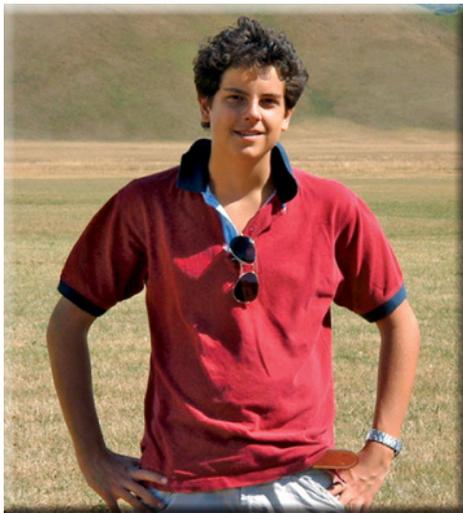




## BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS

PATRON OF THE DIOCESAN YEAR OF EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

*RELIC COMING TO PARISHES IN THE DIOCESE IN NOVEMBER*



When you think of a saint you typically don't think of a seemingly typical teenager in jeans and tennis shoes, who loved being in front of a computer, but Blessed Carlo Acutis was that typical teen and is not only on the road to sainthood, but has also been named the patron for this Diocesan Year of the Eucharistic Revival.

His story and his devotion to the blessed Sacrament make Acutis the ideal role model and intercessor for Catholics young and old in this much needed awakening of our souls.

In 2006, Bl. Carlo Acutis died from leukemia. He was 15. From the time he was 11 he began compiling facts of Eucharistic miracles. Acutis used his love of the computer to share his fascination with the world by creating a website still maintained today by his friends and family (<http://www.miracolieucaaristici.org/en/Liste/list.html> ). The site is presented in 17 languages and has downloadable posters for parishes and schools to have. It is truly a virtual museum with facts, images, and maps of the miracles from across the globe.

In his short time on earth Bl. Carlo left a significant lesson evident through his quotes about the Eucharist and his relationship with Jesus.

He offered up his suffering "for the Lord, the Pope (Benedict XVI) and the Church."

The young man loved the outdoors, video games, sports, and computers. He also enjoyed school mainly because it was a chance to hang out with friends. He was considered a computer expert for his age, having learned programming in elementary school at a collegiate level. He was surprised, as he grew older, that his friends did not have the same devotion and need for Christ in their lives. He frequently told his friends that the "Eucharist is my highway to heaven."

He went to Mass every day. He believed "the more often we receive the Eucharist, the more we will become like Jesus, so that on this earth we will have a foretaste of heaven."

When asked what his plans were for the future he would say, "To always be close to Jesus. That's my life plan."

## WV FAITHFUL CAN PRAY BEFORE A RELIC OF BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS Nov. 14-23

A relic of Bl. Carlo Acutis will be in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston from November 14-23.

The relic is a piece of the protective wall of his heart and will be exposed in a reliquary for prayer and veneration. Archbishop Domenico Sorrentino, the bishop of Assisi, Italy, brought the relic to America in recognition of the Eucharistic Revival.

"My prayer is that the presence of Blessed Carlo's relic stirs a desire within our American brothers and sisters, especially the young, not to waste life, but rather to make of it a masterpiece, as chosen by Blessed Carlo in our own times and St. Francis before him," Sorrentino.

Watch your FaithInWV e-bulletin, the diocesan social media (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram), The Catholic Spirit, and your parish bulletin for details once released.



# MIRACLE OF THE SUN - 105TH ANNIVERSARY

*The day skeptics witnessed an unexplained celestial event*

It has been 105 years since the apparition of Our Lady of the Rosary in Fatima, Portugal, that included a miracle – the sun danced across the sky and the ground and people who were previously drenched with the driving rain of the morning, were suddenly dry.



The account documented by Avelino de Almeida was significant. Almeida was a journalist and editor of O Século (The Century) Portuguese newspaper. The publication and Almeida were considered pro-government and anticlerical. Like many non-believers, Almeida had previously mocked the three children –Lúcia Santos and her two younger cousins Francisco and Jacinta - who Mary appeared to on the 13th day of the month since May that year. However, his article “Amazing Things! How the Sun Danced at (midday) in Fatima” published on Oct. 15, 1917, gave great credibility to the shepherd children’s accounts.

