



Faith IN WV

FEBRUARY 8, 2026
DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON



GO MAKE A DIFFERENCE Be the Light of Christ



Today's Gospel (Matthew 5:13-16) reminds us that we "are the salt of the earth - the light of the world."

Be the light of Christ for others.

Pope Leo XIV echoed this Gospel passage to youth last summer at the conclusion of the opening Mass for the Jubilee of Youth.

"Your voices, your enthusiasm, your cheers, which are all for Jesus Christ, will be heard to the ends of the earth. Today marks the beginning of a journey. You are this message and you must continue to give hope to everyone - (be witnesses to) bring the peace of Jesus Christ, the light of the world that we are all seeking."

Just a few months into his pontificate, Pope Francis told priests that "in the sacristy, we are often too much at ease," and urged them to "go out" to encounter people in their everyday, "messy" realities rather than remaining in comfortable, isolated environments.

He would go on to tell laity and consecrated men and women that their faith must be living and active - be courageous and bring the light of Christ into the world.

"Get out there with the message... out there with this richness that we have in salt, and give it to others," he said.

Whether it is through the voices of Pope Leo XIV, Pope Francis, or the Holy Spirit gracing our understanding of this Sermon on the Mount message through Sacred Scripture - we all, as Christians, have a role to live out our faith with courage, conviction, and compassion.

We need to act in a way that not only inspires others to follow but also empowers them to walk with Christ.

Let our faith be deeply rooted in the Gospel call to serve as members of the Church Jesus Christ gave us.

Go make a difference in the world.

Beyond Sunday: When Mass Ends the Mission Begins New Column Begins Next Week



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18th. It is traditionally a time to be mindfully close to Christ every day for 40 days. We hope to walk with you.

So, starting next week, FaithInWV we will feature "Beyond Sunday"

highlighting links to Catholic media, podcasts, art/gifts, and voices from the Church to keep us inspired and living our mission. . . Beyond Sunday.

It is our hope it helps each one of us to bring our faith into home life, work, relationships, and encounters.

Sunday Mass can't be our only touchpoint with God.

Read. Pray. Listen. Watch. Follow. Learn.

Begin Lent anchored in faith!

For going on six years, the FaithInWV e-bulletin has continued to bring you creative Catholic content and stories

from across the state that reflect the vitality of the Church in West Virginia. It is deeply rooted in connection, formation, and encouragement.

It has been praised by readers of all ages as a consistent spiritual companion. Its "why" is clear: to help Catholics in West Virginia stay connected, grow in faith, and live out the Gospel together—week after week.

Beyond Sunday will enable us all to do more by literally linking us to resources to strengthen our Catholic identity.

As we will hear from St. Paul on Ash Wednesday (2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2), reminding us, "WE ARE AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST."

Let us accept God's grace - a call for us to look within ourselves and welcome a renewed mindset to be more fully alive in our Catholic faith. When we do that, we can avoid the noise so we will naturally be open to and a witness of his mercy, love, hope, and happiness - *Beyond Sunday*.

National Marriage Week

FEBRUARY 7-14

NATIONAL MARRIAGE DAY - FEBRUARY 8

HONORING MARRIAGE – HAPPILY EVEN AFTER

Editor's note: this article is excerpts of a talk given by Joyce Bibey around the state in 2022 for the diocesan World Meeting of Families celebrations.

Bibey is a manager in the marketing and communications office for the diocese and writer/editor for FaithInWV.

Marriage is a vocation.

The Church celebrates that vocation to holiness, calling all married couples to keep their relationship Christ-centered to balance life.

God knows it is not easy to stay married in a society, where it's so easy to quit. I wished everyone engaged or about to be married would hear the words a dear pastor said to my friends at their wedding, "There is NO ONE on this earth that can make you happier than your spouse."

The congregation smiled and nodded. Some whispered, "awwww" as they looked at the young couple.

Then, after a pause he continued, "BUT there is also no one on this earth that can make you more annoyed, angry, or hurt than your spouse."

