



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

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

January 16, 2022 • 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

**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



## 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine."

- Jn 2:1-3



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

Brenda DeVito  
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

### Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

Cynthia Friesen 304-225-1163  
stmarystarcityfaithformation@gmail.com

Nancy Ferrari 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  
stmaryhispanicministry@gmail.com

Tommy Mullenex 304-777-8876  
tommymullenex@yahoo.com

### 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](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 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

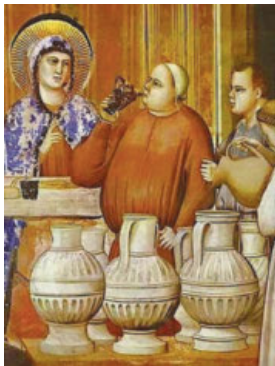
### **Bulletin Deadline:**

**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 – His Delight



-As we said last week, "Ordinary Time" has now replaced the "Christmas season." Our previous Sunday climaxed Jesus' birth, early life, and of course, his baptism.

Now it is time to begin hearing about his active and public life as God's Word. That work is the content of "Ordinary Time," in spite of the season's mundane name.\*

How long will this Ordinary Time continue? Every Sunday from now on, except for interventions by the Lent/Easter season, or any other special celebration of the Lord.

There are three different years of Ordinary Time readings, one for each year in the three year cycle, each having a clever name such as A, B, or C. In every one of these years one particular "synoptic" Gospel writer is featured, Mark, Matthew or Luke.

We are now in year C, which we began in Advent. Ordinary Time for this year will feature the Gospel according to Luke. The following words will be proclaimed before the Gospel reading each Sunday: "A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke."\*\*

To make things more complicated, however, this year's Second Sunday of Ordinary Time after all does not have a reading from Luke's Gospel. The Church has used instead a reading from the Gospel of John, one about an event which actually took place before Jesus' public life, as Jesus says explicitly ("My hour has not yet come").

One way to look at this anomaly is to say that the present Sunday is a brief transition, meant to console us and raise our expectations concerning the Messiah and the Good News.\*\*\*

Isaiah in the First Reading says that God is going to give his people a new name. They will be called "My delight." Their land will be known by the name, "Espoused." The Lord will marry them and bring forth abundance from their lands.

It is a familiar Gospel. We are at a wedding feast in Cana, Galilee. The wine has run out. We witness that Jesus is able to transform water into the very best wine, just as the Father can change a forsaken people into ones that are his delight.

It is an image for a people who are fresh out of hope, but who can delight in the promise. Only God in Jesus can supply the refreshment. The Gospel story has more symbolic depth than just a simple story of an amazing miracle would.

Mary says modestly to Jesus, "They have no wine" [symbolically, the human race has no real life left in it]. Jesus replies, strangely, "woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." Explicitly, his public life has not yet come. In that life he will preach, heal, suffer, die and rise again, as we will see in the coming weeks.

But Mary knew him too well. She did not take seriously all the reasons God's promise could not be fulfilled. She knew that the people needed the full, rich wine of life, which is love. She trusted her son.

She says to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

And, of course, water becomes wine.

On this Sunday we begin to watch Jesus make us into "his delight."

John Foley, SJ

\* Here one must distinguish between the Sunday and weekday readings. The actual First Sunday in Ordinary Time is never celebrated in any year! Yet still, the First Weekdays in Ordinary Time begin right after the Baptism of the Lord, just as if that feast were in fact the First Sunday. We might reasonably call the Baptism of the Lord the beginning of Ordinary Time, couldn't we? But the Church counts his Baptism as important enough in its own right, and therefore has it replace (not impermate) the First Sunday in Ordinary Time.

So, the simplest outline is:

The Solemnity of the Epiphany (always on a Sunday in the United States).

Followed on the next Sunday by the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord [followed by the weekdays of the first week of Ordinary Time begin the next day].

After them, our Second Sunday of Ordinary Time [and its second week weekdays].

\*\* Some scholars have thought that the account of the Canaan wedding feast had "drifted over" to John's Gospel but was originally part of Luke. Could this theory have been a reason for it's being included here, in what should have been Luke's year C, maybe to help Christmas season transfer over to Ordinary Time? The answer is, we do not know.

