Faith IN WV
NOVEMBER 23, 2025
DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

The King of Kings

Christ the King was crowned not with gold, but thorns.

His throne was not of comfort, but a cross of torture.

His kingship was not of greed and political power, but it was and remains one of compassion, humility, mercy, and redemption.

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe.

Two amazing men, probably the least likely to come to mind, truly emphasize Jesus Christ is without a doubt the One True King. Both men were present at the crucifixion - one on a cross beside him – St. Dismas; and the other thrusted his sword into his side – the Roman centurion – St. Longinus. Their stories invite us to open our eyes and hearts, acknowledging not only the kingship of Christ, but His presence and miracles that happen in our daily lives while others overlook and deny Him.

In today's Gospel, Luke tells us, Jesus was crucified with two thieves (Luke 23:35-43). As they hung on the cross, "One of the criminals who were hanged taunted him with the crowd, saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying (in reply), 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' Christ replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise'."

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"Vivo Cristo Rey!"

Long Life Christ the King!

As we, the Church, celebrate the solemnity of Christ the King, remember Blessed Miguel Agustín Pro, whose final cry of 'Vivo Cristo Rey!' on November 23 still echoes as a fearless witness to the sovereignty of Christ over every earthly power.

November 23rd is the day in 1927, when Blessed Miguel Agustín Pro was martyred in Mexico City, Mexico.

Born José Ramón Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez, this blessed was a Jesuit priest. As a seminarian in 1914, he had to flea for his life as the Mexican government allowed anti-Catholic brutality. The Mexican military and bandits ransacked the seminary and burned down the library as a warning. The superior pleaded for all the seminarians to make their way to California, where a Jesuit community would take them in. Blessed Miguel did as he was advised and made it to Los Gatos, California, after the two-months' journey on foot.

His servant attitude carried him through his studies and ministries in Spain, Nicaragua, and Belgium before being ordained in 1925.

Tensions in Mexico continued to heighten - the government closed all churches and prohibited any public services. Despite this, Blessed Miguel (known as Father Pro)

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Christ's power is mercy even in the final hours of our suffering.

Beyond today's Gospel reading, Luke goes on to describe the death of Jesus:

"It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.' Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, 'Certainly this man was innocent.' And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things. (Luke 23:44-49).

The centurion is mentioned in three of the gospels. He was the first to admit out loud that a terrible mistake had been made saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!" (Matthew 27:54, Mark 15:39) and "Certainly this man was innocent!" (Luke 23:47). John describes what early Christian tradition believes to be the same Roman solider, the one who pierced the side of Christ with a spear from which blood and water flowed, and then the earth quaked, and according to legend the soldier was miraculously cured from an eye affliction when drops of the blood of Christ showered upon him.

Pope Francis said, "The kingdoms of this world at times are sustained by arrogance, rivalries, and oppression; the reign of Christ is a 'kingdom of justice, love, and peace,'" Pope Francis.

May the Solemnity of Christ the King draw us closer to our Savior – Jesus Christ the King of Kings!

Saint Longinus, open our eyes to see miracles around us and fix our eyes on the love of Christ has for us all, conversion is a symbol of hope for all mankind.

Saint Dismas, help us to never give up on our conversion or the conversion of our loved ones because your life proves it is never too late.

returned to his homeland in June 1926. In secret he celebrated the sacraments with faithful Catholics and established hidden Stations of the Cross throughout Mexico City.

He was unjustly accused and arrested for the attempted assassination of a high ranking general. When word got out that Father Pro was captured, the actual hitman turned himself into authorities. The Mexican government however, wanted to make an example out of Blessed Miguel as a warning to all who continued to worship and practice their religion even in secret. The priest was led in front of a great crowd to be shot dead with photographers there ordered to publicize the execution. Blessed Miguel refused a blindfold, boldly stood before the firing squad with his arms outstretched like on a cross, and with his Rosary in one hand and a crucifix in his other he yelled, "Vivo Cristo Rey (Long live Christ the King)!"

