



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

IT IS RIGHT AND JUST.



THE EUCHARIST IS THANKSGIVING

On Thanksgiving Day, we gather to celebrate all we are grateful for as we enjoy a spectacular meal together – one of much thought, planning, and preparation that is happily taken with love, pride, and joy – to give thanks.

As Catholics, do we realize that we get to do that every time we go to Mass and receive the Eucharist? During this important moment in the Church for a Eucharistic Revival, focus on the connection of the Eucharist and Thanksgiving. We already say we should when during the Preface of the Eucharistic Prayer we say together, “it is right and just.” Sound familiar?

Take a secular look at the word Eucharist - the origin of the word – it comes from the Greek word eucharistia, which means thanksgiving.

When Bishop Mark Brennan is asked what Eucharist is, he repeatedly states, “The Eucharist is nothing less than Jesus Christ in Person.”

The Catechism of the Catholic Church combines these two meanings into one, noting we as faithful in the Church believe the Eucharist is truly the Body of Christ, “the source and summit of the Christian life... For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself (CCC 1324),” and it “is called Eucharist because it is an action of thanksgiving to God. (CCC 1328).”

As we receive the Eucharist, let your heart be embraced by God and filled with pride and joy, knowing Jesus

Christ and what He has done for us. Let us remember at that moment, when we receive his Body and Blood, we are united with him, and we become the Body of Christ, as St. Paul reminds us.

The second reading for Thanksgiving Day Mass, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, St. Paul emphasizes the significance of our encounter with the Lord and the importance of seeking a continuous encounter, preparing to be with him for eternity.

Let us receive Him in the Eucharist and be that dwelling place for Him so we can work for good in our lives and the lives of others.

Every time you approach the sanctuary to receive Christ in the Eucharist, receive Him and give thanks for all your blessings received and those you will receive by His Grace. Remain grateful to Him for saving us from sin and death, receiving eternal life with Him in heaven.

Recall that in receiving Him in the Eucharist you are intimately united with Christ, so keep talking to him, pouring out your worries and doubts and let the Bread of Life nourish your mind, body, and soul.

Thanksgiving blessings to all!

The Lord be with you. And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right and just.

MASS OF GRATITUDE SET FOR NOV. 20 TO HONOR FAITHFUL IN THE DIOCESE



Bishop Mark Brennan will celebrate the Mass of Gratitude at 12:05 pm on Monday, Nov. 20 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling to honor the faithful in the diocese who's gifts to the Catholic Sharing Appeal (CSA) enable our parishes, missions, ministries, and outreach organizations carry out the work of the Church.

"The CSA is one of many ways that we are united in God's love as Catholics and as members of our Diocesan Family," Bishop Brennan said in his CSA letter to the faithful.



At the Mass, all who make shared ministries in the diocese possible will be honored, and Bishop Brennan will pray over intentions submitted by members of our community of faith.

Everyone in the diocese is encouraged to submit prayer intentions online by [CLICKING HERE](#).



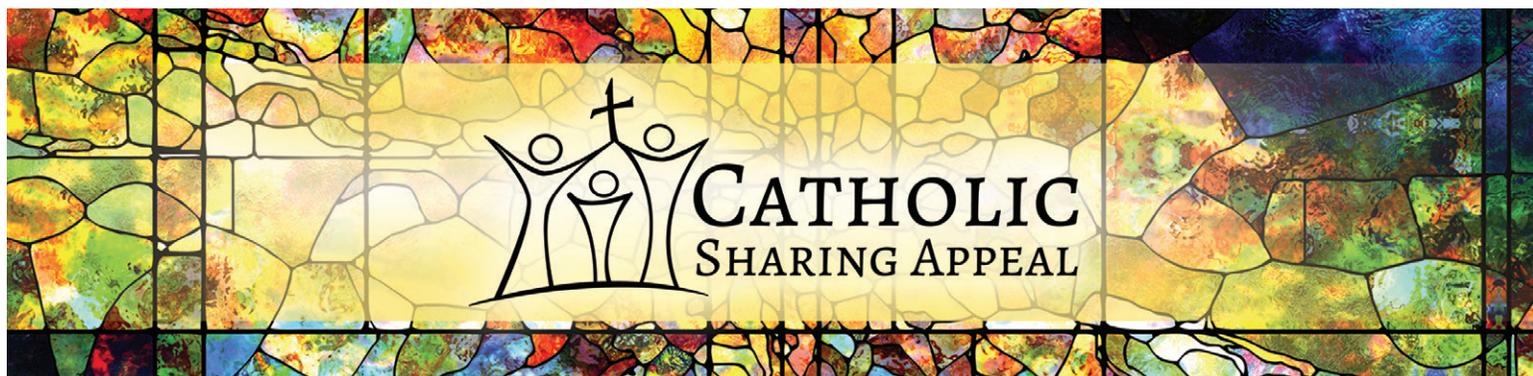
The Mass will be live streamed on the [DIOCESAN FACEBOOK PAGE](#) and on the CSA website at: [CSA.DWCMINISTRIES.ORG](#).

