



HAPPY GRANDPARENTS DAY

We wish a happy Grandparents Day to all of our grandparents and those who love and nurture our faith like grandparents.

Pope Francis said, “Grandparents are the ring linking generations, to transmit to young people the experience of life and faith.” They pass down their prayers, stories, songs, and customs just like Ss. Joachim and Anne did for young Jesus.

Honor your grandparents and the elders in your parish and community who are a living example of Christ’s love for us.

Let us pray:

Lord God almighty,
bless our grandparents
and those in our lives
who we love like our grandparents,
with a long active life, happiness, and peace.
May they remain constant in your love
and comforting protection,
and be living signs of your presence
to their children, grandchildren,
and all those around them.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen



FOLLOW THE PACE OF OUR ELDERS PLEDGE BIG FOR #MILLIONROSARIES4WV

It is often our elders who set the example for us in the Church. That has also proven to be true with the **One Million Rosaries for Increased Vocations in WV** campaign.

“I’m 83 and can’t complain too much about my health, so I’ll pledge to say 730 Rosaries. I’d pledge more, but I want to be sure I meet my goal before my number is called at the gates of heaven,” said one Marshall County parishioner who called in her pledge for the One Million Rosaries for Increased Vocations in WV.

Other seniors from Beckley, Charles Town, and Buckhannon have called to make additional pledges because they have already reached the initial goal they entered, and because they didn’t realize their Rosaries still count if they are said after October 7th.

Campaign originator Sister Martha Gomez has emphasized that we need to know and get the word out that Oct. 7th is the end of the pledge period for the **#MILLIONROSARIES4WV** not the end of fulfilling prayer pledges.

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Make your pledge by going to: DWC.ORG/ONEMILLIONROSARIES/ or by calling it in to Manager of Writing and Social Media Joyce Bibey at (304)233-0880 ext. 357. Bibey initially announced plans for the campaign at the final Diocesan Eucharistic Congress that was held in Charleston last Spring.

All parish priests and Catholic school principals learned about the program earlier this summer. Many of our parish congregations are reminded weekly and inspired to participate in the campaign in their parish bulletins, pulpit announcements, and through Rosary groups.

The pledge period began on the Feast of the Assumption August 15 and the last day to enter pledges will be on the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on Oct. 7th.

We need you to prayerfully consider not only taking part, but sharing the mission, Sr. Martha said.

“We do not want people to stop praying on Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary,” she said. “It is an honor system. Your pledge is between you and God. We will keep a running tally to gauge our success. That number is slowly climbing. We need a lot more. Let it be a visible life line of love and support for those who are discerning their vocation.”

Don't know the Rosary or unsteady to do it on your own? No worries. Click on the “How to Pray the Rosary” printable on the DWC.ORG/ONEMILLIONROSARIES page, download one of the suggested free apps, or search “Rosary” on your favorite audio streaming service like Spotify. Turn 13-25 minutes praying the Rosary with the help of one of these resources into the best faith building 13-25 minutes of your day.

Sister Jennifer Berridge, who will make her final vows as a religious sister for the Congregation of St. Joseph in WV, is so happy Sr. Martha initiated the campaign to not only focus on vocations, but to stress the importance of being faithful to prayer not pessimistic assumptions. “It gets frustrating, when you hear so much talk about religious life in the future diminishing... dying out,” she said. “Thank God there are those strong willed among us that totally see it differently and believe religious life will continue in good ways – God’s way - and we trust in that.” (Read her story inside this issue).



One Million ROSARIES

FOR VOCATIONS WITHIN THE
DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

Visit dwc.org/onemillionrosaries to make a pledge and discover additional resources such as free apps, prayer cards, guides, coloring pages, and more.



FINAL VOWS TO REFLECT HER BEST SELF

SISTER JENNIFER BERRIDGE'S FAITH LEADS HER TO HAPPIEST DAY

The day is soon approaching when Sister Jennifer Rebecca Berridge, CSJ, will profess her final vows, surrendering to God, so she can be everything He wants her to be – happy and her best self.

