



Honor Mary

Three Celebrations on Her Birthday Highlight Faith, Compassion, and Perseverance

Three joyous occasions all surrounding the Blessed Virgin Mary are celebrated on Monday, September 8th in the Church – the Nativity of the Blessed Mother, and two devotions: Our Lady of Good Health (India) and Our Lady of Charity (Cuba).

So, in honor of Mary’s birthday make time to recognize the lessons her life taught us and how she is guiding us still today.

Our Blessed Mother taught us to:

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 compassion, like 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. Look at her as the ultimate example of how to love.

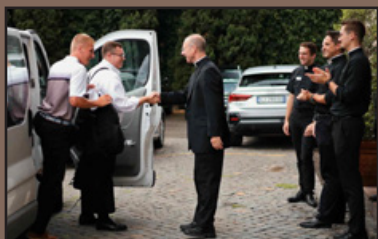
“Think of what the Saints have done for their neighbor because they loved God. But what Saint’s love for God can match Mary’s? She loved Him more in the first moment of her existence than all the Saints and angels ever loved Him or will love Him!

“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

continue page 2...



WV Seminarians in Rome ~ Page 3



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."

Saint Maximilian Kolbe said, "Never be afraid of loving Mary too much, you'll never love her more than Jesus did."

Hail Mary, Mother of God, conceived without sin, pray for us!

Our Lady of Vailankanni

A devotion that dates back to the 16th century, Our Lady of Vailankanni, also known as Our Lady of Good Health in India, is Sept. 8.



The Vatican and Pope Francis officially recognized the devotion at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Good Health in Vailankanni as a major pilgrimage center and acknowledges the miraculous healings and solace experienced by millions of visitors.

In a letter to the bishop of Thanjavur, India, Cardinal Victor Manuel Fernandez, prefect for the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith wrote:

"The same Virgin Mary who manifested herself at Lourdes also manifested herself in India as the Mother of Health.

"It is not merely a matter of bodily health, but also one that touches the soul. Contemplating the image of Mary, we can all recognize the love of Jesus Christ that can heal our sadness, our anguish and our fears. If we pause before Mary, even in a brief moment of faith and love, her maternal gaze restores peace to us.

"The first account, which is ancient, is filled with rich symbolism because the boy to whom Mary showed herself offered her the milk he had brought with him for the Child she was carrying in her arms. This

was an expression of the generosity of those who are willing to give something to others, in their own poverty. You do not need to have much in order to be generous. May this call to share, to assist, to be close to those who need us always resonate in this place. Mary loves the generosity of her children, who put into action the words of Jesus: "What you did to one of the least of my brothers, you did to me" (Mt 25, 40).

"Through the centuries, Mary has continued to act in this place. Some Portuguese sailors told how the Virgin protected them from a storm at sea and thereafter they decided to build the church. How can we fail to remember the tsunami in the Indian Ocean in 2004 whose destructive waters did not damage the church?

"The millions of pilgrims who travel here out of faith, and the many spiritual fruits that are produced at this Shrine, make us recognize the constant action of the Holy Spirit in this place."

Our Lady of Charity, Patroness of Cuba

The devotion to Our Lady of Charity (Nuestra Senora de la Virgen de la Caridad), the patroness of Cuba, dates back to 1612, when three men - two local laborers and an African Cuban boy - were praying protection from a violent and relentless storm in the Bay of Nipe while on their small boat. As they were praying, they saw and recovered a small wooden statue of Mary floating in the water. Inscribed on the statue were the words, "I am the Virgin of Charity."

The storm suddenly disappeared.

Mary became the symbol of hope and national identity for all of Cuba. Catholics from all around the world travel to Cuba's Basilica of El Cobre in Santiago de Cuba to honor this devotion with Mass, processions, prayers, music, dance, and traditional food as part of the religious rituals.

"Lift up your heart and do not succumb in the face of adversities, persevere in the way of good: tirelessly helping those oppressed by sorrows and afflictions," Pope Francis wrote in a letter to Cubans. "These are the important lessons taught to us by Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre, useful both for today and tomorrow."



“A Wonderful Gift”

WV Seminarians in Rome Meet Pope Leo XIV



Seminarian Joe Derico, of St. Patrick’s Church, Weston, arrived in Rome on Thursday, August 21st and three days later he was greeting Pope Leo XIV before the pontiff led the Angelus in St. Peter’s Square, August. 24th.

