



ADVENT 2020

As Advent begins this Sunday, we enter into a season of waiting. It seems as if 2020 has been a prolonged year of waiting - full of unwanted circumstances and anxious uncertainty. However, let's choose better. Let's make a concentrated effort to enter into this spiritual time of waiting in joy, in hope, and in happy anticipation of the wondrous season of Christmas, the celebration of Christ's birth, and our eagerness for His second coming.

There is no better time to revitalize your faith life than during the season of Advent, the beginning of the Church's liturgical year. St. Nicholas Day, Advent wreath traditions, Jesse trees, Immaculate Conception, and the feasts of St. Lucy, Our Lady of Guadalupe, and San Juan Diego can all remind us of the fullness of our Catholic faith.

Whether you have been celebrating these traditions for generations or have now decided to start weaving in new customs into your Advent, let this be an exciting time in your heart and home.

You don't have to have little ones. You can adapt these activities to your family of all ages. Enrich your grandchildren, nieces, nephews, neighbors, or brighten the days of the often-forgotten elderly in a nearby nursing home.



To get started welcome the season with an **Advent wreath**, symbolizing hope, faith, joy, and peace. To create your own crafty Advent wreath we recommend the [KENNEDY ADVENTURES WEBSITE](#). They list simple to more involved Advent wreath creations, including

corresponding websites to provide step by step directions. You may also like [CATHOLIC ALL YEAR'S ADVENT WREATH](#).

Another fun and educational Advent tradition is the **Jesse tree**. It is a great lesson in biblical history. Each day from December 1 you place an ornament on a tree to as a count down until the birth of Christ. Each ornament

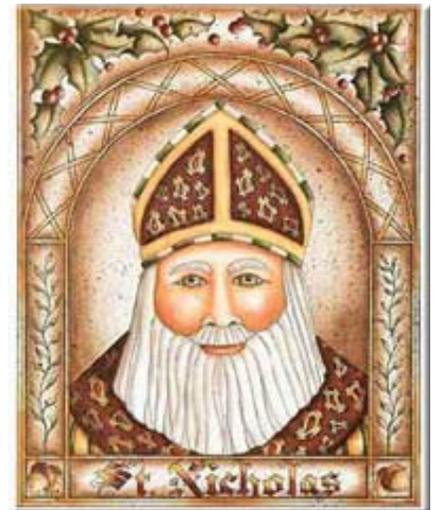


is from a special event in the Old Testament with the final ornament being baby Jesus. The Catholic Icing offers a thorough explanation of the tree and also tips on how to draw your own ornaments or you can purchase one the site founder created for \$4. Go to their [WEBSITE](#) to find out more.

On December 6th, celebrate **St. Nicholas Day** is an opportunity to teach us about the joy of giving and performing good deeds. As is

the custom in Europe, small gifts and treats are left in the shoes (slippers) of the family on the eve of this feast day. Common surprises include coins, chocolate, clementines, prayer cards, candy canes, and a Christmas ornament -

simple gifts of sweet love and thoughtfulness, which is exactly what Bishop Nicholas has been celebrated for since 800 AD. Take time that day to act like St. Nicholas. Donate food to a local food pantry, donate shoes to a local shelter, or ask your local hospital about donating toys and activities for children there. Get inspired by learning more about St. Nicholas and how to celebrate by visiting:



WWW.STNICHOLASCENTER.ORG

More resources for Advent:

The USCCB has an Advent calendar to download to inspire families this season. Get it by [CLICKING HERE](#).

Loyola Press presents an impressive amount of resources for Advent available by [CLICKING HERE](#).

We wish you a blessed Advent season!

DECEMBER 1 IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO DO GREAT THINGS

As Catholics we are called to receive God's gifts gratefully and share them lovingly. On Dec. 1, join the faithful across the diocese to make a difference for your parish, catholic education, evangelization ministry, or Catholic Charities of WV on this global day of kindness and generosity.

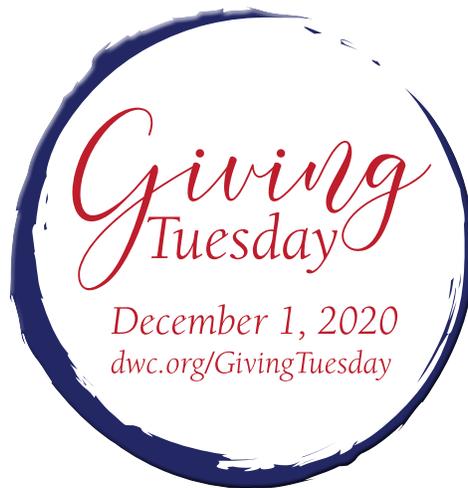
You can show your generosity in a variety of ways during Giving Tuesday—whether it's donating funds, signing up to participate in a new ministry, volunteering, or praying, every act counts!

