



# THE MIRACLE OF THE EUCHARIST

## *Revealed within The Road to Emmaus Story*

“HE WAS MADE KNOWN TO THEM IN THE BREAKING OF BREAD.” – LUKE 24:35

Today’s Gospel of Luke (24:13-35) takes us on a seven mile walk to Emmaus. It was three days after the crucifixion. Two ordinary guys, who were disciples of Christ, most likely shaking their heads and throwing their arms up into the air during their conversation, argument, and questioning, “what in the world had just happened?”

Then Jesus without them realizing who he was, approaches and asks what was so incredible to cause them to raise their voices.

Baffled at his comment the two acted like he was the only one on earth that didn’t know what had happened to Jesus. They retold of the Lord being turned over to the high priests and rulers, the crowds who sentenced him to a cruel and horrific crucifixion, and then how on this morning, three days after all that, the women in their group had gone to the tomb and angels appeared, telling them Christ was alive! The body was not there!

Again, they bickered, where was the body? How could this be?

Jesus, still unrecognized by the men, interrupted their perplexed exchange by boldly saying, “Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?”

Jesus quoted Moses and the prophets. He told them things about himself in all the Scriptures. The two were intrigued and enjoyed this dialogue so they urged him, “Stay with us. . .” And he did.

When they reached the village of Emmaus it was late, but they were hungry, so they sat for a meal.

It was upon the blessing and breaking of the bread that Jesus revealed himself to them. They were completely astonished and speechless.

He gave them the bread, then vanished.

Luke tells us the two immediately got up and returned that night to Jerusalem where the apostles were gathered and shared this story in great detail, exclaiming Jesus revealed himself with the breaking of the bread.

Christ is indeed always with us.

Let us never forget the Eucharist we receive isn’t a symbol, it is Christ’s True Presence.

*Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio’s famous Supper at Emmaus (1601/1606), the scene is from the third day after the crucifixion of Jesus’s disciples.*

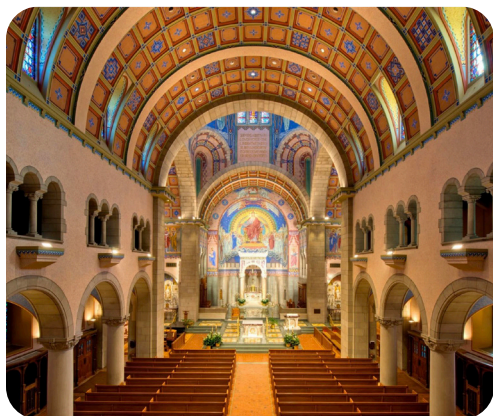




# Centennial Mass Celebrates a Living Legacy

“How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” — Genesis 28:17

On Tuesday, April 21, the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling marks the 100th anniversary of its consecration—a milestone honoring a century of faith, perseverance, and community. The faithful will gather for a Centennial Mass at 5:00 p.m., celebrating not only the cathedral’s history but its enduring role as a spiritual home in West Virginia.



His Eminence Cardinal Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, will serve as principal celebrant and homilist. Bishop Mark Brennan will concelebrate alongside visiting bishops, with priests, deacons, religious, and lay faithful from across the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston in attendance for this joyful occasion.

The present Cathedral of St. Joseph, consecrated on April 21, 1926, is the second church to stand on this site. The former, originally St. James Church, was built in 1847 under Bishop Richard Vincent Whelan and became the cathedral when the Diocese of Wheeling was established in 1850. In

1872, Bishop Whelan entrusted the diocese to St. Joseph, Guardian of the Redeemer, a patronage that continues today.

After a devastating fire in 1923 the original cathedral was in disrepair. What followed was not simply rebuilding, but a renewed vision. Designed by architect Edward J. Weber in the Lombard-Romanesque style, the new cathedral was intended to reflect both artistic excellence and deep theological meaning for generations.

At its consecration in 1926, Bishop John J. Swint described the cathedral as “symbolic of all the Catholic Church stands for” in West Virginia. One hundred years later, it remains a visible sign of faith, standing strong for a people shaped by hard work, sacrifice, and an abiding trust in God’s goodness, mercy, hope, and love.

## Bishop John J. Swint God’s Bricklayer



Bishop Swint, the fourth bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling was the diocese’s first native son to lead the priests and faithful of the diocese.

