



PUT YOURSELF IN THE SCENE BEFORE THE PALMS WERE WAVED

We begin Mass on Palm Sunday with Matthew's Gospel 21:1-11, describing the scene of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. As we read and listen to his text, put yourself in the moment and more importantly be mindful of the moments that led up to this point.

Picture yourself among Christ's loyal disciples before He entered Jerusalem for Passover, riding on a donkey and greeted with glorious shouts of "Hosanna;" before the palm branches were waved by those recognizing him as the Messiah, Christ our King and mighty warrior; and before the same palms and cloaks were spread on the ground to line his procession, Jesus predicted his Passion to the disciples.

Matthew 16:21-23, tells us Jesus first revealed the Passion by telling the disciples He "must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised."

Imagine their confusion and disbelief of such awful news. Peter responded in anger, "God forbid, Lord!"

Then later as they were gathering in Galilee before making their way to Jerusalem, Jesus said to the disciples again, "The Son of Man is to be handed over to men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day (Matthew 17:22-23)."

The disciples must have been distraught and overwhelmed with emotions and questions.

We can put ourselves among these followers of Jesus.

Certainly, they had mixed emotions - Jesus was predicting a horrible death, yet as they entered Jerusalem, the crowds were joyfully shouting His praises. The people lining the way validated the love and devotion the disciples already had for Christ. Certainly, a glimpse of human relief may have come over them as they took in the victorious praise, thinking surely these jubilant people will not let such horrific events happen as Christ foretold.

This weekend we go into Palm Sunday with the blessing of knowing the story - that although we are celebrating the presence of Christ, we know the dark days are soon approaching - agony, suffering, denial, and death. Today's readings take us there.

Conversely, with that same wisdom taught to us by Christ, by the Gospels, by our parents, pastors, and teachers - we can focus on the real reason for

Christ's Passion. For we know in the end God triumphs and death is defeated for Jesus is resurrected as a Savior for all.

So, on Palm Sunday let us enter into this blessed time mindful of the ultimate sacrifice of Christ and recognize Him every moment of our lives as Christ our King! Consecrate Him in our hearts through prayer, penance, and praise.

Editor's note: the art featured is by Kristina Linton of Draper, Utah. Her art is available at: WWW.ETSY.COM/SHOP/KRISTINALINTON



FAIRMONT STATE NEWMAN CENTER CHAPEL TO BE REDEDICATED APRIL 11

Saint Gemma Galgani – the saint who teaches us of God’s great love and mercy – has been chosen as the spiritual role model for the Fairmont State Newman Center. On April 11 at 5:30 p.m., the chapel will be rededicated in her honor with a Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Mark Brennan.

The 19th century mystic considered Jesus, Mary, and her Guardian Angel as friends. She was known for her remarkable beauty and having received stigmata – unexplainable wounds that correspond to Christ’s crucifixion wounds. It is from St. Gemma that we learn it is in our suffering and from our sins we can receive Christ’s love and mercy.

“The students chose St. Gemma because she was a young woman of strong faith who was diligent in her studies,” said Daniel Thele, Campus Minister at FSU. It was important for Thele to have the students name the chapel as an opportunity to “take greater ownership of their spiritual home on campus and deepen their devotional experience by choosing a saint that they felt would be a relevant model of a life devoted to Christ”

“During this Lenten season, the students and I have been reading her diary, and a couple of themes have come to the fore in our discussions. One is her humility and how relatable she is. She has a blunt recognition of her own sinfulness, not in some dreary sense of ‘woe is me,’ but always related to her profound gratitude for Christ’s mercy, His sacrifice on the cross, and her deep desire to be more closely united to Jesus. The students have said that reading the writings of a saint who is about their age, who struggles with the reality of sin just like all of us, but who has such commitment to a life of holiness, has been really inspiring.

“Another theme we’ve come back to is the profundity of St. Gemma’s mystical experiences,” he said. “She had such a unique relationship with her guardian angel and the Blessed Mother Mary, and she experienced the stigmata. In a world saturated with bland materialism, her mystical connection to Christ’s passion is a luminous witness to the possibilities of a life open to God’s grace.”

