James Cathedral. In 1872, Bishop Richard Whelan wrote to Pope Pius IX, requesting permission to change the Cathedral's patronage and thus the patron of the diocese from St. James to St. Joseph like the universal Church.

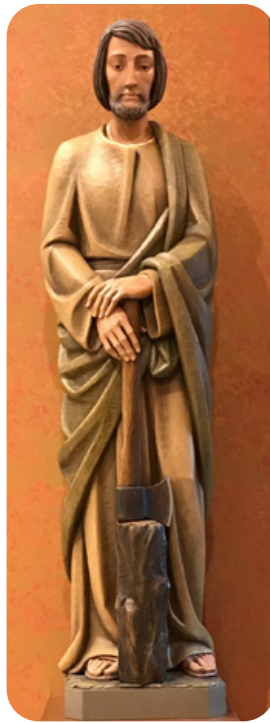
The current St. Joseph Cathedral was consecrated on April 21, 1926, replacing the severely deteriorating original cathedral.

The Timeline Honoring St. Joseph within the Diocese:

- In 1825, the now St. Joseph Parish community in Martinsburg was established, originally named St. John Catholic community.
- † **St. Joseph Parish, Martinsburg:**
Martinsburg was an early center of Catholic activity in the state dating back to the end of the 18th century, when we were part of Virginia. Families gathered for Mass in private homes and later rented a house until the first church, St. John, was constructed in 1830. The parish community worked together to construct a new church, which was completed on South Queen Street in 1860. The parish was renamed and dedicated to St. Joseph. A year later the church was used during the Civil War as a headquarters for the occupying Union forces with the main floor serving as a hospital and the basement as a stable for the soldier's horses.
- In 1853, three Sisters of St. Joseph and three novices arrived in Wheeling from St. Louis to take charge of Wheeling Hospital. The Congregation of Sisters of St. Joseph of Wheeling was officially established on May 4th of 1860.
- In 1862, St. Joseph Parish in Mason was established.
- In 1870, St. Joseph Mission in Pennsboro was opened.
- In 1872, the same year St. Joseph was declared the patron of the diocese, St. Joseph Parish in Huntington was established.
- † **St. Joseph Parish, Huntington:**
In 1872, Bishop Richard Whelan sent Father Thomas Quirk to organize the Catholics of Cabell County. He established two parishes: St. Peter in Guyandotte, and St. Joseph in Huntington. The first St. Joseph Church, which also served as a school was built at 20th Street and 8th Avenue. However, floods in the early 1880s resulted in a need for a new church to be constructed. Property was secured on Sixth Avenue for a church and rectory. The church opened in 1889.
- In 1873, St. Joseph Parish in Proctor was built.
- In 1900, St. Joseph Hospital was opened in Parkersburg, and St. Joseph Parish (now Holy Rosary) in Buckhannon was established.
- In 1905, St. Joseph Orphanage was begun in Huntington by the Sisters of Christian Education.
- In 1906, St. Joseph Parish in Howesville was established. It had been a log church since 1849.

continue...

- In 1909, St. Joseph Parish in Fairmont was opened.
- In 1921, St. Joseph Hospital in Buckhannon was established.
- In 1926, the new St. Joseph Cathedral was dedicated on April 21st.
- In 1956, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Wheeling dedicated their new motherhouse, Mount St. Joseph, on the grounds of the former Holloway Estate near Oglebay Park.
- In 1957, St. Joseph the Worker Church community in Weirton was founded. The parishioners celebrated Mass in Madonna High School until the church building was completed in 1962 at 229 California Avenue.
- In 1958, St. Joseph the Worker Mission in Whitesville was established and became a parish in 1976.
- In 1962, plans were announced for construction of St. Joseph Preparatory Seminary in Vienna, and it was dedicated in 1966.
- In 1965, the first Sisters of St. Joseph were assigned to the diocesan mission in Guatemala.
- In 1974, Bishop Joseph Hodges received approval from