Born the Appalachian Mountains on Dec. 15, 1879, in Pickens, Randolph County, and raised in Weston, he was inspired at St. Patrick’s Church to pursue the priesthood. Ordained in 1904, Father Swint served in Wellsburg and Hinton, and also ministered across Summers, Raleigh, and Fayette counties.

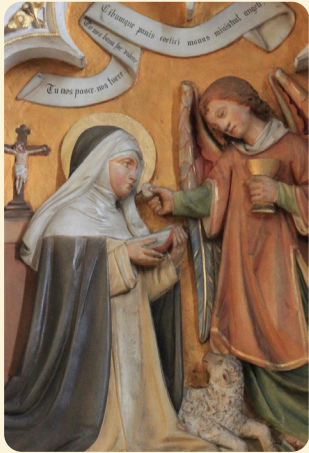
His missionary zeal led him to form the Diocesan Apostolic Mission Band, traveling throughout West Virginia’s labor camps and factory towns. There, he brought the Gospel to Catholics and non-Catholics of many backgrounds, strengthening the Church in remote communities.

Named Bishop of Wheeling in 1922, Swint soon undertook the construction of a new cathedral after the 1923 fire. When he laid its cornerstone in 1924, etched with “AMDG” (Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam—“To the greater glory of God”), he set the tone for a project rooted in faith and purpose.

Known as “God’s bricklayer,” Swint oversaw the construction of more than 80 churches, along with a cathedral, a college, 35 schools, and five hospitals in his 40 years as bishop. In 1954, Pope Pius XII recognized his long service by granting him the title of Archbishop *ad personam*.

His vision for the cathedral endures—a place of steadfast faith and reflection, a “gate of heaven” for generations of West Virginians.

# God was Always the Center of Her Life



Admittedly, many of us haven't heard of St. Agnes of Montepulciano, but her story is quite impressive. The Church calls for us to recognize her on April 20th.

In a nutshell, Agnes (1268-1317) was only 15 years old when she was given the title of Abbess of a convent in Italy after receiving a Papal dispensation because of her young age. She had entered a Franciscan monastery at age nine, after she had begged her noble parents for three years relentlessly that she was ready to serve the Lord by her life. On her consecration day as Abbess legend has it that white flowers in the shape of crosses drifted softly down from heaven at the chapel.

Sacred art illustrates her visions. One of the most popular is her holding a small gold crucifix necklace. Saint Agnes had been sitting with Mary who let her hold the Infant Jesus, when she awoke from the vision, Agnes was holding Jesus's tiny necklace.

Saint Agnes also reported more frequent visions of receiving the Holy Eucharist by angels who were overjoyed with her understanding that it was indeed the Real Presence of Jesus's Body and Blood.

She founded a Dominican convent in Montepulciano after she had adopted the rule of St. Augustine and the Dominican Order.

She built the convent on the site of a former brothel, transforming the ground into a foundation of prayer, hope, mercy, and charity. The property was important to St. Agnes. When visiting religious communities with her mother as a child, the two walked by the brothel, when a flock of crows swooped down and started pecking and swatting the child. The women ran to her aid, chasing the crows away.

She died at 49. Her body, incorrupt, is visible to venerate at the Church of San Domenico in Orvieto in central Italy.

## Take Care of Your Soul & Reflect God's Love to Others

"We must live every day as if it were the last, but not in the sadness of death, but rather in the joy of being ready to meet the Lord!" - Venerable Matteo Farina.

Farina, a popular Italian teenager died in 2009 from a brain tumor. Pope Francis advanced the cause of sainthood for him in May of 2020.

Matteo Farina was born in 1990 and grew up in a strong Catholic family in Brindisi, (southern) Italy. At a very young age he was captivated by the lives of St. Francis of Assisi and St. Padre Pio, who were Capuchin friars just like the pastors of his church.

At the age of nine, he had a vivid dream and said St. Padre Pio told him "Who is without sin is happy," and he must get others to understand this truth, "so that we can all go together, happy, to the kingdom of heaven."

After sharing the dream with his family and friends he began to keep a journal and write poetry and meditations. He wanted to evangelize, his peers whether he knew them or not.

He wrote from the heart of teen, knowing the overwhelming feeling of fear, failure, rejection, limits, etc., in his journal:

"When you feel that you can't do it, when the world falls on you, when every choice is a critical decision, when every action is a failure ... and you would like to throw everything away, when intense work reduces you to the limit of strength ... take time to take care of your soul, love God with your whole being and reflect his love for others."