At 11 am, on September 16, 2023, Sister Jennifer will take her Perpetual Profession of Vows with the Congregation of Saint Joseph (CSJ). Bishop Mark Brennan will celebrate the Mass at Mount Saint Joseph in Wheeling with several concelebrants, including Monsignor Paul Huddock, who presided over her initial vows in July of 2020, at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Wheeling.

When talking about her big day she makes it clear that it is a day to confirm her wholehearted belief that God knows us better than we know ourselves - He knows what we are meant to do in life – our purpose - to help others with our gifts and talents we have been blessed with. “I’m answering that call,” she said. That call took her down a path she never imagined she would navigate.

Her trusting mindset echoes Psalm 139, “LORD, you have probed me, you know me: you know when I sit and stand; you understand my thoughts from afar. You sift through my travels and my rest; with all my ways you are familiar. “Even before a word is on my tongue, LORD, you know it all. Behind and before you encircle me and rest your hand upon me...”

Her repeated responses to her vows, “I will.... I will.... I am.... I am.... Will be affirmation,” she said to God. The faithful can relate it to Psalm 40, “Here I am, Lord. I come to do your will.”

Currently Sr. Jennifer works for Catholic Charities of West Virginia as a Hospital Transition Program Case Manager. She is a lifeline so to speak for vulnerable, low-income patients after being discharged from the hospital by providing a helping hand and heart through chronic disease management, home safety, support networks, social service programs, and food security and nutrition.

She is a graduate of Kent State University with a bachelor’s degree in human services and is a registered vascular technician.

For 13 years she worked at Aultman Hospital in Canton, Ohio.

When we first met Sr. Jennifer for our FaithInWV feature stories in the diocese back in the Spring of 2020, she said.

“I felt like (my career choice in Canton was) what I’m supposed to be doing, but God obviously had a different plan.”

She said it was after Mass one morning a “sweet lady who I had often seen at church, but didn’t know very well,” stopped her with a sincere question – one that significantly changed her life.

“She simply asked if I’d ever thought about religious life,” Berridge recalled. “I was 38-years-old at the time. Religious life had never even entered my mind. I honestly thought to myself ‘Is this still a thing?’ All the nuns I knew were much older, and most were retired.”

She went home and told her mother Kathy and sister Becky about the talk and later her own “revelation” that she was actually considering religious life.

“They both looked at me and without hesitation agreed. They too, could see that for me,” she said.

“Once I began discerning religious life, I knew I needed to talk to the Sisters of Saint Joseph who were so important to my church and my family,” she said. It was the Fall of 2014.

There are seven communities that make up the Congregation of Saint Joseph. They are in Cleveland and Wheeling, as well as Kansas, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Louisiana, and Minnesota. As the Sisters of Saint Joseph, these women “respond to the unmet and critical needs of our contemporary society and the world.”

In December of 2015, she officially applied to be a candidate for religious life with CSJ and was formally accepted as a candidate on Jan. 23, 2016.

After being a candidate for two and a half years, she entered what is called the novitiate stage of formation, which is typically a two-year period to continue discernment and experience a concentrated program on prayer, study, reflection, and ministry.



Sister Jennifer Berridge, pictured at right, with her mom Kathy (center) at the celebration of initial vows in July of 2020.

She also spent a month in Peru working with children in an after-school program as part of the congregation's third world missionary work.



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healthy genuine love of many (loving others like Christ);” and obedience – “a deep listening to the voice of God and being vulnerable, knowing I need to reflect and pray about what God is truly calling me to do,” she told us.

“It’s almost unreal to think that my temporary (first) vows were in the midst of a global pandemic,” she said, reminiscing about how grateful she was for that moment of honor, joy, and hope during a time in history that was filled with restless fear for so many.

The road to her final profession of her perpetual vows has had its twists and turns, including being slowed down by COVID twice, and the loss of a dear friend, mentor, and roommate Sr. Christine Riley.

“It was rough, but I continued to cling to my faith in God and put my life and others in His hands,” she said.