In this season of gratitude there is no better time to concentrate on all that we are thankful for in our lives. Let us all come together with a positive prayerful focus, a grateful heart, and mindset to become more spiritually healthy.

"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." – 1Thessalonians 5:16-18

The celebration of Mass brings us together as people of gratitude and thanksgiving. The Eucharist is the true sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to the Father for everything we have. Let us remain grateful for our God given gifts and talents and pray that we honor God by sharing those blessings with others.

When we put our faith in action, it is a visual sign of our unity to the Body of Christ.



THE MOMENT OF THE PRESENTATION OF MARY

Honor this special day and the days that led up to it.

Most do not know the story of the Presentation of Mary in the Temple, let alone the account that led up to it, mainly because it is not contained in Sacred Scripture. However, Catholic Church tradition, second century Christian writings, and Greek calendars record these stories for the Church.

Saints Joachim and Anne had desperately longed for a child for many years. In those days a married woman unable to conceive was a disgrace. Joachim, whose name in Hebrew means “*Established by God*,” loved his wife and was so desperate to honor her and God, he went into the wilderness to fast and pray for forty days and forty nights.

Although distraught, St. Anne, whose name means “*God has favored me*,” remained reverent in her prayers. Legend tells us that one day when she was weeping in prayer, an angel appeared to her promising she would conceive. Saints Joachim and Anne were chosen by God to be the parents of our Blessed Mother.

On Nov. 21, we celebrate the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, honoring the moment her parents fulfilled a promise to our Heavenly Father.

Tradition says Mary was three, when the holy couple presented her to the priests at the temple. The priest at her reception said, “The Lord God has magnified your name for all generations; through you the Lord will reveal deliverance to the children of Israel in the last days.”

Young Mary would spend her days with the other girls praying, reading Scripture, and serving the elders and priests. Certainly, her parents lovingly prepared her well for this moment.

The priest at her reception said, “The Lord God has magnified your name for all generations; through you



the Lord will reveal deliverance to the children of Israel in the last days.”

The account is not in the bible. It is part of an apocrypha (related writing, specifically the non-canonical literature - *Protoevangelium of James*, on the life of Mary believe to have been written prior to 200 AD) based on tradition and accounts from the era.

We should have no doubt Ss. Joachim and Anne were overjoyed being the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We can only imagine the conversations and traditions they shared with her to make sweet Mary’s heart so blessed, ultimately being chosen

to be the Mother of the Christ child.

The Feast of the Presentation of Mary in the Temple emphasizes she has always been dedicated to God. Her presentation can be envisioned as the moment she stepped forward to be the new Temple in whom God chose to dwell as Jesus.

Holy Father, fill the hearts of our children with the love and joy we can find in Mary; and bless the minds of all parents with the wisdom and understanding to keep you first like St. Anne and St. Joachim, and to trust in you no matter the circumstance for Your plan is greater than our own. Amen.

Editor’s note: the image of Child Mary is by Kristyn Brown of the Saints Project, Philadelphia: WWW.THESAINTSPROJECT.ORG

LET OUR ACTIONS BE A SONG TO GOD SAYING, I LOVE YOU!

