

ST. MARY

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
STAR CITY

33346 University Ave. Morgantown, WV 26505 • 304-599-3747

January 10, 2021 • Baptism of the Lord

Mass Times: Saturday, 6:00pm, Sundays, 8:30am, 11:00am

Daily Mass*: Mon. 6:30pm Tue.-Thur. 9:00am *please see schedule inside for any changes or cancellations.

Radio broadcast at 8:30am on 1300AM WCLG & 92.1FM, and TuneIn channel Morgan 92.1



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

This is what John the Baptist proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." - Mk 1:7-8



www.stmarystarcity.com



Saint Mary Roman Catholic Church, Star City—JOIN us

St. Mary Parish

Pastor

John P. McDonough
papajohnwv@msn.com

Rectory

304-225-0506

Parish Office

Address:

3346 University Ave
Morgantown, WV 26505

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 9:30am-4:30pm
Closed Holy Days & some
Public Holidays

Office Staff

Carmen Riotto DeMasters
Theresa DeMasters

Phone

304-599-3747 / 304-599-1996

Email

stmaryschurch@comcast.net

Website

www.stmarystarcity.com

Mausoleum Accounts & Management

Angela Merinar 304-841-2101

Maintenance & Facility Management

Jonny Petak

Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

Kathy Kerzak 304-225-1163
kkerzak@comcast.net

Nancy Ferrari 304-599-1996

nickliz@aol.com

Music & Liturgical Ministries Coordinator

TamI Alexander 304-698-7625
tamialexander@gmail.com
stmarystarcitymusic@gmail.com

Hispanic Ministries

Maria Garcia 304-685-7595
Lola Contreras 304-216-3441
stmaryhispanicministry@gmail.com

St. Ursula Food Pantry & Outreach

Sr. Rachel Blais, S.C.
Virginia Aultman-Moore

Phone

304-599-3822

Email

stursulafoodpantryoutreach@comcast.net

St. Francis de Sales Central School

304-291-5070

Prayer Requests

Barbara Fedikovich 304-599-3910
Rena Cyphert 304-599-6642



Are you registered in the Parish?

Registering in a parish is a declaration of your desire to be part of a Catholic community and to make a commitment to the life of the parish family.

Clearly stating your Catholic commitment in all its dimensions brings many advantages, recognition, and responsibility.

At St. Mary Roman Catholic Church, our policy, is that you must be registered and participating in Sunday

Mass regularly before a baptism can take place, or for the initial meeting with the pastor in the case of marriage.

Regular attendance is also required for adults who are asked to be a godparent or sponsor at another parish, in order that a letter can be sent stating that they are a practicing Catholic and a registered member of a parish faith community.

Even though you may have attended Mass here for months, or even years, we would like for you to be registered.

Please pick up a registration form at the church or parish office, or register online at stmarystarcity.com

For more information, call the parish office at 304-599-3747.

Sacraments

Baptism: (Birth – Age 7) Parents are required to participate in a preparation program before the celebration of Baptism. Parents must be registered and attending Sunday Mass regularly. Please call Kathy 304-225-1163 for information.

Reconciliation: 30 minutes prior to each daily Mass

Order of Christian Initiation: Children 7-14 years of age, and Children 15 years of age and older & Adults— *The Order of Christian Initiation*, RCIA please contact Please contact Kathy Kerzak (304) 225-1163 /kkerzak@comcast.net for information

Marriage: Engaged couples planning to marry at St. Mary Church should be practicing Catholics, participating in Sunday Eucharist regularly. Also, they must participate in a Marriage Preparation Program. Call the Parish Office for information. At least **six months notice** is required. *No date for a wedding will be set over the phone.*

Holy Communion to the Sick and Homebound: When a parishioner is confined to home or hospital because of illness or advanced age, call the Parish Office. We will be happy to make arrangements to bring Holy Communion.