“Right now I’m just so excited, humbled, and honored that our (CSJ) leadership team – a team full of visionary women has after three years and not five, given their collective wholehearted ‘yes’ for me to make my final profession,” she said.

Having Bishop Mark Brennan as the celebrant will make the day more extraordinary.

“Because of him I have given many vocation talks to a variety of clubs, groups, and high schools,” she said. “He is a full supporter and promoter of religious life and vocations, including young women, who a lot of the time are overlooked.”

Bishop Brennan has a mutual respect for Sister Jennifer.

“It is going to be a great day to celebrate her call to serve God and His people,” he said. “She has done great work already and eagerly shares her gifts, encouraging others to

do the same – a great example.”

Her advice to those who haven’t acknowledged or admitted to themselves that God is calling them to a special vocation? “Pay attention to your personal prayer life and that still, small voice of God that pops up in so many ways – messages put in front of you and messages from people, repeated messages, totally unexpected,” she said. These messages are not coincidental. If you stop for a moment and realize you are getting the same message over and over just in different ways, it’s hard to ignore what God is calling for you to do.

“It is very important to know yourself and your heart,” she said. “Before any vocation – religious life or marriage – be mindful of where you can be your best self, the happiest, and does that line up for what God would want for you.”

For Sr. Jennifer she knew God wanted her life to be faithful to Him “in a way that others could see it in her.

Religious life wasn’t what I initially set out to do, but looking back it was always my faith that was so important to me. Even now, not every day is easy. I have difficult work days or personal days, but at the end of each day I stop and take time to realize how grateful I am. I am so grateful to God. Each difficulty teaches me something new about myself and my faith. I rely on God; He is stronger than all and wants me to be the best version of myself.”



Sister Jennifer Berridge, pictured at right, poses for a quick selfie with Sr. Sarah Simmons, CSJ. While Sr. Jennifer will profess her vows in Wheeling on Sept. 16th, Sr. Sarah will take hers in Chicago on October 28th.

Sister Jennifer is glad she is breaking the mold of what most – even her younger self – thought of religious sisters in today’s society.

“It gets frustrating, when you hear so much talk about religious life in the future diminishing,” she said. “We assume our religious sisters are just getting older and dying out. Thank God there are those strong willed among us that totally see it differently and believe religious life will continue in good ways – God’s way - and we trust in that.”

To learn more about becoming a religious sister contact Sr. Martha Gomez, the delegate for consecrated life in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston by calling (304) 233-0880 ext. 264 or MGOMEZ@DWC.ORG or the Sisters of St. Joseph at VOCATIONS@CSJOSEPH.ORG.

DAYS OF DEVOTION THIS WEEK

SEPTEMBER 11 - PATRIOT DAY - to mark the anniversary of the terrorist attacks against the United States. On this day pray for all victims of violence and terrorism around the world; for the safety of our armed forces, first responders, and all who protect us; for leaders around the world, that they work together to end terrorism and evil ways; and for all of us and our ability to forgive. Lord, hear our prayers.



SEPTEMBER 14 - EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS - According to Church tradition the True Cross was discovered in 326 by St. Helena, the mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great while on a pilgrimage she made to Jerusalem. It is believed she found three crosses near what was the Savior's tomb. A temple had been built on the grounds. She had it razed. Discovering three crosses, and not knowing which one was the Cross of Christ, she summoned a dying woman. She had the woman touch the crosses. The first and second cross did nothing, but the third cross healed the sick woman immediately. The cross immediately became an object of veneration.



SEPTEMBER 15 - THE MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS - Even in our darkest hours let us find the strength to look towards Mary our Blessed Mother, who remained faithful to God the Father in the most devastating times.

Most non-Catholics assume we worship her, and it is easy to see why. We are so respectful to her, and so in tune with her life and role of bringing the Savior of the World to us, not to mention the many apparitions of our Blessed Mother when she has spoken and poured out that love for each of us.

Today and everyday call out to her, asking her intercession, and know we are praying with her.