The first chaplain of the Newman Center at Fairmont State was Fr. Jude Molnar, who served the community for decades, and was able to oversee the construction of the current Newman Center at FSU. Presently Fr. Binu Emmanuel is the designator pastor for the center, celebrating Masses every Sunday during the fall and spring semesters at 5 PM in rotation with Fr. Kishore Varaparla, and Fr. Romeo Bacalso.

The Newman Center also hosts social events, fundraisers for charitable causes, and participates in direct service outreach.

“While the Newman Center exists as a spiritual home for Catholic students at the university, we’re

also a welcoming space for students who just want to hang out, eat snacks, and watch a movie or shoot pool,” Thele said. “Young people (all of us really) are often far too isolated, so I see a key part of our ministry as simply fostering friendship.”

The Newman Center will host a dinner for all in attendance of the rededication Mass. Reservations are required. To register call 304-534-8094 or go online at:

DWC.ORG/NEWMAN-CENTER-CHAPEL-DEDICATION/



HE HAD ONE DAY TO LIVE, AND HE WASHED FEET!



Christ knew His destiny, and on the day before He died He became the servant He expected his disciples to be.

We honor this day as Holy Thursday, the powerful beginning of Holy Week – the Holy Triduum.

Holy Thursday is the day that Jesus gave us the gift of the priesthood, the model of selfless love, and the institution of the Eucharist the source and summit of our life as Christians.

Christ gathered his apostles for the Last Supper, and in this moment much to their surprise got down on His knees and washed the feet of each one. He did so with the humility of a happy servant, selflessness wanting nothing in return, and with the love of a confident leader.

He was simply serving them as He wanted them to serve others.

The commandment given to our first priests was for them to live

like Christ's example and be a servant to all people.

We all need to hear and obey this for we are on this earth to help others and do our best to live like Christ.

The Last Supper was the first Holy Eucharist for the Church. Every time we receive the Eucharist, we are part of that moment with Christ. It is in the Eucharist that Christ is fully present with us.

“He took the bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it, saying, ‘This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me.’ And likewise, he took the cup after they had eaten, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you.’”

There exists no greater love than this.

Let us be mindful of this Holy night everyday of our lives. Be a disciple of Christ and listen as Jesus tells us, “Love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends (John 15:12-13).”

Editor’s note: the art featured is by Melanie Pyke of Niagara Falls. Her art is available at: WWW.ETSY.COM/SHOP/MELANIPTYKEART



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WALK TO THE CROSS GOOD FRIDAY

One of the most important days of the year for the Church and the faithful is Good Friday, the day we walk through Christ's ultimate sacrifice.

Mass is not celebrated today, instead we participate in a solemn liturgy taking us through the moments when Jesus was scourged, sentenced to death, forced to carry His own cross to Calvary, crucified, and took his last breath at the ninth hour (3pm) - the Hour of Mercy.

We are filled with so many emotions on this day especially when together as part of the liturgy repeatedly shout out, "Crucify him!"

It's overwhelming to know that it is our sins that nailed Jesus to the cross. We also are overcome with great humility knowing that all of Christ's sufferings were to redeem the world - to show us how much he loves us.

Spend time at the foot of the cross.

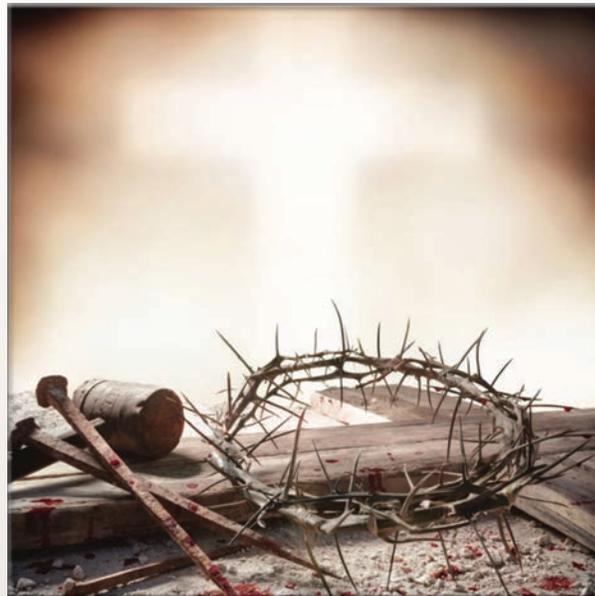
Meditate on the unthinkable magnitude that Christ in the flesh went through for us, because He believes in us and loves us.

