

ST. MARY

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
STAR CITY

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

January 9, 2022 • Baptism of the Lord

Mass Times: Saturday, 6:00pm, Sunday, 8:30am, 11:00am, en español a la 1:00pm
Daily Mass*: Mon.-Fri. 9:00am, Mon. 6:30pm, Wed. 12:00pm *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

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. - Lk 3:21-22a



www.stmarystarcity.com



Saint Mary Roman Catholic Church, Star City—JOIN us

St. Mary Parish

Pastor

Rev. John P. McDonough
papajohnwv@msn.com

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Jose Mauricio Henriquez
mhenriquez@dwc.org

Rectory Phone: 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

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St. Ursula Food Pantry & Outreach

Sr. Rachel Blais, S.C.
rachel.blais@gmail.com

Phone

304-599-3822

Email

stursulaoutreach@gmail.com

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 contact the parish office 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 Cynthia Friesen at 304-225-1163 or stmarystarcityfaithformation@gmail.com

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 – **Staying With**



Today marks the formal end of the Church's Christmas season. Jesus' birth into earthly life has now been sufficiently celebrated. His public life comes next and his baptism begins it, even though the vestment color is still white.

I know, I know, Christmas has been over for ages and we are making ready for Easter eggs or whatever else. But the Church has sense and gives us a Christmas season of weeks instead of just ripping down decorations and going on to the next thing.

Good for the Church.

But what about Jesus' public life, beginning with Baptism? In the Gospel we hear the voice of God the Father speaking to him. This only happens twice in the Gospels, though on the other hand, Jesus talks and prays to his Abba often. Here it is the same message from God both times.

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

Who would not want to hear these words over and over? I would. The beloved of God! It is like having candy and circuses and ice cream and all your favorite things. God has settled upon you as his special one. Everything will be fine.

Except that "being fine" is not the true meaning of "beloved."

I was visiting a Jesuit friend of mine in Washington DC, Pete, who is a prankster. He was in the kitchen cooking up homemade spaghetti. Icky sticky mess.

I asked him what time something or other was going to happen and he said "I don't know, but we can ask Joe." Joe was another Jesuit who on that Saturday was working at his job in the Jesuit Conference building. My friend put the kitchen phone on its speaker and floured in the phone number.

Joe answered and Pete said, "hi, how are you doing, Joseph?"

Joe said, "just great."

Pete said, "how wonderful, since you are spending your weekend working."

Joe said, "No it is ok. God told me everything was going to be fine."

Without skipping a beat Pete said, "Yeah that's what he told his Son."

I was on the floor laughing at such a funny, quick, piercing reply, delivered seemingly with no forethought at all.

But notice what is behind that joke. God does in fact tolerate pain and suffering, now in his beloved son, on the cross. This is the other side of being the beloved of God.

Suffering, temptation.

Jesus heard the voice from the cloud and went to the desert to ponder. Maybe by now he saw the implications. The devil was going to give him huge, slick temptations to help win him over. Build up your earthly power and honor, use your now public status as "Beloved." Be big.

Directly and deeply contrary to Jesus' mission, of course, but God let the temptation happen.

Why? Well, God is like a parent watching a teenager's growing pains. Help all you can, but definitely do not stop the growing.

Temptation and suffering create an urgent need in a person to open up, to broaden the scope, to better understand what love is, to see that love does not mean God taking charge and making everything alright but rather God staying with the beloved, continuing to love and admire him or her, since love at its root means sharing another's life, not taking it over.

To paraphrase the Father's words at the Jordan: receive my love that never runs away, never let go, even in the desert, even on the cross.

John Foley, SJ

Giving Summary

Christmas Offering—12/ 25
\$10,631.00

Catholic Charities, WV
\$1,372.00

Attendance: 429

Sunday Offering—December 26
\$4,850.00

Online Giving: \$1,541.35

Attendance: 210

Solemnity of Mary—January 1
\$1,115.00

Attendance: 84

Sunday Offering—January 2
\$6,687.00

Online Giving: \$2,018.35

Disaster Relief—Kentucky
\$1,377.00

Attendance: 284

Other /End of Year Donations:
\$5,200.00

Recent/Upcoming Special Collections

1/2 Kentucky Disaster Relief

1/16 Church in the Developing World

Combining 3 collections:
Church in Latin America,
Church in Central and Eastern
Europe, Church in Africa

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!

DONATE TODAY

GIVE ONLINE!

