

# Faith IN WV

APRIL 27, 2025  
DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON



## Let Us Pray "for One Another"

Pope Francis

Dec. 17, 1936- April 21, 2025



Pope Francis' first public address immediately after he was presented as the Holy Father, Bishop of Rome, and Successor of Peter on March 13, 2013, is a fitting reminder of where our priorities should be during these days of mourning the pontiff and always, "Let us always pray for one another. Let us pray for the whole world that there might be a great sense of brotherhood...."

Before countless faithful present and those watching worldwide, he went on to ask for prayers from the faithful, "pray to the Lord to bless me... pray for me and I will be with you again soon. We will see one another soon"

In his official testament filed by the Holy see on June 29, 2022, as is custom for the pope in later years, Pope Francis requested to be buried within the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major for "I have always entrusted myself to the Mother of Our Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary.... I wish my final earthly journey to end precisely in this ancient Marian sanctuary, where I would always stop to pray at the beginning and end of every Apostolic Journey, confidently entrusting my intentions to the Immaculate Mother, and giving thanks for her gentle and maternal care."

He concluded with a sincere prayer:

"May the Lord grant a fitting reward to all those who have loved me and who continue to pray for me. The suffering that has marked the final part of my life, I offer to the Lord, for peace in the world and for fraternity among peoples." - Francis.

### Mourning Our Loss and Praying with Hope

Bishop Mark Brennan made it a priority upon the news of the Holy Father's passing to offer a Memorial Mass for Pope Francis. At 6pm on April 21st, just hours after news of the pontiff's death, Bishop was joined by two deacons, nine priests, and more than 80 faithful from around the Ohio Valley in thanksgiving for Pope Francis' life and pontificate.



Vatican Media Photo

"Our pope preached a living Christ - not a dead historical figure - a Christ the power of whose resurrection infuses in us a new life that enables us to love God with heart, mind, soul, and strength and to love our neighbor as ourselves," Bishop Mark said. "Pope Francis not only preached the Risen Christ - (but he also) taught us by example to stand up for the truth when it is denied and

to stand with men and women who are marginalized and oppressed, migrants, children, both born and unborn,” Bishop Mark said.

“Francis spoke the truth and lived it,” he said. “As you know Pope Francis designated this Jubilee Year as a Year of Hope. Our hope now is that the Lord that inspired the lifelong service of (Pope Francis) will welcome Him with a broad smile.... On the last day of his life, (Pope Francis) was clearly suffering, but he must have prayed for strength to appear before the people one last time. He received that strength. Then (at the hour of the pontiff’s passing) God said, ‘Jorge, Francis, my Vicar, your work is done. Come home to me.’”

“God will provide a new pope for us,” Bishop Brennan said. “We will pray for the college of cardinals to seek a good man to be a visible head of the Church. The Church’s life and mission will go on.”



Vatican Media Photo

Pope Francis greets Fr. Don Higgs, V.F, rector of the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston. The photo captures the moment when Fr. Don told the Pontiff, “My school students (Charleston Catholic High School and Sacred Heart Grade School) send their love and prayers.” Pope Francis smiled and gave me him his famous thumbs up.

## Pray Through the 9 Days of Mourning And for The Election of A New Pope

The Church around the world continues the Novendiales (nine days of mourning and Masses to be offered for the repose of Pope Francis’ soul) as is customary since ancient Christian and Roman time. Faithful in all nations are to continue personal prayer through May 4th making time to pray a reverent Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be.

Also, during this time and until a new pope is elected by the Conclave (as many as 120 cardinals in the college of electors) the same simple prayers - Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be - should be said to call upon the Holy Spirit to light the way for a great Successor of Peter for the intention of the Holy Spirit encouraged.

According, the procedures for the Conclave - the *Universi Dominici Gregis* –“Normally, after the death of the Pontiff, the cardinal electors must wait fifteen days for those who are absent. But once twenty days has elapsed, they should proceed with the conclave (39).... “No sooner than fifteen to twenty days after the pope’s death, the electors assemble in the morning at St. Peter’s Basilica. They participate in the votive *Mass Pro Eligendo Papa* (“For the Election of a Pope”).

“In the afternoon, they assemble in the Pauline Chapel of the Apostolic Palace. Attired in choir dress, they will invoke the assistance of the Holy Spirit with the chant *Veni Creator* and will solemnly process to the Sistine Chapel of the Apostolic Palace where the election will be held (50). The vote will take place exclusively in the Sistine Chapel.