Anointing of the Sick: Upon request and communally as scheduled

Bulletin Deadline:

Tuesday@Noon, email or written copy please,
no bulletin announcements will be taken over the phone

Email: stmaryschurch@comcast.net

Subject line: attn: Bulletin, and include topic of announcement

Spirituality of the Readings – The Covenant



That water must have felt good.

Granted, the Jordan river was murky and teeming with various pungent smells of desert growths, scuttling creatures, dry dust, and of course the unbathed bodies of ordinary people. Still it felt good. John the Baptist's voice boomed out over the waiting crowd. "Repent!"

Maybe you remember your own river swims as a kid, how it felt to sink into thick muddy water, how the mixture could go up your nose and, uck, into your mouth. And you can recall how it sounded when you dove up through the water-surface again.

Here in the desert, people had come to the water for baptism. The river must have been a potent symbol for them, since their means of cleanliness were limited.

Jesus was one of people. He entered John's baptism just like the others, entirely submerging his road-weary body when told to.

But when he came up from underwater, a great surprise waited for him. The New American Bible translates it this way: the heavens were "torn open." Out of the torn sky came the voice of the Holy Spirit, to announce to the world that God's ancient covenant of love now was before them in person, in the flesh—dirty and wet, just as they were.

Covenant.

What is a covenant? To put it simply, an agreement. God said, "I agree to be your God and you agree to be my people." This proposal was re-stated many times in ancient scripture, with varying degrees of success. But now Jesus had come into the world to actually become this covenant. He was the most profound agreement possible of God and humanity. He was both halves of the covenant, God's and humans'.

Many centuries earlier, the book of Isaiah had predicted this moment. The following words were uttered during the exile of Israel in Babylon:

Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased, upon whom I have put my spirit. He shall bring forth justice to the nations. (First Reading)

After so many centuries had passed, the Holy Spirit was descending now upon Jesus, and a voice was saying, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

The time had come, after such a long anticipation.

What would this brand new covenant life in God be like? It would be gentle ("not crying out, not shouting, not making his voice heard in the street"). It would deliver God's love to the unkempt, the dripping wet, the honest (and dishonest), the alluring (and repulsive) people of everyday life. Instead of excluding them, Jesus, who had become the covenant, would invite people down from trees where they scrambled to see him. He would say "of course I do" in answer to "Lord if you want to you can cure me." He will pity the soldiers who were ordered to kill him. He will agree to the shrewd thief's cry for pity.

We cannot doubt that he will reach into the heart and soul of each of us, even into the parts that so shame and embarrass us.

Most of us have already swum in this particular river, now known as baptismal water. It washes us clean, washes us free so that today we may surge up and out of our sin and reluctance, so that we may be surprised by the great words Jesus now says to each and every of us:

"You are my beloved; in you I am well pleased." (Gospel)

John Foley, SJ

Giving Summary

Christmas Offering - 12/25

\$4,768.00

Catholic Charities, WV

\$2,158.00

Attendance: 163

Sunday Offering 12/27

\$4,969.00

Online Giving

\$3,211.35

Attendance: 90

Last Sunday's Offering 1/3

\$11,554.00

Online Giving

\$4,031.35

Attendance: 151

For ease of accounting, **separate checks are preferred** for all donations to different collections and purposes.

Recent/Upcoming Special Collections

12/25—Catholic Charities, West Virginia

1/31—Church in Latin America



 **DONATE TODAY**

GIVE ONLINE!

by clicking on the image on our website
www.stmarystarcity.com.

THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

January 10, The Baptism of the Lord

Saturday, 6:00pm	For the People
Sunday, 8:30am	In honor of Michael Aldridge
Sunday, 11:00am	Rosemary Capitoni

Monday 1/11 6:30pm	Weekday in Ordinary Time Joan DeChristopher
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Tuesday 1/12 9:00am	Weekday in Ordinary Time Kathy Koloff
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Wednesday 1/13 9:00am	Weekday in Ordinary Time Intention of Celebrant
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Thursday 1/14 9:00am	Weekday in Ordinary Time In honor of Michael Aldridge
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In the event of Closing of school due to inclement weather, there will be no Daily Mass or Prayer Service.