When we face and become consumed by our challenges, burdens, pain, worry, loss, and unrest we are in our darkest hour. We are carrying our own cross.

God tells us to be strong in faith because He is always with us and never fails. Believe in Him. Believe in the promises, the teachings of Christ. Joy will come!

Blessed are we that we know that Easter is coming - the glorious resurrection of the Lord.

"Unless there is a Good Friday in your life, there can be no Easter Sunday," Venerable Fulton Sheen - Life of Christ.



A COMPANION ON THE JOURNEY ~ SERVING GOD AND COUNTRY.



Father Michael Lecias, of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Berkeley Springs, was sworn in as the first Catholic Chaplain ever for the West Virginia Army National Guard.

"My faith in God is the very lifeblood in my ministry as a priest, and it is true for so many who claim the importance of faith in one's life," stated Lecias. "Faith in God moves us to do greater things in life for others as that

is what is expected of us to do and as God gives us faith that should bear fruits, fruits that would last. My faith in God propels me in my ministry to serve others in building up the kingdom of God in our midst. What a beautiful blessing and a precious calling to serve 'Pro Deo et Patria'."

Col. Jamie Bowen swore in Lecias on Monday, March 27, in a special ceremony at the church. Lecias was sworn with the rank of Captain.





REGISTER NOW FOR DIOCESAN SPRING EUCHARISTIC CONGRESSES

The first two of three Eucharistic Congresses in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston (DWC) are set for the end of the month in Charles Town and Wheeling. These are events are free – meals, refreshments, and materials included. Space is limited based on the host facility.

As you continue to read in your FaithInWV e-bulletin, The Catholic Spirit, DWC social media, and your parish bulletins, it is time to register!

Bishop Mark Brennan invites the faithful from all reaches of the state to attend any or all of the Congresses, regionally offered for your convenience in Charles Town, Wheeling, and Charleston.

These homegrown 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.”

The Congresses will bring together people like you for prayer services, celebratory music, Mass, enriching talks, Eucharistic Adoration, and more. Two breakout sessions on Saturday will be tailored to registrants in our faith family, including school aged participants (K-12). Priority will be given to those within the diocese before opening registration to others.

The Eucharistic congresses are set for:

April 21-22

St. James Catholic Church, **Charles Town**

April 28-29

Cathedral of Saint Joseph, **Wheeling**

June 2-3

Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart,
Charleston

Eucharistic Congress Book of Prayer Intentions to Include YOUR personal prayers

You parish priest and Catholic school principal will be placing a Eucharistic Congress Book of Prayer Intentions out for the community to write their own personal prayers.

On the Saturday the events begin 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 (in that region) is to have a representative(s) present in the procession, and then announced as their Book of Prayer is 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.

The rest of Saturday will feature a nationally known keynote speaker, lunch, a Q&A conversation with the keynote, the breakout sessions to bring the message to life, Adoration, Confessions available, and a closing Mass celebrated by Bishop Mark.

DATE & LOCATION	KEYNOTE	SCHEDULE
APRIL 21 - 22 ST. JAMES CHURCH CHARLES TOWN	 Fr. Luke Spannagel	FRIDAY EVENING Taizé Service Reception
APRIL 28 - 29 CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOSEPH WHEELING	 Fr. Timothy Anastos	SATURDAY Powerful morning prayer & procession of all the vicariates Keynote Speaker Q & A Breakout Sessions Music Eucharistic Adoration Mass and more
JUNE 2 - 3 BASILICA OF THE CO-CATHEDRAL OF THE SACRED HEART CHARLESTON	 Fr. Joe Freedy	

For more information and to register visit www.dwc.org or scan the QR code.

For more details, schedule, and to register go to: DWC.ORG/EUCHARISTIC-CONGRESSES/

Watch for updates in the FaithInWV e-bulletin, The Catholic Spirit, your parish bulletin, and our DWC social media (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter).

It is also important to know the diocesan and parish years will be followed by the National Eucharistic Congress Event set for July 17-21, 2024, in Indianapolis for a five-day congress. Then the National Year of Mission begins and extends to Pentecost of 2025. This will be a time when all Catholics are encouraged to evangelize and be a light of Christ in the world.



