



Faith IN WV

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

MAY 10, 2026

Happy Mothers Day

The Most Important Person
on earth is a mother.

She cannot claim the honor of
having built Notre Dame
Cathedral. She need not.
She has built something more
magnificent than any
cathedral—a dwelling for an
immortal soul, the tiny
perfection of her baby's
body....

The angels have not
been blessed with such a
grace. They cannot share in
God's creative miracle to bring
new saints to Heaven. Only a
human mother can.

Mothers are closer to God
the Creator than any other creature;
God joins forces with mothers in
performing this act of
creation...

What on God's good earth
is more glorious than this:
to be a mother?

Written by Cardinal Jozsef Mindszenty (1852-1975)

*Art: "Mother and child looking at the Virgin and
Child" by Reginald Bottomley (1856-1933).*





THE TRANSITION EXPLAINED

THE RESIGNATION, APPOINTMENT, AND INSTALLATION

Editor's note: Understanding the Church's process for a bishop transition may be a little confusing. So, to help our readers understand this article is offered as an aid.

Contributing to this article: Very Rev. Justin Golna, J.C.L. Judicial Vicar, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, and Pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish, Wellsburg.

According to Church law, bishops are asked to submit their resignation to the Holy Father when they reach the age of 75. The Pope then decides when to accept the resignation.

That is what has happened here. Bishop Mark Brennan submitted his resignation after reaching the age of 75, and the Holy Father has now accepted it. This is not because something is wrong or unusual. It is simply the normal practice of the Church.

For the past several years, Bishop Brennan has continued to serve the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston faithfully in our parishes, schools, ministries, and communities. We are grateful for his leadership and his presence among us.

WHAT HAPPENS BEHIND THE SCENES?

Choosing a new bishop is a careful and prayerful process. The Apostolic Nuncio, who represents the Pope in the United States, gathers information and consults with bishops, priests, religious, and lay faithful. This information is then sent to Rome, where the Holy Father makes the final decision.

In our case, the Holy Father has appointed Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala as the next bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

WHAT IS HAPPENING RIGHT NOW?

With the acceptance of Bishop Brennan's resignation as diocesan bishop, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston became vacant. At the same time, the Holy Father appointed Bishop Brennan as Apostolic Administrator of the diocese.

This means that, although he has resigned as diocesan bishop, he continues to lead the diocese temporarily until the new bishop officially takes office.

As Apostolic Administrator, Bishop Brennan continues to govern the diocese in the name of the Holy See and helps ensure stability and continuity in the life of the Church during this transition period.

WHEN DOES THE NEW BISHOP TAKE OVER?

Bishop Menjivar is already a bishop, but he does not officially begin leading the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston until his installation Mass on July 2nd.

At that Mass, he formally takes possession of the diocese and begins his ministry as the diocesan bishop.

At that point, Bishop Brennan's role as Apostolic Administrator concludes, and he then assumes the title Bishop Emeritus of Wheeling-Charleston.

WHAT DOES "BISHOP EMERITUS" MEAN?

The title "Bishop Emeritus" is given to a retired bishop who has completed his service as diocesan bishop.

Although retired from governing the diocese, a bishop emeritus remains a bishop and may continue assisting the Church through confirmations, Masses, ordinations, preaching, and other sacramental ministries as requested.

WHAT ABOUT BISHOP BRENNAN?

After the installation of Bishop Menjivar, Bishop Brennan will continue serving the Church as Bishop Emeritus of Wheeling-Charleston.

We remain deeply grateful for his years of service, his leadership, and his continued presence among the faithful of our diocese.

IN SHORT:

- Bishop Brennan submitted his resignation after reaching age 75, as required by Church law
- Pope Leo accepted the resignation 4 years later
- Bishop Brennan is currently serving as Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston
- Bishop Menjivar has been appointed as the next bishop
- Bishop Menjivar officially becomes diocesan bishop at his installation Mass on July 2nd
- At that time, Bishop Brennan becomes Bishop Emeritus of Wheeling-Charleston.



ONE BISHOP'S REFLECTION, ANOTHER'S MISSION

With words that felt both pastoral and strikingly West Virginian, Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala introduced his priorities at the May 1 press conference—beginning with gratitude, and humility, sharing that his mission is simple: to love and serve our Almost Heaven.

