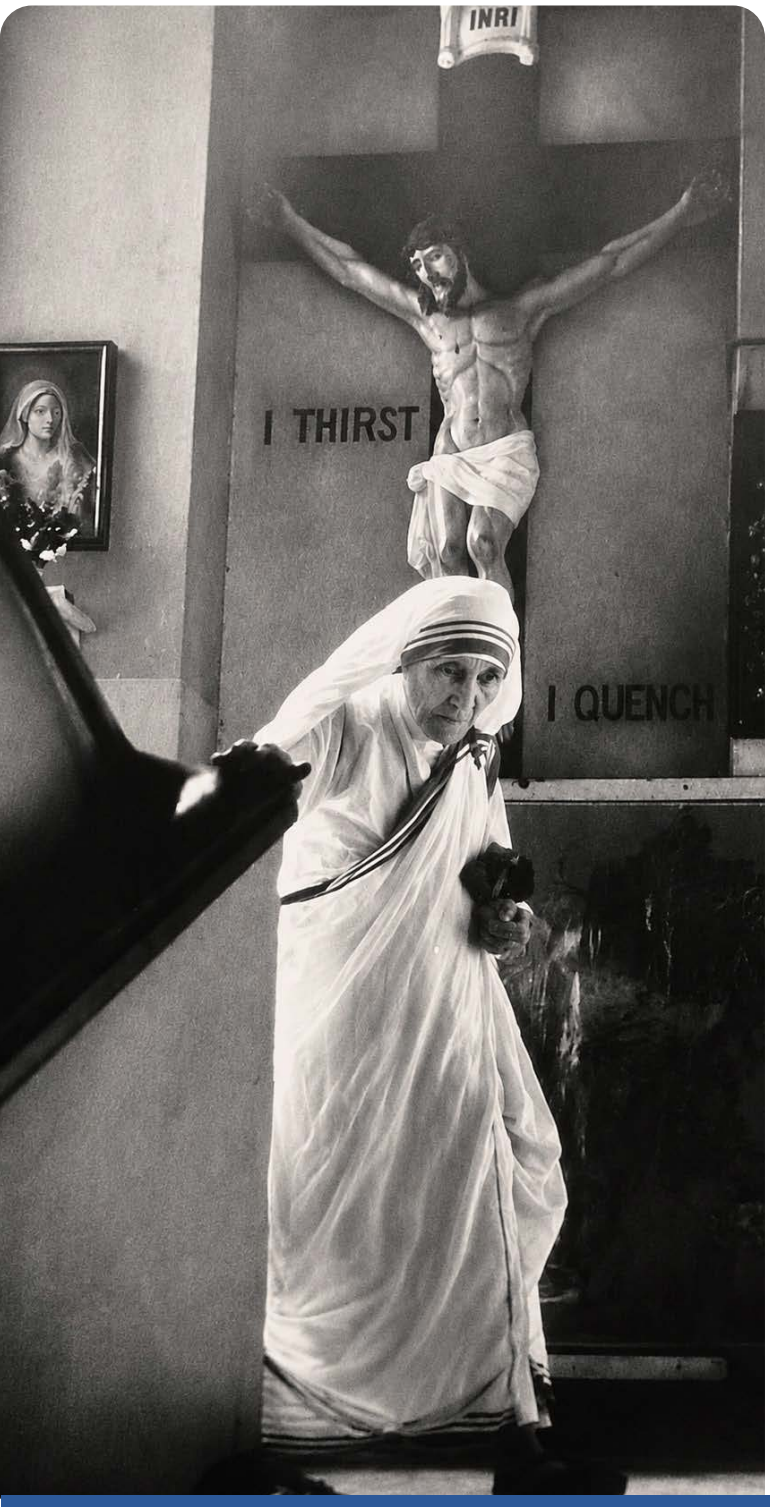
Faith IN WV
AUGUST 30, 2026
DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

Thirsting for God, Following Christ, Serving Others



Our thirst for God becomes authentic when it leads us to follow Christ, take up our cross, and recognize him in those who are most vulnerable.

Let this Sunday's readings and the life well lived by St. Teresa of Calcutta, whom we celebrate on Sept. 5th, motivate us to be our best selves, glorifying God.

The Psalm for this 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time is Psalm 63, "My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God."

The psalmist speaks of our thirst for God. It is a longing that leads us to God, because nothing on earth – possessions, wealth, title, honors – will never satisfy our hearts to truly be at peace.

Our "thirst" for God can't be just a longing or an emotion. We have to follow Christ in sacrificial love. Faith in action.

In the Gospel, Matthew (16:21-27), Jesus said we must "take up (our own) cross" and follow Him.

