

# CELEBRATE!

A NEWSLETTER FOR VIEWERS AND FRIENDS OF THE SUNDAY TV MASS

**FALL 2021**

**In this issue . . .**

**1 Women of the Church: St. Lucy**

**2 Support for our Retired Priests**

**3 Order the NEW 2022 St. Joseph Sunday Missal**

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

## **Production Crew**

*Producer & Director:*  
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*Audio:* Nathan Bark

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Karin Öhlund and Mark Irons

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*Editor:* Brian Burgess

*Floor Director:*  
Bob Hemmerich



The Roman Catholic  
Archdiocese of  
Washington

## **THE COMING OF LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS**

St. Lucy (Feast Day, December 13) is one of 11 women of the Church featured in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Her mosaic is in the East Apse of the Crypt Church, where the Sunday TV Mass is filmed. Though her story is tragic, the legacy of St. Lucy lives on in a celebration of hope and light, observed on December 13. In Scandinavian countries, the celebration of St. Lucy's Day marks the beginning of the Christmas season, celebrating the coming of light in the darkness.



The mosaic of St. Lucy in the East Apse of the Crypt Church at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

### **The Life of St. Lucy**

Born in Sicily, St. Lucy converted to Christianity after her blind mother recovered her eyesight. She was martyred at a young age under the persecution of the Emperor Diocletian. The exact reason is uncertain, but tradition holds that a spurned suitor reported her to the governor, who had her killed for her faith. Another tradition holds that, as part of her torture, she was blinded, but her eyesight was miraculously restored. For this reason, she is the patron saint for eyesight.

### **The Tradition of St. Lucy's Day**

In Sweden and other Scandinavian countries, the feast of St. Lucy, or Saint Lucia, is commemorated with each town appointing a girl to be St. Lucy. The girl wears a white dress with a red sash and a lighted wreath on her head, parading through the streets followed by other children. In families, the eldest daughter typically dresses as St. Lucy and serves coffee, cookies, and saffron buns to the family.

### **The Symbolism of St. Lucy's Day: A Day of Light**

The white robe symbolizes St. Lucy's virginity, and the red sash symbolizes her martyrdom. The wreath of candles comes from a tradition of St. Lucy bringing food to Christians hiding in the catacombs: in order to have her hands free to carry more provisions, she wore a lighted wreath of candles, bringing light into the darkness of the catacombs. The name Lucy also means light – from the Latin “lux.” For these reasons, and the day's proximity to the winter solstice in the Julian calendar, the Feast of St. Lucy has long been associated with light. As the beginning of the Christmas season in Scandinavia, St. Lucy's Day is especially significant in the long, dark days of the north, symbolizing the coming of light in the darkness.

*Image and information from the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.*

## 2 HONORING THEIR LIVES OF SERVICE: DONATE TO THE RETIRED PRIESTS COLLECTION



# RETIRED PRIESTS COLLECTION 2021



The Roman Catholic  
Archdiocese of  
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[adw.org/rpc](http://adw.org/rpc) • [#LivesofService](https://twitter.com/LivesofService)

## SUPPORT OUR RETIRED PRIESTS!

Our priests inspire our lives in many ways: they baptize our children, comfort us in the confessional, witness our marriage vows, and hold our loved ones' hands as the Lord calls them home. They have selflessly served the faithful and the community to continue Christ's mission for decades, and in some cases, for more than a half century.

Catholics of the The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington are invited to express their gratitude to retired priests by donating to the annual Retired Priests Collection so they can live their retirement in dignity.

### WAYS TO GIVE

There are multiple ways for viewers of the TV Mass to support the Retired Priests of The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington:

- **Online** via credit card at [adw.org/rpc](http://adw.org/rpc).
- **Text** the word "Priest" to 301-231-1816.
- **Mail:** You may have received envelopes mailed directly to your home. If not, you may send a check payable to "Retired Priests Collection" to: Office of Development, The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington, P.O. Box 29260, Washington, DC 20017-0260.
- **IRA Transfers:** If you are age 70 ½ or older, you can transfer up to \$100,000 each year directly from your traditional IRA account to support the Retired Priests Collection. Call Joe Gillmer at (301) 853-5375 for assistance.

**Father Peter Sweeney**, 84, pictured above, is featured on the materials for this year's Retired Priests Collection. He celebrated his 60th anniversary as a priest this year, and has been serving as a retired priest at St. John Neumann Parish in Gaithersburg, Maryland since 2012.

A native of County Kerry, Ireland, he grew up on a farm about two miles from the Atlantic Ocean, with mountains, rivers and lakes nearby. He was one of 11 children, as was his father. While in minor seminary, he was inspired by visiting Irish missionary priests, who told about their experiences in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Peter Sweeney was not yet attached to a diocese and didn't know where he should seek to serve as a priest. Then his sister Margaret, who was then working in Boston, told him she heard that they were very short of clergy in Washington, D.C. "Then I applied here and was accepted," he said. "As Scripture often says, I was amazed." Father Peter Sweeney was ordained to the priesthood in June 1961 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Kilkenny, Ireland, and then he began serving as a priest in Washington.