In the event of a funeral, morning Mass will be cancelled

January 17, 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, 6:00pm	Kathy Evanto
Sunday, 8:30am	Joan DeChristopher
Sunday, 11:00am	For the People



**We will have
The Blessing of the
Throats directly
following all three
Masses the weekend of
January 30/31**



With the rising cases of COVID-19 in our area, St. Ursula really needs volunteers in less at-risk age groups for several jobs, especially sorting donations of clothes and toys.

Call (304)599-3822 to speak with Ginny or Sr. Rachel. Thank you!



**St. Ursula Food
Pantry needs:**

**** Soup and Cereal ****

Baby & Toddler Program needs:

***Diapers** (All sizes, but especially 4, 5, 6)

***Toddler-sized Winter Clothing**

(Especially 3T, 4T, & 5T. No other children's clothing is being accepted at this time)

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY

Sunday, January 10

8:30/9:30 Religious Ed. (Refer to schedule)
1:00pm NA Meeting

Monday, January 11

7:00pm Parish Pastoral Council Mtg.-Narthex

Tuesday, January 12

6:30pm NA Meeting

Sunday, January 17

8:30/9:30 Religious Ed. (Refer to schedule)
1:00pm NA Meeting

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)
30 minutes prior to each Daily Mass
(Mon.-6:00pm, Tue.-Thur.-8:30am)

*times may change based on any changes to the weekly Mass schedule

Eternal Rest for Joan DeChristopher, and



condolences to her family especially her husband, Patsy; son, John DeChristopher (Connie Brady); two daughters, Perri Jo DeChristopher (Charles Porter) and Lynette DeChristopher (Tracie DeFreitas); grandchildren, Sydney and Chase, Anna and Brookie; nephew Christopher Casino (Shelly) and great-niece and nephew, Danielle and Anthony Casino; and all of her friends.



Memorial Donations for Bread and the Tabernacle candle are now being accepted for the year 2021. The requested donation is \$40. Please call the Parish Office if you are interested. 304-599-3747.



Mass intentions are now being accepted for 2021. The suggested donation is \$20 for a weekend, \$10 for a weekday. Please call the Parish Office if interested, 304-599-3747.

Please note that any Masses cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances such as a global pandemic, inclement weather, or a funeral, will be moved to the next available 'like' date and time e.g., Daily Mass on Tuesday moved to another Tuesday, 8:30 Sunday Mass moved to another 8:30, as available.



We have Hearing Assistance Devices available for use during Mass. If you would like one, please ask an Usher.

Pastoral COUNCIL

We will be taking nominations for the Parish Pastoral Council. We are going to be selecting nine members to serve 1, 2 and 3 year terms. That selection will not be an election but instead we will take the names of whoever is nominated and place them in a basket from which we will draw the nine names. So please consider nominating yourself or accepting a nomination if someone else puts your name forward.

The selection will be done on January 31. You will need to write down the name and contact information for each of your nominees.

Please contact your nominees first to see if they would like to be considered before nominating them.

Donations for St. Ursula Food  **Pantry and Outreach may be placed in the labeled bins in the church, or dropped off at the Parish Office.**

Our New Address is:

3346 University Ave
Morgantown, WV 26505

Please direct all correspondence to this new address. We will also be closing our P.O. Box.

The Parish Office has relocated to the Formation Center, room A.
We remain closed to in-person visits, except by appointment. You may still contact us by phone or email.

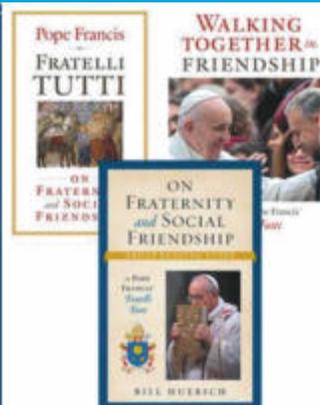
NA Meetings St. Mary Church, Star City
Tuesdays-6:30pm, Sundays-1pm
To find other meetings near you, visit
<https://www.na.org/meetingsearch/>

Online Giving Notes

If you are signed up for recurring giving:

- ♦ We recommend checking at least once per quarter to see that your account is active.
- ♦ You should be receiving a thank you note for each donation to the email account you signed up with.
- ♦ Please call the Parish Office if you are still receiving offertory envelopes in the mail.

