

RESPECT LIFE through Prayer, Compassion, and Action



The Catholic Church honors October 4 as Respect Life Sunday. It is a day to bring Respect Life Month in focus as a time to unite, honoring the dignity of life in the born and unborn, vulnerable, and strong, at every stage.

This year the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' theme is *Mary, Mother of Life* because she is the model for respecting human life, acknowledging that all lives are created by God.

Make time this month to specifically through prayer and action defend His creation.

In the second reading for Sunday, St. Paul teaches us in his letter to the Philippians (4:6-9) a meaningful way to reflect on Respect Life Month. Talk to God. Act like Christ taught us and peace will be ours.

This passage calls us to bring our concerns

to God in prayer, to seek what is just and honorable, and to keep doing what is good.

Saint Paul's call to keep doing what is good reminds us that respecting life is upheld by our daily choices: standing up for others and accompanying people in difficult circumstances.

His first words in the second reading this Sunday, acknowledge our natural feelings of being anxious or overwhelmed. Then he points us toward prayer and God's peace as a source of strength.

On Respect Life Sunday and throughout Respect Life Month, pray for those who are rejected by society from the unborn to the terminally ill, from immigrants and refugees to criminals on death row. Let us never forget that we all have been made in the image and likeness of God.

TAKE THE WORD OF GOD SERIOUSLY

- *You shall not murder (Exodus 20:13).*
- *Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations (Jeremiah 1:5).*
- *In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being (Job 12:10).*
- *Then the man of God wept. Hazael asked, "Why does my lord weep?" He answered, "Because I know the evil that you will do to the people of Israel; you will set their fortresses on fire, you will kill their young men with the sword, dash in pieces their little ones, and rip up their pregnant women (2 Kings 8:11-12).*
- *Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me. Matthew 25:40*

OFFER SUPPORT AND PUT OUR FAITH INTO ACTION.

Be aware and educate yourself on programs and resources, such as:

WALKING WITH MOMS IN NEED

A nationwide, parish-based initiative to increase support for pregnant and parenting mothers in need. For more info call the Office of Social Ministry, 304-233-0880 Ext. 289.

MARY'S REFUGE

Thanks to the faithful in the Eastern Panhandle, Mary's Refuge is a safe haven that provides stable housing, prenatal care, educational resources, and parenting classes for new mothers to have a brighter future. To find out how to help go to: MARYSREFUGE.COM

DIOCESAN PRISON MINISTRY

Outreach and sacraments for those who are incarcerated. The mission is to share our faith and the redemptive grace of Christ with those who are imprisoned. Those who wish to serve may contact the Office of Prison Ministry at 304-472-1217 for placement, training and proper credentialing, or ways to pray and support the ministry call the Social Ministry office at 304-233-0880 ext. 316.

CHURCH TEACHINGS ON ASSISTED SUICIDE AND EUTHANASIA

The Church reiterates its absolute opposition to any form of euthanasia and assisted suicide. The USCCB provides information for Catholic Care of the Sick and Dying at: WWW.USCCB.ORG/PROLIFE/ASSISTED-SUICIDE-EUTHANASIA

Faith in God Strengthened by Trust, Prayer, and Service

Saintly lives to inspire our relationship with Christ this week.

OCTOBER 5 – ST. FAUSTINA was a young devout Polish nun born in the beginning of the 20th century. Over the course of several years, she had visions with Jesus urging her to share His message of love and mercy, specifically in an image he asked her to have painted for the world to see.



Saint Faustina received her first revelation of the merciful Jesus in Plock, Poland in February 1931. At the time, she had made her first vows as one of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy.

In 1933, after she made her perpetual vows, her superior directed her to move to the convent house in Vilnius. She stayed there for three years, and this is where she received many more visions of Jesus. Vilnius is also where she found a priest to be her spiritual director, the now-BI. Michael Sopocko.

With the help of Fr. Sopocko, St. Faustina found a painter to fulfill the request Jesus had made to her in one of the visions – to “paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: Jesus, I trust in You” – and in 1934 the painter Eugene Kazimierowski created the original Divine Mercy painting under St. Faustina’s direction.

