

Saint Katharine Drexel's Story

If your father is an international banker and you ride in a private railroad car, you are not likely to be drawn into a life of voluntary poverty. But if your mother opens your home to the poor three days each week and your father spends half an hour each evening in prayer, it is not impossible that you will devote your life to the poor and give away millions of dollars. Katharine Drexel did that.

Born in Philadelphia in 1858, she had an excellent education and traveled widely. As a rich girl, Katharine also had a grand debut into society. But when she nursed her stepmother through a three-year terminal illness, she saw that all the Drexel money could not buy safety from pain or death, and her life took a profound turn.

Saint Katharine Drexel had always been interested in the plight of the Indians, having been appalled by what she read in Helen Hunt Jackson's *A Century of Dishonor*. While on a European tour, she met Pope Leo XIII and asked him to send more missionaries to Wyoming for her friend Bishop James O'Connor. The pope replied, "Why don't you become a missionary?" His answer shocked her into considering new possibilities.

Back home, Katharine visited the Dakotas, met the Sioux leader Red Cloud and began her systematic aid to Indian missions.

Saint Katharine Drexel could easily have married. But after much discussion with Bishop O'Connor, she wrote in 1889, "The feast of Saint Joseph brought me the grace to give the remainder of my life to the Indians and the Colored." Newspaper headlines screamed "Gives Up Seven Million!"

After three and a half years of training, Mother Drexel and her first band of nuns—Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored—opened a boarding school in Santa Fe. A string of foundations followed. By 1942, she had a system of black Catholic schools in 13 states, plus 40 mission centers and 23 rural schools. Segregationists harassed her work, even burning a school in Pennsylvania. In all, she established 50 missions for Indians in 16 states.

Two saints met when Saint Katharine Drexel was advised by Mother Cabrini about the "politics" of getting her order's Rule approved in Rome. Her crowning achievement was the founding of Xavier University in New Orleans, the first Catholic university in the United States for African Americans.

At 77, Mother Drexel suffered a heart attack and was forced to retire. Apparently her life was over. But now came almost 20 years of quiet, intense prayer from a small room overlooking the sanctuary. Small notebooks and slips of paper record her various prayers, ceaseless aspirations, and meditations. She died at 96 and was canonized in 2000.

**REMEMBER DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS NEXT WEEK,
MARCH 8!**

SPRING FORWARD!

**SET YOUR CLOCKS ONE HOUR AHEAD SO YOU WON'T BE LATE FOR
MASS ON SUNDAY!**

This Week

- † **Saturday, February 28: Confession 4:30PM; Vigil Mass 5:30PM; Int. For all our Parishioners**
- † **Sunday, March 1: Mass 9:00AM; Second Sunday of Lent; Int. For all Catechumens and Candidates participating in OCIA.**
- † **Tuesday, March 3: Mass 9:00AM; St. Katherine Drexel, Virgin; Int. For all evangelists and missionaries.**
- † **Wednesday, March 4: Mass 9:00AM; St. Casmir; Int. For those Christians suffering persecution for their faith.**
- † **Thursday, March 5: Mass 9:00AM; +Patricia Resnik, Req. by Sally & Lynn Hildebrand.**
- † **Friday, March 6: 8:30AM Eucharistic Adoration; Mass 9:00AM; Int. For all the souls in purgatory.**
- † **Every Friday during Lent – Stations of the Cross at 7:00PM.**
- † **Saturday, March 7: Confession 4:30PM; Vigil Mass 5:30PM; Int. For all our Parishioners**
- † **Sunday, March 8: Mass 9:00AM; Third Sunday of Lent; Int. For all those who suffer due to war and conflict.**

