



## LET THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDE YOU

*Let the saints get you back on track*

As we celebrate the Sixth Sunday of Easter, we are reassured that God is always with us.

Jesus told his disciples God would send the Holy Spirit to direct their steps and give peace to all troubled hearts who believe. His promises are also for us who love Him and live by His word.

We received the Holy Spirit at Baptism to shape us, accept God's love, and show love to others. Just as Jesus told the apostles, "The Holy Spirit will guide you and remind you all I taught you."

At Confirmation our relationship with the Holy Spirit intensifies.

However, in the course of life's journey we inevitably become confused and lose sight of the Spirit within us. Thankfully, we don't have to look far to get back on track to be reminded of the fruits of the spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control - they are evident in the saints. The Holy Spirit flourishes in the saints' wisdom, words, writing, and works. The saints had their fair share of shortcomings and faults like us, but they let the fruits of the Holy Spirit grow within them and inspire them in their vocations.

As Pope Francis said on All Saints Day a few years back, "The saints are not superman, nor were they born perfect. They are like us, like each one of us. They are people who, before reaching the glory of heaven, lived normal lives with joys and sorrows, struggles and hopes. What changed their lives? When they recognized God's love, they followed it with all their heart without reserve or hypocrisy. They spent their lives serving others, they endured suffering and adversity without hatred and responded

to evil with good, spreading joy and peace. This is the life of a Saint."

We have much to learn from the saints to help us on our journey. A few of the saints to honor this week include St. Rita of Cascia, St. Bede the Venerable, and St. Philip Neri.

On May 23rd we honor the life of St. Rita of Cascia (1381-1457)- the great peacemaker. Hers is a story of great love, horrific loss, profound forgiveness, and strong faith. She lost her husband to murder, her two young sons to illness, but remained faithful to God even to extend mercy to her husband's killers. She even convinced her family not to take revenge against the families of the murderers, which was expected in those days. She was eventually welcomed to join the Augustinian sisters. Her story holds many more impressive and truly awesome details you can read online at: [WWW.SAINTRITASHRINE.ORG/SAINT-RITA-OF-CASCIA](http://WWW.SAINTRITASHRINE.ORG/SAINT-RITA-OF-CASCIA).

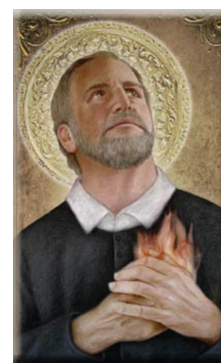


On May 25th we honor St. Bede the Venerable, who lived in the 7th and 8th century. He was a Benedictine monk and priest and an early Doctor of the Church for his many writings, translations, and homilies.

Of his works, two quotes stand out to help us today as we renew the Holy Spirit in us. "I was no longer the center of my life, and therefore, I could see God in everything,"

he wrote. And giving advice to all the faithful he penned, "Unfurl the sails, and let God steer us where He will."

Read more about him at: [WWW.STBEDEABBEY.ORG/OUR-COMMUNITY](http://WWW.STBEDEABBEY.ORG/OUR-COMMUNITY).



On May 26th we honor St. Philip Neri (1515-1595) a priest and founder of the Oratorians - a community of priests and lay brothers. He is known for his sense of humor and compassionate

spiritual direction. He was often a spectacle wearing goofy clothes, shoes, or even sporting a half shaven beard to teach lessons in humility and the importance of not taking yourself too seriously. Today we share a few quotes from the book Maxims and Sayings of Philip Neri.

Troubles test our faith - "There is no surer or clearer proof of the love of God than adversity."

Don't be a hypocrite and forgiving only by the conditions you set - "He who continues in anger, strife, and a bitter spirit, has a taste of the air of hell."

Do not entertain Satan with your stubbornness and attitudes - "Our enemy the devil, who fights with us in order to vanquish us, seeks to disunite us in our houses, and to breed quarrels, dislikes, contests, and rivalries, because while we are fighting with each other, he comes and conquers us, and makes us more securely his own."

