



PRAYER FOR LABOR DAY

As the sun rises to bring in the new day:

We remember those who descend into the earth, their work begins in darkness, pulling from the earth, the resources we steward.

We remember those who work inside a building away from the light and brightness of the day.

We remember those who work outside in the harsh elements of our world, the bitter cold and sweltering heat of extremes.

We remember those who do not have a job to go to, who are struggling to meet the needs of their daily living expenses, for whom the day becomes long and arduous.

As the sun sets to bring in the evening of rest:

We remember those who work in the night.

We remember those who are trying to recover from their labor and toils of the day.

We remember those who participate in unsafe and dangerous work.

We pray for a renewed sense of dignity in their lives and in their work.

God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the worker. Make a place in our hearts for compassion to the men and women who labor tirelessly for basic necessities. Ensure a place for the men and women who are struggling to find work. Grant us your wisdom to greet and care for those who are unable to work due to illness or circumstances that prevent their participation. Be with the children who are not able to run and play, but instead must put in a hard day's work to help their family afford to eat, to live. Be with us all, Christ Jesus, as we go about the busyness of our work. Hold us accountable not only for our actions, but most importantly to each of our neighbors. May we continue to work together to bring about your reign! We ask this in your holy name, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BLESSED MOTHER MARY!

LET'S BE "GOOD KIDS" AND PRAY THE ROSARY

September 8th is the Nativity of Mary. Take a moment this week to celebrate the birth of Mary to her loving parents, Joachim and Anne.

It would be safe to assume that if we could ask her what she wanted for her birthday, she'd reply like most of our devoted mothers, "Good kids!"

Honor her by being just that. How? Consider what her life taught us.

We learn three great lessons from Mary the Mother of God on how to live life. Pope Francis highlighted those for us:

1. Share the joy of Christ with others.
2. Do not let adversity give you the excuse to give up.
3. Step up and help those in need with the compassion of a gentle mother.

If you feel you are lacking the courage to do what is right, or are struggling with knowing what you can do, trust in the Lord like Mary, to guide your steps, Pope Francis said.

St. Alphonsus Liguori said Mary's love of God and compassion for all is immeasurable. He said we need to look at her as the ultimate example of how to love. "Think of what the Saints have done for their neighbor because they loved God. But what Saint's love for God can match Mary's? She loved Him more in the first moment of her existence than all the Saints and angels ever loved Him or will love Him.

"Just as there is not one among all the Blessed who loves God as Mary does, so there is no one, after God, who loves us as much as this most loving Mother does. Furthermore, if we heaped together all the love that mothers have for their children, all the love of husbands and wives, all the love of all the angels and Saints for their clients, it could never equal Mary's love for even a single soul."

GIFT OF THE ROSARY

Further, take time to pray the treasure she gave us through St. Dominic - the Rosary. The history of the Rosary has evolved from the 12th-15th centuries, but one thing is unchanging - the focus on Christ. No one loved Him more than His Blessed Mother. Call upon her to be a Mother to you.

Pray the rosary as if you are meditating in prayer with her, calling her to intercede for you and your intentions to Christ Jesus.

During this halfway point of the **One Million Rosaries** for Vocations in WV, honor Mary by being a prayer warrior for vocations in WV through her Rosary. Share this mission today with your family, friends, and groups of prayer warriors outside the state in order for us to reach our goal for #MillionRosaries4WV. We are counting on your impressive intentions and confident hearts.

For resources on the rosary and to make your prayer pledge go to: DWC.ORG/ONEMILLIONROSARIES/



WHEELING TEEN'S FAITH FILLED HEART LEADS HER TO MEMORABLE SUMMER

Doing for others when they cannot do something for you in return has proven to be the best life lesson in love for a Northern Panhandle teen.

Angelene Ricci is an eighth grader at St. Vincent de Paul School in Wheeling. When you meet her you are immediately impressed with what you see - her sweet nature, maturity in her conversations for her age, and smiling eyes. What you can't see is her heart. Angelene Ricci has a heart of gold.

The 13-year-old is an altar server at St. Vincent. She enjoys volleyball, cheering, and competing with her school's forensics team.

While many of her peers would prioritize a family vacation packed with summer silliness, awesome restaurants, and being lazy by a pool or beach; Ricci chose to make memories in a completely opposite environment.

