



HAVE YOU FOUND CHRIST ON YOUR ROAD TO EMMAUS

Luke's Gospel today describes the journey and basically argument of two of Christ's disciples on the seven-mile road to Emmaus on Easter. They were still in awe of what had transpired over the last few days, and trying to somehow rationalize it all, when a man caught up with them.

The man questioned what they were talking about. The two were kept from recognizing that the man was actually Christ, and they just started questioning him 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, who with the crowds sentenced him to a cruel and horrific crucifixion, and how the women in their group had gone to the tomb earlier in the morning and angels appeared and told them Christ was alive! Then they actually discovered that the body of Jesus was truly not there.

The man calls the two "foolish" for not recalling what the prophets taught all pointed to Christ, the Passion, and resurrection - it was necessary that the Lord suffer in such a way in order "to enter into glory!"

As they finally reached the village of Emmaus it was late, the two invite the man to stay and have a meal with them.

It was upon the blessing and breaking of the bread that Jesus revealed himself to them. He gave them the bread, then vanished from them.

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

Let us never forget the bread broken and received in the Eucharist is Christ's True Presence. Have you found him?

Editor's note: The art accompanying this article is by American artist Richard Judson Zolan.





SPRING WV EUCHARISTIC CONGRESSES UNDERWAY! NEXT UP – WHEELING REGION

Christ is present! Will you be?

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston’s second Regional Eucharistic Congress is set for April 28-29 on the campus of the Cathedral of St. Joseph and Central Catholic High School.

Bishop Mark Brennan hopes faithful of all ages will join him for all or part of the Congress that offers a dynamic national speaker, engaging breakout session presenters (for adults, young children, teens/young adults, and Catholic educators of our schools, PSR, and RCIA,) Adoration, inspiring prayer services, celebratory music, Blessed Carlo Acutis’ Eucharistic miracles display, and more celebrating Christ’s Real Presence in the Eucharist. All of these will culminate in Mass celebrated by Bishop Mark Brennan.

ADMISSION IS FREE. Registration is required in order to prepare for refreshments, lunch, and materials. [CLICK HERE](#) for a general schedule, more details, and registration.

Father Timothy Anastos, of the Archdiocese of Chicago, is the keynote speaker for the Wheeling region. Father Tim was ordained a priest in 2017, and is currently the associate chaplain of the St. John Paul II Newman Center at the University of Illinois-Chicago. He is also the host of Reel Homilies (on YouTube, Instagram, and TikTok) - unpacking the Sunday Gospel through the lenses of Church tradition, pop culture, and self-improvement – within 60 seconds! His goals with Reel Homilies - to inspire your own thoughts on the Gospel and bring you closer to Christ...as well as bring a smile to your face. Check out Reel Homilies for yourself at: WWW.SPIRITJUICE.ORG/REELHOMILIES/.

His message will motivate all of us. Father Tim has a gift of ministering to teens and young adults, being real and knowing it is difficult to live your faith when you’re bombarded by diversions. Fun facts: He turned down a job with the FBI; plays hockey and guitar; loves hanging out with friends and going to Cubs games; and takes pride in finding the best hidden food venues.

IS MY PARISH, SCHOOL, OR ORGANIZATION INVOLVED?

While Friday evening at the congresses will feature an inspirational Taizé Prayer Service, 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 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.

WHAT IF I CAN’T MAKE IT TO WHEELING?

The third and final Regional Eucharistic Congress is set for **Charleston, June 2-3**. The keynote speaker 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.



Eucharistic Congress - Wheeling Keynote: Father Tim Anastos



April 28-29

Register at: dwc.org/eucharistic-congresses



DIocese of
WHEELING-CHARLESTON

ONE MISSION ONE DAY

SET FOR MAY 2ND

24-HOUR ONLINE FUNDRAISER FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

The Catholic Schools in West Virginia have more than 4,400 reasons to motivate you to make a difference on May 2nd.

All 18 grade schools and six high schools will be participating in a 24-hour online state-wide giving day - *One Mission One Day to Make a Difference.*

“One Mission One Day is one of my favorite days of the year,” said Heidi Sforza of the Stewardship and Development Office. “It’s great to see our schools, communities and parishes all come together to support one another and raise funds! School staff and volunteers have worked really hard to make this a fun and exciting day for students, families, and alumni by creating contests, prizes and giveaways that give everyone a chance to get involved! From dress down passes, to fire truck rides and kissing pigs- there’s never a dull moment during the DWC Catholic schools giving day!”

