Faith IN WV
JANUARY 18, 2026
DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

TOGETHER IN CHRIST

ONE BODY, ONE SPIRIT, ONE HOPE

Let this week be a reminder of our baptism – our bond of unity among all Christians.

January 18 marks the invitation to the ***Week of Prayer for Christian Unity***, observed around the world from January 18–25. Consider it a spiritual call for every baptized person to become more fully who God created us to be—together.

This year's theme for the week of prayer comes from St. Paul: "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling" (Ephesians 4:4). The Apostle Paul emphasizes the profound unity that binds the Church worldwide – rooted in the Holy Spirit as was ignited on the day of Pentecost. Each of us at our baptism through the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are empowered to listen to God's call, to speak and act of his love and mercy, and work together, transcending cultural boundaries.

That means Christian unity is more than "getting along." During this week, we ask Christ for deeper wisdom and understanding so we can learn to see every person as His beloved creation.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity traces back to 1908, when Christians first observed a dedicated season of prayer for unity in New York when it was first celebrated at a Franciscan Convent of the Protestant Episcopal Church. For more than a century, believers have returned to the same simple truth: the path to unity is not argument, but conversion of mind and heart.

So how do we live this week well? Read Scripture daily. Through the Bible, we encounter God's Word and the lessons Christ taught us — not to burden us, but to guide us to an everlasting life of joy and peace with Him.

Pray with intention. Prayer offered sincerely can soften our hearts and widen our mercy.

Listen for Christ. In quiet moments, ask: "Lord, what do You want me to do today?" Then choose it. Practice unity on purpose – with purpose. Unity begins at home: in patience, forgiveness, honesty, and humble service.

The week of prayer concludes on January 25, the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, when the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, will preside at Second Vespers for the solemnity prayerfully marking the end of this annual observance. The Church's unity grows from conversion—when we let Jesus change us, not just inform us.

On January 19, ***Martin Luther King Day***, we honor the life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who was a living example of leading by faith in courageous love and steadfast hope while working for justice and peace.

As he said, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that."

BLESSED LIVES TO TEACH US UNITY

As we unite in prayer for our nation and our world, look to the lives of saints and blessed souls the Church honors as an example of what the Holy Spirit can do with ordinary people who surrender to God.

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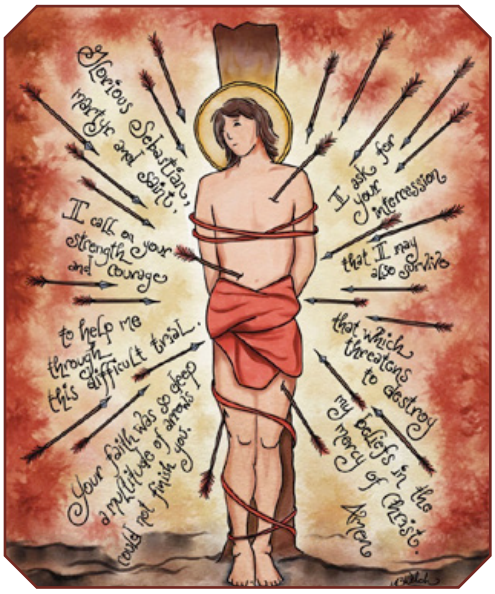
JANUARY 20

Saint Fabian, Pope and Martyr - Legend has it that one day in the mid 200s, a farmer needed to travel into Rome. Once he entered the city a dove as white as snow landed on top of his head. The clergy, who was gathering that day to elect a pope, saw this and took it as a sign from the Holy Spirit. That is all it took! Fabian was unanimously elected pope! He remained in that position for 14 years, dying a martyr in 250 A.D. St. Cyprian described Pope St. Fabian as an "incomparable" holy gentleman. His life reminds us that God often calls the unlikely—and gives them the grace to lead with holiness.

Saint Sebastian, Saint Sebastian was a Roman soldier in the third century and probably most known today as the patron saint of athletes. Athletic himself, Sebastian was dedicated to God, helping others and praying for and over them. Legend tells us that he healed a woman who could not speak by making a reverent Sign of the Cross over her. For his Christian beliefs St. Sebastian was tied to a tree and shot by archers countless times but wouldn't die. The assailants gave up. After he healed with the help of St. Irene he returned to publicly and proudly proclaim his Christianity and denounced the emperor for his cruelty to Christians. He was later beaten to death for his faith. St. Sebastian teaches boldness: real strength is fidelity.



St. Sebastian Art by Monica Welch of Dovetail Ink .