Ricci spent more than a week of her summer in Buffalo, NY, volunteering with Eight Days of Hope, a prayerful group of volunteers who recognize their gifts and talents

as treasures from God. Volunteers for the organization prioritize being God's hands and feet on earth to help others. People from all over the country and from all faiths make up the Eight Days of Hope workforce. The group rebuild homes, serve meals to those in need, and do manual labor such as yard work, painting, clean up needed as a result of natural disaster or devastating circumstance.

The Ohio County teen learned of the opportunity through her friend Ella Wheeler last Spring. Wheeler's church group at the Vineyard Church was going to make the trip north to help residents of Buffalo who had a long list of needs but no means to complete them without the help of an army.

"I went home and told my parents about it and how I thought it would be a good opportunity for me to do good for people I don't even know," Ricci said. "I'd be missing our big family trip and reunion in DC but I honestly felt like I needed to go."

Her parents, Michael and Anne Ricci were proud of their daughter and gave her their permission after they

made sure their daughter knew that she would be giving up a trip of family fun and laughter for eight days of getting up super early and working to the point of exhaustion everyday no matter the weather or heat.

Her parents were right - right about the sweaty long hours and less than ideal working conditions, and also right about being proud of their teen.

Angelene and her group woke up at 5 am every morning. They started the day with a prayer service and then breakfast. The group would hold another circle prayer on their work site just before starting their chores.

For Ricci it was going to homes and



working landscaping jobs – pulling weeds, digging out old roots, clearing weeds, mulching, and general yard clean up. They would take a little break for lunch on site and keep working until dinner time followed by evening prayer.

“We worked so hard in so many neighborhoods,” Angelene said. “The people who lived in the homes were so happy we were there.”

She said she loved it when she would work at a home with little ones, because they would run to the windows to wave hello.

She and Wheeler were among the youngest in the group.

“It was like a big sleep over when we went to bed,” she said. “We would be in bed by 9 pm, and all of us slept in a big gym, some on cots and some on the floor. No one complained. We met so many people from other states there to help. It was neat to be with people who were like me, but also at the same time so different from me.

She said they all were there for the same reason, “to help people out even when it’s hard, because it is the right thing to do. There is no better feeling you can get than making someone you don’t know happy, especially when you know that someone won’t ever be able to repay you.”


“It’s that special feeling you really can’t put into words,” she said.

Ricci’s favorite saint is St. Therese of Lisieux, who wrote about that feeling, “I feel that when I am charitable it is Jesus alone who acts in me; the more I am united to Him the more do I love....”

Volunteering is second nature to Ricci, who with her school and parish do a variety of merciful works and projects. Her mother, who works for Wheeling Health Right, is also a shining example of what St. Therese taught us in her lifetime, “Remember that nothing is small in the eyes of God. Do all that you do with love.”

The Wheeling teen hopes to be a part of Eight Days of Hope again.


“I’d love the chance to do it all again,” she said. Until then Ricci will be enjoying her eighth grade year and all the milestones that brings with it in a Catholic school. “I just now have a better idea and recognition of how I can help others even if it is just in a small way like pulling weeds. A little work that makes a big impact on someone’s heart.”



One Million ROSARIES

FOR VOCATIONS WITHIN THE
DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

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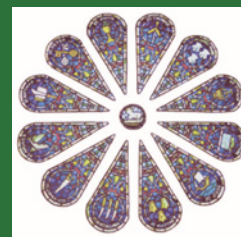
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whose child of any age has
died by any cause,
no matter how long ago*

**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-SECOND IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-9

The prophet Jeremiah cries out to God. He is angry, but he knows he must endure these trials while not losing focus on God and His will.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 63

“My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.”

Second Reading: Romans 12:1-2

Saint Paul writes when you are truly devoted to Christ you must also discern what is the will of God.

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-27

Matthew teaches us that life happens and we must all take up our crosses and keep focused on Christ. Many challenges, trauma, and loss are not unavoidable. Accept your cross and honor God by remaining faithful serving God and others. God will strengthen the faithful.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](http://BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/090323.CFM)

BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/090323.CFM

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we may remain focused on the promises of Christ in the face of any and all opposition, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our elected leaders, that God may guide them with wisdom and courage as they work for justice, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all who work to provide not only for themselves and their families, but also so they can contribute to the well-being of all, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all who are lost and overwhelmed, unable to carry their crosses, may they find compassion and assistance from the faithful and ultimately from the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

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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.