That shocked a few – not the typical sermon, but it's the truth. If you know you know. Right?

Stop there! All you married couples, let us take ownership of what the pastor said – YOU are the one who can make your spouse the happiest. AND YOU are the one who can hurt them more than anyone.

We can't teach our children to think marriage is a "happily ever after."

A good marriage is a happily EVEN after.

Even after a great day of work when your spouse had an awful day.

Even after you face financial struggles, and they just seem to compound.

Even after you have a strong difference of opinion – especially if it has to do about raising your children if you have been so blessed.

Even after you have a job loss or can't seek the job you want, because it's not the right fit for your family's needs.

Even after. . .

Marriage is a lot of give and take – accepting that most of the time you are going to be the giver. Not saying here that you must totally lose yourself – quite the opposite. Be so confident in yourself, God, and your love that the reason you freely give your love, time, sweat, and prayer is because you recognize your spouse as a blessing.

God gave them specifically to you.

So, know there is no magic potion or check list – but there is a key.

The key is to keep Christ in the center of your life. When you do this – together – you win!

You get that "Happily Even After."

With that let's end with a prayer adapted from the book Prayers for Married Couples by Renee Bartkowski, my husband and I received at our Engaged Encounter in 1993 lead by Monsignor Dean Borgmeyer:

We want to realize, Lord, that having a good life together depends on our wiliness to always choose the right attitudes.

We can choose to concentrate on the good things in our marriage or to be preoccupied with the bad.

We can choose to see only the faults in our loved ones or to be more aware of their virtues.

We can choose to react to situations in our relationship with kindness and generosity or with selfishness and resentment; with anger and revenge or with forgiveness and understanding.

We can choose to face life with a positive outlook and a good sense of humor or with a negative point of view and a chip on our shoulder.

Remind us Lord, that we each possess the power to make our lives and our marriage as happy and enjoyable as we want to make them or as difficult and unpleasant as we desire.

It is up to us. Help us, Lord, to always make the right choices. Amen.

Saint Scholastica – February 10

A Model of Faith, Family, and Prayer

Saint Scholastica is the sister of St. Benedict. Born in Italy around the year 480, Scholastica devoted her life to God with a quiet faith that continues to speak powerfully to families today.

Although few details of her life remain, Pope Saint Gregory the Great preserved a notable story that reveals her deep love for both God and her brother. First, keep in mind that both saints, Benedict and Scholastica,

had entered religious life. Because of that and their duties, they did not get to see each other often. However, their family bond and friendship were cherished. So, they committed to meeting once a year. During that time, they would spend empowering moments in prayerful conversation, encouraging one another in their spiritual lives.

Pope St. Gregory's story centered on their final visit. Sensing she was near the end of her life, Scholastica begged Benedict to stay longer than their routine visit – without alluding to the fact that she felt her days on earth may be over soon. She told her brother she wanted to continue talking about heaven, their faith, memories, and of course, God. Benedict, faithful to the discipline and duties of his monastery, insisted he must return. Scholastica quickly turned to prayer, entrusting the moment to the Lord – anything to keep her brother with her. Suddenly, a violent storm arose, making it impossible for Benedict to leave.

Upset, he exclaimed, “Almighty God forgive you, sister!”

Scholastica gently replied, “I asked you, and you would not listen. I asked God, and He answered me.”

That night, the two remained together continuing their conversation.

Scholastica died only a few days later.

We honor Saint Scholastica each year on February 10, remembering her devotion to God, her resilience in faith, and her reverence for family.

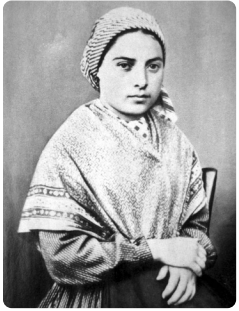
Her life teaches us that prayer is a strength. She is a beautiful example - love your family deeply, pray with confidence, and never stop seeking God in the everyday moments of life.

Editor's note: The 1783 Domenico Corvi painting shows St. Scholastica at right with the Trinity above and St. Benedict at left.



Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes

& World Day of the Sick – February 11



In 1858, 14-year-old Bernadette Soubirous of Lourdes, France, was sent with her younger sister Marie Toinette, and a friend to gather firewood. When she was separated from the group, the vision of a very beautiful Lady appeared to Bernadette above a rose bush. The woman smiled at the young girl.

Bernadette reported to Church officials that the lovely lady was dressed in blue and white. During the vision the woman smiled at Bernadette and then made the sign of the cross with a rosary of ivory and gold. Bernadette fell to her knees, took out a borrowed rosary and she too began to pray.

Church records document that the woman appeared to Bernadette 18 times in all between Feb. 11-July 16, 1858. This figure of a lady dressed in white with a blue sash around her waist, yellow roses at her feet, and a rosary in her arm was only seen and heard by Bernadette.

Even so, as many as 20,000 people gathered at the scene believing the image described by the child was our Blessed Mother Mary, but Bernadette was hesitant to assume it.

Her parish priest he insisted the girl ask the woman to identify herself. On the Feast of the Annunciation the woman told Bernadette she was “the Immaculate Conception.”



The lady repeatedly told Bernadette that she should pray the rosary on behalf of sinners, do penance, and she ultimately requested a chapel built there on that spot in her honor – the honor of Our Blessed Mother.

During one of the apparitions Our Lady told Bernadette to dig in a spot where a trace of mud appeared.

As she did, a spring of water began to flow. The next day it continued to grow larger and larger. Many miracles happened when people began to use this water.



In 1862 Church authorities confirmed the authenticity of the apparitions. A basilica was built at the spot.

Today Lourdes is one of the most traveled pilgrimages for Catholics, especially seeking healing and making specific prayer intentions. There have been 71 scientifically determined miraculous cures at Lourdes. Since 1992, Feb. 11th has been observed as World Day of the Sick, because it coincides with this memorial. Pope St. John Paul II declared a day to pray for all who are suffering.

It is estimated there are more than two million visitors to Lourdes each year.



It is worth noting that a marble statue sits in the grotto of the visionary's sightings. It was sculpted by Joseph-Hugues Fabisch and installed in the grotto in 1864. Although it was to be based on descriptions provided by Bernadette. The young girl hesitated to confirm it looked like the beautiful Blessed Mother from her visions, “No, that’s not right,” she said, but concluded, “you can’t recreate her the way she was (Marble will always be just marble).”

In a trip taken to Lourdes, France last year, our very own Monsignor Paul Hudock, who leads the Hispanic Ministries at Immaculate Conception, Clarksburg, and St. Mary, in Star City, captured a photo of a mosaic in the crypt church of the basilica at the sanctuary. While there, he learned that the mosaic is a

closer replica of Bernadette’s description of our Blessed Mother - young, petite, looking at her, and smiling.

St. Bernadette Soubirous, pray for us. Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us.



February 14

St. Valentine – Christian Love



St. Valentine, whose feast is celebrated on February 14th, is remembered in Christian tradition as a martyr of the early Church.

The Roman Martyrology lists two Valentines martyred on this date: a priest in Rome and a bishop from Terni, as noted by Vatican News. Tradition and scholars believe they are likely the same person.

Both are described as holy men known for their faith, courage, and healing miracles. One Valentine was known as a Roman priest who boldly proclaimed Christ during a time of persecution and was executed and beheaded after bringing others to conversion through miraculous healing. The other Valentine was a bishop of Terni, called to Rome to heal a suffering child, leading many—including students and noble families—to embrace Christianity. Legend states he too was condemned and beheaded.

The striking similarities between these stories, including their shared place of martyrdom on the Via Flaminia, have led many to believe they may reflect one saint remembered through different local traditions.

Over time, devotion to a St. Valentine spread through the Church, especially in the Middle Ages, and he became associated with love and the renewal of spring.

While the details of his story remain partly veiled by legend, Valentine's witness shines clearly: he was a servant of Christ; he gave his life for love of Christ; and he proved true love is rooted in sacrifice, courage, and the hope of eternal life.

