

**ST. MARY**  
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH  
STAR CITY

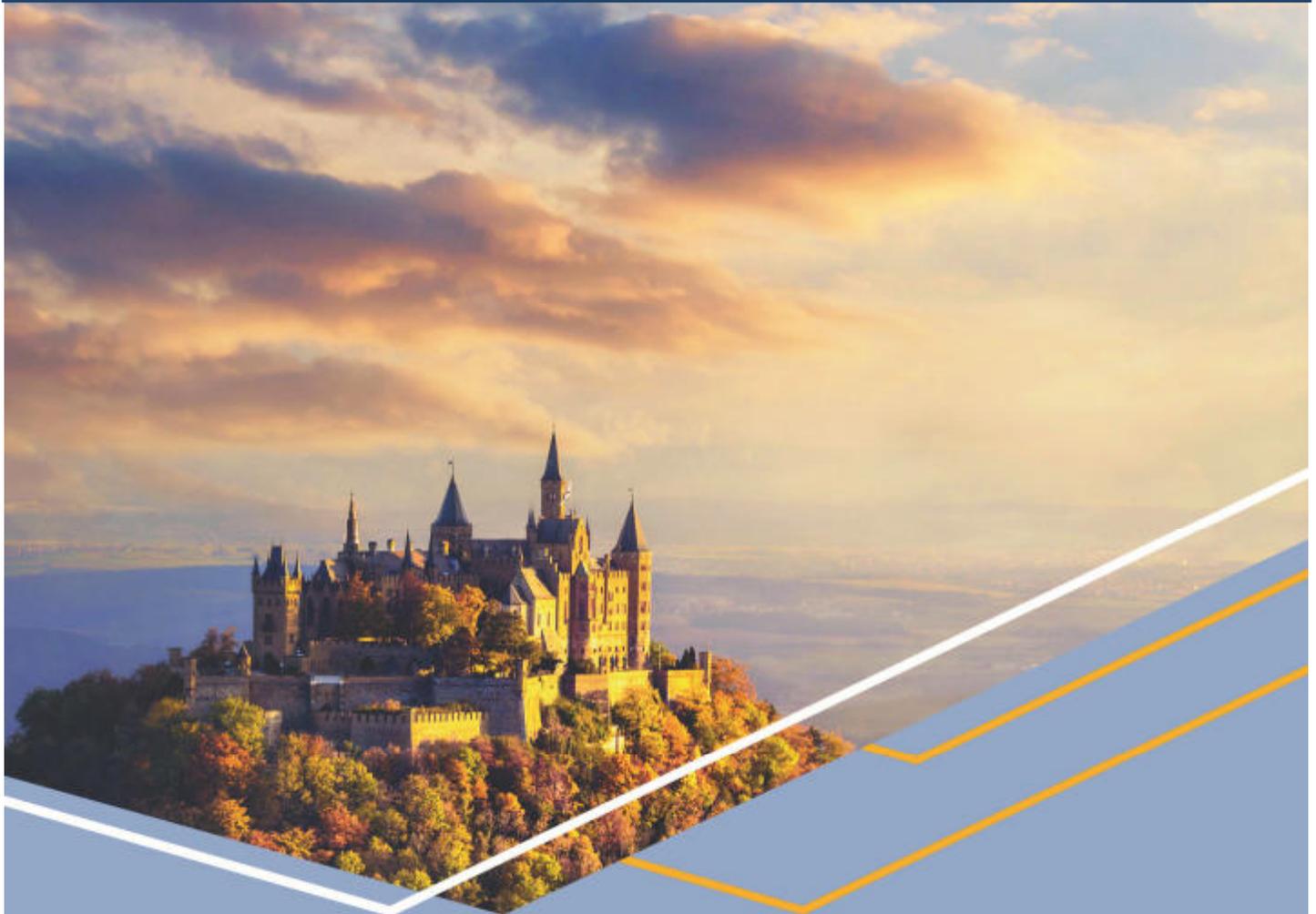
3346 University Ave. Morgantown, WV 26505 • 304-599-3747

**February 21, 2021 • 1st Sunday of Lent**

**Mass Times: Saturday, 6:00pm, Sunday, 8:30am, 11:00am, en español a la 1:00pm**

**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



**1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT**

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." - Mk 1:14-15



[www.stmarystarcity.com](http://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**

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  
angelamerinar@gmail.com

### **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](http://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 – What is Lent?



