



TRUST IN GOD AND GO WHEREVER HE LEADS *SAINTS PETER & PAUL, PRAY FOR US*

Saints Peter and Paul are great examples of Christ's love in spite of denial, failures, and ignorance. They are more relatable than you think.

Peter was selfish, had doubts, and was arrogant. Paul at first was spiteful and an instigator mocking and persecuting the idea of the Messiah. However, Peter's journey and Paul's conversion are reminders that God, even when we are so off track, loves us and sees our great potential.

At Masses this weekend we celebrate the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul. Both were martyred for their love of Christ.

We know St. Peter as the leader of the apostles and the rock of the Church, chosen by Jesus. Peter witnessed the Transfiguration, the raising of a dead child to life, and the agony in Gethsemane. Think of him also as relatable saint – like us he had human weakness, even in the presence of Jesus. He is the apostle that declares at the Last Supper he would never deny Jesus, but then, denies him three times before the rooster crowed (Matthew 26:69-74). God knows we learn best from our failures.

When we think of St. Paul we think of a proud teacher of Christ and defender of the Church. However, he was quite the opposite at first. He was a fierce foe. He



was originally named Saul. His conversion came after he was stopped in his tracks. He experienced the Risen Lord on the road to Damascus. It is described for us in Acts chapter 9. While on the road, he and his group were suddenly surrounded by a bright beaming light from the heavens, causing him to fall to the ground. He heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why

do you persecute me?" Saul was blinded. Ananias, a true and loyal disciple of Christ, was summoned by God to go to Saul and lay his hands on him and heal him. Ananias protested, because he had heard of the heinous and evil things Saul had done to Christians. However, Ananias was obedient to God and went. He said, "Saul, my brother, the Lord has sent me, Jesus who appeared to you on the way by which you came, that you may regain your sight and be filled with the holy Spirit." He immediately regained his sight. At his baptism he took the name of Paul. We honor him as one of the most important and influential of all the saints through his letters and writings, which have influenced the growth of the Church and the faithful for centuries.

Let us learn from Saints Peter and Paul that Christ loves us no matter our failures and stubbornness, when we trust Him and teach others to love Him too.

THE FIRST CHURCH MARTYRS DIED FOR CHRIST AND US

They died horrific deaths. Some torn to pieces by wild beasts, others were coated with wax and lit on fire as torches in the emperor's gardens while he entertained guests, and still others were crucified like our Lord. These evil acts were the thrill of the anti-Christian Neronian empire and continued for through the first three centuries. However, no man or kingdom could extinguish the love of Christ.

We don't know their names, but their example has kept our Church alive.

On June 30th the Church honors the nameless first Martyrs of Christianity in the city of Rome. Saints Peter and Paul, who we celebrate at Mass this weekend, were among those courageous and intentional Christians.

It wasn't until the 313 AD, when Emperor Constantine the Great legalized Christianity (with the Edict of Milan).

Make time to reflect and praise God for these unnamed heroes of our faith

Praise be to God, we live in a country where many of our sacrifices are personal and known only to us and God. Let your sacrifices and fulfillment of holy accountability unite you with the souls we honor today.

Editor's note: The art "Christian Martyrs" depicts an emotional scene of the bodies of the Church's first martyrs who died in agony – thrown to wild beasts in a coliseum. The painting is by Catholic artist Gustave Dore of France, circa 1871 and features a sign of hope and divine intervention, angels descending from Heaven.



A CALL TO SOLIDARITY

It is with great sadness that we faced a painful and difficult flash flooding devastation in our diocese and state of West Virginia. It is now a very important time for us to hear the message of solidarity from our Bishop Mark Brennan, who has designated a special Diocesan-wide collection to help with the recovery efforts in Ohio and Marion Counties.

LET GOD BE VISIBLE AMONG US

SOLIDARITY bringing hope



I like many woke up on Sunday morning, June 15, not having any idea of the living nightmare that had occurred in our beautiful communities. I received an email that Very Rev. Carlos Melocoton, V.F., sent to all the members of the Wheeling Vicariate asking us to gather parishioners to not only pray, but also to start collecting cleaning materials, canned food, etc., to help those affected by the flooding.

My eyes, ears, and heart opened, as soon after, I became aware of all the loss of precious lives, wide-spread devastation, and unbelievable damage caused by this flood.

I live near and often visit patients and caregivers of Good Shepherd Nursing Home, Wheeling. I heard firsthand accounts of the tragedy as several employees from the nursing home live in the flash flooded areas. It is heartbreaking to hear of the surprising torrents which caused terrible damage to their homes, especially their basements, and their vehicles which some of them were

pulled away from their driveway or garages as if they were weightless.