\*\*\* This makes sense narratively since the Baptism of Jesus, as above, might be considered a type of beginning of his public life. But not so. Neither the Baptism nor the time in the desert do qualify as public time. They are preparation for his publicly going back to Nazareth in the "power of the Holy Spirit," and only then beginning to actively and publicly preach the Kingdom of God..

## Giving Summary

### Sunday Offering:

\$5,733.00

### Online Giving:

\$1,658.35

Attendance: 308

## Recent/Upcoming Special Collections

### 1/16 Church in the Developing World

Combining 3 collections from previous years: 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](http://www.stmarystarcity.com)

## THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

### 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

Monday 1/17	St. Anthony, Abbot
9:00am	Intention of Celebrant
6:30pm	Mary C. Minard
Tuesday 1/18	Weekday in Ordinary Time
9:00am	Intention of Celebrant
Wednesday 1/19	Weekday in Ordinary Time
No 9:00am Mass	
12:00pm	Helen Ferrari
Thursday 1/20	St. Fabian & St. Sebastian
9:00am	Martin Chittum
Friday 1/21	St. Agnes
No Daily Mass	

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 23, Word of God Sunday

Saturday, 6:00pm	For the People
Sunday, 8:30am	Uchenna Ojukwu
Sunday, 11:00am	Kathy Koloff
Domingo, 1pm	Por la Comunidad de la Parroquia



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 16

9:30am Religious Ed.

RCIA

1:00pm NA Meeting

6-8:00pm High School Youth

### Monday, January 17

Office Closed

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

7:00pm RCIA: Reconciliation & Anointing of the sick—L/L

7-9:00pm Boy Scouts

### Tuesday, January 18

6:30pm NA Meeting

### Wednesday, January 19

6:30pm Social Committee Meeting—L/L

### Thursday, January 20

12:00pm Al-Anon—L/L

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

### Saturday, January 22

5:00-5:40pm Reconciliation

### Sunday, January 23

9:30am Religious Ed.

RCIA

1:00pm NA Meeting

6-8:00pm Middle School Youth

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



**Lord, look with love** upon godparents **Gregory Scott Miller, Jr. and Brittaney Nicole Miller** as they present **Harrison Lee Miller** for baptism next weekend.



**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.



As pastor, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Angie Merinar and Jonny Petak for their many years of service to St. Mary Parish. In her various roles here at St. Mary, Angie has seen and dealt with it all with great attention to detail and when called for great tenderness to parishioners who were in need or were grieving the loss of a loved one. Angie has decided to retire and spend her coming years enjoying the fruits of her labor with her husband. Bill and Beth Ann McCormick are taking over the day-to-day operations of the mausoleum.

Jonny in his role has provided top level care to our facilities as well as being the guy we call for any "unusual" problems within the buildings. In my time here he has always been willing to say yes and truly be "Jonny on the spot." Jonny is moving on to spend more time with his lawn care business.

At this time we are looking for someone who can step in on the maintenance side of the house. Please contact the office if you are aware of anyone who might have the skills for the position.

We pray that Angie and Johnny will have many blessings in their future endeavors and know the appreciation we all feel for their ministries to us here at St. Mary.



**Do you have extra blank note cards, Thank you cards, or birthday cards?** Please consider donating any extra to St. Ursula Food Pantry and St. Mary Church. These cards are used by St. Ursula to thank donors, and St. Mary for our birthday card ministry. Cards can be dropped off to the box in the Narthex, or thank yous and blank notes may be donated to St. Ursula directly.



**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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:amoore@sfccs.org) or mail/deliver to his attention at St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School, 41 Guthrie Lane, Morgantown, WV 26508.



**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](mailto:WSO@al-anon.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](mailto:gerwright1@aol.com) or 304-552-3662. You can register online at [www.dwc.org/2022-Womens-retreat](http://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**

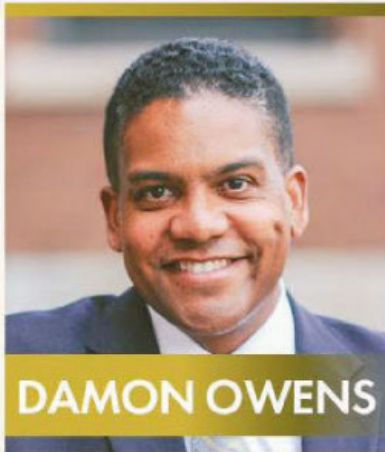
**PRESENTED BY**



**DIOCESE OF  
WHEELING-CHARLESTON**

**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**

# Coats 4Kids

Make a difference for a  
child in need by donating  
winter gear

Donation Box located in  
St. Mary Church narthex



 **MLK DAY**  
OF SERVICE

**Jan 3 - 17**

New and gently used  
coats, hats, hoodies,  
scarfs and gloves being  
collected