the Holy See for the diocese's boundaries to be redrawn and for the first time since the creation of the state of West Virginia in 1863. The change meant the diocese's boundaries would correspond to those of the state. Therefore 18 parishes that were in Virginia would now be part of the Diocese of Richmond and not Wheeling; and 10 parishes located in the Eastern Panhandle region, including St. Joseph in Martinsburg, that were part of the Richmond Diocese joined Wheeling. Further it was also during this time the Diocese of Wheeling was renamed the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and the Sacred Heart Parish in Charleston was designated the diocese's co-cathedral.

- In 1974, St. Joseph Parish in Pennsboro was established.
- In 1985, Wheeling College dedicated the Chapel of Mary and Joseph.
- The St. Joseph Cathedral was restored and rededicated on August 16, 1996.

Editor's note: The painting featured on page 5 is by Nichole Lanthier available at WWW.ETSY.COM/SHOP/NICHOLELANTHIER.

The statue belongs to Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Stonewood.

Hello
Spring

“It is always springtime
in the heart
that loves God.”

-St. John Vianney

Second-graders receive love, lessons from across the world

By Meg Partington of St. Joseph School, Martinsburg

Second graders at Saint Joseph School received valentines and letters from all over the United States and beyond through a project that not only spread love, but expanded their knowledge of locales outside the Mountain State.

The 44 students in the two second-grade classes led by teachers Stephanie Dardaris and Tara Leporini took part in Hearts Across America from the end of January through the end of February. The students were asked to reach out to family and friends, requesting that they send a valentine or postcard to the school with some interesting facts about where they live. The students read the cards and kept track of where each one was from on a map of the United States to expand their geographical knowledge.

More than 140 pieces of correspondence were received from more than 40 states and the nation's capital, plus Australia, France, Malta, the United Arab Emirates, the Philippines and Scotland. Among the surprises received were a package containing the book "The Runaway Beignet" about New Orleans from someone who used to live in Martinsburg, drawings, bookmarks, craft collages and photographs.

Dardaris' students showed their gratitude for the mail by sending a letter containing fun facts about West Virginia, including what each student likes best about living in our state, to each class who responded to their request. For relatives who sent valentines or other items, they used social media and word of mouth to say "thank you."

The members of Leporini's class sent a note of appreciation to those who wrote specifically to their class and addressed the envelopes themselves.

"I believe this project is especially valuable in today's digital age," Leporini said. "It offers students a meaningful way to connect with others, fostering a sense of joy, belonging and curiosity. Receiving handwritten letters provides a personal touch that strengthens their emotional well-being, while also enriching their learning experience."



Dardaris class: As part of their Hearts Across America project, the second-graders in Stephanie Dardaris' class at Saint Joseph School thanked classes from all over the country for corresponding with them by sending a letter containing fun facts about West Virginia, including what each student likes best about living in the Mountain State.



Hearts Across America display: Through their Hearts Across America project, the second-graders at Saint Joseph School received more than 140 pieces of correspondence from more than 40 states and the nation's capital, plus Australia, France, Malta, the United Arab Emirates, the Philippines and Scotland.



Leporini class: Teacher Tara Leporini worked with her second-graders at Saint Joseph School to create a card that all of them signed and mailed to students who wrote to them as part of the Hearts Across America program. Her students learned how to properly address envelopes for mailing in the process.



