



DEPARTMENT OF FAITH FORMATION AND MISSION

A NEW NORMAL?

A strange time, isn't it? For even the most moderate-thinking and calm ones among us, perhaps we, too, can't help but wonder if we're experiencing the beginning of the end-times. With so much in our lives now that is novel, unprecedented, and out-of-the-ordinary, we can't help but feel a bit nervous or even scared. We're praying constantly for God's assurance and peace. And, that's all we can do, as we sit in our homes and wonder what tomorrow brings. Pray and trust.

Nonetheless, we are still ecclesial ministers; we still have chosen a life of service and leadership in the Church. But, how can we be of service, how can we offer any guidance, if we ourselves feel lost and afraid?

It begins with being real, being honestly, if even painfully. A sincere faith is one that looks at human experience, in all its realities, and accepts it as part of the life God has given us. Be not afraid, our Lord compels us. Don't push down and ignore your own fears. Don't deny your stress and worry. Don't hesitate to risk being honest with people – those you trust and those to whom you are accountable – that you are struggling and suffering. For, it is only through humble honesty and openness that we can turn to God in the lives and love of our neighbors, to find meaning and hope. The tender, vulnerable heart is the one capable of healing and growth. And it is the pained person that can relate and help others who also are suffering and struggling.

Perhaps our service to others, though we must resist sliding into negativity and apathy, can be a service of vulnerable and honest presence – a journeying with those we are called to serve in hope-filled suffering. Maybe we're called to be, like Christ, suffering servants.

It is not a time for unreflective busyness, not a time for responding to changing times in routinized, well-worn ways. A living faith looks at the signs of the times and realistically responds to human needs in ways that are capable of bringing about healing and strength.

I suggest not forcing yourself to "put on a good face," not avoiding a sincere emotional, psychological, and spiritual accounting of yourself. For God wants to heal the broken-hearted and bind up our wounds. Therefore, we have to bring our brokenness, our vulnerable, scared selves to the Lord, and open our hearts and minds to the healing and sustaining power of God's grace. Then, perhaps, after a time, we can become the wounded healers that our people need. We'll be able to inspire hopefulness, instill calm, and initiate perseverance through this, our social, our global dark night of the soul.

Daniel Maul
Daniel Maul, Director



PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Holy Virgin of Guadalupe, Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas. We fly to you today as your beloved children. We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother, and gain for our nation and world, and for all our families and loved ones, the protection of your holy angels, that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

For those already afflicted, we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance. Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful, wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

In this time of trial and testing, teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind. Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.

We come to you with confidence, knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother, health of the sick and cause of our joy.

Shelter us under the mantle of your protection, keep us in the embrace of your arms, help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus.

Amen.

WORD OF GRACE FOR WV CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Hello to all of our wonderful Catholic school families. I hope that you are all well, happy, and healthy as we continue down this unknown path. I share with you today my first weekly *Word of Grace*. Think of it as a casual update I will send out each week to keep you apprised of any updates regarding your child's education.

I chose the name Word of Grace, because I am certain of one amazing thing in this challenging time (for that matter any challenging time) and that is - God is always with us!

Grace is a gift from God alone. As Saint Paul tells us, we all have enough grace to persevere and conquer all even when we are struggling. In fact he said when we think we are at our weakest, God enables us to be our strongest.

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."
- 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

I am seeing that in our Catholic schools.

Right now, our Catholic school teachers, principals, and aides are doing an outstanding job—not only engaging their students traditionally through textbooks and written work, but also creatively through electronic platforms. As you continue to assist with interactively learning and take a more active role in your child's education, you have certainly witnessed the effectiveness of these non-traditional methods. Receiving a call, video, or personal email from their principal or classroom teacher has become the new normal.

Our teachers may not be in front of their students in the bricks and mortar classroom, but they are there for them. They have happily accepted the challenge of fulfilling the mission to enable each child to be the best version of themselves, while bringing them closer to God through His amazing Grace!