Thank you for your continuing support of St. Mary Church!



Fratelli Tutti On Fraternity and Social Friendship

On October 4th, Pope Francis issued his latest encyclical Fratelli Tutti, On Fraternity and Social Friendship. This is Pope Francis' "cry from the heart" to all people of earth to see beyond their differences-indeed, to work

with their differences-and begin to grow together to build a new and peaceful world. (23rd Publications)

Beginning in January, we will read and examine the eight chapters (92 pages total) over five weeks via ZOOM (online virtual meetings) using Bill Huebsch's Reading Guide and the document itself. The materials can be purchased at Twenty-third Publications for \$12.95 plus shipping (<http://www.twentythirdpublications.com/fratellitutti.html>), or we can purchase for reimbursement.

If you are interested please contact the Parish Office and provide your name, phone number, email address and the day of the week you would prefer to meet. This will be facilitated by Nancy Ferrari. For additional questions, contact Nancy at nickliz@aol.com.



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Martin Luther King Jr. Day Family Celebration

Monday, January 18, 2021

2:00 p.m. on Zoom and Facebook Live

“West Virginia Civil Rights Leaders”

Virtual performance by Ilene Evans:

“The Life of Memphis Tennessee Garrison”



Sponsored by the Community Coalition for Social Justice, Main Street Morgantown, and the WVU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, with financial support from the City of Morgantown.

This presentation will be streamed live on Zoom and on Facebook. You must pre-register at <https://bit.ly/3mnuXgw> to attend via Zoom; no registration is required to watch the presentation on Facebook.

To view the presentation via Facebook Live, on the day of the event go to the OLLI page at <https://www.facebook.com/olliatwvu>, and the stream should appear at the top of the OLLI page.

This live video will start approximately ten minutes prior to the event and should appear at the top of the OLLI Facebook page once streaming has begun.

If there are any problems, we will post messages on Facebook alerting you of delays or other issues.

For more information, please go to www.ccsjwv.org.

Sunday, Jan 10, 2021

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Do justice

We sometimes imagine it's about collecting sacraments. Or stockpiling mountains of prayers. Writing fat checks to charities. Or being nice to people we don't like. But the prophets relentlessly insist that what God desires from us is a just world. Where there's a privileged class, abominable wage gaps, racist systems, and deeply disproportionate outcomes for a nation's citizens, the peaceable reign of God can't gain a foothold. Contemplate categories of injustice—education, health care, employment opportunities, criminal justice—to name a few. Make one your special cause, learn all you can, and educate others about it.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 55:1-11 or Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7; 1 John 5:1-9 or Acts 10:34-38; Mark 1:7-11 (21). *"A smoldering wick he shall not quench, until he establishes justice on the earth."*

Monday, Jan 11, 2021

FIRST WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

Nothing ordinary about the reign of God

Today is the first weekday of Ordinary Time—that period in the church's liturgical year after the close of the Christmas season that stretches until Ash Wednesday (and then picks up after Pentecost until Advent begins again). This time after the holidays can indeed seem "ordinary," when all the commotion dies down and all the decorations are put away. Some people, especially those who live with long, cold winters, might even feel a little blue. But while sacred seasons are important, getting down to business is too. After all, there's a reign of God to help build. Think about everything Jesus did between the bookends of his life that we celebrate—and roll up your sleeves for some extraordinary work.