“Two-thirds of the votes are required to be elected (80 of 120 if all potential electors are present). If the number does not divide evenly into thirds, a valid election will require two-thirds plus one (UDG 62).”

## Watch for the Famous White Smoke

“While the conclave is in session, the entire Church will be praying for the electors and for the prospective pope. When the ballots are burned, oil is added to the fire so that the smoke that escapes from the chimney is dark. On the final, successful ballot, nothing is added to the fire so that the smoke is white. The crowds gathered in St. Peter’s Square will cheer and the billions watching on televisions around the world will know that a new pope has been elected.

“When the vote is decisive, the junior cardinal deacon summons the secretary of the College of Cardinals and the master of papal liturgical celebrations into the Sistine Chapel.”

“The senior cardinal deacon announces to the waiting people that the election has taken place and that the Church has a new pope [*Habemus papam*]. He proclaims the name of the new pontiff. The new pope immediately imparts the apostolic blessing, *urbi et orbi* (to the city and world) from the balcony of the Vatican basilica.”

After the election of a new pope Bishop Mark Brennan like other bishops around the world will likely announce and celebrate a special Mass with the diocesan faithful for the Pontiff.



# LITANY FOR CONCLAVE

## IN PREPARATION FOR THE CONCLAVE

Before the Conclave begins, prayers should be offered frequently for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The following "Litany to the Holy Spirit" may also be used by individuals and groups:

*Lord, have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy.*

*Christ, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy*

*Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy.*

*Father all powerful, have mercy on us.*

*Jesus, Eternal Son of the Father, Redeemer of the world, save us.*

*Spirit of the Father and the Son, boundless life of both, sanctify us.*

*Holy Trinity, hear us.*

*Holy Spirit, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, enter our hearts.*

*Holy Spirit, equal to the Father and the Son, enter our hearts.*

*Promise of God the Father, have mercy on us.*

*Ray of heavenly light, have mercy on us.*

*Author of all good, have mercy on us.*

*Source of heavenly water, have mercy on us.*

*Consuming fire, have mercy on us.*

*Ardent charity, have mercy on us.*

*Spirit of love and truth, have mercy on us.*

*Spirit of wisdom and understanding, have mercy on us.*

*Spirit of counsel and fortitude, have mercy on us.*

*Spirit of knowledge and piety, have mercy on us.*

*Spirit of the fear of the Lord, have mercy on us.*

*Spirit of grace and prayer, have mercy on us.*

*Spirit of peace and meekness, have mercy on us.*

*Spirit of modesty and innocence, have mercy on us.*

*Holy Spirit, the Comforter, have mercy on us.*

*Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier, have mercy on us.*

*Holy Spirit, who governs the Church, have mercy on us.*

*Gift of God, the Most High, have mercy on us.*

*Spirit who fills the universe, have mercy on us.*

*Spirit of the adoption of the children of God, have mercy on us.*

*Holy Spirit, come and renew the face of the earth. Hear our prayer...*

*Holy Spirit, inflame us with the flame of your love.*

*Holy Spirit, open to us the treasures of your graces.*

*Holy Spirit, teach us to pray well.*

*Holy Spirit, guide your Church now and always.*

*Holy Spirit, send us your gift of wisdom,*

*Holy Spirit, enlighten the deliberations of those who will elect the next Pope.*

*Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, send us your Holy Spirit.*

*Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, pour down the gifts of the Holy Spirit.*

*Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us your peace.*

# Pope Francis' Nurse and Guardian Gave The Greatest Gift



The world loved seeing the Holy Father Pope Francis among the crowd at St. Peter's on Easter Sunday. He made that last ride despite doctors urging him in an abundance of caution to stay in bed.

However, knowing him well his nurse, Massimiliano Strappetti, knew the best medicine for the pontiff would be to be with the faithful from all corners of the world.

It was truly and unexpected Easter surprise for the 50,000 plus crowd to set eyes on the Holy Father. Looking back, it was an even greater gift Strappetti handed the pope.

Many are calling Strappetti an earthly guardian angel of the Holy Father Pope Francis in his final years, and especially during his final 24 hours.

After the ride in the popemobile, the pontiff said to his loyal nurse and friend, "Thank you for bringing me back to the Square."

