



EASTER ALLELUIAS SOUND LOUD AND CLEAR.

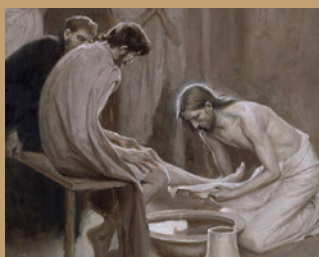
We have good news to share with the world: there truly is something new under the sun: God has united Himself to human beings and a man has risen from the dead, promising to share his new life with us.

In hope we were saved,
says St. Paul [Romans 8:24].

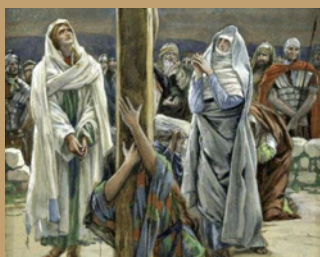
Let this hope in Christ buoy you up and lead you to glory!

~ Bishop Mark E. Brennan

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HOLY THURSDAY

Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14

Psalm 116

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-15

THE NIGHT HE WAS BETRAYED

As dusk descends upon us, we enter the Paschal Triduum.

On Holy Thursday, Jesus gave us the gift of the Eucharist the source and summit of our life as Christians. On this same night he also gave us the gift of the priesthood with an act of selfless love, getting down on His knees to wash the feet of each apostle. He did this with the humility of a compassionate servant, selflessness, wanting nothing in return. He was serving them as He wanted them to serve others. The commandment given to our first priests - live like Christ's example and be a servant to all people.

Gathered for the Passover meal, Jesus transforms the unleavened bread and wine to His own Body and Blood - the first Eucharist.

However, this profound moment of great love, cemented Judas' choice to betray Jesus.



Before the meal, evil, greed, and darkness had taken over Judas Iscariot.

Jesus knew Judas' wickedness. Without naming him during the washing of the feet, Jesus said, "Not all of you are clean."

The Gospels of Matthew and John, Chapters 26 and 12 respectively, give us a glimpse of Judas' deceitfulness, when he chastised Mary for taking a liter of perfumed oil to anoint the feet of Jesus, scowling, "Why was this oil not sold for three hundred days' wages and given to the poor?"

The Apostle John wrote, Judas did not care about the poor more than he cared about the money the oil would have brought in, "because he was a thief and held the money bag and (would) steal the contributions."

Let us be mindful of this night everyday of our lives. Be a disciple of Christ and listen as Jesus tells us, "Love one another as I love you. (John 15:12)."

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

GOOD FRIDAY

Isaiah 52:13–53:12

He himself was wounded for our sins.

Psalm 31

Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9

THE PASSION OF THE LORD THE HOUR OF MERCY

Editor's note: The following was written by Joyce Bibey for our 2023 Diocesan Eucharistic Congresses – a meditation on The Passion of the Lord for the Redemption of the World – inspired by the St. Ignatius way.

Let's put ourselves in the scene - the Passion of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Take a deep breath in, hold for three seconds.

Slowly exhale and begin rhythmic calm breaths. . .

We are there.

Golgotha.

Making our way to the crest of the hill, we move closer to the Cross.

It's almost 3 pm.

We see the Blessed Mother collapsed in the arms of the Apostle John, and Mary Magdalene pounding the ground. Her wailing suffocates any other sound.

No words can describe their absolute helplessness, sorrow, and agony.

Our feet take us closer to the Cross.

Looking up in shame and desperation, we fall hard to our knees.

Our hands catch us as we fall forward - fingernails clawing and scraping into the mud and fragments of rock.

As we lift our heads, gusts of wind - strong and powerful - make the pouring rain sting our faces.

Lightning unnervingly silhouettes the Cross.

Thunder shakes the ground, vibrating through our veins.

Then we realize the Blood of Christ is falling down upon us.

Uncontrollably sobbing, our hearts are pounding in our ears and out of our chests.

This! We realize this is what Jesus did for us - for all of us.

Our spitefulness ripped His skin;

our lack of effort pierced His head with jagged thorns;

our grudges and unwillingness to forgive weighted His Cross;

our selfish will made him fall;

our habitual sins nailed his right hand to the cross. . . then his left, and with great force. . . his feet.

As we are hunched, almost hiding, we hear him say, "It is finished" and dropped his head,

Startled, taking our breath away, we witness the hateful insult of our inflated ego and lack of empathy thrust a sword into His side.