His Cross earned us salvation. Our cross is one of self-denial of things that keep us away from God and His Church. We carry our cross faithfully when we forgive others when it is difficult, serve without recognition, take care of the needy, and cling to Christ's Church even when we feel empty and lost.

Christ will never abandon us. Christ thirsts for us (John 19:28). He spoke it loud and clear from the Cross.

The photo featured with this story is of Saint Teresa on the stairway of the Missionaries of Charity Motherhouse in Calcutta (Kolkata, India). The wall behind her is intentional to spark action for Christ.

The words "I Thirst" from Christ are answered with "I quench" from those who are at the foot of the Cross.

In her own words she described, "We have these words in every chapel of the MCs (around the world) to remind us of what an MC is here for: to quench the thirst of Jesus for souls, for love, for kindness, for compassion, for delicate love."

When we care for the poor and needy, recognizing their God-given dignity, we are caring for Christ. In others we encounter Christ's love.

In Matthew 25:40 Jesus teaches the Works of Mercy, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Christ still thirsts.

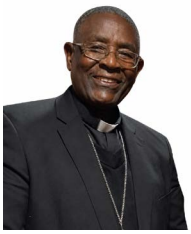
Let us be alert. He will place Himself on our path today and every day, so that we might help quench His thirst.

A FaithInWV Series ~ Part Two:

A Welcome Remembered

International guests reflect on historical day, our new shepherd, and the WV welcome.

Editor's note: "A Welcome Remembered" is FaithInWV Q&A series presented to celebrate our shepherd and reinforce the joy when we the faithful of WV mirror Christ's love for all. With 29 dioceses represented from across the country, including Washington, DC., NYC, Boston, San Diego, Orlando, Palm Beach, and Kalamazoo; and the globe, including El Salvador, Albania, Guatemala, and the Virgin Islands the Installation Mass for Bishop Evelio Menjívar-Ayala was a glimpse of his friendships, vocation, and mission to let others see Christ in you as, he has stated, "we walk this journey together."



West Virginia is a "True Home" for Its New Shepherd!
-Bishop Jerome Feudjio

Most Rev. Jerome Feudjio, Bishop of the Diocese of St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands traveled to West Virginia for Bishop Evelio Menjívar-Ayala's installation, and is happy to share his experience firsthand – a front row seat to watch and feel the joy, warmth, and enthusiasm of the faithful as we welcomed our new shepherd and so many honored guests.

Bishop Feudjio was born in Cameroon, and became the first African-born Bishop in the United States in 2021.

Why was it so important to be present for this historical moment?

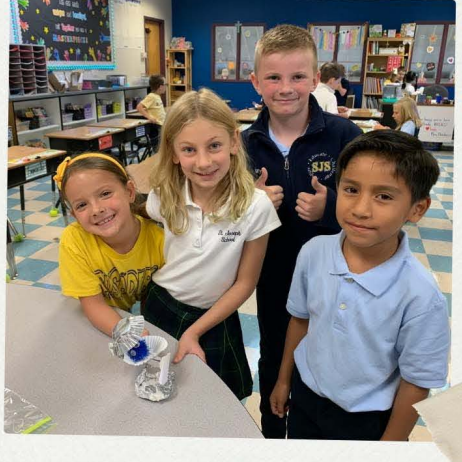
It was deeply important for me to be present, first because of our shared bond within the Ecclesiastical Province of Washington, D.C., where Bishop Evelio previously served as Auxiliary Bishop. Beyond that structural connection, his appointment carries profound personal and historical resonance for me. As the first Salvadoran-born bishop in the United States, he shares a unique milestone with my own journey as the first African-born bishop in the nation. Having both ministered at the Cathedral in Washington before taking on our respective episcopal roles, we have walked very similar paths. I know him to be a dedicated, compassionate shepherd, and being there to support a good brother as he begins this new chapter in West Virginia was a joyful duty.

Tell us about your visit to WV.

My time in West Virginia was a truly heartening experience. From the moment I arrived, I was deeply moved by how warm and welcoming everyone was, and it was wonderful to witness the incredible joy and enthusiasm with which the community embraced their new shepherd. I was especially impressed by the dedication of the faithful; the seamless celebration was a testament to the hard work and tireless spirit of so many generous volunteers. In fact, I felt so completely at home among the people of West Virginia that I found myself wanting to extend my stay just a little longer!

Insight to share with the faithful of WV?

I departed West Virginia with wonderful, lasting memories. It was my first time visiting, and it provided a beautiful opportunity to discover the state and connect with its people – from experiencing the gracious hospitality during our stay to feeling the deep warmth of the installation celebrations. While the diocese covers a vast geographical area with its own rich culture, I have no doubt that Bishop Evelio will find a true home here. The genuine support of the faithful, combined with his own apostolic enthusiasm, will surely allow him to shepherd this flock with abundant excitement, joy, and love.



