He is Risen!

Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands, but yours, no feet but yours.

Yours are the eyes through which Christ’s compassion is to look out to the world.

Yours are the feet with which Christ is to go about doing good.

Yours are the hands with which Christ is to bless all people now.
My brothers and sisters in Christ, as your Bishop I wish you joy and God’s peace as we celebrate the feast of Easter. We do so in unusual circumstances this year. We miss going to Easter Sunday Mass in a beautifully decorated church with inspiring music and seeing friends who have come home for the holiday. We miss some of the customs that have grown up around the feast: Easter egg rolls for neighborhood children and even those delicious chocolate bunnies.

It is right that we cooperate with our public officials in the measures they have adopted to impede the spread of a new and deadly virus. It shows we take seriously the command of our Savior to love your neighbor as yourself. We show both love for our neighbor and a proper love for ourselves by not putting either of us at risk of contracting a disease for which, at present, there is no cure.

But even though we must remain physically apart, we affirm our faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. That is the meaning of Easter and the Coronavirus can’t change it. We are convinced that Jesus our Lord has overcome our twin enemies: sin and death. He died in our place for our sins because we are too weak to make up for them; and he rose from the dead so that he might raise us up to new life when he returns in glory.

Why do we believe such an audacious thing? Because we accept the testimony of ordinary men and women like Peter, John and Mary Magdalene who tell us they saw the risen Jesus after they found his tomb to be empty. They had nothing to gain and everything to lose by telling people about Christ’s resurrection. In fact, many of them accepted death rather than deny their experience. They’re credible witnesses.

But beyond that, we Christians have experienced for two thousand years the power of the risen Christ in our lives. Our forebears in the faith and we ourselves know the power of Christ’s new life at work in us through the Holy Spirit. It comes to us especially through the sacraments – and even though we can’t receive Christ in the Eucharist at this time, we must remember that his grace continues to act in us through our Baptism, our Confirmation, our Sacraments of Matrimony and Holy Orders. He also strengthens and enlightens us through his Word, through prayer and through the encouragement we receive from our fellow believers. Jesus Christ lives and reaches out to us!

The Coronavirus cannot stop the grace that comes to us from the risen Lord in these many ways. Let the Lord strengthen you to bear the burden of isolation with patience. Pray daily, love one another in your families, stay in touch with relatives and friends, use the faith-building resources available on the diocesan website or through your parish.

As on a religious retreat, when we withdraw from our usual activities and interactions with other people so that we may focus our attention more fully on our relationship with God, this time of enforced separation from one another and from going to church may truly be a time of spiritual growth, drawing us closer to the Lord.

My brothers and sisters, Christ has risen, he is truly risen! Rejoice in that stupendous truth and let your faith in the risen Savior sustain you and give you hope.

Happy Easter!

Most Reverend Mark E. Brennan
A MEAL LIKE NO OTHER

HOLY THURSDAY is the day Jesus gathered with the apostles for the Last Supper. In that upper room, where Jesus gathered with the apostles for the Last Supper, he gave us three remarkable gifts – the gift of priesthood, the gift of the Eucharist and the gift of a love that is stronger than even death.

In our homes, we can celebrate these same realities. We join Jesus in giving generously of ourselves and humbly serving those around us.

AFFIRMATION:

Because the Last Supper is the birthday of the priesthood, take a moment to pray for all the priests in your life, as well as all those discerning the priesthood.

---

THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE

GOOD FRIDAY is a solemn celebration of Christ’s ultimate sacrifice – the cross. We recall the events of Jesus’ passion and death.

Our Lord is mocked and ridiculed by the guards. His clothes are ripped from his body. He walks the long, strenuous journey to Calvary. And, ultimately, he is nailed to the cross.

But today is not a day for sadness or despair. We call today ‘Good’ Friday because, by his death, Jesus frees us from sin and death.

The cross is the perfect expression of God’s love for us. God’s only begotten Son sacrifices his life on the cross, so that we may not only die with him, but also one day rise to new life.

AFFIRMATION:

Unite our fear, uncertainty and suffering to the suffering of Jesus on the cross. Display a crucifix on a prayer table. Kneel before the crucified Jesus and ask Him once again to prepare our hearts to receive the great joy of his resurrection this Easter Sunday.

