



God commands us to be merciful to others through our prayer life, actions, words, and alms giving. If we are lacking in these areas, we are ignoring God's call. His message is clear and constant.

More than 2,000 years ago, when Jesus appeared to the disciples after the Resurrection, he commanded them to be merciful servants, giving them the power to forgive sins.

Today we are asked to reflect on Christ's command and forgive those who have sinned against us, just as we beg God to forgive us when we have sinned against him or another.

Mercy is mentioned more than 260 times in the bible.

Many of our parishes will showcase a painting this weekend of Jesus as St. Faustina, a Polish nun, saw him in a vision on February 22, 1931.

He is shown raising his right hand in blessing and pointing with his left hand on his chest from which flows two rays: one red and one white.

"The rays streaming out have symbolic meaning: red for the blood of Jesus (which is the Life of Souls), and pale for the water (which justify souls)," from Divine Mercy in My

Soul - The Diary of St. Maria Faustina (published in 1981) - considered by the church as one of the greatest books of faith (p299).

The whole image is symbolic of charity, forgiveness, and love of God, referred to as the "Fountain of Mercy".

Jesus told St. Faustina to share His message with the world, "I am giving you three ways of exercising mercy toward your neighbor: the first by deed, the second by word, the third by prayer. In these three degrees is contained the fullness of mercy, and it is an unquestionable proof of love for Me (Diary, p742)."

Saint Faustina included on the painting the simple, yet powerful prayer, "Jesus, I trust in You."

In the midst of our sorrow, anger, grief, and anxiety - God gives us the love of the Holy Spirit - peace and comfort.

It was during Christ's first revelation to St. Faustina, when He asked for a feast to celebrate His mercy, and this be held the first Sunday after Easter. It was Pope St. John Paul II at the canonization of St. Faustina on April 30th, 2000, that the feast - Divine Mercy Sunday - was declared.

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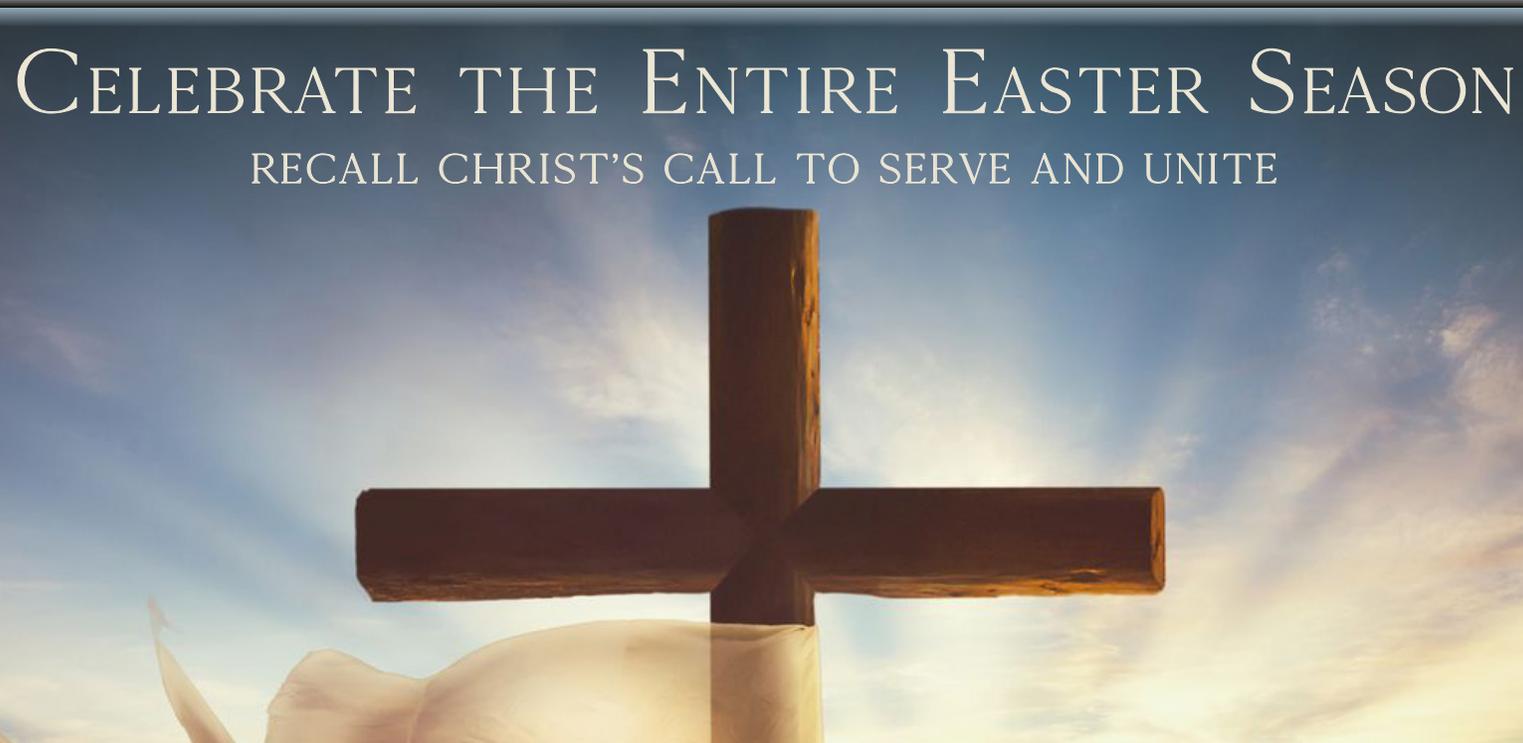
According to her diary entry (699), Jesus told St. Faustina, “My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and a shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day are opened all the divine floodgates through which graces flow. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of

angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity. “Everything that exists has come from the very depths of My most tender mercy. Every soul in its relation to Me will contemplate My love and mercy throughout eternity. The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy.”

Today and everyday let us never cease to say, “Jesus, I trust in You,” as we seek His hand in our lives, and we work hard to show the mercy to others he taught and commands of us.

CELEBRATE THE ENTIRE EASTER SEASON

RECALL CHRIST’S CALL TO SERVE AND UNITE



The entire Easter Season in the Catholic Church stretches 50 days – the longest celebration outside Ordinary Time in the Catholic Church.

As we enter the second week of the Easter Season let us recall with our Easter joy Christ’s call to unite, serve, and love one another; turning away from division, selfishness, and casting stones. We are an Easter people after all. It is in these 50 days that culminate at Pentecost – the birthday of the Church.

With that in mind let us give great attention and thought into a prayer written by the beloved St. Teresa of Avila:

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

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

Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good;

Yours are the hands with which he is to bless men now.

Amen.”

As we celebrate the Resurrection, let us be mindful of St. Teresa’s words and strive to be like saints - models of love, encouragement, and hope.

Let our good works we completed during Lent continue throughout the rest of the year. Leave no doubt that Christ lives in us. He is with us always and in all ways.

Let us remain focused on Jesus, His sacrifice, and the glorious Resurrection, and with that be a beacon of hope and joy for others.



DIOCESAN SPRING EUCHARISTIC CONGRESSES BEGIN NEXT WEEK

Registration has begun. Plans are being finalized. Are you ready?

Have you selected which Regional Eucharistic Congresses for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston you will be attending? You are welcome to join us at all three – April 21-22 in Charles Town, April 28-29 in Wheeling, and June 2-3 in Charleston.

Bishop Mark Brennan is inviting the faithful from around the state to join him this Spring at these regional congresses. Each feature a dynamic national speaker, engaging breakout session presenters, Adoration, inspiring prayer services, celebratory music, Blessed Carlo Acutis' Eucharistic miracles display, and more. All of these will culminate in Mass celebrated by Bishop Mark Brennan.