St. Faustina recorded all her visions and conversations with Jesus in her diary, called *Divine Mercy in My Soul*, also found under the title *The Diary of St. Maria Faustina*. In it she wrote the words of Jesus about the graces that would pour out on anyone who prayed before the image:

“I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I also promise victory over [its] enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I Myself will defend [that soul] as My own glory.”

In March 1936, St. Faustina became sick, with what is believed to have been tuberculosis, and was transferred back to Poland by her superiors. She died near Krakow in October 1938, at the age of 33.

OCTOBER 5 – BLESSED FRANCIS XAVIER SEELOS, a 19th century Germany born missionary priest who dedicated his life to God and traveled to America to evangelize but also connect German immigrants from the Atlantic to Michigan.

His mission lead Blessed Seelos to serve in the regions of Parkersburg and Wheeling around 1861-1865.

Prior to that he lived with St. John Neumann while both priests were serving St. Philomena Parish in Pittsburgh from about 1844 to 1854. He left there to serve in Baltimore, Cumberland, and Annapolis. The latter afforded him the opportunity to meet with President Lincoln in Washington to push for the seminarians to be excused from the draft for the Civil War. They were not officially excused, but they were never drafted.

Roger Nedeff of Parkersburg shared with FaithInWV that his local research findings, declared Blessed



Francis Xavier Seelos was in Parkersburg with a Redemptorist team in 1861 when they conducted a parish mission at old St. Francis Xavier church; and baptized two people while there.

Blessed Father Seelos died at the age of 48 after contracting yellow fever.

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OCTOBER 6 – ST. BRUNO OF COLOGNE



was an 11th century scholar and priest from Germany. He served as the headmaster of a cathedral school and then chancellor of his diocese. He put his heart and soul into his ministries. He refused to be promoted as a bishop, knowing he was exhausted and couldn't give the bishop's chair the attention it deserved. Instead, he chose

to live away from the public eye, directly before Christ in prayer, silence, and solitude. He became a reverent hermit in the Chartreuse Mountains.

Towards the end of his life, he said it was the Church and the Sacraments that were his strength, whether serving as a priest, principal, theologian, chancellor, and even a hermit.

"I believe in the sacraments that the Church believes and holds in reverence, and especially that what has been consecrated on the altar is the true Flesh and true Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ, which we receive for the forgiveness of our sins and in the hope of eternal salvation."

OCT. 7 – OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY – OUR LADY OF VICTORY.

Pope St. Pius V wholeheartedly gave credit to the Virgin Mary for the Oct. 7, 1571, victory for the Church and Christians of Spain and Venice over the Turkish fleet, who waged war on all Christianity in Europe.

The day of the battle at sea was the same day the Rosary Confraternity of Rome gathered to recite the rosary for the Blessed Virgin to intercede and go to Jesus to protect and empower the Christians at battle. Pope St. Pius V had asked all European Christians to pray the Rosary and fast for divine intervention. Soldiers and sailors were also given rosaries before the battle.

It was a decisive victory.

Out of thanksgiving and honor, Pope Pius V declared the day the Feast of Our Lady of Victory. A year later, his successor, Pope Gregory III, changed the name of the feast to Our Lady of the Rosary to emphasize the power of our Blessed Mother's intercession.



OCT. 9 – ST. DENIS AND COMPANIONS.



Whoa! The shocking story of St. Denis has been captured by artists for centuries. Gazing on the art it is clear he was martyred for his faith and was truly not only a bishop, but a holy man.

St. Denis and companions, Rusticus and Eleutherius, were despised by the Roman Empire for preaching about Christ and His Church. It was

around 250 A.D., when persecutions of Christians were at a peak.

The three had built a secret Christian community, celebrating the sacraments.

They were captured by the Roman soldiers, tortured, and starved as an attempt for them to deny Christ and bow to the pagan idols. They refused. All were sentenced to death by beheading.

The legend of the moment of St. Denis' beheading is unfathomable. Tradition notes that once he was beheaded, St. Denis picked up his head and continued to praise God. It is recorded that he literally walked, holding his own head and spoke about repentance and God's mercy, until he finally collapsed and died. The place where he died was Catullacum, renamed in the seventh century as Saint-Denis. His remains and those of Rusticus and Eleutherius are there in the Basilica of Saint Denis.