Almeida’s article is his chronological journey to the holy holm oak tree in the field where the apparitions took place. According to him on Oct. 13, 1917, the day of the Miracle of the Sun, the streets were crowded with people from all over. Most of the pilgrims were Christian believers, but some were skeptics there to joke and “laugh with pleasure, while the devout pilgrims” focused on the holy apparitions and the potential of witnessing one that day.

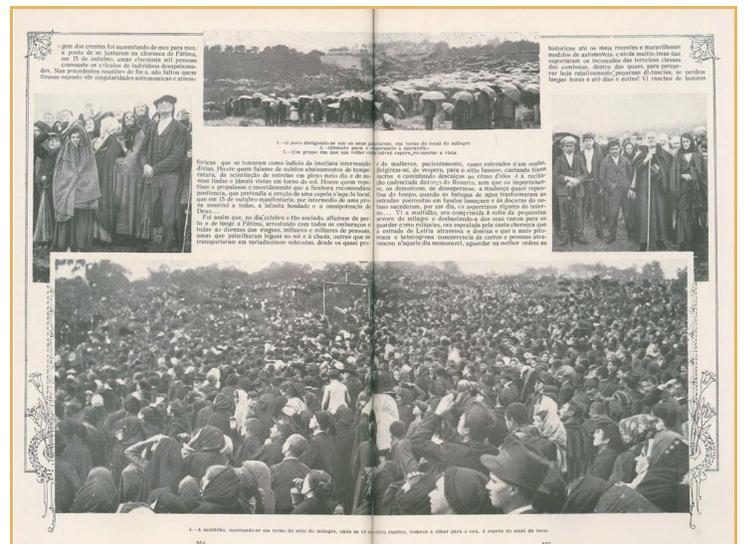
The majority of the crowd was traveling on foot, including the journalist, because the stagecoaches, automobiles, bicycles, carriages, and horses were all taken.

The journalist described the dawn, “the sun rises, but the sky’s appearance is threatening. Black clouds hover right over Fatima.” During the late morning when the pilgrims reached the site the weather worsened, and the people were

“swept by rough winds, the heavy rains lash faces,” and so bad that “some women whose dresses cling to their bodies as a result of the violent and persistent rain, appearing as if they just got out of the bath!

“And the shepherd children? Lucia, ten years old, the visionary, and her small companions, Francisco, nine years old, and Jacinta, seven years old, have still not arrived. Their arrival takes place about a half-hour before the indicated time of the apparition. The little girls are crowned with flowers and brought to the spot where the arch was erected. Rain falls steadily, but no one loses hope. Carriages with latecomers arrive. Groups of the faithful kneel in the mud, and Lucia asks them—orders them—to close their umbrellas. The order is transmitted, and obedience is immediate, without the slightest reluctance. There are people, many people, who appear as if they are in ecstasy; people emotionally moved, whose dry lips have become paralyzed in prayer, people stupefied, with folded hands and sparkling eyes—people who seem to feel, to touch the supernatural.

“The child claims the Lady spoke to her one more time, and the sky, still dim, suddenly begins to clear; the rain stops, and it appears as if the sun is going to flood the countryside with light that the wintry morning had made dreary.”

