



OCTOBER 1, 2023



Difference Maker or Shoulda Woulda Coulda Club? Rosary Appeal Deadline Quickly Approaching

Don't miss this opportunity to be a difference maker with your prayer! You don't want to be in the Shoulda Woulda Coulda Club!

Be a proud prayer warrior for the One Million Rosaries for Increased Vocations for WV. Start off this Month of the Rosary with a commitment to prayer. Go to: DWC.ORG/ONEMILLIONROSARIES and make your pledge to have your future Rosaries said including WV vocations.

It's no secret our parishes, schools, organizations, families, and communities are in great need of increased vocations in WV to serve God and others. Join our prayer partners, who are choosing to be a solution with their faith and not just complain or come up with a plethora of excuses.

Your Questions Answered

One million, really? Lofty we know, but we believe in you! Last spring when we began to promote our 54-day campaign for the span of the Feast of the Assumption on August 15th to the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on Oct. 7th, Sister Martha Gomez and her staff began to pray for you - our priests, principals, deacons, DRE's, religious/consecrated, and faithful in WV, so we would respond, be excited, begin a new habit, take control, and commit to prayer.

In a perfect world if all of us - the 66,925 Catholics in WV - would pledge to say just 15 Rosaries this year, we would have more than 1,003,000 prayed.

If our 154 parishes, missions, chapels, and Catholic schools would lead the Rosary once a week with an average of 25

people each then 200,200 Rosaries would be said in one year's time. If this same small group made a commitment to pledge one million, their prayer promise would be "paid off" in five years with more than 1,001,000 Rosaries completed for increased vocations in WV.

How are we doing so far? As of Wednesday (Sept. 27th), more than 184,000 Rosaries have been pledged by less than 900 entries. These entries are from all over the US and Mexico - Sister Martha's homeland. While that number is far off from one million, we are "winning", Sr. Martha said.

"When I see the photos of our children in our schools and parishes, gathering to say the Rosary together my heart is full, I can't begin to know how it makes our Blessed Mother feel," she said. "When Bishop Mark shared with me a sweet card from a parishioner, praising him for promoting the Rosary, empowering us to call upon Heaven to help us, I was humbled by that genuine faithfulness to God and His Church. When I receive a weekly correspondence from a regional Rosary group that prays more than 200



Sister Martha Gomez' two-year-old great nephew, Leonardo (Leo), took it upon himself to start the family Rosary prayer time, when his mother stepped away for just a moment. She captured this photo of that moment and sent it to Sr. Martha from their home in Mexico.



Rosaries each week for us, I am encouraged to step up my prayer life. All of these examples are breathtaking. We are winning – souls into heaven. But let's not settle, we can do better.

Please, make a promise – a pledge – to dedicate your Rosaries for us this year.”

So, I don't have to fulfill my pledge by Oct. 7th?

No. This is an honor system. When you submit your pledge online fulfilling that pledge is between you and God. Many are pledging for a year, some five, it's up to you.

What if I already pledged can I pledge again?

Yes! If you have fulfilled your pledge already or if you have challenged yourself to increase your pledge enter your new pledge, go online: DWC.ORG/ONEMILLIONROSARIES



Will I be solicited? No! Submissions are anonymous and no contact info is gathered, saved, or shared. We only ask to check a box, so we know if you are joining us as prayer partner from a parish, school, mission/organization, or other. Note - even that information is not required, just your pledge number.

I don't like to go online and submit any info or click links, what can I do?

Phone in your pledge to Joyce Bibey, who works for you in the communications office: (304) 233-0880 ext. 357 or email her at jbibey@dwc.org. Just let her know your pledge number and she will be happy to enter it for you.



What am I really praying for?

Aside from your special and habitual intentions you are including the intention for an Increase in Vocations in WV- Marriage, Holy Orders, Single Life, and Religious/Consecrated Life.

Wait! Marriage and single life too? Absolutely! At baptism we are called to holiness - to serve God and others. Strong marriages, where couples grow in faith and receive the Eucharist together; and the commitment to a single life without marriage and children (CCC 1658) and focused on living in the spirit of the Beatitudes – both are important vocations to the Church.

