



# HAPPY TRINITY SUNDAY!

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY!

MERCIFUL AND MIGHTY – GOD IN THREE PERSONS BLESSED TRINITY!

Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; to God who is, who was, and who is to come. Today is the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity. Our Gospel (Matthew 28:16-20) shares Christ's words to the 11 Apostles on the mountain in Galilee: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always...."



The significance of this day focuses on the God who will not abandon us.

As we enter our parishes we dip our hand in holy water, reminding us of our baptism – our entrance into divine life – in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy spirit.

No matter what challenges or secret struggles we face he surrounds us through the mercy and love of the Holy Trinity.

A song written honoring this great mystery is the hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy." It was written by Reginald Herber more than 200 years ago. The lyrics point to Isaiah 6:3, Revelation 4:1-11, and quote the Sanctus of the Latin Mass, translated to English, "Holy, holy, Holy! Lord God of Hosts."

*Holy, holy, holy!  
Lord God Almighty  
Early in the morning  
Our song shall rise to Thee  
Holy, holy, holy!  
Merciful and mighty  
God in three persons  
Blessed Trinity!  
Holy, holy, holy!*

*Though the darkness hide Thee  
Though the eye of sinful man  
Thy glory may not see  
Only Thou art holy  
There is none beside Thee  
Perfect in power, in love and purity  
Holy, holy, holy!  
Lord God Almighty  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name  
In earth and sky and sea  
Holy, holy, holy!  
Merciful and mighty  
God in three persons  
Blessed Trinity  
Oh God in three persons  
Blessed Trinity!*

Take a moment and listen to this recording of Holy Holy Holy by Pat D'Angelo on Spirit Juice at: [WWW.SPIRITJUICE.ORG/MUSICVIDEOS/HOLY-HOLY-HOLY/](http://WWW.SPIRITJUICE.ORG/MUSICVIDEOS/HOLY-HOLY-HOLY/)

*Editor's note: the mosaic with this article is from the Trinity Dome at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.*

*Priestly Ordination*  
Deacon John Soplinski  
5 pm, Friday, May 31, Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling



Livestreamed at [WWW.DWC.ORG](http://WWW.DWC.ORG)

# WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY



Last year on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Pope Francis announced that May 26, 2024, will be observed as the first World Children's Day.

Boys and girls from all over the world are in Rome for this weekend's celebration sponsored by the Vatican's Dicastery for Culture and Education.

The idea of the World Day of Children was presented to the Pope last July by a child described on Vatican News as "9-year-old Alessandro." The boy proposed the idea of having a special day declared by the Vatican for Children on *Popecast* – a broadcast by Vatican Media with Pope Francis in the excitement of World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon. The pontiff said he loved the idea and would look forward to working with staff to make it happen. He bid farewell to Alessandro by telling him, "Say hello to your grandparents for me."

Since the encounter Pope Francis has promoted it to youth directly, saying, "Dear children, because, as the



Bible teaches us, and as Jesus showed so often, "you are precious" in God's eyes (Is 43:4)."

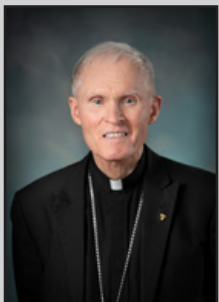
The weekend will fulfill the pontiff's wish to listen to children and encourage them to become protagonists through prayer, friendship, and formation. It is synodality.



The first ever World Children's Day has the "very significant coincidence" of taking place during the pontiff's proclaimed Year of Prayer, because prayer and genuine love for Jesus children have are the reason to celebrate the special time.

The weekend includes special moments with the pontiff. On Saturday evening, Pope Francis and boys and girls present will join in a discussion of faith; and Sunday when the Holy Father presides over Mass at St. Peter's Square, there will be a final gathering of the children with the pontiff.

It was Jesus who said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." – Matthew 19:14.



