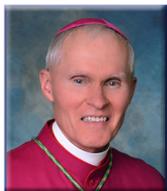




MARCH 19, 2020

A MESSAGE FROM MOST REVEREND MARK BRENNAN BISHOP OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON



Hello to all of you. We are in a period of great concern and uncertainty over the impact of the novel coronavirus in West Virginia and throughout our nation and our world.

I want to assure you as Bishop of this diocese, that spans our great State, that I am in constant prayer with you and for you as we face this unprecedented time.

I realize it is particularly challenging that we are forced to remain apart during this holy season of Lent - a time when we are used to gathering often in prayer, in reflection, and penance as we await the joy of the Lord's Resurrection. We are experiencing for a short time what millions of our fellow Christians experience for years on end because they live in areas of the world where the Christian faith is forbidden or its free exercise severely restricted.

How long we'll be required to keep our churches closed and remain apart is still unknown. As such, I urge you to make time each day for prayerful reflection, alone or with family members, and in a spirit of true solidarity with your fellow Catholics who are also deprived of our sacramental life during this time. Traditional devotions such as the recitation of the rosary and the Divine Mercy chaplet can be done together or individually. Or a family could simply read a short passage of Scripture, perhaps from one of the daily Mass readings, let each person present give a reflection, offer some petitions for the sick and those who care for them and end with the Our Father.

We would do well to remember that the Lord abides with us always, and in very

place - and is not hindered by physical boundaries. He seeks to be with us, to comfort us and to speak to us in our prayerful reflection, in the quiet of our souls.

I urge you to use this time, when we are forced to disconnect from our daily routine, to reflect on and renew your commitment to Christ Jesus as his disciples journeying with Him to the cross on Calvary.

Technology offers you the ability to join the Mass that is live-streamed from the Cathedral of St. Joseph each day at 12:05 PM. Sunday Mass is also live-streamed at 6 PM on Saturday and remains on our Diocesan website until Monday.

We are also utilizing social media to make available a number of resources to help people of the Diocese remain firm in their faith during this time. These include links to the daily readings, special prayers and other reflections that we are pleased to share with you as aids in your own spiritual exercises.

As a community of faith, we have a special obligation to follow the guidelines that have been issued by our public officials in order to protect our older adults and those most vulnerable to the severe effects of the Coronavirus. For this reason I not only have suspended the public celebration of Mass but I also dispense all Catholics resident in West Virginia from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass for as long as this pandemic continues. I do ask that you keep in your prayers those who have contracted this virus here in our country and across the globe, that God may comfort families who have lost a loved one and that those stricken might soon recover their health.

We pledge to you to do our very best to stay connected and to continue to provide you spiritual resources and the assurance of our prayers during this Lenten journey that has taken us to an unpredictable place.

We do not yet know the impact that these restrictions will have on our Holy Week celebrations or on our Easter vigil and Easter Sunday liturgies. We will communicate further with you at the earliest opportunity when we see the road ahead more clearly.

Let me now offer you a passage from Psalm 25:

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me; teach me your paths,

Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior.

Remember that your compassion, O LORD, and your kindness are from of old.

In your kindness remember me, because of your goodness, O LORD.

Good and upright is the LORD; thus he shows sinners the way.

He guides the humble to justice, he teaches the humble his way.

The Lord forgets us not - and is our constant guide and teacher in the ways of His righteousness - he shows us the way to His truth and is with us always, even in the darkest hours.

May the Lord comfort and sustain you and your friends and loved ones in these difficult days and enliven our hope with the promise of His strength and constant presence.

God bless you all!

Mark E. Brennan

Faith IN WV

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON



Welcome to our first edition of Faith In WV. This will serve as a bulletin for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. While our churches remain closed at this time, we bring you this publication to not only keep you informed, but also to help us all grow in faith.

Faith In WV is a vehicle we can use to give hope, rise above the odds, be a blessing, and lead by example. It is choosing to find the good in our circumstances, and letting others see Christ in us amidst time of uncertainty and adversity. Ultimately it is having faith in God the Father above all.

A LETTER FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Dear Catholic School Families,

I write you this letter today as not only a means to get information to you, but also to give you my most sincere words of commitment in this time of uncertainty. Your children, our teachers, support staff, and volunteers are our utmost priority. We are one big family.