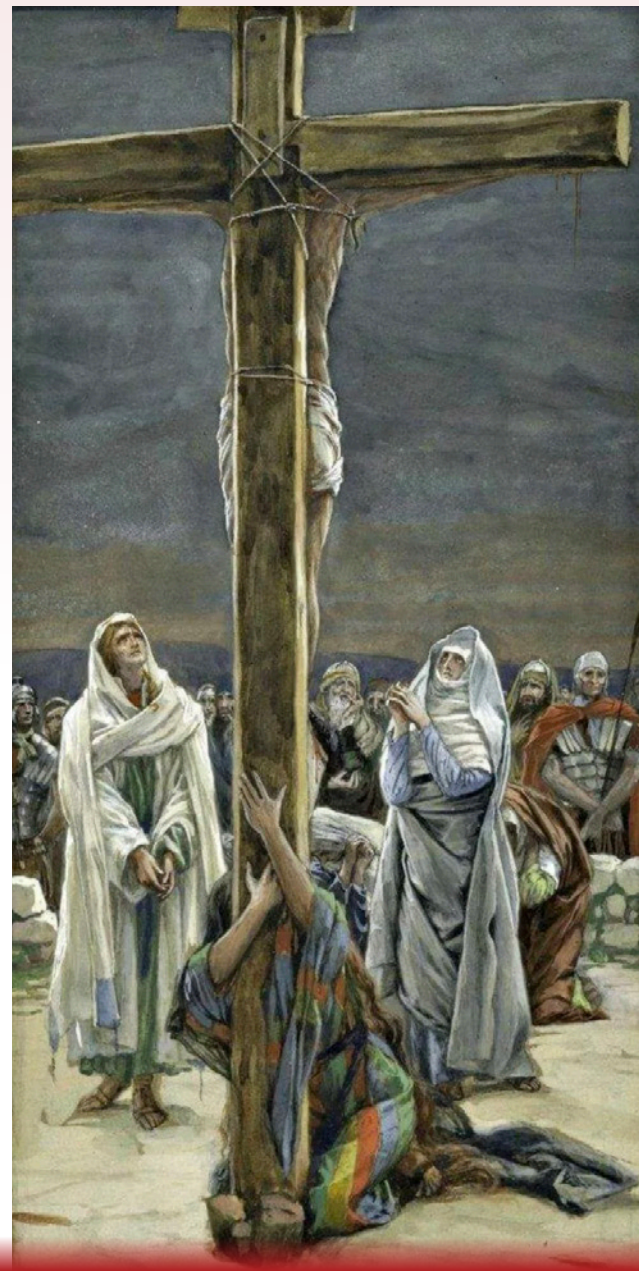
The earth quaked and boulders split.

The centurion raised his eyes to Christ, "Truly, this was the Son of God!"

We adore You, oh, Christ, and we praise You.

Because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)





OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

1311 BYRON STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 230
WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA 26003

Dear brothers and sisters in faith,

In the Book of Ecclesiastes, the author Qoheleth says: *What has been, that will be; what has been done, that will be done. There is nothing new under the sun* [1:9]. But Qoheleth's perspective awaited the illumination of Easter.

When a dead man rises to a new kind of life in which he can no longer suffer or die, that is something truly new. Jesus' resurrection from the dead reveals that eternal life for human beings is not an empty hope but a reality. Just as he rose by the divine power in him, so our dead bodies will rise to new life when Christ returns in glory. Joined once again to our immortal souls, our bodies, too, shall enjoy the blessings God has prepared for us in heaven. Qoheleth's faith in God was real but imperfect. Now in heaven, he knows the full truth.

Troubles abound in our world and we must endure much suffering but we should remember that a bright future awaits us. The newness of life God wills for us will finally prevail. Reflect on St. Teresa of Avila's words: "Let nothing disturb you. Let nothing frighten you. All things are passing; God never changes. Patience obtains all things. Whoever has God lacks nothing; God alone suffices."

As we celebrate Christ's victory over sin and death, let's keep strong our confidence in God. He has done something absolutely new: He gave immortal life to a mortal man. That mortal man, God's own Son, died and rose to share his new life with us. We can face the struggles of life with the patience of St. Teresa because God will uphold us and, when all is accomplished, He will raise us up to the fullness of life. Christ has risen and so shall we!

