



# RESPECT LIFE

## Sunday



God formed each of us and knows us intimately.

*(Psalm 139:13-16)*

As baptized Catholics we are all called to respect life from conception until natural death. On Sunday, Oct. 6th the Church raises our awareness of that holy mindset with Respect Life Sunday.

On this day, take action by praying and supporting efforts that focus on concern for all human life, especially the unborn, the elderly, persons with disabilities, the terminally ill, and others whose lives are easily threatened.

The first reading at Mass on Respect Life Sunday (Genesis 2:18-24) clearly reminds us that God is the creator of life. God has blessed us with the ability to share in the creation of new life. It is by our faith and wisdom we understand that we are to care and respect for life from conception until natural death.

In Sunday's Gospel (Mark 10:2-16) Jesus sternly directs the Apostles to acknowledge and welcome the children to be at His side. Imagine this scene - a very large group gathered to hear Christ speak, and among them are women who didn't want to miss out, so of course many would have to bring their children. Kids being kids, you could bet they wreaked a little havoc - crying, running around, being silly, and most definitely curious. Go figure there were many adults who may have been annoyed, thinking children had no place there or no worth in the moment. However, Christ abruptly put an end to that mindset by calling for the children to come to Him - and using their innocence and dependence as an example of how we should be - have trust, be confident, and depend on God!

Christ taught us to respect and defend all human life for we are all the Body of Christ.

Bishop Mark Brennan reminds us all the time that we need to put our faith in action and do God's work. We are not just to speak pro-life, pro-baby, and pro-woman; we need to "give our sincere support to those who are in active in areas, where we cannot be."

Last week on his travels back to Rome from Belgium, Pope Francis said in a press conference, those who perform abortions are "hitmen". This statement echoes what he emphasized in a rhetorical question to the media in July of 2022, "Is it right to eliminate a human life - hire a hit man- to resolve a 'problem' (for convenience)?"

Take the Word of God seriously:

*You shall not murder (Exodus 20:13).*

*Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you;*

*I appointed you a prophet to the nations (Jeremiah 1:5).*

*In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being (Job 12:10).*

*Then the man of God wept. Hazeal asked, "Why does my lord weep?" He answered, "Because I know the evil that you will do to the people of Israel; you will set their fortresses on fire, you will kill their young men with the sword, dash in pieces their little ones, and rip up their pregnant women (2 Kings 8:11-12).*

How do we offer support and put our faith in action? Be aware and educate yourself on programs and resources, such as:

**WALKING WITH MOMS IN NEED** – Is 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)

Let us pray for all who are vulnerable especially the unborn, sick, imprisoned, disabled, addicted, and elderly, may we not only pray for them and treat them with dignity and compassion, but also support organizations, programs, and individuals who do the work of the Lord. Amen!



**Respect life**  
We are not just to speak pro-life,  
pro-baby, and pro-woman  
“give sincere support to those who are in  
active in areas, where we cannot be.”  
-Bishop Mark Brennan

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON | www.dwc.org

*\*According to the Catholic News Agency: More maternity homes are popping up across the United States to house and support pregnant mothers and their babies since Roe v. Wade was overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2022. According to the Maternity Housing Coalition's most recent 2023 report, there are now more than 450 maternity homes in the U.S.— a 23% increase since the Dobbs decision overturned Roe. While the more than 5,300 pregnancy centers outnumber Planned Parenthood clinics 14 to 1, according to the Charlotte Lozier Institute, the more than 400 maternity homes in the U.S. meet a different need that pregnancy centers often can't fill — safe housing.*



**World Mission Sunday 2024**  
October 20th

**GO AND INVITE EVERYONE**  
*to the banquet*  
(MT 22:9)

**YOUR GIFT HELPS SUPPORT:**

- 38,140 Seminarians
- 8,750 Children and Orphanages
- 12,000 Health Centers
- 844,000 Catholics
- 258,540 Religious Sisters