---

Did You Know?

The Last Supper took place in a home around a common table. Early Christians continued this practice of gathering in people’s homes for many years. It wasn’t until the third and fourth century, when Christianity grew steadily, that churches were even built.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading ............ EX 12:1-8, 11-14
Second Reading ........ 1 COR 11:23-26
Gospel Reading ........ JN 13:1-15

---

Did You Know?

The ritual of venerating the cross began in Rome in the fourth century when the cross of Jesus Christ was believed to have been discovered by St. Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine, on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem in 326. When St. Helena uncovered the crosses, they needed to identify which belonged to the Lord. It is said the bishop of Jerusalem made a sick woman, previously incurable, touch the wood, and upon touching one of the three she was healed straight away. St. Helena had no doubt she found Jesus’ cross. She immediately ordered the building of a church where it was discovered – which she called the Church of the Resurrection.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading ............ IS 52:13-53:12
Second Reading ....... HEB 4:14-16; 5:7-9
Gospel Reading ....... JN 13:1-15
ALLELUIA, HE IS RISEN!

EASTER SUNDAY is the most sacred and joyful celebration for us! His death and glorious resurrection free us from sin and restore our place as sons and daughters of God.

Today, voices from around the world join as one, as the Church resounds with a joyful “Alleluia.” As we celebrate Easter in our homes today, let this same joyful spirit carry over into everything you do. Dress up like you would if you were going to your parish church. Reach out to friends and loved ones. We have new life in him!

AFFIRMATION:

Start fresh by renewing your baptismal vows:

• Do you reject Satan, all his works and all his empty promises?
• Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth?
• Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?
• Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

These are certainly unique and challenging times, but as Christians we have so much to celebrate. As we face fear and uncertainty, let us be renewed today in the joy and peace of Jesus’ resurrection. Jesus is with us in a special way. Let us celebrate the new life he offers us – today and every day.

Did You Know?

The butterfly is a beautiful symbol of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The caterpillar symbolizes earthly life, the cocoon resembles the tomb of Christ, and the butterfly wonderfully represents his resurrection and ascension to new life.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading .......... ACTS 10:34A, 37-43
Second Reading ...... COL 3:1-4
Gospel Reading ...... JN 20:1-9

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

Broadcast of Holy Week, Easter Masses

Cathedral of St. Joseph
Most Reverend Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

Masses broadcasted on: WTRFDT3/ABC - Wheeling Area  •  WBOYDT/ABC - Clarksburg Area
LIVE THROUGHOUT THE STATE AT www.DWC.ORG/MASS

MASS OF THE LORD’S SUPPER - Holy Thursday, April 9
7:00 p.m. - LIVE

PASSION OF THE LORD - Good Friday, April 10
3:00 p.m. - Live @ dwc.org/mass  •  7:00 p.m. - Tape Delay

EASTER MASS - Sunday, April 12
10:30 a.m. - LIVE

Closed captioning provided. The Easter Mass broadcast is sponsored by the Welty Corporation.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life: Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins: Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you feed us with your body and blood. Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Let us pray.

O God, who have called us to participate in this most sacred Supper, in which your Only Begotten Son, when about to hand himself over to death, entrusted to the Church a sacrifice new for all eternity, the banquet of his love, we pray, that we may draw from so great a mystery, the fullness of charity and of life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Responsorial Psalm

PS 116:12-13, 15-16BC, 17-18

R. (cf. 1 Cor 10:16) Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.

How shall I make a return to the LORD for all the good he has done for me? The cup of salvation I will take up, and I will call upon the name of the LORD.

R. Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.

Precious in the eyes of the LORD is the death of his faithful ones. I am your servant, the son of your handmaid; you have loosed my bonds.

R. Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.

To you will I offer sacrifice of thanksgiving, and I will call upon the name of the LORD. My vows to the LORD I will pay in the presence of all his people.

R. Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.

Second Reading 1COR 11:23-26

Brothers and sisters:

I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over, took bread, and, after he had given thanks, broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.

Continue...
Verse Before The Gospel JN 13:34  
I give you a new commandment, says the Lord: love one another as I have loved you.