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

THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

January 9, Baptism of the Lord

Saturday, 6:00pm	Kathy Evanto
Sunday, 8:30am	The Barry Kolar Family
Sunday, 11:00am	For the People
Domingo, 1pm	Por la familia Sánchez Pelayo

Monday 1/10	Weekday in Ordinary Time
9:00am	Intention of Celebrant
6:30pm	Msgr. John P. McDonough
Tuesday 1/11	Weekday in Ordinary Time
9:00am	Intention of Celebrant
Wednesday 1/12	Weekday in Ordinary Time
9:00am	Intention of Celebrant
12:00pm	Constantine 'Connie' Mantini
Thursday 1/13	St. Hilary
9:00am	Joseph Wroblewski
Friday 1/14	Weekday in Ordinary Time
9:00am	Intention of Celebrant

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 16, 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, 6:00pm	For the People
Sunday, 8:30am	Intention of Celebrant
Sunday, 11:00am	Intention of Celebrant
Domingo, 1pm	Por la familia Cendejas



Until further notice, Bishop Brennan asks that all those in attendance at Mass **and any other meetings, social events, or other parish gatherings (including events with food)** wear a mask, other than young children under the age of 2.

Thank you for your cooperation in this act of Christian Charity.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

30 minutes prior to each Daily Mass
Saturdays from 5-5:40pm as scheduled
(Mon-Fri: 8:30am, Mon: 5:45pm, Wed: 11:30am)
*times may change based on any changes to the weekly Mass schedule

If you, or any parishioner you know, are sick or homebound and would like a visit from Fr. John, please contact the Parish Office



**St. Mary Church Ruby Read Box,
Take a Book, Leave a Book.**

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY

Sunday, January 9—Baptism of the Lord

9:30am Religious Ed.

RCIA

1:00pm NA Meeting

6-8:00pm Middle School Youth

Monday, January 10

5:00-6:15pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

7:00pm RCIA: Baptism & Confirmation—L/L

7-9:00pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, January 11

6:00pm Parish Finance Council Mtg—L/L

6:30pm NA Meeting

Thursday, January 13

12:00pm Al-Anon—L/L

5:00pm Spanish Mass Music Rehearsal—L/L

Saturday, January 15

5:00-5:40pm Reconciliation

Sunday, January 16

9:30am Religious Ed.

RCIA

1:00pm NA Meeting

6-8:00pm High School Youth

**The Parish Office will be closed
on Monday, January 17th
for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**



Eternal rest for Constantine 'Connie' Mantini, and condolences to his family and friends, especially his wife, Elizabeth.



Mass intentions are being accepted for 2022. 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 now being accepted for the year 2022. The requested donation is \$40. Please call the Parish Office if you are interested. 304-599-3747.



Text the word "starcity" to 84576
or connect with us

online at: StMaryStarCity.flocknote.com



St. Ursula Food Pantry needs:

***Coffee, Tea, and Hot Chocolate**

Donate your favorite blend to share some warmth with others!

Baby & Toddler Program needs:

***Baby Wash & Shampoo**



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



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

NA Meetings St. Mary Church, Star City
Tuesdays-6:30pm, Sundays-1pm

To find other meetings near you, visit
<https://www.na.org/meetingsearch/>

Al-Anon (for those affected by someone else's drinking) meets every Thursday at noon at St. Mary Church. Information: call 1-888-425-2666 or WSO@al-anon.org

A table is where people come together for food. For many, there is not enough food and, in some cases, no table at all.



A Place at the Table, Pastoral Reflection of the U.S. Catholic bishops 2002

Do you know about **Sarah's Table**? Located in Potter's Cellar at St. John University Parish, we are a meal site ministry that began as the local Catholic response to Jesus' call to feed the hungry. For over 25 years each

Sunday a team of volunteers has prepared and served a free mid-day meal to those in need of good food and good company. All are welcome!

Would you be interested in helping Sarah's Table continue its good work? Join a team!

Our teams serve 4-5 times over the course of the year, so it's not a burdensome commitment of time and energy. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Marge McCawley at 304-376-4188 (can text) or Mmccawley@aol.com

Monetary donations are very much appreciated. Checks may be made out to "St John University Parish" with **Sarah's Table** on the memo line and mailed to St. John University Parish, 1481 University Avenue, Morgantown, WV 26505. You may also donate online at mountainercatholic.com/give/ Please follow the prompts until you reach the Give menu, then choose Sarah's Table. **Thank you! Keep our guests and volunteers in your prayers!**



Angels in the Bible

Another Angels in the Bible adult formation series will begin on Tuesday, January 25th from 6:30pm-8:00pm in the Library Lounge. Cost is \$15/ book.