OCT. 9 – ST. JOHN LEONARDI was an Italian



priest who lived from 1541-1609. He was a dedicated apprentice and pharmacist for 10 years, but his heart wanted to serve God more. He had a great longing to bring souls close to God.

He pivoted to the priesthood.

He went from treating the symptoms to healing souls not just in the Church, but also in prisons, hospitals, and the poorest communities.

He was able to form a group of young laymen to assist him and catechize children. He formed the

Clerics Regular of the Mother of Luca, Italy.

Enough people considered his work as a threat, that he was exiled from his hometown – totally rejected.

He refused to give up, his mission persevered. With support of the Pope Gregory the XIII his congregation was recognized. He was key in the Church's renewal, collaborating with Popes and Cardinals, and with St. Philip Neri helped reform other religious orders. His mission great to strengthen organizations in the Church to spread the Gospel all over the world.

The lesson learned from St. John Leonardi, when we are inspired by Holy Spirit to do good do it for the Glory of God with courage and compassion even in times of opposition. Trust in Jesus.

OCT. 9 – ST. JOHN HENRY NEWMAN was an elite example of how to live your life knowing that your character, your choices, and your actions reveal what is most important to you. Let that be your authentic faith. Faith must be spoken louder than your words.

He was recognized last year as the Church's 38th Doctor of the Church.

His motto, "Cor ad cor loquitur" ("Heart speaks to heart"), reveals his spirit, declaring faith is deeply personal and emotional not just intellectual.

Newman gave us the Prayer for Wisdom, so we can pray and go to God, especially before the Blessed Sacrament, to gain the truth, strengthen our faith, find the courage to surrender to God, and be able to get back up when we fall.

Prayer for Wisdom

In everything we do, O Lord, give us a desire to seek out the truth;

give us a willingness to heed the advice of others;

give us wisdom in reaching decisions;

give us faith to believe in our conclusions;

give us courage to put our ideas to the test;

and, if we prove ourselves wrong, give us the grace to admit it.

Amen.



Make Room for More

Diocese Hopes to Grow NCYC Delegation

Last fall, more than 120 teens and youth ministers from West Virginia gathered with thousands of young Catholics at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis for the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC). They sang, prayed, laughed, danced, asked big questions, and encountered Christ in the Eucharist.

From the outside, NCYC might have looked like a huge Catholic party. It was that, but also much more: a chance to experience Jesus Christ and the wider Church together. One especially powerful moment came when the crowd fell silent before Christ in Eucharistic adoration.

The experience is helping inspire plans for NCYC 2027, scheduled for Nov. 18–20 in Indianapolis. Last week, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Department of Faith Formation met by Zoom with youth ministry leaders interested in attending. Participants from the Wheeling, Clarksburg and Beckley regions included experienced NCYC groups, newcomers and those still considering the trip.

"We discussed what NCYC is, the package that the diocese is offering, why we are doing what we are doing, and our offer to work with the various groups that want to go on how to meet their goal(s)," Gust said. "St. Michael's/Wheeling Central have a great fundraising model that they are solid with and we can learn from, but I'm also offering to assist all groups in different, unique ways tailored to their area to get support."

The Faith Formation Department hopes to have at least 150 young adults and their chaperones represent WV, which is 30 more than the 2025 delegation. The diocese is not setting a limit on participation but will need an estimate soon to determine the cost of a package that would include transportation, lodging and conference attendance.

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"The goal, above all, is to share the love of Christ, the Good News, and help as many young people experience this powerful event," he said. "We want to keep it affordable for those that participate. So, I would encourage you to reach out as soon as possible, that way we can get everyone squared away."

"I would love to see young people from every part of our diocese - from North to South, East to West, and all in between participate," he said.

For Grace Przybysz, now a sophomore at Central Catholic High School and St. Michael Parish in Wheeling, NCYC 2025 was an unforgettable opportunity to meet new people and experience a lively, shared faith. She said Pope Leo XIV reminded the 16,000 young people present that they are not too young to matter: "Our influence begins now. We have fresh ideas the Church needs. No one is too small to make a difference."