## FROM THE DESK OF BISHOP MARK E. BRENNAN

Diocese announces new measures to enhance Child Protection program.

Click the link below to read the letter.

[WWW.DWC.ORG](http://WWW.DWC.ORG)

# A GLIMPSE OF SR. WILHEMINA

Just over a year ago a small group of cloistered nuns from the Benedictines of Mary Queen of Apostles made a discovery that couldn't be silenced.



An expansion project of the St. Joseph Shrine within the oratory of the Abbey in rural Missouri was in progress and a small group of nuns went out to the burial site of their foundress Sister Wilhelmina. The intent was a private reinternment of to the remains of their beloved sister.

Sister Wilhelmina had been buried four years prior in a plain wooden coffin without embalming – typical for the simplicity of the order that the petite African American nun founded at the age of 70.

Sister Wilhelmina had died on May 29, 2019, the eve of the Ascension, at the age of 95, just having celebrated her 75th anniversary of her vows.

When the remains were exhumed, Sister Wilhelmina's body appeared to be intact and was free from any unpleasant odor. The nuns were both stunned and overjoyed.

The discovery of a seemingly miraculous preservation was to be kept secret, but a private email was publicly shared without ill intent, and the cloistered life of the nuns was a bit disrupted. However, because of their sincere reverence and focus the sisters remained unaffected and able to continue their life of prayer and work. The nuns share the domestic chores (cleaning, cooking, gardening, farm work, etc.) necessary on the property during appointed hours, which are carried out in a spirit of silence in order to be with God in prayer. The order also is devoted to service to the altar as they create vestments, albs, surplices, and altar lines.

Volunteers and local peace officers managed a constant trail of visitors to the Abbey which sits about 10 miles away from the nearest small town of Gower. These visitors are welcome to join the sisters for Mass and prayer if they follow the guidelines of the sisters out of “respect for Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament and the sacredness of the place.”

The Benedictines of Mary Queen of Apostles believe that Sr. Wilhelmina's life and death were miraculous. While there are many requirements in the Church to even scrutinize and consider possible opening of a cause of sainthood, the sisters are not focused on that. The nuns are pleased that the world is now getting to know about the beautiful, strong willed, and impressive soul of their foundress.

So, who was Sr. Wilhelmina? Let's read her own words she wrote unbeknownst to her order.

*“First of all, I was born Mary Elizabeth Lancaster on Palm Sunday, April 13th, 1924, (in St. Louis) the daughter and second child of Oscar and Ella Lancaster. On April 2nd, 1934, I made my First Holy Communion, an unforgettable experience when Our Lord asked me if I would be His. He seemed to be such a handsome and wonderful Man, I agreed immediately. Then He told me to meet Him every Sunday at Holy Communion. I said nothing about this conversation to anyone, believing that everyone that went to Holy Communion heard Our Lord talk to them.*



*In those days I hardly knew what belonging to Our Lord meant. At last, several years later, my confessor, Fr. Lawrence Rost, whom I saw every Saturday at Holy Ghost Church two blocks up the street, asked if I ever thought about being a Sister. I had not of course, but he thought I could be a good Sister.*

*I went to work on the idea right away and wrote to the superior of the Oblate Sisters of Providence in Baltimore, Maryland for direction. Mother Mary Consuella Clifford wrote me back, told me that I was too young to enter the convent and advised that I finish high school first. I was 13 years of age and graduating that year from the eighth grade.*

*I had been in public school until then. My parents, who did not want me to go to the public high school, got to work (and were influential in 1937 for Archbishop John Glennon to open) St. Joseph's Catholic High School for Negroes which lasted until Archbishop (Joseph) Ritter put an end to segregation of Negroes in the Diocese (in 1951). During my four years in high school, I sort of put the idea of becoming a Sister on the back burner and applied myself to learning as much as I could about everything there was to learn....*