"My friends, we Catholics are grateful for God's gifts and we know that God expects us to share them with others," Bishop Mark Brennan said. "As St. Paul says: *You know the gracious act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that for your sake he became poor, although he was rich, so that by his poverty you might become rich.* We imitate our Lord's love for us by showing love for others, whether by praying for them, consoling them, visiting them when sick or imprisoned, or helping them financially.

"We all recognize how important it is to support our own parish, Catholic education, Catholic Charities WV, and our Church's evangelization efforts. I encourage you to pray and consider joining me in giving your support to make our future in this Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston stronger and brighter on Giving Tuesday."

Note 100% of your donation will go

to the entity selected. For anyone who would prefer not to go online, donations can be dropped off or mailed to your parish office or placed in the collection basket.



As you know, because of COVID-19 our parishes, schools, and organizations' budgets have suffered with the sparse parish collections, cancelled fundraisers, and postponed appeals. Let us give them a boost on Giving Tuesday by remembering them and all the good they do for us and the community.

Bishop Mark has declared that all donations on this day will be assessment free - no PHRA or Cathedraticum.

Mary Ann Deschaine, superintendent of the Catholic schools in the diocese says she has more than 4,600 reasons why you should participate in Giving Tuesday.

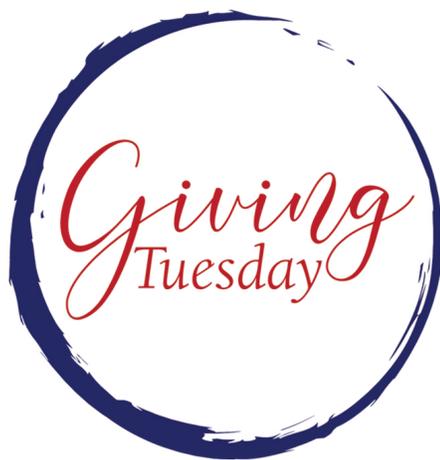
"They are in our 24 Catholic schools, and your gift supports each one," she said. "Because of your donations and the donations from the generations before you, our children will continue to receive more than an exceptional education, they will be set to be leaders and accept the responsibility to live, lead, and serve like Christ.

"We are part of a historical time... and with you we are writing our impressive story of adaptability, perseverance, empathy, and steadfast faith with every step along this journey," Deschaine said.

Since the start of the pandemic back in March, our parishes, missions and ministries have had to make some big changes and adjustments in how they are able to connect with their parishioners. Many are now live streaming Masses; offering virtual PSR and RCIA classes; and utilizing social media and parish websites for communication.

Unfortunately, all of these changes and adjustments come at a cost to our parishes. Your support on Giving Tuesday will help provide them with the tools and technology they need to safely continue to serve their communities.

Visit GIVINGTUESDAY.DWC.ORG to donate! The website will open for donations beginning Nov. 20th and continue to accept donations through Dec. 2nd.



Join us online, as we gather together to raise funds, support our parishes & ministries, and share our faith!

December 1, 2020
dwc.org/GivingTuesday

THE MEMORIAL OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

St. Francis Xavier is known as one of the greatest missionaries in Church history. He was enthusiastic, adventurous, and passionate about evangelizing. Those characteristics served him well as he worked to convert souls and selflessly serve others in missions throughout Portugal, Kenya, Somalia, India, Japan, and Southeast Asia.



We celebrate his memorial on Dec. 3.

In a quick summary of his life he seems pretty dynamic, happy, and confident; but he had his own struggles with depression and loneliness. His father died when he was just a young boy; in his teens he left home to study in Paris; while there his mother and sister died; and his other siblings were all married with families of their own. However, he chose to turn those negative energies into a challenge to be courageous with God as his navigator. He considered his

faith as the greatest gift from his reverent parents. He chose to be a fisher of men and share his love of Christ.

He earned degrees in philosophy and theology. While studying at the University of Paris, he met St. Ignatius Loyola. They became close friends. In 1534, together with five other men they founded the Society of Jesus (the Jesuit order). In 1537, St. Francis Xavier was ordained a priest.

An unnamed fellow Jesuit said, “I have never met anyone more filled with faith and hope, more open-minded than Francis. He never seems to lose his great joy and enthusiasm. He talks to both the good and the bad. Anything he is asked to do, Francis does willingly, simply because he loves everyone.”

