



## Baptism of the Lord

### Empowers Us From Forgiveness to Mission

This weekend, as we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, we also bring the Christmas season to a close. Christmas reveals *who* Jesus is; His baptism reveals *why* He came—to enter fully into our humanity, to redeem us, to teach us, and to send us forth.

“After Jesus was baptized. . . the heavens were opened. . . and a voice came from the heavens, saying, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.’”

*(Matthew 3:16-17)*

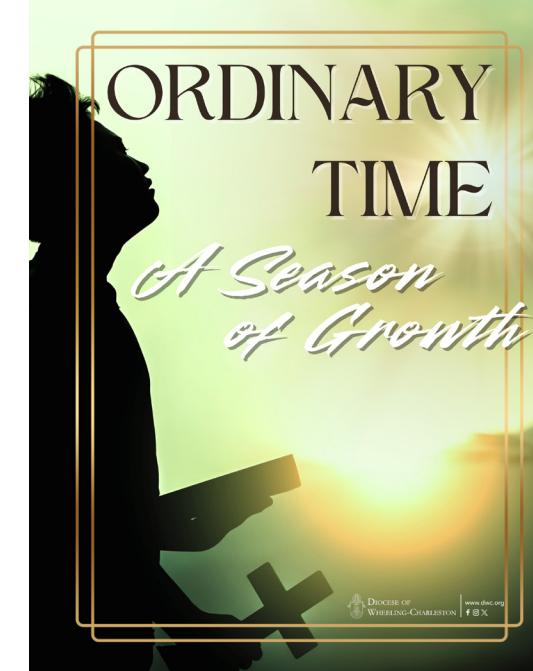
Those words spoken by the Father are not distant echoes of the past. They speak to us now. As Pope Francis reminded us, “Baptism is the best gift we have received.” It is not merely a moment remembered, but a grace continually at work in our lives. Through baptism we are freed from sin, reborn as children of God, united to Christ, welcomed into His Church, and sealed with the Holy Spirit who strengthens and guides us.

### Remember Who You Are—and Whose You Are

Each time we enter a church and touch the holy water, we quietly return to that first moment of grace. Making the sign of the cross is more than habit—it is a renewal of our baptismal identity. In that gesture we proclaim a profound truth: we belong to God, we are called to live an active faith in Christ, and we are protected by the Holy Spirit.

Holy water, like the Rosary or a crucifix, is a sacramental—a tangible reminder of God’s presence. In our homes, it consecrates daily life itself: our relationships, our work, our joys, and our struggles. To bless is to invite God into the ordinary and allow Him to make it holy.

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Aim to embrace your faith and desire to grow closer to God during Ordinary Time – when our baptismal promises become our mission – living out faith, hope, love, and service.

Ordinary Time begins on Monday, Jan. 12th and concludes on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 18) as Lent begins.

Take these five-plus weeks to welcome the opportunity to grow in faith, making these next four weeks ahead extraordinary!

Honor the mystery of Christ through Sunday and daily Mass, adopt new daily prayer habits, read Scripture, and embrace a servant leader mindset visible in acts of charity and Works of Mercy.

Our Sunday Gospels follow Sunday Cycle Year A, drawing from John and Matthew to illuminate Christ’s identity, mission, and teachings.

Weekday Masses feature Christ’s active missionary days through Mark’s eyes written in Chapters 1-8, following Christ calling the fisherman, offering parables

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## From Forgiveness to Mission

Baptism is not the end of the journey; it is the beginning. It not only forgives—it sends. Each renewal of our baptismal promises stirs the Spirit within us and reminds us that faith is meant to be lived, not merely observed.

Pope Francis urges us to “live our baptism each day as new creatures clothed in Christ.” That call takes shape in concrete choices: extending mercy when it is hard, serving generously, and carrying the light of Christ into our families, workplaces, schools, and communities.

This week, let us be intentional. Pause at the holy water font. Remember your baptism. Live with purpose, confident that you are sent—not by your own strength, but by the Holy Spirit dwelling within you.

Let us move forward renewed and empowered, living not only as a forgiven people, but as a people on mission—beloved sons and daughters of God.

for understanding God’s word, performing miracles, and fulfilling prophecies.

