

Faith IN WV

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON



AUGUST 13, 2023



One Million ROSARIES

FOR VOCATIONS IN WV
START DATE IS HERE!

The One Million Rosaries for Vocations in WV official start day of August 15th – the Feast of the Assumption – is finally here!

Our parishioners, Catholic schools, PSR programs, campus ministries, Catholic organizations, and religious are the key pray-ers to its success.

Wheeling-Charleston, to a variety of Catholic organizations as the two promote One Million Rosaries for Vocations in WV.

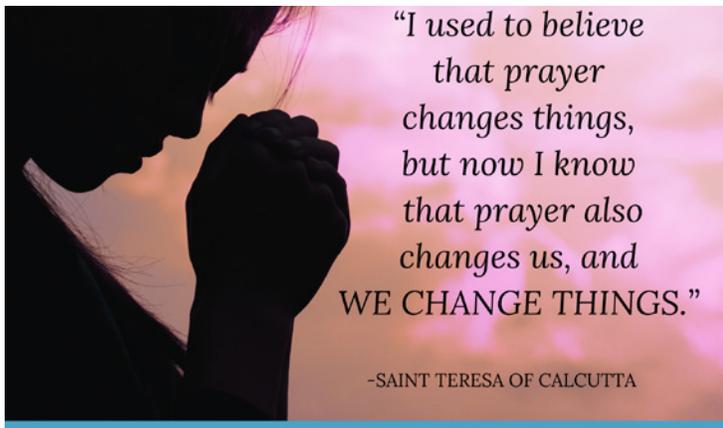
“I’ve decided personally, I need to stop joining the complaining chorus - voices echoing negativity – and actively be a part of a solution for the Church,” Bibey said to the St. Michael Parish Christian Mothers group last week. “The Rosary is a great means to that end. If I’m not praying for vocations to religious life, faith-filled marriages, and people to hear God’s call to holiness then I am choosing to continue to be a part of the problem.”

Supported by Bishop Mark Brennan the One Million Rosaries for Vocations in WV extends through the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on Oct. 7th. You can go to the site repeatedly and enter the rosaries you have said with the intention of increased vocations in WV or the ones you commit to saying.

“You are not sharing your name, address, or phone number – this truly the honor system at its finest,” Bibey said. “The fulfillment of this pledge is in your hands to God.”

She urges Catholics in the state to not just have good intentions and not to make this just a one and done check list.

“We take too much for granted, we want to put blame on others, while what we need to be doing is put our actions in front of our words,” she said. “We have groups doing just that for this campaign. One group shared with me that they entered the number of rosaries they hoped to say for vocations, but after checking with their members they have already reached their goal. So, they are going to set another goal and enter that amount on the diocesan website, as well as share the site with their friends and



-SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA



One Million
ROSARIES
FOR VOCATIONS WITHIN THE
DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

PLEDGE YOURS!



dwc.org/onemillionrosaries

Beyond making a personal prayer pledge for the amount of rosaries you will say this year for vocations it is also vital that you share the campaign with others outside the state and country to join us! That is how we can be difference makers.

“I’m encouraging others to be that radical change we need,” Joyce Bibey of the Office of Communications and Marketing said. Bibey has accompanied Sister Martha Gomez, Delegate for Consecrated Life in the Diocese of

relatives around the country and other parts of the world. Talk about being on a mission. It's a friendly competition that will result in great spiritual gifts for the Church."

Saint Teresa of Calcutta said, "I used to believe that prayer changes things, but now I know that prayer also changes us, and we change things."

"Let's be that change," Bibey said.

Making your prayer pledge count is simple:

1. GO TO: dwc.org
2. CLICK: "One Million Rosaries" banner
3. CHECK: if you are with a parish, school, mission, or other (ie out of the state, out of the country, university, seminary, religious order, congregation, etc.)
4. ENTER--- the number of Rosaries you will say for WV vocations (from 1-999)
5. CLICK SUBMIT!

Pledges can also be called into Bibey at (304)233-0880 ext. 357.

In WV we have nearly 67,000 Catholics. "In a perfect world if each of us said only 15 we would have more than one million," Bibey said.