Andrew Myers, youth minister for Parkersburg Catholic High School, St. Francis Xavier Parish, and Hidden Gems Ministry in Parkersburg, said, "The next generation of Catholics in WV showed up strong. We were loved, taught, inspired. Now we must bring the fire home. I'm committed to fanning that flame across the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston."

Gust hopes young people and adults will help make that invitation possible by talking with their parishes and schools about attending and seeking support. He said he has seen NCYC deepen young people's faith and ignite a commitment that continues in everyday life.

Groups from Wheeling have seen non-Catholic students who attended enter fully into the Church, and John "Brady"

Jordan, a participant in NCYC 2025 from Notre Dame High School and St. Patrick Parish is now discerning the priesthood as a diocesan seminarian.

"Being in a large stadium with hundreds and thousands of people, from all over our country, praising God, adoring Christ truly present in the Eucharist, and sharing all of this with other likeminded individuals is truly a blessing," Gust said.

He added that some young people may hesitate to show their faith for fear of seeming unpopular, but his hope is NCYC will help them feel less isolated and more confident in living it.

Sister Maria Rukwishuro, of the Sisters of the Infant Jesus (SJI), who serves at Notre Dame High School and Immaculate Conception Church in Clarksburg, described the conference's profound impact and the young people's realization of God's love and mercy. She clarified that this opportunity is only made possible by the individuals and groups who support the youth financially and prayerfully.

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Gust thanked the leaders considering participation and those who work with young people in parishes and schools.

“They are the ones doing the daily work,” building up the Church, he said.

He also credited the Holy Spirit for the “God moments” the diocese has experienced in recent years, adding, “When we open our hearts to God, amazing things can happen.”

“NCYC is truly a topnotch conference for young people, a multi-day opportunity for young people to deepen their faith, and an opportunity to experience the Church outside of their everyday lives,” Gust said. “My words can’t begin to offer justice to the positive impact this can have on someone.”

Parishes, schools, and organizations interested in attending NCYC 2027 may contact Gust at ggust@dwc.org or (304) 233-0880, ext. 373.



NCYC

National Catholic Youth Conference





IT'S TIME FOR PACE, our diocesan Pastoral Administration and Collaborative Education professional development program for our school and parish employees and volunteers throughout the diocese.

If you are new to your parish, school or the diocese, you might be wondering what is the PACE Conference? PACE provides an opportunity to strengthen relationships, encourage collaboration, and foster communication between Chancery employees and those serving throughout the Diocese.

The PACE Conference strives to offer something for everyone. Practical sessions provide training and guidance on topics such as Flocknote, payroll procedures, office management, technology, and other aspects of day-to-day parish and school operations. These are complemented by engaging sessions focused on pastoral ministry, faith formation, leadership, and other areas that support the Church's broader mission. Specialized sessions are also offered for those serving in school administration. Together, these opportunities make PACE not simply a training event, but a day of learning, formation, collaboration, and fellowship for those who serve the Church throughout our Diocese.

The theme for the 2026 PACE Conference is: *"With One Voice: One Faith, One Spirit"* and will feature internationally known composer and theologian Fr. Ricky Manalo, CSP as the keynote speaker.

Fr. Manalo, CSP, is a Paulist priest, liturgical composer, theologian, and pastoral scholar recognized internationally for his contributions to Catholic worship, intercultural ministry, and pastoral leadership. Born in Brooklyn, New York, and raised in Marlboro, New Jersey, he studied composition and piano at the Manhattan School of Music, theology at Washington

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN
for the annual **PACE Conference**
at our St. John XXIII Pastoral
Center in Charleston. For
registration and information, visit:
DWC.ORG/2026-PACE

EARLY REGISTRATION FEE: \$110
(September 21-October 7)

LATE REGISTRATION FEE: \$130
(October 8-14)

**FIRST TIME PACE ATTENDEE
DISCOUNTED RATE DURING EARLY
REGISTRATION: \$90**

*Fees are for the conference and meals.
Please note that you must secure your own
lodging accommodations and associated
costs. Contact the pastoral center if you wish
to stay on site, rooms fill up fast.