As Ordinary Time begins, let us resist the temptation to see it as routine or uneventful.

Instead, recognize it as sacred moment for steady, intentional growth—where faith is practiced daily, love is made visible through service, and hope is renewed through prayer and the sacraments.

By remaining attentive to Christ’s presence in the Eucharist we will quietly transform our hearts.

If we commit to living our baptismal call with purpose, Ordinary Time will prepare us to enter Lent closer to Christ.



9 DAYS  
FOR LIFE

PRAY TO PROTECT  
HUMAN LIFE

9daysforlife.com

JANUARY 16-24

Models used for illustrative purposes only.

## Pray with a Sincere Heart

*Your Prayer Matters: Take Part in 9 Days for Life*

You’re invited to join thousands of Catholics nationwide in the prayer for the protection of human life during a special annual novena called 9 Days for Life. You can go to [9daysforlife.com](http://9daysforlife.com) to sign up to receive daily prayers from January 16th through the 24th.

The 9 Days for Life novena is for the protection of all human life. Each day’s intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life.

Resources for parishes, schools, and ministries are available at [WWW.RESPECTLIFE.ORG/LEADERS-RESOURCES](http://WWW.RESPECTLIFE.ORG/LEADERS-RESOURCES), including novena printables, graphics, sample announcements, and more.

- Day 1, January 16:** May the tragic practice of abortion end.
- Day 2, January 17:** May each person suffering from participation in abortion find forgiveness, hope, and healing in Christ.
- Day 3, January 18:** May every pregnant mother receive compassionate care and support as she nurtures the life in her womb.
- Day 4, January 19:** May every pregnant mother receive compassionate care and support as she nurtures the life in her womb.
- Day 5, January 20:** May every pregnant mother choosing adoption receive grace and support in embracing this loving option.
- Day 6, January 21:** May all who support or participate in abortion experience a conversion of heart to seek and receive the Lord’s boundless mercy.
- Day 7, January 22:** May all preborn children be protected in law and welcomed in love.
- Day 8, January 23:** May civic leaders work for the protection of all human life, in every stage and circumstance.
- Day 9, January 24:** May all who defend life find strength and renewal in the Holy Spirit.

# Join us at Camp Carlo 2026 to **ENCOUNTER** God in the mountains.

**Summer Adventure for Catholic Youth awaits!** Imagine a place where your child's summer is filled not just with fun and adventure, but faith, friendship, and growth in Christ. That place is Camp Carlo — the St. Carlo Acutis Youth Camp — set in the beautiful hills of Huttonsville, West Virginia.

Camp Carlo isn't just another summer camp — it's a life-changing encounter with Christ. Named for St. Carlo Acutis, a young Catholic whose deep love for the Eucharist and technology inspired a generation, the camp invites youth to grow closer to Jesus in an environment filled with prayer, joy, and authentic community.

"Camp Carlo is community — an extended family," said Gregory Gust, Assistant Director of Faith Formation for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

He noted the theme for this year is "ENCOUNTER" - "Friendships are forged, faith is enflamed, and Christ is present at Camp Carlo — Encounter God in the mountains."



## WHAT MAKES CAMP CARLO SPECIAL?

Camp Carlo couples faith formation with outdoor adventure. Campers can:

- Backpack through scenic mountain trails
- Horseback ride through hidden paths
- Make a splash into the pool from the waterslide
- Try high-ropes courses, archery, canoeing, fishing, and more
- Learn about Christ and his Church

These activities not only build courage and confidence but also help youth appreciate God's beautiful creation.

Camp Carlo brings together Catholic youth from all over West Virginia and beyond — an opportunity to spend a week with peers who share the same love of faith, fun, and new friendships. Many campers return year after year because of the deep bonds formed in a supportive, joyful Catholic environment.

At the heart of Camp Carlo is the Gospel. Woven into the schedule are daily Masses, Eucharistic Adoration, confession, inspiring talks, and prayerful reflection. Campers are given space to grow in their relationship with Christ. The camp is drawing young hearts into encounter with Jesus just as Peter, James, and John did on Mount Tabor.

"We see that God has used the mountains for significant moments in history," Gust said. "ENCOUNTER God with us this summer at Camp Carlo."

