



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

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

January 23, 2022 • Word of God Sunday

**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

*“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God”*

*(Colossians 3:16)*



[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 – Two New Eras



Two men unroll parchment scrolls and each reads his to the people. Their proclamations signal the beginning of a vast new era. One man is Ezra the scribe, and the other is Jesus of Nazareth. Four centuries separate their readings.

Let's look.

We find Ezra in the First Reading. He is in Jerusalem after the return of the Jewish exiles from captivity in Babylon. What is the "captivity in Babylon," you ask? Perhaps it will help to have more of that story.

Ancient Israel was captured by the Babylonian empire 586 years before Christ. They took Jerusalem itself. They demolished the great temple built by Solomon centuries before and deported all productive citizens to Babylon, leaving peasants to run the holy city, if they could.

After fifty years or so of their captivity, Cyrus the Great, king of Persia (now Iran), came into possession of Babylon and he let the captives go. Many had switched their faith by this time in favor of foreign gods and customs, but the remainder, perhaps 5000, made ready to return home. By this time a lot of them had never even seen Jerusalem.

There were great caravans. Ezra—priest, scribe and teacher—led one of them on the four-month journey across the desert.

They arrived to find Jerusalem a ruined city with widespread moral decay.

Reconstruction of a urban center is immensely difficult, as we know from our own day. Ezra worked long and hard to bring back the ecclesiastical and civil fiber of Jerusalem and the nation.

At last a new temple was finished in 516 BC, and the ruined city walls were rebuilt.

At this point Ezra stood up on a high wooden platform built for the occasion so he could be heard and seen, and he "read plainly" from the scroll that held "the book of the law." He started reading at daybreak and continued until midday!

Not only did they have their city again, but also they now had heard the Word of God again. And finally there was again a temple where they could worship.

Their new era had begun!

Four centuries later we find Jesus of Nazareth making a similar return. He is going back to Galilee, the region where he grew up (Gospel). He has been baptized and has spent time in the desert. His trip is now "in the power of the Spirit," Luke says, and it takes him to his home town of Nazareth. Like Ezra, he takes up a scroll, this one containing the book of Isaiah—much of which, coincidentally, had been written during the Jewish exile.

He reads the passage, which says that the Spirit of the Lord has sent him to "bring glad tidings to the poor, ... to let the oppressed go free," to proclaim a time of favor from the Lord (Is 61:1-2). This is what Ezra had done in the First Reading, but Jesus' mission is much, much more.

A far greater new era has begun.

He sits down now, at the same level as the people. He says almost casually, "today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."

His mission is to rebuild their hearts, not just their city, to return them to God, who is their real home. Would they accept this startling new epoch?

Will we?

Stay tuned for more next Sunday.

John Foley, SJ

## Giving Summary

### Sunday Offering:

\$2,599.00

### Online Giving:

\$1888.35

**Church in the Developing World:** \$504

**Attendance:** 336

## 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 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

Monday 1/24	St. Francis de Sales
No 9:00am Mass	
6:30pm	Intention of Celebrant
Tuesday 1/25	Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle
9:00am	Cindy Marasco
Wednesday 1/26	Sts. Timothy & Titus
No 9:00am Mass	
12:00pm	Intention of Celebrant
Thursday 1/27	St. Angela Merici
9:00am	For all those suffering from COVID-19
Friday 1/28	St. Thomas Aquinas
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 30, 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, 6:00pm	George & Ada Bucklew
Sunday, 8:30am	For the People
Sunday, 11:00am	Intention of Celebrant
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

**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)

## THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY

### Sunday, January 23

9:30am Religious Ed.  
RCIA

1:00pm NA Meeting  
6-8:00pm Middle School Youth

### Monday, January 24

5:00-6:15pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
7:00pm Parish Pastoral Council Mtg—L/L  
7-9:00pm Boy Scouts

### Tuesday, January 25

6:30-8:00pm Angels in the Bible—Class 1  
6:30pm NA Meeting

### Thursday, January 27

12:00pm Al-Anon—L/L  
5:00pm Spanish Mass Music Rehearsal

### Saturday, January 29

5:00-5:40pm Reconciliation

### Sunday, January 30

9:30am Religious Ed.  
RCIA

1:00pm NA Meeting  
6-8:00pm High School Youth



**We welcome Harrison Lee Miller,** who was baptized this weekend.



**Text the word "starcity" to 84576**  
or connect with us  
online at: [StMaryStarCity.flocknote.com](https://StMaryStarCity.flocknote.com)

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



**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.



**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.



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.