I have been and will continue to be in constant communication with our principals as they are with their staff so our 4,691 students in our 25 Catholic schools remain our top priority. That means we are working together across the state to overcome obstacles and make a difference. These are unprecedented times. A manual for this situation does not exist, but it is so heartwarming to see what our educators are doing for their students.

We are seeing the impressive creativity and heartwarming compassion of our more than 500 amazing educators and staff. We are witnessing the reason I say over and over - "Our Catholic schools offer so much more than academics." We truly love each and every one of our students. We absolutely want the best for and out of each child.

Don't think for a moment we don't appreciate your role in this new normal. We are here for you as well. Please, reach out to your child's teacher via your classroom communication apps and via email for any support you need. We will continue to keep you in the loop.

Peace,
Mary Ann Deschaine, Ed.S.

HOW CAN I SUPPORT MY PARISH IN THESE TIMES?

YOU CAN BE A LIGHT DURING THIS TIME

For 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. - Ephesians 5:8-9

We have opportunities to care for one another and demonstrate Christ's love and radiate light. Let us move forward, cautiously and prayerfully, with what God has put before us:

PRAY

- in solidarity for our brothers and sisters here and around the world who are sick, and for those who have lost loved ones to this virus. May God console them and grant them peace.
- for doctors, nurses, and caregivers, for public health officials and all civic leaders. May God grant them courage and prudence as they seek to respond to this emergency with compassion and in service to the common good.
- for those with mental health concerns, as well as those who feel increasingly lonely during this time. May they be comforted by calls and letters of love and encouragement.

SERVE

- by educating yourself about the Coronavirus from credible sources, such as, the CDC and the State Health Department. Know the symptoms and have a plan for what you would do if you or a family member were to become sick.
- by checking on your friends and neighbors. Continue to reach out and care for one another through phone calls, emails and social media. Please reach out to anyone you think might be feeling isolated over the next few weeks.

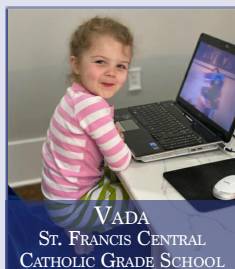
GIVE

- by considering ways you can bless medical professionals with acts of kindness and notes of appreciation. As the virus continues, many doctors and nurses will be working long hours in stressful situations.
- by continuing your financial support of the work of our Church. Many of you have set up your offerings to be automatically given through a bill-pay service at your bank or through your parish website where you can sign up to make your contributions online. If your parish does not offer online giving, you can make your offering by going to dwc.org and indicating the parish to which you would like your giving to be directed.

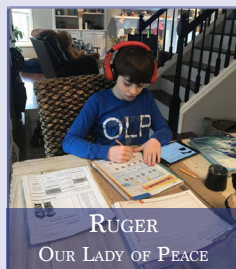
CATHOLIC EDUCATION CONTINUES AT HOME



CAMDEN
ST. PAUL SCHOOL



VADA
ST. FRANCIS CENTRAL
CATHOLIC GRADE SCHOOL



RUGER
OUR LADY OF PEACE



BROOKLYNN
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

MASS READINGS FOR MARCH 28-29
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Lectionary: 34

First Reading: EZEKIEL 37:12-14

Thus says the Lord GOD:

O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them, and bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and have you rise from them, O my people! I will put my spirit in you that you may live, and I will settle you upon your land; thus you shall know that I am the LORD. I have promised, and I will do it, says the LORD.

Responsorial Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8.

R. (7) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD; LORD, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to my voice in supplication.

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

If you, O LORD, mark iniquities, LORD, who can stand?
But with you is forgiveness, that you may be revered.

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

I trust in the LORD; I trust in the LORD; my soul trusts in his word. More than sentinels wait for the dawn, let Israel wait for the LORD.

