



Catechetical Sunday



CATECHETICAL SUNDAY HONORS OUR PARISH

Today we celebrate Catechetical Sunday, a day to honor all those in our parishes and Catholic schools who teach us about God, the Church and how to put our faith in action.

Rooted in and nourished with Christ in the Eucharist, the ministry of a catechist nurtures a love of the Church, enriched prayer life, and empowers us to be the Body of Christ in our world.

“Catechists are the strength of the Church; they lead the way,” Pope Francis said.

These men and women don’t have to be experts or degreed theologians. They are from all walks of life but share one common bond – a willingness to share our Catholic

teachings, values, and rich traditions. Catechists are called by God, nudged by the Holy Spirit, and inspired by Christ to be like the Apostles and go out to proclaim Christ and His love.

In the spring of 2021, Pope Francis officially acknowledged the role of catechesis as a formal lay ministry, “in our time, when there are so few clerics to preach the Gospel to such great numbers and to exercise the pastoral ministry, the position of catechists is of great importance... (for) the development of the Christian community.”

Pope Saint John Paul II said in a message to catechist, “So many times it has fallen to (catechists) to strengthen and

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This statue stands inside Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Mission Church on Chapel Hill Road in Triadelphia

OUR LADY OF SORROWS

Unite in Compassion ~ Grow in Love & Faith

The Church celebrates Sept. 15th as the Feast Day of Our Lady of Seven Dolors (Sorrows). Actually, the entire month in Catholic tradition is a time for us to mediate on the tremendous suffering Mary experienced that pierced her heart seven times.

It is not a moment to pity her, but a time to unite in compassion, grow in love, and motivate us toward holiness. From Mary “We learn to trust even when all hope seems gone,” Pope St. John Paul II.

The Latin term “dolor” can be translated as “pain” or “ache.” The devotion of the “The Seven Sorrows of Mary” is sometimes also referred as the “The Seven Dolors of Mary.” The scriptural origin of this devotion is found in the gospel of Luke with the description of the presentation of Jesus in the Temple. The priest Simeon tells Mary: “Behold, this

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build up the young Christian communities, ... It was you, the catechists, who instructed the catechumens, prepared people for the sacraments, taught the faith, and were leaders of the Christian community.... Give thanks to the Lord for the gift of your vocation, through which Christ has called you from among other men and women to be instruments of his salvation. Respond with generosity to your vocation and your names will be written in heaven (cf. Lk 10:20).”

In this the Year of Mission in our parishes for the National Eucharistic Revival, we ask the Lord to bless all catechists.

We thank God for their giving spirits, their compassionate hearts, and their willingness to introduce us and our children to a personal relationship with Christ.

We call upon the Holy Spirit to come upon them to give them courage to persevere.

May God bless our catechists that without hesitation share the beauty of their faith, the love of life-long learning, and the graces of the sacraments. As our Holy Father said, they are the strength of the Church and the ones who give

us the confidence to turn to you God – not society - in our troubles and uncertainties.

Bless all who bring the Gospel to life, teaching us that living the faith and listening to God brings love, wisdom, understanding, and empathy in order that we can have peace on earth and the joy of eternal life.



child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted and you yourself a sword will pierce so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.” (Luke 2:34-35).

Mary was an eyewitness to the key moments of Jesus’ life. Each moment of Jesus’ suffering and passion deeply pierced Mary’s motherly heart. Mary’s accompaniment of her son culminated with her presence at the crucifixion. *“Standing by the cross of Jesus was his mother...”* (John 19:25)

The mystery of suffering is a recurring question for humanity. Pope St. John Paul II said in his Apostolic Letter *Salvifici Doloris (On the Christian Meaning of Human Suffering)*, “suffering is present in the world in order to release love, in order to give birth to works of love toward neighbor, in order to transform the whole human civilization into a ‘civilization of love.’”

How do we cooperate with God to transform our personal suffering, so that love may be “released” God’s plan of salvation can come about in our lives?

How to practice a devotion to the Sorrows of Mary?