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VENERABLE MATTEO FARINA  
1990-2009

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston  
www.dwc.org

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In 2003 after his confirmation and just before his 13th birthday, Farina began to have severe headaches doctors later connected to a brain tumor. For the next six years he underwent several brain surgeries and chemotherapy.

His positive attitude and goal to get people to fall in love with Christ did not falter. His love for Mary strengthened. He said the rosary every day, and when he was not receiving medical treatments, he was in school and hung out with his friends who like him loved music and sports.

In one of his last journal entries Farina wrote about how important it is to hold onto Jesus:

“My God, I have two hands, let one of them be always clasped to you in order to hold you closer in every trial. And let the other hand. . . let others know you through me. I want to be a mirror, the clearest possible, and if this is your will, I want to reflect your light in the heart of every man. Thanks for life. Thanks for faith. Thanks for love. I’m yours.”

Farina died at home surrounded by his friends and family on April 24, 2009.

Let us pray for him to intercede for all youth to find life, happiness, and love in God.

## The Uncompromising Faith of St. Fidelis



On April 24, the memorial of St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen (1577-1622), pray to be graced with his uncompromising faith by committing to be a faithful learner.

His life teaches us to be brave not silent about what we believe. Despite threats on his life and being a servant of God, when it was more popular and easier to be self-serving, St. Fidelis refused to denounce Christ.

Before becoming a friar, his name was Mark Rey (sometimes spelled Roy). He was a lawyer but couldn't conform to the cutthroat nature of his colleagues, so he left public law and dedicated his life to serving like Christ.

When he joined the Capuchins, he took the name Fidelis (Latin for faithful) and became a priest. He served in Austria, Germany, and Switzerland. He led by example, spending hours in prayer and serving others especially the sick and poor. The phrase

“He gave them the shirt off his back,” has been used to describe his generosity for centuries. His charity was his hallmark.

His kindness and compassion made him a popular soul. His character was despised by the anti-Catholics who wanted him dead. They devised a plan to declare him a spy which put a target on his life. That didn't stop his preaching, even when he was shot at at the pulpit. He refused to back down.

“Woe to me if I should prove myself but a half-hearted soldier in the service of my thorn-crowned captain!” – St. Fidelis

Eventually, he was hunted down and killed.

It is recorded that he whispered prayers for his attackers. They were prayers of mercy and for their conversion.

## Accept Your Cross – *With Faith God Turns Hardest Times into Greatness*



On April 24, the Church honors St. Mary Euphrasia Pelletier, born Rose Virginia Pelletier, who became the foundress of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd (the Sisters of the Good Shepherd). Known for bold and gentle wisdom, she helped open 110 convents (at least one in every continent) before her death on April 24, 1868, the Friday after Good Shepherd Sunday.

She lived reverently and admirably certain that we are called to care for one another and with that attitude even the hardest trials can be endured, because with God, “Great crosses bring great graces.”

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Her story is one that begins with deep personal sorrow after the death of her father when she was ten. Her mother passed away soon after, leaving her devastated and overwhelmed. She found hope and strength in a religious community, Our Lady of Refuge, devoted to protecting women and girls who were vulnerable. At 18, she had a life rooted in prayer and charity. She took the name Mary Euphrasia. From there, her mission expanded: she founded communities that empowered countless women and girls to face real-life struggles with dignity, compassion, and hope while never reducing anyone to their circumstances, but seeing their God-given worth.

Her legacy continues today through the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in many countries worldwide, carrying forward a simple message that remains powerful across generations: “Just love!” In her own words, she urged the faithful to live virtue chiefly through example, to avoid rash judgments, and to cultivate a grateful heart made “to love.”

The Diocese of Wheeling–Charleston’s Delegate of Consecrated Life, Sr. Martha Gomez is part of the Sisters of Good Shepherd community.

May St. Mary Euphrasia help us accept our crosses with faith and meet others with Christ’s compassion.

Saint Mary Euphrasia, pray for us!

## Be an Evangelist – Proclaim the Good News!

We honor St. Mark the Evangelist on April 25th. The Gospel of Mark doesn’t mince words. It is direct, confident, and no nonsense. Mark’s Gospel gets right to the point: Jesus Christ is the Lord, the Son of God, leave no doubt.

The 16 chapters begin by declaring the good news of Jesus Christ, as was prophesized by Isaiah.

Jesus is the Son of God.

The first chapter boldly declares that Jesus is the fulfillment of God’s promises. He quotes the Prophet Isaiah and introduces John the Baptist, as a voice in the wilderness announcing to repent and make way for the Lord.

