

Happy Feast of the Grandparents!

Grandparents Day in the United States is Sept. 12, but in July the Church celebrates the Feast of the Grandparents, Saints Joachim and Anne, a day that has become the World Day for Grandparents.

On July 26, honor Saints Joachim and Anne, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Call upon them to take our prayers straight to their precious grandson – Christ the Savior of the world.

While we don't have a wealth of facts on Jesus' maternal grandparents, it is safe to say their faith, love, and trust in God must have been wonderfully strong and pure for Mary is the Immaculate Conception.

Saints Joachim and Anne are mentioned in writings that complement the bible - the Proto-Evangelium of James the Less. It includes the account of the life of Mary, beginning with Joachim and Anne longing for a child. It is told that Joachim went into the wilderness to fast and pray for forty days and forty nights. At home Anne relentlessly prayed. One day when she was weeping, an angel appeared to her promising she would conceive. Joachim and Anne did not doubt God, and they vowed to consecrate their child to the Lord. When Mary was three the holy couple presented her to the priests at the temple. The priest at her reception said, "The Lord God has magnified your name for all generations; through you the Lord will reveal deliverance to the children of Israel in the last days."

The Hebrew meaning of the name Joachim means God prepares and raised by Yahweh, In Hebrew, Anne means God has given grace.

We should have no doubt Joachim and Anne were overjoyed being the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We can only imagine the conversations and traditions Saints Anne and Joachim shared with her to make sweet Mary's heart so blessed.

As grandparents they surely enjoyed passing down their steadfast faith, stories, songs, and religious customs to young Jesus.



Today we can and should be doing the same for our children and grandchildren in our homes – the domestic church.

Make an effort to grow in faith outside the Mass. Share your faith and love of God.

Saints Joachim and Mary, pray for us!



Grandparents & All Seniors Called to be the Light of Christ

Pope Leo XIV declared the theme for the worldwide observance of Grandparents' Day be, "I will never forget you (Is 49:15)." This is God's promise. The are "words that fill us with comfort and hope," the Holy Father said.

"The celebration of the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly is an opportunity to rediscover that the Church is called to be a mother to all and that at any age it is always possible to recognize ourselves as sons and daughters of God. May this day, therefore, be an inspiration for everyone, especially the young, to revive the beautiful custom of visiting

their grandparents, the elderly members of the family and even those who have no one to visit them.

"In an era that favors speed and fragmentation, the human person still yearns to receive care and recognition from attentive minds, kind words and hands capable of tenderness. The digital culture multiplies connections and offers new opportunities for interaction; yet, the human heart retains an irrevocable need for genuine closeness" (Encyclical Letter, *Magnifica Humanitas*, 239)."

"Dear elderly men and women, Pope Francis spoke of you as a "new people" (Catechesis, 23 February 2022), since the number of older adults has never been so large in human history. It is, therefore, more important than ever to reflect with you, this "new people," on what our vocation might be when fragility — the human person's companion from birth — seems to take over. I would like to say to you: do not be afraid of fragility! It is precisely this weakness that holds within itself a new potential that also illuminates the other stages of life.

"This is how we can live out our old age as Christians: 'fragile' yet at the same time 'called.' I urge you, dear friends, to join me in praying earnestly that peace may soon come to the whole world."

Resources for families for Catholic Grandparents Day can be found at: WWW.CATHOLICGRANDPARENTSASSOCIATION.ORG/WORLDDAYFORGRANDPARENTSANDTHEELDERLY/

SPECIAL COLLECTION NOTICE FOR OHIO AND MARSHALL COUNTIES



A second collection will be taken to benefit the work of the **SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL** - St. Mary's Conference (Elm Grove) at Masses **August 1-2**. Inspired by Gospel values the local conference helps more than 1,600 local people in need annually.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul USA has several conferences in West Virginia. Be sure to check with your local organization to see how you can help them with your blessings of time, talents, and treasure.

Inspiration for The Week



July 29 - These three weren't Apostles, but they can be considered the best friends of Jesus - **Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus**. This is only the sixth year the Church has honored the memorial of these siblings on the liturgical calendar. In the decree, Pope Francis said, "Martha generously offered him hospitality, Mary listened attentively to his words and Lazarus promptly emerged from the tomb at the command of the One who humiliated death."

Let us honor them for their steadfast faith. May we all hope to live our lives with such attentiveness, reverence, and genuine love of Christ, making time for him without hesitation, so we strengthen our relationship with Him.

They patron saints of siblings. Their example encourages us as a family to cultivate strong shared values, prayerful support, fostering a spirit lifelong catechesis and the pursuit of holiness.

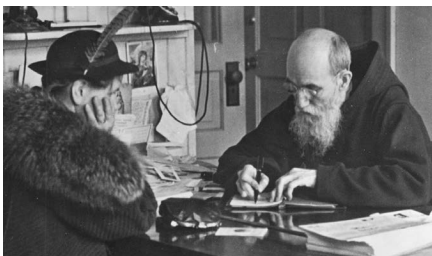


July 30 - His homilies were brief and captivating. The early Church tagged him with the name Chrysologus – Greek for "Golden Words", so honor the feast day of **St. Peter Chrysologus** (380-450 AD).

Quotes that have withstood the test of time from St. Peter Chrysologus:

"O man, why do you think so little of yourself when God thinks so highly of you? Why dishonor yourself when God so honors you?"