“Having arrived in Rome on a Thursday morning, I was quite surprised to find out that day at lunch that the seminary would have a private audience with the

Holy Father that following Sunday, prior to the usual Angelus Address,” Derico said. “Getting to meet the Holy Father was such a joy, and an experience which will certainly be memorable. His Holiness spoke a few words to us each individually and then made a more general address after having greeted us all. It was a wonderful gift to have met the Holy Father so soon after I arrived in Rome, and his

words to us were inspiring and indicative of a deep life of personal prayer and an ardent love for the Lord. Ad Multos Annos!”

With Derico was Seminarian Michael Tupta, of the Basilica of the Co-cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston. This is his second year of study at the Pontifical North American College (NAC). Last year after his arrival he had an audience with Pope Francis. The private audience in the Apostolic Palace in Vatican City with Pope Leo was with NAC’s new seminarians, second-year orientation team members, seminary faculty, and Msgr Thomas Powers (NAC rector), Tupta said.

“Pope Leo spoke to us all about perseverance in our

vocation and throughout our future priesthood,” Tupta said.

When the Pope turned to depart the men sang “Ad Multos Annos” blessing (“to many years” a Latin celebratory song to many more years of life, health, and service)– which stopped him in his tracks. Pope Leo XIV turned back and listened until the end.

After the audience, Derico, Tupta, and the rest of the group joined pilgrims from all over the world in the square to pray the Angelus.

God, bless all of our seminarians and their families.

God, bless Pope Leo XIV.

God, bless the Church.

AMEN!



Photos provided by: Vatican Media (private audience); and the Pontifical North American College (arrival).

Saints of the Week

St. Peter Claver - Compassionate Justice

Christ calls us to open our minds, eyes, mouth, and heart to God. Honoring Him and His love for each of us by how we treat others. **Saint Peter Claver, whose feast day is Sept. 9**, is a great example of how we should care for, protect, and serve others.

As a student and young priest St. Peter Claver was considered very intelligent, but also both shy and introverted. It was his compassion for humanity that made him stand out. He could not stand idly by when others were mistreated. He was horrified and disgusted at how men and women from Congo and Angola were captured, transported, and paraded to be slaves in the Americas. He dedicated his life - ultimately a religious life - to help them.

Saint Peter Claver was born in 1581 in Catalonia, Spain. He followed his call to the priesthood in the early 1600s, entering the Jesuit order. He was ordained in 1615, and sent to Columbia - the New World - to serve the people. By that time, slave trade had been in place for more than 90 years.

He was stationed in Cartagena, Columbia, the main port to receive slaves in the Americas. Saint Peter Claver immersed himself in the caring of these men, women, and children as best he could, rallying others to help him.

Not only were they stripped from their homeland and families, once they arrived, they were divided without any compassion into groups and housed like animals awaiting to be sold. On average one-third of them died during the transport. The survivors were weak, ill, and distraught beyond comprehension. They had been robbed of all their dignity. They had no voice - they were not heard.

Saint Peter Claver's group took medicine, food, and supplies to them. He is quoted encouraging his helpers by saying we can break the language barrier with actions not words.

"We must speak to them with our hands, before we try to speak to them with our lips," he said.



St. Peter Claver referred to himself as a "slave of the slaves forever." His ministry spanned four decades, serving at the port, visiting plantations, and advocating for better conditions. He shared Christ's love and compassion with more than 300,000 slaves before he died in 1654.

The painting - *El Esclavo de Los Esclavos (The Slave to The Slaves)* is by Raul Berzosa of Spain.

Apply the Gospel to Life

September 13th is the memorial of St. John Chrysostom.

Saint John got his title “Chrysostom,” meaning “golden mouthed” in Greek, because of his captivating gift of preaching. This fourth century saint’s homilies on the Gospel, families, marriage, and understanding God’s love for us continue to motivate Christians today.

He was an archbishop of Constantinople in the fourth century.

Quotes from his homilies:

“Are you a sinner? Do not become discouraged and come to Church to put forward repentance. Have you sinned? Then tell God, ‘I have sinned.’ What manner of toil is this, what prescribed course of life, what affliction? What manner of difficulty is it to make one statement, ‘I have sinned?’ Perhaps if you do not call yourself a sinner, you do not have the devil as an accuser? Anticipate this and snatch the honor away from him, because it is his purpose to accuse. Therefore, why do you not prevent him, and why do you not tell your sin and wipe it out, since you know that you have such an accuser who cannot remain silent? Have you sinned? Come to Church. Tell God, ‘I have sinned.’ I do not demand anything else of you than this.

