



FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

PRAY FOR CLEAR VISION TO SEE CHRIST IN HIS GLORY IN OUR OWN TRIALS

“Jesus took with him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain apart. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his garments became white as light” (Mt 17:1-2).

Let us all pray for clear vision to see Christ in His glory during our worry, doubts, anxiety, and challenges.

The story of the Transfiguration of Jesus is told to us by Matthew (17:1-18), Mark (9:2-8); and Luke (9:28-36). We also meditate on it as we pray the fourth Luminous Mystery Rosary.

The apostles describe the glory of Christ illuminated in a spectacular scene that is both overwhelming and breathtaking. According to scripture, as Peter, James and John were half asleep, an unimaginable radiant light awoke them. As their vision became clear they witnessed Jesus transfigured, wearing all white garments, and his face was illuminated like the light of the sun. He was joined by Moses and Elijah and the three talked about His “exodus” or departure through His Passion, death, and Resurrection.

Then Peter, James, and John hear the voice of God, “This is my beloved Son... listen to Him.”

As we reflect on the Transfiguration story, realize that the entire Trinity was present – God the Father in voice, God the Son before them, and God the Holy Spirit in the magnificent light.

It all takes place high on a mountain, which in those days was considered a place to sincerely reflect and hope for great revelation.

Just days before this magnificent event Jesus told the apostles, who were convinced he was the Messiah, that he was going to go to Jerusalem, the city of Kings. Contrary to what the apostles believed He was not going there to gain material blessings or earthly riches. He described he would go into the city and face a horrific death (Matthew 16:16-23). Jesus taught them that through his suffering and death



would come the glory of freedom from sin, and the grace of everlasting life.

Let the Feast of the Transfiguration of Jesus authentically amaze us to the point we ask ourselves; do we really listen to God? Do we do what is difficult in order to honor Him?

God invites us to do what is hard and difficult every day in the events that unfold in our daily lives.

Lord, help us to drop what we are doing to help one another. Help us to complete something that we know is for the greater good and not keep putting off. God gives us the grace to handle all challenges and difficulties. May we use our free will wisely. Let our prayers bring to us awareness of Christ’s unconditional love for us.

Editor’s note: the art featured with this article is circa. 1870 by artist Carl H. Bloch.



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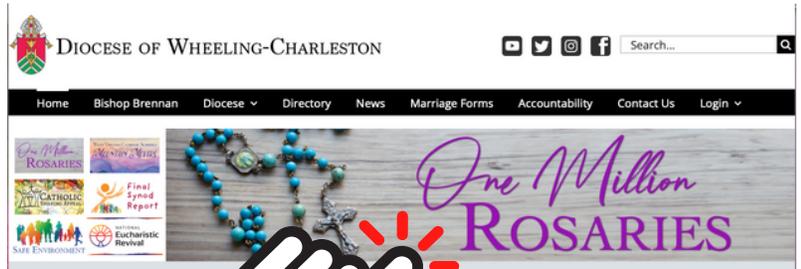
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CALL UPON THESE WOMEN FOR COURAGE AND FIERCE FAITH

AUGUST 8, FEAST DAY OF SAINT MARY MACKILLOP



“She did not give up in times of trial and darkness, when her joy was dampened by opposition or rejection,” Pope Francis said about St. Mary Helen MacKillop earlier this summer. “May her example and intercession support the daily work of parents, teachers, catechists, and

all educators, for the good of young people and for a more humane and hopeful future.”

St. Mary Helen MacKillop is a lesser-known saint we can call upon as we face life’s quick shifts and selfish culture.

Cofounder of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Australia, St. Mary was a great educator determined to serve children living in poverty, elderly, and abandoned children. With her congregation she opened Catholic schools across the country.

“Mary MacKillop was convinced that the purpose of education is the integral development of the person both as an individual and as a member of the community; and that this requires wisdom, patience and charity on the part of every teacher,” Pope Francis said. “Indeed, education does not consist in filling the head with ideas: no, not just this. What does education constitute? Accompanying and encouraging students on the path of human and spiritual growth, showing them how friendship with the Risen Jesus expands the heart and makes life more humane. Educating and helping them to think well: to listen carefully (the language of the heart) and to do good (the language of the hands). This vision is fully relevant today, when we feel the need for an ‘educational pact’ capable of uniting families, schools, and society as a whole.