In welcoming him into the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, Bishop Mark Brennan shared the moment he received the news and the confidence he has for his successor—assuring the people that Bishop Evelio will be “a bishop of all the people” as West Virginians welcome others who come seeking to belong.

Bishop Mark began in prayer, “I thank you, lord for giving me the privilege of being the chief shepherd of this Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston for over six and a half years. I welcome the tenth bishop that has been chosen by our Holy Father Pope Leo XIV to serve the people going into the future in this wonderful Mountain State – bless him as he assumes his responsibilities, and open up the hearts and minds of our people to welcome him as West Virginians do welcome others as they come here.”

Where was Bishop Mark when he got the news? No surprise, he was heading out, gassing up his car at Chapline and 29th streets in Wheeling preparing to hit the road for Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Stonewood.

“I get this phone call from the papal nuncio. . . he said, ‘I opened this mail this morning and there was a letter from Rome that says you are welcome to step down. . . and the new bishop will be, well, he’s already a bishop, a bishop of Washington, Evelio Menjivar.’ (And I thought) well I know him.

“After the conversation and getting to Stonewood for Confirmation, I reflected on my years of association with bishop Evelio Menjivar. It’s actually been more than 30 years. . . I consider him young. . . I could be his father. . . He was a youth minister in a parish (in Maryland) and had showed a real interest in the priesthood. So, I worked with him and we got him into seminary. We thought this guy has real potential, so we sent him over to Rome for theology. Did well there. Came back and I was still a priest in the Archdiocese of Washington, so we served as brother priests for a while. Three years ago, he was chosen to be an auxiliary bishop of Washington and ‘the angels rejoiced’ as I did too. I thought this is a good one, a good choice. He will love the people.

“And I think you’re going to find that here too. He’s a native of another country, El Salvador. So many of our people of this country are from elsewhere. We are an immigrant church again; our country is built on the backs of immigrants.

“He’s not going to be a bishop for just one group. He will be a bishop of all the people. I can assure you of that. I’m just very happy that the Holy Father chose someone with the integrity, the intelligence, the zeal, and the love for God’s people that I know Bishop Evelio possesses.”

Bishop Evelio thanked Bishop Mark for “opening the door” not only to the diocese per se, but “many years ago you opened the door of the Archdiocese of Washington while you were the vocations director. You welcomed me to the priestly formation program. Little did we know what the lord had in store for both of us. Thank you for being part of this journey from the very beginning. I hope you will continue mentoring me as I learn and adjust in this new mission.

What does Bishop Evelio see as his mission?

“I want to begin my ministry by getting to know you and the best way to do this is by listening, listening attentively – to the priests, religious. . . the faithful as members of the Body of Christ you have a voice in the church. . . the diocesan offices. . . the young people – the present of the church. . . the poor.. those in the margins of society. . . Matthew 25 says that the way we treat the least is the way we treat Jesus.”

He plans to be out among the parishes, schools, and communities.

continue...

“I come to you first and foremost as your brother, brother in faith. I hope that you will allow this stranger to walk with you on the journey of faith and together share in our joys and hopes, in our griefs and anxieties, may we discover our common humanity and our shared dignity as children of God.

“Then I come to you as your bishop. . . your servant. I feel that the lord is sending me here to love you and to serve you. This is the only agenda I

bring - to love you and serve you as best I can. . . in this land of striking beauty. . .”

“Your faith, your resilience, your creativity that lifts you up and keeps you moving to a better and brighter future - I will be deeply proud and honored (that in) time you accept me as a fellow West Virginian.”

Bishop Evelio is no stranger to WV. Soon after he was ordained a priest, he would fill in to celebrate Mass in Spanish at St. Joseph in Martinsburg.

Additionally, in 2020 he bought a small cabin near Lost River in Hardy County, where the Appalachian peaks provide panoramic views of the “beautiful Almost Heaven” river valleys and farmland. There he enjoys his favorite outdoor activity - hiking.

Because of the people he’s come to know there he feels “I already have roots in WV, and I feel very proud and happy about that.”