In an effort to help everyone along the diocese has provided a plethora of resources on the website. Continue to check it and The Catholic Spirit, FaithInWV e-bulletins, your parish bulletins, and your Catholic school newsletters for more encouragement.

#MillionRosaries4WV



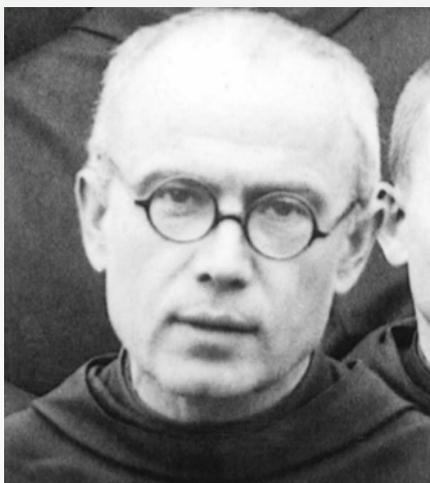
HONOR CHRIST'S REAL PRESENCE LIKE ST. MAXIMILLIAN KOLBE

Searching for Christ?

Open your mind and heart to find Him at Mass. Heed the words of Saint Maximilian Kolbe, "God dwells in our midst, in the Blessed Sacrament of the altar." His feast day is August 14.

In 1941, St. Maximilian, a Franciscan priest, was a prisoner in the Auschwitz death camp, sent there after being arrested for helping Polish refugees and about 2,000 Jews. When a prisoner had escaped the camp, the Nazis picked 10 of the already frail men at random as retaliation to suffer in an underground cell for weeks of painful dehydration and starvation. Saint Maximilian persuaded the Nazis to let him take the place of one of the chosen who had immediately cried out in agony for his wife and children.

The soldiers mocked, but accepted Father Kolbe's offer and threw him in with the other men. It was reported he preached



to them as the days and nights passed. After two weeks, Nazi soldiers entered the bunker and found St. Maximilian still alive. He was put to death by lethal injection. He gave the ultimate sacrifice, and often when referring to his story the bible verse John 15:13 is quoted: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down his life for his friends."

The man he saved was, Franciszek Gajowniczek. He attended St. Maximilian's canonization in 1982.

Saint Maximilian promoted perpetual Eucharistic Adoration to forever honor Christ's Real Presence. He preached over and over, "If angels could be jealous of men, they would be so for one reason: Holy Communion."

To learn more about his astonishing story check out the website of the [NATIONAL SHRINE OF ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE AT MARYTOWN](http://www.nskolbe.org).

FOURTH GRADER PROVES TO BE A FAITH BUILDER

JULIAN HAAS USES MINECRAFT FOR A LOOK INSIDE THE CHURCH

Many Catholic parents can admit they have a hard time teaching some of the routine let alone complicated aspects of our faith to their kids in a way they find fascinating and interactive.

One of the last things a parent may think to do is ask a kid for advice. However, you may want to rethink that.



Nine-year-old Julian Haas a soon-to-be fourth grader at Point Harmony Elementary in Cross Lanes, with the help of his dad, Mark Haas, has constructed a way to connect fun and games to faith and formation – Minecraft!

“It’s super cool to build something and be able to teach people real stuff about the Church,” Julian said.

The Catholic faith can be a bit intimidating and even strange, but by using Julian’s favorite game - which happens to be the most popular game in video game history - the Haases have made faith facts attention grabbing.

For those who don’t know what Minecraft is think LEGO and Lincoln Logs meet video gaming. There are many ways to play the game that uses blocks, creatures, and adventure, but it is best known for its creative building fun as you are limited only by your imagination.

So how did this endeavor begin? Julian had been playing Minecraft for a couple years in some of his free time. He was most proud of an imaginary community he built, “a

town that has houses and also a baseball field, a football field, and even a hotel,” he said.

Dad was so fascinated he wanted to think of something the two could build together.

“I went to him with ‘why don’t we try to build our church?’”

Their church is the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston. A little daunting of a task, but Julian was happy and eager to accept the challenge.

It took the duo a couple of months to complete.

“We would work on it a little at a time, maybe leave it for a week, then come back to it,” Mark said. “We impressed ourselves.”