“Mary had great faith in God’s Providence: she was always confident that in any situation, God provides,”

he said. She was even excommunicated unjustly by a disgruntled bishop, but upon his deathbed pleaded for her forgiveness and reversed his order.

Pray to St. Mary Helen MacKillop today, asking her to intercede for you to Christ, giving you strength to carry your cross.

(Painting of St. Mary is by Australian artist Paul Newton)

AUGUST 9, FEAST DAY OF ST. TERESA BENEDICTA OF THE CROSS

“Take everything exactly as it is, put in God’s hands and leave it with Him. Then you will be able to rest in Him – really rest – and start the next day, as a new life.” – St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross.

She was born Edith Stein in Poland in 1891, to a hardworking and loving Jewish family. After the death of her father, when she was two, her mother had to help keep the family timber business operational. Prayer and faith became obsolete in the family. The need to survive and succeed prevailed.



Stein was an excellent student earned a doctorate in philosophy with a thesis on “The Problem of Empathy.” In it she would declare that empathy is an instinct of being human - a ‘direct perception account’ - we do not need to have had the same experiences of those we encounter we just know and sense that they are feeling scared, happy, or upset, because we encounter their ‘spirit.’”

Scholars have argued the use of the word “spirit.” However, they cannot debate the spiritual awakening she had.

She read the autobiography of St. Teresa of Avila, then would tell others, “When I had finished the book, I said to myself: ‘This is the truth.’” Months later Stein took Holy Orders in 1922 with the Carmelites nuns.

However, tensions on all fronts discouraged her and she left to teach philosophy. In 1933, because of anti-Jewish laws Stein was no longer able to teach. Her heart led to go back to the Carmelite monastery, where she took the name Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. Her mother was devastated, feeling as if she was victimized by the Nazis and abandoned by her daughter. However, St. Teresa did not abandon her love of her mother or the foundation of her faith – the same faith of the Holy Family.

Saint Teresa wrote a letter to Pope Pius XI, pleading for him to denounce the Nazis and the attacks on Jews, and to join faithful Catholics who were “waiting and hoping for the Church of Christ to raise its voice to put a stop to this abuse of Christ’s name.” She never heard back. When the Church in the Netherlands formerly denounced the actions of the Nazis, she was arrested for being a Jewish convert to Catholicism. A few days later Saint Teresa Benedicta was martyred in Auschwitz.

A morning prayer by St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross:

“O my God, fill my soul with holy joy, courage, and strength to serve You. Enkindle Your love in me and then walk with me along the next stretch of road before me. Amen.”

Read more about her in an impressive and detailed profile presented by St. Therese Catholic Church, Alhambra, California, by [CLICKING HERE](#) and by the Vatican [HERE](#).

AUGUST 11, MEMORIAL OF ST. CLARE OF ASSISI



Saint Clare of Assisi was wealthy and beautiful. However, she was not happy. Her heart ached over the fact that there were so many poor in her town and surrounding communities. As a teenager, in 1211, she

heard St. Francis of Assisi preach about Jesus caring for the poor. After meeting St. Francis of Assisi, she chose to be a bride of the Church, commit to unceasing prayer, and care for the poor and sick. Clare’s long hair was cut off by St. Francis. Her gorgeous dresses and jewels were replaced with a humble grey robe and wooden sandals.

Her father was upset at her actions and tried to have her forcibly removed from the monastery, but her resolve was so steadfast her family conceded and let her be. She

along with her sister Agnes founded a convent at the church of San Damiano in Assisi with the help of St. Francis. After her father died, St. Clare’s own mother joined their community. They would later be known as the Poor Clares, embracing poverty, penance, and prayer in cloistered life.