Sunday Mass can't be our only touchpoint with God. Beyond Sunday is a guide to living the Catholic faith more fully each day through Catholic media, podcasts, art, gifts, and trusted voices from the church to help nourish our own prayer, reflection, and mission.

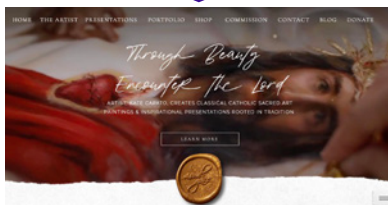
RESOURCES FOR YOU THIS WEEK



NEWS - *Franciscan Media* - Franciscan Media is a trusted voice worldwide that strives to inspire, embracing the spirit of harmony, joy, and simplicity. “May our resources renew your spirit as we share God’s love in the spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare.” WWW.FRANCISCANMEDIA.ORG



RADIO/ONLINE RESOURCE - *RADIO MARIA* - A Catholic voice to listen to in your home or on the go via the app. Listen to programs that help communicate God’s divine love and mercy and discover the beauty of our faith. RADIOMARIA.US



HOME ACCENTS - *VISUAL GRACE* - since 2015 Catholic artist Kate Capato has created art for the Church and individuals around the world. Featured on EWTN, the National Eucharistic Congress, Shalom World and more. She offers original paintings, prints, and cards of the Holy Family, bible stories, and saints. BE SURE TO CHECK OUT “A MOMENT IN PRAYER! WOW!”

VISUALGRACE.ORG

Our Lady of China

On the second Sunday of May each year the Church celebrates the Feast of Our Lady of China. At the turn of the 20th century, in April 1900, a rebellion was taking place in China. Known as the “Boxer Rebellion” as many as 10,000 peasants were trying to attack the Christian village of Donglü. According to history records, four times they tried to attack and four times the Christian villagers - about 1,000 in number - were able to drive them away. The attackers would not give up.

The village priest was Fr. Wu, who prayed intently to Jesus through the Blessed Mother Mary, calling on her to intercede and protection be given to the village. It was documented that a woman in white surrounded by a great light appeared in the sky at Donglü. The attackers fired their weapons into the sky at the vision, but to no avail. Then a “fiery horseman” Chinese believed to be St. Michael the Archangel appeared and charged towards the rioters, who then fled. Father Wu and the villagers believed it was indeed divine intervention and Mary saved them.

Father Wu commissioned a painting of Mary wearing a golden robe – a color of Chinese royalty. She beautifully reflects Chinese ethnicity – for Marian apparitions like Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mary appears of familiar appearance to the seers.

There are many images today of Our Lady of China. One painted by Mr. John Lu Hung Nien (1914-1989) is familiar to many in the US, because it was turned into a mosaic at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.



Lessons of St. John of Avila: Evangelize! Evangelize Those Closest First!

Have Confidence the Holy Spirit is in You

He was everybody’s favorite parish priest. He had an exceptional knowledge of the bible. He would share St. Paul’s letters to his parishioners with such emphasis and compassion that those who heard him would say they felt like it was St. Paul talking directly to them.

Celebrate Saint John of Avila on his feast day May 10. His life is a reminder that God wants us to share our love of Christ and be evangelizers, especially in our homes.

He breathed confidence in his people, helping them realize that when we welcome the Holy Spirit into our hearts, we will naturally bring others closer to Christ.

“He will console you, enlighten you, refresh you, and

direct you.” – St. John of Avila.

Saint John of Avila is a Doctor of the Church, “grounded in the sacred Scriptures, passionately concerned for the truth, and an outstanding precursor of the new evangelization,” noted the Holy See at the 16th century saint’s doctoral proclamation in 2012.

He was influential and a friend to St. Teresa of Avila, St. Ignatius of Loyola, and St. John the Cross.



continue...

He was born in Spain. As a boy he had hoped to become a lawyer. He even began to study law at 14, but by the age of 18 realized God was calling him to dive deeper into his faith. He returned home and began his discernment, ultimately becoming a priest in 1526. His next big dream was to be a priest to the people of West Indies - islands of the New World along Gulf of Mexico. He never received that assignment. God had other plans.

