



Faith IN WV

JANUARY 12, 2025
DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

Baptism and Mission

Our baptism joins us with Christ forever, uniting us as the Body of Christ - the Church - anointed for mission. Significant to today's Gospel, Luke writes that it was "After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying," the skies opened, the Holy Spirit descended, and God's voice came down from the Heavens, "You are my beloved, Son; with you I am well pleased."

Luke's passage enables us to picture Jesus visibly among the people - one of them - one of us.

It is in that moment His ministry begins.

At our Baptism we all become children of God, brothers and sisters in Christ.

Despite our differences, flaws, and sins we are loved the same by God - created in His image and worthy of His mercy.

Together we are redeemed by Jesus Christ on the Cross, members of God's family, and forgiven and purified by the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Christ.

As we touch our fingers to the holy water and bless ourselves "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit," be reminded of whose we are. God knows the real you - our individual brokenness, shame, strengths, beauty, joys, sorrows, etc. He knows you and loves you - a follower of Christ, a reflection of his love, mercy, and joy.

Today, after evening prayer for the Baptism of the Lord, we officially conclude the Christmas Season.

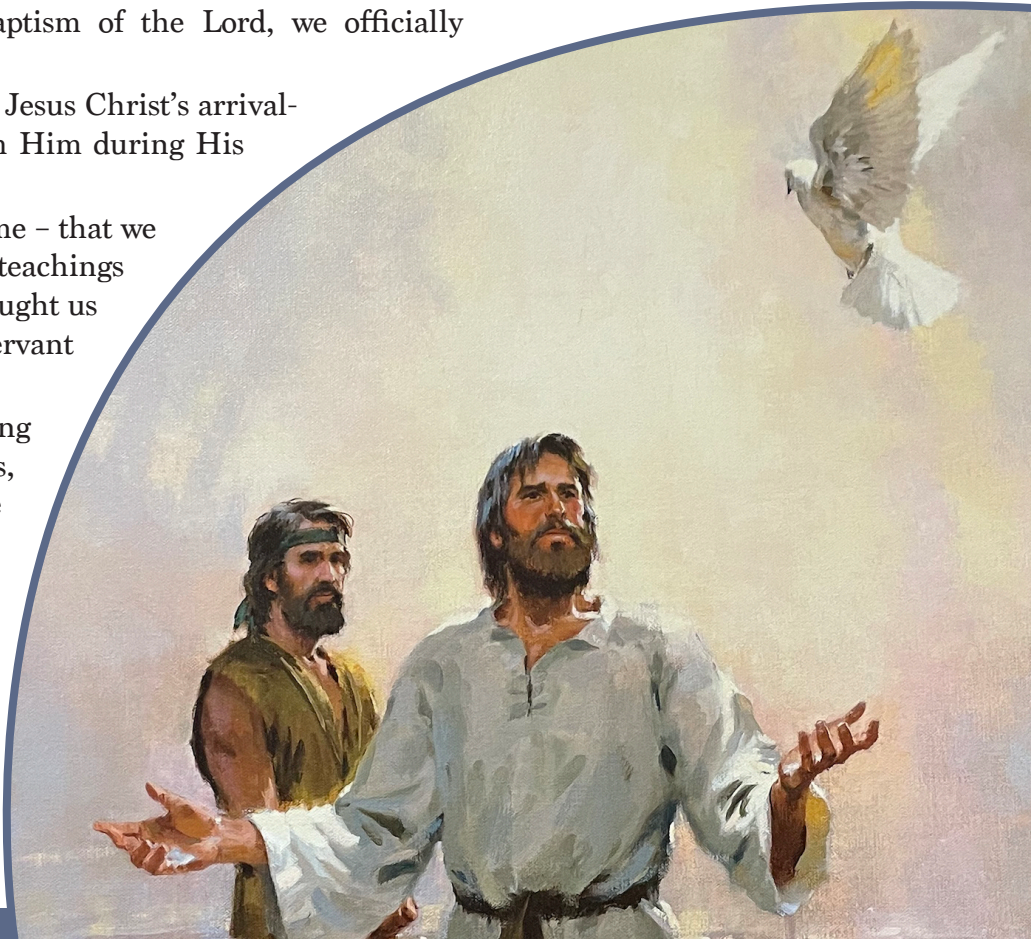
We go from reflecting on the great gift of Jesus Christ's arrival among us in the flesh - to learning from Him during His active public ministry.

It is in these weeks ahead - Ordinary Time - that we are to grow in faith focusing on Christ's teachings in His three-year ministry. Our Savior taught us to have great humility, strength to be a servant of God, and love for neighbor.

He spent his missionary years teaching the multitudes, relating with parables, and healing the sick. He proclaimed the reign of God, a time of justice, peace, forgiveness, reconciliation, freedom from oppression, and wrongs made right.

Jesus gave his life in fidelity to that mission - "for God so loved the world...."

If we do not share that mission, there is no Church.





