

# Faith IN WV

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

APRIL 21, 2024



## Good Shepherd Sunday

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

*Build up the Church in the Mountain State. Amen!*



This Fourth Sunday of Easter we hear John's Gospel, when Christ identifies himself as the Shepherd who will lay down his life for his sheep.

As a member of His Church, we all have a responsibility since baptism to foster vocations – priesthood, diaconate, consecrated life - male and female religious life, societies of apostolic life, consecrated virginity - missionary life, single life, and married life. At baptism we are called to holiness - to serve God and others. Strong marriages, where couples grow in faith and receive the Eucharist together; and the commitment to a single life without marriage and children (CCC 1658) and focused on living in the spirit of the Beatitudes – are important vocations to the Church.

On this Good Shepherd Sunday in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston we keep Deacon John Soplinski close in prayer as he prepares for his ordination to the priesthood on May 31st at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling. Additionally, we pray for the men who will be ordained permanent deacons for our diocese on -June 7 at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston.

Sister Martha Gomez, Delegate for Consecrated Life in our diocese, reminds all the faithful in WV to continue fulfilling their Rosary pledge for vocations in our diocese that was part of the #MillionRosaries4WV campaign.

“Behind and before every vocation is always the strong and intense prayer of someone: a grandmother, a grandfather, a mother, a father, a faith community.... Vocations are born in prayer and from prayer: and only through prayer can we persevere and bear fruit,” Sr. Martha said, adding that it was our Blessed Mother Mary who said, “When you say your Rosary, the angels rejoice, the Blessed Trinity delights in it, my Son finds joy in it too, and I myself am happier than you can possibly guess.”

For resources on how to say the Rosary go to: [dwc.org/onemillionrosaries](http://dwc.org/onemillionrosaries)

# GREAT CROSSES BRING GREAT GRACES

## -ST. MARY EUPHRASIA PELLETIER

On April 24, honor the Feast Day of St. Mary Euphrasia Pelletier, foundress of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd (the Sisters of the Good Shepherd) She is known for her bold and gentle wisdom – a demeanor that helped her open 110 convents – a house in every continent of the world – in her lifetime. She passed away April 24, 1868 at 72, it was the Friday after Good Shepherd Sunday.



She believed it is our duty to care for one another and to live by example; and with God we can overcome difficulties, as she said, “Great crosses bring great graces.”

It was St. Mary Euphrasia who empowered countless women and girls to conquer challenges and struggles by showing them grace and compassion for their human dignity. That spirit is alive and strong today as her legacy is carried on by her strong disciples of the Good Shepherd.

Saint Mary Euphrasia was born in France on July 31, 1796, as Rose Virginie Pelletier – the 8th child of Dr. Julian and Anne Pelletier. Her father died when she was 10. Soon after she was sent away to boarding school and she would never see her mother again. Anne Pelletier passed three years later. She was devastated and overwhelmed. However, near her school was the convent for Our Lady of Charity of the Refuge, founded by St. John Eudes – proving care and protection for women and girls who were homeless or at risk.

Young Rose Virginie found a loving and welcoming community with the sisters and was allowed to enter the congregation after pleading with her guardian. She made her profession in 1816, taking the name Mary Euphrasia. By the age of 29, she was the superior of the convent in Tours, France.

She began the organization with the congregation, the Sisters of Magdalen – for women who wanted to lead a contemplative and secluded life of prayer concentrating on the works of the Congregation. This group is now called the Contemplatives of the Good Shepherd.

In 1829, she opened a convent for the Good Shepherd Sisters in Angers, France, at the request of their bishop, which led to several other bishops requesting the same. Rome gave her permission to found the congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd – soon all the houses were under the motherhouse in Angers. In all she established 110 Good Shepherd convents around the world before her death.

Our own Sr. Martha Gomez, Delegate for Consecrated Life in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, belongs to the congregation. She will be giving a presentation on the life of St. Mary Euphrasia at 7 pm, April 29, via Zoom as part of the 20/20 Vision Series – A Year with the Saints (to register contact Anna Marie Troiani at St. Joseph Retreat Center: [ATROIANI@CSJOSEPH.ORG](mailto:ATROIANI@CSJOSEPH.ORG)).



*Inside the Good Shepherd Nursing Home Chapel, in Wheeling, houses a large statue of St. Mary Euphrasia.*

Sister Martha Gomez said of her foundress, “Her message was simple yet powerful—‘Just love!’ She instilled in her followers the sentiment of the Good Shepherd, emphasizing love as the guiding force.”