Admission is free. Registration is required. Go to our [dwc.org](#) homepage and click on the Regional Eucharistic Congresses event button.

The Eucharistic Congresses are for the faithful from school age on up. The whole family is encouraged to attend along with our clergy, religious, Catholic organizations, and schools.

These diocesan events are part of the National Eucharistic Revival, a three-year renewal of “the Church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist.”

IS MY PARISH, SCHOOL, OR ORGANIZATION INVOLVED?

Yes! Bishop Mark Brennan is calling all of us together to celebrate Christ's real presence and to see the faithful fully alive. “Believe what Christ said at the Last Supper, “This is my Body. This is my Blood!” This has been Bishop Mark Brennan's emboldening message to the faithful during his ministry not only here in the diocese, but also as a young parish priest. While Friday evening at the congresses will feature an evening of prayer and fellowship, Saturday morning will open with a Welcome Prayer Service that celebrates our six vicariates uniting to strengthen our encounter with Christ in the Eucharist. Parishes, schools, and other Catholic organizations will bring their prayer intentions in a special Eucharistic Congress Book of Prayer. Each group will be announced as their Book of Prayer is formally presented to Bishop Brennan who will offer them in prayer throughout the Congresses and the remainder of the Diocesan Year of the National Eucharistic Revival.

WHO ARE THE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS?

In **Charles Town, April 21-22**, will be **Father Luke Spannagel**, of the Diocese of Peoria.

Fr. Luke is a member of the team of National Eucharistic Preachers which is part of the National Eucharistic Revival of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Fr. Luke currently serves at the Cathedral and Heart of Peoria Parishes in Peoria, IL. After his undergraduate studies at the University of Illinois, he went on to seminary at Mt. St. Mary's in Emmitsburg, MD. He was ordained for the Diocese of Peoria in 2003 and has enjoyed assignments in campus ministry and parishes of all sizes. Fr. Luke has shared that his time each day in celebrating the Mass and praying during Eucharistic Adoration are the best parts of his day.

In **Wheeling, April 28-29**, will be **Fr. Timothy Anastos**, of the Archdiocese of Chicago. Fr. Tim was ordained a priest in 2017. He is currently the associate chaplain of the St. John Paul II Newman Center at the University of Illinois-Chicago in addition to being a Eucharistic Preacher of the USCCB. He is also the host of Reel Homilies - minute-long YouTube, Instagram and TikTok reflections on the Sunday Gospel readings where he speaks through the lenses of Church tradition, pop culture, and self-improvement. Check out Reel Homilies for yourself at: WWW.SPIRITJUICE.ORG/REELHOMILIES/.

In **Charleston, June 2-3**, will be **Fr. Joe Freedy**. Father Joe grew up in Pittsburgh. He was the starting quarterback for the University at Buffalo for 3 years. After college he entered the seminary and was assigned to study in Rome at the Gregorian University and the John Paul II Institute. He was ordained a Priest in 2008. Fr. Joe served as the vocation director for 8 years and is currently the Assistant Director of Evangelization for the Diocese of Pittsburgh and the Senior Assistant at Divine Mercy Parish. He is president of Dry Bones Ministries, a grassroots evangelization ministry in the Pittsburgh diocese that re-evangelizes God's people with an emphasis on the treasures of the Church like Holy Mass, the Holy Rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and prayers for healing (WWW.DRYBONESPGH.ORG).

AT ALL THREE EVENTS - the keynote will not only address the entire congress with an uplifting talk about the Eucharist, but will also take part in a Q&A conversation during the weekend. The keynote along with a panel of breakout session presenters will bring the message to life, reviving our spirits, energizing our hearts, and give us confidence share Christ with others as a Eucharistic people.

Go to DWC.ORG/EUCHARISTIC-CONGRESSES for details and registration.



NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival



Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

Christ is Present! Will you be?

