



LAETARE SUNDAY

REJOICE ~ WE ARE HALFWAY THERE

We are halfway through Lent. The Church honors this day as Laetare (pronounced lay-TAR-ray) Sunday. The word Laetare means “rejoice” in Latin.

Indeed, this is a joyous Sunday. Priests will be wearing rose (pink – made of a mix of red and gold) vestments, flowers may appear at the altar, and the liturgical music is allowed to be more upbeat and played more fully.

Laetare Sunday, like its counterpart Gaudete Sunday in Advent, is a mid-point celebration to inspire us; and during Lent it is specifically focused on encouraging us to continue our Lenten commitments of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

As a Church we also celebrate the Second Scrutiny for the Elect in RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) today. This is a significant day not only for catechumens but also all the faithful, giving us a day to look within ourselves and seek God’s mercy on all for our sinfulness.

All of the readings this weekend focus on the Light of God – turning away from darkness to seek and be all that is good. Christ is our Light, leading us away from darkness and hard to break habits of selfishness.

Don’t lose trust. Don’t lose hope. God shows up and gives us healing, love, and mercy.

Hang on! Rejoice! You’re halfway there!

CELEBRATE ST. JOSEPH ON MONDAY

The Church will celebrate the Solemnity of St. Joseph on Monday, March 20th this year, because his feast day of March 19 falls on Laetare Sunday.

Saint Joseph the Guardian of the Redeemer is a role model for all Christians for he was a holy man, devout, and completely *human*. He is also the patron of the universal Church.

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.

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.

During this month to honor St. Joseph, Fr. Mark Mary, a Franciscan Friar of the Renewal (CFR), who serves through the friary in the Bronx, invites you to contemplate

on the life of St. Joseph as you recite the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary.

Although there may not be any words attributed to St. Joseph in the Bible, he is an essential part of salvation history, and deserves much more recognition than was granted him.

In order to focus on Joseph - the Terror of Demons consider his mindset, heart, humility, and strength, as it unfolds in the Joyful Mysteries.

Fr. Mark-Mary breaks down each mystery with this in mind:

1. The Annunciation: pray with Luke 1:26-38 and Matthew 1:18-25 (focus on Joseph's response to Mary's pregnancy, and to the angel's message)

2. The Visitation: pray with Luke 1:39-56 (focus on Joseph's response to Mary's Magnificat)

3. The Birth of Christ: pray with Luke 2:1-20 and Matthew 1:25-2:15 (focus on Joseph's response to seeing Christ for the first time)

4. The Presentation: pray with Luke 2:21-40 (focus on Joseph's response to the prophecy of Simeon)

5. Finding Jesus in the Temple: pray with Luke 2:41-52 (focus on Joseph's response to Jesus being lost, and finding him in the temple)

Want to go deeper? Try spending some time in *lectio divina* with each of these passages. You can split them up over a week, or do one per week, but just spend some time in the shoes of St. Joseph, focusing on his response to the things God was calling him to.

Meditating on the life of St. Joseph will only bring us closer to Christ, helping us see why God chose to entrust such an important role to such a humble carpenter.

Saint Joseph, pray for us.

Click this link for more of how Fr. Mark-Mary shares the prayer to bring you closer to the earthly father of our Lord and Savior: [MEDIA.ASCENSIONPRESS.COM/VIDEO/PRAIVING-THE-ROSARY-WITH-ST-JOSEPH](https://media.ascensionpress.com/video/praying-the-rosary-with-st-joseph)





WEST VIRGINIA EUCHARISTIC CONGRESSES

Christ is Present! Will you be? *Come to the Table - Spring 2023*

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Eucharistic Congresses are part of the National Eucharistic Revival, a three-year renewal of "the Church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist."

DATE & LOCATION

APRIL 21 - 22
ST. JAMES CHURCH
CHARLES TOWN

APRIL 28 - 29
CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOSEPH
WHEELING

JUNE 2 - 3
BASILICA OF THE CO-CATHEDRAL
OF THE SACRED HEART
CHARLESTON

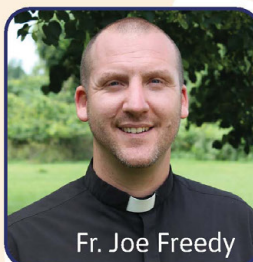
KEYNOTE



Fr. Luke Spannagel



Fr. Timothy Anastos



Fr. Joe Freedy

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY EVENING

Taizé Service

Reception

SATURDAY

Powerful morning
prayer & procession of
all the vicariates

Keynote Speaker

Q & A

Breakout Sessions
Music

Eucharistic Adoration

Mass and more



For more information and to register
visit www.dwc.org or scan the QR code.



SUPPORTING RELATIVE CAREGIVERS

In recent years, an increasing number of West Virginians have opened their hearts and homes to parent their grandchildren, nieces or nephews.



Diana Bell (left), CCWVa Case Management Specialist, and Gail Paige (right), CCWVa RAPP client, catch up at the Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center.

When parents are unable to raise their children due to addiction, incarceration, or mental illness, it takes great courage – and resources – to step in.

Catholic Charities West Virginia’s (CCWVa) Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) is a form of specialized case management providing support to these families. Launched as part of CCWVa’s response to the opioid epidemic, RAPP assists caregivers in addressing their social, emotional, and educational needs.