One way this devotion is observed the recitation a version of adapted rosary prayers. Instead of five decades of ten Hail Mary’s there are seven sets of seven Hail Mary’s. The seven themes of the Sorrows of Mary include:

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)

Reasons to meditate on the Sorrows of Mary

- **Companionship with Jesus and Mary:** As an extension of our personal relationship with Our Lord Jesus, we give real consolation to Jesus and to his mother, by gratefully meditating on their sufferings. Catholics believe that the events of Jesus’ passion and death were actual historical experiences. Although the events of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection occurred many years ago in the past, we believe that Jesus suffered and died for the salvation of each generation, including our own. In prayer, we can approach the sacred realities of Jesus and Mary’s sufferings. Honoring the Sorrowful Heart of Mary is a way to say “thank you” for the gift of Jesus’ salvific work upon the cross.

- **Gain the gift of repentance.** Some report that while meditating upon the traditional Sorrows of Mary, they are given a fuller knowledge of their personal sinfulness. When we have a deeper understanding our need for salvation, we can turn with joyful trust in the Mercy of God. The pains that Jesus endured, and which Mary shared, are signs to us of God's love. With confidence in God's love for sinners, we can ask for the gift of repentance from personal sin, conversion of heart, and perseverance in following the Lord in faithful discipleship. We can ask for the gift of repentance for our families and communities.
- **The poverty of Jesus and Mary allows us to offer our poverty to God.** Our poverty can be our prayer. Our natural human state is one of spiritual poverty. When we invite the Lord into our poverty, God's miracles can follow. For example, the miracle of the Wedding Feast of Cana came about when the banquet-goers ran out of wine and could not provide for themselves. In that moment of desperation, Mary interceded profoundly to her son. Today, there is no shortage of heartbreaking problems and seemingly impossible situations in our world, our nation, our churches, our communities, our families or even in our own lives. Mary had a motherly concern for her son Jesus. She has that same concern for each of God's children as we walk the path of discipleship. Meditating on the "poor moments" of the life of Jesus and Mary is an opportunity to unite our personal poverty with theirs. Thus, we open

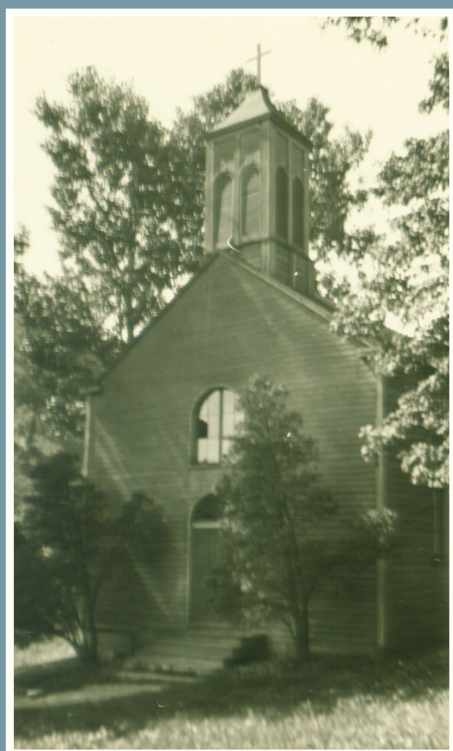
our lives to the rich blessing of God's Holy Spirit, and we open our lives to the work of God's glory.

- **The joyful gift of self.** One of the ways that Jesus saves us is that he shows us how to love sacrificially. Jesus' passion was the ultimate expression of his gift of self. Mary shared in that same passion. This contrasts with our prevalent consumer culture which offers endless means of distraction. Instead of seeking continual escape from sufferings around us, we can give of ourselves in ways that embody the mercy of God. How about you? How do you enter confidently into self-sacrifice so that others can have physically and spiritual life? To use the phrase mentioned earlier by St. John Paul II, how can we give birth to actions of love that build up a "civilization of love?"