The book unfolds while painting a great picture of the Redeemer, who like we should be as a Church – fully alive. He illustrates Christ as a man on the move, wise, and compassionate.

“For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many,” Mark 10:45.

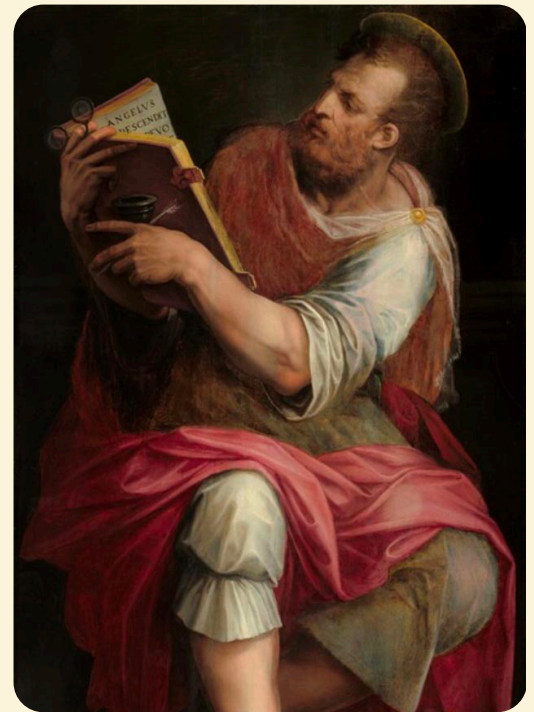
Mark’s Gospel makes it easy for us to put ourselves in these readings as the ones being spoken to, a follower, or a simple bystander witnessing miracles before our eyes. It also gives us a glimpse of the debates Christ would have in the temple court. These debates make it easy for us today to have a clear understanding of the Word of God.

Let us work hard at staying on the right path not far from the kingdom, as we praise and honor the Risen Lord, who suffered and died for our sins.

Let us evangelize with confidence like Mark. Leave no doubt.

Let us teach and preach with our actions.

Let us seek to serve and align our lives with Christ.



# “This is what Easter is all about!”

University of Charleston’s John Paul II Campus Ministry Center Director Molly Simonton was overjoyed to see eight of her college students join her at Easter Mass in South Charleston’s Blessed Sacrament Church.

“These amazing young people showed up to celebrate the Resurrection,” Simonton said. “My heart was just overflowing. From big smiles to that beautiful sense of togetherness - this is what Easter is all about.”

She said their presence is a tangible sign of “new life, fresh hope, and the love of Christ shining through the next generation.”

This is a moment she is so grateful for, knowing she is sharing “this faith journey with them. He is risen. . . and so is our joy!”

Share your joy and faith with others, especially during this Easter Season we celebration now through Pentecost, May 24th.



DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON  
**JOHN PAUL II**  
CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY CENTER  
UNIVERSITY OF CHARLESTON