TEXT "MISSIONS24" TO 44384

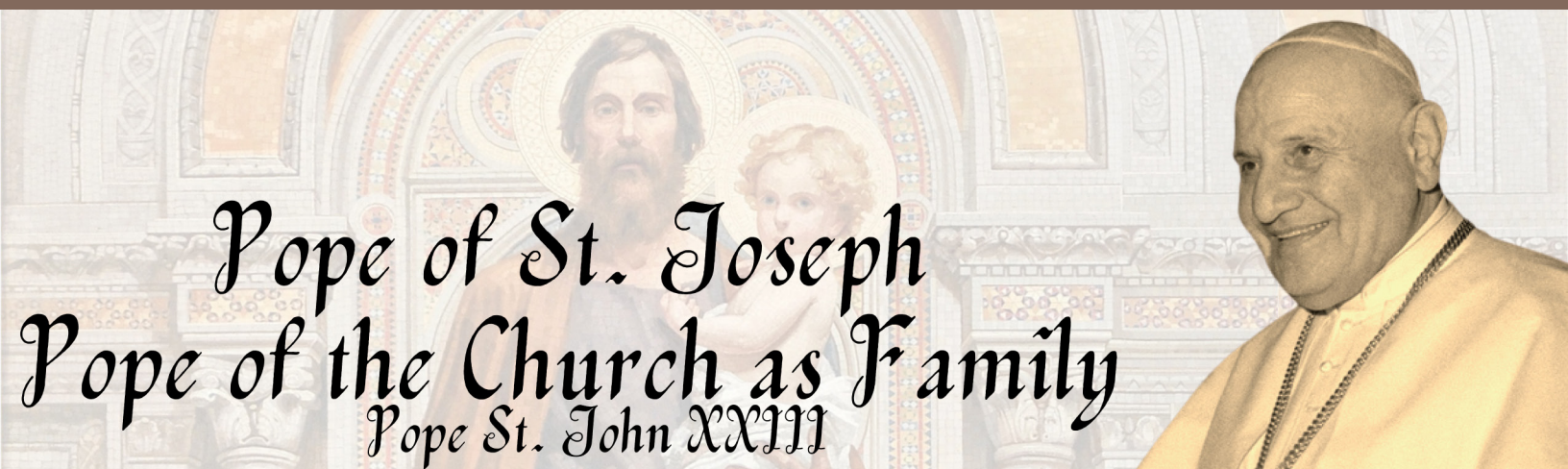
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The Society for the Propagation of the Faith Pontifical Mission Society

[WWW.ONEFAMILYINMISSION.ORG/WMS](http://WWW.ONEFAMILYINMISSION.ORG/WMS)

**Annual World Mission Sunday Collection – Oct. 20th**

On the next-to-last Sunday in October every year, World Mission Sunday is a unique effort for the entire Church to provide help for over 1,100 dioceses, and particularly to offer practical help to the poor through local churches and their witness to Christ.



# Pope of St. Joseph Pope of the Church as Family Pope St. John XXIII

On Oct. 11, we honor the Memorial of Pope Saint John XXIII - *Pope of St. Joseph!*

Pope St. John XXIII was a pontiff who wanted to be as “ordinary” as possible.

He was known also for having an appealing sense of humor. Father Greg Friedman, OFM, recalled a story about St. John XXIII, “Once asked how many people work at the Vatican and he answered, ‘Oh, about half of them.’”

Father Friedman also shared the pontiff would also joke about himself, telling people, “God knew from all eternity I was going to be pope. Couldn’t God have made me more handsome?”

The faithful lovingly called him “Good Pope John,” during his papacy, because he was a man who lived confidently by Christ’s teaching – faith over fear. His attitude was, no matter how many times you fail or what challenge you face, don’t let fear rule you, put your trust in God.

Pope Saint John XXIII kept a journal from his young teens until his death. It is available as an autobiography entitled, *Journal of a Soul*. Through his writings and his public addresses, it is clearly evident that the Italian born pope was so fascinated by the life of St. Joseph. He continually praised the Guardian of the Redeemer. He lovingly became known as the Pope of St. Joseph.