The Collect from the Memorial Mass for Our Lady of Sorrows:

O God, who willed that, when your Son was lifted high on the Cross, his Mother should stand close by and share his suffering, grant that your Church, participating with the Virgin Mary in the Passion of Christ, may merit a share in his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

For more information on how to pray the Rosary of the Seven Dolors of Mary: WWW.KOFC.ORG/EN/RESOURCES/CIS/DEVOTIONALS/SEVENDOLORS.PDF



Our Lady of Seven Dolors Mission Church dates back to 1869, when four Catholic families built a wooden structure on a foundation intended for a church in 1819. With the development of Cumberland Road (National Road/ US Route 40), the competition of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad (B&O) Railroad from Pittsburgh to Wheeling, and the establishment of mills, banks and stores the population in Triadelphia grew strong through 1880.

By summer of 1924, the cornerstone for a new Triadelphia church was placed, and the more permanent tapestry brick church with its fittingly ornate interior was dedicated on July 19, 1925.



NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival Year of Mission

Walk with One

Feed My People

By Sam Cann, of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Stonewood

Like so many enjoyable events in our lives when they are over, after you are home, once you start the everyday routine of our daily lives, the memories of the wonderful trip, the restful vacation, the sharing of stories with family and friends become a fading memory.



Though the Eucharistic Congress seems somewhat like that, it is not quite the same, the words, "Feed My People" keep ringing in my head or my heart and my entire being and I know where the voice is coming from. Now we must figure out how to follow, put into action the mission that rang so loudly for 5 days in Indianapolis.

The events and the organization were so well done you had a sense of awe, you knew in your spirit this was not just a cool conference gathering of Christian folks, this was a movement, a wakeup call, a calling to action, a Revival! (Christ was saying) "My People I am here. I have given you the tools, the way to spread the Good News to those you cross paths."

The Mission to invigorate Catholics with teachings that we get to experience the TRUE PRESENCE of GOD thru Our Lord



Jesus Christ at every Mass every day and that is food and drink of life, Spiritual Life where we get a grace like no other to strengthen, guide, and lead us to strengthen, guide, and lead others. Then together we make up the Mystical Body of Christ here on earth, The Church!

With Christ as our head, we as part of His Body are fed and nourished through the Blessed Sacrament of The Holy Eucharist, the action that takes place every day at every Mass all over the world.



The thing I will remember most, the procession of Clergy into Mass every morning took 30 minutes, not because it was slow but because there were that many Priests, Seminarians, Deacons, Religious Sisters, Brothers, and Bishops that attended each day along with the 45,000-60,000 people.

Then when it came time for communion to watch these (priests) venture into the crowds and spread throughout the stadium. It felt as though we were watching the Apostles going out through ALL THE LANDS spreading the GOOD NEWS!

The many great, what I call TRUE BELIEVERS, that spoke to us beginning with Bishop (Andrew) Cozzens, Mother Olga, Sister Bethany Madonna, Fr. Mike Schmitz, Bishop (Robert) Barron, and Jonathan Roumie; and music with so many wonderful musicians like Matt Maher- each had words of wisdom sent from above saying over and over the message, "FEED MY PEOPLE!"

He has given us true bread and true drink - (His Body and Blood) - to give us understanding to show us HE LOVES US, and we have been sent to spread the GOOD NEWS one by one It was a wonderful spiritual experience which has started a fire burning. We now must pray and act to keep the fire burning!

CELEBRATE THESE SIGNIFICANT SAINTS THIS WEEK

Let them strengthen your journey towards Heaven.



Sept. 16 - The memorial of Ss. Cornelius and Cyprian of Carthage.

These two men had a great impact on the early Church. They lived in the Third Century, a time of severe persecution, but their faith and courage helped them lead people to God and the Church. Cornelius served as pope – pretty much a death sentence in those days - while Cyprian served as a bishop in Africa. Both were martyred, and both are mentioned in the Eucharistic Prayer (1).