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 1:1-6; Mark 1:14-20 (305). *"Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."*

Tuesday, Jan 12, 2021

The power of a name

The Holy Name of Jesus is a devotion that was championed by Saint Bernardino of Siena in the 1400s—with the Holy Name Society dating to the 1200s. As a feast day, it's been celebrated during the first week of January by various Christian denominations and by Catholic religious orders, most notably the Jesuits, who use a monogram of the name (IHS) as their emblem. For Catholics, the entire month of January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus. Pray the Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus today, recalling how even the unclean spirits of Jesus' day recognized his name.

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 2:5-12; Mark 1:21-28 (306). *"What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?"*

Wednesday, Jan 13, 2021

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OF HILARY, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Be gracious in your disagreements

Catholics of the 21st century profess the belief that Jesus is both human and divine every time we recite the Nicene Creed at Mass. However, that profession of faith was challenged mightily in the fourth century when followers of Arius argued that Jesus was a great man—but not God. The conflict involved bishops and

emperors on both sides and it went on for years. Hilary of Poitiers converted to Christianity at the age of 35 and was elected a bishop three years later. Hilary was a friendly and courteous man who persistently championed belief in Jesus' divinity. Even exile did not silence his voice. In our own times of conflict and division, Saint Hilary, guide us to God's grace.

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 2:14-18; Mark 1:29-39 (307). *"For this purpose have I come."*

Thursday, Jan 14, 2021

Reach out and touch an outcast

Jesus heals a leper in today's gospel. Leprosy is relatively rare now in most regions of the world, so it's hard to understand the fear and revulsion that people with this disease triggered at one time. Even someone as close to God as Saint Francis struggled to be comfortable with touching a leper. Every age has its outcasts, and the Christian challenge has always been to learn to accept those others find unacceptable, love those others find unlovable. Prisoners, poor people, those with dark skin or foreign accents, the homeless—the list of modern lepers is long. Who do you avoid? Acknowledging your aversion is a step toward acceptance.

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 3:7-14; Mark 1:40-45 (308). *"He . . . touched the leper, and said to him, 'I do will it. Be made clean.'"*

Friday, Jan 15, 2021

Color blind no more

Today in Guatemala, a major religious procession honors an image of Christ on the cross carved from dark wood and renowned throughout the region as the "Black Christ of Esquipulas." The statue was commissioned by Spanish colonial leaders looking to convert the indigenous people who worshipped a dark-skinned deity. Today the image affirms the fact that in Latin America there has been a certain "fluidity between races through inter-marriage and more blending of cultures and religions when compared to the experience of Native Americans and African Americans," as El Paso Bishop Mark J. Seitz wrote in a remarkable pastoral letter on the history of racism, *Night Will Be No More*. Today would be a good day to dip into this document for insights into the history and persistence of racism, regionwide. May the Black Christ be a symbol of hope!

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 4:1-5, 11; Mark 2:1-12 (309). *"They were all astounded and glorified God, saying, 'We have never seen anything like this.'"*

Saturday, Jan 16, 2021

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Be present to the Presence

The great paradox of God's kingdom is often expressed in the teachings of Jesus: The blind see, the lame walk, the deaf hear, the last are first, the dead live. The first and most profound paradox is that the Virgin conceives. Our Blessed Mother experienced the coming Kingdom in her own body. She shares that experience with us in our communion with the Lord. We carry the Real Presence of the Savior in our own bodies. The ongoing paradox is that the Lord calls us, who are sinners, to be the vessels of his presence in the world. Express that presence today by lifting up the lowly.

TODAY'S READINGS: Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 2:13-17 (310). *"I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."*