“Holy Scripture states, ‘Be the first one to tell of your transgressions, so you may be justified.’ Admit the sin to annul it. This requires neither labor nor a circuit of words, nor monetary expenditure, nor anything else whatsoever such as these. Say one word, think carefully about the sin and say, ‘I have sinned.’”

Be A Giver & A Doer

“The bee is more honored than other animals, not because she labors, but because she labors for others.”

“If you cannot find Christ in the beggar at the church door, you will not find Him in the chalice.”

St. John Chrysostom, pray for us!

The painting by Joseph Wencker (c.1880) is John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople, chastising Eastern Roman Empress Eudoxia for her pride and decadence, circa AD 404.





OLIVE BRANCH MINISTRY

A DAY TO HELP INDIVIDUALS SEPARATED OR DIVORCED

8:30 AM-3:30 PM


OCTOBER 11, 2025

ST. MICHAEL ANGELUS CENTER

NATIONAL ROAD, WHEELING

RSVP: DWC.ORG

The Olive Branch – a program for individuals separated or divorced to provide resources and encourage personal and spiritual growth during a painful time.



The Olive Branch stands as a quiet assurance that peace and new life are promised to those who hold to their faith, so you never have to walk alone.

REGISTER AT:

dwc.org/the-olive-branch

To the individual going through this time,

In Genesis, Chapter 8, “the olive branch” is a symbol of new life. It was brought to Noah by a dove. It was the first real sign that the flood was subsiding and that there was indeed new life beyond the storm. Seeing the olive branch made it possible for a nearly hopeless Noah to be able to turn his fear and doubt into certainty and hope.

There are times when we all need a sign-something to hold on to. Often the sign does not change our immediate circumstance, but it does change us and our ability to endure with a renewed sense of direction. Why? Because it reminds us that we are not alone and that our destination is in His hands. We need to merely stay the course and find our way back home-our way back to the Lord.

I pray this ministry will be for you-your Olive Branch.

Peace,

Kathy Barton, Director of Social Ministries



Write to and Pray for Our Seminarians!

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

2025 - 2026

Pontifical College Josephinum (7625 N High St., Columbus, OH 43235)



Donvito Cortese
Birthday: Aug. 30
Fourth Collège



David Hensler
Birthday: July 29
First Philosophy



Timothy Kawash
Birthday: July 22
Second Theology



Sebastian Lasko
Birthday: Sept. 18
Second Collège



Daniel Long
Birthday: Apr. 15
Propaedeutic Year



Reece Lopatka
Birthday: June 5
First Philosophy

Mount St. Mary's Seminary (16300 Old Emmitsburg Rd., Emmitsburg, MD 21727)



Michael Aiello
Birthday: Sept. 16
Third Theology



Andrew Dean
Birthday: Nov. 14
First Philosophy



Nathan Schmidt
Birthday: Jan. 20
Second Theology

Pope St. John Paul II Seminary (145 Taylor St. NE, Washington, DC 20017)



Dominick Beckman
Birthday: Dec. 10
Propaedeutic Year



Thomas Lough
Birthday: July 23
Propaedeutic Year



Christopher Nelson
Birthday: Dec. 4
Second Collège

Pastoral Assignment



Clifton Mastran
Birthday: May 1
St. Joseph the Worker
229 California Ave.
Weirton, WV 26062



Bryan Tedeschi
Birthday: Oct. 17
St. Vincent de Paul
67 Liberty St.,
Berkeley Springs, WV 25411

Vocations Office



Fr. John Soplinski
Director of Vocations
jsoplinski@dwc.org
304 233-0880 ext. 298



Jacqueline Mercer
Assistant to the Director of Vocations
jmercer@dwc.org
304-233-0880 ext. 442

Pontifical North American College (00120 Vatican City State Europe)



Joseph Derico
Birthday: Feb. 16
First Theology



Michael J. Tupta
Birthday: Apr. 24
Second Theology

JOIN THE MOVEMENT TO FEED THE HUNGRY

through
the love
of Christ!



Provide nutritious meals for children and families
in developing countries and share God's love by putting your faith into action.