Brothers – Missionaries for Unity and Peace



February 14 - the Feast Day of Ss. Cyril and Methodius. They are not only siblings but also the co-patron saints of Europe - Bulgaria, Macedonia, Czech Republic, and Slovakia. Saints Cyril and Methodius lived during the ninth century and promoted Christian values including reconciliation, unity, and peace. The two ninth century saints were Byzantine Christian missionaries that evangelized the Slavic people by translating the liturgy, New Testament, Psalms, and other books of the Old Testament for them.

What made them most effective was they respected the culture of those they were among, evangelizing with the respect and understanding of the locals' culture. Their message was welcomed because they not only spoke their language but also honored their ways. Cyril was a monk and

Methodius became a bishop and continued the mission of the brothers even after Cyril died.

Let us be like Ss. Cyril and Methodius and evangelize by communicating in a language for others to understand God's love, mercy, and peace.

you are invited to a

MARDI GRAS PARTY

FEBRUARY

14

AT 6:00 PM

ST. PATRICK SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

**DINNER
TICKETS**

\$30

**MUST BE 21 OR
OVER TO ATTEND**



**Games of Chance
Live Music**

**Steak tips, roasted potatoes,
green beans, salad, and bread
King Cake cupcakes and other
delicious desserts.**

**50/50
TICKETS*
\$10 EACH**

**MUST BE 18 OR
OVER TO PURCHASE**



50/50 DRAWING TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. MUST BE 18 OR OLDER TO PURCHASE A TICKET.
2. IF PRIZE IS MORE THAN \$1000, WINNER WILL PROVIDE THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS SO A W-2G CAN BE PROVIDED.
3. WRITE YOUR NAME, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER, LEGIBLY ON THE TICKET.
4. NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN.

**Sponsored by St. Patrick Catholic Church, the Catholic Daughters
Court Victory 379, and the Knights of Columbus Council 1415.**

Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus

February 13-15 - Steubenville, Ohio - Register: 740-346-2625

Come and See...

Discernment Retreat

“A life of total consecration to God in union with Mary”

Finding God in The Everyday

ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT MARCH 20-22



The Annual Women's Retreat at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center, 100 Hodges Road, Charleston, is set for March 20-22, with the theme Finding God in The Everyday.

Pause, reflect, and rediscover how God is already at work in your daily life.

The keynote presenter is WV native John Angotti, a nationally honored singer-songwriter, speaker, and music missionary who uses his gift of song to awaken

hearts and bring healing to communities. Angotti travels the world sharing the Gospel through concerts, retreats, and worship experiences that bridge tradition and contemporary sound.



The cost of the weekend: overnight guests single rooms \$250; overnight double occupancy \$210 per person; and commuters \$125. Register at DWC.ORG/2026-WOMENS-RETREAT For more info contact Gerri Wright at gwright@dwc.org or call 304-552-3662.

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Isaiah 58:7-10

A new day dawns when your fasting feeds the hungry. Share what you have with those in need.

Responsorial: Psalm 112

"The just man is a light in the darkness to the upright."

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Paul is adamant – his message isn't his own it is the Holy Spirit working through him.

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16

Matthew's Gospel from the Sermon on the Mount continues. He shares Christ's message that "you are the salt of the earth - the light of the world." Be the light of Christ for others.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we are Christ's light in the world, giving hope to the hopeless, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That our elected leaders may work to reduce hunger, homelessness, and oppression in our wealthy nation, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those who suffer from chronic illness, and for their caregivers and health care personnel, that they may see God's blessings in the difficulties they face each day, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our all married couples, that they live their vocation better every day with the grace of God; And that our families will be places of peace and schools of holiness, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer



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Dunbar - Charleston	AM	1450
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Keyser - coming soon	FM	98.9
Montgomery - Beckley	FM	89.7
St. Marys - Parkersburg	FM	105.3
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Liturgy of the Hours

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!

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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.