Sincerely in Christ,

+Mark E. Brennan

Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

50 DAYS OF EASTER JOY

CELEBRATE, UNITE, AND SERVE UNTIL PENTECOST

Let's celebrate. . . for 50 days!

As we sing our Alleluias loud and clear this Easter, walk with a spring in your step as we journey through Eastertide – the 50 days from now to the feast of Pentecost, May 24th.

Let your heart and mind be present each day of the Easter Season by taking heed to Christ's call to unite, serve, and love one another.

Celebrate your faith more fully.

Be alert and fully alive as we celebrate significant moments each Sunday within these 50 days including:

Divine Mercy Sunday (Institution of Sacrament of Reconciliation)

The Road to Emmaus (Recognize the Risen Lord)

Christ the Good Shepherd (Listen to Christ's voice)

The New Commandment (Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life)

Preparation for Pentecost (Abide in Christ's love)

Pentecost (The birth of the Church)

As we walk this journey stay focused on these words by the beloved St. Teresa of Avila:

“Christ has no body now on earth, but yours,

no hands but yours,

no feet but yours.

Yours are the eyes through which is to look out Christ's compassion to the world;

Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good;

Yours are the hands with which he is to bless men now.

Amen.”





A Century of Faith

Cathedral of St. Joseph Marks 100 Years as The Heart of the Diocese

As the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Cathedral of St. Joseph, it marks not just the passing of time, but a century of faith in a sacred space designed to teach, inspire, and reveal the presence of God.

Bishop Mark E. Brennan will celebrate the Anniversary Mass at 5 pm, Tuesday, April 21. He will be joined by visiting bishops, as well as priests, deacons, religious, and lay faithful from throughout the Diocese.

Thanks to ongoing renovations to its structure, it stands as it was intended to be – a divine House of God, where stone, light, and sacred art come together to draw every soul who enters a little closer to heaven.

“There are Cathedrals in the country larger and more expensive, but St. Joseph’s Cathedral in Wheeling, according to expert judgement, is the most beautifully proportioned and most artistically executed of all,” stated the souvenir guide of Saint Joseph Cathedral, from the consecration celebrations on April 21, 1926.



The present cathedral is the second to be located on the site. The first was originally called St. James Church, built in 1847 under the direction of Bishop of Richmond, Richard Vincent Whelan. It became a cathedral and Whelan the first bishop of Wheeling, Virginia, when the Diocese of

Wheeling was established in 1850 by Blessed Pope Pius IX. Whelan successfully petitioned the Holy See to approve the name of the cathedral be changed. So, in 1872 it and the diocese would be under the patronage of St. Joseph, Guardian of the Redeemer, the perfect model of Christian living, Bishop Whelan would say.

Bishop Patrick Donahue, who before his death in 1922, declared the need for the severely deteriorating

St. Joseph Cathedral to be razed and rebuilt. As fate would have it a year later in 1923, a fire devastated the cathedral. This damage and age of the building made it unsalvageable.



The Fourth Bishop of Wheeling, John J. Swint, would now oversee the construction of a new church for the growing diocese to “stand for hundreds of years, to be a beautiful legacy. A church, to be a real church, must not only conform to the material requirements, but it must have a character, a certain spirit or soul.”

Bishop Swint had a vision for the cathedral inspired by his predecessors and pilgrimages to Europe.



*Edward Joseph Weber
Architect*

Bishop Swint entrusted a young but proven architect from Pittsburgh, Edward J. Weber, to take on the project. Weber was involved with every aspect of the design that went into the building. He had an impressive track record and was no stranger to the diocese.

Weber designed Immaculate Conception Church in Clarksburg and Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Bluefield. Both have celebrated their 100th anniversaries in 1925, and 1924 respectively.

Weber was indeed an artist grounded in his Catholic faith and his projects reflected this.

All are not poets who can sing like David, nor writers like St. Thomas of Aquin; theirs was one way of glorifying God, but other ways are at hand and every person, no matter how humble, can worship the Lord with artistic churches by cultivating a desire for them and making the effort to obtain them. Let us then - all of us who are really interested - make an effort for better church architecture; let us encourage men of talent to make this a life-work and, like the bishops, kings and builders of Medieval times, let us patronize those who

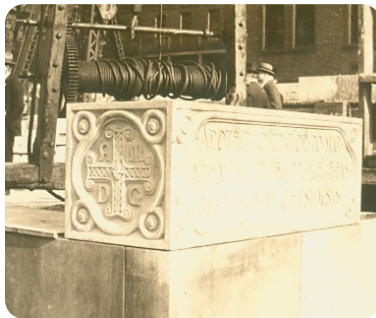
would clothe in beauty of form and color the house of divine worship. -Edward Joseph Weber



The Diocese of Wheeling's cathedral was designed in the Lombard-Romanesque style with easily recognizable round arch dome. This style was guided by Bishop Swint reminiscent of the grand cathedrals he admired in Italy, particularly the Santa Maria del Fiore in Florence.