His archbishop told him he just couldn't send him away, because he would be more influential at home. Within the first three years of being a priest, Father John became "the" popular preacher. The archbishop saw that he was strengthening so many souls in Spain through his devout celebration of the Mass, preaching, and inspiring catechetical efforts.

While his homilies and preaching revived the faithful, it also stirred up controversy. Father John lived a life of poverty, while other clergy lived lavishly. They turned him in for preaching lies such as preaching that "the doors of Heaven would not be open for the rich."

Sadly, he was arrested and imprisoned. He was not

shaken. He remained devoted to prayer, studying, and writing. He began the Audi, Filia (his book Listen, O Daughter) requested by a Spanish nun seeking spiritual strength for herself and others. After a year in prison, he was found not guilty of any crime and released.

He went on to shepherd the faithful in his homeland for 18 years, before illness slowed him down in 1551.

In addition to Audi, filia, the Church has acknowledged he wrote eighty-two sermons, Scripture commentaries, 257 letters, and various other minor works on reform in the Church (the great Council of Trent that he participated). Finding Confidence in Times of Trial is a book of letters from the saint to St. Teresa of Avila and also to priests, widows, the sick, the dying, and the persecuted.

His homilies for and about the Ascension and Pentecost are presented in the book The Holy Spirit Within, celebrating these two feasts that are among the greatest of the Church.

In honor of St. John of Avila, may we never tire of evangelizing those closest to us.

Honor Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament

Thanks to St. Peter Julian Eymard and the Eucharist



Praise be to God, Mary's "yes" draws us to her Son and naturally inspires us to call upon her to intercede for us.

For St. Peter Julian Eymard, devotion to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament was inseparable from his trust in Mary.

Born Feb. 4, 1811, he showed from childhood a tender devotion to the Eucharist. As a young boy, when his sister would return from receiving Holy Communion, he would sit super close to her and lay his head on her chest, saying, "I can feel His presence."

He loved Christ and thrived in faith, because he knew the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist at a very young age, and knew that Mary's "yes" made all the

glories of God illuminated and within reach of all of us.

At 23, he was ordained a priest.

His life's work took a decisive turn in January 1851, when, on pilgrimage to Notre-Dame de Fourvières, he promised Mary to devote himself to founding a congregation of priests to honor Christ's Eucharistic presence.

On May 13, 1856, he founded the Congregation of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Its aim was not simply to encourage devotion, but to organize life around the adoration of the Holy Eucharist.

In 1868, he gave the Church a new title for Mary, "Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament," promoting a devotion to emphasize Our Blessed Mother's role as the first tabernacle.

The Church formally added the Marian feast in 1921, to coincide with the first apparition of Fatima. He is often referred to as an "Apostle of the Eucharist."

THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13



The Feast of Our Lady of Fatima is a moment for all people not only the devout, but also the weary, uncertain, or lost, to look again at a real moment in world history from May 13, 1917, when Mary appeared to three poor children and entrusted them to share a message deeply rooted in the Gospel: be mindful in prayer (especially the Rosary) and seek and show mercy.

Be certain, Fatima is not a call to fear but a call to hope and peace.

Fatima urges us to aim for greatness that leads to heaven: to stop offending God, to offer ourselves to Him, and to pray for peace and conversion so that human suffering is met by the light of Christ.

On this day in 1917, the Blessed Mother chose to appear to Lúcia Santos, a young Portuguese girl, and her two younger cousins, Jacinta and Francisco Marto, as they were out tending their sheep outside their village in Fatima, Portugal. Lucia, who was 10 but the eldest of the trio would often kneel in the open fields and pray the Rosary.

History has recorded it was about noon when a flash of light caught the children's attention. They said they saw a "brilliant" figure over the trees. The vision told them to pray for the conversion of sinners and an end to the war (World War I), and she would come back every month, on the 13th. As foretold apparitions happened again on June 13 and July 13. However, the children were prohibited to return to the Cova da Iria, where the previous appearances were, but when they returned on August 19, again the image appeared. Famously on September 13, the vision requested recitation of the Rosary for an end to the world war. It was on October 13, the "Lady" identified herself as "Our Lady of the Rosary" and again called for prayer and penance.

