



CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe – Nov. 26th

Let Christ reign in our hearts and minds. Let him bring peace to our world.

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe is a great reminder we can't just honor Christ on Sunday and then throw Him and His teachings out the rest of the week. We must acknowledge proper honor and glory to God, and work each day to become closer to Jesus. God doesn't need pomp and circumstance. He wants genuine sincerity and humility. Christ accepts our imperfections and shortcomings and loves us unconditionally.



To acknowledge Christ as King of the Universe is recognizing him as the king of kings, while seeking Him and praying that He brings healing to our broken world.

“Once men recognize, both in private and in public life, that Christ is King, society will at last receive the great blessings of real liberty, well-ordered discipline, peace, and harmony (Quas Primas 19),” said Pope Pius XI, who instituted the feast day, originally called the Feast of Christ the King, in 1925, following World War I and the rise of communism and atheism.

He went on to say, “If to Christ our Lord is given all power in heaven and on earth; if all men, purchased by his precious blood, are by a new right subjected to his dominion; if this power embraces all men, it must be clear that not one of our faculties is exempt from his empire.

“He must reign in our minds, which should assent with perfect submission and firm belief to revealed truths and to the doctrines of Christ.

“He must reign in our wills, which should obey the laws and precepts of God.

“He must reign in our hearts, which should spurn natural desires and love God above all things, and cleave to him alone (Quas Primas, 33).”

In 1969, the feast was elevated and renamed by Pope Saint Paul VI to the current title – the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe -

and moved from its original date (the Sunday before All Saints) to the Sunday before Advent, which is the last Sunday of the liturgical year.

As part of his evangelization, Pope Saint Paul VI asked the faithful to continually ask themselves, “Do you really believe what you are proclaiming? Do you live what you believe?”

If we keep Christ the center of our world, we will make it a habit to keep Him in our thoughts, words, and actions, Pope Francis said in a homily given on the feast day in the past.

“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.

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 has shared this story and prayer to her audiences at retreats and through her publications and social media.

"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 wrote in her Rosary of the Seven Sorrows guide.

For an inspirational story about the apparition, we suggest Immaculee' Ilibagiza's book *Our Lady of Kibeho: Mary Speaks to the World from the Heart of Africa, If Only We Had Listened*.



Immaculee also wrote *Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust; The Boy who met Jesus; and more*.

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.

Want to pray along with a video to help you quiet your mind and focus? We suggest these sincere Franciscan friars via Ascension Presents: YOUTU.BE/WxONFCCSUYK

Art is by Jessica Coe of *The Living Heart Co*: WWW.ETSY.COM/SHOP/THELIVINGHEARTCO.

NOVEMBER 28

AN OPPORTUNITY TO DO GREAT THINGS

As Catholics we are called to receive God's gifts gratefully and share them lovingly.

On November 28, join the faithful across the diocese to make a difference for your parish, Catholic education, evangelization ministry, Catholic Charities of WV, and other Catholic endeavors on this Giving Tuesday - Global Day of Kindness and Generosity.

You can show your generosity in a variety of ways during Giving Tuesday—whether it's donating funds online or in person, signing up to participate in a new ministry, volunteering, or praying - every act of kindness counts!

Let your giving be an expression of thanksgiving. As Saint Paul teaches us, giving is “not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people, but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.” (2 Corinthians 9:12).

Let your giving be a reflection of your heart, priorities, and gratitude.

The Catholic Sharing Appeal is one of many ways that we are united in God's love as Catholics and as members of our Diocesan Family. The CSA is a great consideration for financial gift as it provides essential support for ministries and programs, including funding for Camp Carlo, social ministries, tuition assistance, parish food pantry programs, emergency services, and outreach efforts.

To donate visit GIVINGTUESDAY.DWC.ORG.