November 22 is the Feast Day of St. Cecilia, who taught us, “Let everything you do for others and yourself, be a gift of love in song to God.”

The noise all around us in the world today can drown out the call of God and trample our will to live by word and action to honor Him.

Pray like Cecilia, that we do not cave to the pressures of this world and that we hear the heavenly call of God in Heaven, drawing us closer to Christ and everlasting joy.

St. Cecilia was born in the second century into a noble family. Although she was promised in marriage, she remained a virgin. Church tradition tells us on their wedding night her husband saw an angel appear surrounding her with flowers as a sign of her dedication to God. Because of this great witness he converted to Christianity. Together the



couple converted many souls during their life – a time when the faith was despised by nobles and the government.

Saint Cecilia’s story is one of great virtue, grace, and unthinkable strength. She preached about Jesus with great joy. She was martyred for her faith. Read her story presented by the Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia and be sure to click on the link at the bottom of the narrative in order to listen to a song about their patroness composed and

sung by the sisters (Nashville Dominicans) at: WWW.NASHVILLEDOMINICAN.ORG/OUR-VOWED-LIFE/ST-CECILIA/

The watercolor painting of St. Cecilia is by Paper Plane Primary available for purchase at: WWW.ETSY.COM/SHOP/PAPERPLANEPRIMARY.

HONOR OUR BLACK CATHOLIC HISTORY

In these final two weeks of Black Catholic History Month take time to find out more about the lives of the six men and women of African American descent on the road to sainthood. Their path in life brought many strains, struggles, and unjust treatment. The fact is they were treated less than human by society and experienced institutional racism. While we can’t change our history, through awareness and education, we can learn from their lives and become a better people – a better Church.

- **VENERABLE PIERRE TOUSSAINT** (1776-1853) – taught us the importance of sharing our love of God through our words and actions. Venerable Pierre was born a slave to the Berard family in Haiti around 1766. The family moved to New York with Pierre when he was about 21. After they arrived, Mr. Berard died. Pierre learned how to be a hairdresser, a luxury service at that time for wealthy women. His earnings supported Mrs. Berard. It wasn’t until she died about 16 years later that he became a free man. He was proud of his Catholic faith, sharing with all of his customers the beauty of Christ and the Church. His life was a life of charity – helping the sick, caring for the abandoned, and raising money for Mother (later saint) Elizabeth Seton’s orphanage. He and his wife Juliette helped open the first Catholic school in New York for black children, and a religious order of nuns for black women. Pierre also made it a priority to give to the appeal that built the first Cathedral in New York, the original St. Patrick’s Cathedral. He was given a seat of honor at the dedication Mass, which was unheard of because of the color of his skin. He was originally buried in the cathedral cemetery, but in 1990 his remains were moved inside the cathedral among the cardinals and archbishops. Read more about him at ARCHNY.ORG

November

Black Catholic History Month

Honoring Gifts of Culture & Faith



Pierre Toussaint Mother Mary Lange Mother Henriette Delille Julia Greeley Sr. Thea Bowman Fr. Augustus Tolton

continue...

- **MOTHER MARY ELIZABETH LANGE** (birth is estimated circa 1784- died Feb. 3,1882) – founded the Oblate Sisters of Providence, the first congregation of African American women religious in the history of the Catholic Church. It is believed she was born into an affluent Catholic family in Cuba. By 1813 she had relocated to Baltimore (a slave state before the Emancipation Proclamation). She used her own money and home to educate black children many of Caribbean descent. Fifteen years later the Church approached her to start a formal Catholic school for girls of color. She said she would, but also wanted to begin a religious order that would be the first congregation of women of African heritage. A year later she and three other black women professed vows as members of the Oblate Sisters of Providence. After the Civil War she opened an orphanage for black destitute children. Read about her life at: WWW.MOTHERLANGE.ORG

