



MAY 16, 2021

ASCENSION OF THE LORD



Today is a significant day in the history of the Church. Ascension Sunday, a celebration of the day Jesus ascended into heaven to be seated at the right hand of the Father.

Christ appeared to his apostles, reassuring them that He will always be with us until the end of the world (Matthew 28:20).

While it may be

hard to clearly see Jesus strengthening His will on earth as it is in heaven, God wants us to look in the mirror. Jesus directed his disciples to carry on His ministry, proclaiming the good news to the whole world. We are now those disciples. We need to share the good news and teach others about God by our words and actions.

Pope Francis encourages us to look toward heaven and fix our eyes on the joys of eternal life.

“We are all capable of bearing joy,” he said during a Catechesis on prayer, “This life is the gift that God has given us: and it is too short to be consumed in sadness, in bitterness. Let us praise God, content simply to exist.

Let us look at the universe, let us look at the beauty and let us also look at our crosses and say: ‘But, you exist, you have made us this way, for you.’ It is necessary to feel that restlessness in the heart that leads us to thank and to praise God. We are the children of the great King, of the Creator, capable of reading His signature in all creation; that creation that today we do not protect, but in that creation, there is the signature of God who made it out of love. May the Lord make us understand this ever more deeply, and lead us to say, ‘Thank you;’ and that ‘thank you’ is a beautiful prayer.”

Do not let negative thoughts, hateful words, or ugly bantering disturb your focus. Choose to find the good. Choose to remain in Christ. Choose to pray in all circumstances. Look to heaven for answers and guidance.

PRAYER MEDITATION FOR THE ASCENSION

O Lord Jesus, I adore you, Son of Mary, my Saviour and my Brother, for You are God. I follow You in my thoughts, O first-fruits of our race, as I hope one day by Your grace to follow You in my person into heavenly glory. Until then, do not let me neglect the earthly task which You have given me. Let me labour diligently all my life with a greater appreciation for the present. Let me realize that only by accomplishing true human fulfillment can I attain Divine fulfillment and ascend to You at the completion of my work. Amen.

ST. CHRISTOPHER MAGALLANES ~ MAY 21

PRIEST AND MARTYR OF THE CHURCH

On this day we remember St. Christopher Magallanes and the 24 companions who were killed during the Cristero War, because of their faith.

It was 100 years ago, when St. Christopher Magallanes was fulfilling his vocation as a priest in Central Mexico. His ministry was remarkable in the fact that this was a time of great religious persecution. The government was extremely anti-Catholic. One leader of the nation, Garrido Canabal was filled with so much distaste for Catholics and Christians he named his three sons, Satan, Lucifer, and Lenin; his bull, God; his pig, Pope; his cow, Mary; and his donkey, Christ. He banned all crucifixes from public buildings. It was no surprise that he became close to the president of Mexico, Plutarco Calles, who was just as hateful. Calles was a devout atheist. When he was governor of Sonora, he expelled all Catholic priests for the state. It wasn't out of the ordinary for Calles to order violent and vicious attacks on Catholics; and have priests killed just for being a priest. This is hard to believe today,

as Mexico is home to a thriving Catholic culture.

Saint Christopher Magallanes was described as a humble pastor who loved God and the Church with his whole heart and wanted to share that love and prepare souls for heaven. It was on May 21, 1927,

when he was traveling to celebrate the Feast of St. Rita of Cascia and was stopped by federal gunmen. The men arrested him for being a Catholic priest. Four days later he was killed in a government courtyard. Just before he died he said, "I am innocent and die innocent. I absolve with all my heart who seek my death and ask God that my blood bring peace to a divided Mexico." He is martyred on May 21st with 24 others who were killed under the same scenario. To read more about St. Christopher Magallanes [CLICK HERE](#).



HONOR THE LIFE OF ST. RITA OF CASCIA ON MAY 22

Her life is a story of great love, horrific loss, profound forgiveness, and strong faith. Saint Rita of Cascia, born Margarita Lotti, is a beloved saint of the Church, who honors her bravery. As a young girl she proclaimed she wanted to join the religious sisters of Cascia, but her parents had arranged her marriage and wouldn't entertain religious life.

So, she married a noble warrior, helped him overcome personal challenges, and converted him to her faith. They had two sons. However, because of a foolish feud between two families, her husband was murdered. It was customary at the time to then seek revenge against the family that did the killing. However, St. Rita refused to revolt. She forgave the killers for they did not have Christ in their hearts. Soon after the death of her husband, St. Rita lost both sons to illness. She was alone. The call to serve God as a religious sister grew stronger for her. She went to the Augustinian convent. The sisters,

whom she enjoyed being with and had admired since she was a child, turned her away not once but several times. Saint Rita's calling didn't diminish, nor was she discouraged to the point she didn't return. She returned, but after she had accomplished the impossible. She

worked to convince her family to end the feud and forgive the killers. She was successful in getting both sides to sign a peaceful agreement, ending any future animosity. The Augustinian sisters at the St. Mary Magdalene Monastery heard of this and welcomed her into religious life.

Her body is incorrupt and is in a glass enclosed coffin at the Basilica of St. Rita in Cascia, Italy. She is one of the most beloved saints of the Church.

For more on the life of St. Rita visit the Monastery of Santa Rita Da

Cascia [HERE](#) (note: select English in the top right of the website's banner).



REBUILDING TOGETHER AT THE MARGINS CONGRATULATIONS TO CONTEST WINNERS!

By: Susan Hollis, Diocesan Director, Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Catholic Charities West Virginia

Each year, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development hosts the Creating on the Margins Art Contest for students in grades 7 – 12. This year's theme, Rebuilding Together at the Margins, seeks to help the students understand how the vast disparities that occur in our world were only amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic. The contest encourages students to envision a new world where these inequalities are eliminated and to look for answers about how to get there.