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

For with the LORD is kindness and with him is plenteous redemption; And he will redeem Israel from all their iniquities.

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Second Reading ROMANS 8:8-11

Brothers and sisters:

Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; on the contrary, you are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is alive because of righteousness. If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit dwelling in you.

Verse Before The Gospel JOHN 11:25A, 26

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will never die.

Gospel JOHN 11:1-45

(or John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45 may be used)

Now a man was ill, Lazarus from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who had anointed the Lord with perfumed oil and dried his feet with her hair; it was her brother Lazarus who was ill.

So the sisters sent word to him saying, "Master, the one you love is ill." When Jesus heard this he said, "This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that he was ill, he remained for two days in the place where he was. Then after this he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just trying to stone you, and you want to go back there?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in a day? If one walks during the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if one walks at night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." He said this, and then told them, "Our friend Lazarus is asleep, but I am going to awaken him." So the disciples said to him, "Master, if he is asleep, he will be saved." But Jesus was talking about his death, while they thought that he meant ordinary sleep. So then Jesus said to them clearly, "Lazarus has died. And I am glad for you that I was not there, that you may believe. Let us go to him." So Thomas, called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go to die with him." When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away. And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you."

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world." When she had said this, she went

Continue...

Gospel JOHN 11:1-45 continued

and called her sister Mary secretly, saying, "The teacher is here and is asking for you." As soon as she heard this, she rose quickly and went to him. For Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still where Martha had met him. So when the Jews who were with her in the house comforting her saw Mary get up quickly and go out, they followed her, presuming that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Sir, come and see."

And Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him." But some of them said, "Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?" So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it.

Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said,

"Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me." And when he had said this, He cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go." Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

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](http://EBREVIARY.COM/LITURGY_OF_THE_HOURS)



PRAYER INTENTIONS

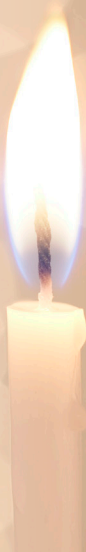
For all victims of the Coronavirus worldwide, especially those who are ill and for those who have died, we pray . . .

For their families and loved ones, as they experience worry and sadness, may they be comforted, we pray . . .

For all medical personnel and first responders who are caring for the ill, may God protect them and give them strength, we pray . . .

For the hungry, homeless and those struggling with poverty, may they find hope and the resources they need during this time of uncertainty, we pray . . .

Lord hear our prayer



BISHOP BRENNAN INVITES YOU TO SPECIAL ROSARY EVENTS

While we cannot be together in the pews, we can join each other virtually to pray one of the most important prayers, illuminating both our love of our Lord and our devotion to our Blessed Mother.

Bishop Mark Brennan invites you to join him for two online Rosary events that are special to him. The first is through the Zoom app that was set up by a small group of friends. The second is on a grander online scale through the Diocesan Rosary Congresses which began March 25th and concludes on March 31st.

Praying as a community is crucial, especially now, even if it has to be online.

"It is another way for our people to stay involved spiritually in these difficult times," he said.

SMALL GROUP ROSARY

WEEKNIGHT AT 7PM

NOW THROUGH MAY 5TH

To join go to the Zoom Meeting link prior to 7pm at:

[ZOOM.US/J/501121161](https://zoom.us/j/501121161) and enter the Meeting ID: 501 121 161

For questions please contact Shana Buck at editor.stjoeweirton@gmail.com

DIOCESAN ROSARY CONGRESSES

SUNDAY, MARCH 29TH

7PM - 8PM

Bishop Brennan will lead the Rosary and the Sorrowful Mysteries and recite the prayer from Pope Francis to end the Coronavirus. He will continue to speak, offering spiritual guidance.

To participate go to:

ROSARYCONGRESSUSA.ORG/VIRTUAL

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

On Laetare Sunday, Bishop Mark Brennan explained how we receive God's forgiveness through charitable acts; and we can still seek confession for mortal sins by making arrangements with our parish priests.