The congregation serves in 72 countries, Gomez said, adding, “Her impact transcended borders, showing a remarkable dedication to spreading love and compassion globally. She is a beacon of dignity and kindness.”

Quotes to live by from Sr. Mary Euphrasia:

“We must have untiring zeal and never fear difficulties. If we have to climb the highest mountains we must do so with courage.”

“Zeal does not consist in continual preaching, in giving good advice, in constantly exhorting to virtue, but rather in giving good example. Example speaks louder than words and often achieves astounding results.”

“You have a heart created to love and to be grateful.”

“Try to think well of everybody, avoiding rash judgments. Have great esteem for each other.”

Saint Mary Euphrasia, pray for us!

## 20/20 VISION SERIES

# A YEAR WITH THE SAINTS

Join us as we journey throughout the year focusing on various Saints and their legacies, presented by those among us who live out these legacies in their lives and in their communities.

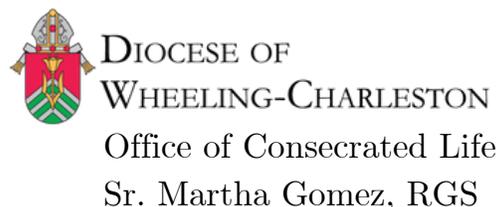
Note: Each session will begin at 7 pm and will be presented via Zoom.

January 29	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton – Sr. Mary Clark, SC
February 26	St. Brigid of Kildare – Sr. Karen Kirby, CSJ
March 18	St. Joseph – Sr. Kathleen Durkin, CSJ
April 29	St. Mary Euphrasia – Sr. Martha Gomez, R.G.S.
May 20	Blessed Virgin Mary – TBD
June 24	Marcellin Champagnat – Brother John Byrd, FMS
July 29	St. Ignatius of Loyola – Lou Volpe
August 26	St. Dominic – Sr. Ellen Dunn, OP
September 30	St. Lorenzo Ruiz – Fr. Carlos Melocoton
October 28	Jesuit Martyrs – TBD
November 18	Servant of God Dorothy Day – Kate Marshall
December 16	St. Stephan – Deacon John Yaquinta

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

**Cost for complete series: \$120.00 Or \$15.00 per session.**

**RSVP – Anna Marie Troiani: [atroiani@csjoseph.org](mailto:atroiani@csjoseph.org)**



# TAKE CARE OF YOUR SOUL & REFLECT GOD'S LOVE TO OTHERS



On April 24, honor Venerable Matteo Farina, a teenage saint who teaches us to - take time to care for your soul!

Venerable Matteo Farina - Pray for Us!

“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!” - These are the words of Venerable Matteo Farina. Pope Francis advanced the cause of sainthood to venerable in 2020. Farina, a popular Italian teenager died in 2009 from a brain tumor.

Farina was born in 1990 and grew up in a strong Catholic family in Brindisi, in southern Italy. At a very young age he was captivated by his faith and 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 he knew and those he did 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.”

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 fall throughout the world if this is your will... as I know you by others, so 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.



# 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.

The book unfolds while painting a great picture of the Redeemer – 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.

We learn of how Jesus' ministry unfolded as He traveled from town to town, teaching, curing illnesses, and forgiving believers of their sins. 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.

In one passage in particular Mark shared Jesus' response to a scribe who questioned which is the greatest commandment. Without hesitation Christ said – “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.

The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:30-31)

This particular scribe validated the lesson by repeating it, adding you must love God with “all your understanding, with all your strength” and coupled with loving your neighbor is “worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