JANUARY 21

Saint Agnes, Patron of Young Girls - She was stunningly beautiful, and many wanted her hand in marriage. However, Agnes wanted nothing to do with them. Her faith was so much a part of who she was, she considered herself married to God. Legend says that the dejected men became angry and turned her into authorities for being Christian in an anti-Christian rule. She refused to deny her faith. Angels protected her from disgrace and unthinkable harm when she was drug through the streets and then sent to a brothel at the age of 12 or 13. Those who tried to attack her were made blind. The governor ultimately had her killed. Parents pray for her intercession for the protection of their children. St. Agnes shows that purity is not weakness—it is courageous love.

St. Agnes by Jessica Coe - The Living Heart Co.

JANUARY 23

Saint Vincent of Saragossa, Deacon and Martyr - He endured brutal torture rather than renounce Christ. His captures said they would set him free if he gave up the book of Scriptures but he refused. He died in prison in 304 A.D. His witness is a stern reminder that faith is not merely a comfort—it is a conviction. His endurance asks us: What do I cling to when life becomes difficult? His feast day is also celebrated on Jan. 22 in Spain and other parts of the world.

Saint Marianne Cope - A German nun who served as teacher and principal in New York. She also established two hospitals one in Utica the other Syracuse. Twenty years after entering religious life

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in the US she traveled to Hawaii to provide care for people with leprosy, who were otherwise left for dead. She promised all of her fellow sisters who worked for these "outcasts" they would not contract the disease. None did. She died in 1918. Her story is a clear picture of Christian unity: standing with those the world forgets.

Servant of God Sister Blandina Segale – Born on this day in 1850, Sister Blandina served in the American Southwest, helping open schools and hospitals in places that were often dangerous and unsettled. Her diary, At the End of the Santa Fe Trail, describes remarkable courage and compassion—she even faced down notorious figures like Billy the Kid and Geronimo with wisdom, common sense, and faith. Her life reminds us that holiness is not sheltered; it is brave. She is on the road to sainthood.

JANUARY 24

Saint Francis de Sales, Doctor of the Church – He was a bishop, spiritual guide, and master of bold and gentle holiness. He insisted that sainthood is not reserved for the few but offered to all who love God.

St. Francis preached caution to those who proclaim to be faithful, but enjoy finding fault in others, judge, and stir trouble. He said, "to be an angel in prayer and a beast in one's relations with people is to go lame on both legs."

As we awaken our own soul take the advice of St. Francis – especially as we walk the aisle to receive Christ in the Eucharist. The saint said every time we receive Him in the Eucharist we need to give thanks for all of our blessings received and those we will receive by His Grace.

St. Francis de Sales wrote, "When you have received Him, stir up your heart to do Him homage; speak to Him about your spiritual life, gazing upon Him in your soul where He is present for your happiness; welcome Him as warmly as possible; and behave outwardly in such a way that your actions may give proof to all of His Presence."

SO, WILL YOU ACCEPT THE INVITATION?

Take this week's call to prayer and unity seriously. Ask for a special grace: that we grow more united—at Mass, in our homes, in our ministries, and in the way we speak about and treat one another.

When the Church lives as one body and one Spirit, the world can see something it cannot manufacture: a love that is stronger than division, a hope that outlasts discouragement, and a peace that only Christ can give.

MARCH FOR LIFE

On Friday, January 23rd, let us keep all those participating in the March for Life close in prayer.

As a Church family let us never tire of praying for all human life from conception until natural death to be treated with dignity, compassion, and mercy.

SEMINARIAN JOSEPH DERICO INSTALLED AS LECTOR AT NORTH AMERICAN COLLEGE

Seminarian Joseph Derico was installed as a lector last week on January 11, with 31 of his fellow seminarians at the Pontifical North American College (NAC), in Rome, by His Eminence Fabio Cardinal Baggio at the Immaculate Conception Chapel.

At the rite Derico received the Holy Scriptures - the Word of God – from Cardinal Baggio as he said, "Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach. Take this book of holy Scripture and be faithful in handing on the word of God, so that it may grow strong in the hearts of his people."

Lectors are commissioned to proclaim the Word of God in the liturgical assembly and to instruct children and adults in the faith to prepare them to receive the sacraments.

Derico, who is from St. Patrick Church, Weston, WV, and his fellow seminarians, currently in their first year of theological formation for the priesthood, will have three additional years of theological, spiritual, and pastoral formation before being ordained to the priesthood in their home dioceses.

The Pontifical North American College serves as the American seminary in Rome. Founded in 1859 by Blessed Pius IX, the College has formed more than 5000 priests near the heart of the Church for service in dioceses around the United States, Canada, and Australia. The College strengthens the bonds between Rome and local Churches worldwide, and it allows its students a first-hand encounter of the Church's rich religious and cultural heritage.