With
One Voice...

**ONE FAITH...
ONE SPIRIT.**

*"Shine the light
of Christ for all to see."*



Theological Union, and liturgy, culture, and sociology at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. In 2024, Fr. Manalo was invited by the Vatican to serve on a panel of theologians, ethicists, and experts exploring how Catholic faith can shape the ethical development of artificial intelligence. He currently serves, along with Jonathan Lewis, as co-director of The Communion Project, a Paulist

initiative addressing polarization, leading efforts to bridge divides and foster dialogue within the U.S. Catholic Church.

Help spread the word about PACE to anyone in your parish/school who might be interested in the various sessions being offered.

We hope to see you there!



OCTOBER'S INVITATION - PRAY, REFLECT, SERVE

Month of the Rosary

Dear faithful and friends of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston,

October invites us to be more intentional in praying the Rosary. It is not simply a prayer we recite, but a moment to be with Mary and contemplate the life of Jesus.

Make it a priority to give yourself the gift of this special time. Pray alone in a quiet moment, gather with your family, invite a friend, and recite it as a parish community. Let the familiar prayers slow your pace, giving you time for reflection. Bring to Jesus, through Mary, the joys and burdens you carry.

As you pray, consider including intentions beyond your own special needs. Pray for vocations in your parish; pray for our bishops, priests, deacons, religious, seminarians, and all who serve in our parishes, schools, and communities. Remember those who are sick, grieving, lonely, or in need of hope, and pray for peace and the needs of the world.

Here are a few ways to make the month a special one:

- Pray the Rosary during a Holy Hour, offering each decade for a particular intention.

- Place a flower at your parish's Marian altar as a simple expression of love and gratitude.
- Invite someone to pray with you—at home, in church, or over the phone.
- Choose one mystery to reflect on each day, perhaps reading the related Scripture passage before you begin.
- Pray with children or grandchildren, helping them discover the stories of Jesus through the mysteries.
- Let your prayer lead to a small act of kindness for someone who needs encouragement.

May this October bring us closer to Christ, more attentive to one another, and united in prayer across our diocese.

With gratitude and prayers for you and your special intentions,

Sr. Martha Gomez, R.G.S.

Sr. Martha Gomez, R.G.S.





VINCENT DUBOIS

TITULAR ORGANIST AT
NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL, PARIS



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2026
7:00 P.M.

CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOSEPH

1300 EOFF STREET • WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA

- FREE ADMISSION -

Tune, Text, *and* Theology:

AN EVENING OF SUNG PRAYER

Join composer and Paulist priest
Fr. Ricky Manalo, CSP, for an evening
exploring the faith behind the music.

In this 90-minute concert, Fr. Ricky shares
his compositions alongside the personal stories
and spiritual insights that inspired them,
revealing how words and melodies give voice
to our relationship with God and one another.

FR. RICKY MANALO, CSP



Wednesday, October 21, 2026



7:00 PM

(90-minute concert)