Decisions have been made and will continue with the clear focus to keep our Catholic School Community safe.

Our diocesan school principals and I have been working diligently to best prepare for the COVID-19 situation. Your patience and understanding are appreciated, as we continue to receive information and make decisions. We will relay information and updates to you as soon as possible.

Please note, your first source for information will be from your principal and school. Continue to frequently monitor their routine platform of communication, whether that be email, school website, social media, messaging apps, pre-recorded voice message calls, etc.

Our school buildings will be closed until further notice today, March 16th.

Our principals and teachers have collaborated and will continue to do so on creative ways to teach remotely. For schools with the proper capabilities online/cyber days have begun as per the principal's direction. Schools without that technology in place our teachers have developed "blizzard packets" to keep students working and active within their subject areas.

Our school administrators and the Department of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston will continue to work together to best serve our students, teachers, and families.

It is my hope we all take this time to grow in our relationship with Christ, strengthening our hope, trust, and compassion.

Peace,
Mary Ann Deschaine, Ed.S.
Superintendent

I command you: be strong and steadfast! Do not fear nor be dismayed, for the LORD, your God, is with you wherever you go. - Joshua 1:9

PRAYER TO END CORONA VIRUS

God taught us... control the controllable. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.

Let us pray together a prayer shared by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops...

For all who have contracted coronavirus,

We pray for care and healing.

For those who are particularly vulnerable,

We pray for safety and protection.

For all who experience fear or anxiety,

We pray for peace of mind and spirit.

For affected families who are facing difficult decisions between food on the table or public safety,

We pray for policies that recognize their plight.

For those who do not have adequate health insurance,

We pray that no family will face financial burdens alone.

For those who are afraid to access care due to immigration status,

We pray for recognition of the God-given dignity of all.

For our brothers and sisters around the world,

We pray for shared solidarity.

For public officials and decision makers,

We pray for wisdom and guidance.

Father, during this time may your Church be a sign of hope, comfort and love to all.

Grant peace.

Grant comfort.

Grant healing.

Be with us, Lord.

Amen.

FAITH

MASS READINGS SUMMARIZED FOR MARCH 21-22
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Lectionary: 31

First Reading: 1SAMUEL 16:1B, 6-7, 10-13A

The LORD said to Samuel:

“Fill your horn with oil, and be on your way. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen my king from among his sons.”

As Jesse and his sons came to the sacrifice, Samuel looked at Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed is here before him.” But the LORD said to Samuel: “Do not judge from his appearance or from his lofty stature, because I have rejected him. Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the LORD looks into the heart.” In the same way Jesse presented seven sons before Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any one of these.” Then Samuel asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?” Jesse replied, “There is still the youngest, who is tending the sheep.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Send for him; we will not begin the sacrificial banquet until he arrives here.” Jesse sent and had the young man brought to them. He was ruddy, a youth handsome to behold and making a splendid appearance. The LORD said, “There—anoint him, for this is the one!” Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand, anointed David in the presence of his brothers; and from that day on, the spirit of the LORD rushed upon David.

Responsorial Psalm PS 23: 1-3A, 3B-4, 5, 6.

**R. (1) The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.**

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul.

**R. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.**

He guides me in right paths for his name’s sake. Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side With your rod and your staff that give me courage.

**R. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.**

You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

**R. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.**

Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for years to come.

**R. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.**

Second Reading EPHESIANS 5:8-14

Brothers and sisters: You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth. Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness; rather expose them, for it is shameful even to mention the things done by them in secret; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says: “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.”

Verse Before The Gospel JN 8:12

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Gospel JN 9:1-41

As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him. We have to do the works of the one who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, “Go wash in the Pool of Siloam” —which means Sent—. So he went and washed, and came back able to see.

His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said, “Isn’t this the one who used to sit and beg?” Some said, “It is, “but others said, “No, he just looks like him.” He said, “I am.” So they said to him, “How were your eyes opened?” He replied, “The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and told me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went there and washed and was able to see.” And they said to him, “Where is he?”

He said, “I don’t know.”