We in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston are blessed to have two of our seminarians attending the NAC. Derico and Michael J. Tupta III, who is from the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston, and is in his second year at the NAC.

Photos with this article are from NAC Photo Services.

A Million Rosaries, One Intention – Pray for Life
A Mother's Day Weekend Invitation

Pledge now to participate in the Million Rosaries for Life campaign and spread the word.

On Mother's Day weekend, **May 8th, 9th, and 10th, 2026**, Catholics and people of goodwill across the world are being asked to unite in a simple, powerful act of faith: pray at least one Rosary each day for a single intention—"For the protection of unborn human persons and true respect for life from the moment of conception through natural death."

This is the heart of the Million Rosaries for Life campaign: a grassroots, multinational prayer effort that places Mary's prayer in the hands of ordinary believers and asks God to do what only grace can do—heal a wounded world, defend the vulnerable, and awaken hearts to the dignity of every human life.

For those in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, participation is as easy as making a pledge online:

Those in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston can pledge their Rosaries for the International Rosaries for Life at: DWC.ORG/ROSARIES-FOR-LIFE/

And just as importantly, Catholics everywhere are encouraged not only to pray—but to invite others to join, spreading the campaign through families, friend groups, parishes, and communities around the world.

In the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, this effort is coordinated by St. James the Greater parishioner and mother of Seminarian Donvito Cortese, Nancy Cortese, who has been involved in the prayer campaign for more than 15 years.

Her "yes" began simply: she heard about the truly lifesaving effort and approached her pastor about getting her parish involved. At the time, she was a member of St. Martin of Tours in Gaithersburg. "As fate would have it," her pastor was Monsignor

Bishop Brennan and Nancy Cortese
Photo by John Sherwood

Mark Brennan, now Bishop Mark Brennan! He welcomed the idea. Nancy posted sign-ups at both the parish and the parish school. More than 1,200 signed up that first year, she said.

Two years later, the Cortese family moved to the Eastern Panhandle, arriving in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston seven years before Bishop Mark. Yet her ministry for the Rosary for Life campaign remained the same: gather people to pray—one Rosary at a time.

The Million Rosaries for Life campaign was originally organized in Memphis by the St. Michael the Archangel Organization and its member Patrick Benedict as a way to unite in prayer for "the babies who cannot pray for rosary themselves."

As Cortese explains, "The sole purpose of the Saint Michael the Archangel Organization was to pray for an end to abortion." Benedict retired from the campaign in 2023, and that is when Cortese stepped in to carry on the annual weekend prayer campaign.

"Originally, his intention was 'For an end to the surgical and non-surgical killing of unborn human persons'," she said. "But by the time I volunteered to lead it in 2024, not only was abortion prevalent, but physician assisted suicide, gender surgeries, and more were also prevalent, so I felt that we should be praying for the respect of all human life the way God created us to be."

So, the intention changed to this fuller plea—one that speaks directly to today's spiritual battlefield:

"For the protection of unborn human persons and true respect for life from the moment of conception through natural death."

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Cortese's words are not theoretical. They come from a mother's heart, a parishioner's lived experience, and a Catholic's clear-eyed look at the world.

"Our world is suffering so badly," Cortese said. "Our youth, especially, are being attacked from all sides with a message that their life doesn't matter, that THEY don't matter." She points to the cultural message embedded in abortion—that life is disposable.

"We live in a society that says, 'we can help you commit suicide!'"

Her conclusion is stark—and deeply Catholic, rooted in the Old Testament, and reverent to the lessons that even the Blessed Mother Mary learned:

"Only prayer and fasting can defeat the demons that are telling the world human life doesn't matter," she said. "I truly believe that if we can get people all over the world to pray the Rosary for this intention, it would be the best weapon we have to battle the pain the world is suffering."

Act on this, she said.

"I can't do it alone - the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston can't do it alone! We need EVERY diocese in the US to commit to this one prayer campaign!"

This is not a campaign for money, travel, or specialized training. It asks for something far more basic—and more valuable: faithful prayer, offered in unity.

"And we aren't asking for a lot!" she emphasized. "Just pray at least one Rosary everyday May 8th through May 10th, for the protection of unborn human persons and true respect for life from the moment of conception through natural death. I truly believe we will see a difference if we can make this happen!"

One person can move a parish, she said.

If you have ever wondered whether your "small" contribution matters, Cortese's experience offers a resounding answer: "yes." It's simple.