CELEBRATE GIVING TUESDAY

November 28, 2023

WAYS TO CELEBRATE:

- Donate to the CSA
- Sign up for a new ministry
- Volunteer
- Go to Mass
- Pray the rosary



ST. ANDREW NOVENA IN PREPARATION OF CHRISTMAS

As we honor the Feast of St. Andrew, the first apostle, on Nov. 30, we share this Advent Novena as a way to meditate and focus on the true meaning of Christmas – the gift of the Christ Child.

Not a typical novena that is recited once a day for nine days, the St. Andrew Novena is to be said 15 times a day from the St. Andrew's Feast Day to Christmas Eve. The origin of the prayer is not officially recorded, but Catholics have been reciting it for more than 100 years. Many believe it began in Ireland as a way to revive the Church and make Advent an intentional reverent time.

HAIL AND BLESSED
BE THE HOUR AND MOMENT
IN WHICH THE SON OF GOD WAS BORN
OF THE MOST PURE VIRGIN MARY,
AT MIDNIGHT, IN BETHLEHEM,
IN THE PIERCING COLD.
IN THAT HOUR VOUCHSAFE,
I BESEECH THEE, O MY GOD,
TO HEAR MY PRAYER
AND GRANT MY DESIRES
THROUGH THE MERITS OF OUR SAVIOR
JESUS CHRIST,
AND OF HIS BLESSED MOTHER.
AMEN

St. Andrew Novena - recite 15 times a day, Nov. 30-Dec. 24.



THE NATIVITY ~ THE BEAUTY OF OUR FAITH

The re-creation of the Nativity scene was first given to us exactly 800 years ago by St. Francis of Assisi, as a visible way to evangelize, bring forth the wonder and awe of the humble Newborn King, and to connect the moment to the celebration of the Eucharist. This first live crèche was in Greccio, Italy. The photo of Pope Francis accompanying this story was taken in 2021, when he visited the site.

The following are excerpts written by Pope Francis in the introduction of Pope his book – Christmas at the Nativity - just released.*



Awe and wonder are the two feelings that move everyone, young and old, before the Nativity scene, which is like a living Gospel overflowing from the pages of Holy Scripture. It is not important how the Nativity scene is set up; it can always remain the same or change every year; what matters is that it speaks to life.

The shepherds in the manger are those who welcome God's surprise and live in wonder at their encounter with him, adoring him: in littleness they recognize the face of God. Humanly we are all inclined to seek greatness, but it is a gift to know how to really find it: to know how to find greatness in that smallness that God so loves.

On Christmas night there are two signs that guide us in recognizing Jesus. One is the sky full of stars. There are many of those stars, an infinite number, but among them all a special star stands out, the one that prompted the Magi to leave their homes and begin a journey, a journey that would lead them where they did not know. It happens the same way in our lives: at a certain moment some special “star” invites us to make a decision, to make a choice, to begin a journey. We must forcefully ask God to show us that star that draws us toward something more than our habits, because that star will lead us to contemplate Jesus, that child who is born in Bethlehem and who wants our full happiness.

On that night, made holy by the Savior's birth, we find another powerful sign: the smallness of God. The angels point out to the shepherds a baby born in a manger. Not a sign of power, self-sufficiency, or pride. No. The eternal God is reduced to a helpless, meek, humble human being. God lowered himself so that we could walk with him and so that he could stand beside us, not above and far from us.

The first biographer of St. Francis, Thomas of Celano, describes the Christmas night of 1223, whose eight-hundredth anniversary we celebrate this year. When Francis arrived, he found the crib with the hay, the ox, and the donkey. Before the Christmas scene, the people who flocked to the place manifested an unspeakable joy, never tasted before. Then the priest, at the manger, solemnly celebrated the Eucharist, showing the link between the Incarnation of the Son of God and the Eucharist. On that occasion, there were no figurines in Greccio: the Nativity scene was created and experienced by those who were present. – Pope Francis

* *Christmas at the Nativity* by Pope Francis can be purchased at the following link: WWW.FOCOLAREMEDIA.COM/BOOKSTORE.