- **VENERABLE HENRIETTE DELILLE** (1813-1862) – founded the Sisters of the Holy Family in New Orleans, a religious community of African American women. The congregation is still strong today continuing to serve youth, elderly, and the poor and needy. This blessed woman is described as a humble and devout who “devoted herself untiringly for many years, without reserve, to the religious instruction of the people of New Orleans, principally slaves....” In her honor, let us humble ourselves, quiet our world, and focus on the prayer she said, “I believe in God, I hope In God. I love. I want to live and die for God.” Read more about her at: WWW.SISTERSOFTHEHOLYFAMILY.COM/HENRIETTE-DELILLE

- **JULIA GREELEY** (born sometime between 1833-1848 and died 1918) – honored as a great disciple of the Sacred Heart by the Jesuit fathers of their parish in Colorado. She was called Denver’s Angel of Charity and a guardian of firefighters. Servant of God Julia Greeley was born in Missouri into slavery, but once freed she traveled to Denver Colorado, where she spent the rest of her life showing mercy, love, and charity to others. Read about her inspiring life at: JULIAGREELEY.ORG/

- **SR. THEA BOWMAN** (1937-1990) –was the daughter of a Mississippi doctor and a teacher, a granddaughter of slaves. This dynamic lady was proclaimed a “holy woman” in the hearts of those who knew and loved her.

Two years ago today, her cause for sainthood was approved by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, and on June 1, 2018, she was declared a Servant of God.

She was eager to learn from other cultures, but also wanted to share the abundance of her African American culture and spirituality. She was the first non-white member of her congregation (the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration) in an all-white city in Wisconsin. Her friends, both religious and lay, said she had the uncanny gift and energy that brought people together. She was a highly acclaimed evangelizer, teacher, writer, and singer sharing the joy of the Gospel. Despite her debilitating battle with breast cancer, she did not let it stop her from speaking to the US Conference of Catholic Bishops in 1989. She explained what it meant to be African American and Catholic. She enlightened the bishops on African American history and spirituality. She urged them to continue to evangelize the African American community, to promote inclusivity and full participation of African Americans within Church leadership, and to understand the necessity and value of Catholic schools in the African American community. She seemingly touched the hearts of the bishops as evidenced by their thunderous applause and tears flowing from their eyes, after she brought them together all arm-in-arm to sing “We Shall Overcome.” Read more at: WWW.SISTERTHEABOWMAN.COM

- **FATHER AUGUSTUS TOLTON** (1854-1897) – was the first Roman Catholic priest in the US. A former slave, Fr. Tolton was ordained in Rome and served as pastor of St. Boniface in Quincy, Illinois. He was known as “Good Father Gus,” who had eloquent sermons and a beautiful signing voice. His story, which is beautifully inspiring because of his genuine love of God and God’s people, but is also a poignant reminder of the accepted discrimination and a racist taunting that occurred in society and even in the brotherhood of the priesthood and the Church hierarchy. His story is so impressive and illustrates his strong will, courage, and determination to let nothing stop him from serving the Lord. Take time to learn more about him at: TOLTON.ARCHCHICAGO.ORG

Dear Jesus, as we observe Black Catholic History Month, we call upon your saving grace to help ensure that the dignity of all of our brothers and sisters of color is honored, celebrated, and respected in our parishes, communities, schools, and homes.

Help us to not only open our eyes and our hearts as we not only speak unity, but also think and act like you. Amen.

A MESSAGE FROM SR. MARTHA GOMEZ, RGS



To all my dear friends in Christ,

I would like to thank all our Pastors and Associate Priests, as well as our Principals and Teachers in our Catholic Schools, Directors of Religious Education and Catechists in our Parishes for participating in our campaign of “One Million Rosaries” As we mentioned to you before, we didn’t reach our goal of one million; but what we accomplished has no words to describe it.

We are so proud to be able to bring together the children, young adolescents, and the adults to pray for one intention, which is “Vocations” As our Bishop Mark E. Brennan stated: Good and Holy vocations to the priesthood, consecrated life, marriage, and single life. All of these are “vocations,” and we need them all. We need good married couples, good parents, good priests, good religious brothers and sisters and consecrated virgins, as well as good single men and women who dedicate their lives to the service of others.