Sessions will continue on February 1, 8, 15, 22, and end on March 1st. We will read a session before discussing in class.

You may register by emailing Nancy at nickliz@aol.com, or by calling the Parish Office.



Job Openings at St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School:

We are currently seeking qualified applicants for a Long-Term Substitute 4th Grade Teacher and Certified School Counselor (K-8) positions at SFdSCCS. The long-term sub position is a temporary, full-time position. The Certified School Counselor position will begin as a part-time position with the potential of expanding into a full-time position.

If you are interested in learning more about the positions, please visit our school website at stfrancismorgantown.com, click on the "About" tab, then select "Employment" for details. Interested applicants should send a cover letter, resume, and 3 letters of reference to Principal Moore at amoore@sfccs.org or mail/deliver to his attention at St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School, 41 Guthrie Lane, Morgantown, WV 26508.



The next TEC retreat will take from Friday, January 14th to Monday, January 17th, at the St. John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston, West Virginia. It will be free for all teens who are in their junior year of high school through first year of college. You can register on the Diocesan website, at <https://dwc.org/diocese/ministries/youth-and-young-adult-ministry/youth-ministry/tec/>, or contact Jeanne McKeets at the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis to register: 304-233-0880, ext. 374 or jmckeets@dwc.org.



Women's Retreat—Embraced with Compassion... Embracing the World. Please join us for our annual Women's Retreat, co-

Sponsored with the DWC Office of Evangelization & Catechesis, February 25-27, 2022, at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston. Presented by Sr. Mary Dean Pfahler. The weekend will consist of presentations, quiet reflection, small group break-out sessions, media resources, and communal prayer. For more information contact Gerri Wright at gerwright1@aol.com or 304-552-3662. You can register online at www.dwc.org/2022-Womens-retreat. \$150/pp single occupancy, \$125/per person double occupancy.

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DYNAMIC PRESENTATIONS | CHILDCARE | MASS | ADORATION | CONFESSION

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FEBRUARY 12, 2022 | 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM
SAINT JOHN XXIII PASTORAL CENTER | CHARLESTON, WV

FEATURING:



\$27/Couple | \$18/Individual

Register by January 10 to grab
an Early Bird discount!



**SCAN THE QR
CODE TO REGISTER**



Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Annual

Family Celebration

Monday, January 17, 2022

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

2022 Theme: “R-E-S-P-E-C-T”

Mylan Park Elementary School

North Elementary School

Cheat Lake Elementary School

WVU Paul Robeson

Mahalia Jackson Gospel Choir

Al Anderson, Soloist

WVU Chamber Singers

Morgantown/Kingwood NAACP

Community Leaders



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.

To watch the presentation on Facebook Live:

On the day of the event go to <https://www.facebook.com/olliatwvu>

To use Zoom, you **must pre-register!** <https://olliatwvu.wufoo.com/forms/x24y6z01kh3png/>

The Zoom will start about ten minutes prior to the event.

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

Three five-week courses are being offered through the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF). These courses are hybrid models. They are composed of both weekly live two-hour zoom lectures as well as a rich variety of online course materials and discussion experiences through the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community For Faith Formation (VLCFF). The courses are being underwritten by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Office of Evangelization & Catechesis, who pays 100% of the tuition and the cost of the books associated with the courses. The course instructor is Dr. Rodica Stoicoiu. For further information or to register, please contact Jeanne McKeets at jmckeets@dwc.org with your name, address, and phone number.

The New Testament Cycle 1 Jan 17-Feb 20 (registration open from Oct 13)

This course explores the stories in and behind the writings we call the New Testament. The course is a general overview introducing the student to the cultural context, composition, themes, and pastoral application of the New Testament accounts for growing in Biblical knowledge. We will study the texts from the threefold perspective of the World within the Text: Literature, The World behind the Text: History, and the World in Front of the Text: Our Culture. Through the study of Biblical maps, articles and religious art present on authoritative websites, our text and class discussions students can grow in New Testament knowledge, understanding and application to their life and ministry.