Ash Wednesday was a few days ago, starting the Lenten countdown toward Holy Week and Easter. But maybe some of us are not completely clear as to why these weeks of preparation are there in the first place.

One opinion is that Lent is a time to deprive yourself. You give up candy or smoking or desserts or heavy meals or ... well, choose your

favorite and then give it up. These are part of Lenten practice.

Lenten deprivation gave birth to Mardi Gras (literally meaning “Fat Tuesday”). In contrast to the toughness of Lent. Mardi Gras, at least in non-covid-19 years, had you eat all the fat you could, parade around in costume, go wild. The public usually does not recall that Mardi Gras has something to do with what is to them a quaint old practice, Lent. But that sharpens the question: what have they or we forgotten about Lent and its practices?

Well, what if we described Lent as a “Retreat”?

A Retreat, in Catholic and other religions, is a space of days taken out to pray and to be with the Lord. Often one goes to a retreat house to do these. In St. Louis, for instance, there is a beautiful place called “White House”—different from the one for the president—which has a stunning view of the Mississippi River. For many decades Jesuits have preached retreats there every weekend and sometimes during the week. Sizeable groups of men or women stay for two or three days to meditate, listen to talks, and refresh their spiritual lives.

I am not saying that you should disappear to the nearest retreat house for the five weeks of Lent. But what about letting each Lenten day partake of certain retreat practices? For instance, what about setting aside a little time each day to let your insides settle down for a while, to create a space within you to welcome God. Maybe set up a special place in your home or someplace else just to pray. How about a picture or crucifix or maybe a candle? Or just 10 minutes of silence?

And why not use some time to read in advance the gospel from the upcoming Sunday Mass? Sit down, read it slowly, and let the scene described take place within the your heart and mind. This week you could ask Jesus how it felt to have the Spirit drive him into the desert, as described in this week’s Gospel.

The point?

Let the Lord’s loving deeds be your motivation for “giving up” anything during Lent. Make a gift of gratitude to God—rather than just refraining from something or other. How does any of this prepare you for Holy Week and Easter? By doing exactly what Jesus does when he makes of himself a gift consisting of suffering and death. He is returning a gift of love to the Father. Lent prepares us to witness this reality of our savior.

John Foley, SJ

## Giving Summary

**Last Sunday’s Offering**  
\$4,650.00

**Online Giving**  
\$1,611.35

**Attendance:** 265

For ease of accounting, **separate checks are preferred** for all donations to different collections and purposes, including special collections, Mass intentions, memorials, and donations to different funds e.g. Trust Fund for the Poor, Debt Reduction, etc. Thank you for your help!

## Recent/Upcoming Special Collections

**2/17**—Church in Central and Eastern Europe

**2/21**—Black and Indian Missions



 **DONATE TODAY**

**GIVE ONLINE!**

by clicking on the image on our website  
[www.stmarystarcity.com](http://www.stmarystarcity.com).

## THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

### February 21, 1st Sunday of Lent

Saturday, 6:00pm Arthur Toccino  
 Sunday, 8:30am For the People  
 Sunday, 11:00am Intention of Celebrant  
 Domingo, 1pm Pour La Comunidad de la Parroquia

Monday 2/22 The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle  
 6:30pm Jim & Margaret White

Tuesday 2/23 Optional Memorial of St. Polycarp  
 9:00am Alfred Barata

Wednesday 2/24 Lenten Weekday  
 9:00am Anthony & Dorothy Fata

Thursday 2/25 Lenten Weekday  
 9:00am Pat Griffith

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\***

### February 28, 2nd Sunday of Lent

Saturday, 6:00pm John Miller  
 Sunday, 8:30am For the People  
 Sunday, 11:00am Albert Hohman  
 Domingo, 1pm Pour La Comunidad de la Parroquia

### Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

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

And during lent—Saturdays 5:00-5:40pm  
 (Feb. 20, 27 & Mar. 6, 13, 20, 27)

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



### Misa en español

Todos los domingos a la 1:00 pm

### Spanish Mass

Every Sunday at 1:00pm



flocknote

Keep in touch with us

VIA EMAIL AND TEXT MESSAGE

**We want to connect with you  
this Lent!**

**Please TTJ** (text-to-join) our Flocknote network.

**Text the word "starcity" to 84576**

**OR** connect with us online at:

**StMaryStarCity.flocknote.com**

## THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY

### Sunday, February 21

8:30/9:30 Religious Ed. (Refer to schedule)  
 9:30-10:45 RCIA  
 1:00pm NA Meeting  
 6-8:00pm Confirmation Session 1— Peace Hall

### Monday, February 22

Stations of the Cross-immediately after Mass

7:30pm Parish Council Meeting-Narthex

### Tuesday, February 23

6:30pm Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic—  
Narthex

6:30pm NA Meeting

### Friday, February 26

12:00pm Stations of the Cross/ Reconciliation

### Saturday, February 27

5:00-5:40pm Reconciliation

### Sunday, February 28

**No Religious Ed.**

9:30-10:45 RCIA - Rite of Elect— Wheeling

1:00pm NA Meeting

6-8:00pm Confirmation Session 2— Peace Hall



## Lenten Season

### Stations of the Cross

**Mondays:** Starting Mon, 22 Feb., Fr. John will lead stations of the cross *immediately* following 6:30pm Mass.

**Fridays:** Beginning Fri, 19 Feb., lay led stations of the cross will be at 12:00pm. If no leader signs up for that week, there will be booklets available for self-guided stations. Fr. John will hear confessions during this time.

### Reconciliation

**In addition** to the normal times before daily Mass, there will be reconciliation on **Saturdays-** from 5-5:40pm (except Saturday, March 5th)

**Friday-** during stations of the cross beginning at noon.

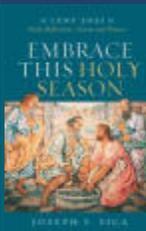
### Wednesday, March 10, 6:30-7:30pm

Communal Reconciliation  
 @ St. Mary Church

### Wednesday, March 24, 6:30-7:30pm

Communal Reconciliation  
 @ St. John University Parish

**Please continue to check back for any changes or additions**



**Lenten reflection books**  
"Embrace this Holy Season" can be found in the church, and on the table in the Christian Formation Center entry. Suggested donation \$1 ea.



**Position Opening:**  
St. Mary is looking to hire a new business/office manager. While the person chosen will need a variety of skills, some of the basic skills and experience necessary will be a good understanding of financial accounting with a familiarity with Quickbooks online. Additional skills will be good communication with the broader public and with the parish staff and various groups within the parish. Basic computer skills are also a necessity. This is full-time 35-40 hours a week. Compensation will be determined by experience. Please contact the office if interested and to set up an interview with the pastor.



**Mass intentions are 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.



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



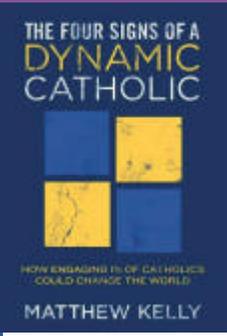
We have Hearing Assistance Devices available for use during Mass. If you would like one, please ask an Usher.

**Tax receipts** for 2020 have been mailed to those who have made contributions of \$250 or more.

If you would like a statement, but haven't received one, please call or email the parish office.