The whole family enjoyed it – mom Renae; sisters Ruth, Josephine, Magdalyn, and Victoria; and brother Isaac. Julian will have to wait a couple years to get the reaction of his youngest sibling, Grace Elizabeth, who was just born in July.



“We had fun working together in Minecraft, but then I thought we could use this somehow,” Mark said. “I thought we could really use this to teach (and learn).”

continue...

Mark is the music director at the church and instinctively thought of what an audience may want and respond well to – “a video!”

They completed their first video We Built Our Church in Minecraft in January; and Mark posted it on his Facebook page. Watch it and you will get an inside look at the Basilica – colorful block version of course – and a great commentary from Julian and his dad about the gathering area, church store, sacristy, nave, choir loft, sanctuary, and bell tower that Julian was excited to demonstrate – “it actually tolls!” The tour also includes a peak at the cry room at the church, where they jokingly said brother Isaac belongs. He makes a cameo in the video.

“People would tell me they thought it was really cool,” Julian said, adding that his teacher even saw it.

The Minecrafters have completed five additional videos now, which led Mark to create a YouTube channel they titled, “Catholic Minecraft.”

The list includes:

- Going to Confession in Minecraft! (which lists a



resource for confession from fathersofmercy.com). Viewers can see what the confessional at the basilica looks like

and find out what to expect, what to say (including our prayers), what happens, and why you would go to confession.

- Praying the Rosary in Minecraft! This video



defines what the Rosary is, the prayers it includes, and the mysteries – the life of Christ to think about as you pray. The

resource they share is: THECATHOLICKID.COM.

- The Sacrament of Baptism in Minecraft! “This



one is my favorite and was most fun to make,” Julian said. Check it out to view not only the baptismal font in the

co-cathedral, but also get some pretty intricate Minecraft creations that visually aid references in the bible of God’s baptismal waters, including the creation of the earth; Noah’s ark (Julian included cages with animals and also adequate beds for

Noah’s family); Moses and the parting of the water; and the baptism of Jesus.

- The Four Marks of the Church in Minecraft! Learn



how the four marks of the church are recited at Mass in the Nicene Creed – one, holy, Catholic, and apostolic. Julian also reveals in the video a mind-blowing fun fact that “there is even a diocese on the moon!” (Bonus: sister Ruthie makes a sweet appearance in the video).

- Altar Serving in Minecraft! Julian loves being an



altar server at Mass, so watch this video to get an altar server’s point of view. Julian explains his duties during the Mass, and the

duo stops to explain what a few words mean and the importance. They also explain why altar servers are to hold their hands in prayer a certain way.

“I really like teaching people this way,” Julian said.

The platform help’s un-complicate the message. Jesus’ teachings are pretty simple, according to Julian.

His outlook - while on the super impressive side - is blissfully sensible. His favorite bible verse reflects that straight-forward unassuming faith Jesus wants us to have – I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6).

His favorite song, “O God Beyond All Praising,” echoes our wonder of God’s blessings, mercies, and love for us.

If we heed Julian’s advice, we can all grow in faith if we don’t try to complicate it, and choose to see it more like children, and then share it.

Julian’s favorite saint, Mark (which is Julian’s first name), teaches us in his Gospel (10:45), “For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve.” Mark is also the Gospel writer who gets right to the point all while painting us an impressive picture of Jesus and making it easy for us to put ourselves in the scene of the readings.

So, what will Julian come up with next to build and tackle as a topic?

“I want to keep it a surprise,” he said.

You will have to keep tabs on or subscribe to their YouTube channel (WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/@CATHOLICMINECRAFT) to find out.

#FaithInWV

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

On August 15, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, when she was taken up body and soul to heaven, sharing in her son's victory over death and resurrection.

The bible does not give us an exact account of this glorious moment. We can only imagine that perhaps at her last breath on earth she was taken into the arms of angels as the heavens opened and the most luminous light came down to kiss the earth, welcoming Mary to her eternal home in paradise with her son our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Mary is the true first disciple of Christ. We honor her for saying yes to God to be the mother of our Savior. We honor her for continuing to stay strong in faith and trusting Jesus always.

It was in 1950, when Pope Pius XII, invoking Papal Infallibility, stated, "We pronounce, declare, and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma: that the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory."