Pray with



ADVENT WREATH LESSON

The Advent wreath, it is a tangible reminder of our preparation and anticipation of the birth of Christ. It has evolved through the centuries and across cultures and faiths. Each element is symbolic of aspects of the Christmas story and our faith.

Traditionally the candles used are three purple and one pink. Purple, the color associated of royalty, represents prayer, penance, and works of mercy we take on during the season. The pink (rose) represents joy. This candle is lit on Gaudete Sunday (the third Sunday of Advent), which means “rejoice” and marks the halfway point until Christ’s birth.

Depending on culture or tradition the weeks represent hope, peace, joy, and love; or hope, faith, joy, and peace. It is a matter of semantics really. The overall meaning and respected custom are universal. Each are impressive and reverent of our anticipation of Christ’s birth. Think of your advent wreath as a beautiful reminder to pray faithfully with hope, peace, joy, and love.

Some traditions name the candles. The first candle is called the prophet’s candle, representative of the prophecy of the birth of a Messiah in Isaiah, and signifies hope. The second candle, the Bethlehem candle, represents the humble town, seemingly at the time to be insignificant. However, God chose this town proving even the least is important to our Creator. This candle represents peace. The third candle is the shepherd’s candle and recalls the shepherds and their joy. According to Scripture, it was the shepherds who were first told about Christ’s birth (Luke 2:8-14). The fourth candle is known as the angels candle, a candle of love, symbolic of when they sang out, “Glory to God in the highest and peace to men of goodwill.”

Regardless of your advent wreath appearance, the most important element is in the pause for prayer and reflection. It prompts us to remember Scripture, the prophecy, Mary’s acceptance, and why Christ came to dwell among us. Let us remember that God is always present in our life and sent his only son to restore light and peace within and for us.

ADVENT WREATH BLESSING AND PRAYERS

Dear Jesus, as we light the candle(s) on this Advent wreath, may the light of your presence bring joy to our hearts. Bless our family and our friends, and be with all those who are in need this holiday season. Amen.

FIRST WEEK - HOPE

All-powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming and call us to his side in the kingdom of heaven, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, forever and ever. Amen.

SECOND WEEK - PEACE

Dear Jesus, you entered our world on Christmas as the Prince of Peace. This Advent, as we strive to become the best-version-of-ourselves, fill us with a deep and abiding peace. Help us share that peace with everyone we encounter, especially those who need it most. Amen.

THIRD WEEK - JOY

Dear Jesus, help us focus on you during this busy season. May we stay aware of the joy you bring into our lives. We want to find you in the everyday moments and come with hearts of gratitude to your manger on Christmas. Amen.

FOURTH WEEK - LOVE

All-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A FEW OF OUR FAVORITE FINDS

Gifts to keep Christ in Christmas

KEEP CHRIST IN YOUR CHRISTMAS!

As a way to keep Christ in Christmas gift giving, we have put together a list for you of our favorite finds to include in your gift giving, decorating, and go to vendors, when you need something a little extra special.

- A Catholic artist we feature a lot in FaithInWV and on diocesan social media is Nichole Lanthier. She is from Lake Charles, Louisiana. She sells her Catholic art, ever popular vinyl stickers, and a variety of other gifts online through Etsy: WWW.ETSY.COM/SHOP/NICHOLELANTHIER.



Lanthier is a wife and mother of five, working out of her home. When you order from her, your package may even arrive with a beautifully printed note letting you know she has prayed over your order.

- Trending now on many social media feeds is Shining Light Dolls (SHININGLIGHTDOLLS.COM). Chantal Baros, owner, artist, and creator behind Shining Light Dolls, said her company is,



“Passionate about making it fun, easy, and accessible for families to pass their Catholic faith onto their children.”

The company specializes in dolls, games, puzzles, stickers, and more to plant the seed about Faith and God’s love for all of us. FaithInWV e-bulletin and our diocesan social media often feature Baros’ free printables. Yes, free! From Holy Family rag dolls and plus saints to kid friendly advent wreaths, Shining Light Dolls will become a favorite for young Catholic families. Baros lives in Chicago with her husband Kirk and their three children.

