



MAY 1, 2020

MAY A MONTH TO CELEBRATE MARY OUR BLESSED MOTHER



May is known for welcoming the sweet fragrance of hyacinths and magnolias, the vibrant colors of the grass and flowering trees, and the joyful song of cardinals perched on pine branches. It is a season for renewal and hope – the perfect time to honor Mary our Blessed Mother.

The Church has been celebrating Mary in the

month of May for more than 700 years. Blessed Pope Paul VI noted this month, “pays honor to the Blessed Virgin and brings such rich benefits to the Christian People. Since Mary is rightly to be regarded as the way by which we are led to Christ, the person who encounters Mary cannot help but encounter Christ.”

She is the greatest teacher, and perfect example of true and loving discipleship. As she offered Jesus and the disciples her prayers and motherly love, she offers us the same through her intercessions.

Many non-Catholics believe we worship Mary, which is false. We honor her and her role as being chosen to the Mother of God. We pray for her intercession through the Hail Mary, the rosary, novenas, and litanies among others.

One of the most beautiful devotions is the Angelus. It reveals the Incarnation of Jesus. Its name is from the opening line in Latin, “Angelus Domini nuntiavit Mariae” (the Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary).

Let us all consciously renew our faith all month long with the help of Mary by celebrating her life on earth and in heaven.



THE ANGELUS PRAYER TEXT

It is traditionally prayed in a call and response format, with a leader (V) and everyone present the response (R).

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.

R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

**All. 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.**

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

R. Be it done unto me according to your word.

**All. 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.**

V. And the Word was made Flesh.

R. And dwelt among us.

**All. 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.**

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

**R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of
Christ.**

V. Let us pray:

**All. Pour forth we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into
our hearts, that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ
your Son was made known by the message of an angel,
may by his passion and cross be brought to the glory of
his resurrection.**

Through the same Christ Our Lord.

AMEN.

From the Desk of Superintendent Mary Ann Deschaine, Ed.S.

Department of Catholic Schools • www.WVCatholicSchools.org

WORD OF GRACE FOR WV CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Here we are welcoming the month of May. The Church dedicates this month to Mary our Blessed Mother. She is the ultimate example of character, love, sacrifice, and commitment.

This humble and faithful woman helps us become closer to God. Who better? She is God's mom after all. As a mother she gets it. She shared the same gamut of feelings of laughter, sadness, calm, chaos, pride, exhaustion, and excitement that we have. So, now more than ever, I find myself asking her – one of the greatest teachers – to pray for us, our families, schools, and communities. I know through her intercession we can confidently move forward into a vibrant future.

I want to reassure you that our Catholic schools continue to exceed my expectations since we have gone to the required remote learning situation. Because we are a Christ-centered community, we are used to having faith over fear. Thus, we were able to clearly and quickly prioritize what we needed to do for our students to adjust and succeed.

The consensus of one of our video conferences with our advancement directors was that our Catholic schools are thriving despite the separation from the bricks and mortar building. To see it, all you have to do is scroll through social media. There is no lack of photos, videos, and posts about our creative, challenging, and impressive curriculum.

Overall our students are resilient and have adapted to their at-home classrooms admirably. In the Catholic school spirit, our parents are going above and beyond to make the at home classroom work.

For the health and safety of all of us our buildings will remain closed for the rest of the academic year. Our teachers will continue distance learning lessons, assignments, and assessments, as they work with their classes in both an individual and group setting. The last day we will record grades will be May 22nd. Therefore, that will be the last official day of the 2019-2020 academic year for the Catholic schools of West Virginia.

In the meantime, I will be working with principals, and they will work with their faculty on a wide range of logistics, such as how to collect textbooks, devices and technology given to our students; how to distribute the personal belongings of students left in the school; and how to schedule staff back into their classrooms to complete year end requirements.

On top of these housekeeping items we are also working with our pastors concerning our very special events – sacraments, and graduations. Lots of ideas are being considered. Each building will work out what is best for their community.