 <b>What does your donation provide?</b>	<b>\$40</b> helps purchase infant scales to measure babies' growth.	<b>\$80</b> helps raise chickens to provide eggs for protein and income.	<b>\$120</b> contributes toward a household garden for family nutrition.
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**Hunger in our world**—Jesus told us that whatever we did for one of these least brothers of his we did for him. Reflect on the challenge of global hunger— it is a reality for millions of our sisters and brothers. What will you do to support the hungry in our community and around the world? Visit [crrrice-bowl.org](http://crrrice-bowl.org) to learn more.



**"Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic"**  
by Matthew Kelly  
**Tuesdays during Lent:**  
**February 23, March 2, 9, 16 & 23**  
**@6:30 pm**  
**in the Narthex**  
**To purchase your book:**  
**Visit:** [dynamiccatholic.com](http://dynamiccatholic.com)

and search for Four Signs of Dynamic Catholic **Or** you may purchase an eBook or hard copy elsewhere. Please read the foreword and chapter 1 before the first discussion.



**Stations of the Cross**  
**Fridays during Lent**  
**12:00, Noon**  
**To lead, please sign up in the Church.**

If there is no leader signed up, there will be booklets available for self-guided stations.  
Fr. John will be available for reconciliation during this time.



**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)



**Donations for St. Ursula Food Pantry and Outreach** may be **placed in** the labeled bins in **the church**, or **dropped off in the baskets in the CFC entry.**

## Sunday, Feb 21, 2021

### FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

#### Doing the rite thing

Today, some of our neighbors are going to make a counter-cultural choice. They're going to sign the Book of the Elect, signaling their decision to be baptized, confirmed, and to receive First Eucharist at this year's Easter Vigil. These Elect have been studying for months or years to embrace the life of the church. Why would anyone make this choice in the 21st century? For some, it may have begun as intellectual curiosity. For others, it's a journey of the heart. For all, it's what they've seen in folks like us that make Catholic Christianity an inspiring choice. Let's help keep the inspiration going!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Genesis 9:8-15; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15 (23). "The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."*

## Monday, Feb 22, 2021

### FEAST OF THE CHAIR OF PETER, APOSTLE

#### Recognize the chair

Jesus loved us so much that he entrusted us to someone he trusted deeply. In fact, in the Gospel of John, Jesus asked Peter three times if his devotion was assured. He named him "rock" so he would be a solid foundation upon which to build the church, and for 2,000 years Peter's successors have had the responsibility of tending his sheep. Today we celebrate the seat of the pope's authority as Christ's representative on Earth, the protector Jesus wanted for his flock. Ask the Holy Spirit to always guide the one who sits in Peter's chair.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19 (535). "I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of heaven."*

## Tuesday, Feb 23, 2021

### MEMORIAL OF POLYCARP, BISHOP, MARTYR

#### Words to live forever by

Polycarp's death in 155 is one of the first accounts of Christian martyrdom in a public arena. The elderly bishop was resolute and serene even as he was burned and stabbed before a frenzied crowd. Included in the accounts is the two hours of prayer Polycarp began upon his arrest, so powerful it unnerved his Roman guards. But Polycarp was also an Apostolic Father, specifically a disciple of Saint John the Evangelist. Thus, he had firsthand knowledge of John's words from Jesus: "Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15 (225). "Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."*

## Wednesday, Feb 24, 2021

### LENTEN WEEKDAY

#### A good day to make amends

We are one week into this Lenten season, so perhaps it is time to have a conversation with our Lord. Imagine you are walking with Jesus, side by side, and he asks you, "Is there any person you think of who you have hurt or judged, or any action that comes to mind that you know was wrong? Any-

thing you repent?" You take a moment, and standing next to him, you feel his love for you. Regret and sorrow arise as you admit the mistakes that come to mind. You ask for the grace to make amends in whatever way possible. Find a way today to make something right.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32 (226). "At the preaching of Jonah they repented, and there is something greater than Jonah here."*