Cyprian wrote, *The Unity of the Catholic Church*. In it he declared we must be united with God and His Church if you claim to be a faithful follower of Christ. “You cannot have God for your Father if you do not have the Church for your mother.... God is one and Christ is one, and his Church is one; one is the faith, and one is the people cemented together by harmony into the strong unity of a body.... If we are the heirs of Christ, let us abide in the peace of Christ; if we are the sons of God, let us be lovers of peace.”

Sept. 17 - The memorial of 16th Century Doctor of the Church - St. Robert Bellarmine

From his treatise *“On the Ascent of the Mind to God”*: “If you are wise, then, know that you have been created for the glory of God and your own eternal salvation. This is your goal: this is the center of your life; this is the treasure of your heart.

“If you reach this goal, you will find happiness. If you fail to reach it, you will find misery. May you consider truly good whatever leads you to your goal and truly evil whatever makes you fall away from it. Prosperity and adversity, wealth and poverty, health and sickness, honors and humiliations, life and death, in the mind of the wise man, are not to be sought for their own sake, nor avoided for their own sake. But if they contribute to the glory of God and your eternal happiness, then they are good and should be sought. If they detract from this, they are evil and must be avoided.”

He was friends with St. Francis de Sales and a spiritual guide for St. Aloysius Gonzaga.

Editor’s Note: the art of St. Bellarmine is by Shari Van Vranken of Catholic Paper Goods (WWW.ETSY.COM/SHOP/CATHOLICPAPERGOODS).



Sept 17 - The memorial of St. Hildegard of Bingen - declared Doctor of the Church in 2012.

St. Hildegard lived in the 12th-century. She is remembered as a German mystic, composer, abbess, poet, philosopher, teacher, and writer.

She said, “Even in a world that is being shipwrecked, remain brave and strong.”

Her “O Quam Mirabilis” (Antiphon for the Creator) is fitting for our prayers for God’s creation:

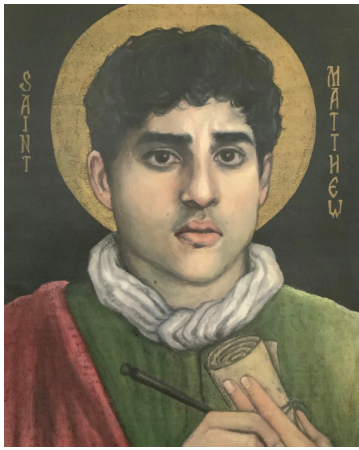
*How wonderful it is, that the foreknowing heart divine
has first known everything created!*

*For when God looked upon the human face that he had formed,
he gazed upon his ev’ry work, reflected whole within that human form.*

How wondrous is that breath that roused humanity to life!

Editor’s Note: the art is by Monica Welch of Dovetail Ink and is available on Etsy WWW.ETSY.COM/SHOP/DOVETAILINK.





Sept. 21 - The Feast Day of St. Matthew. Can you imagine the faces of Christ's followers when Jesus himself called Matthew? He was a tax collector – a position most despised by Jews for they were dishonest, greedy, and mean! What was Jesus thinking?

Most would assume that he would mock our Lord and ignore his invitation, but Matthew shocked all and immediately got up, left his post and wealth to follow Christ. Jesus teaches us even those we think are the worst among us can turn to God and follow Him. Jesus is calling each one of us each day to do His will.

Matthew's Gospel is called "the Gospel of the fulfillment," because it confirms the prophecies of the Old Testament to Jesus: He is of the house of David (1:6); born of a virgin, to fulfill what Isaiah foretold (1:22-23); and dwells among us to help us get to the Kingdom of Heaven.

Matthew also shares the Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus gives us the Beatitudes (5:3-11), our outline of Christian life. The apostle gives us Christ's genealogy, ministry, Passion, and Resurrection. Many artists' renditions of him include an angel near his ear to symbolize Matthew's writings were echoes of God's Word.

Take time this week to read Matthew's Gospel, especially Matthew 9:9-13, when he first references himself.

Editor's note: the painting of St. Matthew is by Tara Vanessa Hall of Perfect Joy Paintings (WWW.ETSY.COM/SHOP/PERFECTJOYPAINTINGS).