"The Lord gave us the Sacrament of Penance, commonly called confession, but keep in mind that confession is strictly necessary only for serious sins, which we call mortal, because they cause a life of divine grace in us to die," he said. "Lesser sins are usually called venial sins."

He said we can "receive God's forgiveness (of venial sins), performing charitable acts; offering up to God without bitterness one's illness or hardship; and praying for

someone in need any kind of fervent prayer that expresses our faith and love for God."

He emphasized if we truly need the Sacrament of Penance we are to contact our parish priest to arrange a time for confession. He said the confession will not be in the church, but can be at a safe and suitable location with proper distance and privacy for the penitent.

"May this be the time, when God sees us moving away from darkness into His healing light," he said.

To contact your parish priest visit your parish website or the Diocesan directory at DWC.ORG/DWC-ONLINE-DIRECTORY

YOUTH MINISTRY CONTINUES

YOUNG WV CATHOLICS invites teens to be part of



Instead of feeling cooped up, encourage your teen to feel energized by participating in the PROJECT YM LIVE event and Young WV Catholics Zoom conversation. Office of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry Interim Director, Shawn Madden, invites you to find out more and sign up at:

www.youngwvcatholics.com/ymlive.html

Project YM, a national youth ministry organization, streamed its first hour-long live youth night last week. It was attended online by more than 9,000 households! The event at projectym.com/live had games, prizes, a solid message, and engaging prayer. Help middle and high school students you know by sharing this opportunity.

CATHOLIC RADIO REMAINS A VOICE OF HOPE



The Light of Life Radio is encouraging the faithful around the state. You can get information about the listener supported station online at LoLRadio.org. LOL Radio can be heard at the following stations:

WVUS-AM 1190 North Central WV

(Morgantown • Fairmont • Clarksburg • Bridgeport • Kingwood
Grafton • Buckhannon • Elkins)

WLoL-FM 89.7 Morgantown WV

W248DB FM 97.5 Clarksburg Bridgeport WV
(including Stonewood • Weston • Grafton • Elkins)

WDWC-FM 90.7 Upper Ohio Valley

(including Wheeling • Moundsville • St Clairsville OH • Bridgeport OH)

Light of Life Radio also promotes Catholic Radio WV on its LoLRadio.org site. Click the Catholic Radio WV hyperlink on the site to see a full listing.

ONLINE RESOURCES TO CHECK OUT THIS WEEK:

- *My Daily Living* is back online! After a terrible accident last fall, Fr. John Chapin Engler, Jr., best known as Fr. Chapin, had to take a few months off to heal. He is pastor of Christ the King, Dunbar; Holy Trinity, Nitro; and St. Patrick Mission, Bancroft. Happily, thanks to many prayers and petitions he is presenting his at MYDAILYLIVING.COM
- The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is a great resource for how to build the domestic church – the family. Go to WWW.USCCB.ORG/BELIEFS-AND-TEACHINGS/VOCATIONS/PARENTS Scroll down and select "Tools for Building a Domestic Church."
- *Word on Fire* is providing Masses, videos, podcasts, homilies, and more. Click the resources tab at WORDONFIRE.ORG
- *My Heart is Ready*, WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/WWW.DAVIDHAAS.US is a morning of song and reflection with David Haas that airs at 9am. Haas is a liturgical composer, author, performer, speaker and recording artist.
- Make sure you are following *John Angotti Music Mission* on Facebook. Angotti, originally from Clarksburg, is a music missionary, providing inspirational music and faith. WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/JOHNANGOTTIMUSICMISSION
- Follow the latest from the Vatican. Find Pope Francis on Twitter [@PONTIFEX](https://twitter.com/PONTIFEX) and Vatican News at VATICANNEWS.VA/EN and on Facebook at VATICANNEWS

All past resources will remain available on the DWC.ORG website.