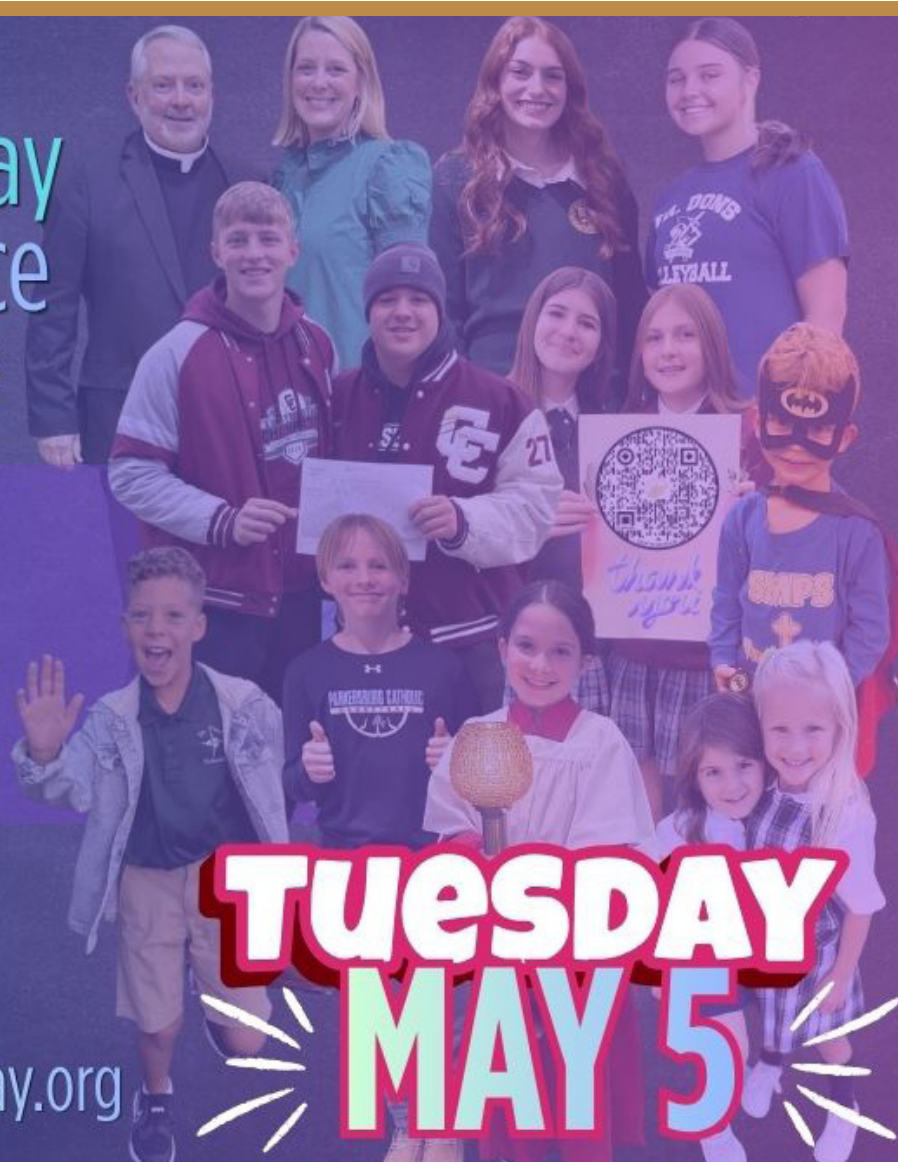
## One Mission One Day To Make a Difference for West Virginia Catholic Schools

- ✓ Support our Students
- ✓ Strengthen our Schools
- ✓ Grow our Future



[onemissiononeday.org](http://onemissiononeday.org)

**TUESDAY**  
**MAY 5**



# BEYOND SUNDAY

*Sunday Mass can't be our only touchpoint with God. Beyond Sunday is a guide to living the Catholic faith more fully each day through Catholic media, podcasts, art, gifts, and trusted voices from the church to help nourish our own prayer, reflection, and mission.*

## RESOURCES FOR YOU THIS WEEK



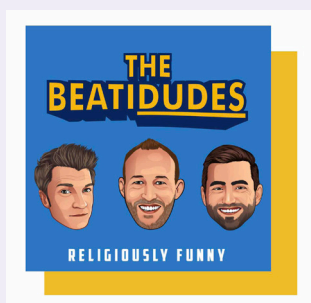
**NEWS** – Crisis Catholic – Founded in 1982 in the midst of the Cold War, Crisis presents its readers with “Catholic perspectives on Church and State, arts and culture, science and faith. We have one purpose, and one only: to proclaim Christ’s Kingship over all things, at all times, to all nations. We are under the patronage of St. Maximilian Kolbe, who faced a grave crisis in his day and used modern media to promote the message of Christ and the Immaculata to the world.”

[CRISISMAGAZINE.COM](https://www.crisismagazine.com)



**HOME ACCENTS** – Be A Heart – Owned by Catholic Mom, Erica Tighe, this shop features colorful intentionally Catholic home goods, children’s items (like Rosary kits) and more. “We’re committed to bringing you beautiful, well designed, and quality pieces that you’ll love to gift for every occasion.”

[BEAHEART.COM](https://www.beaheart.com)



**PODCAST** – The BEATITUDES – “A religiously funny podcast for Christian men seeking to do God’s will while growing together in humor and holiness!”

[WWW.THEBEATITUDES.COM](https://www.thebeatitudes.com)

**EXCITING  
NEWS!**

# QUO VADIS CAMP

for Middle School Boys

**Due to high demand, we announce:**

**Quo Vadis Camp** - a dedicated Middle School track. These boys and the high schoolers attending Quo Vadis Retreat meet at the same location, but middle schoolers will have activities tailored for them.

Deacon Dave Galvin and trained staff from nearby St. James the Greater Parish will guide them on an adventurous path to strengthen their relationship with God and the Church as they enjoy the amenities of the Priestfield Pastoral Center - hiking trails, the scenic Opequon creek, and 38 acres of beautiful cedar forest.