## Thursday, Feb 25, 2021

### LENTEN WEEKDAY

#### Has prayer moved you?

It is tempting to think about prayer in a transactional way: I ask, therefore God gives. Today's gospel may even appear to encourage this form of thought: "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find." But Catholic teaching urges us to see God's response to prayer broadly. Pope Francis explains: "Prayer always transforms reality: if things around us do not change, at least our hearts are changed. Jesus promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to every man and woman who prays." If you have a prayer that seems unanswered, consider how your heart was moved by the mere act of praying.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Matthew 7:7-12 (227). "For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds."*

## Friday, Feb 26, 2021

### LENTEN WEEKDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE

#### The low rumble within

Anger is one of our human "passions," the Catechism of the Catholic Church instructs, neither good nor bad in and of itself. Anger can provide us with helpful information that we feel wronged by someone or something. It may be intense or a low rumble within. Lent is an opportunity to become still, listen to our anger, and examine its source. How might we invite God into these rough spaces for healing? Desiring healing does not disregard hurt or suffering; rather we seek to "unhook" from anger to live in peace. Unhooking might mean talking with a loved one who hurt us. It might mean protesting against injustice. It might mean forgiving ourselves. What might be rumbling within your heart?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26 (228). "Go first and be reconciled."*

## Saturday, Feb 27, 2021

### LENTEN WEEKDAY

#### Agree to disagree

There is no more timely message for our divided age of partisan politics than "love your enemies." But how is that even possible? One perspective that some find helpful is that "you don't have to *like* someone to *love* them." Love in this context is not a warm, fuzzy feeling but a decision to treat with respect, to "do unto others." A tall order, but it does help to remove the expectation that we have to become fast friends with those we oppose. And maybe it will lead to a time when we can see difficult folks as people with whom we happen to disagree, rather than mortal enemies. Jesus was all about reconciliation. Let's take up the mantle.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48 (229). "But I say to you, love your enemies."*

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



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# PRE-REGISTER

FOR YOUR COVID-19 VACCINE AT  
**VACCINATE.WV.GOV**

OR BY CALLING THE WV  
COVID-19 VACCINE INFO LINE AT  
**1-833-734-0965**



The info line is open Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed Sunday.

Vaccine supplies are limited, so pre-registration does not mean immediate access to vaccination. Pre-registration offers West Virginians the opportunity to receive updates on vaccine availability and schedule an appointment when vaccine supplies allow.





*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.*

*Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,  
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

*Salve, Guardián del Redentor  
Esposo de la Bendita Virgen María.  
A ti Dios te confió su único Hijo;  
en ti Maria depositó su confianza;  
contigo Cristo se hizo hombre.*

*Bendito José, para nosotros también  
muéstrate padre  
y guíanos en el camino de la vida.  
Obten para nosotros gracia, misericordia y coraje  
y defiéndenos de todo mal. Amén.*

### **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. In addition to civil authorities, to report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, please contact the Diocese at 888-434-6237 or 304-233-0880. Please visit [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org) under "Accountability" for additional information and reporting methods.

### **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

**February 21,  
2021**

Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 10]/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15  
Monday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6 [1]/Mt 16:13-19  
Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19 [18b]/Mt 6:7-15  
Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 [19b]/Lk 11:29-32  
Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 [3a]/Mt 7:7-12  
Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8 [3]/Mt 5:20-26  
Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 [1b]/Mt 5:43-48  
Next Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 [9]/Rom 8:31b-34/ Mk 9:2-10  
©LPi

### **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](http://www.dwc.org) under the "accountability" tab. If you are the victim of sexual abuse (or any other crime), please contact local law enforcement.