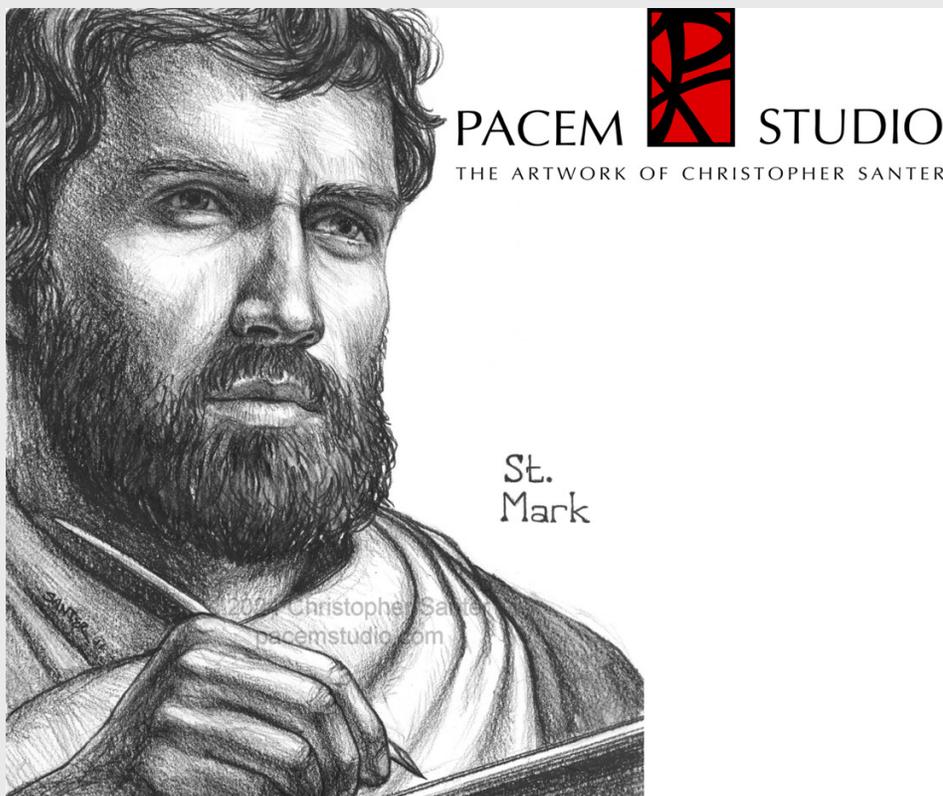
Jesus looked at the scribe and praised him by saying, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.”

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. Like the scribe the heaven awaits all who place all hope and confidence in Christ Jesus.

Let us evangelize with confidence like Mark – declaring the Good News from moment one and continuing to do so with our words and actions, leaving no doubt (Mark 1:1 and Mark 16:20).

*O God, who raised up Saint Mark, your Evangelist, and endowed him with the grace to preach the Gospel, grant we pray, that we may so profit from his teaching, as to follow faithfully in the footsteps of Christ. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*





# NATIONAL Eucharistic Pilgrimage

## Be Part of this Historic Event!

*The pilgrimage comes to the Northern Panhandle of West Virginia June 20-24*

FROM THE EAST

## St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Route



### Welcome perpetual pilgrims to the Mountain State!

Gather with them for Masses, Eucharistic Adoration, Eucharistic Processions, praise and worship, and special programs as they share their experiences. Watch the Eucharistic Procession on the Ohio River led by Bishop Mark Brennan and Bishop Paul J. Bradley and receive a blessing. Pilgrimage events are open to all! Full schedule is on the right.



### Participating Northern Panhandle Parishes

#### *Weirton:*

St. Joseph the Worker  
Sacred Heart of Mary  
St. Paul's

#### *Wheeling:*

Cathedral of St. Joseph  
St. Alphonsus



### Pilgrimage Events

#### Thursday, June 20, National Eucharistic Pilgrimage Kickoff in Weirton

**St. Joseph the Worker Church:** Meet the perpetual pilgrims and gather for Mass, Adoration, and praise and worship—8-9 a.m.

**Eucharistic Procession** from St. Joseph the Worker to Sacred Heart of Mary Church with Adoration and Benediction to follow—begins at 9:30 a.m.

**Sharing Session & Reflection by Perpetual Pilgrims** at Sacred Heart of Mary—11 a.m.-noon

**Eucharistic Adoration** with praise and worship at St. Paul Church—7-8 p.m.

#### Friday, June 21

**Morning Mass** with the perpetual pilgrims at Sacred Heart of Mary—8:30-9 a.m.

**Breakfast with Perpetual Pilgrims** at Sacred Heart of Mary—9:30-10:30 a.m.

#### Sunday, June 23

#### "Put Out into the Deep" on the Ohio River!"

Bishop Mark Brennan and Bishop Paul Bradley, apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Steubenville, will board a sternwheeler and lead a Eucharistic Procession down the Ohio River. Boatercade with the two bishops leaves the Steubenville Marina at noon and will stop at four sites on both sides of the river where faithful can receive a blessing. Blessing sites: Steubenville Marina, Wellsburg Wharf, Wellsburg-Brilliant Bridge, Mazeroski Park (Ohio), Pike Island Lock and Dam, and Heritage Port in Wheeling. Final destination is Bellaire Marina in Bellaire, Ohio.