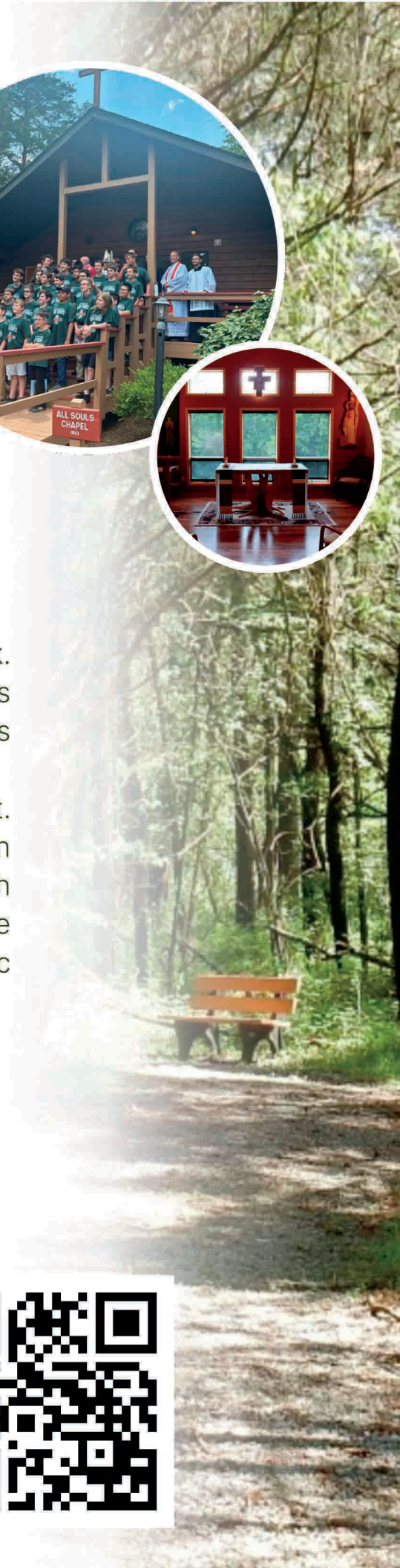
**Priest Field Pastoral Center**  
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# SUMMER VOCATIONAL CAMP FOR GIRLS

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## *Mount of Joy Convivences*

*June 23-26, 2026 - for girls 12-17*

*with the Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus  
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FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: (740) 346-2625*



*Mass & Prayer, Formation in virtues, Activities & Crafts,  
Vocational awareness, Sisters' testimonies*

## THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

### First Reading: Acts 2:14, 22-23

Peter raised his voice, "Listen to my words. . . you killed (Jesus), but God raised him up."

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### Responsorial: Psalm 16

"Lord, you will show us the path of life."

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### Second Reading: 1Peter 1:17-21

"Faith and hope are in God" because we were saved by the Precious Blood of Christ.

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### Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

The two disciples were walking along defeated and confused, when a man approached questioning why are they so upset. "How foolish. . . believe what the prophets spoke." They finally recognized him as Jesus, when he broke bread and said the blessing.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, Pope Leo XIV, Bishop Mark Brennan, and all those who are ordained and consecrated, that they remain focused on the Risen Lord, walking with the faithful on our Road to Emmaus moments, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For world leaders, that they are committed to bring peace and put aside their own pride, senseless hate, and degrading mindsets bringing them together for dialogue, wisdom, and understanding, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those who have lost hope or are grieving, that they may respond to Christ's promise of new life, offered through us with compassion and love, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those welcomed into the Church and receiving sacred sacraments during this Easter Season, that each step closer to Christ be energized by the Holy Spirit so they are seen as the light of Christ for others, let us pray to the Lord. . .

*Lord hear our prayer*

## WV CATHOLIC RADIO BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOU

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Berkeley Springs	FM	107.9
Clarksburg-Bridgeport	FM	97.5
Dunbar - Charleston	AM	1450
Grafton - Clarksburg	AM	1190
Keyser - coming soon	FM	98.9
Montgomery - Beckley	FM	89.7
St. Marys - Parkersburg	FM	105.3
Star City -Morgantown	FM	89.7
Summersville	FM	91.3
Wheeling - Martins Ferry, OH	FM	90.7
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## *Liturgy of the Hours*

# LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!

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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](http://DWC.ORG).