The winners of the contest in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston came from St. Joseph Central Catholic High School in Huntington.

The younger category, for grades 7 – 9, was won by 9th grader Amanda Day. She submitted a painting titled, "If Humanity Could Head towards Salvation." This work of art highlighted Amanda's belief that depending on God is vital to moving forward as a society. She wrote of the need to follow Jesus' commandment to "do unto others as you would have them do unto you" [Matthew 7:12]. Our faith calls us to go out

and love people, repent of our sins, and cherish the world."

The older category, for grades 10 – 12, was won by 10th grader Elexis Spurlock. Elexis's work of art was a poem titled, "An Addictive Escape." Her poem addresses the struggles of homelessness and having no place to go during the day or night. The desperation felt by the person narrating the poem is only escaped by going to sleep and dreaming.

Congratulations, as well, to the Second and Third place winners in both categories: David Cooney, Taylor Karnes, MaKayla Smith, and Nic Frazier.

First place winners were entered in the national Creating on the Margins Art Contest run by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development in Washington, D.C.

“The dreams floating above the ones who walk past, are the ones that just seemed to have gotten away. / Somehow, even with nothing, pieces are taken from me.

– an excerpt from "An Addictive Escape"
by Elexis Spurlock

For more information on the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, please contact Susan at shollis@ccwva.org.

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia, visit www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org.

JOIN WORLDWIDE PRAYER TO END PANDEMIC



The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception has been chosen by the Holy See to lead the worldwide recitation of the Rosary on Monday, May 17, at 12 noon ET/6pm Rome time, in response to Pope Francis' call for a "marathon" of prayer during the month of May "to ask for the end of the pandemic."

Cardinal Wilton Gregory, Archbishop of Washington and Chairman of the National Shrine Board of Trustees, will prayerfully lead the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary from the Basilica's Great Upper Church.

With the ability to accommodate 1,000 people socially distanced in the Great Upper Church with other safety protocols in place, the event is open to the public and the faithful are encouraged to join this vital prayer effort in person by registering at WWW.NATIONALSHRINE.ORG/MASS-REGISTRATION.

For those unable to attend in person, the recitation of the Rosary will be livestreamed at WWW.NATIONALSHRINE.ORG/MASS and will be shared with the Holy See for transmission throughout the world.

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

First Reading ACTS 1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught until the day he was taken up, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While meeting with them, he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for “the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak; for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” When they had gathered together they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” He answered them, “It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going, suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven.”

Responsorial PSALMS 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9

R. (6) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

All you peoples, clap your hands, shout to God with cries of gladness, For the LORD, the Most High, the awesome, is the great king over all the earth.

R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

God mounts his throne amid shouts of joy; the LORD, amid trumpet blasts. Sing praise to God, sing praise; sing praise to our king, sing praise.

R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

For king of all the earth is God; sing hymns of praise. God reigns over the nations, God sits upon his holy throne.

R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord

Second Reading EPHESIANS 1:17-23

(or Eph 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13)

Brothers and sisters: May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him. May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call, what are the riches of glory in his inheritance

among the holy ones, and what is the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe, in accord with the exercise of his great might, which he worked in Christ, raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens, far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion, and every name that is named not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things beneath his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.

Alleluia MATTHEW 28:19a, 20b

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Go and teach all nations, says the Lord; I am with you always, until the end of the world.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel MARK 16:15-20

Jesus said to his disciples: “Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents with their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.” So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God. But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, as we seek the unity that Jesus desired, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our leaders, that they may be blessed with wisdom, resolve, and perseverance as they pursue justice and fairness for all, especially for those who have been victimized by injustice and discrimination, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all who hear God’s call to serve the Church, at any age and in any capacity, that they may respond with an open mind and a generous heart, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our community, that in our love of God and love of neighbor we may recognize that we remain in God and God in us, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

LET US GO *Rejoicing* TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD.

PSALM 122

UPDATED GUIDELINES RELEASED

Bishop Mark E. Brennan released updated guidelines for our churches and facilities.

- New Norms for Reopening Parish Facilities for Meetings and Gatherings
- Updated Liturgical Guidelines
- Music Protocols for Liturgical Celebrations

These are available online at www.dwc.org.

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



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
Dunbar - Charleston	AM	1450
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/WLOL~

WV Catholic Radio www.WVCatholicRadio.org

A LITTLE CATHOLIC HUMOR



ENROLL TODAY

WV Catholic Schools

Empowered
by knowledge.
Transformed
by faith.



Register today

wvcatholicschools.org

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.

Below are four options for enriching your spirit through daily Mass online.

- EWTN airs daily Mass from Our Lady of Angels Chapel, in Irondale, Alabama, at 8am, noon, and 7pm: [HTTPS://WWW.EWTN.COM/TV/WATCH-LIVE](https://www.ewtn.com/tv/watch-live)
- St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York has daily Mass live streamed at 7am: [HTTPS://SAINTPATRICKSCATHEDRAL.ORG/LIVE](https://saintpatrickscathedral.org/live)
- Catholic TV also streams its daily Mass: [HTTP://CATHOLICTV.ORG/MASSES/CATHOLICTV-MASS](http://catholicTV.org/masses/catholicTV-mass)
- Daily Mass Online at Notre Dame' Basilica of the Sacred Heart is live at 11:30 am Monday-Friday: [HTTPS://CAMPUSMINISTRY.ND.EDU/MASS-WORSHIP/BASILICA-OF-THE-SACRED-HEART/WATCH-MASS/SPECIAL-MASSSES/](https://campusministry.nd.edu/mass-worship/basilica-of-the-sacred-heart/watch-mass/special-masses/)