But I don't know the Rosary, where would I even start?

YOU ALREADY DID! Congrats! You already started by asking where to start. We are so happy! You can google “How to say the Rosary” online, but we tried to do our best to save you time.

Go to: DWC.ORG/ONEMILLIONROSARIES; scroll down the page and you will find “Printable Resources” and also tabbed resources for apps, web pages, children's resources, and how to make a knotted rosary.

What do I do if I don't own a Rosary?

You can email Sr. Martha Gomez (mgomez@dwc.org) who will be happy to help you get one, or if you use one of the apps suggested on our webpage you will find a virtual one.

The Rosary is too long, I lose my concentration why do it?

If you set aside a moment even if it's at the end of your day to say it and you fall asleep, think of what you are doing! You are falling asleep praying with our Blessed Mother! Don't you think she would love spending that moment with you? Keep trying. She will help you through. Don't give up before you even start.

When do I really have the time?

If you are too busy to pray, then you are too busy. Think of the Rosary and your prayer life as a gift to yourself to concentrate on all the intentions that are in your heart, weighing on your mind, and the prayers you can offer for another. Pray while you're taking a walk, exercising, doing the dishes, working in the yard, or rocking a child to sleep. Completing your first Rosary is a great feeling, and making it a habit will bring endless blessings, because you are giving God part of your day recalling the life of Christ.





So, you want me to pray the Apostles' Creed, six Our Father's, 53 Hail Mary's, five Glory Be's, five Fatima prayers, and the Hail Holy Queen prayer? YES! "So that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ!" That pretty much says it all.

Seriously - Mary gave us this calming prayer. We are all guilty of a monotony of sins, let's give them to God with a monotony of meditative prayer.

It was Mary how said:

"When you say your Rosary, the angels rejoice, the Blessed Trinity delights in it, my Son finds joy in it too, and I myself am happier than you can possibly guess. After the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, there is nothing in the Church that I love as much as the Rosary."

OCTOBER BEGINS WITH SIGNIFICANT OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW IN FAITH

October is Respect Life Month, a time the Church in the United States focuses and celebrates life at every stage from conception through natural death. During this moment in history the theme "Called to Serve Moms in Need" has been chosen to amplify the compassion and support needed for mothers before, during, and after the birth of their child.

God calls us to cherish, defend and protect the most vulnerable among us through all of life's stages. As Catholics, we are called to cherish, defend, and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning of life to its end, and at every point in between. During the month of October, the Church asks us to reflect more deeply on the dignity of every human life.

This year's theme is "Called to Serve Moms in Need." Every human life is made in the image and likeness of God.

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Luke 6:36.

We need to walk the walk, not just talk the talk. We can recite words, but we need to perform deeds in order to live the Word and teachings Christ gave us.

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you. - Jeremiah 1:5.

As a presenter for pro-life directors from dioceses across the country in July, Bishop Mark Brennan said we need to do God's work and not just speak pro-life, pro-baby, and pro-woman. We need to "give our sincere support to those who are in active areas, where we cannot be."



He quoted 2Timothy 2:3, "St. Paul said, 'Bear your share of hardship along with me like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.'

"Let God move minds and hearts, but we must be the ones who now speak and work for Him."

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) presents Pro-Life Rosaries you can follow along with by [CLICKING HERE](#).

October is the Month of the Rosary and October 7th the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, Our Lady of Victory - The Church recognizes October the Month of the Holy Rosary, because of the 16th Century Marian devotion to Our Lady of the Rosary.

Pope Pius V wholeheartedly gave credit to the Virgin Mary for the Oct. 7, 1571, victory for the Church and Christians of Spain and Venice over Turks, who waged war on all Christianity. The day of the battle at sea was the same day the Rosary Confraternity of Rome gathered to recite the rosary for the Blessed Virgin to intercede and go to Jesus to protect and empower the Christians at battle. Pope Pius V declared the day the Feast of Our Lady of Victory. A year later, his successor, Pope Gregory III, changed the name of the feast to Our Lady of the Rosary to emphasize the power of our Blessed Mother's intercession.