PURPOSEFUL LIFE REFLECTION MONSIGNOR JOSEPH PETERSON

As we celebrate the life of an extraordinary priest of God, Monsignor Joseph Peterson, who passed away on Sept. 12, 2024, we take a moment to reflect on a few "Godwinks" (a word coined by author Squire Rushnell).

Godwinks may appear to be mere coincidences, but they're better explained as little gifts or insightful moments from God, hinting to a purposeful life – a blessed one.

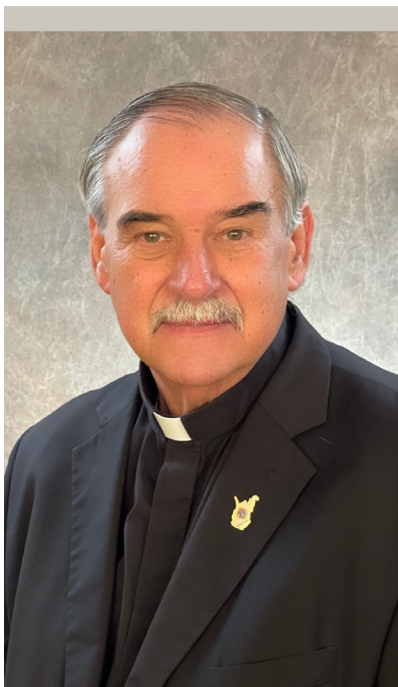
Our faith tells us that our days are determined by God – the day we are born and the day we die.

"Their days are determined; you (God) have decreed the number of their months and and you have appointed the bounds that they cannot pass." (Job 14:5). For God knows everything (1 John 3:20).

Monsignor was born on Wednesday, May 1, 1949. Not only is Wednesday the day the Catholic Church gives significance to our beloved Vicar General's namesake St. Joseph, who from Heaven continues his fatherly guardianship of Christ's body, the Church; but the date May 1st is also the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker – honoring his as the humble worker, guide, and protector of the Holy Family on earth.

On May 31, 2024, Monsignor attended his last priestly ordination. It was Father John Soplinski, who fittingly, like the Vicar General, called Sacred Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Weirton his home parish. Father John had Monsignor as one of his concelebrants at his first Mass at Sacred Heart of Mary, on Feast of Corpus Christi (June 2).

Monsignor was a great advocate for vocations and Catholic education. He was recognized in 2017 as the Bishop's Cross recipient for his leadership in our Catholic schools. He was always teaching. Even his at his last recorded Mass (on August 3, 2024), he emphasized the importance of attending Mass and receiving the Eucharist.






In loving memory of

Monsignor Joseph Peterson

Vicar General

May 1, 1949 - September 12, 2024

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FAITHFUL SERVANT

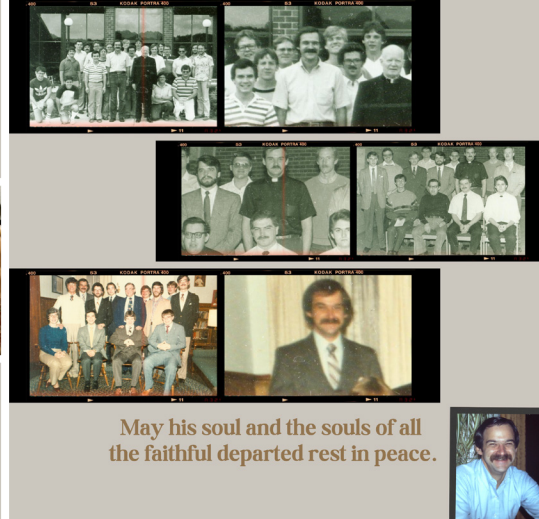


Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord,

Rest in peace.



and let Your perpetual light shine upon him.



May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

In Msgr. Peterson's last homily, he said Christ "came not only to respond to the needs of the world but also came to respond to the needs of their souls.