## It's Tax Season!

We will be sending out tax receipts/statements for 2021 by January 31, 2022, so keep an eye on the mail for your written acknowledgement of charitable contributions.

If you haven't received a statement by February 14th and would like one, please call or email the Parish Office: 304-599-3747, stmaryschurch@comcast.net



## 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, or by calling the Parish Office.



### 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.



### St. Mary Church Ruby Read Box,

**Take a Book, Leave a Book.** You do not have to leave a book to take a book, feel free to do one or the other, or both. This box is for leisure reading materials only, please no textbooks.



### 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.

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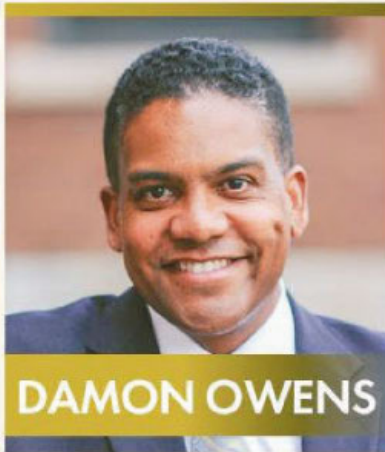
**PRESENTED BY**



**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**



## Do you want a life of Heroic Sacrifice?

Is God Calling YOU to be a Priest of Jesus Christ?

**Come join us**  
for a weekend of prayer  
and discernment

**March 5-6**

Priest Field Pastoral Center  
4030 Middleway Pike, Kearneysville, WV 25430

To complete an application visit [WVPriests.org](http://WVPriests.org)

### **Saving Grace Support Group for Grandparents/Kinship/Foster/ Adopted Families**

meets at **Avery United Methodist Church**  
(1152 Cheat Rd. Morgantown, WV)  
**the Second and Fourth Tuesday of each  
month from 6-8pm.**

#### **This support group offers:**

- support from others in the same situation
- guest speakers from different agencies around the area
- training on many different topics from self-care to childhood trauma
- a safe place to express yourself and your concerns
- advice from other people dealing with the same things as you

#### **Feel free to contact us at:**

[SavingGraceWV@gmail.com](mailto:SavingGraceWV@gmail.com),

#### **or join the facebook group:**

"Saving Grace:Grandparents/relative  
With Custody Support Group"

**Latin Mass @St. John University Parish,  
Sundays at 1:00pm**

**"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](mailto: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/](http://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!**

**WVU LAW**  
Immigration Law Clinic

Sabe que hacer si Ud.  
es cuestionado por la  
policía? La WVU Clínica

de Inmigración ha preparado este video para  
informarle de sus derechos. El video también  
explica como Ud. puede registrarse para recibir  
ayuda de la Clínica en el caso que Ud. sea  
cuestionado por la policía. [https://  
www.youtube.com/watch?v=mCibfcbPLE8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mCibfcbPLE8)

Call: 304-293-7249

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ADVERTISERS**



**If you have signed up for online giving**  
and are still getting offertory envelopes in the  
mail, please notify the Parish Office so that  
we can discontinue them. You will retain your  
envelope number for record keeping.

**A few 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.

**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.



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.