Gospel JN 13:1-15  
Before the feast of Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to pass from this world to the Father. He loved his own in the world and he loved them to the end. The devil had already induced Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot, to hand him over. So, during supper, fully aware that the Father had put everything into his power and that he had come from God and was returning to God, he rose from supper and took off his outer garments. He took a towel and tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and dry them with the towel around his waist. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Master, are you going to wash my feet?” Jesus answered and said to him, “What I am doing, you do not understand now, but you will understand later.” Peter said to him, “You will never wash my feet.” Jesus answered him, “Unless I wash you, you will have no inheritance with me.” Simon Peter said to him, “Master, then not only my feet, but my hands and head as well.” Jesus said to him, “Whoever has bathed has no need except to have his feet washed, for he is clean all over; so you are clean, but not all.” For he knew who would betray him; for this reason, he said, “Not all of you are clean.” So when he had washed their feet and put his garments back on and reclined at table again, he said to them, “Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me ‘teacher’ and ‘master,’ and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another’s feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do.”  

Universal Prayer/Prayer of the Faithful follows the homily.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST  
EUCHARISTIC PRAYER  
MYSTERY OF FAITH  
When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.  
Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit All glory and honor is Yours, forever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION  
Let us pray.  
Grant, almighty God, that, just as we are renewed by the Supper of your Son in this present age, so we may enjoy his banquet for all eternity. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.  

After the Prayer after Communion, the Priest places the ciborium in the tabernacle and closes the door. He then returns to his chair for a moment of prayer. After a period of silence, he rises, genuflects to the tabernacle, and departs in silence. There is no blessing or dismissal.

GODFRIDAY: THE LORD’S PASSION  
INTRODUCTORY RITES  
ENTRANCE: Priest goes to the altar in silence  
PRAYER  
Remember your mercies, O Lord, and with your eternal protection sanctify your servants, for whom Christ your Son, by the shedding of his Blood, established the Paschal Mystery. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
Amen.

First Reading IS 52:13-53:12  
See, my servant shall prosper, he shall be raised high and greatly exalted. Even as many were amazed at him so marred was his look beyond human semblance and his appearance beyond that of the sons of man so shall he startle many nations, because of him kings shall stand speechless; for those who have not been told shall see, those who have not heard shall ponder it. Who would believe what we have heard? To whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? He grew up like a sapling before him, like a shoot from the parched earth; there was in him no stately bearing to make us look at him, nor appearance that would attract us to him. He was spurned and avoided by people, a man of suffering, accustomed to infirmity, one of those from whom people hide their faces, spurned, and we held him in no esteem. Yet it was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured, while we thought of him as stricken, as one smitten by God and afflicted. But he was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins; upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, each following his own way; but the LORD laid upon him the guilt of us all. Though he was harshly treated, he submitted and opened not his mouth; like a lamb led to the slaughter or a sheep before the shearsers, he was silent and opened not his mouth. Oppressed and condemned, he was taken away, and who would have thought any more of his destiny? When he was cut off from the land of the living, and smitten for the sin of his people, a grave was assigned him among the wicked and a burial place with evildoers, though he had done no wrong nor spoken any falsehood. But the LORD was pleased to crush him in infirmity. If he gives his life as an offering for sin, he shall see his descendants in a long life, and the will of the LORD shall be accomplished through him. Because of his affliction he shall see the light in fullness of days; through his suffering, my servant shall justify many, and their guilt he shall bear. Therefore I will give him his portion among the
great, and he shall divide the spoils with the mighty, because he surrendered himself to death and was counted among the wicked; and he shall take away the sins of many, and win pardon for their offenses.

---

**Responsorial PSALM 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25**

R. (Lk 23:46) **Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.**

In you, O LORD, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame. In your justice rescue me. Into your hands I commend my spirit; you will redeem me, O LORD, O faithful God.

R. **Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.**

For all my foes I am an object of reproach, a laughingstock to my neighbors, and a dread to my friends; they who see me abroad flee from me. I am forgotten like the unremembered dead; I am like a dish that is broken.