St. Joseph

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**



NEWS FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES WEST VIRGINIA

DO YOU HAVE ENOUGH LOVE IN YOUR HEART TO GO AND GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY?

Catholic Charities West Virginia is grateful to have many cherished collaborators and supporters working alongside us. We honor those who share their gifts through charitable works with our Charity in Action Award.

Recently we honored Vickie Joseph, a woman who embodies true Christian charity. As a career social worker, Vickie's altruism went beyond her job requirements. She has been actively involved in many projects that help others in our community, including the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center and the Winter Freeze Shelter.

Vickie shared powerful remarks when she accepted her Charity in Action Award. An abridged version of her speech is:

"Receiving this award is beyond humbling. When you work in a helping profession, awards and accolades are way off of your radar.

I would like to say a few words to my colleagues in the helping professions, and to myself. You are NOT falling short. Your work, compassion, and dogged determination have improved the lives of countless individuals.

When you are in the middle of a catastrophe, it is difficult to recognize what a difference you are making, especially if you also have to deal with negative voices around you.



Vickie Joseph accepts a Charity in Action Award at the Catholic Charities Shining a Light on Hope Gala on March 4, 2023

Think of yourself like the child walking on a beach covered with stranded starfish. As the child walks along, one by one, he throws the starfish back into the sea. An adult comes up and says, "You're not making much difference. You can't save them all. Why are

you wasting your time?" Throwing another starfish into the surf, the child answers, "I made a difference to THAT ONE!"

YOU are the child on the beach. You are improving desperate situations, one at a time. Try not to be discouraged by the naysayers around you. And when you ARE down, it's ok to reach out to your co-workers and friends. They will lift you up.

Finally, I would like to say a few words to those who are still on the sidelines, not sure how to get involved or even if they really want to take that first step. One of our St. Vincent de Paul Society mottos is, "Go to the poor and you will find God."

We are all called to follow Christ through service to those in need. YOU are Jesus' hands on earth. DON'T be the naysaying adult on the beach. If you don't have the urge or ability to directly assist, support those around you who are assisting. Support means loving words, a listening ear, and sometimes in kind or monetary gifts.

If I was asked, what is something about myself that would surprise most people, I would have to say that, as an almost 65-year-old, my favorite style of music is alternative rock. So, to close, I will paraphrase the last few lines of the alt-rock song, "Dirty," by the artist Grandson:

'Is there anybody out there that's payin' attention?

Is there anybody out there?

Do you have enough love in your heart to go and get your hands dirty?

It's not much but it's a good start.

So go and get your hands dirty.

Do you love your neighbor?

Is it in your nature?

Do you love a sunset?

Aren't you fed up yet?

Do you have enough love in your heart to go and get your hands dirty?"

GO AND GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY!"

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.*



Vickie Joseph was honored with a Charity in Action Award for her service to others

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Blessing of Branches and Procession Gospel:

Matthew 21:1-11

Jesus sends two disciples to bring him a donkey. They did as they were told, and Christ rode the foal through the Mount of Olives and to Jerusalem. Joyful and boisterous crowds greeted the one they knew as Jesus the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

Let us strive to be like the Suffering Servant that Isaiah describes – confident in our devotion to God that no suffering, shame, or ridicule discourages our faith.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 22

“My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?”

Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

Paul shares, Christ became the ultimate suffering servant on earth in order to redeem us from our sins and wickedness. In His obedience to the cross and death, the Almighty Father acclaimed Christ as Lord the triumph of God the Father.

Gospel: Matthew 26:14-27:66

The last supper, the betrayal of Jesus by Judas, Peter’s three denials, and the voices of the people shouting for the condemnation of Jesus, and the description of the crucifixion scene are illustrated in Matthew’s gospel. It concludes with Pilates order to secure and guard the tomb for three days, knowing Christ proclaimed, “After three days I will be raised up.”

