

# CELEBRATE!

A NEWSLETTER FOR VIEWERS AND FRIENDS OF THE SUNDAY TV MASS

**SPRING 2021**

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The Sunday TV Mass airs every Sunday morning on WDCW-50 at 10:30 a.m.

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Archdiocese of  
Washington

## THE AMERICAN PEWABIC ARTWORK OF THE CRYPT



The Twelfth Station of the Cross - Jesus Dies On The Cross - is composed of Pewabic tiles. (Photo Courtesy of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception)

Viewers of the TV Mass are familiar with the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception's Crypt Church, the sanctuary where the Catholic Mass takes place each Sunday, and some of the art that beautifies the space. Among this art are some of the most extraordinary elements of the Crypt – the unique Pewabic ceramic tiles which embellish the vault and walls.

The signature Pewabic (Peh-wäh-bic) tile technique was developed by Detroit native artist Mary Chase Perry Stratton, who is credited with creating the luminous iridescent glazes of the pottery. “The term Pewabic comes from the Chippewa Indian word for ‘iron.’ Stratton once remarked that ‘Pewabic’ means ‘clay with a copper color,’ in the Chippewa language,” states the Shrine’s blog. The

secret of Stratton’s Pewabic technique was never revealed and even today remains a mystery.

Approximately 35,000 visible tiles adorn the Crypt Church, which utilizes a strong architectural vaulting style called Guastavino vaulting that relies on mortar and layers of staggered tile. Among these, the Pewabic tiles create the images of Old Testament women such as Deborah, Miriam, and Ruth in the West apse; New Testament women such as Elizabeth, Mary, and Anne in the North apse; and others. The Crypt’s 14 Stations of the Cross are also Pewabic art, and these, along with the other Pewabic tiles in the space, took nearly seven years to complete.

These trademark tiles are just another adornment of *America’s Catholic Church*.



The Pewabic tilework of the Old Testament figure Ruth is located in the West apse ceiling of the Crypt. (Photo Courtesy of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception)

(Article adapted from the Shrine’s website post *Basilica Insider: The Art of Mary Stratton in America’s Catholic Church*, July 13, 2020).



# 2 EASTER SUNDAY HOMILY FROM CARDINAL GREGORY



*Below is the homily Washington Cardinal Wilton Gregory delivered at the 12 p.m. Easter Sunday Mass on April 4, 2021 from the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.*

Dearly beloved in the Lord Jesus. Sickness and death are perhaps the greatest mysteries that any of us will ever have to confront. We all can remember being mystified, angered, bewildered, and downcast at the sickness or the death of a relative or dear friend. We don't have very many things to say at such a moment of pain. Silence is the most common response to these realities. Sorrow speaks the language of stillness.

The human heart grieves in a number of predictable if not ritual ways. The sadness that visits the human spirit in the face of death causes most of us to grow more reflective, most often silent, and perhaps even despondent. This might explain why Mary Magdalene found herself going to the tomb not only in the darkness of dawn but equally important lost in the shadows of her own sorrow. The human heart tends to grieve in seclusion in the face of death. Death leaves most of us speechless. It causes most of us to feel very much alone.

Easter is God's remedy for the grieving heart. The Easter mystery begins with the question: "Why do you search for the living One among the dead?" Easter is the final word spoken to the face of our great and powerful foe: Death. None of us will be able to avoid the sorrow that death brings to our hearts, and most assuredly, none of us will be able to avoid our own death. Nevertheless, Easter is God's



Mosaic of the Resurrection from the Redemption Dome in the Great Upper Church. (ADW Screenshot/ Emma Restuccia)

promise that death is not the greatest sovereign and certainly not the final sentence handed down upon any of us.

Still the Easter mystery is



Cardinal Gregory delivers his Easter homily in the Great Upper Church. (ADW Screenshot/ Emma Restuccia)

filled with more than a few enigmas: stones that are rolled back, used burial shrouds that are discovered neatly folded, tombs that were once filled but are now empty. The promise of Easter is not a simple solution to the ancient threat of death. Easter is an unfolding experience of hope – hope at the very moment of grief. I am certain that because I am a priest I will continue to grieve at the sorrow of our people who must bear the loss of their loved ones often in isolation – this has been a personal reality for too many families in the face of the current global pandemic. They had to leave their loved ones alone. Those who have died had to pass from this life to the next unaccompanied. I anticipate that I will encounter the loss of more of my own family and my dear friends. I know for certain that I will come to the great and inescapable moment of my own death in God's time. Still Easter promises me and it promises you that the fear and grieving that those moments will surely offer are not our ultimate human destiny. Easter provides a word to be spoken in the silence of our grieving. Mary Magdalene went to the Tomb to grieve; she came away filled with hope and with joy. Easter brings together many people who long to change their own sorrows into joy, their own doubts into hope, and their own fears into Faith. The subtle but wonderful message of Easter is that we should not look for the Living among the dead. Christ is Risen. Alleluia! Death has been defeated. Alleluia! Easter gives us something to say in the very face of death – LIFE! Alleluia!