“Currently, I have a five-year old grandson, a three-year old granddaughter, that I’m raising as well as three foster kids through the state of West Virginia,” said Gail Paige, CCWVa RAPP client.

Paige said she greatly benefited from the RAPP monthly meetings. CCWVa provides child care and an activity for the children while the adult caregivers gather to support one another and learn from various speakers.

“We’d have various topics that we’d talk about... or if there was a topic that we had an interest in, she [Diana Bell, CCWVa Case Management Specialist] would try to bring the resource to us.”

“Sometimes when you lose hope and think that others aren’t watching or caring, they really still are,” said Page. “I feel blessed to be a part of the Catholic Charities RAPP program.”

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia, visit www.CATHOLICCHARITIESWV.ORG.

The Mission of Catholic Charities West Virginia: *Guided by God’s love, Catholic Charities collaborates with community partners, parishes and families to provide caring and compassionate services to people in need and work toward lasting and meaningful change.*

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

David is anointed king by Samuel.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 23

“The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.”

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

The Lord awakes you from the darkness. Be the children of light choosing to turn away from the darkness of evil and into the light of God’s love.

Gospel: John 9:1-42

Christ heals the blind young man. The Pharisees and the Jews around them did not believe the story the young man shared, declaring that he was once blind and now sees. Jesus heard that he was thrown out by the Pharisees. Upon returning to him Jesus revealed his identity – Jesus, the Son of God.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/031923.CFM

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that the light of Christ shines upon the world as we spread our love for Him, let us pray to the Lord. . .

May all leaders of the world work together to end the darkness and evil of war, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all the faithful, that we see with world with eyes of faith in the face of uncertainty and challenges, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all of our habitual and special intentions, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer



COMMUNAL LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES

Parishes around the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston have shared the details of their Communal Penance Services for Lent. These services are a form of sacramental confession, combining public prayer of the faithful and individual confession.

WWW.DWC.ORG/PENANCE-SERVICES



RISING JUNIORS IN HIGH SCHOOL
THROUGH RISING SOPHOMORES IN COLLEGE

JOIN US FOR



JUNE 10-12, 2023

SATURDAY MORNING THRU MONDAY AFTERNOON

ST. MARY PARISH

3346 University Avenue, Morgantown

COST: \$40/ per person

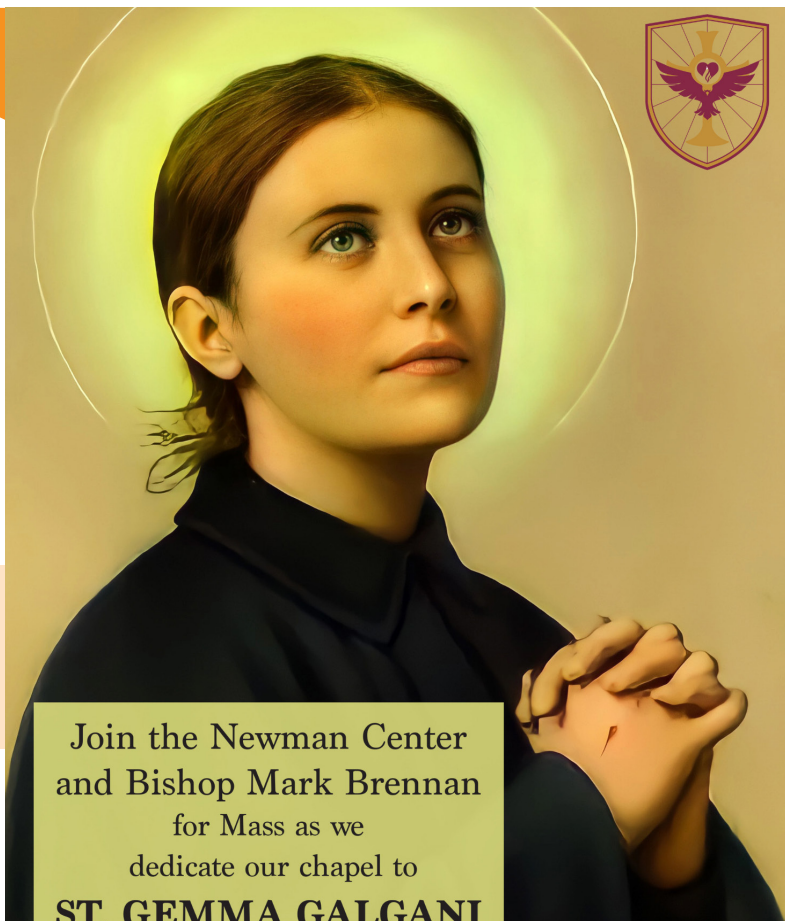
Cost includes lodging, food & supplies

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS AVAILABLE!



**SCAN QR CODE
TO LEARN MORE
AND REGISTER**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
DANIEL MAUL AT DMAUL@DWC.ORG OR AT 304-233-0880, EXT. 376
OR RALPH MODENA AT RALPHMODENA@GMAIL.COM



Join the Newman Center
and Bishop Mark Brennan
for Mass as we
dedicate our chapel to
ST. GEMMA GALGANI

April 11, 2023 at 5:30pm

Dinner will Follow



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
Eastern Panhandle	AM	740
Eastern Panhandle	FM	106.5
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/WLWL~

ENROLL TODAY

WV Catholic Schools

*Empowered
by knowledge.
Transformed
by faith.*



Register today

wvcatholicschools.org



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.