Introduction to Prayer Cycle 2 Mar 7-Apr 9 (registration opens Jan 19)

"Prayer is our means of taking a sighting, of re-orienting ourselves – by re-establishing contact with our goal. In the presence of God many components of our life fall into perspective and our journey makes more sense. Prayer is inseparable from living." (Casey, p.5). This course explores prayer as essential to our lives as Christian people, as individuals, and within our community of faith. Through this course, students will explore the qualities, forms, and expressions of prayer that help to form and sustain our lives as Catholic Christians.

Survey of Catholic Doctrine Cycle 3 Apr 25-May 15 (registration opens Mar 9)

This course will look at some of the major doctrines of the Catholic Church. Participants will come to a better understanding of the Trinity, original sin, church, salvation history, and the communion of saints. Participants will be asked to identify the meaning of magisterium, ecumenism, eschatology, and other Catholic terms.

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 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 January 9, 2022

Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22
or, Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 [1]/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/
Lk 3:15-16, 21-22
Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19/Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39
Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mk 1:40-45
Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12
Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 2:13-17
Next Sunday: Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 [3]/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11
©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 under the accountability tab. If you are the victim of sexual abuse (or any other crime), please contact local law enforcement.

Sunday, Jan 09, 2022

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Tell it like it is

The hidden days are over. When the Spirit descends on Jesus and the heavenly voice proclaims him beloved, Jesus is effectively outed as the Divine Son. Did Jesus know this was the hour when his private life would come to an end? When any dreams he may have had for a quiet domestic existence were surrendered for good? The underlying truth is that on the day of our Baptism, we each surrender the notion of a private world that's all about us. As Pope Francis puts it, "Immersing us in Christ, Baptism also makes us members of his body, which is the Church, and participants in its mission in the world." Be the beloved. Share the love.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 or 40:1-5, 9-11; Acts 10:34-38 or Titus 2:11-14; Luke 3:15-16, 21-22 (21). "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Monday, Jan 10, 2022

Give every child a chance

According to the National Center for Child Poverty, about 15 million children in the United States—21 percent of all children—live in families with incomes below the federal poverty line. The Christ Child Society seeks to address the critical needs of these children. U.S.-born Servant of God Mary Virginia Merrick, who died on this day in 1955, founded the Christ Child Society in 1887 at the age of 20—despite being paralyzed from a childhood injury. Today, its 6,000 members volunteer nearly 400,000 hours and serve more than 75,000 children and their families annually. You may find a chapter—or start one—at nationalchristchild.org.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Samuel 1:1-8; Mark 1:14-20 (305). "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Tuesday, Jan 11, 2022

Pray the way to a more perfect union

Dom Lambert Beauduin, a Belgian Benedictine monk, died this day in 1960—but not without influencing the way we pray at Mass. As a liturgical scholar, Beauduin championed—years before Vatican II—the idea of worshipers actively participating in the Mass rather than sitting in pews to pray their private devotions. He promoted the idea of congregants literally "being on the same page," able to follow along with the Latin by using worship aides to translate the words of priests and prayers. "Beauduin had an insatiable thirst for unity," notes a biographer. Pray for greater unity in our church today.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Samuel 1:9-20; Mark 1:21-28 (306). "On the sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught."

Wednesday, Jan 12, 2022

Here I am, Lord

Jesus saw his healing ministry of the sick and spiritually oppressed as a call from God. It is the same call each of us receives, not only to serve God and his people but to serve ourselves—to be our best selves, which will bring us the greatest joy. Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, known as an apostle of love, explains the profound grace that comes with responding to God's call in his "Jesus, the very thought of thee" hymn: ". . . how kind thou art! How good to those who seek! But what to those who

find? Ah, this No tongue nor pen can show; The love of Jesus, what it is None but His loved ones know."

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20; Mark 1:29-39 (307). "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come."

Thursday, Jan 13, 2022

MEMORIAL OF HILARY, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

In defense of the faith

Saint Hilary (d. 468) was a bishop during a time of great contention in the early church. He was popularly selected to lead, and he undertook scholarship that continues to be recognized today. His informal title, "Hammer of the Arians," has a violent ring to it, but in fact, he defended the Trinity against the Arian heresy through his writing, even though his opponents used the more forcible method of exile. Living a truly Christian life—loving those who oppose you, forgiving wrongs, turning the other cheek—has often been ridiculed by those who prefer the use of force. You can "defend" the faith by the way you choose to live.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Samuel 4:1-11; Mark 1:40-45 (308). "A leper came to him and kneeling down begged him and said, 'If you wish, you can make me clean.'"