R. **Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.**

But my trust is in you, O LORD; I say, “You are my God. In your hands is my destiny; rescue me from the clutches of my enemies and my persecutors.”

R. **Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.**

Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your kindness. Take courage and be stouthearted, all you who hope in the LORD.

R. **Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.**

---

**Second Reading HEB 4:14-16; 5:7-9**

Brothers and sisters:

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin. So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help. In the days when Christ was in the flesh, he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

---

**Verse Before The Gospel PHIL 2:8-9**

Christ became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every other name.

---

**Gospel JN 18:1-19;42**

Jesus went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to where there was a garden, into which he and his disciples entered. Judas his betrayer also knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. So Judas got a band of soldiers and guards from the chief priests and the Pharisees and went there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. Jesus, knowing everything that was going to happen to him, went out and said to them, “Whom are you looking for?” They answered him, “Jesus the Nazorean.” He said to them, “I AM.” Judas his betrayer was also with them. When he said to them, “I AM,” they turned away and fell to the ground. So he again asked them, “Whom are you looking for?” They said, “Jesus the Nazorean.” Jesus answered, “I told you that I AM. So if you are looking for me, let these men go.” This was to fulfill what he had said, “I have not lost any of those you gave me.” Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest’s slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave’s name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into its scabbard. Shall I not drink the cup that the Father gave me?” So the band of soldiers, the tribune, and the Jewish guards seized Jesus, bound him, and brought him to Annas first. He was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had counseled the Jews that it was better that one man should die rather than the people. Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Now the other disciple was known to the high priest, and he entered the courtyard of the high priest with Jesus. But Peter stood at the gate outside. So the other disciple, the acquaintance of the high priest, went out and spoke to the gatekeeper and brought Peter in. Then the maid who was the gatekeeper said to Peter, “You are not one of this man’s disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.” Now the slaves and the guards were standing around a charcoal fire that they had made, because it was cold, and were warming themselves. Peter was also standing there keeping warm. The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his doctrine. Jesus answered him, “I have spoken publicly to the world. I have always taught in a synagogue or in the temple area where all the Jews gather, and in secret I have said nothing. Why ask me? Ask those who heard me what I said to them. They know what I said.” When he had said this, one of the temple guards standing there struck Jesus and said, “Is this the way you answer the high priest?” Jesus answered him, “If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong; but if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?” Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. Now Simon Peter was standing there keeping warm. And they said to him, “You are not one of his disciples, are you?” He denied it and said, “I am not.” One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the one whose ear Peter had cut off, said, “Didn’t I see you in the garden with him?” Again Peter denied it. And immediately the cock crowed. Then they brought Jesus from Caiaphas to the praetorium. It was morning. And they themselves did not enter the praetorium, in order not to be defiled so that they could eat the Passover. So Pilate came out to them and said, “What charge do you bring against this man?” They answered and said to him, “If he were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.” At this, Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves, and judge him according to your law.” The Jews answered him,
“We do not have the right to execute anyone,” in order that the word of Jesus might be fulfilled that he said indicating the kind of death he would die. So Pilate went back into the praetorium and summoned Jesus and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Do you say this on your own or have others told you about me?” Pilate answered, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?” Jesus answered, “My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not here.” So Pilate said to him, “Then you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” Pilate said to him, “What is truth?” When he had said this, he again went out to the Jews and said to them, “I find no guilt in him. But you have a custom that I release one prisoner to you at Passover. Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?” They cried out again, “Not this one but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a revolutionary. Then Pilate took Jesus and had him scourged. And the soldiers wove a crown out of thorns and placed it on his head, and clothed him in a purple cloak, and they came to him and said, “Hail, King of the Jews!” And they struck him repeatedly. Once more Pilate went out and said to them, “Look, I am bringing him out to you, so that you may know that I find no guilt in him.” So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple cloak. And he said to them, “Behold, the man!” When the chief priests and the guards saw him they cried out, “Crucify him, crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and crucify him. I find no guilt in him.” The Jews answered, “We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.” Now when Pilate heard these words he became even more afraid, and went back into the praetorium and said to Jesus, “Where are you from?” Jesus did not answer him. So Pilate said to him, “Do you not speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you and I have power to crucify you?” Jesus answered him, “You would have no power over me if it had not been given to you from above. For this reason the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin.” Consequently, Pilate tried to release him; but the Jews cried out, “If you release him, you are not a Friend of Caesar. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar.” When Pilate heard these words he brought Jesus out and seated him on the judge’s bench in the place called Stone Pavement, in Hebrew, Gabbatha. It was preparation day for Passover, and it was about noon. And he said to the Jews, “Behold, your king!” They cried out, “Take him away, take him away! Crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your king?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.” Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, and, carrying the cross himself, he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, “Jesus the Nazorean, the King of the Jews.” Now many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that he said, ‘I am the King of the Jews’.” Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.” When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four shares, a share for each soldier. They also took his tunic, but the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top down. So they said to one another, “Let’s not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it will be, “in order that the passage of Scripture might be fulfilled that says: They divided my garments among them, and for my vesture they cast lots. This is what the soldiers did. Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. After this, aware that everything was now finished, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I thirst.” There was a vessel filled with common wine. So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth. When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, “It is finished.” And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit. Now since it was preparation day, in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the sabbath, for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken and that they be taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out. An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true; he knows that he is speaking the truth, so that you also may come to believe. For this happened so that the Scripture passage might be fulfilled: Not a bone of it will be broken. And again another passage says: They will look upon him whom they have pierced. After this, Joseph of Arimathaea, secretly a disciple of Jesus for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate if he could remove the body of Jesus. And Pilate permitted it. So he came and took his body. Nicodemus, the one who had first come to him at night, also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes weighing about one hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and bound it with burial cloths along with the spices, according to the Jewish burial custom. Now in the place where he had been crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had yet been buried. So they laid Jesus there because of the Jewish preparation day; for the tomb was close by.
HOMILY