## First Sunday of Lent—Readings and Gospel

### FIRST READING

#### A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS

God said to Noah and to his sons with him:  
 “See, I am now establishing my covenant with you  
 and your descendants after you  
 and with every living creature that was with you:  
 all the birds, and the various tame and wild animals  
 that were with you and came out of the ark.  
 I will establish my covenant with you,  
 that never again shall all bodily creatures be destroyed  
 by the waters of a flood;  
 there shall not be another flood to devastate the earth.”  
 God added:  
 “This is the sign that I am giving for all ages to come,  
 of the covenant between me and you  
 and every living creature with you:  
 I set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign  
 of the covenant between me and the earth.  
 When I bring clouds over the earth,  
 and the bow appears in the clouds,  
 I will recall the covenant I have made  
 between me and you and all living beings,  
 so that the waters shall never again become a flood  
 to destroy all mortal beings.”

**The Word of the Lord.**

### SECOND READING

#### A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF SAINT PETER

Beloved:  
 Christ suffered for sins once,  
 the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous,  
 that he might lead you to God.  
 Put to death in the flesh,  
 he was brought to life in the Spirit.

In it he also went to preach to the spirits in prison,  
 who had once been disobedient  
 while God patiently waited in the days of Noah  
 during the building of the ark,  
 in which a few persons, eight in all,  
 were saved through water.  
 This prefigured baptism, which saves you now.  
 It is not a removal of dirt from the body  
 but an appeal to God for a clear conscience,  
 through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,  
 who has gone into heaven  
 and is at the right hand of God,  
 with angels, authorities, and powers subject to him.

**The Word of the Lord.**

#### A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert,  
 and he remained in the desert for forty days,  
 tempted by Satan.  
 He was among wild beasts,  
 and the angels ministered to him.  
 After John had been arrested,  
 Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God:  
 “This is the time of fulfillment.  
 The kingdom of God is at hand.  
 Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD.**

**Primera lectura****Lectura del libro del Génesis**

En aquellos días, dijo Dios a Noé y a sus hijos: “Ahora establezco una alianza con ustedes y con sus descendientes, con todos los animales que los acompañaron, aves, ganados y fieras, con todos los que salieron del arca, con todo ser viviente sobre la tierra. Ésta es la alianza que establezco con ustedes: No volveré a exterminar la vida con el diluvio, ni habrá otro diluvio que destruya la tierra”.

Y añadió: “Ésta es la señal de la alianza perpetua que yo establezco con ustedes y con todo ser viviente que esté con ustedes: pondré mi arco iris en el cielo como señal de mi alianza con la tierra, y cuando yo cubra de nubes la tierra, aparecerá el arco iris y me acordaré de mi alianza con ustedes y con todo ser viviente. No volverán las aguas del diluvio a destruir la vida”.

Palabra de Dios.

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**Segunda lectura****Lectura de la primera carta del apóstol san Pedro**

Hermanos: Cristo murió, una sola vez y para siempre, por los pecados de los hombres; él, el justo, por nosotros, los injustos, para llevarnos a Dios; murió en su cuerpo y resucitó glorificado. En esta ocasión, fue a proclamar su mensaje a los espíritus encarcelados, que habían sido rebeldes en los tiempos de Noé, cu-

ando la paciencia de Dios aguardaba, mientras se construía el arca, en la que unos pocos, ocho personas, se salvaron flotando sobre el agua. Aquella agua era figura del bautismo, que ahora los salva a ustedes y que no consiste en quitar la inmundicia corporal, sino en el compromiso de vivir con una buena conciencia ante Dios, por la resurrección de Cristo Jesús, Señor nuestro, que subió al cielo y está a la derecha de Dios, a quien están sometidos los ángeles, las potestades y las virtudes.

Palabra de Dios

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**Evangelio****Lectura del santo Evangelio según san Marcos**

En aquel tiempo, el Espíritu impulsó a Jesús a retirarse al desierto, donde permaneció cuarenta días y fue tentado por Satanás. Vivió allí entre animales salvajes, y los ángeles le servían. Después de que arrestaron a Juan el Bautista, Jesús se fue a Galilea para predicar el Evangelio de Dios y decía: “Se ha cumplido el tiempo y el Reino de Dios ya está cerca. Arrepiéntanse y crean en el Evangelio”.

Palabra del Señor.



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