More than 40,000 lined the streets for Father Pro's funeral procession with thousands more at the cemetery.

May the confident faith of Blessed Miguel embolden our hearts so that we in every trial, choice and moment proclaim with your words and actions that Christ truly reigns now and forever.

The art with this article is by Spanish artist Raul Berzosa.

MASS OF GRATITUDE SET FOR NOV. 24 TO HONOR FAITHFUL IN THE DIOCESE

Bishop Mark Brennan will celebrate the Mass of Gratitude at 12:05 pm on Monday, Nov. 24 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling to honor the faithful in the diocese who are a light for our parishes, ministries, and outreach organizations through their gifts to their parishes and the Catholic Sharing Appeal (CSA).

"This year, as we reflect on our 175 years of faith-filled history, we recognize the extraordinary impact of those who came before us," Bishop Mark Brennan said in a letter for the CSA. "Their sacrifices built the parishes, schools, and ministries that continue to shape our lives today.

"Now, it is our turn to build upon their legacy by participating in the Catholic Sharing Appeal and ensuring that our diocese remains vibrant and strong for generations to come so that we may respond to Christ's command to, 'Go, make disciples for all nations,' including absent Catholics and the religiously unaffiliated West Virginias."

The Mass of Gratitude reverently honors all those who share in our mission to serve, he said. "Together, we honor the remarkable legacy of faith and service that has flourished in our diocese since its founding, and we look to the future with renewed hope and purpose during this Year of Hope."

The CSA enables the faithful of the diocese to unite in support the vital ministries and initiatives that strengthen our parishes, shared ministries, Catholic education, and outreach efforts across the Mountain State.

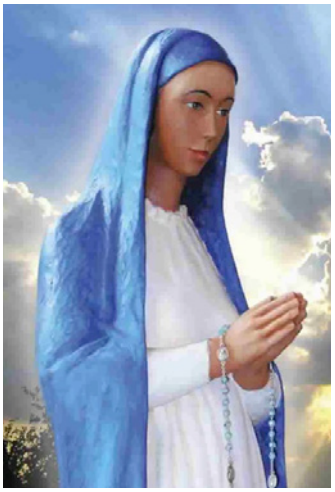
At the Mass, all who make shared ministries in the diocese possible will also be honored, and Bishop Brennan will pray over intentions submitted by members of our community of faith.

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.

"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

Our Lady of Kibeho and the Rosary of the Seven Sorrows



Love each other, have faith in God, seek comfort in Mary and let her lead us to Jesus!

Our Lady of Kibeho, pray for us!

Nov. 28th is her feast day!

When we think of Marian apparitions we think of France, Portugal, and Mexico, but today we recall those that took place between 1981 and 1989 in Africa. Officially recognized by the Vatican in 2001. Our Lady of Kibeho is the only Marian apparition site approved by the Catholic Church on the continent of Africa.

Through this apparition the Rosary of the Seven Sorrows of Mary was re-energized. Like the traditional rosary it's repetitive and reflective nature is powerful, stirring, and fruitful. However, instead of five mysteries this Rosary, also called the Servite Rosary, focuses on each of the Seven Sorrows:

1. The prophecy of Simeon (Luke 2:25-35)
2. The flight into Egypt (Matthew 2:13-15)
3. Loss of the Child Jesus for three days (Luke 2:41-50)
4. Mary meets Jesus on his way to Calvary (Luke 23:27-31; John 19:17)
5. Crucifixion and death of Jesus (John 19:25-30)
6. The body of Jesus being taken from the Cross (Luke 23:50-54; John 19:31-37)
7. The burial of Jesus (Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42; Mark 15:40-47)

These events in Mary's life remind us that she can relate to everything a mother suffers. She had to leave her home to find safety, was filled with panic of losing track of a child and was totally helpless as she watched her son be tortured, mercilessly mocked, and horrifically die upon the cross. We can pray to her, so she intercedes for us for she knows suffering like no other. She also is the ultimate example of faith, loyalty, hope, and love. Cry out to her in all sufferings now and at the hour of our death.