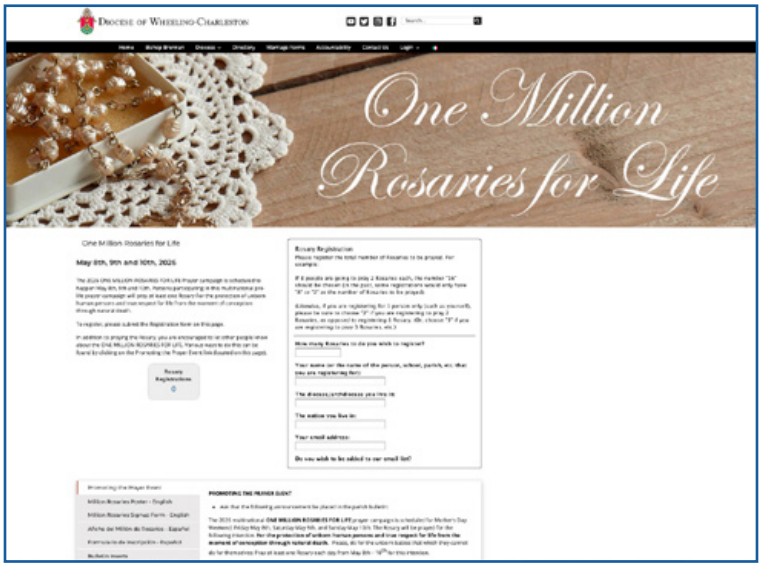
"At St. James, we ask the priest to announce it the weekend before Mother's Day weekend and some of us stand out in the Narthex with clipboards and signup sheets and collect pledges," she said. "We also put signup sheets with pens on the bulletin boards. We usually get at least 2000 rosaries pledged from just this one parish!"

And then she offers a vision that can scale to a million:

"I know we are a larger parish, at least for our Diocese, but I truly believe that if every parish would have just ONE PERSON champion this effort for their parish and get signups, then we can reach a million."

That "one person" might be you, she said.

Resources to share the campaign with your circles are available at dwc.org/rosaries-for-life/



Pastors and parishioners in or outside of WV can find bulletin announcements, pulpit announcements, posters, and details at the website Cortese coordinated with the diocese. It is, in her words, a grassroots effort—and that's how it should be: "a simple genuine show of active faith."

This campaign is designed to spread the way faith so often spreads best: personally. One invitation at a time. One family group chat. One parish announcement. One phone call to a friend in another state—or another country.

A million Rosaries begins the same way every Rosary begins: with one person picking up the beads, making the Sign of the Cross, and choosing to honor God.

Gather in Prayer for Life

As pilgrims from every corner of the country prepare to converge on Washington, D.C., for the March for Life, the Church invites the faithful to bring every life, every mother, every family, and every wound before the Lord. Let your heart of compassion meet a sincere mindfulness for prayer so God's mercy reaches mothers, fathers, children, and all who seek healing and the dignity of human life is honored.

The National Prayer Vigil for Life sponsored by the USCCB Pro-Life Secretariat, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, and The Catholic University of America Office of Campus Ministry will be held overnight January 22–23, 2026, from 9 pm to 8 am, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

The Vigil for Life has occurred annually since 1979 on the eve of the March for Life each January, when thousands of pilgrims from across the nation come together to pray for an end to abortion and a greater respect for all human life.

Prior to the Holy Hours Mass will be celebrated at 5 pm with the Most Reverend James Conley, Bishop of Lincoln, as celebrant and homilist. The vigil and Holy Hours are held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

Seminarians from Pope St. John Paul II will lead each holy hour. The diocese has three seminarians there: Dominick Beckman, of St. John University Parish, Morgantown; Thomas Lough, of the Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling; and Christopher Nelson, of St. James the Greater, Charles Town. The overnight vigil will be *livestreamed on* WWW.NATIONALSHRINE.ORG/MASS *for the full schedule go to:* WWW.NATIONALSHRINE.ORG/EVENT/2026-NATIONAL-PRAYER-VIGIL-FOR-LIFE/

WV Catholics' Plans to Honor March for Life

Here at home Catholics from across the state will journey to the March for Life. Others unable to attend this truly awesome march have planned other ways to unite in prayer.

As become tradition, St. John University Parish will be taking a large cohort to DC, welcoming young and old from all over the Clarksburg Vicariate to join them. Among the crew will be the Milinovich family from St. Patrick Church in Weston, Steve, Anna, Luke, Benjamin, and Samuel.

"It's amazing how many people.... get together with others who think the same as you do," Benjamin Milinovich said. "Some people view it as a sacrifice to go to DC, for me, that's part of the thrill. I like hearing the speeches (at the rally). It's a good cause and so many religious there."