Friday, Jan 14, 2022

I feel your pain

Healing gospel-style involves assessing the physical, mental, and spiritual health of the ill person. As Pope Francis says, Jesus asks us: "To stop and listen, to establish a direct and personal relationship with others, to feel empathy and compassion, and to let their suffering become our own as we seek to serve them." This holistic approach is slowly being embraced by Western physicians. Today's healthcare providers are encouraged to use such tools as the FICA method to assess a patient's *faith*; its *importance* in their decision-making; their connection to a *community* of like-minded believers; and the recommended *action* related to the spiritual assessment. We're all commissioned to be healers to some extent; the next time someone comes to you in pain, remember this compassionate approach.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a; Mark 2:1-12 (309). "Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, pick up your mat and walk?'"

Saturday, Jan 15, 2022

The stone rejected

In our continued observance of the Amoris Laetitia Family Year, we are reminded by Pope Francis to consider the complexities of people's lives when we're tempted to judge their family or marital situation. "It can no longer simply be said," writes the pope, "that all those living in any 'irregular situation' are living in a state of mortal sin." Non-traditional families need to be offered "understanding, comfort, and acceptance." We need to stop applying moral laws as if they were, in the pope's words, "stones to throw at a person's life." Consider today the grace of God's mercy, compassion, and forgiveness operating in your own life.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1; Mark 2:13-17 (310). "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. 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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The Baptism of the Lord

Lectionary: 21

Reading I Is 42:1-4, 6-7

Thus says the LORD:

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,
not crying out, not shouting,
not making his voice heard in the street.
a bruised reed he shall not break,
and a smoldering wick he shall not quench,
until he establishes justice on the earth;
the coastlands will wait for his teaching.

I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice,

I have grasped you by the hand;
I formed you, and set you
as a covenant of the people,
a light for the nations,
to open the eyes of the blind,
to bring out prisoners from confinement,
and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness.

OR:

Is 40:1-5, 9-11

Comfort, give comfort to my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her
that her service is at an end,
her guilt is expiated;
indeed, she has received from the hand of the
LORD double for all her sins.
A voice cries out: In the desert prepare
the way of the LORD!
Make straight in the wasteland a highway
for our God!
Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and
hill shall be made low;
the rugged land shall be made a plain,
the rough country, a broad valley.
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together;
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.
Go up on to a high mountain,
Zion, herald of glad tidings;
cry out at the top of your voice,
Jerusalem, herald of good news!
Fear not to cry out
and say to the cities of Judah:
Here is your God!
Here comes with power
the Lord GOD,
who rules by a strong arm;
here is his reward with him,
his recompense before him.
Like a shepherd he feeds his flock;
in his arms he gathers the lambs,
carrying them in his bosom,
and leading the ewes with care.

Reading II Acts 10:34-38

Peter proceeded to speak to those gathered

in the house of Cornelius, saying:
"In truth, I see that God shows no partiality.
Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and
acts uprightly
is acceptable to him.
You know the word that he sent to the Israelites
as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who
is Lord of all,
what has happened all over Judea,
beginning in Galilee after the baptism
that John preached,
how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth
with the Holy Spirit and power.
He went about doing good
and healing all those oppressed by the devil,
for God was with him."

OR:

Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7

Beloved:
The grace of God has appeared, saving all
and training us to reject godless ways and worldly
desires
and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in
this age,
as we await the blessed hope,
the appearance of the glory of our great God
and savior Jesus Christ,
who gave himself for us to deliver us from all law-
lessness
and to cleanse for himself a people as his own,
eager to do what is good.

When the kindness and generous love of God
our savior appeared,
not because of any righteous deeds we had
done
but because of his mercy,
He saved us through the bath of rebirth
and renewal by the Holy Spirit,
whom he richly poured out on us
through Jesus Christ our savior,
so that we might be justified by his grace
and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

Gospel Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

The people were filled with expectation,
and all were asking in their hearts
whether John might be the Christ.
John answered them all, saying,
"I am baptizing you with water,
but one mightier than I is coming.
I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals.
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

After all the people had been baptized
and Jesus also had been baptized and was pray-
ing, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit de-
scended upon him in bodily form like a dove.
And a voice came from heaven,
"You are my beloved Son;
with you I am well pleased."

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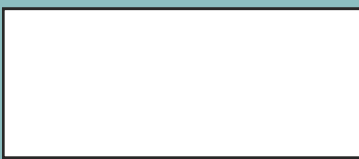


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