

Find the Courage to Forgive Surrender to Jesus

Sunday's Gospel, Matthew (18:21-35) continues to teach us Christ's sermon on The Discourse of the Church. Jesus teaches us humility, forgiveness, and discipleship. He emphasizes our responsibility to forgive if we ever expect to be forgiven by God.

If we want to receive God's mercy, we must also share that mercy. It is our actions and our choice of words that we can control.

Not one of us is immune to experiencing deep wounds, terrible actions, or words said to scar or destroy our reputation. We must not help this hate grow.

Jesus tells us we must forgive. That is definitely not easy. What are we to do?

Pray sincerely.

It's easy to hold the grudge, but doing so lets that hurt control you.

Choosing to forgive does not at all mean that what the other person(s) did was okay, but it does mean you are letting it go and sharing Christ's mercy, knowing you seek peace and want to strengthen your soul.

Jesus said if we don't forgive, we can't expect forgiveness from God Our Father.

"Let go of your complaints, forgive those who loved you poorly, step over your feelings of being rejected, and have the courage to trust that you won't fall into an abyss of nothingness but into the safe embrace of a God whose love will heal all your wounds," wrote Father Henri Nouwen, a beloved priest and theologian, who penned *The Selfless Way of Christ*.

We all need help to have the confidence to forgive.

Servant of God Fr. Don Dolindo Routolo, an Italian Tertiary Franciscan priest, guided his faithful and all who read his meditations to surrender themselves to God.

He wrote the Surrender Novena. If we remember anything from it remember his words:

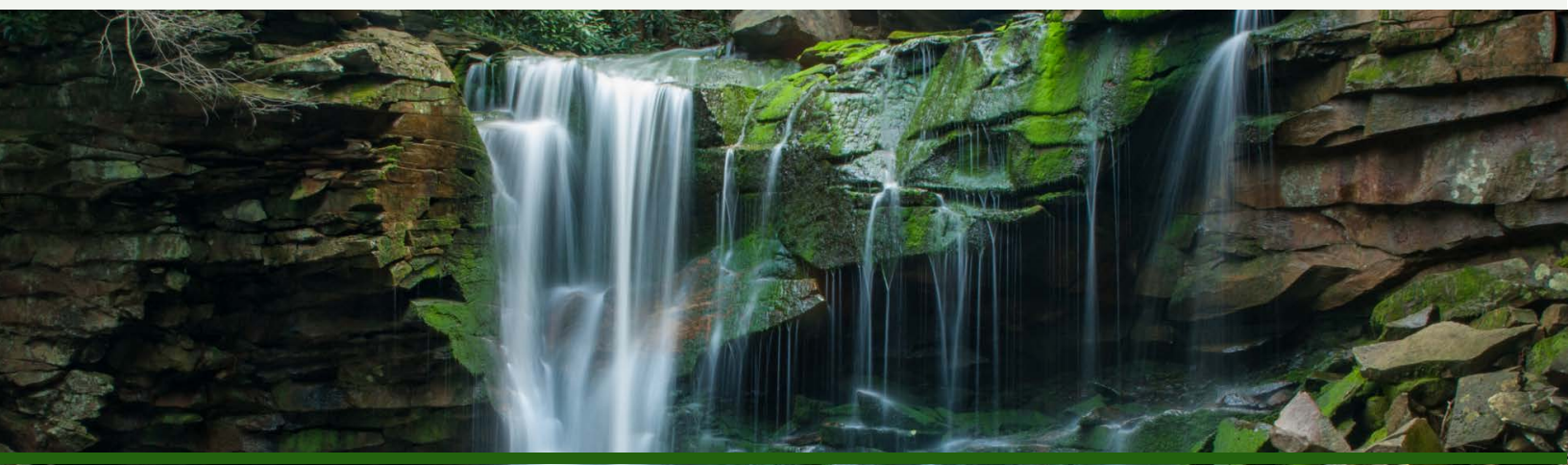
"O Jesus, I surrender myself to You, Take care of everything!"

He said the words of that prayer and the entire Surrender Novena were given to him by Christ. He was speaking to the Servant of God and each one of us, teaching us to have "total abandonment" of our problems. Just do as the prayer says, Fr. Don Dolindo would say.

Servant of God Fr. Don Dolindo Ruotolo suffered a great deal of turmoil in his life. However, he remained faithful to God and focused on Christ, trusting in Him to deepen his faith, hope, mercy, and ministry.

In his lifetime, Servant of God Fr. Don Dolindo Ruotolo wrote 33 volumes of commentary on the Holy Scripture, many theological and mystic writings, thousands of letters for spiritual direction, and hundreds of explanatory notes on the rosary, Annunciation, Magnificat, and holy images, many still unpublished.