*The day of my graduation from high school (as valedictorian), two Oblate Sisters of Providence were present. When I walked out of the church, I went straight to them standing in the vestibule and told them that I wanted to be one of them. They were shocked, but I had done what had to be done. So that September, at age 17, I left my parents' house for Baltimore, Maryland....*

*That September day, however, when I entered the novitiate chapel for the first time, that same Lord Who spoke to me in my First Communion, welcomed me lovingly, put His arms around me and promised that from then on, I would be His. My two and a half years in the novitiate were a happy time, during which I learned from a fellow novice about True Devotion to Mary taught by St. Louis De Montfort....”*

She took her vows of poverty, chastity and obedience in March of 1944. She was assigned a variety of duties – kitchen help, cleaning, and teaching. The latter of which she would say she was ill equipped.

It was no secret Sister Wilhelmina did not like the changes resulting from Vatican II, especially doing away with the habit and changes in the Mass. She wholeheartedly believed the habit was the sign for the bride of Christ. She continued to wear hers, even having to at one point make her own out of fabric and a plastic jug.

After years of failed attempts to get the Oblate sisters to return to the habit, she left the order and with the help of the Priestly fraternity of St. Peter organized a new community with a St. Benedict Rule in 1995 in Scranton, Pennsylvania. In 2006, the community moved to its current location in Missouri, in Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph.

The order’s cloister life is that of silent prayer, sacred song, and contemplation.

The order actually had one of their recording of chants make national record charts in 2018 - *The Hearts of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph*. You can listen to a sample of it and purchase recordings from the Benedictines at: [BENEDICTINESOFMARY.ORG/PRODUCT-CATEGORY/MUSIC\\_CDS/](https://www.benedictinesofmary.org/product-category/music-cds/)

The Benedictines also wrote a book about their foundress - *“The Life and Works of Sr. Wilhelmina”* also available on the order’s website.



# ORDINATION

## *Holy hour*

**6 pm, May 30th**  
**Cathedral of St. Joseph**  
**Wheeling, WV**

Let us gather and pray  
for Deacon John Soplinski  
as he will be ordained  
to the priesthood, May 31, 2024.



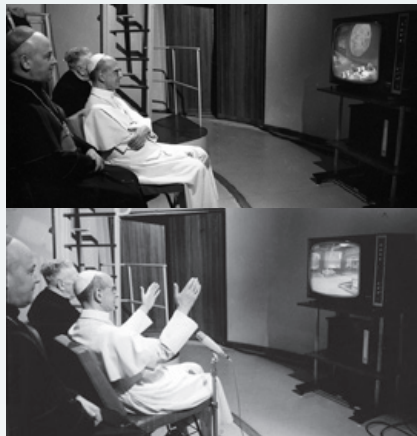
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# MEMORIAL OF POPE SAINT PAUL VI ~ MAY 29

On May 29, the Church celebrates the Memorial of Pope Saint Paul VI. He served as Pope from 1963-1978, and is commonly known as the pontiff who oversaw the completion of the Second Vatican Council.



Today we bring attention to the fact that he was pope when man landed on the moon 55 years ago. He blessed astronauts Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins and Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin. prior to the July 16-24, 1969, mission; and when they landed radioed a greeting

to them:

*“Honor, greetings, and blessing to you, conquerors of the Moon, pale lamp of our nights and our dreams! Bring to her, with your living presence, the voice of the spirit, a hymn to God, our Creator and our Father.*

*We are close to you, with our good wishes and with our prayers. Together with the whole Catholic Church, Paul the Sixth salutes you.”*

According to Vatican News and old Vatican Radio recordings: Pope St. Paul VI, said the moon landing and moonwalk were recognition of the “greatness of God’s handiwork.”