Take time to pray the rosary to the Blessed Mother with requests for the world and the conversion of sinners. Whether you are a dedicated soul who prays this beautiful meditative prayer routinely or one who stumbles through it or hesitates for whatever the reason you can pray along with rosary audio and video presentations while sitting in silence or on a prayerful walk.

Find great resources for how to pray the Rosary, printables, Catholic apps, websites, how to make a Rosary, and more. Check it out at: FAITHINWV.ORG/RESOURCES/

Art: Our Lady of Fatima Statue (Vatican Gardens) by American artist Frederick Shrady, commissioned in 1982, by Pope John Paul II

One Mission One Day

Raises \$330,000+ for Local Catholic Schools

We applaud our school advancement directors, principals, pastors, and families for 24 hours of fun and creative online fundraising antics on May 5th that generated a lot of buzz and more than \$330,000 by day's end. That total will keep climbing as time as late donations trickle in and added to the tally.

Donations directly benefit the local schools with each campus getting to determine in advance how their One Mission One Day gifts will be used to meet their specific needs.

“One Mission One Day to Make a Difference isn't only about raising money, it's about bringing our school families, alumni, supporters and friends together and highlighting the excellence in our Catholic schools while we have some fun and make a real difference,” said Assistant Director of Stewardship and Development Heidi Sforza.

This year we saw a wide variety of projects including classroom upgrades, staffing, and technology, curriculum, and playground enhancements, Sforza noted.

“It was super fun to follow along online and see our schools in action — from live classroom streaming, lively early morning greeters, video messages posted by students on field trips, colorful spirit day themes, and creative contests. The energy and excitement didn't disappoint,” she said.

The online giving day is run by our individual schools with the help of the diocesan stewardship and development and communications offices.

This year St. Francis of Assisi School in St. Albans raised the most money by 11:59:59 pm May 5th with more than \$46,000. They were followed by Central Catholic High School in Wheeling and St. Joseph Catholic School in Huntington.

For the seventh year in a row St. Paul Catholic School in Weirton had the most donors at 240. They will receive an additional \$500 from the West Virginia Catholic Foundation.

Since launching the statewide giving day WV Catholic school supporters have gifted more than \$2.7 million, Sforza said.

One Mission One Day To Make a Difference for West Virginia Catholic Schools

- ✓ Support our Students
- ✓ Strengthen our Schools
- ✓ Grow our Future



It's Not Too Late!!

Wednesday is the last day to enter your Rosary Crusade commitment!

Join thousands who are taking part in our diocesan Rosary Crusade for Vocations which began on May 13, 2025 and concludes on May 13, 2026.

Pray for increased vocations for WV.

Pledge your Rosaries at: DWC.ORG/ROSARY-CRUSADE

“Remember each priest, consecrated person, deacon, and Catholic marriage is truly a result of strong and intense prayer.

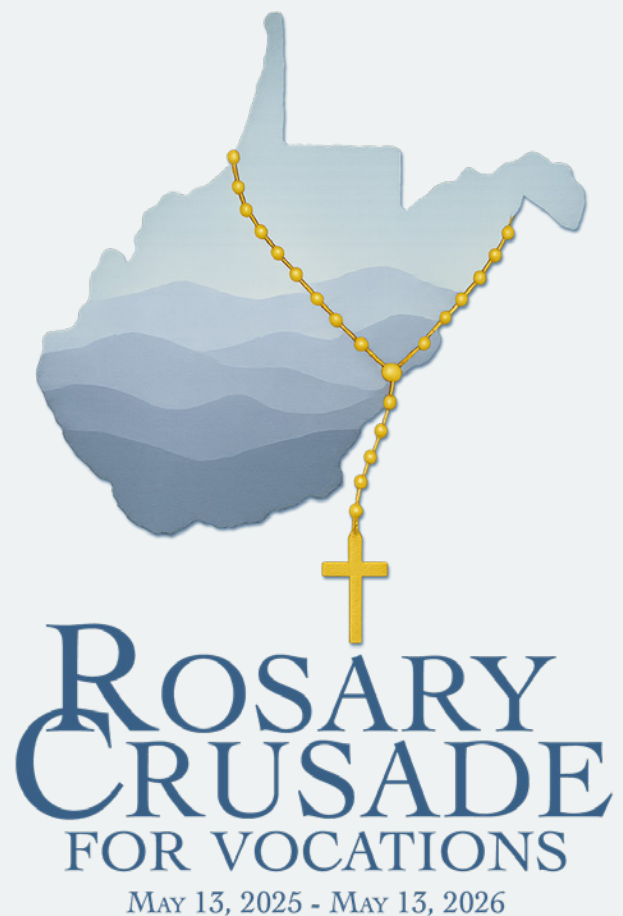
Be that grandmother, grandfather, mother, father, friend, or parishioner that reverently prays for them.”