Embrace the special prayer and let it draw our families closer to God.

Take time to share the Rosary with the children in your life. We have many resources available to you at dwc.org/onemillionrosaries. Including a printable activity book – The Mysteries of the Rosary (in the printable resources box).

Rosary is not only a calming rhythmic prayer, but also one that is the perfect teaching tool. Each of the mysteries are stories from the New Testament. Each decade of the Rosary is a reflection in the life of Jesus and Mary.

St. Teresa of Calcutta always carried a rosary with her, because she felt when she held them it was like holding the hand of our Blessed Mother. What a breathtaking image that is.

Learn more about the Rosary with your family through fun crafts and activities.

Honor St. Thérèse of Lisieux on her feast day,

Oct. 1 - You may know her as St. Thérèse the Little Flower, Thérèse the bouquet, Thérèse the Child Jesus, or St. Thérèse of the Holy Face. They all identify her devotion.



We have a lot to learn from her 24 years on earth – honor Christ’s true presence in the Eucharist, know your strength comes from God, and live to serve and bring joy to others like Jesus.

She described her First Holy Communion as “The most wonderful day of my life ... that first kiss of Jesus in my heart – it was truly a kiss of love. I knew

that I was loved and said, ‘I love you, and I give myself to you forever. It was a totally heavenly happiness which words cannot express.’”

She is called St. Thérèse the Little Flower because her father saw in her what we now see in her spirit – what may be a simple wildflower in a vast field not just growing and blooming, but standing out and giving glory to God.

Many know her as St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face. This is the name she took upon entering religious life to signify her vocation. She was only 15 when she entered the Carmelite convent in Lisieux. She chose Child Jesus, because of her childlike love of God. She also wanted the Holy Face, because of her devotion to the suffering Holy Face of Jesus reflected on the veil of Veronica - a sign of Christ’s love for us. For Thérèse that was the definition of God’s work within her in her times of physical, emotional, and mental struggle, agony, and trials in life especially those due to her tuberculosis.

St. Therese reminds us to be the Body of Christ and take Him with us wherever we go, so other’s see Christ in us, as she said: “One word or a pleasing smile is often enough to raise up a saddened and wounded soul.”

Even St. Thérèse Struggled to Say the Rosary

Advice: Consider a Link to Heaven

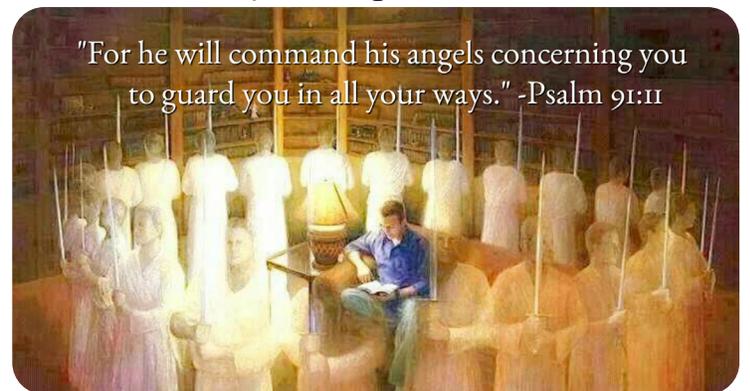
Saint Thérèse knew the Rosary devotion was difficult to commit to writing in her autobiography *Story of a Soul*, “When alone, (I am ashamed to admit it) the recitation of the rosary is more difficult for me than the wearing of an instrument of penance. I feel I have said this so poorly! I force myself in vain to meditate on the mysteries of the rosary; I don’t succeed in fixing my mind on them.”

She did not give up though she called upon the Blessed Mother to help her, noting, “for I love the Blessed Virgin so much that it should be easy for me to recite in her honor prayers which are so pleasing to her... she is my MOTHER, and must see my good will and she is satisfied with it.”

Have a change of heart and attitude like St. Thérèse and look upon the meditative prayer and your Rosary as, “a long chain that links Heaven and earth. One end of it is in our hands and the other end is in the hands of the Holy Virgin...the Rosary prayer rises like incense to the feet of the Almighty.”