Echoing the sentiment, Anna Milinovich said, "I go to show my support for the unborn. To get the laws to change. It's something I can do."

You can count on parishes in the Eastern Panhandle to also be present at the March for Life annual and this year is no exception. It's considered a "Weekend for Life".

"We are travelling with St. Joseph School, St. Joseph Parish, and members of St. Leo Parish," said Deacon Dave Galvin of his St. James the Greater Parish, Charles Town. "We will have Mass at 7:00 a.m. at St. James. We will then have a breakfast with a Pro-Life speaker, travel to Washington, D.C., and meet up with our local congressman who will join the March. This is just a portion of our Weekend for Life."

For the Northern Panhandle, Central Catholic High School students will lead the Pro-Life Rosary at 8 am, Friday, Jan. 23 at St. Michael Church. The parish will also have Eucharistic Adoration on Friday, Jan. 23 from 8 am to 5 pm to pray for unborn babies, their mothers, and special intentions. The Pro-Life Rosary will continue to be recited at the top of each hour.

Campus minister for CCHS, Kristy Riedel, said her students will also visit the Tomb of the Unborn Child and attend Mass on the campus of Franciscan University, Steubenville. According to the Franciscan University website the Tomb of the Unborn Child, set across from the Portiuncula Chapel, serves as a peaceful place to pray for infants in the womb, expectant mothers, those healing from abortion, and all the vulnerable of the world.

It is a constant reminder of the innumerable lives lost to abortion, as it contains the remains of seven aborted children. During the school year, the Franciscan University Students for Life Club prays a Rosary at the tomb on Wednesday evenings at 9:00 p.m.

Check with your local parish, Catholic school, or Catholic organization to see what events you can attend, support, or help with in conjunction for the national March for Life.

One Nation Under God

National Eucharistic Pilgrimage to Celebrate USA's 250th

In honor of America's 250th year, the 2026 National Eucharistic Pilgrimage will carry the theme One Nation Under God.

It's happening four months from now – a visible call to action to realign our lives, communities, and country under the sovereignty of Christ.

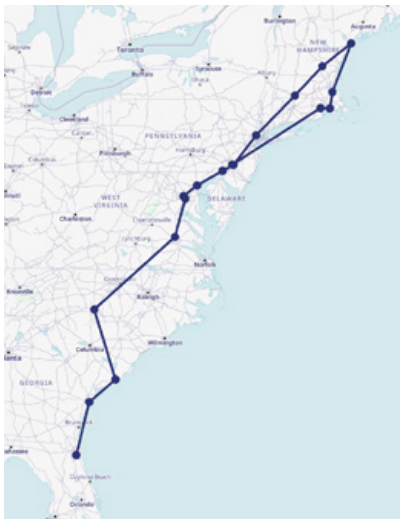
The Eucharistic Pilgrimage will begin in Florida on Memorial Day, May 25, and stretch along our country's eastern border, ending in Philadelphia on the weekend of July 4.

We can all participate through prayer, and celebrating that Jesus, present in the Eucharist, renews and heals the heart of our country, one soul at a time.

You're invited to join in person or in spirit, and offer prayers and sacrifices for the renewal of America.

The pilgrimage begins in St. Augustine, Florida, in honor of where the first Mass in our country was celebrated at the Our Lady of La Leche Shrine at Mission de Nombres. The route will continue up the Eastern Seaboard through most of the 13 original colonies, reaching as far north as New Hampshire and Maine. Stops will be made in the Archdiocese of Baltimore, our country's very first Catholic diocese, as well as the Archdiocese of Boston to visit significant national historical sites. The pilgrimage concludes over the 4th of July weekend in Philadelphia, in honor of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Perpetual Pilgrims will carry the Blessed Sacrament across the country, engaging the universality of the Church by stopping at parishes in both urban centers and rural communities. Their journey will pass by some of the most historic landmarks along the East Coast. To explore the stops along the St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Route check out the map and information at: WWW.EUCHARISTICPILGRIMAGE.ORG



Beauty That Endures

New Life for Sacred Art

By MEG H. PARTINGTON
Administrative Assistant at Saint Joseph School

MARTINSBURG, W.Va. - The images embedded in the stained glass being installed at St. Joseph Parish in Martinsburg not only illustrate significant events and people in the life of Christ but also allow the beauty of a church that no longer stands to inspire future generations.

The church at 225 S. Queen St. celebrated Epiphany on Jan. 3 and 4, its last Masses until late March in the sanctuary while a major renovation project takes place. The project, which will cost more than $600,000, includes replacing seven stained-glass windows, repainting the worship space and doing minor repairs to the pews.