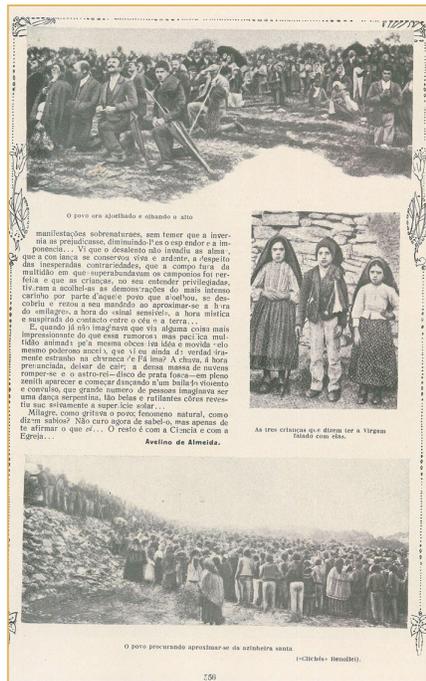


He wrote that Lucia indicated that the “miraculous manifestation, the visible sign that was announced is about to take place, assures many of the pilgrims. Then a unique spectacle is seen, unbelievable for those who did not witness it. From the top of the road, where the carriages were parked and where many hundreds of people stood

who lacked courage to step in the mud, one could see the immense crowd turning toward the sun, which appears free from all clouds and at its zenith. The sun resembles a dull, silver plate and it is possible to look at it without the least effort. It does not burn, nor blind. It seems as if an eclipse is taking place. But then an immense clamor erupts, and one can hear the spectators who are closer, shouting: ‘Miracle, Miracle! A Marvel, A Marvel!’

“Before the dazzled eyes of the people—whose emotion takes us back to biblical times and who are fearfully pallid, their gaze fixated upon the blue sky as the sun pulsates [with] never-before-seen tremulous movements, defying all laws of gravity—the sun danced...”

It was estimated the event lasted about 10 minutes, afterward people began to ask each other what they saw. Witnesses said they watched a dancing sun, a sun zigzagging in the sky, a sun racing towards earth, and emitting brilliant multicolored light.



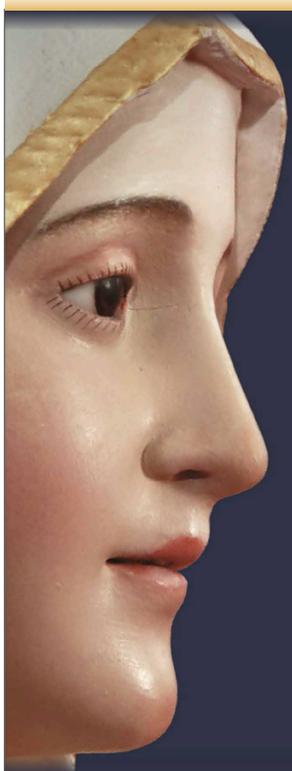
“Most people admit seeing the sun tremble, dance; others, however, declare having seen the smiling face of the Blessed Virgin, swear that the sun spun on itself like a Catherine wheel, that it lowered itself almost to the point of burning the earth with its rays... Some say they saw it change colors successively.”

After this original article, 11 of 13 photos from Oct. 13, 1917, were published later

that month with another account from Almeida taking up four pages of the ‘*Ilustração Portuguesa*’, a weekly magazine, published by O Século.

It was on oct. 13, 1917, that Mary told the children she was the “Lady of the Rosary” and she wanted it to be prayed every day. Further she said people must amend their lives and ask pardon for their sins, especially for offending the Lord.

For a guide to pray the rosary go to: [FAITHINWV.ORG/THE-ROSARY](http://FAITHINWV.ORG/THE-ROSARY).



## PRAYERS OF FATIMA

During the first apparition our Lady of Fatima the three shepherd children recited together:

*Most Holy Trinity, I adore Thee!*

*My God, my God, I love Thee in the Most Blessed Sacrament.*

Mary taught the children to recite this prayer with their personal sacrifices to God:

*O My Jesus, I offer this for love of Thee,  
for the conversion of sinners,  
and in reparation for the sins committed  
against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.*

Mary told the children the Rosary should be prayed every day for the conversion of sinners and world peace. She gave them this prayer to say at the end of each decade of the Rosary:

*Oh My Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell,  
lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy.*



# NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

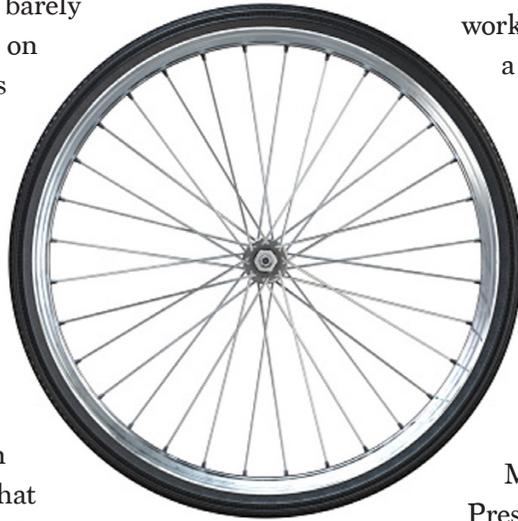
## ONE BREAD, ONE BODY THE EUCHARIST AND COMMUNITY

By Rev. John H. Finnell

Bicycle wheels have always fascinated me as rather miraculous architecture. Such very thin spokes, all connected to a single hub and rim, share the weight of the bike and rider evenly and enable smooth performance of duty. No spoke on its own could carry that weight, nor even 75% of them, but all together they can fulfill their mission! Those spokes barely touch one another as they converge on the hub. It is the hub that enables those thin pieces of metal to work together and produce the desired result of a strong, but lightweight, free-spinning wheel.

Bicycle wheels also speak to me about the true nature of a Christian community. The spokes are like members of the Church, the outer rim is the practical application of the mission of the Church, but that is possible only because the hub is Jesus Christ himself. While friendship and cooperation (whether casual or “deep”) do have value unto themselves, in a Christian community they become the result of our relationship with Christ.

During my 44 years of presbyteral ministry, I have observed, in many parishes, that our liturgy and sacraments are what draw us together, give us a common vision and motivate us to engage in our common mission. The Eucharist, in particular, challenges and inspires us to reach out to one another – often in connections that would probably not have happened outside of Church. As we allow the Holy Spirit to call us into particular forms of prayer, education, service and action to pursue peace, justice and care for creation, we find ourselves alongside others who are involved for the same reason. We are often surprised to discover common bonds with total strangers, bonds which enrich and deepen our own faith commitments.



My own family has a particularly interesting example of this phenomenon. My parents, Rita and Ambrose, both happened to be living in the Georgetown section of Washington DC around the year 1940. Not knowing one another at all (he from Massachusetts and she from Vermont), they had both grown into the habit of attending daily Mass at Holy Trinity Church. Rita was

working and owned a car, while Ambrose was a poor student who “hoofed it” wherever he went. Having seen him several times at Mass, one day Rita, on her way to Mass, stopped and offered Ambrose a ride. That kindled a romance which eventually led to marriage and children! She would never have offered a ride to a strange man, but he wasn’t a total stranger – he was her brother in Christ!

My own love and reverence for the True Presence of Christ in the Eucharist has led me to ministries in Massachusetts, Michigan, Maryland and West Virginia. I entered each new parish alone, not knowing ahead of time that each position would bind me to new and wonderful connections with fellow Christians, teach me new insights and skills and enable me to participate in many fruitful ministries and projects.

Again and again, I am reminded that Eucharist is not a special kind of thing, but rather a dynamic, living, **relationship with Jesus Christ**. When riding with friends in a car on a long trip, I notice how sometimes there is animated conversation and other times peaceful silence. We are the same people, in the same relationship, but we express different modes of relationship at different times and places. Thus it is with the disciples of Jesus who gather together at his table of Word and Sacrament and then go forth with a rich variety of graces, relationships and ministries.

When I was growing up in the 1950's I was introduced to the Eucharist as a moment of privileged relationship with Jesus that called me to return to my pew quickly after receiving Communion, kneel and cover my face with my hands and, as much as possible, shut out the rest of the world from my consciousness. Many other folks have shared their similar training. With the fresh air of the Second Vatican Council, we were invited to view the rest of the world with the eyes and heart of Jesus. Several people have shared how moving it is to carefully observe all others who are receiving Communion precisely because we realize that through Christ we are spiritually connected to them all - including those who may be total strangers, and even including those whom we may not like very much!