As time moves on, I was urged to remind you of the importance of continuing to pray the rosary to fulfill your pledge. There are so many ways you can say the rosary. You can recite it with your family, or with your friends inviting them to come to your home. You can say the rosary at your parish if they have it after Mass, or just stay for a few minutes and say it yourselves if possible. Another possibility is if there is a rosary group in your parish consider joining them, and if there is no group in your parish you might consider creating one by talking to the pastor and gathering your friends and other parishioners to join you. Another way to pray your rosary is to visit the Holy Eucharist, if possible. There are some parishes that have a chapel designated to the Holy Eucharist and people sign up to visit for periods of time.

We have so much to pray for. Our Pope Francis is asking us to pray for an end of the conflict in the Middle East, for the innocent victims of the war in Gaza, Ukraine, and Sudan especially the children and the elderly.

The month of November is when we pray for the Souls of Purgatory, remembering our loved ones who have gone before us. Let us include them in our intentions as we say our rosary pledge. Remember we can pray for all our intentions we have in our hearts; you can take a few moments before the rosary and mention all of them. I find this process very rewarding either when I say the rosary by myself or in a group.

Let us keep our lamp light up, let us continue to pray for all the needs of the church and of the world. “We need to pray.”

Blessings,

Sister Martha Gomez, RGS





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20/20 Vision Series

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

The Vision 20/20 series for 2023 will focus on the Eucharist. Pope Francis has called for a worldwide Eucharistic Revival. Journey with us this year from Jan. 23-Dec. 11, as we journey with the Holy Father and his invitation to focus our vision on the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist - the Source and Summit of the Church.

Note: Each session will begin at 7 pm and will be presented via Zoom.

Jan 23	The Transformative Power of the Eucharist - Bishop Mark Brennan
Feb 27	Let us be Bread - Beth Longo, CSJ Associate
March 27	The Eucharist as a noun - Bernadette McMasters Kime
April 24	Eucharist in the early church - Fr. John Di Bacco
May 22	Lord I am not worthy - Alex Nagem
June 26	The Eucharist as a verb - Deacon Paul Lim
July 31	Eucharist IS thanksgiving - Kate Marshall
August 28	Bread broken and shared - Sr. Jeanne Cmolik, CSJ
Sept. 25	Eucharistic Reflections through song - Chad Carter
Oct 30	The Road to Emmaus: Were Not Our Hearts Burning? - Fr. Walt Jagela
Nov 27	Bread for the journey - Rodica Stoicoiu, Ph.D.
Dec 11	Do this in remembrance of Me - Deacon Doug Breiding

(Series originated by Ms. Shirley Carter, B.A., M.A.A.T.)

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DIOCESE OF
WHEELING-CHARLESTON

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

Wise and worthy is the woman who loves and fears the Lord – a woman who uses her talents and skills to serve her family and the needy with “loving hands.”

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 128

“Blessed are those who fear the Lord.”

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

St. Paul reminds us to be alert and continue to live in the light of Christ, so we are not fools or living in darkness when He returns – the day the faithful unite with Him in Heaven.

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

The parable Jesus shares emphasizes that God has entrusted all of us with talents and responsibilities. He wants us to share them wisely to build up the kingdom of God – evangelize to share the joy of our Eternal Father.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/111923.CFM

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we all use our loving hands to serve others as Christ taught, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those in authority, that they use their position – their God given gifts and talents – to serve all including the least among us, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For faithful women who share their talents and energy with the community, their value is far beyond pearls in the eyes of God, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That we may be faithful stewards of the gifts we have been given, sharing them to build up the kingdom of God, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

November 20, 2023

*Mass of
Gratitude*

celebrated by
Bishop Mark E. Brennan

12:05 P.M. at the Cathedral of St. Joseph
1218 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV

Livestream available at dwc.org/CSA

In celebration of all YOU do for your local parish and the Church, please join us for the **Mass of Gratitude** on Monday, November 20th at 12:05pm at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling.

Mass will be livestreamed for all those who are unable to attend. You can offer your prayer intentions on the CSA website for Bishop Brennan to pray over during the Mass.

#CatholicSharingAppeal

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Liturgy of the Hours LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!

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Scan the QR code or visit the link below to view a PDF version of the Liturgy of the Hours.



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.