



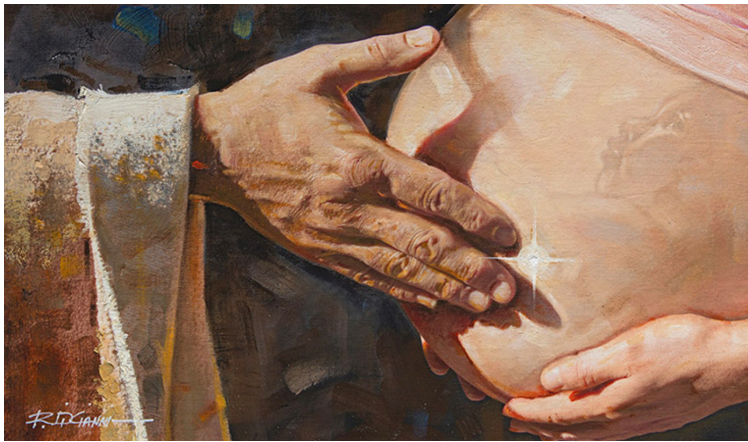
## RESPECT LIFE ALWAYS

Respect Life Month draws to a close this week, but our resolve carries on.

Never stop cherishing every human life as precious, casting aside the thought of life being inconvenient.

Respect the fragile stages of life (CCC\* 2324)!

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops reminds us that our faith embodies the wisdom that “human life is a precious gift from God; that each person who receives this gift has responsibilities toward God, self, and others; and that society, through its laws and social institutions, must protect and nurture human life at every stage of its existence.



Christian artist Ron DiCianni's painting, *Before I Formed You*, is a visual reminder that each human life was created by God. His work illustrates Sacred Scripture:

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born, I set you apart...” – Jeremiah 1:5

Within the *Before I Formed You* painting, Christ's hand is touching the womb, where an unborn infant is visible, illustrating a fragile life created by the Author of Life.

*Editor's note: Artist Ron DiCianni's other works include Spiritual Warfare of a father, kneeling and praying at the bedside of his child, and the Resurrection mural – the largest in the world at 12'x40' – commissioned for the Museum of Biblical Arts in Dallas. For more information go to: [www.tapestryproductions.com](http://www.tapestryproductions.com)*



## HOLD ON TIGHT

to the resolve  
to uphold  
the dignity  
of every  
human life.

DIOCESE OF  
WHEELING-CHARLESTON [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org)

## *A Prayer for Life Honoring Life at Every Stage*

*O Blessed Mother, at the angel's word you went in haste to aid your cousin Elizabeth. Although pregnant, you placed her needs before your own.*

*By your example of radical solidarity, teach us to honor and protect those in need, without conditions or expectations. Call upon your Son to give us unfailing determination to witness and live our lives showing and defending the dignity every life – at every stage and every circumstance.*

*You carried Jesus to Elizabeth – the first Eucharistic procession – in her time of need. Obtain for us the grace and strength to bring Christ to those struggling, especially those who see some lives as an inconvenience instead of precious.*

*Intercede for us as we pray for all who are vulnerable especially the unborn, sick, imprisoned, disabled, addicted, and elderly. May we never tire of not only praying for them and treating them with dignity and compassion, but also supporting organizations, programs, and individuals who do the work of the Lord.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*Editor's Note: This prayer was adapted from the USCCB's Prayer for Radical Solidarity. For more information, prayers and resources go to: [www.usccb.org/prolife](http://www.usccb.org/prolife)*

*\*CCC – Catechism of the Catholic Church.*

# Life Giving Opportunities

How do we offer support and put our faith into action as a respect life from womb to tomb Church?

Be aware of, educate yourself on, and offer your support of time, talents, and treasure to programs and resources that respect life including:

- **Walking with Moms in Need** - a nationwide, parish-based initiative to increase support for pregnant and parenting mothers in need. It works to ensure that



any woman who finds herself unexpectedly pregnant, or parenting in difficult circumstances, can turn to her local Catholic Church and be connected with the resources she needs. Volunteers walk with moms throughout the motherhood journey, offering them authentic Christian friendship and ongoing support. For more info call the Office of Social Ministry, 304-233-0880 Ext. 289.

- **Mary's Refuge** - a pregnancy home and safe haven for mothers-to-be who are in a situation of fear. Thanks to the faithful in Martinsburg,



Mary's Refuge is a home that provides stable housing, prenatal care, educational resources, and parenting classes for new mothers to have a brighter future. To find out how to help go to: [marysrefuge.com/how-to-help](http://marysrefuge.com/how-to-help)

- **Diocesan Prison Ministry** - outreach and sacraments for those who are incarcerated. The mission is to share our faith and the redemptive grace of Christ with those who are imprisoned. Those who wish to serve those who are incarcerated within the State or Federal penal system may contact the Office of Prison Ministry at 304-472-1217 for placement, training and proper credentialing.