# ONLINE TV MASS EXCEEDED 3.5 MILLION VIEWS IN 2020

## ONLINE TV MASS EXCEEDED 3.5 MILLION VIEWS IN 2020

The TV Mass has seen remarkable growth of viewership online as, like regular TV Mass viewers through the years, the entire world has become homebound.

The TV Mass is available online for those viewers who are unable to watch on TV. Many already watch the Mass online, with views on YouTube alone growing from 1 million views in 2019 to 3.5 million views during 2020.

Watch the Masses on the National Shrine's YouTube channel:  
[www.youtube.com/user/marysshrine](https://www.youtube.com/user/marysshrine)

Make sure to like, share, and subscribe to the channel to never miss another TV Mass!

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the TV Mass is recorded **without the presence of a congregation** and is still **closed to the public**. We will provide updates when the recordings are once again open to the public.

Visit the Basilica's website [nationalshrine.org/blog/coronavirus-updates/](https://nationalshrine.org/blog/coronavirus-updates/) for the latest information.

## KNOW, LOVE AND LIVE THE MASS WITH A 2021 ST. JOSEPH SUNDAY MISSAL

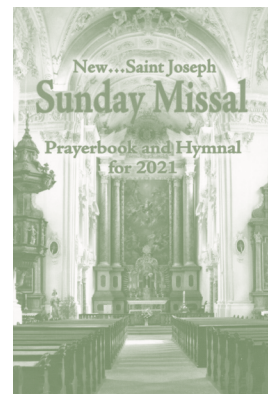
The 2021 Saint Joseph Sunday Missal is still available to order in English or Spanish for a suggested donation of \$7! It begins on the First Sunday of Advent, November 29, 2020, for the entire liturgical year.

This pocket-sized missal is a wonderful tool to help TV Mass viewers understand the Mass and actively participate in it.

The missal provides each Sunday's prayers, readings and responses so viewers can unite with the prayers of the priest and recite or sing their parts with understanding and devotion. It includes the Order of Mass in two colors and large type with the People's Parts in bold type for quick identification. The Missal also includes an updated hymnal section with over 90 popular hymns as well as many prayers.

Send in the coupon below today!

Read this newsletter in English and Spanish online at [www.adw.org/parishes-masses/sunday-tv-mass/](https://www.adw.org/parishes-masses/sunday-tv-mass/).



## CELEBRATE!

is produced by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington.

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Archdiocese of Washington

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## CELEBRATE! Support the Sunday TV Mass

I would like to make a donation to support the Sunday TV Mass ministry \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### THE 2021 ST. JOSEPH MISSAL IS STILL AVAILABLE - ORDER YOURS TODAY!

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies of the **2021 St. Joseph Sunday Missal**.

Suggested donation \$7 per copy (includes shipping)

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# 4 UPCOMING MONTHLY LITURGICAL DEDICATIONS AND INTENTIONS

Archdiocese of Washington

## OVERVIEW OF UPCOMING MONTHLY LITURGICAL DEDICATIONS AND INTENTIONS

### Month of May: Dedicated to The Blessed Virgin Mary

The Holy Father's Intentions for May 2021: The World of Finance

*Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.*

### Month of June: Dedicated to The Sacred Heart of Jesus

The Holy Father's Intentions for June 2021: The Beauty of Marriage

*Let us pray for young people who are preparing for marriage with the support of a Christian community: may they grow in love, with generosity, faithfulness and patience.*

### Month of July: Dedicated to The Precious Blood of Jesus

The Holy Father's Intentions for July 2021: Social Friendship

*We pray that, in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship.*

### Month of August: Dedicated to The Immaculate Heart of Mary

The Holy Father's Intentions for August 2021: The Church

*Let us pray for the Church, that She may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.*

## WDCW-50 LOCAL STATION GUIDE

The TV Mass airs every Sunday at 10:30 - 11:00 a.m. on WDCW-50. Use the chart below to determine the channel on your television.



TV Provider	Channel
Antenna/no cable	50
Comcast	
DC and Montgomery	23
PG and Southern MD	3
Dish or Direct TV	50
Cox	
Northern VA	3
Fredericksburg	15
RCN	15
Verizon	3

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