As in tradition of the early Church, Bishop Swint and Weber collaborated to bring to life a cathedral to teach, inspire, and symbolize the Catholic faith and the reality of heaven. It is after all the house of God created for His glory. The whole project would cost about \$500,000. The floorplan is in the shape of the Cross. The limestone exterior was quarried in Indiana. The interior marble is from Italy, Greece, Spain, and France, specifically rose tavernelle, botticino, jasper, and Belgian black among others, specifically selected by Weber.

In 1924, Bishop Swint placed the cornerstone for the present-day cathedral, which is etched with "AMDG" - Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam (For the greater glory of God).



The general contractor for the job was R.R. Kitchen Construction of Wheeling; the stone and wood carver, Frank Aretz of Pittsburgh; muralist was Felix. B. Lieftuchter, of Cincinnati; and the stained-glass artist was George W. Sotter of Bucks County, Pa.

Lieftuchter painted powerful visual and spiritual elements inside of the cathedral, focused on symbolism



over realism. Walking into the nave (main body of the church) faithful can feel as if they were walking towards Heaven with Christ's arms outstretched, drawing us close, surrounded by nine choirs of angels and saints - visual theology.



"The paintings blend perfectly (centering attention to) the apse mural - a monumental figure of Christ the *Cristus Pancreator* (Creator of all things) and reminds us of Psalm 9:8-9 - 'But the Lord sits enthroned forever,'" wrote Thomas W. Forrest in an April 25, 1983, thesis for Wheeling Jesuit College about the cathedral and medieval architecture.

"He is set up His throne for judgement," Forrest wrote. "He judges the world with justice; He governs the people with equity. He is not portrayed as the Divine Teacher, but rather as the Christ longing for His people, a judge yes, but a compassionate one."

He noted Sotter's stained-glass adds "divine order and glory" to the sacred atmosphere depicting scenes of the life of St. Joseph and the Old Testament foreshadowing Christ's life. When the sunlight shines through these works of art it brings in "a touch of heaven into God's House."

The Holy of Holies, the cathedral's sanctuary, is the most sacred space in the cathedral designed to give grace and beauty where Mass is celebrated and where the priest and faithful meet God in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.



The tabernacle bears the inscription “Ecce Panis Angelorum” (translated to Behold the Bread of Angels), a fitting statement for the “sacred heart of the cathedral,” Forrest wrote.

Forrest described Aretz’s carving work as a “sermon in stone.”