- **Church Teachings on Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia** - The Church reiterates its absolute opposition to any form of euthanasia and assisted suicide. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has more information presented in its Parish Leader Kit for Catholic Care of the Sick and Dying, which can be found at: [WWW.USCCB.ORG/RESOURCES/WORD-LIFE-SPECIAL-EDITION-CATHOLIC-CARE-SICK-AND-DYING-PARISH-LEADER-KIT](http://WWW.USCCB.ORG/RESOURCES/WORD-LIFE-SPECIAL-EDITION-CATHOLIC-CARE-SICK-AND-DYING-PARISH-LEADER-KIT)

"LIFE IS A GIFT AND WHEN IT IS LONG IT IS A PRIVILEGE, FOR ONESELF AND FOR OTHERS. ALWAYS."



**RESPECT LIFE**  
FROM CONCEPTION TO NATURAL DEATH



## FROM THE DESK OF BISHOP MARK BRENNAN: VOTE FOR REFERENDUM 1

Take the issue of medically assisted suicide seriously. What kind of state do you want West Virginia to be? It is instructive that about one third of those in Oregon who receive drugs to kill themselves never use it. Even those who initially think of taking their own lives find the will to live. That desire should be encouraged and supported. You can take a stand in November when you see Referendum 1 on your ballot. Consult your conscience and your faith and vote for Referendum 1.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Mark E. Brennan*

+Mark E. Brennan

Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston



[CLICK HERE  
TO READ THE  
FULL LETTER](#)



# Saints & Souls

## Your Heavenly Cheering Section

This week we honor two special days back-to-back - All Saints and All Souls - Nov. 1st and 2nd respectively. Let us remember, every soul is called to be a saint!

Don't sell yourself short.

Don't give up without even trying.

No matter how unworthy we feel, how broken we are or how ashamed we consider ourselves, God's mercy is boundless for those who love Him.

The heavens are filled with legions of saints and souls cheering us on in life.

Let us take to heart the key to saintly lives St. Paul gave all of us - love.

"If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing" (1 Corinthians 13:1-3).

## All Saints Day

When you love God with your whole heart you have purpose and endurance even if you have to start over again and again. We have a crowd of saintly souls in our corner!

Saint Paul reminds us in his letter to the Hebrews (12:1), "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us...."

All Saints Day - November 1st - is an important and special day to remember that multitude of saints who guide you, protect you, and intercede for you. They may be canonized saints you have read about, those on the road to sainthood you are inspired by, and even those unnamed and unknown holy lives that loved God above all.

Pope Francis uses the imagery of a stained glass to describe the saints, "Saints are not perfect models, but are people whose lives God has crossed," and can be compared with the stained-glass windows of a church, "which allow light to enter in different shades of color.

"They have fought to take away the stains and darkness of



sin, so as to let the gentle light of God pass through," he said, adding that "this is the purpose of life, even for us."

By living out the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12a) we can focus on Jesus and our faith.

"God never abandons us," Pope Francis shares, "Each time we need it, one of his angels will come to lift us up again and give us comfort; 'angels,' at times with a human face and heart because God's saints are always here, hidden in our midst. This is difficult to understand and also to imagine, but saints are present in our lives."

## All Souls Day

On All Souls' Day and throughout the month the Catholic Church remembers and prays for the dead.



What can we do to honor them? Light candles for our loved ones, holy innocents, souls in purgatory, and those who have died we never knew; visit cemeteries and mausoleums; and above all pray.

Bible verses to read then then reflect on as you remember the souls who have strengthened your faith whether through their good example or bad:

“I thank my God every time I remember you!” - Philippians 1:3

“I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear

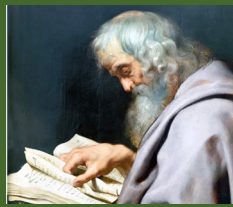
conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day.” - 2 Timothy 1:3

*Editor's note: The main art in this story is an image from the short film [The Veil Removed](#) - heaven and earth together. [CLICK HERE](#) to watch.*

*The inset art with this story is the dome art (completed in 1320-1391) within the Padua Baptistery attached to the Padua Cathedral, in Italy.*



## THE SAINT FOR THE DESPERATE AND THE FANATICAL SAINT



Celebrate Saints Jude and Simon on October 28

Named tenth and eleventh in the sequence of the apostles, Saints Jude and Simon were followers of Christ with little notoriety, but echo great lessons - be strong and courageous. Share the love of Christ willingly and without hesitation.