In 2021, it was reported that the windows - installed in1969 - were leaking badly, said Deacon Patrick Michel, pastoral associate at St. Joseph Parish. Church leaders were told that the wooden frames around the windows were rotting, the polymer holding the glass together was deteriorating and that the structures would become dangerous within five years.

"We knew this was a project we couldn't kick down the road," said Brian Kaltenbaugh, director of music ministries for St. Joseph Parish and a member of the 12-member stained-glass window committee.

Coordinated by longtime St. Joseph parishioner Clarence E. Martin III, the committee started meeting in the spring of 2025 and gathered about every three weeks to discuss replacing some of the windows in the sanctuary. It was composed of men and women ranging in age from their 20s to 70s, Kaltenbaugh said.

Bids ranged from $125,000 to replace the windows with ones that were displayed in now-closed churches to $900,000 for new ones, Kaltenbaugh said. Some of the pricier options might only last 50 years, but reclaimed glass with aluminum channels mounted using modern techniques could last a century, so that was the route chosen, he said.

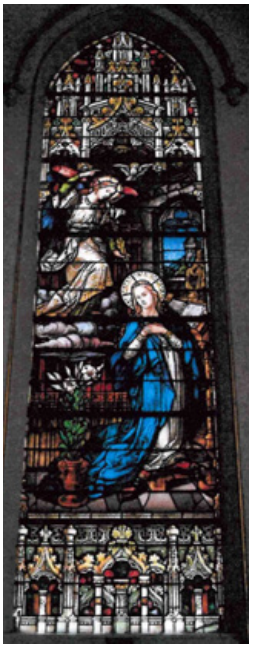
Selected for the project were Georgia-based King Richard's Liturgical Design & Contracting and Colorsmith Stained Glass Studio of Riverside, IL. They will restore the glass from St. Wendelin Church in South Pittsburgh, which closed in late 2023 and was demolished in June 2024. That parish was founded in 1873 and the building that was demolished was constructed in 1896, according to the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh. Michel said its traditional stained glass, designed by German craftsmen, is well suited for St. Joseph Parish, the cornerstone of which was laid in 1850 and which hosted its first Mass on Easter 1860.

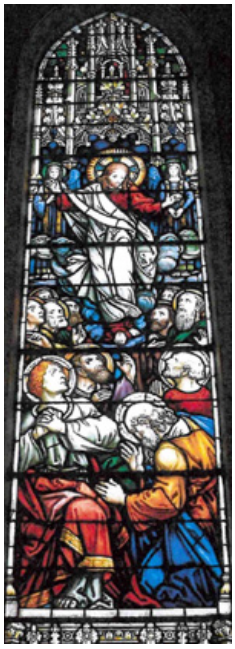
Kaltenbaugh said new windows were installed in the Martinsburg church in 1969. The original glass was sold, but one bearing the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary was given back to the church and has been in storage ever since. That piece will be placed in the sacristy.

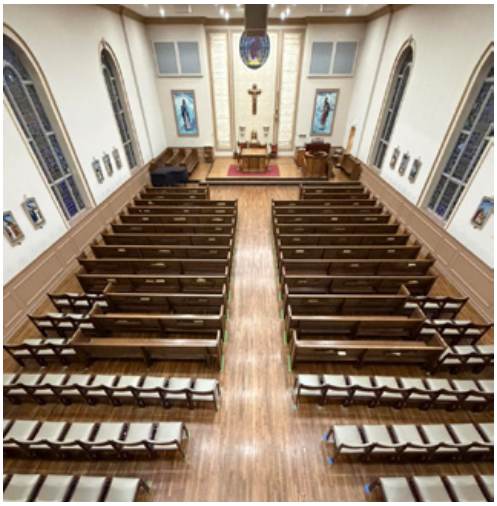
"It was almost a perfect fit," Kaltenbaugh said of the Mary window.

When considering what would replace the artistic glass in the sanctuary, the Rev. Thomas Gallagher, pastor, wanted to return to a traditional look.

"I thought it might be a great nod to our past to have more historic-looking windows," Gallagher said. "We're looking to make it a beautiful space mindful of the historicity of the church."







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He acknowledged the poignance of the scriptural quotes on the existing windows, including "My house shall be called a house of prayer" and "I live now, not I, but Christ lives in me," but said they could only inspire those who read English. The windows from St. Wendelin Church depict the wedding at Cana, Jesus in the temple, St. Anne with the Blessed Virgin Mary, the annunciation, the ascension, the Last Supper and Jesus presenting to St. Peter the keys to the kingdom. Gallagher said he hopes the wordless images communicate across all languages.

