



## CELEBRATE THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

As we celebrate the special Feast Day of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, let us remember to humble ourselves to God and let Christ's peace control our hearts.

At Mass in the Gospel Luke tells us about Jesus' presentation in the temple - a sign of Mary and Joseph's humility and respect for their faith.

As required by Mosaic Law for all males 40 days after they are born, Jesus was presented at the temple. Most parents brought along a lamb and pigeon as a sacrifice for the mother's purification, but Joseph and Mary were so poor they were only able to offer two turtledoves.

It was the first public introduction of Jesus into the house of God.

Upon entering the temple, the Holy Family was greeted by an elder priest named Simeon and the prophetess Anna. They like others had waited a lifetime for the promised Messiah. Luke's passage declares that Simeon was elated and knew immediately the infant Jesus was the Savior. He took the child into his arms then proudly raised him high and in a voice of praise exclaimed in thanksgiving to God, "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel" (Luke 2:29-32).

What happens next in Luke's Gospel reveals a striking truth - what we now identify as one of the seven piercing sorrows of Mary.

Simeon blessed the Holy Family, then looked at Mary, and said to her (Luke 2:34-35), "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to



be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

Can you imagine young Mary's heart? She was only in her early teens. One minute she is elated to hear that this great priest and prophetess recognized her baby as the one who will save the world, but in the next Simeon voices the prophecy that this Christ Child will also divide the people He was sent to save.

Why are we listening to this reading today? Bring our focus back to the celebration, respect, and mindfulness of the Holy Family. Being devout Jews, Joseph and Mary knew exactly what Simeon was saying for it was foretold in their faith the Messiah's feeling of abandonment and mockery (Psalm 22); and the prophet proclaims the lamb led to slaughter and tortured for the sins of the people (Isaiah 53); etc.

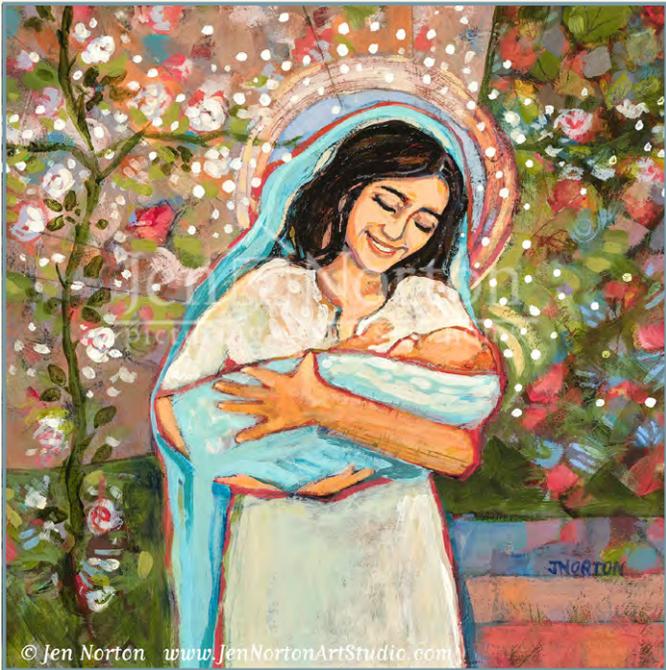
Let us have the faith and confidence in Joseph and Mary as our intercessors for they not only walked this earth like us, but also time and time again showed great obedience to God in all circumstances.

Let us pray that in our faithfulness we live in the light of Christ - just as God continues to forgive us, let us show mercy and compassion.

God, give us the courage to bring our soul and the souls of others out of the darkness. Just as Mary and Joseph, who loved you and trusted you every step, let us have faith beyond all fears. Your plan is greater than our own for we know one day we will join You in heaven and have eternal joy, love, and peace. Amen.