Principals and advancement directors have been working together to coordinate creative social media ideas, fun promotions, and friendly competitions that 490-plus staff, 4,422 students, and their dedicated families are excited to promote. All the funds will be directed by the individual schools for areas they declare like tuition assistance, school improvements, special programs, technology upgrades, and teacher bonuses. Organizers in the schools are excited for this opportunity to reach family and friends from near and far online to raise funds and spread school pride.

“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace” (1 Peter 4:10).

“It’s an exciting day to see our schools working together to raise money for their greatest needs,” Stewardship and Development Director Krissie Benson said. “All the hard work they put into this day final comes to fruition in a big way!”

The first Diocesan wide Catholic schools giving day was held in 2020 and since then, more than \$1.2 million has been raised for Catholic schools across the state. Each year our giving day has grown bigger and better and has become a crucial fundraising event each of our schools count on.

To help your local school or alma mater go to WWW.ONEMISSIONONEDAY.ORG and select your school(s) that will receive your gift. Donations will go directly to the school or schools of choice. You can also text GIVE to 304-600-8123. Follow the hashtag #OneMissionOneDay on social media and check in on the leaderboard at OneMissionOneDay.org. You can also help your school by helping them spread the word – like and share their social media posts!

The event kicks off at 12:01AM May 2nd and continues to 11:59 PM on May 3rd, but if you’d like to get an early start, donations can begin online as early as April 25th. Organizers from the individual schools are eager too to see which school will raise the most money and which will have the most donors, because those schools will each receive a \$500 gift from the WV Catholic Foundation.



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. Last spring, Pope Francis advanced the cause of sainthood for Farina, a popular Italian teenager who 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.

He was declared venerable by Pope Francis in 2009.

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~

ENROLL TODAY

WV Catholic Schools

Empowered
by knowledge.
Transformed
by faith.



Register today

wvcatholicschools.org



HONOR ST. MARK ~ BE AN EVANGELIST

We honor St. Mark the Evangelist on April 25th. It is easy to mimic Mark as we talk about Jesus by getting right to the point – Jesus Christ is the Lord! Leave no doubt.

Compared to the other Gospels, the Gospel of Mark is short and to the point as he takes us through the life of Christ. He paints us a great picture of the Redeemer – a man on the move.

“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.

Throughout writings we will hear the words of Jesus, the decisions of his first disciples to leave their homes, jobs, and families in order to follow Christ. Mark tells us how Jesus’ ministry unfolded for us as He traveled from town to town, teaching, curing illnesses, and forgiving believers of their sins. Mark 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.

Mark showcased for us 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: 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.

Honor St. Mark on his feast day by reading from his Gospel and meditating on this prayer from the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception:

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.



Liturgy of the Hours LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!

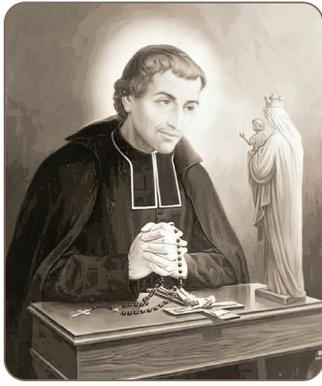
EBREVIARY.COM LITURGY OF THE HOURS

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.



SHORTEST WAY TO JESUS IS THROUGH MARY ST. LOUIS DE MONTFORT

FIND THE POWER IN PRAYING THE HOLY ROSARY

Want to become closer to Christ? Honor the Blessed Mother.

This was the message Saint Louis de Monfort

wholeheartedly preached in his lifetime.

On Thursday, April 28th we honor the Memorial of St. Louis-Marie Grignon de Montfort.

He was born in 1673 in France and was ordained a priest in 1700. He is fondly known as an “Apostle of the Rosary.” His most moving preaching became books, including *The Secret of the Rosary* and *True Devotion to Mary*, that still influence and encourage Catholics today.

St. Louis said, Mary is the “safest, easiest, shortest and most perfect way of approaching Jesus,” and the rosary is “the most powerful weapon to touch the Heart of Jesus, Our Redeemer, who loves His Mother.

“Even if you are on the brink of damnation, even if you have one foot in hell, even if you have sold your soul to the devil as sorcerers do who practice black magic, and even if you are a heretic as obstinate as a devil, sooner or later you will be converted and will amend your life and will save

your soul, if-and mark well what I say-if you say the Holy Rosary devoutly every day until death for the purpose of knowing the truth and obtaining contrition and pardon for your sins,” he preached.

St. Louis evangelized countless souls to Jesus through Mary. He urged the faithful to be fully and formally consecrated to the Blessed Mother. St. Louis’ devotion inspired him to create a 33-day program, Total Consecration to the Blessed Virgin, which includes prayers and readings to become closer to Mary and working for her intercession to Christ. The program can be found within the *True Devotion to Mary* and also through a number of Catholic online resources like the Catholic Company by clicking here. The French priest didn’t get to see the fond popularity of his manuscript- *True Devotion to Mary*. He died in 1716, at the age of 43 and the book was not published until 1853.