Using glass from another parish creates a sense of connection to the broader Church, Gallagher said.

"We cannot underestimate the power of beauty," Gallagher said. "The truth is good. The truth is beautiful. We want our worship space to be in line with what is true, good and beautiful."

Once the old glass is removed, any salvageable embedded images will be sold, as will blocks of glass, Kaltenbaugh said. Anything that is not usable or sold will be recycled, he said.

Before the multihued glass can be put in place, general contractor Worcester Eisenbrandt Inc., based in Baltimore, has to remove the present windows, repair the surrounding space, then put in new aluminum frames and storm windows, Michel said. Once the refurbished windows are installed, the sanctuary will be repainted by Brackens Painting LLC of Martinsburg. The color scheme for the walls represents the greens and browns often associated with St. Joseph, patron saint of the church, Gallagher said.

Michel said funds for the approximately $600,000 project were raised through donations, some of which reflected the value of portions of a window, while others were worth as much as the estimated $57,000 per-window cost.

To prepare for the significant undertaking, the church was closed Jan. 5 so decorations and items on the walls, such as the Stations of the Cross, could be removed. The pews were detached from the floor so they could be shifted to the middle of the church to make room for scaffolding around the windows.

The construction company started window demolition on Jan. 8.

On Jan. 10, weekend Masses started being held in the Saint Joseph School cafeteria and weekday Masses began being said at the chapel inside Mary's Refuge, a nearby maternity home. Baptisms will be done at the refuge, but weddings and funerals will be conducted at St. Leo Catholic Church in Inwood or Saint Bernadette Catholic Church in Hedgesville. Other liturgical events will be scheduled on a case-by-case basis.

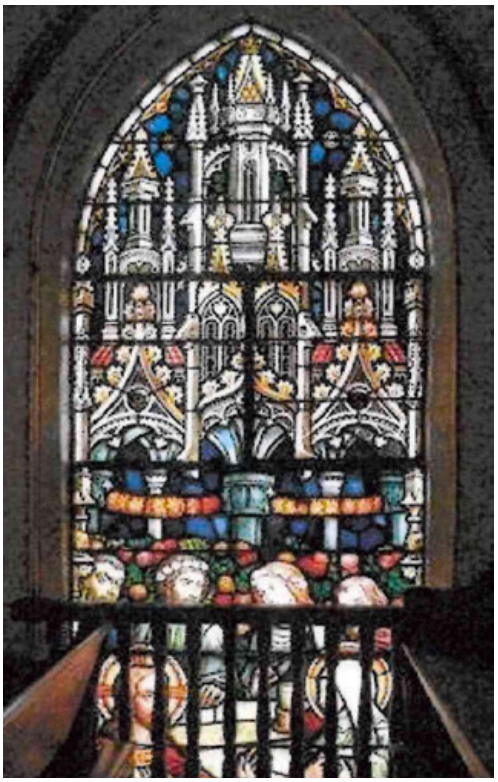
Gallagher and Kaltenbaugh expressed gratitude for the guidance and support of leaders of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, including Bishop Mark Brennan and John Reardon, director of the Office of Buildings and Properties, and to school Principal Maria Byrd and Maintenance Supervisor Waylon McGee for coordinating the logistics of having weekend Masses in the school's cafeteria.

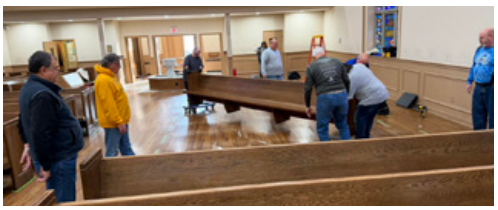
"I think this is a good opportunity for parishioners to visit their school," Byrd said. "We are honored to be the site for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and have made all necessary plans to accommodate this important recurring event for as long as it may be necessary."

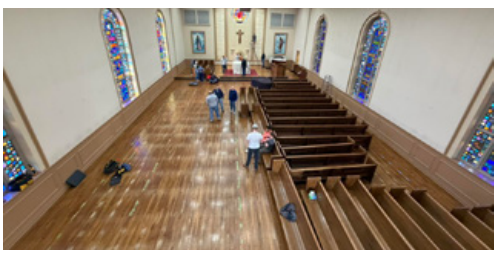
Church leaders hope the renovation and painting will be done so Palm Sunday Masses can be celebrated in the sanctuary on the weekend of March 28.

"I'm just relying on the prayers of everyone involved so we can have our project completed on time," Gallagher said.