Come and pack **60,000** meals with us!
Saturday, September 13, 2025

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

The Angelus Center at St. Michael Parish
1225 National Rd., Wheeling, WV 26003

For more information or to sign up today, please contact:

Will Dempsey • 304-382-3081 • wkdempsey3@gmail.com



**Knights of
Columbus®**



**Cross Catholic
OUTREACH**

Delivering Food, Shelter and Hope to the Poorest of the Poor

To Volunteer





Knights of Columbus®



**Cross Catholic
OUTREACH**

Delivering Food, Shelter and Hope to the Poorest of the Poor

WV Knights of Columbus + Wheeling Hospital 175th Anniversary Food Packing Event

60,000-Meal Food Packing Event: **Saturday, September 13, 2025**

An estimated 820 million people do not have enough to eat, and in the poorest countries, families sometimes go days without food. More than 3 million children die from hunger-related causes each year; that's one child every 10 seconds.*

To help fight the scourge of hunger in developing countries, we are partnering with Cross Catholic Outreach to pack nourishing meals. These nutrient-rich meals designed by a nutritionist will feed children and families in a poverty-stricken country for just 33 cents a meal.

By donating your time and treasure, you can make a difference! We invite Knights, families, community and school groups to come join us in this incredible Corporal Work of Mercy to feed the hungry. If you are inclined and able to do so, donations to support our efforts are also appreciated.

175TH ANNIVERSARY

1850-2025

WVUMedicine
WHEELING HOSPITAL

How many meals would you like to sponsor?

SPONSORSHIP	AMOUNT	MEALS PROVIDED
<input type="checkbox"/> Friend Sponsor	\$250	757
<input type="checkbox"/> Peace Sponsor	\$500	1,515
<input type="checkbox"/> Love Sponsor	\$1,000	3,030
<input type="checkbox"/> Joy Sponsor	\$2,500	7,575
<input type="checkbox"/> Faith Sponsor	\$5,000	15,151

YES! I want to help. Please accept my gift of \$_____.

Please provide the following information for your gift. Checks should be made payable to **Cross Catholic Outreach**.

Company/Organization Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

We hope you enjoy receiving ministry information and updates from Cross Catholic Outreach via email. If you do not wish to receive these email messages from us, please check this box:

Project Number: **UCP25K5049021**



**DONATE
ONLINE!**

or mail your
check to the
address below.

Please mail your gift to:

Cross Catholic Outreach • Donation Processing Center • PO Box 97168 • Washington DC 20090-7168

To give online, scan the QR code • 800-914-2420

*Sources: World Health Organization, United Nations

Donations from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this project incurred through June 30, 2025, the close of our ministry's fiscal year. In the event that more funds are raised than needed to fully fund the project, the excess funds, if any, will be used to meet the most urgent needs of the ministry.

This was produced by Cross Catholic Outreach, Inc. which is recognized as a tax exempt organization under IRC § 501(c)(3). Our principal office is PO Box 273908, Boca Raton, FL 33427-3908, Tel: 561-392-9212. Contributions to Cross Catholic Outreach, Inc. are tax deductible for federal income tax purposes. Requests for copies of recent financial statements or other information may be directed to Compliance Officer at the address and telephone number listed above.

ANNUAL NOVENA TO THE INFANT JESUS OF PRAGUE

SEPTEMBER 8 – NOVEMBER 3, 2025
NINE CONSECUTIVE MONDAYS AT 7:00 P.M.

Hope Does Not Disappoint



Cathedral of Saint Joseph
Wheeling, West Virginia

“The more you honor me, the more I will bless you.”

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Wisdom 9:13-18b

Our choices in life don't compare to God's choices for us.

Responsorial: Psalm 90

"In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge."

Second Reading: Philemon 9-10, 12-17

Paul urges Philemon in a letter he wrote to him from prison to welcome Onesimus – who had run away, discovered his faith, and was baptized. Onesimus was once a slave, and Paul makes it clear to Philemon; he is your brother in Christ.

Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

Jesus preaches: So, you want to be a disciple? With no regrets, leave all you have, carry your cross in order to truly follow me and be a disciple.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that like our newest saints – Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati - may we always put Christ first and let others see His compassion, joy, and invitation through us, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For world leaders that they work together to bring peace and justice to all nations, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That we may accept all God's children as our brothers and sisters—people of every language, background, and way of life—and build bridges across whatever may divide us, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For the prayers we hold in the silence of our hearts and for all those written in the books of intentions in our parishes and missions throughout the diocese, 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
Keyser - coming soon	FM	98.9
Montgomery - Beckley	FM	89.7
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~

ENROLL TODAY

WV Catholic Schools

*Empowered
by knowledge.
Transformed
by faith.*



Register today

wvcatholicschools.org



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.