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Many of the counselors at Camp Carlo were campers when they were younger. The whole team will lead by witness and example, showing campers what it looks like to live confidently, naturally, and joyfully for Christ.

### 2026 Camp Sessions

Camp Carlo's 2026 summer schedule is set:

High School Week: June 28 – July 4

Week 1: July 5 – 11

Week 2: July 12 – 18

Week 3: July 19 – 25

Whether your child is entering 3rd grade or completing high school, there's a week for them to grow in faith, courage, and Christian friendship.

Register now to be part of a summer that could change your life as we walk together with Christ. Go to: [CAMPCARLOWV.ORG](https://campcarlowv.org) to register today!

Saint Carlo Acutis, pray for us — may all young hearts be drawn to ENCOUNTER Jesus this summer!

## WE ARE LOOKING FOR STARS!

### ENERGIZE! EVANGELIZE! ENCOUNTER!

If you're committed to growing in faith, modeling faithful Catholic community life to young people, and living the adventure of His Creation, we want YOU at Camp Carlo for Summer 2026!

Named in honor of St. Carlo Acutis, our Catholic youth adventure camp is accepting applications for counselors. Positions will be filled by May 1st, 2026.

For information about Camp Carlo go to [CAMPCARLOWV.ORG](https://campcarlowv.org) OR EMAIL Gregory Gust at [GGUST@dwc.org](mailto:ggust@dwc.org), subject line: "COUNSELOR APPLICATION - [YOUR NAME]"



Congratulations!  
CONTEST  
WINNERS

Lauren, 12, Weirton

Liliana, 10, Weirton

Catherine, 12, Baltimore

The graphic features three winners of a coloring contest. Each winner is shown in a Polaroid-style frame, holding a laptop displaying a sun icon. They are standing in front of a backdrop that includes a sun icon, mountains, and a camp sign that reads "CAMP CARLO WV". Each winner is also holding a gold star ribbon. The background is yellow with purple and yellow bunting flags.

Winners of the Coloring Contest each receive a St. Carlo Acutis Comic Book.  
Follow us on FB for the latest news and events.



CAMP CARLO ACUTIS

Camp Registration: <https://campcarlowv.org> | email: [ggust@dwc.org](mailto:ggust@dwc.org)

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

# 2026 Men's Discernment Retreat

[WWW.WVPRIESTS.ORG](http://WWW.WVPRIESTS.ORG)

FEBRUARY 13 - FEBRUARY 15

PRIESTFIELD PASTORAL CENTER  
4030 MIDDLEWAY PIKE, KEARNEYSVILLE, WV 25430

- OPEN TO MEN 18 AND OLDER
- PRAY, SHARE MEALS, AND MEET WITH CURRENT WV SEMINARIANS
- HEAR TALKS ABOUT PRIESTLY LIFE AND DISCERNMENT

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Register  
Today!



## THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

### First Reading: Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7

The Prophet Isaiah says God proclaims his chosen one is his servant to bring justice to all nations.

### Responsorial: Psalm 29

"The Lord will bless his people with peace."

### Second Reading: Acts 10:34-38

God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and power to heal all those oppressed by the devil.

### Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

Upon the baptism of Jesus, the Lord "came up from the water, and the heavens opened for him." The Spirit of God "descended like a dove upon him." Then a voice from heaven proclaimed, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased!"

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

## 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
Grafton - Clarksburg	AM	1190
Keyser - coming soon	FM	98.9
Montgomery - Beckley	FM	89.7
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)~

Radio Luz de Vida streaming at [www.rdo.to/WLOL2](http://www.rdo.to/WLOL2)

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, Pope Leo XIV, Bishop Mark, clergy, deacons, and consecrated religious that they are renewed daily as they take up the work of Jesus spread the gospel and do good, let us pray to the Lord . . .

For government leaders, that they may protect and preserve the earth's precious resource of clean water, let us pray to the Lord . . .

For young people, that they may honestly discern if God is calling them to service beyond their baptismal call to the priesthood or religious life, let us pray to the Lord . . .

For catechists who prepare adults, teens, and parents of babies and young children for baptism, that they may be blessed in their work, let us pray to the Lord . . .

*Lord hear our prayer*

## 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!

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).