Editor's note: The window photos with this article are by King Richard's Liturgical Design & Contracting and are from St. Wendelin Church, of South Pittsburgh, depicting the Wedding at Cana, Jesus in the Temple, St. Anne with the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Annunciation, the Ascension, the Last Supper, and Jesus presenting to St. Peter the Keys to the Kingdom. The photos of the interior of St. Joseph Church are by Brian Kaltenbaugh







Finding God in The Everyday

Annual Women's Retreat March 20-22

The Annual Women's Retreat at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center, 100 Hodges Road, Charleston, is set for March 20-22, with the theme Finding God in The Everyday.

In the busyness of life, it can be hard to recognize God's presence. When the world seems filled with violence, hate, and chaos, holding on to faith that God even exists can feel like a challenge. Yet, just like learning a sport or mastering a musical instrument, discovering God in the everyday takes practice, patience, and trust in your teachers and spiritual guides. God works through humanity—because Jesus is God made flesh.

If you want to know what's on God's heart, listen to Jesus through Scripture. Look for God revealed in creation. And most of all, open your ears and your heart to hear God calling you to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. This retreat invites you to pause, reflect, and rediscover how God is already at work in your daily life—right here, right now.

The keynote presenter this year is John Angotti, nationally honored singer-songwriter, speaker, and music missionary who uses his gift of song to awaken hearts and bring healing to communities.

Raised in WV and trained in music and theology, Angotti travels the world sharing the Gospel through concerts, retreats, and worship experiences that bridge tradition and contemporary sound.

Attendees will experience how his music invites honest reflection, emotional healing, and a deeper connection with God in everyday life.

The cost of the weekend: overnight guests single rooms $250; overnight double occupancy $210 per person; and commuters $125.

Register online at DWC.ORG/2026-WOMENS-RETREAT

For more information contact the center director Gerri Wright at gwright@dwc.org or call 304-552-3662.

Center for Dominican Studies
2025–26 Events

Celebrations of Dominican Saints

ODU and The Center for Dominican Studies invite students, faculty, staff, and community members to join us for our annual three-part series of Dominican Saints lectures. Please mark your calendars.

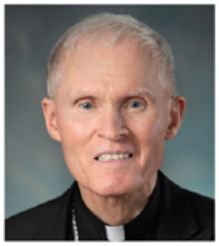
St. Albert the Great Lecture

Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2025 | 11 a.m.

Erskine Hall's Sr. Mary Andrew Matesich, OP Theatre

"Thinking Outside The Panel: How Solar Panel Orientation and Location Influence Power Production, The Local Environment and Economic Value"

Presented by Dr. Rydge Mulford



St. Thomas Aquinas Lecture

Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2026 | 11 a.m.

Erskine Hall's Sr. Mary Andrew Matesich, OP Theatre

"Today's Immigration: Friend or Foe?"

Presented by Bishop Mark Brennan

St. Catherine of Siena Lecture

Wednesday, April 29, 2026 | 3:30 p.m.

Sansbury Hall's Colonial Room

"We Each Have a Part to Play: Discerning Your Role in Promoting the Common Good"

Presented by Sr. Julia Walsh, FSPA

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DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

2026 Men's Discernment Retreat

WWW.WVPRIESTS.ORG

FEBRUARY 13 - FEBRUARY 15

PRIESTFIELD PASTORAL CENTER

4030 MIDDLEWAY PIKE, KEARNEYSVILLE, WV 25430

- **OPEN TO MEN 18 AND OLDER**
- **PRAY, SHARE MEALS, AND MEET WITH CURRENT WV SEMINARIANS**
- **HEAR TALKS ABOUT PRIESTLY LIFE AND DISCERNMENT**

Register Today!

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

The Prophet Isaiah refers to himself as God's servant commissioned to proclaim the Father's salvation to all the ends of the earth.

Responsorial: Psalm 40

"Here am I Lord; I come to do your will."

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

All "who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ – grace and peace to you from the Father.

Gospel: John 1:29-34

Behold, the Lamb of God – Listen for Christ's call and follow Him.

CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we may be a light to the nations and a sign of God's love and mercy for all human life from conception until natural death, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our nation as we celebrate Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr., Day, that we may be instruments of peace and unite in prayer for justice throughout our world for we are all God's children, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those who work to promote the dignity of every human life, that they may help move the minds and hearts of people around the world, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all of us in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, that we as the Church unite and respond willingly and joyfully to God's call whenever we hear it, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

WV CATHOLIC RADIO

BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOU

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Berkeley Springs	FM	107.9
Clarksburg-Bridgeport	FM	97.5
Dunbar - Charleston	AM	1450
Grafton - Clarksburg	AM	1190
Keyser - coming soon	FM	98.9
Montgomery - Beckley	FM	89.7
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

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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.