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time

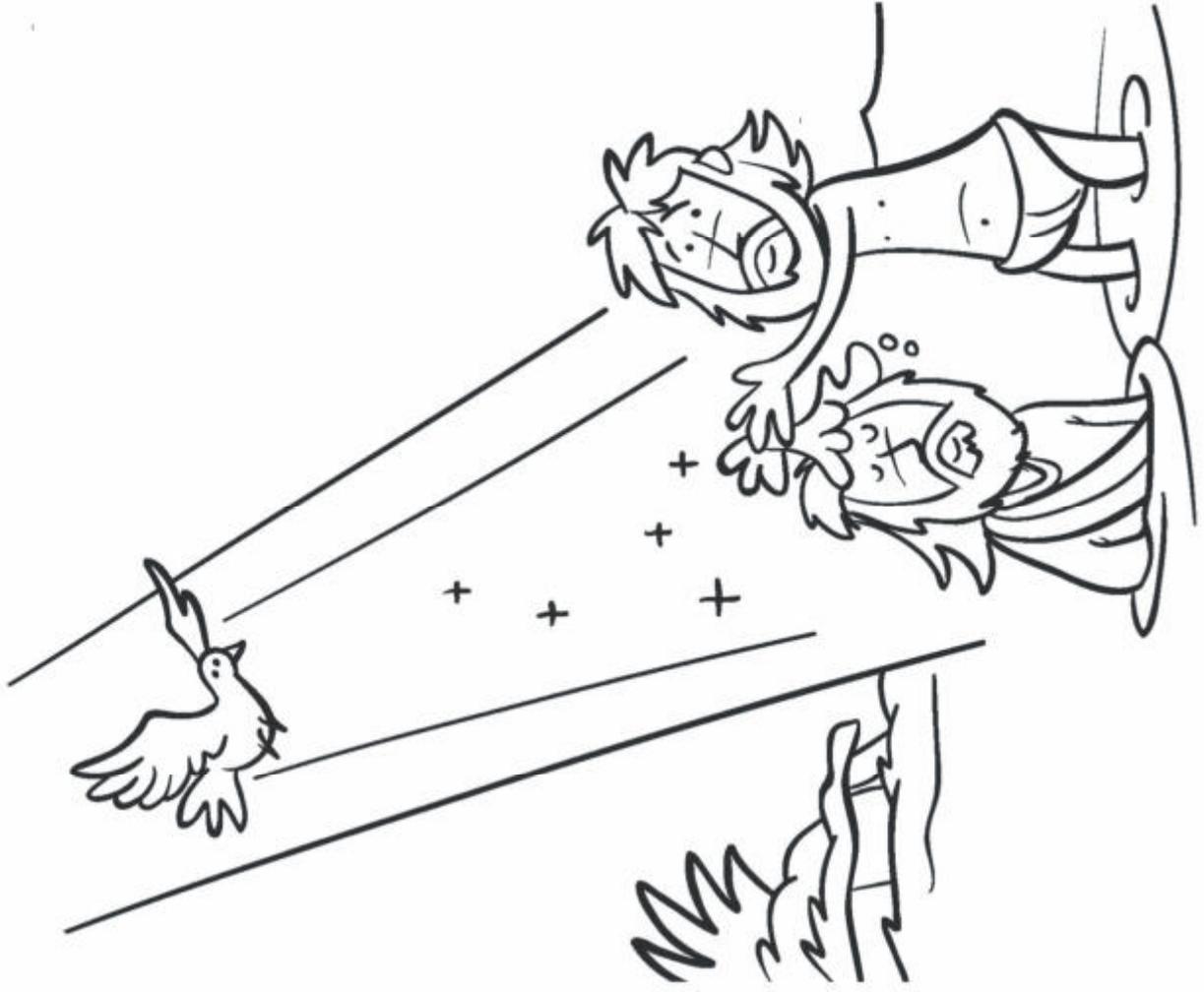


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COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



GOSPEL

"Keep trying. You're doing great. I'm so proud of you." Every child should hear words like that. Every child wants to feel God's love. As Jesus grew from a boy to a man, he showed he was ready to live for God. At Jesus' baptism, God told Jesus, "You are my own dear Son, and I am pleased with you." God loves you as his child, too.



PRAYER

God, I am so glad you love me.



BECAUSE VIBRANT
CHURCHES MATTER

Safe Environment Reporting

To report an incidence of suspected child sexual abuse, please contact your local law enforcement agency, or you may confidentially contact WV Child Protective Services at 800-352-6513.