[EducationAlliance.org/Coats4Kids](https://EducationAlliance.org/Coats4Kids)

**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](mailto: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](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 January 16, 2022**

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

Monday: 1 Sm 15:16-23/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday: 1 Sm 16:1-13/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28/Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10/Mk 3:1-6

Thursday: 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-11, 12-13/Mk 3:7-12

Friday: 1 Sm 24:3-21/Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11/Mk 3:13-19

Saturday: 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27/Ps 80:2-3, 5-7/Mk 3:20-21

Next Sunday: Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/1 Cor 12:12-30 or 12:12-14, 27/

Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

©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.



## Sunday, Jan 16, 2022

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### You are gifted, any way you slice it

We're all good at something. But not all of us consider our talents and skills as assets given to the Body of Christ. Say you can sew, make people laugh, fix an engine, bake a great pie, or balance a mean checkbook. Of what use are these things to the church, you might ask. Discernment of gifts is something Saint Paul took very seriously in the early community. In our faith sharing, we might ask each other how "mighty deeds" or knowledge or healing might be translated into modern needs the church has. Don't underestimate the healing value of a great pie!

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 62:1-5; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; John 2:1-11 (66). *"To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit."*

## Monday, Jan 17, 2022

### Help the dream awaken

One of the many things Martin Luther King, Jr. taught Americans was that faith could—and should!—be a driving force for positive social change. He also showed that people of all faiths could put aside differences and do this work together. A Baptist minister, King met with Pope John XXIII and many other faith leaders who later together publicly lamented his death. Keep King's spirit of faith-based social action and interfaith cooperation alive—gather with Catholics and other people of God to discuss, learn, pray, plan, and act on a peaceful journey toward healing all forms of inequality.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Samuel 15:16-23; Mark 2:18-22 (311). *"But the days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day."*

## Tuesday, Jan 18, 2022

### Shop with a conscience

Today we note Mary Kenney O'Sullivan, who died on this day in 1943. A Catholic mother of three, she poured her considerable talents into organizing working-class women to demand the right to vote and expect justice in their workplaces. She fought for social justice even as the concept of Catholic social teaching was still being refined and formed into what it is today. O'Sullivan understood and lived out social teaching concepts of solidarity, the dignity of the human person, and the dignity of work. Can your shopping choices, voting patterns, and prayers help uplift workers who are currently mistreated?

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Mark 2:23-28 (312). *"The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath. That is why the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath."*

## Wednesday, Jan 19, 2022

### God loves an underdog

We all tend to cheer for the underdog. We find it inspiring when the person or team least expected to win triumphs. David's victory over Goliath appeals to us for this reason. But there's more to the story. When we have an unsurmountable task before us, it is wise to let God take control. After all, God is all powerful. History is full of saints who did the unexpected because they trusted that God would supplement their weaknesses. As Saint Catherine of Siena advises: "Start being brave about everything . . . Don't look at your weakness, but realize that in Christ crucified you can do

everything." Today pray for God's will to be revealed to you and trust that he will give you the strength you need.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Samuel 17:32-33, 37, 40-51; Mark 3:1-6 (313). *"Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath rather than to do evil, to save life rather than to destroy it?"*

## Thursday, Jan 20, 2022

MEMORIAL OF SEBASTIAN, MARTYR

### Listen to the peoples' laments

The anguish of physical pain can be a fact of life. In medieval times many artists were fascinated by the martyrdom of Saint Sebastian and created gruesome images of it. For practicing Christianity in the third century, Sebastian was ordered to be executed by arrows. He survived this ordeal, only to later be beaten to death for his faith. Father Robin Ryan, C.P., a Passionist priest, says when he encounters people suffering in any form, he avoids explanations as so much about God and suffering is a mystery. He tries to allow those in pain to lament and share their emotion with God, often using the psalms as a starting point as they "help us to recognize that we belong to a tradition and a community of faith; we are not alone in this experience." Draw solace from the lament tradition the next time you find yourself or others in pain.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Samuel 18:6-9; 19:1-7; Mark 3:7-12 (314). *"He had cured many and, as a result, those who had diseases were pressing upon him to touch him."*