Seminarian Michael Tupta Serves Historic Mass for Opening of the Holy Doors at St. Paul's, Rome

NEWS FROM ROME: Seminarian Michael J. Tupta, who is attending the Pontifical North American College in Rome, served Mass on the eve of the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord for Cardinal James Harvey, Archpriest of the Papal Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls. This is the fifth and final Jubilee Holy Door opening. The Church invites each pilgrim “to undertake a spiritual journey in the footsteps of faith,” Cardinal Harvey said.

Seminarian Michael lead the procession of seminarians at the Mass and received Holy Communion from the Cardinal.

In his homily to more than 2,800 people in attendance, Cardinal Harvey said, “We need hope right now! In this post-pandemic period, unfortunately wounded by tragedies, wars, and crises of various kinds, hope, though undoubtedly linked to the future, is also experienced in the present.”

Hope “is not an empty word, or a vague wish of ours that things may turn out for the best;” rather, “hope is a certainty, because it is founded on God’s fidelity to His promises.”

Hope is not “a passive virtue... (but) “a supremely active virtue that helps to make things happen.”

The other four doors for the Jubilee Year of Hope are at: Saint Peter’s Basilica, Rome’s Rebibbia prison, and the Basilicas of Saint John Lateran and Saint Mary Major.

The Basilica of St. Paul holds the relics of the Apostle of the Gentiles. Above the doors is a cross. Beneath it are two words in Latin: ‘Spes unica’ - Christ is the hope, the Door to enter the Kingdom of God.

Read the Vatican News article, and watch highlights and the video of the full Mass at:

<https://youtu.be/T3EDrTRQj1Y?si=1kVM7T3UuA2fZ-o6>



Mary, Our Lady of Hope



To Christ through Mary. Let Mary guide us to Christ our true Hope.

No other person that ever lived more closely experienced the joys and sorrows of Christ's life.

Despite these extremes – the joy of holding him as an infant in her arms and then again, his shredded slain body taken off the cross – Mary held onto hope, knowing and trusting the word of God.

The title Our Lady of Hope is from a Marian apparition in Pontmain,

France, on January 17, 1871. Mary appeared to two boys, Joseph and Eugene Barbedette while working one evening on the family farm. It is recorded that the two saw a beautiful woman in a blue robe with golden stars, on her head a black veil and a crown.

Their parents could not see her. They summoned the priest and a religious sister. Neither saw her. However, the nun brought two girls to the site without telling them why and what was seen. The girls, Françoise Richer and Jeanne-Marie LeBosse, immediately saw her and began describing the very same image the boys did.

The children were overjoyed at Mary's beauty.

Joseph wrote about the vision, describing her expression as she looked down upon them, "like a mother, she seemed happier in looking at us than we in contemplating her."

She told the children to pray for protection and assured them that the Franco-Prussian War would end soon.

As they gazed upon her, three messages appeared banners beneath Mary's feet.

The first said, "But pray, my children"; the second; "God will hear you in a short time"; and the third, "My Son allows Himself to be moved by compassion."

The children said she had a smile on her face the whole time until a red cross appeared over her heart. Her expression changed to sadness. A figure of Jesus then appeared on the cross in a darker shade of red.

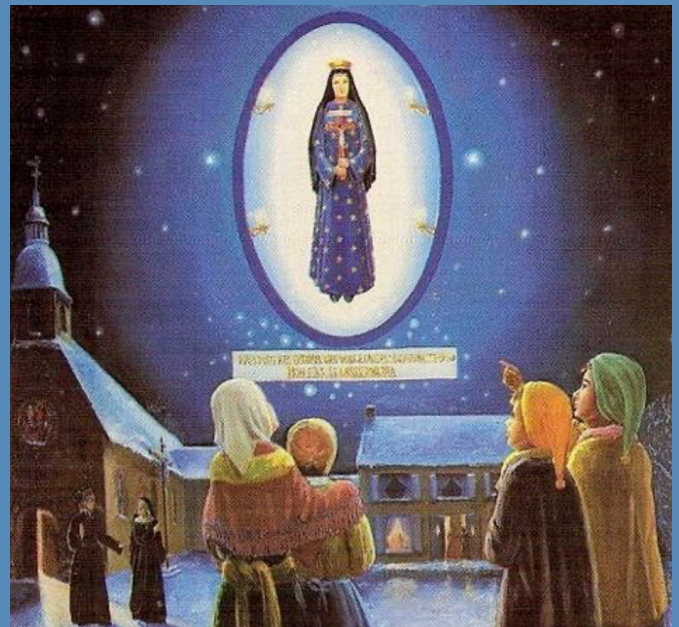
The Marian apparition in Pontmain lasted for three hours. It was a sign of Mary's hope and faith.

The two boys became priests, Françoise a housekeeper for a priest, and Jeanne-Marie a nun.

Today stands a basilica to honor the apparition in Pontmain, France.

During this Jubilee Year of Hope and our Year of Mission in the US to evangelize confidently speaking of Jesus and sharing Him in our actions and invitation to know him – let Our Lady of Hope be a great intercessor.

Prayer to Our Lady of Hope



O Lady of Mental Peace, Mother of Tranquility and Mother of Hope, look upon me in this time of my weakness and unrest. Teach my searching heart to know that God's Love for me is unchanging and unchangeable; and, that true human love can only begin and grow by touching His Love. Let your gentle Peace which this world cannot give be always with me. And, help me to bring this same Peace into the lives of others. Our Lady of Mental Peace, Pray for us.