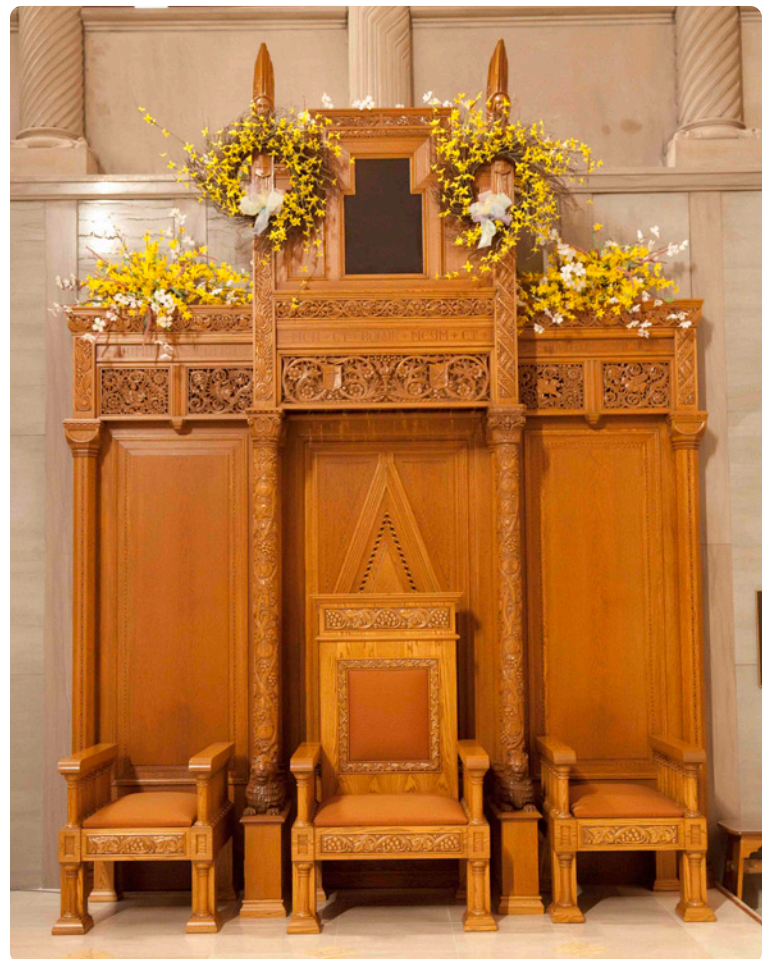
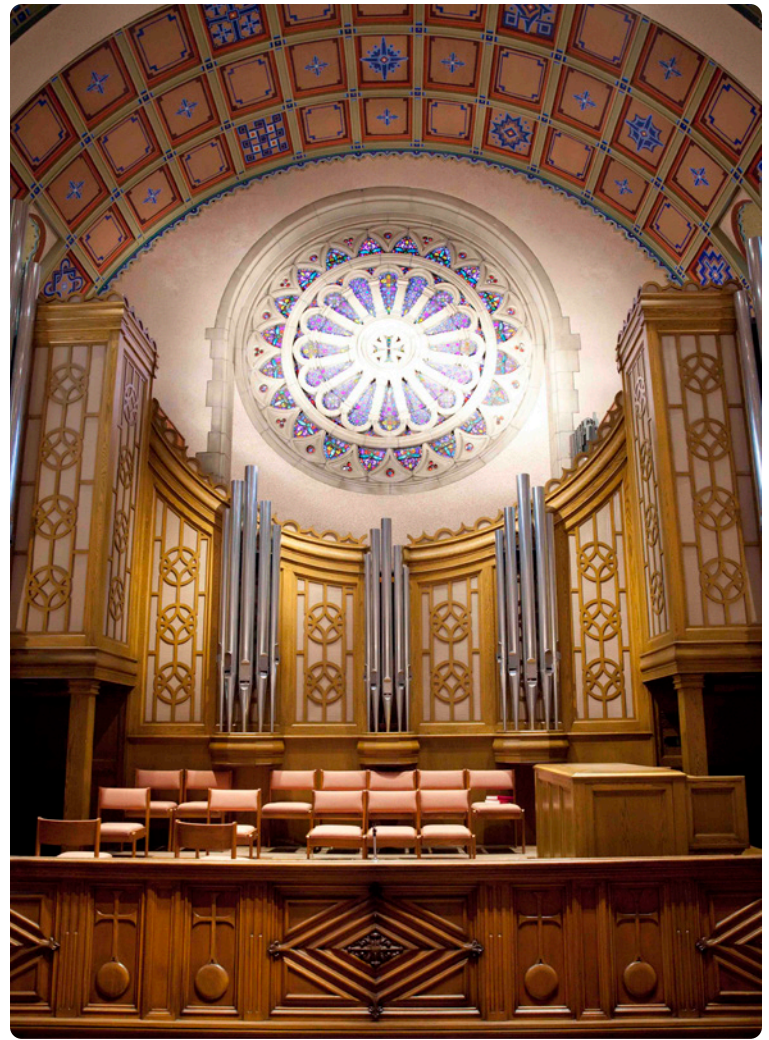
The cathedra, bishop’s chair, was carved by Aretz with symbols Saints Peter Paul, Christ’s Passion, and the symbols of the evangelists: Matthew, a winged man; Mark, a winged lion; Luke, a winged ox; and John, an eagle, emphasizing the bishop’s role as teacher of the Gospel. Inscribed is “Dominus Petra mea, et Robur meum, et Salvator meus,” translated is “The Lord is my rock, my strength, and my savior” (Psalm 18:3). The cathedra is what makes a church a cathedral to symbolize the office of bishop and his authority as a successor of the apostles for the local church (diocese).

Every inch is purposeful. Every detail to assure the Presence of God.

On April 21, 1926, the new Cathedral of St. Joseph was consecrated and stood as Bishop Swint would say, “symbolic of all the Catholic Church stands for” in West Virginia.