SOLEMN INTERCESSIONS

I. For Holy Church

Let us pray, dearly beloved, for the holy Church of God, that our God and Lord be pleased to give her peace, to guard her and to unite her throughout the whole world and grant that, leading our life in tranquility and quiet, we may glorify God the Father almighty.

Let us kneel.  
(Pause for silent prayer.)

Let us stand.

Almighty ever-living God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is sanctified and governed, hear out humble prayer for your ministers, that by the gift of your grace, all may serve you faithfully. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

II. For the Pope

Let us pray for our most Holy Father, Pope Francis that our God and Lord, who chose him for the Order of Bishops, may keep him safe and unharmed for the Lord’s holy Church, to govern the holy People of God.

Let us kneel.  
(Pause for silent prayer.)

Let us stand.

Almighty ever-living God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is sanctified and governed, hear out humble prayer for your ministers, that by the gift of your grace, all may serve you faithfully. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

III. For all orders and degrees of the faithful

Let us pray also for our Bishop, Mark Brennan for all Bishops, Priests, and Deacons of the Church; for vocations to the priesthood; for all who have a special ministry in the Church; and for the whole of the faithful people.

Let us kneel.  
(Pause for silent prayer.)

Let us stand.

Almighty ever-living God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is sanctified and governed, hear out humble prayer for your ministers, that by the gift of your grace, all may serve you faithfully. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

IV. For catechumens

Let us pray also for our catechumens that our God and Lord may open wide the ears of their inmost hearts and unlock the gates of his mercy, that, having received forgiveness of all their sins through the waters of rebirth, they, too, may be one with Christ Jesus our Lord.

Let us kneel.  
(Pause for silent prayer.)

Let us stand.

Almighty ever-living God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is sanctified and governed, hear out humble prayer for your ministers, that by the gift of your grace, all may serve you faithfully. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

V. For the unity of Christians

Let us pray also for all our brothers and sisters who believe in Christ, that our God and Lord may be pleased, as they live the truth, to gather them together and keep them in his one Church.

Let us kneel.  
(Pause for silent prayer.)

Let us stand.

Almighty ever-living God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is sanctified and governed, hear out humble prayer for your ministers, that by the gift of your grace, all may serve you faithfully. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

VI. For the Jewish people

Let us pray also for the Jewish people, to whom the Lord our God spoke first, that he may grant them to advance in love of his name and in faithfulness to his covenant.