Clare was devoted to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. In 1240, when a group of Saracen terrorists were attacking Italy and threatening Assisi, she ran to the Blessed Sacrament and begged Jesus to protect the sisters. She heard Christ say, “I will always protect you.” As the story goes, she grabbed the monstrance and upon seeing it the Saracens fled in terror.

Pope Benedict XVI blessed the faithful in his audience with a special blessing written and given by St. Clare for the Poor Clares:

“I give you my blessing now while living, and after my death, in as far as I may: nay, even more than I may, I call down on you all the blessings that the Father of mercies has bestowed and continues to bestow on his spiritual sons and daughters both in Heaven and on earth, and with which a spiritual father and mother have blessed and will bless their spiritual sons and daughters. Amen”

St. Clare of Assisi, pray for us and let us be faithful to Christ with your confidence in knowing he will always protect us.

(Photo art project of St. Clare is by photographic artist Kristyn Brown)

AUGUST 12 - MEMORIAL OF ST. JANE FRANCES DE CHANTAL

St. Jane Frances de Chantal was born in 1572 into a well to do French family. Her mother died when she was a toddler, so she was raised by her father, M. Benigne Fremoit – President of the Senate of Dijon. Jane was smart and kind, caring for her father and others as if she was serving God. She adored the Blessed Virgin Mary and found strength in her and her grace.



She was happily married at 21 and had four children. However, seven years into her marriage, her husband

was shot and killed in a hunting accident. Even though she was tormented with sadness, felt abandoned by God, and overwhelmed with living as a young widow, she was able to forgive the shooter, because God would want her to forgive.

Jane questioned if she ever would be happy again. She was confused about what God really wanted from her life. She concentrated on listening to her heart and not her anxious mind. She prayed for spiritual guidance.

After hearing St. Francis de Sales speak, she found the beginnings of peace. He became her spiritual director. When her children were grown, she became a nun and later the Mother Superior for the Order of the Visitation,

which she founded with St. Francis de Sales.

In a book of her writings – *Selected Letters of Saint Jane Frances de Chantal* – she writes honestly her feelings of abandonment, confusion, joy, sorrow, and many other common feelings we all have, but fail to relate to a saint’s life.

“Though we should fall fifty times a day, let us rise again quite simply, without wasting thought in self-reflections on what we may have done or left undone. Such useless discouragements are often greater faults than the ones that so disturb us.”

St. Jane Frances, pray for us.



NEWS FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES WEST VIRGINIA

BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES: BACK TO SCHOOL WITH CATHOLIC CHARITIES

At Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa), back-to-school season is year-round through the agency’s Adult Education Program.

“Education is a powerful tool for individuals to improve their circumstances,” said Jason Miller, CCWVa Western Regional Director.

CCWVa’s Adult Education Program provides free classes to any adult who wishes to work toward a high school equivalency, earn a certification for work, or gain skills to pursue a new career or higher education. The program is offered in Mullens, Huntington, and McDowell County.

Research shows not only does adult education have a positive impact on learners’ employability and income; it also helps individuals acquire a renewed sense of self as well as an improved quality of life.



Catholic Charities’ Adult Education Program provides free classes to any adult who wishes to further his or her education or gain new skills.



Catholic Charities’ Adult Education Instructors work one-on-one with learners to provide customized instruction.

“We serve many adults who are in recovery from Substance Use Disorder,” said Miller. “We walk alongside our learners in their journeys – providing not only education, but also supportive services and resources to overcome barriers that may be preventing individuals from reaching their goals.”

At CCWVa, all program staff are trained in Adverse Childhood Experiences and trauma-informed care techniques to provide the highest-quality care possible to vulnerable West Virginians.

“Our adult learners go on to earn gainful employment, pursue higher education, advance in their careers, achieve stability or reach long-term goals,” said Miller. “We’re grateful to help provide the foundation for them to take those next steps.”

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia, visit www.CATHOLICCHARITIESWV.ORG.