The official document - [MUNIFICENTISSIUM DEUS](#) - defines the dogma of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary by Pope Pius XII.

Pope Francis said faith is the defining virtue of Mary and the Assumption is a foreshadowing of what awaits each of us.

"The Gospel also shows us the truest reason for Mary's greatness and her blessedness: it is faith - the heart of Mary's entire story," he said.

The Assumption is one of the most important Marian feast days in the Catholic Church.

When Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth shortly after conceiving Jesus through the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth said, "Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Mary's response, called the "Magnificat," praises God for the marvelous deeds he has done both in her own life and throughout history.

In this prayer Mary expresses her complete joy fully aware of God's will. Through her words she reveals her faith in the promise of the baby Jesus is God's work of liberation for the people.

The Magnificat, song of Mary, is found. In Luke 1:46-55:

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every

generation. He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his descendants forever."

"The great things done in (Mary) by the Omnipotent One touch us deeply, they speak to us of our journey in life, they remind us of the end that awaits us: the house of the Father," Pope Francis said.

Because of the Assumption, we can see life as "not a



senseless wandering, but a pilgrimage which, with all of the sufferings and uncertainties, has a sure destination,” he said. The final destination is heaven, where the Father awaits us with love.

However, until that destination is reached, God has given his people a sign of consolation and hope for the journey, Pope Francis said.

Let us all be in awe of the life and faith of the Blessed Mother. May she from the gates of Heaven help us to fix our eyes on Jesus and choose greatness in all we do no matter how great or small the task.

In honor of the Solemnity of the Assumption, reflect how we can be a good example for others, inspiring their spiritual growth and strong virtues.

Let us share our respect, joy, and love of Mary for all to see; and not hesitate to ask her to intercede for us.

Let us contemplate what God is asking us to do and then find the courage to say, “Yes” to do God’s will.

Let us mindfully care for others in our neighborhood, nearby nursing homes, or parish community, like Mary cared for Elizabeth.

Let us be confident in our prayers just as Mary was when she called upon her Son at the Wedding Feast at Cana.

Let our faith reflect our trust in the Lord so that upon our death we see Mary at the gates of Heaven, lovingly welcoming us into the arms of Jesus in paradise.



SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY AUGUST 15, 2023

First Reading: Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10

She is clothed with the sun and crowned with the stars.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 45

“The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold.”

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:20-27

Paul says as Christ is the hope – the firstfruits – of all who have fallen asleep.

Gospel: Luke 1:39-56

Luke tells us of the visitation of Mary to Elizabeth, as the unborn John the Baptists jumps in her womb, Elizabeth proclaims of Mary, “Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb.”

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we may continue to grow in holiness as we hear the word of God and observe it, as did Mary, the Mother of God, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For women around the world, that they may receive the honor and respect that is due to all children of God, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For young people, that they may respond generously and willingly if the Lord calls them to ordained or consecrated life, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That we may each strive to bring Christ into our world, imitating the Blessed Virgin Mary in taking on this responsibility, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

THE BOY MARTYR OF THE EUCHARIST

HONOR ST. TARCISIUS, AUG. 15

At the age of 12, he knew the divine and vital importance of the Eucharist – the Real Presence of Christ – the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us pray in this Parish Year of the National Eucharistic Revival that we comprehend this Heavenly Treasure like Saint Tarcisus and not take it for granted.

Tarcisus (Tar-sis-ee-us) was an acolyte – an altar server - that lived in the third century, a time of horrific persecution of Christians by the Roman Empire. Christians had to gather underground in the catacombs on the outskirts of Rome. These secret passageways were known only to the Christians, so they could pray together and attend Mass.



When Tarcisus was 12 he begged his bishop to let him be the one to carry the most Holy Eucharist to the Christians who were imprisoned and condemned to die, because of their love of Christ. He persuaded the bishop that because he was just a boy no one would suspect he'd be carrying the Church's most precious treasure.

Tarcisus wrapped the Eucharist in linen and secured it close to his heart. He said, "I would die rather than let go of (Him)."

On his way, he was stopped and confronted by a group of his pagan peers. They noticed he was hiding something beneath his tunic. He felt their evil gaze and quietly called out to Jesus. When they heard this, it confirmed he was Christian, and they were enraged. They taunted him and beat him with fists, sticks, and stones, trying to get to whatever it was he was carrying and gripping tightly to his heart.