**Arrival of National Eucharistic Pilgrimage in Wheeling**—7:30-8:30 p.m. Cathedral of St. Joseph. Bishop Brennan and the faithful of Wheeling will welcome the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage at the cathedral.

**All-Night Eucharistic Prayer Vigil**—8:30 p.m. (June 23) -8 a.m. (June 24) at the cathedral.

#### Monday, June 24

**Mass at the cathedral** celebrated by Bishop Brennan—8:30-9:30 a.m.

**Solemn Eucharistic Procession** through the streets of Wheeling from the cathedral to St. Alphonsus Church—9:30-10 a.m.

For more information, visit:

[www.eucharisticpilgrimage.org/st-elizabeth-ann-seton-route](http://www.eucharisticpilgrimage.org/st-elizabeth-ann-seton-route)

# CONGRATULATIONS

Fr. Akila Rodrigo and St. James Church

*Pastor*

**Akila Rodrigo,  
St. James Catholic  
Church**

**Second Place:**

Phil Wayman,  
Clarksburg Baptist Church

**Third Place:**

Steve DeLay, Oak Mound Evangelical Church

*Remaining finalists*

Jamie Gizzi, CrossHeirs Christian Center

Steve Elderbrock, Bridgeport Presbyterian Church

Robert Shingleton, Jewel City Church



*Place of Worship/  
Church*

**St. James  
Catholic Church**

**Second Place:**

Clarksburg Baptist Church

**Third Place:**

Bible Church of God



*Remaining finalists*

Bridgeport Presbyterian Church

Jewel City Church

Higher Rock

Day of Giving  
May 7, 2024

YOU CAN MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE

Join us for the 5th annual One Mission One Day to Make a Difference, and support WV Catholic schools!

With the power of collective giving, we can empower students to recognize, develop, and share their God-given gifts and talents!

Your past generosity made a difference that students benefit from today! Make an even greater impact with a gift on **May 7th** at **OneMissionOneDay.org**.

Thank you for your commitment to providing a quality education in the Catholic tradition!



One Mission One Day to Make a Difference  
[OneMissionOneDay.org](http://OneMissionOneDay.org)

I MADE A DIFFERENCE

#OneMissionOneDay



Take a photo or video letting everyone know YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE & THEY CAN TOO!

1. Share on social media using #OneMissionOneDay and tag your favorite WV Catholic school.
2. Email your photo to [hsforza@dwc.org](mailto:hsforza@dwc.org) for a chance to have it shared on May 7th.

BECOME A PEER FUNDRAISER

Show your support and make our Day of Giving a success by becoming a Peer Fundraiser. Contact [hsforza@dwc.org](mailto:hsforza@dwc.org) to learn more.



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### First Reading: Acts 4:8-12

There is no salvation through anyone else but Christ – he conquered death so we can be saved.

### Responsorial: Psalm 118

“The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.”

### Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-2

We are God’s children, made in His image.

### Gospel: John 10:11-18

The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep. This was the will of God and exactly what he did for our sins and for us to raise to eternal life with Him.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that each one of us may courageously follow God’s call to proclaim the gospel in our words and actions, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all leaders, that they may take special consideration of those who are wounded or weak, of those who are lost or in danger, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For an increase in vocations to ordained, religious, and lay ministries, that there may always be those who are willing and able to shepherd the flock, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For the lost and wounded among us, that we are proactive in extending the love and mercy of the Good Shepherd through our outreach and care, let us pray to the Lord. . .

*Lord hear our prayer*

## WV CATHOLIC RADIO BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOU

Berkeley Springs - Hancock, MD	FM	96.3
Berkeley Springs	FM	107.9
Clarksburg-Bridgeport	FM	97.5
Dunbar - Charleston	AM	1450
Eastern Panhandle - coming soon	FM	88.5
Grafton - Clarksburg	AM	1190
Montgomery - Beckley	FM	89.7
Purgitsville	FM	98.7
St. Marys - Parkersburg	FM	105.3
Star City -Morgantown	FM	89.7
Summersville	FM	91.3
Wheeling - Martins Ferry, OH	FM	90.7
Weirton - Steubenville	FM	97.9

~Listen on LoL Stream at [www.rdo.to/WLOL](http://www.rdo.to/WLOL)~

## ENROLL TODAY

WV Catholic Schools

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by knowledge.  
Transformed  
by faith.*



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*Liturgy of the Hours*

## LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!

[EBREVIARY.COM](http://EBREVIARY.COM) LITURGY OF THE HOURS

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).