Our Catholic Schools in WV are all back in session!

God bless our students, staff, volunteers, families, and supporters of Catholic education throughout our diocese.

Our students are blessed to learn not only in the classroom, gymnasium, and playground, but they also learn at Church, in adoration of the Eucharist, through Scripture, and by working hard to live and act like Christ taught!

Unite in Compassion

August Church Focus: Our Lady of Sorrows

The Church celebrates Sept. 15th as the Feast Day of Our Lady of Seven Dolors (Sorrows). Actually, the entire month in Catholic tradition is a time for us to mediate on the tremendous suffering Mary experienced that pierced her heart seven times.

It is not a moment to pity her, but a time to unite in compassion, grow in love, and motivate us toward holiness. From Mary "We learn to trust even when all hope seems gone," Pope St. John Paul II.

The Latin term "dolor" can be translated as "pain" or "ache." The devotion of the "The Seven Sorrows of Mary" is sometimes also referred as the "The Seven Dolors of Mary." The scriptural origin of this devotion is found in the gospel of Luke with the description of the presentation of Jesus in the Temple. The priest Simeon tells Mary: "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted and you yourself a sword will pierce so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." (Luke 2:34-35).

Mary was an eyewitness to the key moments of Jesus' life. Each moment of Jesus' suffering and passion deeply pierced Mary's motherly heart. Mary's accompaniment of her son culminated with her presence at the crucifixion. "Standing by the cross of Jesus was his mother…" (John 19:25)

The seven themes of the Sorrows of Mary include:

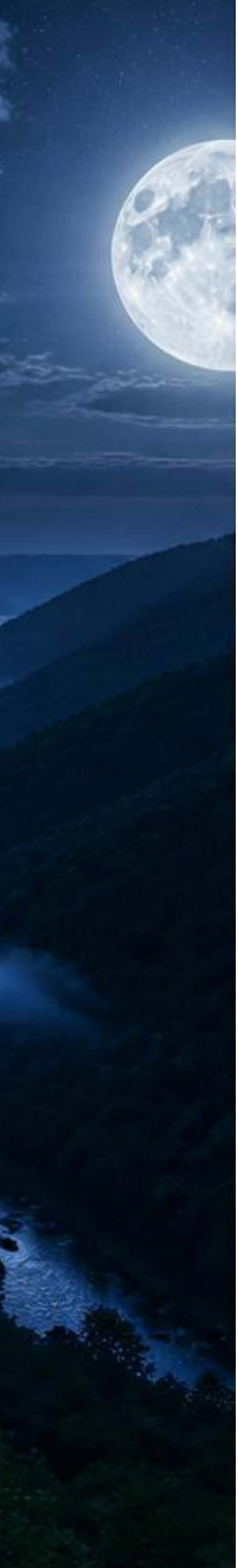
1. The prophecy of Simeon (Luke 2:25-35)
2. The flight into Egypt (Matthew 2:13-15)
3. Loss of the Child Jesus for three days (Luke 2:41-50)
4. Mary meets Jesus on his way to Calvary (Luke 23:27-31; John 19:17)
5. Crucifixion and death of Jesus (John 19:25-30)
6. The body of Jesus being taken from the Cross (Luke 23:50-54; John 19:31-37)
7. The burial of Jesus (Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42; Mark 15:40-47)

THE SEVEN SORROWS ROSARY

A devotion that dates back to the 14th century when Mary, Our Lady of Sorrows, appeared to St. Bridget of Sweden. The Blessed Mother revealed her sorrows in a rosary prayer to her.

Similar to the rosary, but as you pray you meditate on the seven sorrows. Further, instead of praying 10 Hail Marys between each, you pray seven between each sorrow.

Editor's note: This statue featured with this story stands inside Our Lady of Seven Dolors Mission Church on Chapel Hill Road in Triadelphia, Ohio County.



PRAISE GOD CREATOR OF ALL

Sept. 1st is World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

As we focus on the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation September 1st, recite and reflect on Psalm 148 the Hymn of All Creation to the Almighty Creator, calling all in heaven and on earth to sing praise be to God!

Hallelujah!
Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise him in the heights.
Praise him, all you his angels;
give praise, all you his hosts.
Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all shining stars.
Praise him, highest heavens,
you waters above the heavens.
Let them all praise the LORD's name;
for he commanded and they were created,
Assigned them their station forever,
set an order that will never change.
Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all the deeps of the sea;
Lightning and hail, snow and thick clouds,
storm wind that fulfills his command;
Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;
Animals wild and tame,
creatures that crawl and birds that fly;
Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all who govern on earth;
Young men and women too,
old and young alike.
Let them all praise the LORD's name,
for his name alone is exalted,
His majesty above earth and heaven.
He has lifted high the horn of his people;
to the praise of all his faithful,
the Israelites, the people near to him.
Hallelujah!