April 21-22 at St. James Church, Charles Town

Eucharistic
Congress
Grow in Faith
Exercise your Spirit!

Friday:

7 pm - Taizé Prayer Service & Reception

Saturday:

9 am - Registration/Coffee and Donuts

10 am - Morning Prayer Service

- Keynote Address (immediately following prayer service)
- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins (concludes before closing Mass)
- Tours of the church
- Lunch and Q/A session with Keynote

Afternoon - Two Breakout Presentations (10-12 sessions to choose from all to inspire our recognition of Christ's Presence in the Eucharist and our lives)

5 pm Closing Mass with Bishop Mark Brennan as presider

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Fr. Luke Spannagel



DIOCESE OF
WHEELING-CHARLESTON

www.dwc.org



It's FREE!

RSVP & more info:





RETREAT CENTER

Sign up now for
April 24th session!

20/20 Vision Series

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

The Vision 20/20 series for 2023 will focus on the Eucharist. Pope Francis has called for a worldwide Eucharistic Revival. Journey with us this year from Jan. 23-Dec. 11, as we journey with the Holy Father and his invitation to focus our vision on the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist - the Source and Summit of the Church.

Note: Each session will begin at 7 pm and will be presented via Zoom.

Jan 23	The Transformative Power of the Eucharist - Bishop Mark Brennan
Feb 27	Let us be Bread - Beth Longo, CSJ Associate
March 27	The Eucharist as a noun - Bernadette McMasters Kime
April 24	Eucharist in the early church - Fr. John Di Bacco
May 22	Lord I am not worthy - Alex Nagem
June 26	The Eucharist as a verb - Deacon Paul Lim
July 31	Eucharist IS thanksgiving - Kate Marshall
August 28	Bread broken and shared - Sr. Jeanne Cmolik, CSJ
Sept. 25	Eucharistic Reflections through song - Chad Carter
Oct 30	The Road to Emmaus: Were Not Our Hearts Burning? - Fr. Walt Jagela
Nov 27	Bread for the journey - Rodica Stoicoiu, Ph.D.
Dec 11	Do this in remembrance of Me - Deacon Doug Breiding

(Series originated by Ms. Shirley Carter, B.A., M.A.A.T.)

COST FOR COMPLETE SERIES: \$120.00 OR \$15.00 PER SESSION.
FOR DETAILS AND MORE INFO CONTACT: ATROIANI@CSJOSEPH.ORG
OR CALL THE RETREAT CENTER AT: 304-232-8160 X112



NATIONAL
**Eucharistic
Revival**

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

Earth Day

On April 22 the United Nations will celebrate International Mother Earth Day, recognizing the Earth and its ecosystems as our common home.

In 2015 Pope Francis gave us *Laudato Si* – a document focused on the care of our common home to be at the center of reflection, concern, and action. Let us pray together from *Laudato Si*:

“When we can see God reflected in all that exists, our hearts are moved to praise the Lord for all his creatures and to worship him in union with them. This sentiment finds magnificent expression in the hymn of Saint Francis of Assisi:

“Praised be you, my Lord,
with all your creatures,
especially Sir Brother Sun,
who is the day
and through whom you give us light.
And he is beautiful
and radiant with great splendor;
and bears a likeness of you, Most High.
Praised be you, my Lord,
through Sister Moon and the stars,
in heaven you formed them
clear and precious and beautiful.
Praised be you, my Lord,
through Brother Wind,
and through the air, cloudy and serene,
and every kind of weather
through whom you give sustenance
to your creatures.
Praised be you, my Lord,
through Sister Water,
who is very useful and humble
and precious and chaste.
Praised be you, my Lord,
through Brother Fire,
through whom you light the night,
and he is beautiful and playful
and robust and strong”.



As we approach Earth Day consider how you can honor God’s creation with care and protection of our truly awesome Earth.