The pope additionally sent a congratulatory telegram to President Richard Nixon:

*Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth to men of good will!*

*Christ, when coming among us from the abysses of the divinity, made this blessed voice resound in the firmament. Today We, his humble representative, echo and repeat it as a festive hymn on the part of our whole terrestrial globe, no longer the insurmountable boundary of human existence but the open threshold to the wide expanse of boundless space and new destinies.*

*Glory to God!*

*And honor to you, the architects of this great space undertaking! Honor to the men responsible to the scientists, the planners, the organizers, and the technicians who made it a reality! Honor to all those who have made possible this most daring flight. Honor to all of you who in any way played a part. Honor to you who, seated at your marvelous instruments, control the flight; to you whom inform the world of the enterprise and its timetable, which extends to the depths of the heavens the wise and bold dominion of man.*

Prior to the event, the pope shared that he dedicated Psalm

8 to the Apollo 11 astronauts.

Psalm 8 was also the message he shared, as one of 74 messages sent from UN world leaders to NASA for the astronauts to leave on the moon (all on a special disc).

His message from Psalm 8:

*O Lord, our Lord,  
how awesome is your name through all the earth!  
I will sing of your majesty above the heavens  
with the mouths of babes and infants.  
You have established a bulwark against your foes,  
to silence enemy and avenger.  
When I see your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and stars that you set in place—  
What is man that you are mindful of him,  
and a son of man that you care for him?  
Yet you have made him little less than a god,  
crowned him with glory and honor.  
You have given him rule over the works of your hands,  
put all things at his feet:  
All sheep and oxen,  
even the beasts of the field,  
The birds of the air, the fish of the sea,  
and whatever swims the paths of the seas.  
O LORD, our Lord,  
how awesome is your name through all the earth!*

In his handwriting he added, “To the glory of God’s name who grants such great power to men, we pray for the success of this wonderful undertaking. Paulus PP VI AD 1969”.

Months after the mission, in October 1969, the astronauts and their wives visited Pope St. Paul VI. They gave him four small rocks from the moon and a small Vatican City flag that traveled to the moon and back with the crew. These items are housed at the Vatican Observatory, Castel Gandolfo.



Pope St. Paul VI said the time, energy, talents, resources, and teamwork behind their successful trip “pay tribute to

the capacity of modern man to reach beyond himself, to reach beyond human nature, to attain the perfection of achievement made possible by his God-given talent.”

It is those talents that can bring peace to all on earth.

The week before the historic moon walk the pope cautioned that, while technology could allow humanity to reach great heights, its use for good or evil always depends on human minds and hearts.

“The human heart absolutely must become freer, better and more religious as machines, weapons and the instruments people have at their disposition become more powerful,” he said.

He said we must dedicate similar time, talent, and creativity to solving problems on the planet that is their home.



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# Quo Vadis Retreat

## Middle School Discernment Retreat

Boys in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades are invited!

Noon on June 17  
through 1pm on June 20

Priest Field Pastoral Center  
Kearneysville, WV

Campers will enjoy outdoor activities including:

**Prayer • Kayaking • Discernment  
Camp Fire • Games**

Opportunities for Charitable and Spiritual  
Works of Mercy

The camp is staffed by laypeople, priests  
and seminarians from the  
Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