"Prayer, mercy and fasting: These three are one, and they give life to each other. Fasting is the soul of prayer; mercy is the lifeblood of fasting. Let no one try to separate them; they cannot be separated... If you hope for mercy, show mercy. If you look for kindness, show kindness. If you want to receive, give."



July 31 – **Blessed Solanus Casey**, pray for us! American priest and now Blessed Solanus Casey would counsel those seeking his spiritual direction to put aside worry, struggle, and fear, then "Thank God ahead of time" for the blessings to come from the crosses we will be given to carry.

He brought hope and peace to countless people of all faiths and all walks of life. This Capuchin friar served in Detroit, Harlem, Yonkers, and other bustling cities was called a rescuer of souls. He was blessed with a gift to know exactly what to say to give comfort, confidence, and hope to those who sought his counsel.

"Do not pray for easy lives; pray to be stronger people. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers; pray for powers equal to your tasks."

Just before he passed away at 11 a.m. on July 31, 1957, he said, "I give my soul to Jesus Christ." Notice we shared the time he died. That's because it was the exact time of the first Mass he celebrated on that same day as a priest 53 years earlier.



Also, on **July 31** – learn from **St. Ignatius of Loyola**, who encourages us to, “Find God in all things,” in his handbook of spirituality, *The Spiritual Exercises*.

Turn time back at least a decade before he wrote that, and you likely furl your brows at the unlikeliness he would say anything character and faith building.

Born in Spain in 1491, Ignatius fulfilled his boyhood dream to become a soldier. He was quite proud, a bit arrogant, and fiercely competitive. His life took a turn, after being badly wounded in battle. His recovery was long and painful. While he was couped up, he read two books available to him – one on the life of Jesus and the other the lives of saints. He began to see the saints as men and women of great valor and spiritual nobility more impressive than any warrior he aspired to be. He vowed to be a soldier for Christ. Saint Ignatius encourages us through his writings to become a part of the Gospels by putting ourselves into the scripture stories to better understand and feel the emotions in the Word of God.



August 1 – the Church honors **St. Alphonsus**. We recite the words of St. Alphonsus Maria de' Liguori when we pray “The Way of the Cross” for the stations of the cross and offer our prayer for “Spiritual Communion.”

He emphasized the importance of Eucharistic Adoration, saying, “Know also that you will probably gain more by praying fifteen minutes before the Blessed Sacrament than by all the other spiritual exercises of the day. True, Our Lord hears our prayers anywhere, for He has made the promise, ‘Ask, and you shall receive,’ but He has revealed to His servants that those who visit Him in the Blessed Sacrament will obtain a more abundant measure of grace.”

Save the Date



OCTOBER | 21-22 | 2026

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CHARLESTON, WV

ALL MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

Light Dinner
Provided



Opportunity for
Confession

BACK TO SCHOOL

— *Back to*



Basics —



*A faith-filled talk given by
Seminarian Michael Tupta
to start your school year right*



*Thursday, August 6th - 6pm
St. Joseph Catholic Church*

225 S. Queen Street, Martinsburg

Don't miss this! Invite a friend!

Please RSVP by August 3rd to help plan for food-Call the Parish Office, 304-267-4893 or call, text or email Linda Abrahamian, 304-279-2315, linda.abrahamian@gmail.com

BACK TO SCHOOLFAITH, AND HOPE,CONFIRM YOUR YEAR

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**SEPT.
5-6**

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PER PLAYER

AT THE HIGHLANDS SPORTS COMPLEX, TRIADDELPHIA, WV

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MIXED DOUBLES

2.0-3.0
3.5-4.5

49 & UNDER
50+

-  MEDALS FOR 1ST, 2ND, AND 3RD PLACE
-  WINNERS RECEIVE RIBBON & STIPEND
-  EACH PLAYER RECEIVES SHIRT FOR EVENT AND SWAG BAG
-  EVENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: 1Kings 3:5, 7-12

Solomon could have asked for anything, but he asked for an understanding heart – humility, so, he could rule wisely.

Responsorial: Psalm 119

“Lord, I love your commands.”

Second Reading: Romans 8:28-30

All things work for good for those who love God.

Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52

The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For Pope Leo, Bishop Evelio Menjivar, and our pastors, that they may treasure God’s gift of an understanding heart to be able to lead the faithful to heaven, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That leaders locally and around the world embrace humility and seek the wisdom of God as they speak and act, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For grandparents, great-grandparents, and all seniors, that they may be respected for the wisdom of their experience and loved for their understanding hearts, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For the faithful in the pews and those who we pray will return, may we have the wisdom and understanding to listen to God’s word, prayerfully reflect on it, and apply it in our lives, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

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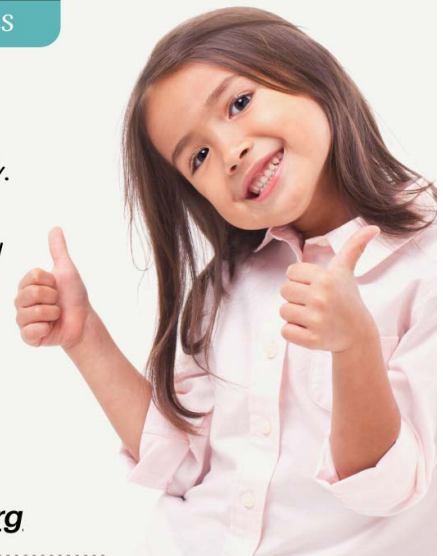
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Liturgy of the Hours

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.