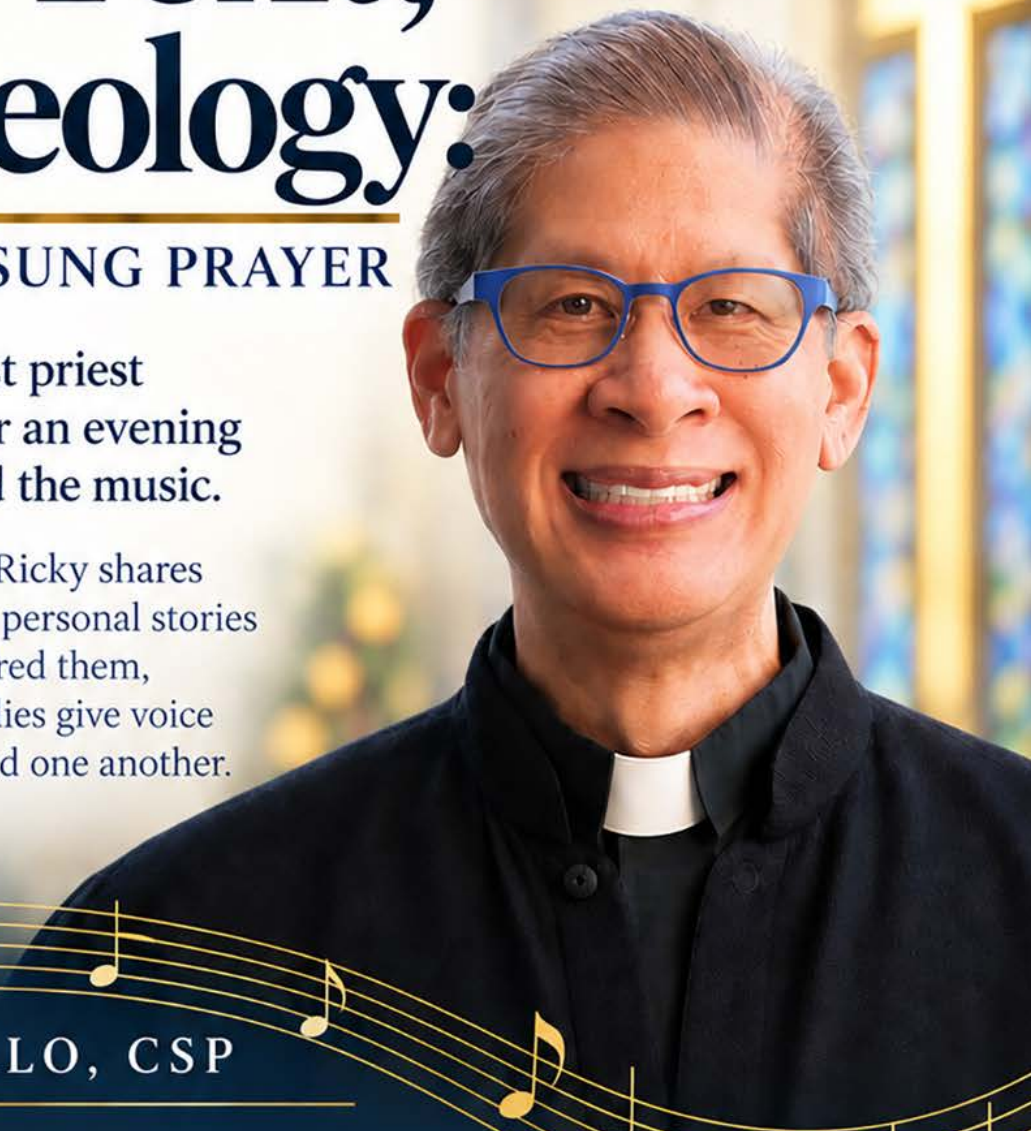
St. John XXIII Pastoral Center
100 Hodges Rd, Charleston, WV



Free and open to all!

*"Sing to the Lord
a new song."*

— PSALM 96:1



Total consecration to His Sacred Heart

in union with Mary

*Daughters of Holy Mary
of the Heart of Jesus*



Come and See Retreats 2026-2027

October 23-25, February 5-7, April 9-11

Steubenville, Ohio – Call to register 740-346-2625

Email for more information: novi-usa@hsmcj.org

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY

IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

Without faith in God, we produce unpleasing fruit. Fruit of self-centeredness, selfishness, and self-destruction. Those who trust in God and put him first will have the sweetest blessings.

Responsorial: Psalm 80

"The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel."

Second Reading: Philippians 4:6-9

"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving."

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-43

Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; by the Lord has this been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes?"

Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit."

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we do not hesitate to evangelize those around us in our day and proudly serve as a servant of God, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That all elected officials work to eradicate poverty, unemployment, and motivate those who choose not to serve but be served, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those who avoid work and accountability, those who abuse the system for self-gain, may they turn from these fruitless ways and seek Christ, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those struggling with an unintended pregnancy or with caring for an aging family member, that they may realize the dignity of all human life and receive the support they need, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer



WV CATHOLIC RADIO BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOU

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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 97
St. Marys - Parkersburg		FM 105.3
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Summersville	FM	91.3
Wheeling - Martins Ferry, OH		FM 107
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ENROLL TODAY

WV Catholic Schools

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by knowledge.
Transformed
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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.