**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 23, 2022**

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

Monday: 2 Sm 5:1-7, 10/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 25-26/Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117: 1bc, 2/Mk 16:15-18

Wednesday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30/Mk 4:1-20

Thursday: 2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29/Ps 132:1-2, 3-5, 11, 12, 13-14/Mk 4:21-25

Friday: 2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6a, 6bcd-7, 10-11/Mk 4:26-34

Saturday: 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/Mk 4:35-41

Next Sunday: Jer 1:4-5, 17-19/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 15-17 [cf. 15ab]/

1 Cor 12:31—13:13 or 13:4-13/Lk 4:21-30

©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 23, 2022

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / WORD OF GOD SUNDAY

### Those aren't fighting words

Most fights don't start with a punch, but with a word. That's because words are among the most powerful forces on the planet. Ideas divide or unite a society. Insults scar, just as kind words can heal. Our sacred story contained in scripture is a word meant to make the world whole. Pope Francis asks us to honor the word of God this Sunday. We begin by symbolically enthroning the Bible in our homes today: putting it in a place of honor. This reminds us of the deeper enthronement of God's word in our hearts. Make room for one Bible verse every day.

TODAY'S READINGS: Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Corinthians 12:12-30; Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21 (69). *"Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."*

## Monday, Jan 24, 2022

MEMORIAL OF FRANCIS DE SALES, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

### God, our shield and our strength

We live in tumultuous times for sure. But the world has been topsy-turvy before. Saint Francis de Sales lived during the religious, political, and social upheaval of the Protestant Reformation. And he became known for his gentleness and patience in the face of it. Leave it to him, the patron saint of writers, to pen a prayer that is timeless balm for troubled souls: "Do not look forward to what may happen tomorrow; the same everlasting Father who cares for you today will take care of you tomorrow and every day. Either he will shield you from suffering, or he will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace, then, put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations . . ." A balm for these troubled times.

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Samuel 5:1-7, 10; Mark 3:22-30 (317). *"If a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand."*

## Tuesday, Jan 25, 2022

FEAST OF THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL, APOSTLE

### Harden not your heart

Paul has always been a controversial figure. Before becoming a Christian, he was a persecutor of Jesus' followers. Paul's biblical words advising women to be submissive to their husbands have been alternately obeyed, rejected, and reinterpreted. But the word "conversion" on this feast reminds us what Christian life is about. The Catechism of the Catholic Church quotes Saint Ambrose on the "two conversions" in Christian life—one of them a one-time event and the other ongoing. "There are water and tears, the water of Baptism and the tears of repentance." What parts of your life still require repentance?

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22; Mark 16:15-18 (519). *"Jesus . . . appeared to you on the way by which you came, that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."*

## Wednesday, Jan 26, 2022

MEMORIAL OF TIMOTHY AND TITUS, BISHOPS

### Stay the course

Evangelizing and living the gospel demands much of us. Saints Timothy and Titus serve as examples to us of holding fast to the faith among difficult circumstances. Friends and companions of Saint Paul, they ended up becoming bishops and leaders of the early church. They helped Paul to spread the gospel during those difficult early years. Timothy paid the ultimate price for encouraging others to embrace the emerging Christian faith.

Reflect on the ways you choose to follow Jesus Christ and embrace his mission despite the challenges and difficulties it presents.

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Timothy 1:1-8 or Titus 1:1-5; Mark 4:1-20 (520; Gospel 319). *"[T]hose sown on rich soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit thirty and sixty and a hundredfold."*

## Thursday, Jan 27, 2022

MEMORIAL OF ANGELA MERICI, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER

### Wise counsel for the overwhelmed

On this memorial of Saint Angela Merici, 16th-century founder of the Ursuline Sisters, it makes sense to recall one of her many insights into faith-filled living. She advised the overwhelmed thus: "Do not lose heart, even if you should discover that you lack qualities necessary for the work to which you are called. He who called you will not desert you, but the moment you are in need he will stretch out his saving hand." May you find that saving hand when you reach the end of your rope.

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Samuel 7:18-19, 24-29; Mark 4:21-25 (320). *"Is a lamp brought in to be placed under a bushel basket or under a bed, and not to be placed on a lampstand?"*

## Friday, Jan 28, 2022

MEMORIAL OF THOMAS AQUINAS, PRIEST, RELIGIOUS, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

### Root yourself in honesty

G.K. Chesterton once said of philosopher and theologian Thomas Aquinas, "Being himself resolved to argue, to argue honestly, to answer everybody, to deal with everything, he produced books enough to sink a ship or stock a library." We could use a little more Thomas in our media, especially social media, because today we're not always sure if things are actually true or merely "internet true." For Thomas, honesty was key to communication. He considered it beautiful, honorable, and a reflection of moral goodness itself. May we take to heart his commitment to honesty in all of our communication.