JUBILEE 2025 PILGRIMS OF HOPE



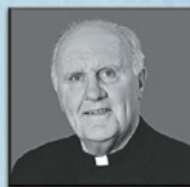
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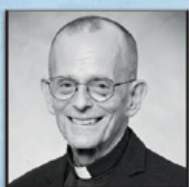
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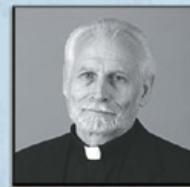
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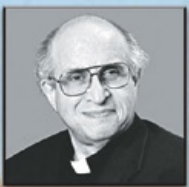
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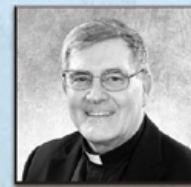
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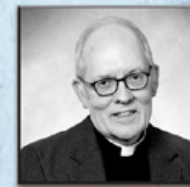
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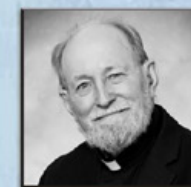
Rev. David J. Schmitt



Rev. Douglas B. Sutton



Rev. Laurence Wrenn



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RETIREMENT FUND FOR DIOCESAN PRIESTS

COLLECTION DATE: MARCH 23, 2025

Charles Town, WV Retreat

with

Immaculée



JULY 25-26, 2025
ST. JAMES THE GREATER

49 Crosswinds Dr.
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1 Attendee \$57.00

Group rates as low as \$35 per person.

Info: **Angelle** angelle@immaculee.com

Deacon Dave deacondave@stjameswv.org



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Introduction to Alzheimer's

An awareness program presented by the Alzheimer's Association®



ALZHEIMER'S IS NOT NORMAL AGING.

It's a disease of the brain that causes problems with memory, thinking and behavior.

Join us to learn about:

- » The impact of Alzheimer's.
- » The difference between Alzheimer's and dementia.
- » Alzheimer's disease stages and risk factors.
- » Current research and treatments available to address some symptoms.
- » Alzheimer's Association resources.

**WHEN: Monday, March 17, 2025
4-5pm**

**WHERE: All Saint's Catholic Church
317 East Main Street
Bridgeport, WV**

Sponsored by: All Saint's Healthcare Ministry

**Speaker: Teresa Morris, MA, SLP WV
Alzheimer's Association**



**ALZHEIMER'S
ASSOCIATION**

West Virginia Chapter

Understanding the Care in Caregiving



All Saints Catholic Church

March 19, 2025

6:00 p.m.

Please join us to learn about:

- ♥ Caregiving Resources
- ♥ Community Support
- ♥ Caring for Yourself as Caregiver
- ♥ Making Tough Choices
- ♥ Spiritual Care



HOSPICE

Presented by: WVU Medicine Hospice Team: Devany Yearsley, Volunteer Coordinator; Kim Ford, MSW; Jodi Muller, MSW; and Todd Syruws, BS Pastoral Services, Spiritual Coordinator

*Hosted by: All Saints Healthcare Ministry
All Saints Catholic Church
317 W. Main Street
Bridgeport, WV 26330 (304) 842-2283*



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

God's covenant with Abram – God appears as smoke and fire at Abram's obedient sacrificial cite, and proclaimed He gives the land from Egypt to the Euphrates to Abram and his descendants.

Responsorial: Psalm 27

"The Lord is my light and my salvation."

Second Reading: Philippians 3:17-4:1-41

Saint Paul advises all who love Christ not to be consumed by earthly things, rather you should imitate those who are steadfast in faith at all times even in adversity.

Gospel: Luke 9:28b-36

The Transfiguration story – Christ is illuminated like the sun in a spectacular scene with Moses and Elijah, witnessed by Peter, James, and John, who also heard God's voice say to them, "This is my beloved Son, listen to Him."

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church - leaders, members, and those discerning to be – may we all be united in the light of Christ as a community and for the love of God, so we hear His voice, to be obedient to Jesus' Word, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our world leaders, that they may heed Almighty God and act in respect and confidence, as they work for peace and unity, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That as we transition from winter to spring during this Jubilee Year of Hope, we may mirror God's great creation around us and transform our minds and hearts with hope not defeat for God knows we are in a society that aims to cause great division, blame, and anger, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our brothers and sisters who are suffering silently, 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
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Eastern Panhandle - coming soon	FM	88.5
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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.