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](http://BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/040223.CFM)

BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/040223.CFM

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the universal Church, that we may boldly defend our faith and tirelessly work to carry out Jesus’ mission here on earth, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all world leaders that they become servant leaders and seek peace for their people and all on this earth, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those who welcome the Lord into their lives with great joy and devotion, especially those who will be initiated into the Church at Easter, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all who are participating in the liturgies of Holy Week, may this strengthen the commitment to carry our crosses and assist others with theirs, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

HOLY THURSDAY EVENING MASS OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

First Reading: Exodus 12:1-8,11-14

The observance of Passover is explained, and the prophets declare the blood of the lamb will save God’s Chosen People.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 116

“Our blessing cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ.”

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Saint Paul reinforces in the teaching of the Last Supper – the Eucharist - for Christ himself tells “This is my body that is for you.... This cup is the new covenant in my blood.... For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes again.”

Gospel: John 13:1-15

After supper Jesus humbled Himself and began washing the feet of the disciples. After he told them to follow His example and serve others with such great humility.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](http://BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/040623-SUPPER.CFM)

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GOOD FRIDAY OF THE LORD’S PASSION

First Reading: Isaiah 52:13-53:12

The servant of God takes on our illnesses, pain, and sorrows to set us free.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 31

“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.”

Second Reading: Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

Saint Paul reassures us that Christ, because lived among us, is able to sympathize with our weaknesses; and as we ask for forgiveness, He is ready to grant us mercy and grace. He is the source of eternal salvation.

Gospel: John 18:1-19:42

The Gospel of John presents us the betrayal of Judas, Peter’s three denials, Pilates questioning of the “King of the Jews”, the crowd cheering ‘Crucify Him’, and the crucifixion. The passage ends with Joseph of Arimathea receiving the body from Pilate. The secret disciple of Christ along with Nicodemus used more than 100 pounds of myrrh, aloes, and spices, and bound the body of Jesus according to Jewish custom.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](http://BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/040723.CFM)

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JUNE 10-12, 2023

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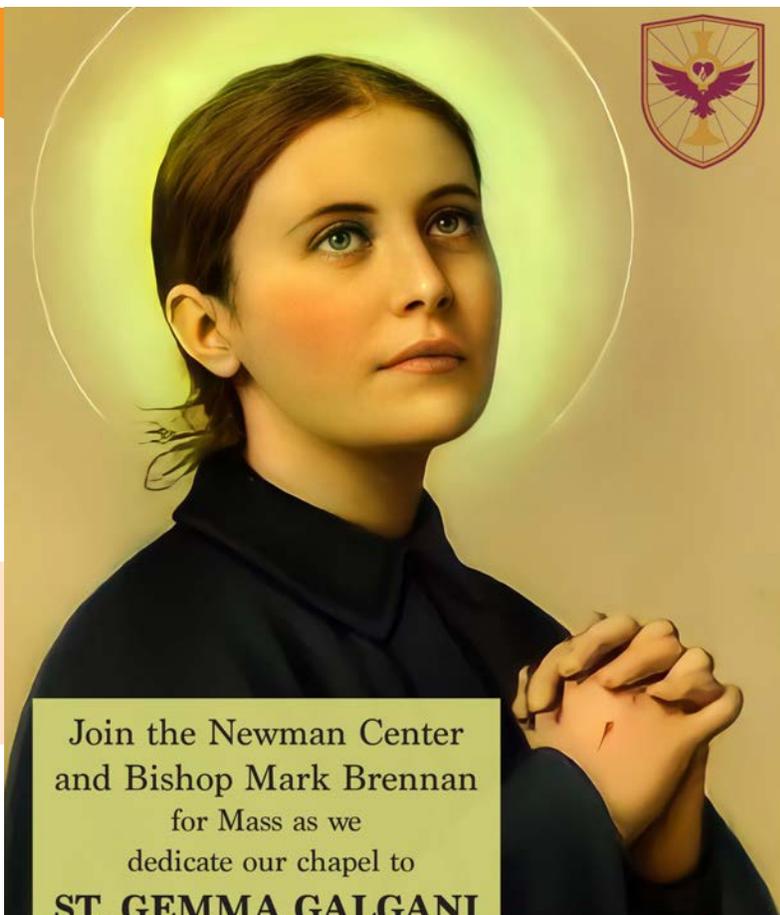
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Join the Newman Center
and Bishop Mark Brennan
for Mass as we
dedicate our chapel to
ST. GEMMA GALGANI

April 11, 2023 at 5:30pm

Dinner will Follow



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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.