The Mission of Catholic Charities West Virginia: *Guided by God’s love, Catholic Charities collaborates with community partners, parishes and families to provide caring and compassionate services to people in need and work toward lasting and meaningful change.*

He said to them, "Come and see." - Jn 1:39

An Evening of Eucharistic Encounter

with Deacon Paul Lim

Join us for an evening of Adoration,
reflection, and music to deepen
our understanding of, love for,
and living out of the Holy Eucharist

Thursday, August 17, 2023
7:00 pm

Reconciliation will be available
Light Social to follow

Cathedral of St. Joseph
1300 Eoff Street
Wheeling, WV 26003



Deacon Paul Lim is a permanent
deacon in the Diocese of Pittsburgh.
He currently serves as Vice-President
of Mission Integration at WVU
Medicine Wheeling Hospital.



A PATH TO HEALING

Restorative Justice (RJ) is a process to collectively work to repair harm and bring about healing. RJ is currently being used in various settings to re-establish balance and understanding.

Schools use RJ as a way to decrease suspension and increase understanding of troubled students. Criminal Justice systems use RJ to bring about healing between those harmed and those responsible for the harm. Communities incorporate RJ to build understanding and connections. Join us in learning more about Restorative Justice and experience the RJ circle as a way to deepen empathy and understanding.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
at St. Joseph Retreat Center**

COST: \$50.00 includes lunch

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Or via email at atroiani@csjoseph.org

Scholarships are available. Please call or email for details.



Sr. Rose Ann Hefner, CSJ, is a licensed Professional Counselor, Licensed Social Worker, and a Spiritual Director. She completed the Restorative Justice Circle Process training with Kay Pranis and Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resiliency (STAR I) program at Eastern Mennonite University. She has been a Circle Keeper for churches, schools, and community events since 2019.





NATIONAL
**Eucharistic
Revival**

PARISH YEAR

As part of our on-going Eucharistic Revival efforts we welcome Dr. Tom Octave, Director of Lay Ministry for the Diocese of Pittsburgh, as he speaks to us about creating a Eucharistic culture in our parishes and beyond.

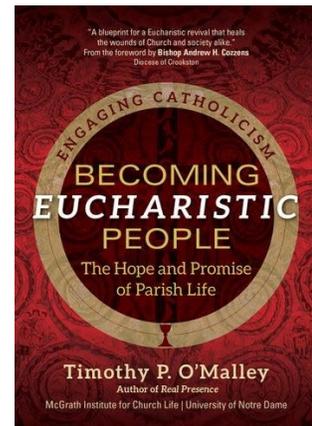
This presentation will be held in three different locations in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. Please choose the one that is most convenient for you. NO CHARGE TO ATTEND!

6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

August 21—St. Alphonsus Parish, Wheeling

August 22—St. Francis de Sales Parish, Morgantown

August 23—Sacred Heart of Mary Parish, Weirton



Using Dr. Timothy O'Malley's book, *Creating a Eucharistic Culture*, we will explore ways that we can be intentional in our parish and local communities about sharing the Eucharistic presence of Christ.

TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

First Reading: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

Daniel foreshadows the Transfiguration – clothing as bright as snow, clouds from heaven, and the Son of man.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 97

“The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth.”

Second Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-19

Peter tells us of the moment at the Transfiguration when he, James, and John heard God’s voice declare about Jesus, “This is my Son, my beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” Peter further states we should be like “a lamp shining in a dark place.” Let others see Christ in you and bring your faith in God to all in your actions and words.

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

Matthew writes of the Transfiguration and how Peter, James, and John were overcome with fear upon seeing Jesus illuminated in dazzling glory and then hearing the voice of God Almighty. However, when Jesus said, “Do not be afraid,” this caught their attention, and He immediately gave them peace as they were focused on Him alone

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/073023.CFM

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For our Church, that our faith, words, and actions help transfigure our world into a better place, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our individual parishes and all their efforts to enrich the faithful during this Parish Year of the National Eucharistic Revival, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That we respond generously with our gift of prayer for the One Million Rosary Campaign for Vocations in WV, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all the prayers we hold in the silence of our hearts - those we cannot utter, but desperately bring to the foot of the Cross, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

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Liturgy of the Hours

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.