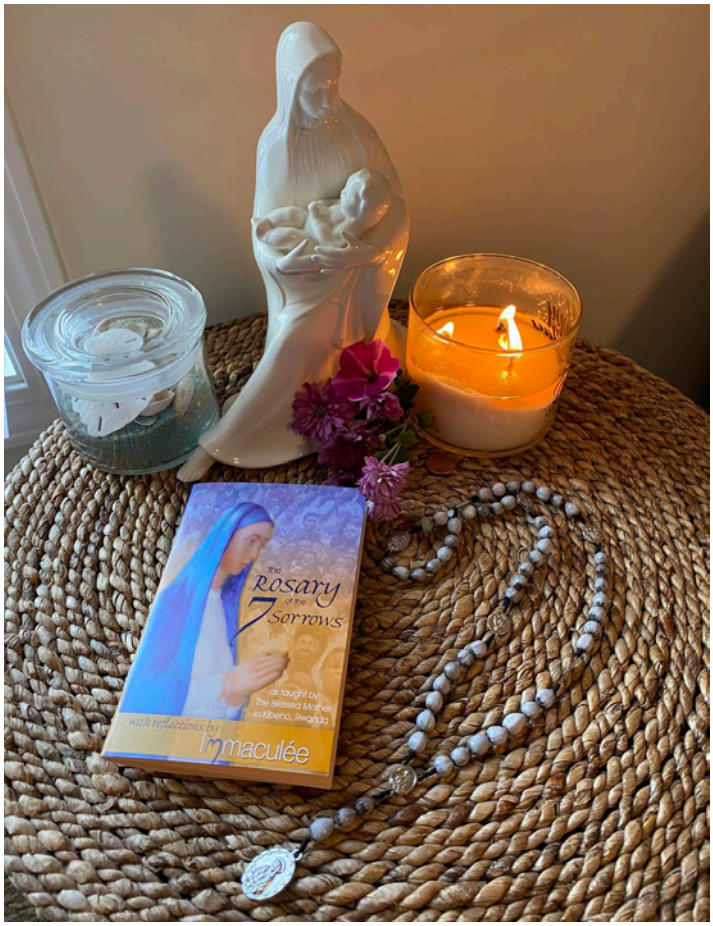
As you say each of the seven courses, walk along with Mary through her life as the young Mother of Jesus- our Blessed Mother.

Rwanda genocide survivor Immaculee' Ilibagiza shared this story and prayer at retreat at St. James the Greater in Charles Town last summer.

"The Rosary of the Seven Sorrows contains all the power you need to change your life for the better, to obtain peace and happiness, to realize your true potential, fulfill all your dreams, and grow closer to God's light," Ilibagiza shared and is written in her Rosary of the Seven Sorrows guide.

For more about Our Lady of Kibeho, the Seven Sorrows Rosary, and Immaculee' go to:

www.immaculee.com/pages/7-sorrows-rosary-prayer. There you will find images and complete directions on reciting the rosary.



Significant Days This Week

OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL – NOVEMBER 27

November 27 is the Feast of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, commemorating the 1830 apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Saint Catherine Laboure in Paris. During the vision, Mary revealed the design for the medal, which was later named the Miraculous Medal after numerous graces and miracles were associated with those who wore it.

The medal was originally called the "Medal of the Immaculate Conception".

"O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee".

Read the story of St. Catherine Laboure and the apparitions here: AMM.ORG/ABOUT-US/STORY-MIRACULOUS-MEDAL/

NATIVE AMERICAN DAY HERITAGE DAY – NOVEMBER 28

On November 28th our country honors our Native American Heritage. In honor of this special day, we highlight 20thCentury Lakota healer, Servant of God Nicholas Black Elk.