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Samuel 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17; Mark 4:26-34 (321). *"Once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade."*

## Saturday, Jan 29, 2022

### Sea of hope

Alonzo Ketcham Parker, a 19th-century travel writer, called the Sea of Galilee "a fifth gospel" due to the amount of biblical history that occurred on its shores. It is the site where Jesus performed many of his most renowned miracles, such as walking on water, calming the storm, and feeding the multitude. Villages and settlements dotted the shore in Jesus' day, and most of Jesus' followers probably gained their livelihood and nourished their families from its bounty. The nourishment continues every time we read the vivid accounts of biblical drama that occur on the holiest of seas. Dive in!

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Samuel 12:1-7a, 10-17; Mark 4:35-41 (322). *"He woke up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Quiet! Be still!' The wind ceased and there was great calm."*

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



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## 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary: 69

### Reading I

#### **Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10**

Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly, which consisted of men, women, and those children old enough to understand. Standing at one end of the open place that was before the Water Gate, he read out of the book from daybreak till midday, in the presence of the men, the women, and those children old enough to understand; and all the people listened attentively to the book of the law. Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the occasion. He opened the scroll so that all the people might see it — for he was standing higher up than any of the people —; and, as he opened it, all the people rose. Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people, their hands raised high, answered, "Amen, amen!" Then they bowed down and prostrated themselves before the LORD, their faces to the ground. Ezra read plainly from the book of the law of God, interpreting it so that all could understand what was read. Then Nehemiah, that is, His Excellency, and Ezra the priest-scribe and the Levites who were instructing the people said to all the people: "Today is holy to the LORD your God. Do not be sad, and do not weep"— for all the people were weeping as they heard the words of the law. He said further: "Go, eat rich foods and drink sweet drinks, and allot portions to those who had nothing prepared; for today is holy to our LORD. Do not be saddened this day, for rejoicing in the LORD must be your strength!"

### Reading II

#### **1 Cor 12:12-30**

Brothers and sisters:  
As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ.  
For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

Now the body is not a single part, but many.  
If a foot should say,  
"Because I am not a hand I do not belong to the body," it does not for this reason belong any less to the body.  
Or if an ear should say,  
"Because I am not an eye I do not belong to the body," it does not for this reason belong any less to the body.  
If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be?  
If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?  
But as it is, God placed the parts, each one of them, in the body as he intended.  
If they were all one part, where would the body be?  
But as it is, there are many parts, yet one body.  
The eye cannot say to the hand, "I do not need you," nor again the head to the feet, "I do not need you."  
Indeed, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are all the more necessary,

and those parts of the body that we consider less honorable we surround with greater honor, and our less presentable parts are treated with greater propriety, whereas our more presentable parts do not need this. But God has so constructed the body as to give greater honor to a part that is without it, so that there may be no division in the body, but that the parts may have the same concern for one another.  
If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy.

Now you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it. Some people God has designated in the church to be, first, apostles; second, prophets; third, teachers; then, mighty deeds; then gifts of healing, assistance, administration, and varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work mighty deeds? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?

### Gospel

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

Since many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as those who were eyewitnesses from the beginning and ministers of the word have handed them down to us, I too have decided, after investigating everything accurately anew, to write it down in an orderly sequence for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may realize the certainty of the teachings you have received.

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news of him spread throughout the whole region. He taught in their synagogues and was praised by all.

He came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and went according to his custom into the synagogue on the sabbath day. He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written:

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring glad tidings to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to proclaim a year acceptable to  
the Lord.*

Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him. He said to them, "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."



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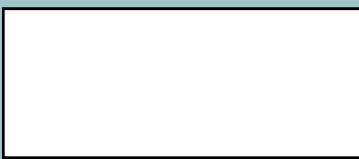


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