All of this says a lot about the Catholic schools of West Virginia. We are Moving Mountains. The mountain in front of us today is COVID-19. Tomorrow it could be something different. No matter what life puts before us we will rise.

During this time our principals and teachers took the high road. They chose to remain in faith and student focused. They did not throw their hands in the air, choosing to do the bare minimum or settle for below average work for or from their students. They stepped up to be true Christian soldiers and said, "We got this! We have faith to move mountains!"

Peace,

Mary Ann Deschaine, Ed.S.
Mary Ann Deschaine, Ed.S.



SAVE THE DATE MAY 5, 2020

WV Catholic Schools provide challenging academics complimented with life and leadership lessons in empathy, morals, responsibility, and faith.

We give our students a strong foundation for the future – spiritually, academically, emotionally, and socially – all in a Christ-centered Catholic environment.

God is in our schools!

Join us online **May 5th** as we rally our families, parishioners, alumni, and school supporters to raise funds, share our faith, and build our online community during our first Diocesan Catholic Schools Giving Day,

One Mission, One Day to Make a Difference.

#OneMissionOneDay

OneMissionOneDay.org

MARY: ANOTHER SOURCE OF PRAYER AND SUPPORT DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

By Bernadette McMasters Kime, D.Min.

**Regina caeli, laetare, alleluia.
Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia.
Resurrexit sicut dixit, alleluia.
Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.**

**Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.
The Son whom you merited to bear,
alleluia, has risen as he said, alleluia.
Pray for us to God, alleluia.**

The “Regina caeli” is an antiphon that has been part of the prayer of the Church since the 13th Century. It is used during the Easter Season, replacing the Angelus and serving as the conclusion to the Liturgy of the Hours.

It is appropriate to reflect on these words, because on May 1, Archbishop Gomez will lead the nation in the Renewal of Consecration of the United States of America to Mary, Mother of Church.

During this time of the Coronavirus pandemic, turning to Mary, Mother of the Church and our mother can be a source of solace and peace and a way to help us to stay firm in our faith. Archbishop Gomez reminded the bishops of the United States that renewing our consecration to Mary “will give the Church the occasion to pray for Our Lady’s continued protection of the vulnerable, healing of the unwell, and wisdom for those who work to cure this terrible virus.”

Perhaps consider ending your night prayer with the “Regina caeli”. This simple but powerful antiphon reminds us of the hope of the Resurrection and invites us to seek Mary’s intercession during this time of sadness and uncertainty.

A SEASON OF FEASTS

By Sister Ellen Dunn, OP

Our Easter feast is clearly the bright star of the liturgical year. This particular Easter 2020, we have had to exercise all our creative muscles to assist us in its best celebration at home. We are allotted fifty days to bring our minds and hearts into this greatest mystery of our Christian Faith. It’s a good time to pause and ask ourselves how we are making use of this golden opportunity—especially at home, among family members. The Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary celebrate these events from the life of Jesus Christ.

In another three weeks, we will be reminded of Jesus’ Ascension into Heaven where He dwells at God’s right hand. The Scriptures narrate this event for us, with Jesus preparing the disciples for His return to His Father with His ‘Mission Accomplished’ in our midst. Many Scripture scholars insist that Jesus’ ascension was really the completion of his resurrection from the dead. The Church separates these feasts for our understanding and learning more about Christ’s life, death and resurrection. It can help us get our minds around these profound mysteries of the Easter season.

What finally draws our Easter feast to an official close for the year is the feast of Pentecost. Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to be with us on our continuing journey in life. The Holy Spirit dwells within us from the time of our Baptism, renewing and encouraging us in our everyday faith lives. This gift of God’s Holy Spirit enables us to remain faithful and to prepare for our own resurrection at the time of our death. Today, there may be distinct opportunities to reflect on this important belief (the Creed) as we face illness and death from the coronavirus. Happily we do believe in the mystery of the Resurrection and New Life—not only for Jesus but for ourselves and our loved ones.