To report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, please contact one of the Bishop's designees at 888-434-6237 or 304-233-0880: Sister Ellen Dunn, ext. 264; Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; Fr. Dennis Schuelkens, ext. 270 or call the Office of Safe Environment at 304-230-1504.

Will or Estate Planning

Are you thinking of remembering St. Mary Church in your will or estate plans? A bequest through a Last Will and Testament is the simplest way of creating a lasting legacy of support for St. Mary Church. Bequests should be made out to:

"The Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, or his successors in office," with a specification of the purpose for which the bequest is to be used, e.g. "for the use of St. Mary Parish"

READINGS FOR THE WEEK**January 10, 2021**

Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Mk 1:7-11 or Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3])/1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11
Monday: Heb 1:1-6/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 6 and 7c, 9 [cf. 7c]/Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 7]/Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 [8a]/Mk 1:29-39
Thursday: Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11 [8]/Mk 1:40-45
Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 78:3 and 4bc, 6c-7, 8 [cf. 7b]/Mk 2:1-12
Saturday: Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 [cf. Jn 6:63c]/Mk 2:13-17
Next Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 [8a, 9a]/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42

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Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service
ReportBishopAbuse.org (800) 276-1562

The Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service has been established to receive reports of sexual abuse and related misconduct by bishops, and to relay those reports to proper Church authorities for investigation. Where a report includes a crime, such as the sexual abuse of a minor, it will also be reported to civil authorities. Otherwise, reports will be kept confidential. If you have any other kind of complaint about a bishop—such as parish assignments, church closings, or homily contents—please address those directly to your diocesan or eparchial bishop instead. Sexual abuse by a priest, deacon or a staff member or volunteer of the Church should be reported to the Office of Safe Environment for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. So, to be sure you get the help you need, phone numbers and addresses may be found at www.dwc.org under the accountability tab. If you are the victim of sexual abuse (or any other crime), please contact local law enforcement.

The Baptism of the Lord—Readings and Gospel**FIRST READING****A READING FROM THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET ISAIAH**

Thus says the LORD:

All you who are thirsty,
come to the water!

You who have no money,
come, receive grain and eat;
come, without paying and without cost,
drink wine and milk!

Why spend your money for what is not bread,
your wages for what fails to satisfy?
Heed me, and you shall eat well,
you shall delight in rich fare.
Come to me heedfully,
listen, that you may have life.
I will renew with you the everlasting covenant,
the benefits assured to David.

As I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander of nations,
so shall you summon a nation you knew not,
and nations that knew you not shall run to you,
because of the LORD, your God,
the Holy One of Israel, who has glorified you.
Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call him while he is near.
Let the scoundrel forsake his way,
and the wicked man his thoughts;
let him turn to the LORD for mercy;
to our God, who is generous in forgiving.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
As high as the heavens are above the earth

so high are my ways above your ways
and my thoughts above your thoughts.
For just as from the heavens
the rain and snow come down
and do not return there
till they have watered the earth,
making it fertile and fruitful,
giving seed to the one who sows
and bread to the one who eats,
so shall my word be
that goes forth from my mouth;
my word shall not return to me void,
but shall do my will,
achieving the end for which I sent it.

The Word of the Lord.

SECOND READING

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF SAINT JOHN

Beloved:

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is begotten by God, and everyone who loves the Father loves also the one begotten by him. In this way we know that we love the children of God when we love God and obey his commandments.

For the love of God is this, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whoever is begotten by God conquers the world. And the victory that conquers the world is our faith.

Who indeed is the victor over the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ,

not by water alone, but by water and blood.

The Spirit is the one who testifies, and the Spirit is truth.

So there are three that testify, the Spirit, the water, and the blood, and the three are of one accord.

If we accept human testimony, the testimony of God is surely greater. Now the testimony of God is this, that he has testified on behalf of his Son.

The Word of the Lord.

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

This is what John the Baptist proclaimed: “One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals.

I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him.

And a voice came from the heavens, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD.



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