-Sister Martha Gomez, R.G.S.

Delegate for Consecrated Life

Our diocesan prayer for the Rosary Crusade for Vocations

Oh, my Jesus,
listen to my prayer today.
Bless more young people,
more men, and more women,
in West Virginia
to say yes to your call
to be religious brothers,
sisters, and priests.
Bless my family
and my Church family
so, we can support them,
and remain close to you.
We ask Blessed Mary
and St. Joseph to come to you
in our need to build up the Church
in the great Mountain State.
Amen.



Italy Pilgrimage

MAY 31 - JUNE 7, 2027

LOURDES EXTENSION: JUNE 7 - 10, 2027



St. John University
PARISH



Fr. Brian Crenwelge

For details, visit VersoMinistries.com/st-john-pilgrimage

Join St. John University Parish on a pilgrimage through Rome and Assisi. Pray at the tombs of the apostles in St. Peter's Basilica and Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, walk through the ancient catacombs, and attend a Papal Audience. Journey to Assisi to visit sacred places, including the Basilica of St. Francis.

Also consider signing up for the optional Lourdes extension! Grow closer to Christ through the saints and sacred places on this unforgettable pilgrimage.

Scan to Register!

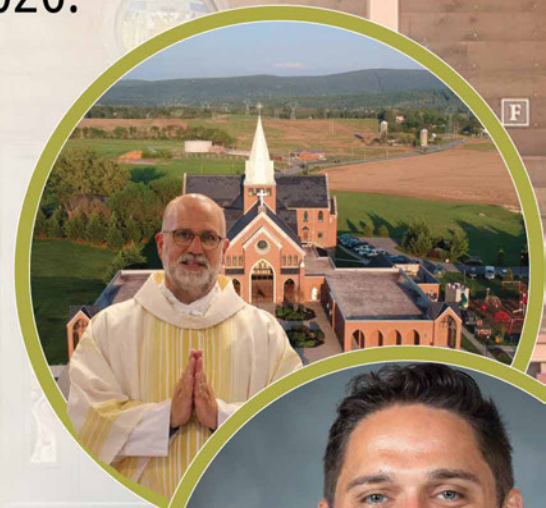


Newest Updates to 2026 QUO VADIS DISCERNMENT RETREAT Now: Sunday, June 28 - Wednesday, July 1

Date change due to Bishop Menjivar-Ayala's
Installation Mass on July 2, 2026.

Middle School Boys (6th - 8th) will be led by
Deacon Dave Galvin and the trained staff of
St. James the Greater Parish.

High School (9th - 12th) Boys will be led by
Seminarian, Michael Tupta, with his fellow
Seminarian brothers along with our DWC priests.



Priest Field Pastoral Center
Kearnysville, WV



REGISTER NOW

WVPriests.org



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

Peter and John joined Philip, proclaimed Christ, and laid hands upon the people of to receive the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial: Psalm 66

“Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.”

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:15-18

Always be ready to give an explanation of your hope – your faith – with gentleness and kindness in your demeanor and voice.

Gospel: John 14:15-21

Whoever observes the commandments loves God.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, Pope Leo, apostolic administrator Bishop Mark, Bishop-designate Menjivar, our clergy, and consecrated men and women that they are filled with the Spirit, enabling them to reach all people as faithful servants of God, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That the world may come to know the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of truth to salvation, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For mothers and all women who nurture children and young adults, that they feel the love of our Blessed Mother, there to guide them in all ways, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That, as we heard in the second reading, we may kindly and gently explain to anyone who asks us for a reason for our hope, bringing others closer to 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
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

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Radio Luz de Vida streaming at www.rdo.to/WL0L2

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.