A man came upon the brawl, and when he was told the Tarcisus was Christian he delivered a devastating blow just before a Roman soldier ran up to separate the mob. The soldier chastised them for beating the child. He picked him up and carried him back to the bishop.

The official Roman Martyrology records that the Eucharist he was carrying had disappeared, and the Body of Christ he

was carrying had become "flesh of his flesh thereby forming together with his body a single immaculate host offered to God" upon the final blow. It is also noted that the Roman soldier who carried Saint Tarcisus away was a secret Christian.

Saint Tarcisus, patron saint of First Holy Communicants and altar servers, pray for us.

An excellent video to watch and share in your family and parish was produced by Divine Mercy and narrated by Fr. Tyler Mentzer: WWW.THEDIVINEMERCY.ORG/VIDEOS/WHY-YOU-NEED-KNOW-ST-TARCISIUS

Editor's note: the art accompanying this story is by Tracy Christianson on a prayer card available at: WWW.PORTRAITSOFSAINTS.COM



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



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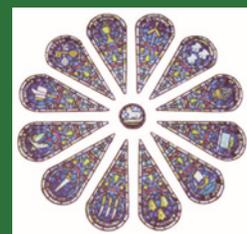
*For any grieving parent
whose child of any age has
died by any cause,
no matter how long ago*

**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,

*Retreat in Daily Life
19th Annotation Retreat
The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius*



*The **Spiritual Exercises** are a compilation of prayers, meditations, and contemplative practices developed by St. Ignatius Loyola to help people deepen their relationship with God. For centuries the Exercises were most commonly given as a “long retreat” of about 30 days in solitude and silence.*

*The **19th Annotated retreat** is a special form of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, which allows a person to be directed thru the Spiritual Exercises while remaining at home.*

This retreat is designed for those wishing to make the Spiritual Exercises, but whose life circumstances make it impossible for them to make a full-time retreat for 30 days. The retreat will help deepen one’s awareness of God’s presence, grow in one’s relationship with God, notice the Spirit’s action in one’s life and help one to integrate prayer into their daily life.

WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM THE SPIRITUAL EXERCISES?

- ◆ *Those who desire to grow in their relationship with God.*
- ◆ *Those who have a desire to live life at a deeper level.*
- ◆ *Those who seek to understand more clearly God’s movements in their lives.*
- ◆ *Those who want to discern the next step in their lives.*
- ◆ *Those who are in transition.*

WHAT WILL BE REQUIRED?

The person making the retreat commits to:

- ◆ *A daily meditative period of prayer for at least one hour.*
- ◆ *A short period of reflection on prayer experience, taking notes of the insights one has received.*
- ◆ *Sharing with the director what has occurred in one’s prayers.*
- ◆ *Meeting once per week with the director with dates coordinated with the director.*

The retreat will be offered online or in person at St. Joseph Retreat Center in Wheeling, WV, from September, 2023 through May, 2024.

The retreat can take about 34 weeks to complete.

A suggested stipend is \$30.00 per week.

Questions?

Contact Sister Ileana Fernandez, CSJ, via email at ifernandez@csjoseph.org or Anna Marie Troiani via email at atroiani@csjoseph.org or by phone at 304-907-0171



NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a

Elijah hears the whisper of God despite the violent wind and crushing rocks. God is always near.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 85

“Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.”

Second Reading: Romans 9:1-5

Paul shares the truth of Christ and finds it heart breaking that others cut themselves off from recognizing Jesus.

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus walks on water to the disciples in the boat. He told them not to be frightened. Peter too walked on the water, but when he became fearful, he sank. Jesus said, “O you of little faith, why do you doubt?”

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/081323.CFM

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that all of the faithful and baptized recognize Christ's Real Presence in the Eucharist - the Bread of Life to strengthen us, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those who serve in public office, that they may uphold the sanctity of all human life, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all who are ill in body, mind, or spirit, that they may experience God's healing touch through the care of others, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our diocese and parish families, that we not only make a habit of praying the Rosary for vocations that we confidently call others to do the same, 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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by knowledge.
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.