On this the Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows, reflect on the seven sorrows of Mary. Go a step further and pull out your bible or look them up on your favorite Catholic site/app. Take time

to put yourself in the story of these important moments in her life:

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 terror of losing track of a child, and helplessly watched her son be tortured, suffer, and die. We need to pray to her that 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.

Editor's note: Our Lady of Sorrows Art is by Catholic Artist Nichole Lanthier and available at: WWW.ETSY.COM/SHOP/NICHOLELANTHIER.



SEPTEMBER 15-17 - ROSH HASHANAH - the Jewish New Year and Yom Kippur which is celebrated Sept 24-26, are among the holiest of Jewish days that Jesus would have celebrated with His family and also the apostles who were also Jewish. On Rosh Hashanah families gather for a special meal typically including honey and apples as a way to welcome a sweet and healthy new year, often the story of Abraham is read and a ram's horn known as the shofar is blown like a trumpet to remind all that God allowed Abraham to sacrifice a ram instead of his son Isaac. *Editor's note: photo by Creative Commons.*

FATHER'S DAY IS APPROACHING PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 24TH IS PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY!

Remember our priests active, retired, transferred, and deceased, who have guided us on life's challenging path. It is up to us, the faithful, to extend our gratitude, because without them we couldn't celebrate the Mass or receive the Sacraments.

In this time of our One Million Rosaries for Increased Vocations in WV, let us remember our priests, seminarians, and those discerning the call to the priesthood in our diocese. Increase your prayer pledge in honor of them at: DWC.ORG/ONEMILLIONROSARIES/



Ask Mary and St. Joseph to guide each of them with their parental love, patience, and understanding and in turn intercede that they are blessed with the same compassion in order to be good father's to the faithful and other souls they serve.

Harpa Dei
presents

**Sacred Music
NIGHT**
for Eucharistic Revival

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FREE ADMISSION
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OCT 15 SUN 5 PM St. John Catholic Church
Summersville, WV



Spiritual Retreats for Grieving Parents

Join Us!

A Catholic Ministry serving the spiritual needs of parents whose children of any age have died by any cause, no matter how long ago

Losing a child under any circumstances is horrendous. Focusing on the spirituality of the grieving process can help tremendously.

Just as He comforted his grieving disciples on the road to Emmaus, Jesus comforts us and we comfort each other in this very special Catholic ministry.

With other Emmaus Parent Companions and Spiritual Leaders, find spiritual nourishment in a warm and loving place—to think, talk, feel and pray. Find compassion, rest and peace... at least for a time.

Space is limited! When maximum number is reached, registration will close. For more information or to register, see www.emfgp.org today!



Learn more at www.emfgp.org
or call (800) 919-9332

All are welcome



OFFERING AN

**EMMAUS MINISTRY
FOR GRIEVING PARENTS
SPIRITUAL RETREAT**

*For any grieving parent
whose child of any age has
died by any cause,
no matter how long ago*

**ONE-DAY IN-PERSON
SPIRITUAL RETREAT**

**October 14, 2023
9:30am -7:30pm
St. Vincent de Paul Parish
2244 Marshall Avenue
Wheeling, WV 26003**



*Give yourself the gift of
getting away from
everyday life to focus on
your spiritual journey
after the death of your
precious child.*

**PRE-REGISTRATION
REQUIRED**

See www.emfgp.org for more
information and to register,

TWENTY-THIRD IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9

The prophet Ezekiel gives us spiritual warning that we are responsible for one another and must try to lead each other in the path of righteousness.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 95

“If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.”

Second Reading: Romans 13:8-10

You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

It was Jesus who said wherever two or three are gathered in His name He is there.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT
BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/091023.CFM](http://BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/091023.CFM)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we may be a model to the world of reconciling our differences, being an example of how to respond to one another with empathy, love, and mercy instead of rash judgement and condemnation, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those in positions of authority, that as they invoke justice they also uphold the dignity of life, mercy, and hope for those who have lost their way, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For grandparents living and deceased, in thanksgiving for the blessings they have passed on to their families, and for us their grandchildren that we honor the faith in the Church they purposefully chose for the ones they love the most, 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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Transformed
by faith.*



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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.