He was devoted to teaching and focusing on the human history of the Holy Family, and the fact that no one was closer to Jesus and Mary than St. Joseph.

In an apostolic letter from the pontiff in 1961, he proclaimed the world needs an increased devotion to St. Joseph, Spouse of the Mother of God.

He said, “In the Holy Church’s worship, right from the beginning, Jesus, the Word of God made man, has enjoyed the adoration that belongs to him, incommunicable as the splendor of the substance of his Father, a splendor

reflected in the glory of his saints. From the earliest times, Mary, his mother, was close behind him, in the pictures in the catacombs and the basilicas, where she was devoutly venerated as “Holy Mother of God.” But Joseph, except for some slight sprinkling of references to him here and there in the writings of the Fathers [of the Church], for long centuries remained in the background, in his characteristic concealment, almost as a decorative figure in the overall picture of the Savior’s life. It took time for devotion to him to go beyond those passing glances and take root in the hearts of the faithful, and then surge forth in the form of special prayers and of a profound sense of trusting abandonment. The fervent joy of pouring forth these deepest feelings of the heart in so many impressive ways has been saved for modern times!”

He referred to St. Joseph as “a most powerful intercessor,” and “next to the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph possesses a just title to a more sweet, more intimate and penetrating place in our hearts....”

Pope St. John XXIII recognized there are many differences in the world and the Church, but “What unites us is much greater than what divides us.”

He considered all a brother and sister in Christ, never at a loss for words of encouragement like a loving family member during challenging times.

“Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do.” – Pope John XXIII

Born Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli on Nov. 25, 1881, in Sotto il Monte (Bergamo), one of 13 children in a family of sharecroppers.

Pope St. John XXIII, pray for us.

# BLESSED CARLO'S HIGHWAY TO SAINTHOOD MAY REACH FINISH LINE IN 2025

On October 12th we honor the life of Blessed Carlo Acutis, who died at the age of 15 from Leukemia. Many faithful are praying that by this time next year he will have been canonized a saint.

Blessed Carlo Acutis lived an extraordinary life and since his passing two miracles have been approved by the Holy See to carry this holy soul to sainthood.



The young boy had a great love for his Catholic faith and was fascinated upon learning of Eucharistic miracles, so much so that he turned his passion of technology into an evangelization platform. By the time he turned 15, Blessed Carlo had cataloged dozens upon dozens (more than 150) Eucharistic miracles from around the world and made the history lessons available online. The website (<http://www.carloacutis.com>) has been maintained by his friends and family and has also been translated into many languages, resulting for it to become a great resource for parishes, schools, and scholars.

Blessed Carlo was named as one of our Diocesan Holy Souls for our WV Eucharistic Congresses. The teen would tell his friends that he went to Mass as frequent as he could, because “the Eucharist is his highway to Heaven.”

Acutis was beatified, declared “Blessed,” by Pope Francis on October 10, 2020. In May of this year the Holy Father recognized a second miracle that was attributed to Acutis’s intercession, paving the way for his likely canonization in 2025, the Church’s Jubilee Year of Hope.

Pope Francis wants young and old alike to be like Blessed Carlo and “prioritize the Eucharist”.

Just two weeks ago in a message to youth he said, young Carlo made praying before the Eucharist “his most important daily appointment” for the Eucharist is what gave him strength to persevere.

“Realize that all your inner weariness can find repose in the Lord, who says to you: ‘Come to me, all you that are weary and carry heaven burdens, and I will give you rest,’” Pope Francis said.

Let the life of Blessed Carlo be an example of not only how we can put God first, but also how each of us can find our own way to evangelize – for Carlo it was through “the digital world” to share the Gospel, the Church, the Eucharist, and miracles with all.

# HURRICANE HELENE RELIEF FUND

## SPECIAL COLLECTION OCT. 26-27

In late September, Hurricane Helene slammed the coast of Florida and ravaged portions of the southeast with strong winds and flooding rains. Hundreds of lives have been lost and millions of families lost their homes and everything in them. Entire towns have been destroyed.