Although he faced much cruelty and suffering during his lifetime, because of his race, Servant of God Nicholas Black Elk said, despite who we are, where we are from, and when we are living, "We must live as one."

His life "radiated the healing love of Jesus in a broken world."

Let us be mindful to honor the heritage, culture, and history of those native to this land.

The Knights of Columbus presents Enduring Faith: The Story of Native American Catholics – a free one-hour film on its website: WWW.KOFC.ORG/EN/NEWS-ROOM/ENDURING-FAITH

Let us live and act like Christ – Love one another!

Happy Thanksgiving!

We Are Grateful to God, His Church, & Christ in The Eucharist

On Thanksgiving Day, we gather to celebrate our many blessings, all that we are grateful for as we enjoy a spectacular or even a simple meal together.

As Catholics, do we realize that we experience this same reality every time we go to Mass and receive the Eucharist?

Let's intentionally renew our mindset and rediscover the deep connection between the Eucharist and thanksgiving. The link is right in front of us. Every time the priest begins the Eucharistic Prayer, he proclaims, "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God," and we respond, "It is right and just."

This is no coincidence. The word Eucharist itself comes from the Greek word eucharistia, meaning thanksgiving. The very heart of our Catholic worship is an act of gratitude.

Bishop Mark Brennan often reminds us that the Eucharist is nothing less than Jesus Christ Himself. The Catechism of the Catholic Church beautifully brings both ideas together: the Eucharist is the "source and summit of the Christian life. . . the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ Himself" (CCC 1324). Yet at the same time, it is called Eucharist precisely because it is "an action of thanksgiving to God" (CCC 1328).

This means that every time we receive Holy Communion, our hearts can be filled with the same joy, pride, and gratitude that we experience around the Thanksgiving table—only deeper, because we are receiving Christ Himself. LET YOURSELF GO THERE! In that moment we are united with Him, becoming the Body of Christ, just as St. Paul teaches.

So, each time you approach the altar, take your trials, tribulations, and sufferings, and leave them at there, and then receive Christ with a grateful heart. Allow the Bread of Life and Cup of Salvation to nourish your mind, body, and soul. Praise God!

The second reading for Thanksgiving Day, 1 Corinthians 1:3–9, reminds us of the importance of our encounter with the Lord and our call to seek a continual, lifelong relationship with Him as we prepare for eternity. Receiving the Eucharist is the way God dwells within us so that His grace can work for good in our lives and the lives of others.

This Thanksgiving—and every time you participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass—may your heart echo the ancient dialogue of the Church:

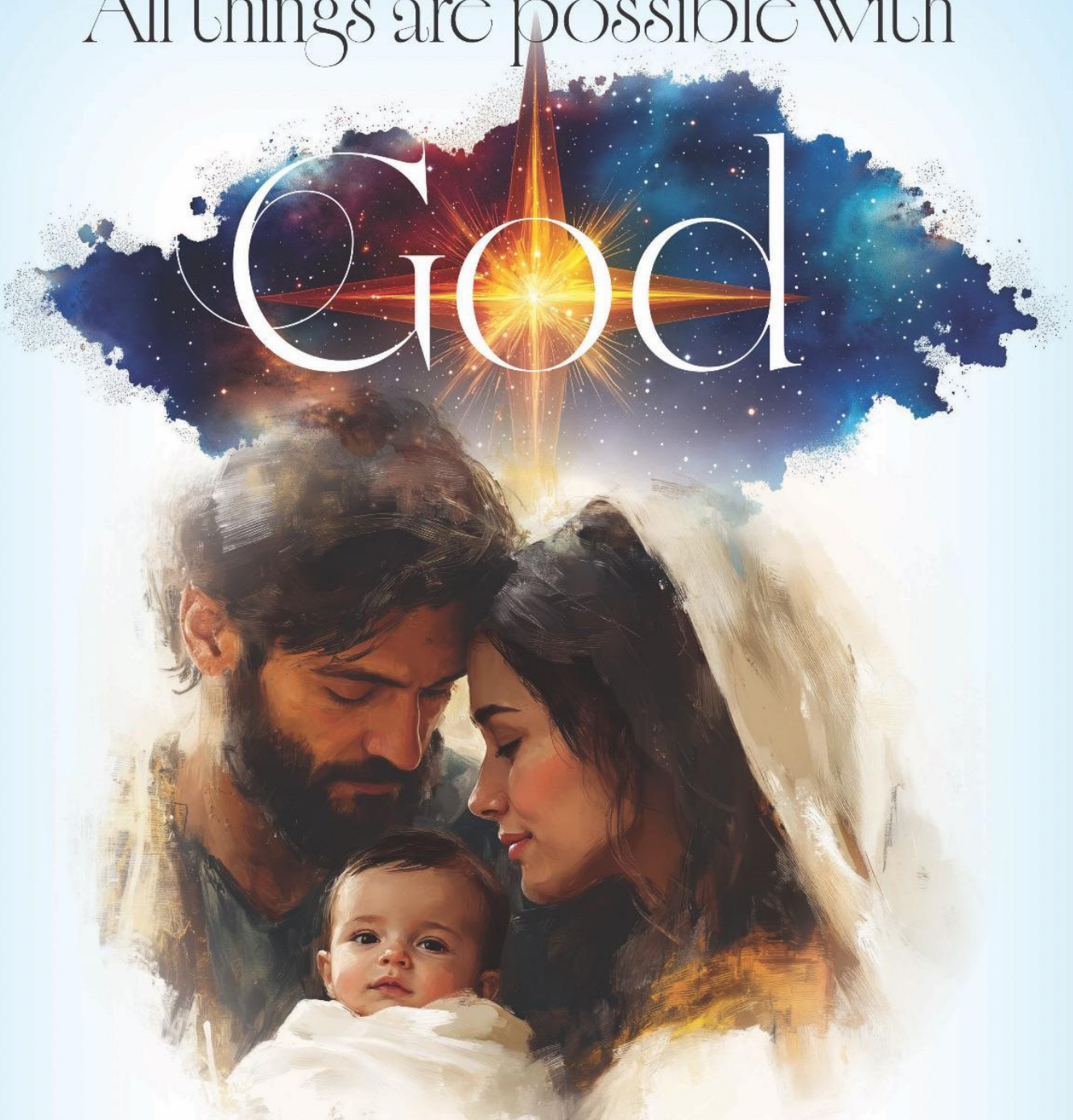
The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

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.

Thanksgiving blessings to all!

All things are possible with



A Musical Celebration of Hope for the Advent/Christmas Season

John Angotti

with Dion Clay, J.T. Brown, John Paciga & other guests

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 6:30PM: CONCERT

Cathedral of St. Joseph

1300 EOFF STREET

WHEELING, WV 26003

SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING

First Reading: 2 Samuel 5:1-3
The shepherd David is anointed king to shepherd the people.

Responsorial: Psalm 122
"Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord."

Second Reading: Colossians 1:12-20
Give thanks to God. We shall inherit heaven with the sants and angels for the blood of the Cross has redeemed us, freed us from sin, and taken us out of the darkness.

Gospel: Luke 23:35-43
On the cross, the good thief said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Christ declared forgiveness and promised Heaven.

CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we listen for God's will, growing in wisdom and understanding, as we are steadfast to His laws even in our forever changing world, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For leaders around the globe, let them not only recognize but reverently honor that there is an authority above their own, and work to bring peace to their land so all can rejoice in the gift of life, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those guilty of crimes for which they have been convicted, that they may find remorse in their hearts and be given the opportunity to repent of what they have done, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That we may see Christ in all whom we meet and treat them in such a way that they may know that Christ is our king, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

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Liturgy of the Hours
LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour! 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.

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.