Over the years, Father Sweeney served as pastor of Our Lady of Grace in Silver Spring, St. Paul in Damascus and St. Joseph in Landover (now Largo). He also served as director of the Propagation of the Faith for the archdiocese from 1974-81. An avid aviator, Father Sweeney got his pilot's license in the 1970's and has spent time flying in Alaska to celebrate Mass in remote parts of the state.

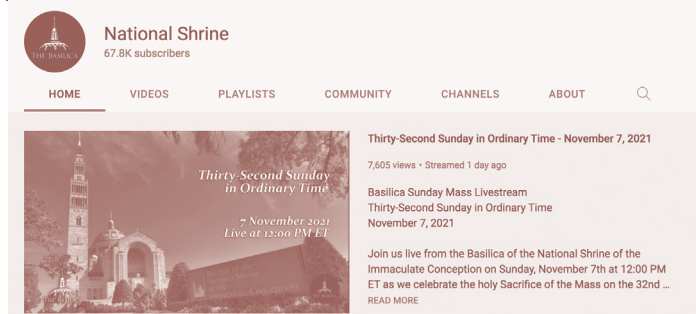


# ORDER YOUR 2022 ST. JOSEPH SUNDAY MISSAL

# 3

## WATCH THE TV MASS ONLINE

The Mass is available to watch online on the National Shrine's YouTube channel:  
[www.youtube.com/user/marysshine](http://www.youtube.com/user/marysshine)



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

## NEW TIME: CHRISTMAS DAY TV MASS

On Christmas Day, Cardinal Wilton Gregory, Archbishop of Washington, will celebrate a special hour-long Mass that will air at **11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**



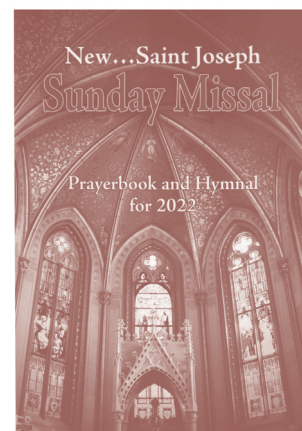
## KNOW, LOVE AND LIVE THE MASS

### WITH A 2022 ST. JOSEPH SUNDAY MISSAL

The 2022 Saint Joseph Sunday Missal is still available to order for a suggested donation of \$7!

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

- Clear, Easy-to-Read Type
- Two-color Order of Mass with Complete Prayers and Short Explanatory Texts
- Over 50 Illustrations
- Treasury of Prayers, including Illustrated Rosary and Stations of the Cross
- Pastoral Help: Christ's Presence in Liturgical Celebrations
- Major Practices



Use the coupon below to make a donation to the TV Mass and receive your copy of the new missal. A self-addressed donation envelope is included with this newsletter for ease.

You can also read this newsletter in English and Spanish online at [www.adw.org/parishes-masses/sunday-tv-mass](http://www.adw.org/parishes-masses/sunday-tv-mass).

## CELEBRATE!

is produced by The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington.

Produced by  
Georgina Wilkinson

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Office of Media and  
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The Roman Catholic  
Archdiocese of Washington  
P.O. Box 29260  
Washington, DC 20017  
301-853-4516

## CELEBRATE! Support the Sunday TV Mass

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

### THE 2022 ST. JOSEPH MISSAL IS NOW AVAILABLE - ORDER YOURS TODAY!

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies of the **NEW 2022 St. Joseph Sunday Missal**.

Suggested donation \$7 per copy (includes shipping)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to 'Archdiocese of Washington' and return this coupon to:  
Sunday TV Mass - Office of Media and Public Relations,  
The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington , PO Box 29260, Washington, DC 20017-0260

## TV MASS RECORDING STILL CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the TV Mass continues to be recorded without the presence of a congregation and is 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](http://nationalshrine.org/blog/coronavirus-updates) for the latest information.

## CUT-OUT PRAYER CARD FOR VOCATIONS

Below is a prayer card for you to cut out and keep to pray for vocations. National Vocation Awareness Week was Nov. 7-13, 2021.

*Prayer to  
St. Joseph  
for Vocations*



The Roman Catholic  
Archdiocese of  
Washington

Loving St. Joseph, your self-sacrifice and faithfulness are a model for all vocations.

With the heart of a father, we ask you to pray for the men and women who have answered the call to the priesthood and consecrated life.

May they find in you an intercessor and model.

May they allow God's dreams to be their dreams,

May they have the grace to serve Christ and His holy Church in love and fidelity.

Pray for each of us that we may have courage, as you did, to answer God's call to vocation, as we bring the Good News of God's love to our families and to the world.

St. Joseph, pray for us. Amen.

## 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       |

Address Service Requested

**CELEBRATE!**  
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