As we enter into May, the Month of Mary, let us be open our hearts and mimic the devotion St. Louis de Montfort has exemplified. Pray the rosary (for help online see our prayer resources at FAITHINWV.ORG).

St. Louis-Marie de Monfort, pray for us and that we grow close to Jesus through Mary.

NEWS FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES WEST VIRGINIA

OPTION FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE

Within the Catholic Social Teaching on “Option for the Poor and Vulnerable,” we are reminded that:

“The Church’s love for the poor . . . is a part of her constant tradition.”

This love is inspired by the Gospel of the Beatitudes, of the poverty of Jesus, and of his concern for the poor.

The Church teaches that: “Those who are oppressed by poverty are the object of a preferential love on the part of the Church...”

This love was recently exemplified by a group of parishioners within the greater Parkersburg area. Members from every parish in Parkersburg attended weekly seminars presented by Catholic Charities Parish Outreach Specialist Bill Hagy throughout the seven weeks of Lent. The seminars were focused around the seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching.



During the topic of “Option for the Poor and Vulnerable,” the group discussed the Matthew 25 Bag project initiated in the Charleston area to help meet the basic needs of those who are homeless.

During the final meeting and, unbeknownst to Bill Hagy, the group presented him with M25 Bags in appreciation for the seven weeks spent sharing the principles of our faith. Hagy then shared the bags to be distributed within the Parkersburg area.

At Catholic Charities West Virginia, we are honored to work alongside our parish partners as we work toward our mission of providing caring and compassionate services to people in need and working toward lasting and meaningful change.

REMEMBER HOW CLOSE GOD REALLY IS

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA ~ PRAY FOR US

“God is closer to us than water is to fish!”

This quote was written by St. Catherine of Siena more than 600 years ago. We celebrate her memorial on April 29.

St. Catherine of Siena is honored as a Doctor of the Church for contributing and strengthening the Church through her prayers and spiritual writings. Her thoughts and teachings are captured in *The Dialogue on Saint Catherine of Siena*, which she simply called, “my book.” She left all of her writings in the hands of Blessed Raymond Capua, who published them in *The Dialogue*. He also wrote *The Life of St. Catherine of Siena*, a biography of her life based on their conversations.

From a young age she would have visions of saints, angels, and Jesus. Her first was when she was six. She was out with her little brother Stephen, when she abruptly stopped, because she became captivated by a vision of Jesus with St. Peter, St. Paul, and St. John the Evangelist. She said Jesus smiled at her and blessed her.

Capua wrote, “From this moment Catherine seemed to be no longer a child; her virtues her manners, and her thoughts were superior to her age, and would have done honor to men of mature years. The first of divine love inflamed her heart and enlightened her understanding; her will strengthened, her memory developed, and her every



action became conformed to the rules of the Gospel.”

She would write that God said to her, “I loved you without being loved by you, even before you existed (in fact it was love that moved me to create you in my own image and likeness)... But you must give this love to other people, loving them without being loved by them.”

Saint Catherine became a voice for peace and order in the Church. As a spiritual director for common people, royals, and governmental leaders, popes even sought her guidance.

Blessed Capua said her words can come across as soft and gentle like a child, but also profound like a great prophet.

Let us remember how close God really is to us.

As St. Catherine said, “He is with us. He is within us. When we cry, he showers love down on us. When we rejoice, he dances too. He created us to desire him. We are restless without him. He knows us better than we know us. He created us with purpose and intent. When we doubt, when we fear, when we do not know what to do, we can call to him, and he will remind us that he never left. A fish pulls oxygen out of water to breathe. God is closer. God is our breath. He sustains us.”

Editor’s note: the image in this article is from Meyer Market Designs, LLC

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 2:14, 22-23

Christ – victor over death.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 16

“Lord, you will show us the path of life.”

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:317-21

The Blood of Christ is our salvation.

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

The road to Emmaus – the disciples did not recognize Christ walking beside them on their journey until they broke bread with him, and their hearts were burning with great love.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](http://BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/042323.CFM)

BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/042323.CFM

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we recognize Christ in our lives and remain eager to receive Jesus’s True Presence in the Eucharist, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all affected by violence and conflict, that they might know peace, justice, and comfort, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those whose life’s journey is nearing its end, that they may look forward in joy to walking with the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all of our habitual and special intentions that we carry in our hearts as we work our way toward eternal happiness, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