*A digital download of the painting of the Holy Family is available through Faithful Journey Co on Etsy: [www.etsy.com/shop/FaithfulJourneyCo](http://www.etsy.com/shop/FaithfulJourneyCo)*

# HOLY MARY, MOTHER OF GOD MAY OUR RESOLUTIONS REFLECT YOURS



Happy New Year! How appropriate that we get to celebrate Mary the Mother of God on the first day of the year? While we all naturally aim to set goals for the year to eat better, exercise, read more, or hault our bad habits, let's not overlook the most important part of our lives to nurture and give our attention to – our faith!

In the Catholic Church, January 1st is the last Octave Day of Christmas – the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. Through prayerful reflections we are asked to concentrate on Mary, a teenager and young bride with a new baby in her arms.

Put yourself in the scenes of the readings and stories of our Blessed Mother. Bring her to the front of your mind as you pray, so she can pray with you as you talk to her Son our Savior of the world.

As a young mother we can imagine that she must have been filled with loving hopes and dreams as she gazed at the miracle cuddled against her. She knew she had a husband who loved her unconditionally. He was a faithful man, protecting, caring, and providing for them. Naturally she would have had many questions and unknowns, but with grace accepted the will of God to bring Jesus Christ – true God and true man, divine and human – into the world. She made the ultimate resolution to give her whole self for the will of God and

be the mother of the Prince of Peace, making her the Queen of Peace.

As we make our resolutions, let Mary inspire us to have the resolve to better ourselves, while showing others Jesus Christ in us.

Mary was faithful to God and the traditions and customs of her day. Surely, she knew the lessons in the Old Testament and took to heart the message that is shared in the first readings we hear and read at Mass on this day. It is a blessing from Moses written in Numbers 6:24-27: “The LORD bless you and keep you! The LORD let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace!”

Today's Gospel message is from Luke (2:16-21) who shares that Mary cherished the story the shepherds told her and Joseph of the many angels that appeared and one spoke to them.

So, what did the angel say? Luke shared their words in 2:8-20 and many faithful can recite it word for word: “The angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.’”

Luke goes on and writes, “And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: ‘Glory to God in the highest. And on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.’”

Mary and Joseph wholeheartedly knew what they so lovingly agreed to months before when the angel of God appeared before them, but imagine to their surprise when the shepherds came to see their infant son. The shepherds were a tangible reminder of the miracle God promised. They validated and affirmed for the humble couple the significance of their grace filled resolution.

May we like Mary, reflect on everything in our heart and come to realize how we can bring Christ to our world in this new year.

*The painting of Mary with Baby Jesus is by Catholic artist Jen Norton of California. Norton's art is available at: [www.etsy.com/shop/JenNortonArtStudio](http://www.etsy.com/shop/JenNortonArtStudio)*

# ST. PATRICK'S WESTON INVITES FAITHFUL TO 40-HOUR DEVOTION

Father Doug Ondeck and the parishioners of St. Patrick Parish in Weston, invite the faithful from around the diocese to join with them for 40 Hours of Devotion & Eucharistic Adoration from Jan. 12-14.

For those who are not familiar with Adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, it is when the Eucharist is taken out of the tabernacle and exposed on the altar for private, personal prayer. It's a very peaceful time to bring your concerns and cares before our Lord and deepen your relationship with God.

Why 40 hours? The time is honoring the traditional 40-hours the Lord's Body rested in the tomb, and now truly present for us in the Eucharist.

Think of it as a time to come before Christ pouring out challenges, fears, failures, adversity, sorrows, joys, gratitude, and hope for the future. Adoration is time to talk to God, grow in holiness, and draw closer to Him before the Blessed Sacrament.

It is important to sign up for a time slot, in order for the parish to know someone is always in the church and present with the Blessed Sacrament. The parish is looking for at least two people per time slot. However, even if you cannot commit to a time slot, and you find the opportunity to stop into the church during the Jan. 12-14th Adoration, please do and pray with us for as long as you can.

Those in Weston may sign up after Mass in the back of church or email Mike Brumley at [brumleyma@gmail.com](mailto:brumleyma@gmail.com).