For the complete novena go to our FaithInWV prayers at:
FAITHINWV.ORG/FINDING-PEACE

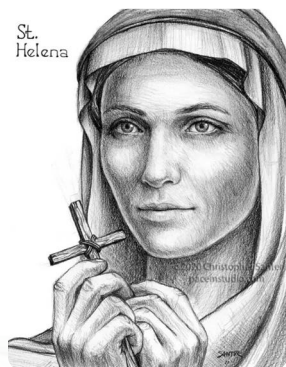


THE EXHALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

“We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.”

On September 14, we celebrate **THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS** – a symbol of Christ’s unconditional love for us.

According to Church tradition the True Cross was discovered in 326 by St. Helena, the mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great while on a pilgrimage she made to Jerusalem. It is believed she found three crosses near what was the Savior’s tomb. A temple had been built on the grounds. She had it razed. Discovering three crosses and not knowing which one was the Cross of Christ, she summoned a dying woman. She had the woman touch



the crosses. The first and second cross did nothing, but the third cross healed the sick woman immediately.

A church, the Holy Sepulchre, was built on the site of the discovery, and it has a portion of the Cross inside it.

The date of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross marks the date the Cross of Christ was brought into the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, September 14, 335.

As Catholics we venerate the Cross, to show respect of what it represents, reminding us of Christ’s suffering to save us all, and He won the battle against sin, death, and evil.

To put it simply, the Cross is a reminder of his unconditional love. So as we heard in last week’s reading.

Let us pick up our cross and follow Him in confidence, trust, hope, and love.



“DO NOT FORGET ME”

OUR LADY OF SORROWS

The Feast Day of Our Lady of Sorrows is this week, Tuesday, Sept. 15th. If you have followed along with your FaithInWV e-bulletin, you know the Church honors Our Lady of Sorrows for the entire month of September.

As we reflect on this breathtaking Marian devotion, recall this image of the Pietà with Our Lady of Sorrows (Mater Dolorosa). Let us hold our gaze and inspire our devotion on her seven deep sorrows she suffered through as the Mother of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The seven Sorrows Mary experienced:

1. The prophecy of Simeon
2. The flight into Egypt
3. Loss of the Child Jesus for three days
4. Mary meets Jesus on his way to Calvary
5. Crucifixion and Death of Jesus
6. The body of Jesus being taken from the Cross
7. The burial of Jesus

This statue is housed in St. Maurice Church, a former Augustinian monastery in Fribourg, Switzerland.

It was sculpted in wood by Pierre Ardieu around 1688 to be a prominent devotion feature for the monastery that remained functioning until 1848. (*The original Pietà by Michelangelo Buonarroti - circa. 1498-1499 - is in St. Peter's in Rome is the world-famous statue of Mary cradling the dead body of Jesus across her lap as he is taken down from the Cross.*)

This wooden sculpture is a tribute to what Mary called us to remember.

She appeared to St. Bridget of Sweden in the 14th century, sharing seven graces of her Sorrows, and asking her sorrows to be remembered.

“I gaze upon the children of men to see whether anyone feels compassion for me, and alas, I see but few! ...Do not forget me. Consider how much I have suffered,” Mary said to St. Bridget.

The Seven Graces that Mary grants those who honored her Sorrows:

1. “I will grant peace to their families.”
2. “They will be enlightened about the divine Mysteries.”
3. “I will console them in their pains, and I will accompany them in their work.”

4. “I will give them as much as they ask for as long as it does not oppose the adorable will of my divine Son or the sanctification of their souls.”

5. “I will defend them in their spiritual battles with the infernal enemy, and I will protect them at every instant of their lives.”

6. “I will visibly help them at the moment of their death—they will see the face of their mother.”

7. “I have obtained this grace from my divine Son, that those who propagate this devotion to my tears and dolors will be taken directly from this earthly life to eternal happiness, since all their sins will be forgiven and my Son will be their eternal consolation and joy.”

OUR LADY OF SORROWS, PRAY FOR US!



SAINTS OF THE WEEK



September 16 is the memorial of Ss. Cornelius and Cyprian of Carthage.

These two men had a great impact on the early Church. They lived in the Third Century, a time of severe persecution, but their faith and courage helped them lead people to God and the Church. Cornelius served as pope – pretty much a death sentence in those days - while Cyprian served as a bishop in Africa. Both were martyred, and both are mentioned in the Eucharistic Prayer.

Cyprian wrote the book, *The Unity of the Catholic Church*, in it he declared we must be united with God and His Church if you claim to be a faithful follower of Christ. He warned that divisions and focusing on differences will destroy the Church.

In other words – Get along, we are one Church!