*Editor's Note: the images in this article are by Tracy L. Christianson - you can see and purchase her works at: [WWW.PORTRAITSOFSAINTS.COM](http://WWW.PORTRAITSOFSAINTS.COM)*



## DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

• P.O. Box 230, Wheeling, WV 26003 •

---

Sunday, May 15, 2022

### **Statement of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston about the Massacre in Buffalo, NY, on May 14, 2022**

The Catholics of West Virginia join other Americans in condemning the murder of ten men and women and the wounding of others in a predominantly African American community yesterday (May 14) in Buffalo, NY. In the short term we offer the families of the victims our profound sympathy and prayers. For the long term we offer them the promise that Jesus made: *Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will refresh you* [Matthew 11: 28]. We can hope that those unjustly burdened by a violent death will receive refreshment in eternity from the one who said: *In my Father's house there are many dwelling places and I am going to prepare a place for you* [John 14: 2].

All violent taking of life violates God's commandment: *You shall not kill* [Exodus 20: 13] but it is especially galling to learn from news reports that the lives of these victims were taken precisely because they were African Americans. Of all inhabitants in this country, Black Americans have suffered the most from centuries of slavery, legal and de facto segregation and socio-economic patterns that have burdened their lives up to and including the present.

The tragedy in Buffalo is hardly the first such violence against African Americans. From the crossing of the ocean in slave ships, in which many Africans died, to their violent treatment by slave masters to the thousands of lynchings of Blacks in the South to more recent killings of unarmed African Americans by police and civilians, even in their churches, this racism has claimed an inordinate number of Black lives simply because they were Black. When and how will it stop?

New laws might help but what is most needed is a true change of mind and heart that leads us to recognize and affirm the value of every human life, no matter how different the person is from me. It is the kind of change that authentic religion promotes. God has made us all in His image and likeness. He has commanded us to love one another, to bear one another's burdens. Unless we embrace this understanding more fully in America, we can expect more such tragedies – and against Jews, Moslems and immigrants as well as against African

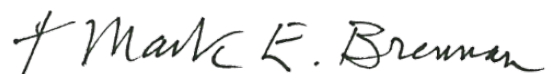
Americans. Sadly, Americans are turning away from religion. Will our people turn back to the One who tells us to treat one another with justice and mercy?

We must also face the fact that the widespread availability of guns is a crucial factor in racial violence. It is much harder to escape from a bullet than it is from a knife. I recognize that most gun owners have them for the protection of their families and themselves or for hunting. I challenge you who own guns for such purposes to propose ways in which the availability of guns could be significantly restricted. I have lived in countries where guns are much less available than in the United States and where, correspondingly, gun deaths are much less common. We have to do better than we are doing. Gun owners: step up to the challenge!

Our addiction to public media and especially social media also contributes to the kind of violence we have seen in Buffalo and elsewhere in our country. I believe in free speech, especially because I value the right to speak about religion openly, which some powerful groups in our society want to restrict.

But some speech is false and unjust. St. Paul urges us to *speaking the truth in love* [Ephesians 4: 15]. Parents need to monitor not only their children's use of speech but their own. Politicians and the media ought to be prudent in their speech. Social media is much harder to control by external means – unless you live in China, where the Communist Party tries to control all conversation – but we can encourage family members and friends to speak respectfully about others and challenge them when they do not. Inflaming passions against other groups, as we have seen in the abortion controversies in this country, in Rwanda in the 1990's and in anti-Ukraine Russian propaganda today, can lead to violence and death.

I urge all reading this message to join me in prayer for the victims of the tragic killings in Buffalo and for the consolation of their families and friends. Lest we become inured to the real pain such events cause their loved ones and settle for complacency in the face of evil, we must learn to love our neighbor, regardless of race or other distinguishing factors. We must turn to God, who sees us all as His beloved children. And we must not shrink from making hard decisions about how to stem gun violence and hateful speech in the means of social communication in our country. The land of the free should also be the home of life, liberty and happiness for all.