This experience of being bound together in one's local community through the Eucharist also nudges many Catholics who shared their thoughts with me to be aware of their similar relationship with everyone in the world who is receiving Communion in their own local parishes! Awareness of the universal Church is a reason for all of us to participate in regional and diocesan-wide liturgies when possible. Such experiences pull us out of our own little corner, encourage us by the reality of a wider community

of faith, and open doors to our generous service of those in need. All of this spurs us on to invite the whole world to join us in this great mystery (evangelization).

Back at home, in our own parishes, a simple, common greeting and response, rolls off our lips easily and frequently during Mass: "The Lord be with you!"..."And with your spirit!" We are not being wished good fortune, perfect health, happy families, excellent academic grades, success in sports, lovely homes or desirable jobs - but rather something better and more lasting than all of those things: the indwelling of the creator of the universe, the attunement of our souls to the ultimate truth of existence! The God who does abide with us and within us is our profound spiritual connection to all of God's creatures, just like the hub and spokes of a bicycle wheel.

In these years of Eucharistic Renewal, we can all reflect on these questions:

Whom have we met through our Eucharistic sharing?

What good works have we shared with our Eucharistic companions (Latin: cum=with, pan=bread)?

What signs of Jesus with us and within us have we witnessed and experienced?

## TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### **First Reading: 2Kings 5:14-17**

The Prophet Elisha teaches us that our good deeds should be to praise God not to receive glory and praise. Elisha heals a man, Naaman, of a skin disease. Once cured he returned to the prophet to show his gratitude and offer gifts, but the prophet refused, because it was God who is the true healer and miracle worker, and Elisha is just serving God.

### **Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 98**

"The Lord has revealed to the nations His saving power."

### **Second Reading: 2Timothy 2:8-13**

St. Paul tells us in this letter to Timothy to stay firm in faith. Believing in Christ does not mean you will no longer suffer, but when you suffer you accept your cross, knowing God has a greater plan for you - eternal happiness in Heaven.

### **Gospel: Luke 17:11-19**

Jesus cures the 10 lepers, but only one returns to Him in gratitude. He is showing us that when we plead to God, believing He and only He can cleanse us from the ugly scars of our sins and burdens, we must also go back to Him with the same reverence in thanksgiving.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

[BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/100922.CFM](http://BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/100922.CFM)

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church as we revive and proclaim with great zeal Christ's true presence in the Eucharist, we find inspiration from the life of Blessed Carlo Acutis the patron of the first year of the Eucharistic Revival, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For world leaders, that their laws and actions respect the dignity of every human life from womb to natural death even when society shouts that they are an inconvenience, unwanted, or unclear, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For the faithful, as we approach the 105th anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun through Our Lady of the Rosary in Fatima, let our minds be more childlike in our faith, and our actions reflect a merciful heart, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all who work honoring the dignity of human life may their efforts be tireless, the gifts to do their work be plentiful, and the joy they feel when they make a difference be motivation for others to do their part, let us pray to the Lord. . .

*Lord hear our prayer*



# BOOK STUDIES AVAILABLE TO HELP THE FAITHFUL ON THE EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL JOURNEY

During this Diocesan year of the Eucharistic Revival in our country the faithful are called to enter into a closer relationship with God and evangelize as we renew our focus on Christ's true presence in the Eucharist.

The word "evangelize" alone can be intimidating, especially when we admit we have a lot to learn ourselves. With that in mind the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis Director Daniel Maul and his staff have developed a series of easy-to-follow book studies on publications that will empower and bring us closer to Jesus in the Eucharist.

"This is an exciting time for the church," Maul said. "It is a time to feed our souls and grow individually, as well as a Catholic community."

The book studies can be led by anyone in the parish that is eager to learn. The guides are set up to walk you and your group through summaries, quotes, questions, and discussion prompts, Maul said. The first three in the series are available now through Maul's office. The books include: *The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church* by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB); *God is Near Us, The Eucharist the Heart of Life* by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI); and *Eucharist* by Bishop Robert Barron.

This collection of books, beginning with the USCCB's book that gives us a strong foundation for the journey, will help us discover our own devotion and dependency on God and the Eucharist as the heart of life.