BISHOP BRENNAN BLESSES ESSENTIAL HEALTHCARE WORKERS



Bishop Mark Brennan offered a special blessing April 30 for essential healthcare workers at Wheeling Hospital, joining faithful throughout West Virginia in gratitude for their services. During the blessing, the bishop called on God—the Divine Physician—to surround our state health care workers as they care for those effected by the COVID-19 pandemic. As the faithful of West Virginia, it is our time to pause for prayer. Now more than ever our communities rely on our health care professionals and the loyal employees now deemed essential, which includes our grocers.

It is critical we respond to this time of fear with faith. We need to share our love of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit with others through prayer, actions, and words of comfort and hope.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR RUNS HALF-MARATHON SOLO TO RAISE MONEY, ENCOURAGE ACTIVE LIFESTYLES

A Catholic school administrator in Clarksburg has gone the distance to raise money for the schools and promote physical fitness.

Notre Dame High School & St. Mary's Grade School's advancement director, Ian McAra has been training for a half marathon since mid-March. Because of his love for his school and support of their mission, he immediately chose to turn this run into an occasion to raise more than \$5,000 for the Notre Dame & St. Mary's Fund.

McAra had originally set a personal goal to run in the Cooper's Rock Half Marathon, which was originally scheduled for April 25th. However, due to the Coronavirus the Cooper's Rock event has been postponed until July. That didn't stop McAra, he did what all dedicated Catholic school advancement directors would do, come up with plan B.

McAra designed his own 13.1-mile course at Watters Smith Memorial State Park in Lost Creek for April 25. Despite the challenges of the day

being chilly and rainy, he finished the run in 3 hours and 14 minutes.

"It was an idea I had been rolling around in my head to do over the

tracking his progress on a Facebook fundraising site.

McAra also posted the length of his run, actual maps of his path, and his times, including average pace per mile. He did so to set a good example for students, encouraging them to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

"Many young people rely on organized sports and clubs to stay active," McAra said, "Those activities have all stopped right now, so our students need to be doing some kind of physical activity on their own or with their family."

McAra ran a variety of trails at the Lost Creek park, as well as West Union, Smithburg, and Nutter Fort.



Summer months," McAra said, "But with the coronavirus closing the schools, I brought it forward."

On Monday March 16, when the students in his schools began their remote learning, McAra tightened up his laces and took to the trails. He trained at city and state parks, while

"I prefer trail running to road running," McAra said, "It takes more time to complete the distance because of the tougher terrain you encounter but it is far more enjoyable."

To donate to the Notre Dame & St. Mary's Fund visit [NOTREDAMEWV.ORG](https://www.usccb.org/about/communications/upload/consecration-usa-mary-mother-of-church.pdf).

CHURCH LEADERS IN US & CANADA RENEWED CONSECRATIONS OF THE NATIONS TO THE CARE OF OUR BLESSED MOTHER

Bishops from across the United States and Canada led the faithful in prayer to renew the consecrations of our nations to the care of Mary our Blessed Mother on Friday, May 1.



This act of consecration was meant to be a reminder to the faithful of the Blessed Mother's witness to the Gospel and to ask for her sincere intercession before

her Son on behalf of those in need. This moment reaffirms and renews dedication to Mary as the greatest

teacher and intercessor to Jesus.

Similarly, the conference of bishops in Latin America and the Caribbean, consecrated their nations to Our Lady of Guadalupe on Easter.

In 2018, Pope Francis established the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mother of the Church, to take place the Monday after Pentecost. This day is to honor Mary as a source of protection and strength through prayer to her son Jesus Christ.

Pope Francis said that in the scripture John 19:25 depicts Mary at the foot of the Cross, and at that moment she became the Mother of the Church, accepting "her Son's testament of love".

In 1964, Pope Paul VI "declared the Blessed Virgin Mary as 'Mother of the Church, that is to say of all Christian people, the faithful as well as the pastors, who call her the most loving Mother' and established that 'the Mother of God should be further honored and invoked by the entire Christian people by this tenderest of titles.'"