Vatican News reported that Strappetti stayed by the Pope's side during all 38 days at Rome's Gemelli Hospital, and monitored his recovery at the Pope's Casa Santa Marta residence.

As we pray for the sick and suffering, we also acknowledge health care workers, first responders, and end of life caregivers as angels on earth.

*God, source of all life,*

*Bless those who dedicate their lives to health and healing.*

*Watch over them*

*Bless their minds and hands, their hearts and bodies to have the wherewithal and compassion for each patient that seeks their tender loving care.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



## DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON WV PILGRIMAGE SITES FOR JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE



- **Cathedral of St. Joseph** 1300 Eoff Street, Wheeling
- **Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart** 1032 Virginia Street East, Charleston
- **St. Patrick Church** 210 Center Avenue, Weston
- **St. Joseph Parish** 225 S. Queen Street, Martinsburg

Through December 28, 2025, Catholics are invited to visit any and all of these locations to obtain a Plenary Indulgence by completing:

- **Reverent Prayer** (*at site*): Rosary, Stations of the Cross, Liturgy of the Hours, or Mass.
- **Confession** - within 20 days before or after pilgrimage.
- **Holy Communion**
- **Pray for the Pope**

For information and updates go to:  
[dwc.org/jubilee-year-2025](http://dwc.org/jubilee-year-2025)



# DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

*“HUMANITY WILL NOT FIND PEACE  
UNTIL IT TURNS TRUSTFULLY TO  
DIVINE MERCY.”*

*~ CHRIST TO ST. FAUSTINA*



Vatican Media Photo

The Divine Mercy is one of the most popular devotions in the world. A great reminder that the work God starts with us trusting God even when we do not understand.

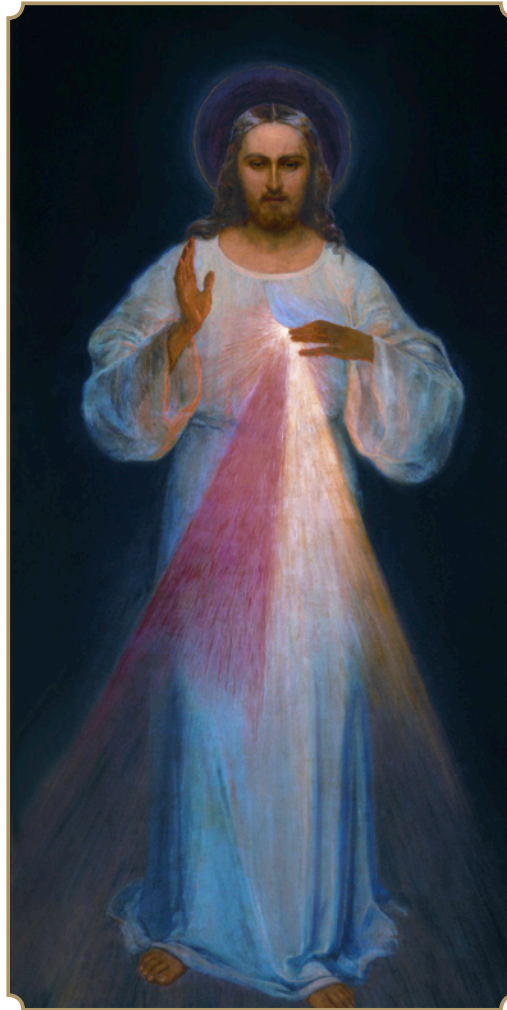
More than 2,000 years ago at the Last Supper Jesus commanded his apostles to be merciful servants to all people. Mercy is mentioned more than 260 times in the bible.

Less than 100 years ago, Jesus gave St. Faustina, a Polish nun, 14 revelations of love and mercy to share, which she did in her diary - *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.

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.