The Season of Creation runs from September 1 through October 4th, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

Pope Saint Gregory's Homily from the 6th Century Can Be Food for Our Journey

Honor the Memorial of Saint Gregory the Great on Sept. 3. This Pope, a doctor of the Church, is the patron saint for guitarists, musicians, students, and teachers.

Contemplate his words to strengthen our journey as Bishop Evelio Menjívar-Ayala calls us to go "forth in mission of humility without fear, knowing the Lord walks with us."

Born in the year 540, St. Gregory was pope from 590 to his death in 604. He founded several monasteries, one of which was dedicated to training church musicians. He is associated with the soulful melodies and simple Gregorian Chant. He considered himself even while pope as a "servant of the servants of God."

His feast day is not the day he died, but rather it is the day he became pope. He brought order to the life of the Church by organizing the liturgy and liturgical calendar.

Straightforward and forward thinking, Pope Saint Gregory the Great thoughtfully and lovingly challenged the faithful as a good shepherd should. In one of his homilies on Christ the Good Shepherd (Homily 14 in the published document Forty Gospel Homilies of Gregory the Great) he said:

"Ask yourselves whether you belong to his flock, whether you know him, whether the light of his truth shines in your minds.

I assure you that it is not by faith that you will come to know him, but by love; not by mere conviction, but by action. John the evangelist is my authority for this statement. He tells us that anyone who claims to know God without keeping his commandments is a liar.

Consequently, the Lord immediately adds: 'As the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep'.

Clearly, he means that laying down his life for his sheep gives evidence of his knowledge of the Father and the Father's knowledge of him. In other words, by the love with which he dies for his sheep he shows how greatly he loves his Father. Again he says: 'My sheep hear my voice, and I know them; they follow me, and I give them eternal life'. Shortly before this he had declared: 'If anyone enters the sheepfold through me, he shall be saved; he shall go freely in and out and shall find good pasture….

No matter what obstacles we encounter, we must not allow them to turn us aside from the joy of that heavenly feast.

Anyone who is determined to reach his destination is not deterred by the roughness of the road that leads to it…."

IMMERSED IN LIVING WATER

A Season of Creation Concert

Join us as we gather in this faith-filled concert celebrating the Season of Creation. We praise God's gift of creation and the life-giving waters that sustain all life. Through music and reflection, we give thanks for God's gift of water, renew our connection to creation, and deepen our commitment to caring for our common home.
All are welcome.

Date: September 21st, 2026
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Location: Mount St. Joseph Chapel
Cost: Free Will Offering

All Saints Choir is under the direction of Stephen Pishner. Stephen is a 1990 Graduate of WV Wesleyan, with a Bachelors in Music Education with an emphasis in Pipe Organ. He is the Director of Music and Liturgy in Bridgeport, WV and is a published composer with G. I. A. Publications. Stephen is a singer, keyboardist, composer and emerging recording artist and is best defined as an eclectic energetic musician. He also has a band called AMICI, that plays Classic Popular Top 40 music, as well as Country Music, Standards and Italian music. He can be heard on their most recent recording AMICI "Rockin' the Streets".

Chad Carter, a Wheeling native. Graduated summa cum laude from Wheeling Jesuit University in 1999 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History; in 2001, he graduated from WJU with a Masters in Business Administration.
In 2009, he became Chancellor of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. Since 1993, Chad has worked at various parishes as music director and organist.

Reserve your spot today:
Contact Anna Marie Troiani
Phone: 304-907-0171
Email: atroiani@csjoseph.org

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-9
Jeremiah tells God he is suffering. It is the cost of his vocation – people mocking him, laughing at him. The call from God is demanding, but he knows he can cry out to him and turn to him.

Responsorial: Psalm 63
"My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God."

Second Reading: Romans 12:1-2
Resist the pressures of society and discern the will of God.

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-27
Jesus tells his disciples he will go to Jerusalem, suffer, be killed, and "on the third day be raised." Peter, did not want to hear it. He didn't want others to either. Jesus chastises him for he was not listening to God's will. Jesus tells all to take up your cross and follow Him.

CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For Pope Leo XIV, Bishop Evelio Menjívar-Ayala, and our parish priests, may they discern the will of God as they serve, inspire, and teach us by example to accept our cross and follow Christ, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For world leaders, that they respect the people to worship and follow their faith – lovingly, peacefully, and joyfully, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those who educate students at every level about the Holy Trinity, creation, the Blessed Mother, and all the saints, enriching their own faith through the stories, Scripture, and servant leadership, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all carrying heavy crosses, may each find the Church the source of strength, hope, and example, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

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Liturgy of the Hours

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

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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.