Saint Patrick's has the distinction of being one of the Diocese's first parishes. A Catholic presence had been established in Weston by 1820 for the many Irish and



German immigrants who constructed the Staunton to Parkersburg Turnpike. The original church was completed in 1848, Then to accommodate a growing Catholic population a larger structure was built in 1878 only to be replaced 36 years later, in 1914 with the current stately stone church located on Center Avenue in Weston.

The schedule framing the event is as follows:

## **Friday, January 12, 2024**

6:00 PM—Exposition and Vespers with Preached Homily

9:30 PM—Chanted Compline followed by Simple Reposition

## **Saturday, January 13, 2024**

7:00 AM Exposition

8:00 AM—Office of Readings and Lauds

8:30 AM—Votive Mass of The Most Holy Eucharist

12:00 PM—Recitation of the Angelus and the Most Holy Rosary

5:00 PM—Vespers followed by Simple Reposition

5:30 PM—Saturday Vigil Mass

9:30 PM—Chanted Compline

## **Sunday, January 14, 2024**

9:30 AM—Office of Readings and Lauds followed by Simple Reposition

10:30 AM—Solemn Mass

6:00 PM—Solemn Vespers and Benediction with Preached Sermon



# *40 Hours of Devotion*

**January 12-14, 2024**

**St. Patrick Church, Weston WV**

*All are welcome to join us!*

## **Friday, January 12:**

6:00 PM—Exposition and Vespers with Preached Homily  
9:30 PM—Chanted Compline followed by Simple Reposition

## **Saturday, January 13:**

7:00 AM Exposition  
8:00 AM—Office of Readings and Lauds  
8:30 AM—Votive Mass of The Most Holy Eucharist  
12:00 PM—Recitation of the Angelus and the Most Holy Rosary  
5:00 PM—Vespers followed by Simple Reposition  
5:30 PM—Saturday Vigil Mass  
9:30 PM—Chanted Compline

## **Sunday, January 14**

9:30 AM—Office of Readings and Lauds followed by Simple Reposition  
10:30 AM—Solemn Mass  
6:00 PM—Solemn Vespers and Benediction with Preached Sermon

*Sign up in the back of Church for your hour(s) to be with Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.  
You may also sign up via email Mike Brumley at [brumleyma@gmail.com](mailto:brumleyma@gmail.com).*



## SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY LAND REGION JAN. 13-14 IN THE DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

*by Colleen Rowan, The Catholic Spirit*

WEST VIRGINIA—Bishop Mark Brennan has approved a special collection for the Holy Land region to be held in parishes and missions of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston at Masses the weekend of Jan. 13-14.

The bishop made the announcement Dec. 14 to all priests, parishes, and missions of the diocese.

“We are all aware of the current Hamas-Israeli war and the escalation in violence in the Holy Land,” the bishop said in the announcement. “The money collected will be sent to The Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA), a papal agency for humanitarian and pastoral support. They will provide the essentials of water, food, and emergency kits on the ground in the Holy Land. CNEWA has offices in the region and know where and what kind of help is needed the most.”

Checks for the collection are to be made payable to one’s respective parish/mission and on the memo line indicate CNEWA Holy Land Collection. The parish/mission will then send one check for all contributions for this collection to the DWC Finance Department.

The bishop is asking parishes to spread the word about the importance of this collection.

“Please continue to pray for peace and for all those who have suffered losses during this war,” the bishop said.

CNEWA was founded by Pope Pius XI in 1926 as an

instrument of love and a sign of hope for those in need scattered throughout the historic but unstable lands of the ancient Eastern churches — the Middle East, Northeast Africa, India and Eastern Europe, the organization’s website states.

For nearly 100 years, the site states, CNEWA has walked side by side with those in need.

“We have prayed with them when they were attacked, comforted them when they grieved, fed them when they hungered, bandaged them when they bled, sheltered them when they had no place to call home,” the site states. “We have been there, always, through the arms of the living body of Christ, the church, as they live for others, counseling the despondent, caring for the sick, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, teaching the eager and forming the next generation of leaders.”