He chose that attitude. Despite what had to have been dangerous and often miserable travel and living conditions, he focused on God to keep him balanced and grateful. Not every stop or plan was successful for him, but he remained determined.

He believed that we can face any challenge and danger as long as we love God. In his words: “In this life, we find our greatest comfort living in the midst of danger, that is, if we confront them solely for the love of God.”

Xavier University presents an article by Debra Mooney, Ph.D., on the namesake saint you can read by [CLICKING HERE](#).

FROM FISHERMAN TO A FISHER OF MEN

The Feast of St. Andrew is Nov. 30th. We don't know a lot of details about him and his life. However, we do know he was an apostle. He was a true believer of Jesus Christ, because the Gospel tells us he left everything to follow him.

It was Andrew and his brother (Simon) Peter who while casting their fishing nets into the sea, were asked by Jesus Himself if they wanted to be “fishers of men” as we know from Matthew 4:18-20.

So, while we may not be able to quote his wisdom or describe details of his life, we do know that as an apostle and a Galilean. He was loyal, a preacher, a witness to miracles, and called to holiness by Christ.

There is a beautiful Christmas Anticipation Prayer that begins on the Feast day of St. Andrew and is to be recited 15 times a day until Christmas. Meditate in its repetition to help increase our focus on the gift of the Christ Child.



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 (recite your request here) through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ and of His Blessed Mother. Amen

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading ISAIAH 63:16B-17, 19B; 64:2-7

You, LORD, are our father, our redeemer you are named forever. Why do you let us wander, O LORD, from your ways, and harden our hearts so that we fear you not? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your heritage. Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you, while you wrought awesome deeds we could not hope for, such as they had not heard of from of old. No ear has ever heard, no eye ever seen, any God but you doing such deeds for those who wait for him. Would that you might meet us doing right, that we were mindful of you in our ways! Behold, you are angry, and we are sinful; all of us have become like unclean people, all our good deeds are like polluted rags; we have all withered like leaves, and our guilt carries us away like the wind. There is none who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to cling to you; for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us up to our guilt. Yet, O LORD, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter: we are all the work of your hands.

Responsorial PSALMS 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

R. (4)) Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hearken, from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth. Rouse your power, and come to save us.

R.) Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Once again, O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven, and see; take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand has planted the son of man whom you yourself made strong.

R.) Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

May your help be with the man of your right hand, with the son of man whom you yourself made strong. Then we will no more withdraw from you; give us new life, and we will call upon your name.

R.) Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Second Reading 1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9

Brothers and sisters:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always on your account for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, that in him you were enriched in every way, with all discourse and all knowledge, as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will keep you firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Alleluia PSALMS 85:8

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Show us Lord, your love; and grant us your salvation.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel MARK 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: ‘Watch!’”

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, as we prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ into our hearts and lives, let us seek His light during Advent and always, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For world leaders, that they seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead their people with renewed hope, health, and peace, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For children, that by acknowledging God’s gift of the guardian angels they find physical, emotional, and spiritual strength, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all the faithful, that we seek to find the good in others and do our part to share our gifts to help those less fortunate, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,

and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

LET US GO *Rejoicing* TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD.

PSALM 122

UPDATED GUIDELINES RELEASED

Bishop Mark E. Brennan released updated guidelines for our churches and facilities.

- New Norms for Reopening Parish Facilities for Meetings and Gatherings
- Updated Liturgical Guidelines
- Music Protocols for Liturgical Celebrations

These are available online at www.dwc.org.

Liturgy of the Hours

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!

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

EBREVIARY.COM LITURGY OF THE HOURS



A LITTLE CATHOLIC HUMOR

PRAYER PUPS BY JEFFREY SMITH



WV CATHOLIC RADIO BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOU

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Purgitsville	FM	98.7
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Star City - Morgantown	FM	89.7
Summersville	FM	91.3
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WV Catholic Radio www.WVCatholicRadio.org

THE LATEST AND UPCOMING NEWS FROM THE CATHOLIC *Spirit*

THE CATHOLIC SPIRIT IS NOW AVAILABLE BY E-MAIL!!

Join our e-list to receive The Catholic Spirit by e-mail. To be added, please e-mail Colleen Rowan, CROWAN@DWC.ORG, with "The Catholic Spirit e-list" in the subject line. Please provide your preference of: "E-mail only" or "E-mail and Printed Copy." Those selecting e-mail only, will no longer receive a printed copy. The Catholic Spirit is available under "Downloadable Spirit" at

THECATHOLICSPIRITWV.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.

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/)