Saturday, March 7, 2026

Reader: Ina Morrell

Eucharistic Ministers: Jenny Butler & Terry Parsons

Sunday, March 8, 2026

Readers: Children's Mass

Eucharistic Ministers: Sally Hildebrand & Angela Maurer

Hospitality March 8, 2026

Beth Swisher

Offertory for February 22, 2026

Collection: \$1811 Attendance: 112

Prayer List : Linda Kemenah, Bobby Lucas, Peyton Kegley, Ina Morrell, Chester McClellan, Joe Hermsdorpher, Boo Hartley, Pete Westenhaber, Richard & Kate Douglas, Sharyn Sims, Emily, Bobbie Chubb, Jim Hormsdorpher, Michael Kiser, Keaton Patterson, Ed Taylor, Norma Maurer, Brady Rake, Gordon Maurer, Tanya Ball, Mike Dunlap, Malori Bailes, Katie Romeo, Josie Morris, Shirley Livingston, Debbie Gump, R.R., Gale Tribbett, Barb White, Brittany Cottrell, Debbie Mullins, Beverlee Wilson, Billy Cox, Brian Cox, Melissa Holsinger, Allie Romeo, Ruth Sergeant, Pam Casto, Debbie Romeo, Rochie & Kathryn Pendley, Millie Jaggard, Jim Jaggard, Roberta Striga, Carol Woody, Ralph Parsons, Terry Parsons, Toni Burks, Lois Shreve, Holly McCoy, Benny Hunt, Vanessa Sawyer, Breanna Sawyer, Kevin Donahue, Robert Patterson, Dr. Alberto A. Fernandez, David Harris, Vincent Vespucci, Jason Price, Stanley Garten, Bill Stephens, Rick Petry, Baylen Evans, Malinda McNabb, Larry Vansickle, Richard Buckley, Allie Kramer, Vince Jiovannazzo, Gina Daviau, Michael Hughes, Devin Colahan, Bryan Thompson, Jeananne Tribbet, Luke Liggett, Betty Collins, Stephanie Milikaia, George Malone, Steve Sommerville, Ray Vannest, Axel, Devin Colahan, Lois Raferty, Jacob Morton, TC Johnson, Dax Austin, Gary Gwisdalla, Inkey Arose, George Puskas, Jackson Parker, Amanda Taylor, Sierra Butler, Susan Johnson, Angela Kelly, Steve Hunt, Mika Martin, Martha Moran, Charles and Gail Parks, Melanie Johnson, Marife Daily, Kitty Deschappelles, Fanie Vannest, Steve & Vida Perrine, Julian Perrine, Cindy Crocket, Barbara Rutan, and all the sick of our parish, and all the Poor Souls in Purgatory.

March Birthdays: Kenny Swisher 3/7; Don VanLehn 3/15; Mark Kidder 3/21; Betty Harris 3/27

March Anniversaries: Terry & Paulette Rogers 3/30

Intention for Month of March: For disarmament and peace. Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

Pope Leo XIV@Pontifax: I invite everyone to pray for the war-torn people of Ukraine and for all those who suffer due to this war and every conflict in the world, so that the long-awaited gift of peace may shine in our days.

Announcements

- Please continue to pray for Fr. Pen's brother, who is currently undergoing treatment in India. Keep Fr. Pen and his family in prayer also.
- There will be a table in the back of the church for Lenten Book Sharing. There will be books for both children and adults to take and share during Lent.
- Sunday, March 8 the Ladies Guild will meet after Mass.
- Monday, March 9 at 6:30PM the Knights of Columbus meet for the Rosary followed by their meeting.
- There is a sign up sheet for the St. Patricks Day Celebration on March 15 so we can get a head count of how many to expect. Please sign up if you plan to come.
- St. Agnes Parish and Fr. Szabo have invited St. Matthew and Sacred Heart to their Young Adult bible study on March 5th starting at 6:00pm at the Hatfield family distillery. There will be pizza served. The address is 224 Haines Branch Rd, Charleston, WV 25320.

† Saturday, March 14 at Sacred Heart Mission beginning at 9:00AM and finishing at Noon, we are excited to announce a special one-day Lenten Retreat. Father Vargheese will return to lead the retreat. It is a beautiful opportunity to pause, breathe, pray, reflect, and allow Jesus to renew our mind, body, soul, and spirit. This retreat is for everyone, families, youth, young adults, seniors, those returning to faith, lifelong believers, and anyone longing for healing, peace, restoration, clarity, and spiritual strength. Come with an open heart, and leave with a renewed spirit. It will be grace-filled, uplifting, and unforgettable!

- The Ladies Guild is raffeling a St. Patrick's Vase filled with gift cards worth \$350. Tickets will be \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.
- We need volunteers to help with the clean-up of the Parish Hall to get it ready for Holy Week when we will be hosting the community Holy Week services. Dates will be announced. For more information call Sally at 304-514-9002.
- The Knights of Columbus Fish Fry at St. Matthew's has begun and will continue through Friday, March 27 at 4:00PM. Followed by Stations of the Cross at 7:00PM.
- Michael Sayre is planning to attend the 2026 Boy Scout National Jamboree in July. The two week camping experience is attended by Scouts from all over the country. The cost is \$1950. Michael wants to raise part of the money himself to pay for his trip. He will do odd jobs around the county. Call him at 304-440-0100 or Catherine Sayre at 304-512-9151.
- Have you experienced the loss of a loved one? Please join Father Roy and Deacon John for a five week bereavment experience called "Grieving with Great Hope". Join with others who have suffered loss as we learn together in the love of Christ how to grieve with great hope. Sign up sheet and more information in the vestibule.
- The Knights and Ladies Guild will pray the Rosary every Wednesday at 6:00PM. All are welcome to come and join in prayer.
- The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Evangelization Plan is now available. Check your email or visit the parish website for detailed information. The Plan focuses on: Formation, Infrastructure, and Parish Renewal. Please continue to pray for our parish, the diocese, and the success of this plan as we commit to Christ's Great Commission to go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Check your email or visit <https://dwc.org/06-03-25-diocese-of-wheeling-charleston-releases-a-new-evangelization-plan/> for more information regarding the Evangelization Plan.

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. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, please tact one of the bishop's designees at 888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Sister Ellen Dunn, ext. 264; Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; Fr. Dennis Schuelkens, ext. 270 or call the Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504