- Amber Knorr of Steubenville, Ohio, has an Etsy shop WWW.ETSY.COM/SHOP/AMBERKNORRART. One of our favorite paintings of the Holy Family is by Knorr. Newborn Jesus is held in Joseph’s right arm as he lovingly gazes upon our Savior. Joseph’s left hand is on Mary’s shoulder as she sleeps. Make sure you check out her inventory of the Holy Family, Saints, and Angels.



- Looking for statues, rosaries, jewelry, Catholic décor and children’s gifts? Check out House of Joppa at WWW.HOUSEOFJOPPA.COM/.



Created by Catholics Matt and Tabitha Kidman of Southeastern Michigan, House of Joppa began as an online boutique of shop Catholic art and items with a modern look and appeal to fit into homes today.

- Recently FaithInWV featured art from Paper Plane Primary of St. Cecilia on her feast day. We also like the shops’ Catholic Nursery Print



collection featuring St. Michael the Archangel. Check out her collection of lessons, resources, art prints, and more more at: WWW.ETSY.COM/SHOP/PAPERPLANEPRIMARY

- Another sweet vendor for Catholic printables, wearables, journals, décor, and Catholic themed blankets is [THE LITTLE ROSE SHOP](http://THELITTLEROSESHOP). Shop owner Raquel Rose hopes her items help you to allow “faith to be a part of the simple everyday things – because that’s where I encounter God the most.”



CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17

The shepherd king seeks the lost and heals the injured.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 23

“The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want”

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28

St. Paul tells us to never forget the power of God who created all living things and conquered death.

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

In this final Sunday of the liturgical year, Jesus – just two days before his crucifixion – tells his disciples eternal life in the kingdom of God is worth more than any worldly possession, joy, or treasure. Be mindful of this as you live your life on earth and prepare for judgement day.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/112623.CFM

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we never tire of making sacrifices and doing good in preparation of judgement day and eternal happiness, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For leaders of nations, that they are first and foremost servant leaders, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For a transformation in our society and homes in which faith is the center of our lives and our firm foundation for how we work, serve, and prioritize, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For a respect for all human life, from conception to natural death, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all who are ill or injured, lost or turned away, that they may know the grace of our loving and forgiving God, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

HONORING OUR RETIRED RELIGIOUS SISTERS AND BROTHERS SPECIAL COLLECTION SET FOR DEC. 9-10

On Dec. 9-10 the faithful in the nation are asked to honor retired religious through the Retirement Fund for Religious (RFR) collection. Donations help thousands of elderly religious individuals retire with dignity.

Your provides essential care, medicine, and other necessities for our elder sisters, brothers and religious order priests who have served for decades—usually for little or no pay. Let us show our appreciation by generously supporting those who have given so much.

This parish-based appeal is coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO), and proceeds help hundreds of religious communities in the United States to care for aging members.

Today in the US, religious past age 70 outnumber religious under age 70 by nearly three to one.

Support from the Retirement Fund for Religious helps religious communities care for senior members while continuing important ministries to the People of God.

“In the past, those serving in religious life traditionally received minimal compensation because of their vow of poverty, so by donors giving to the retirement fund, it shows appreciation for their work and provides them with a sense of security in their old age,” says Father James Day, 77, a member of the Trinitarians in Sykesville, Maryland. Father Day is pictured in the 2023 RFR promotion photo in the top row, on the far right.



Retirement Fund for Religious

Visit retiredreligious.org/2023photos to meet the religious pictured.
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Faith IN WV

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON



FAITH IS A LIFELONG JOURNEY!
 Strengthen yours through FaithInWV,
 our weekly e-bulletin in the
 Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

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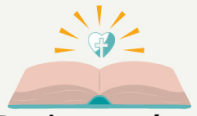
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Liturgy of the Hours

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.