Feast of the Holy Guardian Angels - Oct. 2 - It was St. Jerome (who’s feast day was Sept. 30th) who said we are all so precious to God that he assigned each one of us our very own guardian angel. This spirit is invisible but always with us to protect and guide our soul, as well as pray for us and present our prayers to God.

We know guardian angels are real. Jesus tells us in Matthew 18:10 they are assigned to us, and Psalm 91:11



declares, “He commands His angels... to guard you wherever you go.”

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (336) assures us that they are beside us on guard and leading us to heaven.

We teach our children the lovely guardian angel prayer,

but we all need to pray and petition to our guardian angel. God has given us this amazing gift to be our spiritual companion on the road of life on earth. Recognize the guardian angel in your life. Grow in faith, knowing we do not walk alone.

Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here, ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen

God Called St. Francis of Assisi to “Rebuild” the Church - Contemplate what we are being called to do as you honor St. Francis’ feast day Oct. 4th, and pray for him to intercede for us, as we discern what God is calling us to do.

Like St. Francis we are called by the Holy See, our diocese, and our parishes to build up the Church – the House of the Lord. Bishop Mark Brennan and our parish priests invite us continuously to be fully alive not only in our parishes, but also to be sent out as Christ’s hands and feet in our communities and organizations that do God’s work.

In his search for happiness, St. Francis had to continuously be nudged by God before he understood what he was put on earth to do - make a difference for God’s creation, and rebuild the faith of God’s people by preaching the Gospel.



Much like our society today, Young Francesco Bernardone, who we know as St. Francis of Assisi, lived in a time splattered with religious hatred and division, social injustice, and political unrest. What he wanted most was to be a famous knight, but that wasn’t God’s plan. Francis’ dreams of being a popular warrior were dashed,

when he found himself a prisoner of war in Perugia, and severely ill. As he recovered, he continued to recall a dream he had, when God was calling him to seek God in all people, even the lepers and outcasts, serving them as Christ would. It was in his darkest hours that St. Francis turned around his priorities and became a servant to God. St. Francis eventually realized that God wanted him to rebuild the greater Church, humanity, and all of God’s creation.

“Start by doing what’s necessary; then do what’s possible and suddenly you are doing the impossible.” – St. Francis of Assisi.

Editor’s note - The painting of St. Francis is Jen Norton: www.jennortonartstudio.com

On October 5th honor St. Faustina’s Feast Day; she is our Messenger of Mercy - Call upon St. Faustina, to intercede, when the load is too heavy.

“When I see that the burden is beyond my strength, I do not consider or analyze it or probe into it, but I run like a child to the Heart of Jesus and say only one word to Him, ‘You can do all things.’ And then I keep silent, because I know that Jesus himself will intervene in the matter, and as for me, instead of tormenting myself, I use that time to love Him” (*Divine Mercy in My Soul, The Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, 1033).



On Oct. 5th, honor the memorial of St. Faustina Kowalska of Poland. She was the first saint canonized in the new millennium, and although she had only three years of formal education, has taught millions about God’s mercy through her diary and a painting she had an artist create of our Lord Jesus Christ.

She was the nun in the 20th century that experienced several stirring visions of Jesus, which ultimately led to the Divine Mercy Painting with the message, “Jesus, I trust in You.”

Saint Faustina recorded all of her visions and conversations with Jesus in her diary. It was published in 1981. Through her we have the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy, Divine Mercy Sunday, and the consecration to the Divine Mercy. She died at the age of 33, four years after the Divine Mercy Painting of Christ was completed.

Editor’s note: The image of St. Faustina is restored photograph by John and Sue Johnson of Classic Catholic: www.etsy.com/shop/ClassicCatholic.

On Oct. 5th we also honor the Memorial of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos - This 19th century missionary



helped and preached to German immigrants in Wheeling; lived with St. John Neumann serving St. Philomena Parish in Pittsburgh; and had a sit-down meeting with President Lincoln about the draft for the Civil War. Roger Nedeff of Parkersburg shared with us his local research findings, that Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos was in Parkersburg with a Redemptorist team in 1861 when they conducted a parish mission at old St. Xavier church; and baptized two people there. Read more about him in an article shared by the Diocese of Pittsburgh by [CLICKING HERE](#).