They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees. Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a sabbath. So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. He said to them, “He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see.” So some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, because he does not keep the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a sinful man do such signs?” And there was a division among them. So they said to the blind man again, “What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.”

Continue...

Gospel JN 9:1-41 Continued

Now the Jews did not believe that he had been blind and gained his sight until they summoned the parents of the one who had gained his sight. They asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How does he now see?"

His parents answered and said, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. We do not know how he sees now, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him, he is of age; he can speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone acknowledged him as the Christ, he would be expelled from the synagogue. For this reason his parents said, "He is of age; question him."

So a second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give God the praise! We know that this man is a sinner." He replied, "If he is a sinner, I do not know. One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see." So they said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again?"

Do you want to become his disciples, too?" They ridiculed him and said, "You are that man's disciple; we are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but we do not know where this one is from." The man answered and said to them, "This is what is so amazing, that you do not know where he is from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if one is devout and does his will, he listens to him. It is unheard of that anyone ever opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he would not be able to do anything." They answered and said to him, "You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?" Then they threw him out.

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him. Then Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind."

Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not also blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you are saying, 'We see,' so your sin remains.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we will remain faithful and compassionate in the face of adversity and distress, we pray . . .

For government leaders, that they will have the wisdom and guidance to protect their people, we pray . . .

For medical professionals, that God may guide their hands and hearts and that they may be protected from sickness as they care for those afflicted, we pray . . .

For the people of our community and world, that we might be protected from sickness and loss of life, we pray . . .

For those suffering in the outbreak of sickness, that they might be healed, and for those who have died, we pray . . .

Lord hear our prayer

ROSARY PRAYERS

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

The Our Father

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

The Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

The Glory Be (The Doxology)

Glory be to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

FATIMA PRAYER

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell and lead all souls to heaven, especially those most in need of Thy mercy.

The Hail Holy Queen (The Salve Regina)

Hail, holy Queen, mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To you we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to you we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn, then, most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy toward us; and after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.



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HOW CAN WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR PARISHES DURING THIS TIME OF CRISIS?

We have received a number of emails and phone calls asking how parishioners can still participate with your financial stewardship while the sacrifice of the Mass is said privately/remotely on your behalf. The most efficient way is to give online through the parish website, if your parish has that capability. You can also contact your bank to establish a “bill payment” to have a check mailed to you parish directly from your bank. Envelope giving may also continue by mailing checks to the parish through the US Mail; however,

please refrain from mailing cash. For those of you have already established on-line giving, or recurring payments through your bank, thank you! Parishes are still paying their staff, utilities, bills and other daily expenses, and they rely on the Sunday offering to make these payments.

Please take a moment to visit your parish website and sign up for online giving.

ONLINE RESOURCES

As Bishop Mark Brennan has noted there are many online websites and mobile apps to enrich our spirit during this time. We are all God’s children. Receive His love through daily readings, prayer and reflections.

Here is a list of resources for you and your loved ones. In addition to our diocesan website, DWC.ORG, the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops’ website, USCCB.ORG, has a plethora of resources presented in text, audio, and video formats.

- Daily Readings written: USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS
- Daily Readings audio: USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS-AUDIO.CFM
- Video Reflection: USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/REFLECTIONS/INDEX.CFM
The usccb site will also give you tutorials on how to pray the Rosary, the Divine Chaplet, and other prayers and devotions.
- Daily Reflection from The Word Among Us can be accessed at WAU.ORG/MEDITATIONS/
- EWTN Catholic Radio Daily Schedule: WWW.EWTN.COM/RADIO/SCHEDULE
- Access The Magnificat free online at WWW.OSVNEWS.COM
- Liturgical Press is providing free access to a digital file for Give Us This Day, which includes the daily Mass texts: GIVEUSTHISDAY.ORG/DIGITAL
- National Catholic Register has Catholic news, stories, blogs, etc. at NCREGISTER.COM
- Discover a saint special to you at Catholic News Service’s Patron Saints page: CATHOLICNEWS.COM/PATRON-SAINTS.CFM
- Catholic enrichment site for children: CATHOLICSPROUTS.COM
- For teens and twenty-somethings: LIFETEEN.COM
- For Catholic headline news: WWW.CATHOLICNEWSAGENCY.COM

Please follow us on social media for more information.