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY

First Reading: Acts 2:42-47

We learn about the earliest day in the life of the Christian community in Jerusalem – prayer, fellowship, and helping one another.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 118

“Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.”

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Christ’s mercy has given us new birth. Rejoice in loving him and believing in him and we will gain salvation.

Gospel: John 20:19-31

The doors were locked, and Jesus came in, “Peace be with you,” he said to the disciples.

Thomas who was not there smirked, “unless I see the mark of the nails... and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.” When Christ appeared to him, Thomas said, “My Lord and my God!”

Blessed are those who have not seen and believe!

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT
BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/041623.CFM](http://BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/041623.CFM)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that even in our woundedness we praise Christ for his mercy and love, continuing to do our best in order to gain eternal happiness, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That leaders around the world recognize the peace Christ gave to his disciples upon his resurrection, and may it reign over the world, particularly in Ukraine, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all who were initiated into the Church last week at the Easter Vigil, that the witness of their new faith may strengthen and revitalize our own faith, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all of us, that we may recognize the Lord in our midst: in the word and in the Eucharist, in those around us, and in all those in need, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

NEWS FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES WEST VIRGINIA

EDUCATION: THE PATHWAY TO OPPORTUNITY

Education is the pathway to opportunity, especially for someone like Logan.

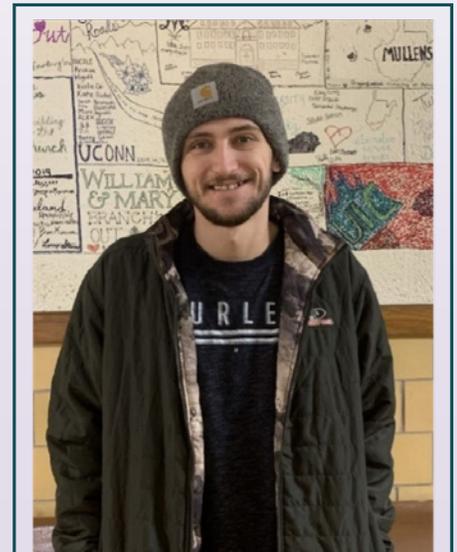
Logan dropped out of high school in 11th grade. “I didn’t like school,” he said. “Then, my mom got sick... so, I quit.” Logan turned to drugs, and things spiraled out of control.

When he discovered the Adult Education classes offered by CCWVa’s McDowell Learning Center, Logan felt hopeful. He completed High School Equivalency classes with Catholic Charities’ Adult Education Instructor, Michelle Montz, while receiving treatment for addiction at Southern Highlands.

His high school equivalency diploma allowed him to participate in the WV Transition Jobs Program. Logan started his job in January!

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia, visit WWW.CATHOLICCHARITIESWV.ORG.

The Mission of Catholic Charities West Virginia: *Guided by God’s love, Catholic Charities collaborates with community partners, parishes and families to provide caring and compassionate services to people in need and work toward lasting and meaningful change.*



Logan Holdren received his high school equivalency after studying in Catholic Charities’ Adult Education program

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THROUGH RISING SOPHOMORES IN COLLEGE

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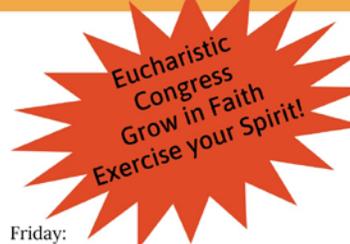


NATIONAL
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Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

Christ is Present! Will you be?

April 28-29 Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling



Keynote: Father Tim Anastos



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6 pm Closing Mass with Bishop Mark Brennan as president



DIocese of
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LITURGY OF THE HOURS

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Scan the QR code or visit the link below to view a PDF version of the Liturgy of the Hours.



MASS ONLINE

Saturday 6pm Masses will continue to be livestreamed from the Cathedral of St. Joseph, and will be available on our website each Sunday at DWC.ORG.