BRAVE ENOUGH TO SHARE YOUR FAITH? RESPONSIBLE ENOUGH TO LEARN MORE?

CHALLENGE YOURSELF TO BE MORE LIKE BLESSED MARCEL CALLO

October 4th is the anniversary of Blessed Marcel Callo's beatification by Pope St. John Paul II, take a moment to learn about this strong-willed soul, and patron for young men and women who choose a strong vocation as a lay person.

Blessed Marcel Callo was martyred at the age of 23 in 1945 in Austria for his commitment to Christianity.

It is easy to be Christian when you are surrounded with like-minded individuals. It is a great challenge to choose to be Christian in your actions, words, and thoughts when the opposite is true.

As we focus on Blessed Marcel Callo, ask yourself, "Is your love for God strong enough to have the courage to stand up for your Christian faith - your Catholic faith - when those surrounding you at work, your community, and "popular" circles are telling you it doesn't matter, it's unrelatable, or not entertaining enough to keep your attention? Are you taking responsibility and making an effort to educate yourself, to seek motivating Catholic influencers (apps, podcasts, etc.) or to place a beautiful image of the Holy Family or your favorite saint into your home as a reminder for yourself and all that enter that you are a child of God who is strengthened by the Real Presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist?"

Marcel was often criticized by his peers and even adults for his strong beliefs, but his mother encouraged him to seek Mary in times of struggle to keep him on the righteous path. He was able to visit Lourdes as a boy. That pilgrimage strengthened his devotion to Mary, calling on her for the rest of his life to pray with him and take his prayers and intentions of his heart as he prayed the Rosary to God.

He was one of nine children in a strong, loving Catholic home in Rennes, France. At the age of eight he joined a

youth group that attended Mass every day. He became an altar server with great reverence to Christ's True Presence in the Eucharist, and also joined the boys scouts, taking the group's motto to heart - "On my honor and with the grace of God, I promise to serve God, the Church and the Homeland, to help my neighbor in all circumstances, to observe the law of listening".

At the age of 13 he got a job working at a local print shop. The men who worked at the shop were not at all like

Marcel. It was obvious that their upbringing did not center around God or seeking any sort of relationship with Christ. He was appalled at the way these men talked and acted. It sickened him to listen to their crude disrespect of women.

When he was 20, he was engaged to his love Marguerite Derniaux, who shared the same

moral and spiritual center. World War II separated the couple. When the Germans occupied France, Marcel was forced to work in a weapons plant. Marguerite feared for his life, knowing he would be lost without celebrating his faith and attending Mass which was forbidden and enforced by the Gestapo.

Marcel was able to find a secret Mass. Each week he risked his life to receive the Eucharist, which he said gave him strength to live and support his peers. He went so far as to organize a Christian group for fellowship and prayer among the laborers. This however, led to his arrest.

For 11 months he was shipped from prison to prison, finally being sent to Mauthausen concentration camp. Severely malnourished, sickly, and battered he died on March 19, 1945 - the feast of St. Joseph, the greatest saint who had the ultimate respect for the most Blessed Woman, Mary.

For more about Blessed Marcel Callo read the Catholic Saints Guy on Word Press - [CLICK HERE](#).



Moments of the Lord's Supper: A Sensory Experience

Join us as we explore the Lord's Supper using our senses!

You will be taken on an unique journey allowing you to see, hear, feel, touch, taste and smell how the Lord was not only present to the disciples in that Upper Room, but shares himself with the Church every time we gather at the Eucharistic table.



Begins at 6:30 PM (offered at two locations for your convenience)

October 4—All Saint Parish, Bridgeport, WV

October 5—Saint John XXIII Pastoral Center, Charleston, WV



NATIONAL
Eucharistic
Revival

PARISH YEAR

Sponsored by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

Free and open to the public.