Let us kneel.  
(Pause for silent prayer.)

Let us stand.

Almighty ever-living God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is sanctified and governed, hear out humble prayer for your ministers, that by the gift of your grace, all may serve you faithfully. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

VII. For those who do not believe in Christ

Let us pray also for those who do not believe in Christ, that enlightened by the Holy Spirit, they too, may enter on the way of salvation.

Let us kneel.  
(Pause for silent prayer.)

Let us stand.

Almighty ever-living God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is sanctified and governed, hear out humble prayer for your ministers, that by the gift of your grace, all may serve you faithfully. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

VIII. For those who do not believe in God

Let us pray also for those who do not acknowledge God, that, following what is right in sincerity of heart, they may find the way to God himself.

Let us kneel.  
(Pause for silent prayer.)

Let us stand.

Almighty ever-living God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is sanctified and governed, hear out humble prayer for your ministers, that by the gift of your grace, all may serve you faithfully. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.
IX. For those in public office
Let us pray also for those in public office, that our God and Lord may direct their minds and hearts according to his will for the true peace and freedom of all.
Let us kneel.  
(Pause for silent prayer.)
Let us stand.
Almighty ever-living God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is sanctified and governed, hear out humble prayer for your ministers, that by the gift of your grace, all may serve you faithfully. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

X. For those in tribulation
Let us pray, dearly beloved, to God the Father almighty, that he may cleanse the world of all errors, banish disease, drive out hunger and poverty, unlock prisons, loosen fetters, grant safety to those who risk their lives each day, health to the sick, and salvation to the dying.
Let us kneel.  
(Pause for silent prayer.)
Let us stand.
Almighty ever-living God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is sanctified and governed, hear out humble prayer for your ministers, that by the gift of your grace, all may serve you faithfully. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

XI. For those who suffering during this pandemic
Let us pray, also for all those who suffer the consequences of the current pandemic, that God the Father may grant health to the sick, comfort to families, and salvation to all the victims who have died.
Let us kneel.  
(Pause for silent prayer.)
Let us stand.
Almighty ever-living God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is sanctified and governed, hear out humble prayer for your ministers, that by the gift of your grace, all may serve you faithfully. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

ADORATION OF THE CROSS

INVITATION
Priest slowly removes the veil from the cross while chanting:
Behold the wood of the Cross, on which hung the salvation of the world
Come, Let us adore.
Behold the wood of the Cross, on which hung the salvation of the world.
Come, Let us adore.
Behold the wood of the Cross, on which hung the salvation of the world.
Come, Let us adore.

ADORATION
Priest gazes at the cross, touches it and makes a silent prayer, and moves the cross to its place in the sanctuary.

HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Let us pray.
Almighty ever-living God, who have restored us to life by the blessed Death and Resurrection of your Christ, preserve in us the work of your mercy, that, by partaking of this mystery, we may have a life unceasingly devoted to you.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

CONCLUDING RITE

PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE
May abundant blessing, O Lord, we pray, descend upon your people, who have honored the Death of your Son in the hope of their resurrection: may pardon come, comfort be given, holy faith increase, and everlasting redemption be made secure.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.
The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON
I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia. You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia. Too wonderful for me, this knowledge, alleluia, alleluia. Cf. Ps 139 (138):18, 5-6
OR
The Lord is truly risen, alleluia. To him be glory and power for all the ages of eternity, alleluia, alleluia. Lk 24:34; cf. Rev 1:6

GLORIA
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Let us pray.
O God, who on this day, through your Only Begotten Son, have conquered death and unlocked for us the path to eternity, grant, we pray, that we who keep the solemnity of the Lord’s Resurrection may, through the renewal brought by your Spirit, rise up in the light of life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

First Reading ACTS 10:34a, 37-43
Peter proceeded to speak and said: “You know 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. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Responsorial PSALM 118
R. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad. or R. Alleluia.
Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever. Let the house of Israel say, “His mercy endures forever.”
R. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad. or R. Alleluia.
“The right hand of the Lord has struck with power; the right hand of the Lord is exalted. I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.”
R. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad. or R. Alleluia.
The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. By the Lord has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes.
R. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad. or R. Alleluia.