On this Divine Mercy Sunday, as we continue to mourn the Holy Father Pope Francis, we share an excerpt from his first Divine Mercy Sunday as pontiff April 7, 2013:

*“Let us ... remember Peter: three times he denied Jesus, precisely when he should have been closest to him; and when he hits bottom, he meets the gaze of Jesus who patiently, wordlessly, says to him: “Peter, don’t be afraid of your weakness, trust in Me.” Peter understands, he feels the loving gaze of Jesus and he weeps. How beautiful is this gaze of Jesus - how much tenderness is there! Brothers and sisters, let us never lose trust*



*in the patience and mercy of God!*

*“I am always struck when I reread the parable of the merciful Father. ... The Father, with patience, love, hope and mercy, had never for a second stopped thinking about [his wayward son], and as soon as he sees him still far off, he runs out to meet him and embraces him with tenderness, the tenderness of God, without a word of reproach. ... God is always waiting for us, He never grows tired. Jesus shows us this merciful patience of God so that we can regain confidence and hope - always!*

*“God’s patience has to call forth in us the courage to return to Him, however many mistakes and sins there may be in our life. ... It is there, in the wounds of Jesus, that we are truly secure; there we encounter the boundless love of His heart. Thomas understood this. Saint Bernard goes on to ask: But what can I count on? My own merits? No, “My merit is God’s mercy. I am by no means*

*lacking merits as long as He is rich in mercy. If the mercies of the Lord are manifold, I too will abound in merits.” This is important: the courage to trust in Jesus’ mercy, to trust in His patience, to seek refuge always in the wounds of His love.”*

Let us reflect on what Jesus told St. Faustina, “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, 742).

# CANONIZATION POSTPONED BUT FILM NOT DELAYED!

The canonization of Blessed Carlo Acutis needed to be respectfully postponed as we mourn the loss of our Holy Father Pope Francis, but the film about the soon-to-be teen saint's life - *Carlo Acutis: Roadmap to Reality* - has not been delayed!

Opening on Sunday, April 27, ***Carlo Acutis: Roadmap to Reality*** arrives in more than 1000 theatres across the U.S.

Running through April 29th, check your regional theaters to check for showtimes.

The movie enables the viewer to be immersed in the powerful and yet relatable story of the Church's first millennial saint.

In a world losing itself to screens, Carlo Acutis saw the disruption and degrading characteristics of the internet and social media, chose to forge his own journey, and then use those platforms to evangelize... if we're willing to listen.

Carlo's family and friends share their firsthand experiences and his impact on their lives. Many well-known voices in the Catholic Church today are also part of the film.

According to the movie promoters, "Carlo Acutis: Roadmap to Reality explores the life and legacy of the soon-to-be Saint Carlo Acutis and how he navigated the modern world.

"It tackles urgent technology-related questions, examining how the virtual landscape threatens our

fundamental understanding of what it means to be human.

"The film also tracks the journey of a group of high school students who embark on a two-week pilgrimage from North Dakota to Italy to visit Carlo's tomb. A requirement for their pilgrimage: disengage from technology and leave their phones at home (for two weeks)."

You can get tickets now – discounts available if you go as a group

"In a world losing itself to screens, teenage mystic Carlo Acutis saw beyond our social media-addicted society and offered an answer—if we're willing to listen. Carlo Acutis: Roadmap to Reality explores the life of the first millennial saint while following teens on a phone-free pilgrimage to his tomb, immersing them in his story, his passion for Christ, and a search for meaning in a digital age," notes producers of the film.

As of now the film will be shown in Morgantown, Bridgeport, Vienna, Nitro, Huntington/Barboursville, and bordering cities in KY, OH, MD, VA, and PA.

The movie is brought to us by Castletown Media and Wahl St. Productions, in association with the National Eucharistic Congress, Inc. and the McGrath Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame.

For more information, locations, and tickets go to: [CARLOACUTISFILM.COM](http://CARLOACUTISFILM.COM).

Watch the trailer here: [YOUTU.BE/KEMMRDZMRN4?SI=3NMZ0EAEoRY4TJHJ](https://youtu.be/KEMMRDZMRN4?si=3NMZ0EAEoRY4TJHJ)

## CARLO ACUTIS

ROADMAP TO REALITY

IN THEATRES APRIL 27 -  
29 ONLY

In a world losing itself to screens, teenage mystic Carlo Acutis saw beyond the social media-addicted society we live in and offered an answer... if we're willing to listen.

WATCH TRAILER >







# *Encore! Encore!* ROSARIES

FOR VOCATIONS IN WEST VIRGINIA  

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**LET'S GO ALL OUT FOR JESUS AND HIS CHURCH!**

The Diocese of Wheeling Charleston is having an encore Rosary Crusade for Vocations beginning in May 2025 and extending a full year to May 2026.