CNEWA, the site notes, is a network of generous and compassionate people scattered throughout the world, committed to living Jesus’ great command to “love one another” by reaching out to their neighbors in need, regardless of where their neighbor may be.

This network links generous donors with the laity, priests, sisters and bishops of the local churches — CNEWA’s “boots on the ground” — who receive help and touch countless lives in incalculable ways in Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, India, Armenia, Georgia and Ukraine.

# Women's Discernment Retreat



DIOCESE OF  
WHEELING-CHARLESTON

www.dwc.org



June 21-23, 2024 St. Joseph Retreat Center, Wheeling, WV



The Office of Consecrated Life presents a discernment retreat for single Catholic women ages 18 and over. In a world that lacks moments of silence and reflection it can be easy for us to ignore our callings. Join us and take this time to get to know yourself, your heart, and how Christ is working in your life.

- ✦ Retreat is free.
- ✦ Be with other discerning women.
- ✦ Register now - space is limited!



To Register/More Info:



Sister Martha Gomez, RGS,  
mgomez@dwc.org



Office of Consecrated Life  
(304)233-0880 ext. 264

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH  
DEC. 31

**First Reading: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14**

Give merit to kindness. Genuine kindness can mend sinful ways. Let kindness take root in your heart.

---

**Responsorial: Psalm 128**

“Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in His ways.”

---

**Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-21**

As God has forgiven you, show mercy, compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience to others. Let Christ’s peace control your hearts.

---

**Gospel: Luke 2:22-40**

On the day of Jesus’ presentation, Simeon was there, and he was overjoyed; but cautioned Mary for the rise and fall will reveal much and pierce her heart. Mary and Joseph returned with Jesus to Nazareth when He grew strong and wise.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT  
BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/123123.CFM](https://BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/123123.CFM)



OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS, MARY THE  
HOLY MOTHER OF GOD  
JAN. 1, 2024

**First Reading: Numbers 6:22-27**

God’s blessing of the Chosen People as they begin their journey to the promised land: “The Lord bless you and keep you!”

---

**Responsorial: Psalm 67**

“May God bless us in His Mercy.”

---

**Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7**

Saint Paul tells us that we too are the sons and daughters of God.

---

**Gospel: Luke 2:16-21**

The Shepherds were so excited about the birth of Christ that they continued to glorify and praise God continually. Mary reflected on all these emotions, blessings, and truly awesome experiences in her heart.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT  
BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/010124.CFM](https://BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/010124.CFM)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, embodied in our families, may we always be strengthened in faith and the Eucharist, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For world leaders, that they may work for justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those who struggle to keep their family together or to reestablish bonds with those who have been estranged, that the Holy Family may strengthen them in their efforts, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That we may all work to break down barriers that divide us, finding unity in our diversity, let us pray to the Lord. . .

*Lord hear our prayer*



PRAYER INTENTIONS

For our Pope Francis, Bishop Mark, our priests and religious as they build up the Church in a new year of grace and mercy, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That the peace of Christ may inflame the hearts of all nations, communities, and families, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all those who will be welcoming new life into the world in 2024, that their hearts and the hearts of their loved ones may be filled with joy in the miracle of new life, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our parish community, that the Lord bless us and keep us; that the Lord look upon us kindly and give us peace, let us pray to the Lord. . .

*Lord hear our prayer*



# Faith IN WV

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON



**FAITH IS A LIFELONG JOURNEY!**  
 Strengthen yours through FaithInWV,  
 our weekly e-bulletin in the  
 Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

Visit [FAITHINWV.ORG/CONTACT-US](http://FAITHINWV.ORG/CONTACT-US)  
 to receive this FREE weekly e-bulletin.

## 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

~Listen on LoL Stream at [www.rdo.to/WLOL~](http://www.rdo.to/WLOL~)

**ENROLL TODAY**  
 WV Catholic Schools

Empowered  
 by knowledge.  
 Transformed  
 by faith.

Register today  
[wvcatholicschools.org](http://wvcatholicschools.org)

## Liturgy of the Hours

# LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour! [EBREVIARY.COM](http://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](http://DWC.ORG).