+Mark E. Brennan  
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston



## EMPOWERING THOSE WE SERVE

Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) is here for people when they need us.

Recently, a man came to our Neighborhood Center in Wheeling as a referral from National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). His schizophrenia made it difficult for him to trust or interact with others; in fact, when he first began coming to our Center, he would always wear a hooded shirt and cover his face and body. He went by the alias “Batman.”

Batman entered our case management program. Every Wednesday, Batman meets with Joe, our CCWVa case manager. Over time, Joe and Batman have built a strong relationship. Batman has begun to show his face and engage with others at our Neighborhood Center.

Joe helped Batman identify goals for himself and overcome barriers keeping him from reaching these goals. These days, their Wednesday meetings include driving lessons, as Joe is helping Batman get his driver’s license for the first time in his life. Batman and Joe have developed a deep and genuine connection.

“He’s my hero,” said Joe.

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia, please visit [www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org](http://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.



*CCWVa Case Manager Joe Sparksman develops strong relationships with clients to help them work toward their goals.*



## SOLEMNITY OF THE LORD

Forty days after Easter we celebrate Jesus’ ascension into heaven. While the 40th day after Easter this year is May 26, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, as most in the United States and many around the world, transfers the solemnity to the following Sunday, which is May 29th.

As we go through this week, awaiting the celebration of Christ entering heaven on Sunday let it be a time of encouragement and joy as St. Luke will tell us in the Gospel reading next week (Luke 24:46-53).

## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### First Reading: Acts 15:1-2, 22-29

Holy Spirit will guide the faithful to all that is good.

---

### Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 67

“O God, let all the nations praise you!”

---

### Second Reading: Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23

John shares his vision of a new Jerusalem – the Lord God is the temple and the light of the world.

---

### Gospel: John 13:31-33a, 34-35

Jesus tells his followers he will soon leave them, but they should not let their hearts be troubled for “peace I leave you.” He will send the Holy Spirit to be their guide.

---

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT  
BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/052222.CFM](http://BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/052222.CFM)

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that guided by the Holy Spirit we work for respect for human life from conception to natural death, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That our parishes, schools, Catholic organizations, and youth groups work diligently to be the light of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all who are graduating this year, that they may be a sign of hope and renewal in the Church, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For the intentions we hold in our hearts and our beloved faithful who have passed away, let us pray to the Lord. . .

*Lord hear our prayer*



## Catholics and Babies

### A Healthy Approach to Family Planning

June 25, 2022

10:00AM– 12:00 Noon | St. John Marist Hall  
1610 Webster Rd, Summersville, WV 26651

Please register on or before June 20, 2022  
by calling the Parish Office at 304.872.2554.

Lunch will be served.

*Presenters Philip and Jaimie Althage are parishioners of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Summersville, WV—they will celebrate nine years of marriage this June, and they have three children. They moved to Clay County, WV from Texas a couple of years ago, where they take care of Jaimie's grandfather and manage the family farm. They are both certified NFP promoters through the Couple to Couple League, and are passionate about sharing the message of NFP, and God's plan for Christian marriage, with other couples.*





**10<sup>th</sup> WORLD MEETING  
of FAMILIES**  
JUNE 22-26 2022

**JOIN US AND SHARE IN THE CELEBRATION!**

Click here to visit for more information and to register.

**FaithInWV.org**

Faith is a lifelong journey  
*It begins with prayer.*

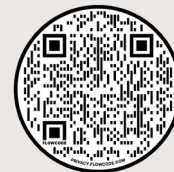


*Liturgy of the Hours*  
**LITURGY OF THE HOURS**

**Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!**

[EBREVIARY.COM](http://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.



**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](http://www.rdo.to/WLOL)~

WV Catholic Radio [www.WVCatholicRadio.org](http://www.WVCatholicRadio.org)

**ENROLL TODAY**  
WV Catholic Schools

*Empowered  
by knowledge.  
Transformed  
by faith.*



**Register today**  
[wvcatholicschools.org](http://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](http://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/)