Second Reading COL 3:1-4 (or 1COR 5:6b-8)
Brothers and sisters:
If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory.

Christians, to the Paschal Victim Offer your thankful praises! A Lamb the sheep redeems; Christ, who only is sinless, Reconciles sinners to the Father. Death and life have contended in that combat stupendous: The Prince of life, who died, reigns immortal. Speak, Mary, declaring What you saw, wayfaring. “The tomb of Christ, who is living, The glory of Jesus’ resurrection; Bright angels attesting, The shroud and napkin resting; Yes, Christ my hope is arisen; To Galilee he goes before you.” Christ indeed from death is risen, our new life obtaining. Have mercy, victor King, ever reigning!
Amen. Alleluia.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Alleluia, alleluia.
Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed; let us then feast with joy in the Lord. Cf. 1 Cor 5:7b-8a
Alleluia, alleluia.

Continue...
On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don’t know where they put him.” So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

Dear brethren (brothers and sisters), through the Paschal Mystery we have been buried with Christ in Baptism, so that we may walk with him in newness of life. And so, now that our Lenten observance is concluded, let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and his works and promised to serve God in the holy Catholic Church.

And so I ask you:
Do you renounce Satan?
I do.

And all his works?
I do.

And all his empty show?
I do.

Or: Do you renounce sin, so as to live in the freedom of the children of God?
I do.

Do you renounce the lure of evil, so that sin may have no mastery over you?
I do.

Do you renounce Satan, the author and prince of sin?
I do.

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?
I do.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father?
I do.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?
I do.

And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins, keep us by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord, for eternal life.

Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

MYSTERY OF FAITH

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit All glory and honor is Yours, forever and ever.

Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Exultant with paschal gladness, O Lord, we offer the sacrifice by which your Church is wondrously reborn and nourished. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed, alleluia; therefore let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia. 1 Cor 5:7-8

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Look upon your Church, O God, with unfailing love and favor, so that, renewed by the paschal mysteries, she may come to the glory of the resurrection. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

CONCLUDING RITE

And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins, keep us by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord, for eternal life.

Amen.
In hard times we see what we are made of. What I see from the Department of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston reveals our core – love... love of Christ, love for others, and love that endures.

Last week when I heard Governor Jim Justice, under the advisement of public health officials, announce that schools would remain closed in our state through April 30, I paused and exhaled. I certainly respect our priority must be the health and safety of our society, but I will be honest, for a moment I was overwhelmed. I was caught up in the thought of having to hold off on all the excitement that usually showers our schools during the month – Confirmations, spring sports, honors’ assemblies, egg hunts, Easter celebrations, prom, awards dinners, and the list goes on from there. But as fast as I sunk into that disappointment, I was able to pull myself together and switched my thinking to that of gratitude and love.

It is exactly what we teach our students. We have a choice. We can look at a harsh situation with a negative mindset and attract anger and frustration, or we can choose to find the good. We find the good, because we are taught to love through Christ’s teachings and example.

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, it is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.

– 1Corinthians 13:4-7

Our students continue to exceed expectations, because they know they are loved by their parents who are pitching in as the teacher’s aide and number one motivators. As a mother and grandmother, I know that a child is willing to do their best, when they know they are loved, and we are not giving up on them.

I hope you continue to scroll through the images all over social media of our students across our state turning their windows, driveways, and even storm doors into DIY stained glass windows with simple craft paint or chalk.

The other day, I couldn’t help myself, but to say out loud “Wow! Good for you,” as I swiped through pictures and videos of our students completing cooking assignments, music lessons, physical challenges, science experiments, and even turning kitchens into DNA labs.

Our children are proving their resilience. As we move forward, let us all be more like them.

No matter how organized and dedicated we are, it is going to be hard. We must accept that. We also need to remember that we are ultimately teaching lessons on our Catholic core values – sacrifice for others, perseverance, patience, creativity, and even conflict resolution. With our faith focus we will all continue to succeed.

Reach out to your teachers if you need help. Email your school office if you have any questions, need help with FACTs, or need to complete registration for the 2020-2021 school year.