Today, as it did 100 years ago, the Cathedral of St. Joseph stands as a visible sign of faith that was built and maintained for the glory of God and as enduring as the spiritual heart of the true faithful within the diocese.





DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

Broadcast of Holy Week and Easter Masses

MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Holy Thursday | April 2

6:00 p.m. - Live Stream

PASSION OF THE LORD

Good Friday | April 3

3:00 p.m. - Live Stream

Closed Captioning Provided.

Easter Mass broadcast is sponsored by the Welty Corporation.



EASTER MASS

Sunday | April 5

10:30 a.m.

Streamed & Broadcasted Live

WVNS/FOX - Beckley/Bluefield

WOWK/CBS - Charleston/Huntington

WBOY/ABC - Clarksburg/Fairmont/Morgantown

WTRF/ABC - Wheeling/Northern Panhandle

All Live Streams at www.dwc.org/Mass

GOOD FRIDAY SPECIAL COLLECTION Aid for the Holy Land

At the request of the Holy Father, **ALL PARISHES IN OUR DIOCESE AND THE US** will hold a special collection on Good Friday for the Pontifical Collection for the Holy Land.

Funds are distributed at the direction of the Vatican's Congregation for the Oriental Churches. A portion of the funds are directly allocated to the educational and ecclesial projects in the Middle East. The rest of the funds collected in the United States support the ministries and programs entrusted by the Holy See to the Holy Land Franciscans.

The Franciscans have served in the Holy Land for 800 years. The Franciscans that have the unique responsibility to care for the Holy Places and the Christians living there, including housing, medical assistance, and education regardless of religion or nationality. They also provide pastoral care for 65 sanctuaries and 24 parishes.

Apart from the Holy Land being the place where Jesus lived and worked, there are also Christians living and operating there amid the fear and destruction of war and terrorist acts.

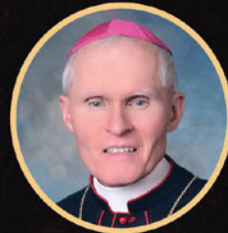




The Seven Last Words of Christ

**GOOD FRIDAY
3 APRIL 2026**

12:45 PM



Bishop Mark E. Brennan



Fr. Justin Golna



Fr. Daniel Heusel



Fr. Joseph Wiley



Fr. Carlos Melocoton



Fr. Pen Manikyalarao



Fr. John Soplinski

*Encounter the powerful words
of Jesus from the Cross
through music, prayer,
and reflection.*



THE Cathedral of St. Joseph

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April 25th

8:30 am - 4 pm

Saint John XXIII Pastoral Center
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DIOCESE OF
WHEELING-CHARLESTON

WOMEN'S DAY OF RECOLLECTION



MERCY AND TRUST- ENCOUNTERING OUR LORD IN DIVINE MERCY

Presented by the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy
(St. Faustina's Order)

*Mass, Talks, Adoration, Confession, Time for Personal Prayer
and Spiritual Conversations with the Sisters*

Saturday, April

18
2026


Mass and Rosary-8:30 AM

Check in- 9:30 AM

Day Ends at 3:00 PM

St. Joseph Catholic Church

Martinsburg, WV



\$15-CDA Member \$20- Nonmember. Lunch is included. Tickets will be available starting the weekend of March 14th. Please call the St. Joseph Parish Office (304)267-4893 by Friday, April 10th.

Space is Limited

*Sponsored by Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court 392
and the DWC Office of Faith Formation*



EASTER
THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

First Reading: Acts 10:34a, 37-43

“Everyone who believes in Him will receive forgiveness of sins through His name.”

Responsorial: Psalm 118

“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.”

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

St. Paul reminds us, “Seek what is above.” Keep our focus on the Risen Lord for we are an Easter People.

Gospel: John 20:1-9

The tomb was empty! John, “the disciple that Jesus loved”, arrived at the tomb first. When he went in – “he saw and believed.”

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, let us all rejoice in the risen Lord, today and all the days of our lives, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That the resurrection of our Lord may bring comfort to those who suffer, hope to those in despair, and new life to all those who are dying physically, mentally, or spiritually, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For the newest members of the Church, especially those here in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, that the good work the Lord has begun in them may continue to bear fruit, and we too are confident in the Church and the love of Christ like John, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those who have suffered loss and are alone on this Easter Sunday, that they may be comforted by the eternal spiritual bond they have with those they love, 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 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.