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2023 Life Expo

Office of Social Ministry
Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

October 5, 2023

9:00am - 4:15pm

St. Michael Angelus Center

1225 National Rd., Wheeling, WV 26003

Engage and learn from groups who support the social, economic, physical, and spiritual needs of women, children, and families from prenatal on.

Keynote Speaker Dr. Byron Calhoun, MD

Admission is FREE and Lunch will be provided.

Additional speakers include:

Walking With Moms In Need, Her PLAN, Wellspring, Creighton FertilityCare™ & NaProTECHNOLOGY, Catholic Charities West Virginia, St. Vincent de Paul Society, WV Pregnancy Centers Coalition, and Nina Lindemuth, CNRP

PLUS visit with and gather resources from groups to learn how they can assist your life supporting efforts!

To register, visit dwc.org/2023-life-expo.

For more information, contact A.J. Emery at aemery@dwc.org, or 304.233.0880, ext. 326.



The Office of Social Ministry Presents



Catholic in Recovery

OCTOBER 17 • 6:30 P.M.

ST. MICHAEL PARISH, WHEELING

FREE EVENT

SPEAKER - SCOTT WEEMAN



Scott Weeman is a beloved son of God, a husband, and a father. He is the founder of Catholic in Recovery, a community of men and women seeking freedom from a variety of addictions, compulsions, and unhealthy attachments. Scott is the author of *The Twelve Steps and the Sacraments* and editor/compiler of *The Catholic in*

Recovery Workbook, both published by Ave Maria Press. He holds a master's degree in clinical counseling from Point Loma Nazarene University and is an associate marriage and family therapist. Scott and his family live in San Diego, California.

PRESENTATION

Finding Freedom from Addictions, Compulsions, & Unhealthy Attachments

The allure of addictions, compulsions, and unhealthy attachments related to alcohol, drugs, food, lust, money, codependency, and many others seek to separate us from God, isolate us from our families, and leave us empty. While sharing personal experience, strength, and hope, Scott Weeman offers key spiritual insight rooted in Catholic faith and 12-step recovery wisdom on how to avoid these temptations and find freedom if already in the grip of addiction.

**Discover more about Catholic in Recovery and our speaker at
CATHOLICINRECOVERY.COM**

For information about this event, contact the parish office at 304-242-1560

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:25-28

Those who turn from wickedness and sins will be live, because of God's mercy.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 25

"Remember your mercies, O Lord."

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-11

Saint Paul shares that we are to put others' needs before our own – an attitude in Christ. Be obedient, humble, and know the power in the name of Jesus.

Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32

Those who refuse God, but later seek His mercy and choose to do His will, will be welcomed into Heaven. Those who go through the motions and say they follow God's call, but really do not, will lose the kingdom unless they repent.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/100123.CFM

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that as in the responsorial psalm for today, we ask God to shower his mercy upon all those we are praying for and those who we don't even know that need our prayers, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all who are part of the Synod on Synodality, the National Eucharistic Revival, the One Million Rosaries for Increased Vocations in WV, and our Catholic Sharing Appeal, let their faithfulness to God and the Church be the light that leads more souls to Heaven, let us pray to the Lord. . .

During this Respect Life Month may we concentrate our prayers for the dignity of life from conception to natural death, protecting especially those who are vulnerable or forgotten, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That those who have fallen away from the Church may hear Christ's gentle and merciful call and feel a warm invitation by the faithful to return, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

WV CATHOLIC RADIO BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOU

Berkeley Springs - Hancock, MD	FM	96.3
Berkeley Springs	FM	107.9
Clarksburg-Bridgeport	FM	97.5
Dunbar - Charleston	AM	1450
Eastern Panhandle - coming soon	FM	88.5
Grafton - Clarksburg	AM	1190
Montgomery - Beckley	FM	89.7
Purgitsville	FM	98.7
St. Marys - Parkersburg	FM	105.3
Star City -Morgantown	FM	89.7
Summersville	FM	91.3
Wheeling - Martins Ferry, OH	FM	90.7
Weirton - Steubenville	FM	97.9

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ENROLL TODAY

WV Catholic Schools

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by knowledge.
Transformed
by faith.



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wvcatholicschools.org



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.