Let us journey through Holy Week, knowing that the ultimate sacrifice was made by Jesus and done so because he loves us.

Peace,

Mary Ann Deschaine, Ed.S.
THE DIOCESE, WV FAITHFUL REMAIN STRONG
THANKS TO CONCENTRATED ONLINE PRESENCE

Among all the sacrifices, unknowns, and sometimes-overwhelming tests of patience, the faithful of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston have proven once again to be a determined people.

Thanks to technology we gather together in virtual pews. These of course being in our homes now.

In the last few weeks the Diocese’s online presence has been an emphasized focus for evangelization within our abundantly beautiful state. Thanks to the Office of Communications we have brought you a new state-wide e-bulletin, Faith in WV; constant social media posts; and a plethora of online resources to strengthen your faith, enrich our Catholic traditions remotely, and appreciate the good that is happening during these challenging times.

These extraordinary days have given us great opportunity to welcome Pope Francis, Bishop Mark Brennan, and many other faithful priests and religious into our very own homes.

When you extend that welcome, know that you are not only opening the door to your home to these men and women of God, but also opening your heart to Christ.

On our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram platforms you have received a personal invitation to walk the actual steps of Jesus from the Kidron Valley to Golgatha; partake in the Stations of the Cross at our may parishes across the state like St. Patrick’s in Weston with Fr. James DeViese, who presented a thorough and loving Passion story; sit quietly virtually in churches and our cathedrals across the globe for Eucharistic Adoration; and personally witness Pope Francis in real time humbly come before you in reverent prayer to bless you from St. Peter’s Square.

Facebook Live, podcasts, YouTube, Zoom Meeting Rosaries – these are all somewhat new to so many, but have now become our lifeline.

More than 2,000 viewers participated with Bishop Mark Brennan’s penitential service this week. Thousands more are expected to celebrate the Lord’s Supper, Good Friday, and Easter Mass with him from The Cathedral of St. Joseph via our social media, website, and television broadcasts.

Thank you for adjusting. Thank you for being resilient.

God bless our Almost Heaven West Virginia!

YOUTH MINISTRY CONTINUES
YOUNG WV CATHOLICS invites teens to be part of

Instead of feeling cooped up, encourage your teen to feel energized by participating in the PROJECT YM LIVE event and Young WV Catholics Zoom conversation. Office of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry Interim Director, Shawn Madden, invites you to find out more and sign up at:
www.youngwvcatholics.com/vmlive.html

Project YM, a national youth ministry organization, streamed its first hour-long live youth night last week. It was attended online by more than 9,000 households! The event at projectym.com/live had games, prizes, a solid message, and engaging prayer. Help middle and high school students you know by sharing this opportunity.

CATHOLIC RADIO REMAINS
A VOICE OF HOPE

The Light of Life Radio is encouraging the faithful around the state. You can get information about the listener supported station online at LoLRadio.org

LOL Radio can be heard at the following stations:

Light of Life Radio also promotes Catholic Radio WV on its LoLRadio.org site. Click the Catholic Radio WV hyperlink on the site to see a full listing.

ONLINE RESOURCES TO CHECK OUT THIS WEEK:

In addition to our diocesan website, DWC.ORG, check out:
• The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ website, for resources presented in text, audio, and video formats.
  Daily Readings written: USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS  Daily Readings audio: USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS-AUDIO.CFM
  Video Reflection USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/REFLECTIONS/INDEX.CFM
  The usccb.org site will also give you tutorials on how to pray the Rosary, the Divine Chaplet, and other prayers and devotions.
• National Catholic Register for Catholic news, stories, blogs, etc. at NCREGISTER.COM
• The Catholic News Service for the latest headlines for Catholics WWW.CATHOLICNEWS.COM
• My Daily Living with Fr. John Chapin Engler at MYDAILYLIVING.COM
• Fr. James DeViese – Altar-ed State: WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/CHANNEL/UCyPoCad75CF3rg1FeYJv5HQ
• Music ministries on Facebook: My Heart is Ready, WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/WWW.DAVIDHAAS.US and John Angotti Music Mission, WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/JOHNANGOTTIMUSICMISSION