In 2023, the Diocese of Wheeling Charleston's Rosaries for Vocations resulted in literally hundreds of thousands of Rosaries pledged on our website for an increase in vocations for the Mountain State. Even more were said that weren't tallied online, but instead recited with loving hearts to Mary.

So....

"Let's do it again," Bishop Mark Brennan exclaimed in the Cathedral of St. Joseph Sacristy full of priests and seminarians on the day of the recent Chrism Mass. Are you in?

Let's step up to the plate - using one of Bishop Mark Brennan's beloved baseball analogies - and once again go all out for Jesus and His Church!

## **YOU'RE UP!**

As Delegate for Consecrated Life Sister Martha Gomez works with chancery staff, Vocations Director Fr. Brian Crenwelge, our Vicars Forane, and lay leaders to roll out details, let's start talking in our families, schools, churches, offices, campuses, religious communities, etc., to brainstorm how we can dedicate ourselves to the Rosary Crusade for Vocations in WV. Have a great idea? Share it with Sister ([mgomez@dwc.org](mailto:mgomez@dwc.org)) or Manager of Writing and Social Media Joyce Bibey at ([jbibey@dwc.org](mailto:jbibey@dwc.org)). That way we can share with you and work together as Heaven wants us.

Back in 2023, individuals and groups from WV, all over the US, as well as Mexico, the Philippines, and abroad became our prayer warriors. Even the USA Council of Serra International included our intentions for increased vocations in this Mountain State during their (last Saturday of each month) monthly global Rosary for vocations during the 2023 campaign.

## **ROSARIES & RESULTS - BOOM!**

It is no secret that the 2023 One Million Rosaries for Increased Vocations in WV did more than offer our prayers through the intercession of Mary Our Blessed Mother for vocations.

It was a renewal of a beloved devotion.

It was even a re-introductory for those who never or rarely said the Rosary.

It gave responsibility and ownership to those who want to see and support faithful vocations in WV. Most importantly, it united us across the state to raise our voices young and old alike to Heaven.

Last Fall Bishop Mark and Fr. Brian introduced us to 17 seminarians! Plus, three more young men from WV entered seminaries for religious orders, and more missionary sisters and other women in formation have come to WV to serve our growing parishes and Hispanic brothers and sisters.

We have 12 men preparing for the permanent diaconate, and that is on the heels of 20 men ordained last June.

Bishop Mark truly believes those reverent prayers produced great hope and fruit.

"I've spoken to several men and a couple women about discernment for the priesthood and religious life respectively," he said. "The Church, our diocese, and our parish communities need to encourage vocations to the priesthood, consecrated life, and strong Catholic marriages as well."

## **GOOD INTENTIONS OR GOOD ON YOUR WORD?**

Let's be intentional.

"I used to believe that prayer changes things, but now I know that prayer changes us, and we change things," said St. Teresa of Calcutta.

*continue...*





# SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY

(SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER)

## First Reading: Acts 5:12-16

Many signs and wonders were done at the hands of the apostles. Many hoped for Peter's shadow to fall upon them in hope for a cure for Christ has appointed Peter as the head of the early Church, and it was Peter's faith in Jesus that enabled him to cure the sick and cast out demons from unclean spirits.

## Responsorial: Psalm 118

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

## Second Reading: Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19

The Apostle John recognizes Christ in his visions as He is the First and the Last, the One who lives forever. "Do not be afraid."

## Gospel: John 20:19-31

Christ appears to the disciples. He breathes the Holy Spirit upon them. However, Thomas is not there. He doubts his friends, "Unless I see... and put my finger into the nail marks... and my hand into His side, I will not believe." A week later Christ appeared calling Thomas out. Thomas was submissive and reverently said "My Lord and My God!"

Jesus: "How blessed are those who have not seen but have believed." Have life in His name!

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Pope Francis, may he rejoice forever at the heavenly banquet, and for the Church, in our time of sorrow that we continue the good works of our beloved Pontiff, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That the peace of Christ, which he offered at once to all of his disciples, may take root in our hearts of leaders around the world, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all who are suffering from chronic illness, whether physical or mental, may they find comfort in the healing presence of God, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all who have fallen away from the Church, through the Divine Mercy may the Holy Spirit breathe new life in their hearts, minds, and souls, nurturing in them the desire to be in the presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, let us pray to the Lord. . .

*Lord hear our prayer*

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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).