“You cannot have God for your Father

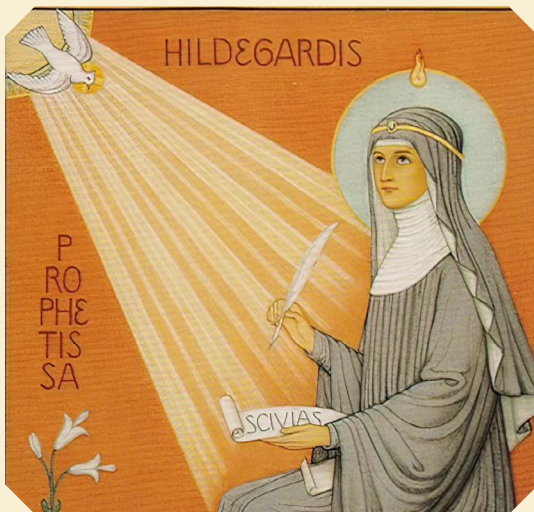
if you do not have the Church for your mother (to sustain you)....

God is one and Christ is one, and his Church is one;

one is the faith, and one is the people cemented together by harmony into the strong unity of a body....

If we are the heirs of Christ, let us abide in the peace of Christ;

if we are the sons of God, let us be lovers of peace.”



“Even in a world that is being shipwrecked, remain brave and strong.”

- St. Hildegard of Bingen, her feast day is September 17.

Saint Hildegard of Bingen was declared Doctor of the Church in 2012.

She lived in the 12th-century and is remembered as a German mystic, composer, abbess, poet, philosopher, teacher, and writer.

Her “O Quam Mirabilis” (Antiphon for the Creator) is fitting for this Season of Creation:

How wonderful it is,

that the foreknowing heart divine

has first known everything created!

For when God looked upon the human face

that he had formed,

he gazed upon his ev'ry work,

reflected whole within that human form.

How wondrous is that breath

that roused humanity to life!



On September 19th the Church honors St. Januarius.

During the time known as the “Great Persecution” in the Roman Empire, lived Januarius, also known as St. Gennaro, born to a faithful family in Benevento, Italy about 150 miles from Rome. The language spoken there at the time was Latin. He grew up to be of strong faith and convictions to evangelize and praise Jesus Christ. He eventually became a priest. Legend records it was during his teens and a bishop in Italy in his twenties.

Along with other Christians he was imprisoned, tortured, and killed.

His portrait sometimes illustrates him with two glass jars. This is to carry on the story that after he died a faithful woman named Eusebia filled two vials with his blood.

That blood was later enshrined in an ampulla and is in the Cappella del Tesoro di San Gennaro (The Chapel of the Treasury of the Naples Cathedral along with his body.

Many miracles are attributed to St. Januarius, among them is one still occurring. That is three times each year, the saint’s dried blood liquefies in the presence of the faithful.

The first documented liquefaction was in 1389.



If you are blessed enough to make it to Naples. The timing of the liquification is the Saturday before the first Sunday of May (Pope Leo XIV witnessed it this year), commemorating the translation of the saint’s relics to Naples; the second time is Sept. 19, his feast day; and the third is the anniversary of the Dec. 16, 1631, eruption of Mount Vesuvius when the silver bust with the skull of St. Januarius was placed on the altar. It is not uncommon for the liquefaction

to fails on December 16 – a sign the faithful believe is a message from the Saint to pray harder.

From the Office of the Chancellor:

Annual Collection – Catholic University of America September 26-27

At all Masses on September 26-27, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston will take up the annual national collection for The Catholic University of America.

THE CATHOLIC
UNIVERSITY
OF AMERICA



Catholic University is a national research university, in the heart of Washington, D.C., with over 5,700 undergraduate and graduate students in more than 250 academic programs. By giving to the collection, you are supporting future Catholic leaders, both religious and lay, who are being formed by an exceptional, faith-rooted education.

The University’s various research and training initiatives support dioceses and parishes in responding to the most pressing needs of their faithful. A few examples of how the University serves the Church and nation include The Catholic Project, an initiative that aims to heal the breach of trust many have experienced as a result of the crisis in the Church; a master’s program in Ecclesial Administration and Management; and a credentialing program that prepares recent graduates to serve as campus ministers.

Wherever
the river goes,
every living creature
that swarms will live...
Everything will live
where the river goes.

-Ezekiel 47:9

Ezekiel's Vision is Theme for Season of Creation 2026

The theme for the Season of Creation 2026 is Living Water based on Ezekiel 47: 1- 12. Pope Leo XIV's September prayer intention is the care of water.

As the Season of Creation continues through the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Oct. 4, reflect on Ezekiel's vision - God's life-giving water flowing from the temple of God. It is at first a trickle but then it grows to a river.