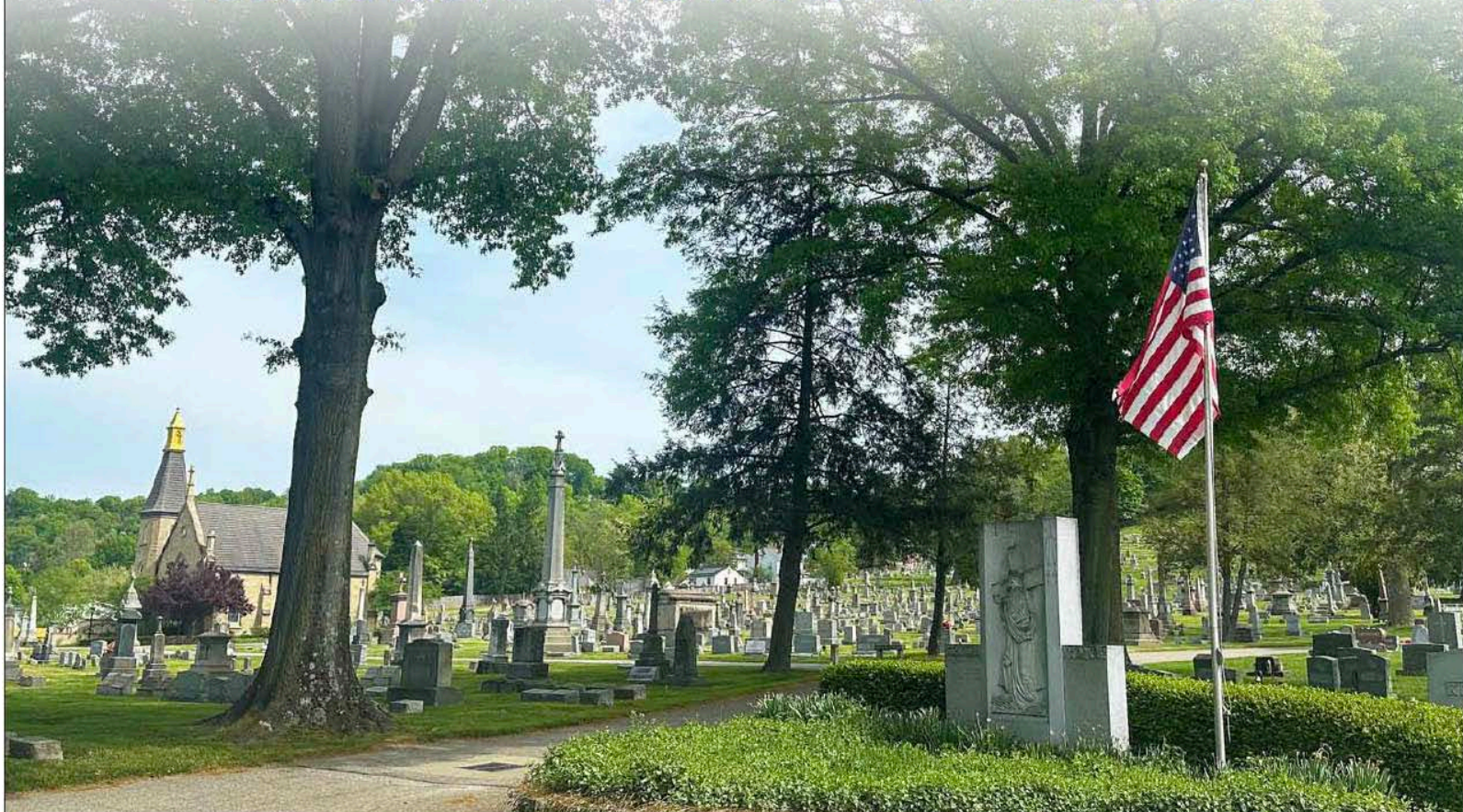
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**CELEBRATE • HONOR • REMEMBER**



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## MOST HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY

### First Reading: Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40

Moses said know without a doubt in your heart and mind that the Lord is God in the heavens and on earth below. There is no other.

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### Responsorial: Psalm 33

“Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.”

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### Second Reading: Romans 8:14-17

St. Paul tells us that as we receive the Holy Spirit, we become children of God - “Abba, Father!”

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### Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

Jesus said to the 11 Apostles on the mountain in Galilee: “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always....”

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we - by word and example - bring light to the world with all that Jesus has taught us, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all God’s children, that we do not turn toward violence or even negativity; and we work on our own failures and doubt in order to strengthen our faith and be more empathetic to others - for we are all brothers and sisters in Christ, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For the souls of those who lost their lives in war and those who defended our freedom and peace, as well as the family and loved ones they left behind, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all of us, who are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, that we do not lose sight that we are Christ’s hands and feet on this earth - sharing His love and mercy with all, let us pray to the Lord. . .

*Lord hear our prayer*

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## 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).