The worship guide from the service is available at: [WWW.USCCB.ORG/ABOUT/COMMUNICATIONS/UPLOAD/CONSECRATION-USA-MARY-MOTHER-OF-CHURCH.PDF](https://www.usccb.org/about/communications/upload/consecration-usa-mary-mother-of-church.pdf).

The video of the service was posted on the USCCB's Facebook page at: [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/USCCB/](https://www.facebook.com/usccb/).

MASS READINGS FOR MAY 3, 2020
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Lectionary: 43

First Reading: ACTS 2:14A, 36-41

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed: "Let the whole house of Israel know for certain that God has made both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and they asked Peter and the other apostles, "What are we to do, my brothers?" Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is made to you and to your children and to all those far off, whomever the Lord our God will call." He testified with many other arguments, and was exhorting them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand persons were added that day.

Responsorial Psalm 23:1-3A, 3B4, 5, 6

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

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. In verdant pastures he gives me repose; beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul.

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

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. or R. Alleluia.

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. or R. Alleluia.

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. or R. Alleluia.

Second Reading 1PETER 2:20B-25

Beloved:

If you are patient when you suffer for doing what is good, this is a grace before God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his footsteps. He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth. When he was insulted, he returned no insult; when he suffered, he did not threaten;

instead, he handed himself over to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you had gone astray like sheep, but you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Alleluia LUKE 24:32

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel JOHN 10:1-10

Jesus said:

"Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate but climbs over elsewhere is a thief and a robber. But whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as the shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice. But they will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers." Although Jesus used this figure of speech, the Pharisees did not realize what he was trying to tell them.

So Jesus said again, "Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly."

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the people of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, that especially in times of trial and despair, that we may look to the hope of the Resurrection and never tire of spreading the Gospel, we pray . . .

For all leaders and policy makers, that the Spirit may guide them as they work to bring about the process of re-entry into our communities and churches, we pray . . .

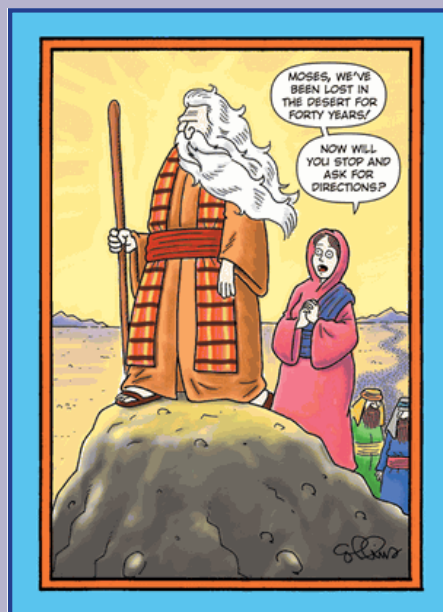
For all those affected by the Coronavirus, that they may know healing and hope during this difficult time, we pray . . .

For all caregivers, healthcare workers, and essential employees, that they may not lose hope as they continue to provide support and services during these trying times, we pray . . .

Lord hear our prayer



A LITTLE CATHOLIC HUMOR



YOUTH MINISTRY CONTINUES

YOUNG WV CATHOLICS invites teens to be part of

projectYM
A WEEKLY LIVE YOUTH NIGHT
LIVE

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.

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



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You can find LoL Radio online at LoLRadio.org

ONLINE RESOURCES TO CHECK OUT THIS WEEK:

In addition to our diocesan website, DWC.ORG, check out:

- The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' website, for 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.org site will also give you tutorials on how to pray the Rosary, the Divine Chaplet, and other prayers and devotions.
- National Catholic Register for Catholic news, stories, blogs, etc. at NCREGISTER.COM
- The Catholic News Service for the latest headlines for Catholics WWW.CATHOLICNEWS.COM
- My Daily Living with Fr. John Chapin Engler at MYDAILYLIVING.COM
- Fr. James DeViese - Altar-ed State: WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/C/FRDEVIESE
- Music ministries on Facebook: My Heart is Ready, WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/WWW.DAVIDHAAS.US and John Angotti Music Mission, WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/JOHNANGOTTIMUSICMISSION