Then the river grows deeper and deeper restoring parched land and sustaining all life.

Today, know without a doubt that God's life-giving presence flows from the sanctuary, bringing renewal, healing, and abundant life wherever it reaches.

This Season of Creation, we are all called to immerse ourselves in the water, and actively safeguarding and working for the renewal of creation so that environmental healing and human well-being may flourish together.

Let us pray:

Lord God, You are the source of the living water that flows tirelessly from the heart of Christ. During this Season of Creation, deliver us from our indifference. Wade us deeper into Your river of grace. Give us the courage to heal what we have poisoned, protect what You have made, and look upon the Earth not as a resource to exploit, but as a sanctuary to cherish. Amen.



Living Water
Season of Creation 2026

IMMERSION IN LIVING WATER

Ezekiel 47:9, 12

Learning Sustainable Living



A beginners-to-experts workshop on sustainability and what it means for our community and lives.

From action to habits, a sustainable life can be accessible and impactful for all.



What We Will Learn:

- Sustainability principles + what it means to Appalachia and beyond
- Real sustainability solutions for individuals and communities
- Find **your** sustainable impact: what you can do and how you integrate sustainability in **your** life.

Instructed by
Gabrielle Marshall,
Sustainability Manager



Gabrielle is a passionate Appalachian and sustainability professional specializing in sustainable communities, communication, energy and water systems, and accessibility to sustainability education and practices. Through her career in community engagement for at-risk communities, green architecture, and non-profit botanical garden sustainability management, she finds that people, plants, and places must work as one.

Date: September 16th, 2026

Time: 6:30 PM-8:00 PM

Fee: \$20 or bring donation of non-perishable canned goods, hygiene items, socks, feminine products for House of Hagar Catholic Worker

Reserve your spot today!

Contact: Anna Marie Troiani

Phone: 304-907-0171

Email: atroiani@csjoseph.org

Focusing on SACRED MOMENTS



Sunday
September 20, 2026



1 p.m. - 3 p.m.



\$20



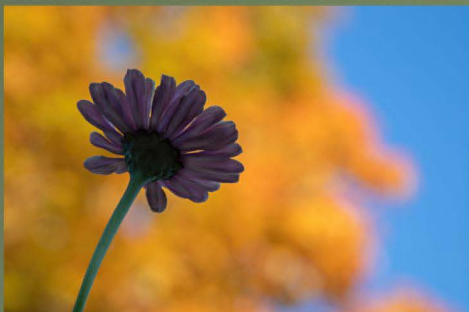
St. Joseph Retreat Center
137 Mount Saint Joseph Road
Wheeling, WV 26003

Participants are asked to bring their phone or camera to the event.

Presenter: DANIEL CARON

Daniel Caron is a speaker and award-winning photographer whose works have appeared in books, magazines, juried art exhibits, and other print and online publications. When he is not speaking or photographing, he is caring for a rescued horse, too many cats, and two flocks of chickens at his home in eastern Ohio.

In creation, the sacred is all around us in each moment. We discover these moments in everyday experiences that shape our stories. During our gathering, we will take time to focus on the sacred by exploring moments through the lens of our camera and begin to take notice so that we may add to our own story. This will heighten our awareness and awe, reminding us that we are never alone. Beauty and love are more than ephemeral. These moments shape our lives and transform our own story.



Reserve your spot today:
Contact Anna Marie Troiani
Phone: 304-907-0171
Email: atroiani@csjoseph.org



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
WOMEN'S MINISTRY

PRESENTS



KIMBERLY HAHN

LIVE



\$30 REGISTRATION



**SATURDAY
OCT. 3, 2026**

8:00AM-12:00PM

- 8am Mass
- 9-10am Catered Breakfast
- 10-11:30 Keynote
- 11:45-12pm Rosary



150 S. Maple Ave. Clarksburg, WV



TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Sirach 27:30-28:7

Choose forgiveness over vengeance.

Responsorial: Psalm 103

"The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger,
and rich in compassion."

Second Reading: Romans 14:7-9

Live for the Lord not in selfish ways.

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

Jesus says we must forgive not seven times, but
seventy-seven times.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we may be a model of
forgiveness and mercy to the world, let us
pray to the Lord. . .

For reconciliation and lasting accord between
all nations currently at war, that their
citizens may live in the tender embrace of
peace, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those who have left the Church or left
the practice of their faith, that they may
always feel welcome and valued as part of
the one, holy body of Christ, let us pray to
the Lord. . .

For grandparents, that they may receive care
and compassion as they age, with the love of
their children and grandchildren, 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/WLOL2

ENROLL TODAY

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Transformed
by faith.



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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.