Most Rev. Mark Brennan, Bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, has approved a special collection to be held the weekend of October 26th-27th, in all parishes and missions throughout the diocese to support recovery efforts related to the series of disasters that have occurred. Checks should be made out to your respective parish with "Disaster Relief" on the memo line. Donations can also be made securely online by visiting [dwc.org](http://dwc.org) and clicking "Disaster Relief."

Proceeds from this collection will support the long-term humanitarian and recovery efforts of Catholic Charities USA's Hurricane Helene Relief Fund. The fund assists organization on the ground in the immediate aftermath to support individuals and families who have lost nearly everything. Every dollar contributed will be used to provide essential services like shelter, food, and medical care to those affected.

Please remember in prayer all those whose lives have been changed in the wake of these disasters. Let us come together now to support our brothers and sisters in Christ who have been injured and lost their homes, cars, employment, and access to food and water.



Diocese  
of  
Wheeling-Charleston

## Disaster Relief Special Collection Oct. 26-27

CATHOLIC CHARITIES USA'S HURRICANE HELENE RELIEF FUND



# Candlelight Rosary Procession



Join us for an outdoor Candlelight Rosary Procession as we pray for our Church, our world, and our families.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11  
7:00 PM**

Procession begins at ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH  
(2111 Market Street, Wheeling) and ends at the  
CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOSEPH (1300 Eoff Street, Wheeling)

THE ST. JOSEPH MEN'S GROUP  
INVITES YOU TO A:

# ROSARY RALLY

3pm, Oct. 13, 2024

Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart  
1114 Virginia St E, Charleston, WV

FR. PHILLIP SZABO - HOMILIST



*Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart*



## PACE Conference October 16-17

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR PACE!**

**LATE REGISTRATION FEE: \$105 (OCTOBER 3-11)**

PACE - Pastoral Administration and Collaborative Education - is an event to offer training to staff members and volunteers of parishes and schools; in addition, it is an opportunity to build connections and foster communication, collaboration, and fellowship between the employees of the Chancery and staff/volunteers in our parishes and schools.

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**John Angotti**

John Angotti will serve as keynote speaker and guest artist; Angotti will offer a breakout session and will be featured during our evening session of music and prayer.

For more information and to register go to: [DWC.ORG/2024PACE/](https://www.dwc.org/2024pace/)

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

## First Reading: Genesis 2:18-24

God brought life to us all. The two of them become one.

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## Responsorial: Psalm 128

“May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.”

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## Second Reading: Hebrews 2:9-11

God became man because of His infinite love for us. We have solidarity with Christ – fully human, who died for us.

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## Gospel: Mark 10:2-16

Christ reminds of the laws of Moses and the honor of marriage, stating what God has joined together, let no man separate. He further declares not to ignore the least among you. Calling for the children in the gathering to come to Him, he said we should have trusting and confident faith like a child.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

## 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

~Listen on LoL Stream at [www.rdo.to/WLOL](http://www.rdo.to/WLOL)~

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church – our parishes around the world and our local parish - that we may be a welcoming family, cognizant that we are all children of God and His grace envelops the entire world, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all those who enforce, interpret, or apply the laws of the land, that they may be judicious in doing so, with hearts not hardened, and with regard to all persons' well-being from conception until natural death, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That the faithful pray and put their faith in action as we support facilities like Mary's Refuge, efforts like Walking with Moms in Need, and other services and social ministries created to honor the dignity of human life, let us pray to the Lord. . .

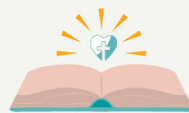
For those whose marriage is a source of strife and discord, that they may find the strength and support they need in whatever direction their journey takes, let us pray to the Lord. . .

*Lord hear our prayer*

## ENROLL TODAY

WV Catholic Schools

*Empowered  
by knowledge.  
Transformed  
by faith.*



Register today

[wvcatholicschools.org](http://wvcatholicschools.org)



*Liturgy of the Hours*

# LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!

[EBREVIARY.COM](http://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](http://DWC.ORG).