"He wanted to give them bread that would provide for their spiritual needs.

"Jesus was more than just someone who could miraculously provide for their bodies (as he did with the loaves and the fishes), but even more so miraculous to provide for their spirit as well. As the people came to understand that it enkindled within them a need for God. They gained that need through faith in His son, and faith in His Word.

"Celebrate the Eucharist. Be mindful He is more than one who provides for the ordinary needs for the world. He is also and more importantly (on earth at that time) to provide for their hearts, their spirits, their souls.

"That is what draws us to celebrate the Eucharist, and why the Eucharist is at the center of our faith, because it not only requires faith to enable us to understand that have the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Christ, but that it also nourishes that very same faith. So, as we gather to celebrate the sacred mysteries that the Lord has given to us.

"Let us be mindful that we come forward to receive bread and wine, the Body and Blood of Christ, so as to be nourished, so as to enable us to be led by Christ to that eternal life that he promises all of us."

For it is those promises that Monsignor left us to ponder that remind us not to celebrate life eternal.

Death is a sacred moment - a passing from this life to the one promised by the Lord. It marks the end of our earthly journey and the beginning of our pilgrimage to the kingdom of heaven.

Monsignor passed away on Thursday, Sept. 12, 2024.

The Church's significance for Thursdays, the day of the week Monsignor died, is the Eucharist because Christ instituted the most holy Eucharist on a Thursday. The Eucharist is the greatest gift of God to mankind, as it is nothing less than Jesus himself. The date, Sept. 12th is known in the Church as the day to honor the Holy Name of Mary, Mother of God. Her name shall be respected as the Mother of Jesus Christ, our mother who will point us to her Son in Heaven.

May Monsignor Joseph Peterson be richly blessed with the presence of Mary as he stands before the Father of Life Eternal.

THE OBITUARY FOR MSGR. PETERSON IS POSTED AT DWC.ORG AND OUR [FACEBOOK PAGE](#).



Fitting moment:

The final ordination to the priesthood he concelebrated was for Fr. John Soplnski, who was also from his home parish, Sacred Heart of Mary, Weirton



Msgr. Peterson with Newly Ordained Fr. John

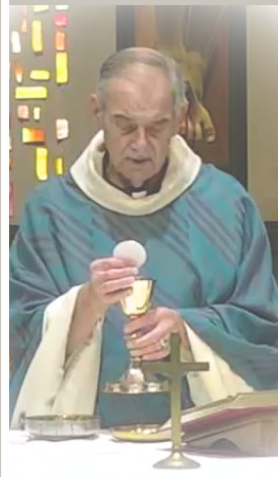


Final Homily



Monsignor's final homily August 3, 2024 at Sacred Heart of Mary, Weirton: Bread of Life Discourse - Bread for eternal life.

John 6:24-33



"Celebrate the Eucharist... the center of our faith. The Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Christ. Let us be mindful that we come forward to receive - Christ - so as to be nourished, so as to enable us to be led by Christ to that eternal life that He promises all of us."

Msgr. Joseph Peterson Final recorded homily 8-3-2024

May 1, 1949 - September 12, 2024

24TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4c-9a

Isaiah is willing to face any opponent confidently, because he trusts in God.

Responsorial: Psalm 116

“I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.”

Second Reading: James 2:14-18

Faith must be put into action, or it is dead.

Gospel: Mark 8:27-35

Jesus confides in His disciples that he will be persecuted and killed. Accept your own cross.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we lighten the load of all those whose crosses are too heavy, especially those who are hopeless, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those who are running for political office, that they may be confident in faith, always seek the Holy Spirit for guidance, and work towards all that would be pleasing to God, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For catechists, that through their invitation, witness, and instruction, they may shine the light of understanding upon those they are nurturing, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For the people of this faith community, that by sacrificing all that we can, we may make the difference in the lives of those who would otherwise go hungry, homeless, or impoverished, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

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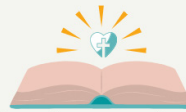
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LITURGY OF THE HOURS

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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.