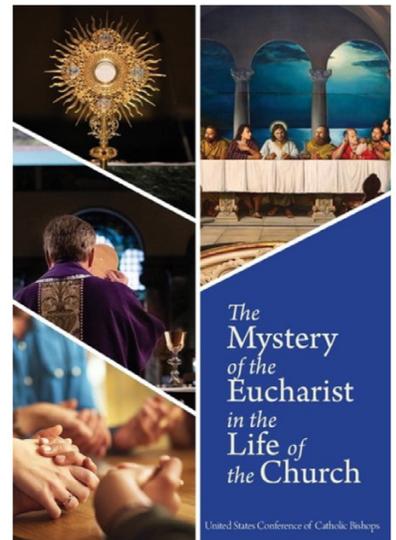
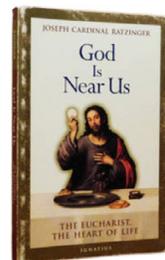
"We are all busy and wear many hats, but our faith and spiritual growth is something we shouldn't just keep in a box and pull out whenever it's convenient for us," he said. "Our office is here to help bring our faith into our lives so fully that it is second nature for us to share our love of God and the gift of the Holy Eucharist with our loved ones and community through our actions and our words."

Entering into a focus on the Eucharist as a small group and church family also invites the Holy Spirit into your hearts as Jesus taught us and is repeated in Matthew

18:20- "For where two or more of you are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

"These book studies can be life giving exercises for our parishes small and large," Maul said. "We all get overwhelmed with our daily routines and never-ending list of to-dos. Our time is precious, but taking on spiritual formation with others - no matter their age, background, demographic - makes catechesis easier, inviting, and more engaging."

If you have a book you would like to have Maul's office review for a book study, contact him at [DMAUL@DWC.ORG](mailto:DMAUL@DWC.ORG) or (304)233-0880 ext. 376.



## SMALL GROUP

# BOOK STUDY

## STEP-BY-STEP GUIDES

The first 3 easy to follow guides in a series are ready for the faithful to begin with their parish family.

To get started contact:  
[dmaul@dwc.org](mailto:dmaul@dwc.org)  
or call:  
(304)233-0880 ext. 376



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## VOLUNTEERS: INTEGRAL TO OUR WORK



*Individuals gather for a volunteer appreciation luncheon at the Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center in Wheeling*

Our Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center (CCNC) in Wheeling held a Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon over the summer.

“The volunteers are the heart and soul of our services,” said Jodi Fogel, CCWVa Volunteer Manager. “Without our dedicated volunteers, our staff would not be able to offer the breadth of services we provide.”

The luncheon allowed the Catholic Charities West Virginia staff to serve and honor individuals who consistently give of themselves in service of others.

The Neighborhood Center serves roughly 4,400 home-delivered meals six days per week and around 12,000 in-house hot meals six days per week. Meals are cooked, packed, and delivered mostly by volunteers.

The Neighborhood Center also has volunteers who assist with keeping the Center clean, rotating inventory in the food pantry, and keeping the shelves stocked and clean.

The Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center needs more volunteers.

“If it has been weighing on your heart to better serve your community, give us a call. We have many opportunities,” said Fogle.

Jodi Fogle can be reached at (304) 232-7157 ext. 2003.

*“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” – Mark 10:45*

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia and how to support your neighbors in need, please visit [www.CATHOLICCHARITIESWV.ORG](http://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.*



*Catholic Charities staff prepare lunch to thank volunteers for their service*

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BEST SELLING AUTHOR AND  
RWANDAN GENOCIDE SURVIVOR

# Eucharistic Reflections

## IN WORD & SONG

AN EVENING FOCUSED ON CHRIST'S  
TRUE PRESENCE IN THE EUCHARIST

7 pm, Oct. 19th  
St. John XXIII  
Pastoral Center

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Montgomery - Beckley	FM	89.7
Purgitsville	FM	98.7
St. Marys - Parkersburg	FM	105.3
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## Liturgy of the Hours LITURGY OF THE HOURS

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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](http://DWC.ORG).