At baptism and confirmation, we receive gifts of grace and courage to grow in and be a witness of our faith in word and deed. Through the sacraments and faith formation we are empowered to love God above all and through the best and worst of times.

While we don't know many details of Ss Jude and Simon, we do know Jesus hand-picked his apostles, and as such experienced the love of God firsthand.

They were at Christ's side following him in his three-year ministry witnessing many miracles and signs.

There were also present when He was charged with blasphemy and arrested after being betrayed by one of their own, Judas.

They suffered in the shadows of the Passion.

They rejoiced in the resurrection of Jesus.

They stood in awe at the Ascension.

Ten days later the Holy Spirit descended like tongues of fire upon them and miraculously they became fluent in many different languages so people of all nations could understand them as they preached about the lessons and promises of Christ.

Both of these men were known by other names during their lives. Jude was also known as “Jude Thaddeus.” People used this formal title to distinguish Jude from Judas Iscariot the betrayer. Simon was often called “the Zealot” so not to be confused with Simon Peter. A zealot was a political activist, but also fanatical in pursuit of religious beliefs. He was strongly committed to the following of Jewish law, but his relationship with Jesus changed his focus to be a committed follower of the Messiah and His teachings.

Church historians believe both Jude Thaddeus and Simon the Zealot were relatives of Jesus.

They were martyred in Persia.

Pray for them to intercede for us as we proceed down life's challenging path. Call upon them to give us the courage to share our love of Christ in our words, character, and actions.

## 30<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

### First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-9

The exile will end. God will console and bless all those in tears.

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### Responsorial: Psalm 126

“The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.”

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### Second Reading: Hebrews 5:1-6

Christ is the high priest forever. God sent Him.

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### Gospel: Mark 10:46-52

Hushed by others, Jesus called the blind man to come to Him. The man’s faith let him know he was in the presence of the Son of David. Christ healed him.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

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## SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS NOVEMBER 1, 2024

### First Reading: Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14

The exile will end. God will console and bless all those in tears.

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### Responsorial: Psalm 24

“Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.”

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### Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-3

We shall be like God.

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### Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12a

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

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## PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that our faith allows us to see others as our brothers and sisters in Christ, letting them see us as a means to strengthen their spiritual journey beyond this world, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For world leaders, that they respect human life from conception to natural death, recognizing that life at all stages is fragile and should be treated with dignity, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That those with physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual disabilities may their faith be strengthened by love, mercy, compassion, and faith of the Church family, easing their burdens they face daily, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all of us, that when we face seemingly impossible situations in life we find strength in the saints who put all trust in Christ, let us pray to the Lord. . .

*Lord hear our prayer*

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we call upon the saints for inspiration and intercession, and learn from their holiness and endurance, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For leaders of nations, that they work to be peacemakers, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those who mourn and others who are poor in spirit, may they cling to the saints and all who have gone before us that put Christ first – for the reward will be great in Heaven, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That we may be confident that God calls all of us who labor and are burdened to find peace and rest in Him, let us pray to the Lord. . .

*Lord hear our prayer*

# POPE FRANCIS' INVITES THE FAITHFUL TO TRULY OPEN THEIR HEARTS TO THE LOVE OF CHRIST



Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus can open our hearts to the discovery of “the immense love of the heart of Christ,” said Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), quoting Pope Francis’ [ENCYCLICAL LETTER](#) (Dilexit Nos)) released Thursday.

Archbishop Broglio said, Pope Francis ‘s letter to the faithful offers a simple and powerful cure for our world: the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Holy Father teaches us that devotion to the heart of Jesus can open our own hearts to renewed ways we can love and be loved. We need this timely counsel.

“Within this devotion, we encounter the living heart of Jesus and the power to bring us together as children of God,” Broglio said. “Pope Francis writes, ‘love, in the end, is the one reality that can unify.’ This is why he says, ‘all of us need to rediscover the importance of the heart.’ Our Holy Father’s message affirms a message of our own National Eucharistic Revival that in the Eucharist we discover ‘the immense love of the heart of Christ.’

“I invite you to spend time in prayer with this moving letter from the Holy Father. As he writes, ‘Jesus is now waiting for you to give him the chance to bring light to your life.’ Then, share that light in service to others. ‘Speak of Christ, by witness or by word, in such a way that others seek to love him,’ Pope Francis encourages us.”

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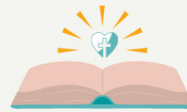
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## Liturgy of the Hours

# 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](http://DWC.ORG).