Amen.



DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

Our parishes in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston are on a journey to grow in missionary discipleship to know, love, and serve Christ as a community.

Partnering with the Catholic Leadership Institute, the first step is assessing our parishes' greatest strengths and opportunities.

That's why the faithful is being invited in their parishes to take the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey!

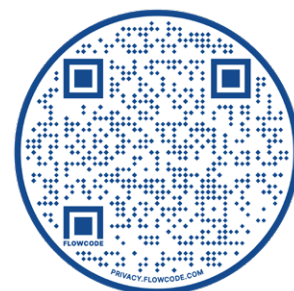
Parishioners will share their perspective to help strengthen our parishes and better prepare us for the future – as we journey together striving to bring more of Christ's love into our parish community.

The DMI is designed to:

- Invite parishioners in each parish to reflect on their journey of discipleship.
- Enable parish leadership to make data-driven decisions.
- Help parishioners grow in their faith.

Information and survey links are being distributed in each parish or can be found by scanning the QR Code below or [CLICKING HERE](#).

On Behalf of Bishop Brennan, thank you for taking part in this important evangelization project.



20/20 Vision Series for 2025

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE APPALACHIAN PASTORAL LETTERS

"THIS LAND IS HOME TO ME" (1975)

"AT HOME IN THE WEB OF LIFE" (1995)

"THE TELLING TAKES US HOME" (2015)

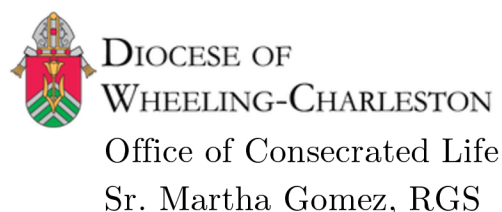
Note: Each session will begin at 7 pm and will be presented via Zoom.

January 27	OUR HOME, OUR HISTORY – Bishop Mark Brennan
February 24	THIS LAND IS HOME TO ME, PART I – Tom Breiding
March 31	THIS LAND IS HOME TO ME, PART II
April 28	THIS LAND IS HOME TO ME, PART III
May 19	AT HOME IN THE WEB OF LIFE, PART I – Beth Collins
June 23	AT HOME IN THE WEB OF LIFE, PART III
July 28	AT HOME IN THE WEB OF LIFE, PART III
August 25	THE TELLING TAKES US HOME, PART I – Rodica Stoicoiu
September 22	THE TELLING TAKES US HOME, PART II
October 27	THE TELLING TAKES US HOME, PART III
November 24	AN EVENING OF APPALACHIAN MUSIC – Tom Breiding
December 15	WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? – Bishop Mark Brennan

(Series originated by Ms. Shirley Carter, B.A., M.A.A.T.)

Cost for complete series: \$120.00 Or \$15.00 per session.

RSVP – Anna Marie Troiani: atroiani@csjoseph.org



Quo Vadis Retreat

Middle School Discernment Retreat

Boys in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades are invited!

11 am on June 30
through 1pm on July 3

Priest Field Pastoral Center

Kearneysville, WV

Campers will enjoy outdoor activities including:

**Prayer • Kayaking • Discernment
Camp Fire • Games**

Opportunities for Charitable and Spiritual
Works of Mercy

The camp is staffed by laypeople, priests
and seminarians from the
Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

RETREAT IS FREE!!!



Diocese
of
Wheeling-Charleston

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

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

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: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

John said to the people, "I am baptizing you with water. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit...."

After Jesus and all the people were baptized the skies open and from heaven God said, "You are my beloved Son with you I am well pleased."

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, Pope Francis, Bishop Mark Brennan, and our priests - that they never tire of keeping hope, love, and Word of God alive through their words, actions, and encouragement of the faithful, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That those in power exercise mercy, ensuring that justice is given in every case and evil ways are banished, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all those serving Christ in a ministry of His Church, especially those who share the Word of God as lectors, deacons, catechists, psalmists, and cantors, let the Holy Spirit shine upon them enabling them to bring souls closer to Heaven, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all the faithful, that our divisions are healed and tensions eased, so we are not distracted from the lessons Jesus taught us -to be humble and merciful, celebrating our shared faith for we are one in Christ, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

WV CATHOLIC RADIO BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOU

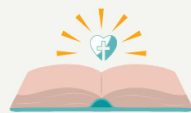
Berkeley Springs - Hancock, MD	FM	96.3
Berkeley Springs	FM	107.9
Clarksburg-Bridgeport	FM	97.5
Dunbar - Charleston	AM	1450
Eastern Panhandle - coming soon	FM	88.5
Grafton - Clarksburg	AM	1190
Montgomery - Beckley	FM	89.7
Purgitsville	FM	98.7
St. Marys - Parkersburg	FM	105.3
Star City -Morgantown	FM	89.7
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~

ENROLL TODAY

WV Catholic Schools

*Empowered
by knowledge.
Transformed
by faith.*



Register today

wvcatholicschools.org



Liturgy of the Hours LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!

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.