## Friday, Jan 21, 2022

MEMORIAL OF AGNES, MARTYR

### I stand with Agnes

The stories of martyrs can make us feel a bit uneasy. They edify us, but they also can—and should—horrify us. Why? Because in every story, we encounter human violence, perhaps even a reflection of the violence we ourselves have suffered, committed, or ignored. While we laud fourth-century martyr Agnes of Rome for her sacred commitment to chastity, we must not overlook the fact that she was martyred for resisting a forced, unwanted relationship and inhumane treatment as mere property. Agnes' story is particularly relevant today because women continue to face the very real threat of personal as well as systemic violence. Will you stand with Agnes against gender violence in all its forms?

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Samuel 24:3-21; Mark 3:13-19 (315). *"You have treated me generously, while I have done you harm."*

## Saturday, Jan 22, 2022

DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN

### Cradle-to-grave Catholics

To embrace a consistent ethic of life is to not only oppose abortion but also to support and defend the dignity and right to life in all conditions and under all circumstances. The term "the Seamless Garment" was coined by the Catholic activist Eileen Egan to characterize this position, later popularized by the late Cardinal Joseph Bernardin. He said: "Those who defend the right to life of the weakest among us must be equally visible in support of the quality of life of the powerless among us: the old and the young, the hungry and the homeless, the undocumented immigrant and the unemployed worker." Learn more about the Seamless Garment ethic and take a stand today for life in all its forms!

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Samuel 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27; Mark 3:20-21 (316). *"Let us see your face, Lord, and we shall be saved."*

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



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## Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary: 66

### Reading I Is 62:1-5

For Zion's sake I will not be silent,  
for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,  
until her vindication shines forth like the dawn  
and her victory like a burning torch.

Nations shall behold your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
you shall be called by a new name  
pronounced by the mouth of the LORD.  
You shall be a glorious crown in the hand of the  
LORD,  
a royal diadem held by your God.  
No more shall people call you "Forsaken,"  
or your land "Desolate,"  
but you shall be called "My Delight,"  
and your land "Espoused."  
For the LORD delights in you  
and makes your land his spouse.  
As a young man marries a virgin,  
your Builder shall marry you;  
and as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride  
so shall your God rejoice in you.

### Reading II 1 Cor 12:4-11

Brothers and sisters:  
There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but  
the same Spirit;  
there are different forms of service but the same  
Lord;  
there are different workings but the same God  
who produces all of them in everyone.  
To each individual the manifestation of the Spir-  
it  
is given for some benefit.  
To one is given through the Spirit the expression  
of wisdom;  
to another, the expression of knowledge accord-  
ing to the  
same Spirit;  
to another, faith by the same Spirit;  
to another, gifts of healing by the one Spirit;  
to another, mighty deeds;  
to another, prophecy;  
to another, discernment of spirits;  
to another, varieties of tongues;  
to another, interpretation of tongues.

But one and the same Spirit produces all of  
these,  
distributing them individually to each person as  
he wishes.

### Gospel Jn 2:1-11

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee,  
and the mother of Jesus was there.  
Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the  
wedding.  
When the wine ran short,  
the mother of Jesus said to him,  
"They have no wine."  
And Jesus said to her,  
"Woman, how does your concern affect me?  
My hour has not yet come."  
His mother said to the servers,  
"Do whatever he tells you."  
Now there were six stone water jars there for  
Jewish ceremonial washings,  
each holding twenty to thirty gallons.  
Jesus told them,  
"Fill the jars with water."  
So they filled them to the brim.  
Then he told them,  
"Draw some out now and take it to the head-  
waiter."  
So they took it.  
And when the headwaiter tasted the water that  
had become wine,  
without knowing where it came from  
— although the servers who had drawn the wa-  
ter knew —,  
the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to  
him,  
"Everyone serves good wine first,  
and then when people have drunk freely, an in-  
ferior one;  
but you have kept the good wine until now."  
Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs at  
Cana in Galilee  
and so revealed his glory,  
and his disciples began to believe in him.



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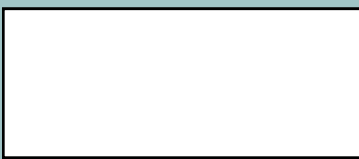


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