On Monday, going to work at the Chancery office, we learned some of our co-workers and their immediate families are among those dealing with clean up and material losses. Then saw outside of the Ohio Valley the flooding that took place in Monongalia County, and the flash flood that ruined homes and properties in Marion County, displacing so many – young and old alike.

In the midst of all this sadness we can find hope. There is the silver lining - the outpouring of generosity not only from adults, but also from our youth, who together pulled up their sleeves to start giving their service, talents, and prayers to those in need.

In a recent Daily Meditation by Richard Rohr, he reminded us of the Catholic priest Henri Nouwen (1932-1996) who wrote of the joy we experience through the love of God:

“Joy is a gift that is there even when we are sorrowful, even when we are in pain, even when things are difficult in our lives. The joy that Jesus offers is a joy that exists in very, very difficult situations.”

Without a doubt, this is a very sad and difficult time. I like many have so many emotions and feelings. So let’s remind ourselves that God is visible among us. See and feel the sincere thoughtfulness of mankind right now. God must be very pleased with the outpouring of generosity. Let us continue to make a difference.

We are known as resilient people, together we can overcome.

In the Gospel we are reminded that “God loves the cheerful giver.” Let our joy not depend upon circumstances but let it depend on the “Lord - giver of all.”

Richard Rohr says, “When we can face our own painful situation, we will discover that hidden in the pain is the treasure—a joy that is there for us to experience here and now. It is very important that we get in touch with this. That is what the spiritual life—the life with God—is about. It is being in touch with that love that becomes joy in us. Underneath all our fluctuations is a deep solid divine stream that is called joy.”

I wish for you today to experience the joy of giving of yourself to those in need!

For those who lost their loved ones, our prayers and

sincere sympathy continue. For those who lost property, precious memories, and livelihood, we want you to know that we stand in solidarity with you and we hope and pray that you receive the help you need.

As you know our Bishop Mark Brennan is calling us to be “Christ for Others.” It’s through the help of one another that God is present in our midst.

It always gives me such joy when I help others, I hope you feel the same because we need each other, especially in these turbulent times when Mother Nature reminds us that we better take care of each other and our planet.

Let us be generous with our time and talents to help our brothers and sisters in need and at the same time be mindful of those who need financial support.

Let us embrace this challenge and better our lives and the lives of others - brothers and sisters in Christ.

Blessings,

Sister Martha Gomez, RGS
Delegate for Consecrated Life Office
Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

SAINTS OF THE WEEK

ST. JUNIPERO SERRA, PRAY FOR US!



Pray that great blessings fall upon all those discerning priesthood and religious life, and may others open their minds, hearts, and ears to the whispers of Christ.

July 1st is the official Memorial of St. Junipero Serra, a Franciscan missionary in Spain, Mexico, and California in the 1700s.

In his honor let us reverently pray the Serra prayer for vocations:

O God, Who wills not the death of a sinner, but rather that he be converted and live, grant we beseech You through the intercession of the Blessed Mary, ever Virgin, Saint Joseph, her spouse, Saint Junipero Serra, and all the saints, an increase of laborers for your Church, fellow laborers with Christ to spend and consume themselves for souls, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

Editor's note: the painting of St. Junipero Serra is by Indiana Catholic Mike McCarthy, who painted the commissioned work for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis' vocation office and prayer cards.

JULY 3RD HONOR ST. THOMAS



The infamous words “My Lord and My God,” were proclaimed by St. Thomas the Apostle, when he saw for himself the proof of Jesus’ resurrection.

As we are told in the bible (John 20:24-29) Thomas wasn’t with the other apostles when Jesus first appeared to the disciples after the Resurrection. When they told him, “We have seen the Lord,” Thomas stubbornly didn’t believe them, saying he needed to touch Jesus’ wounds. When Jesus presented himself to Thomas, He invited him to touch His hands, feet, and side.

Jesus used him as an example, saying, “Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”

Don’t doubt. Trust in the Lord, and when the priest elevates the consecrated the Eucharist, silently acclaim, “My Lord and My God.”

Let these words from St. Thomas, open your eyes to our God, overcoming any doubts you may have, similar to what St. Thomas experienced.

ST. ANTHONY ZACCARIA



Last year on our diocesan Facebook page we promoted the 40 Hours' Devotion held in both the Beckley Vicariate parishes and at St. Patrick's Church in Weston. The practice was originally pioneered by St. Anthony Zaccaria, in the early 1500s. We honor his feast day on July 5th.

Saint Anthony Zaccaria encouraged the faithful community to commit to 40 hours of continuous prayer before our Lord in the Eucharist at Adoration.

Additionally, is it St. Anthony Zaccaria who also began the practices of churches ringing their bells at 3 pm on Fridays in remembrance of Christ's passion.

Saint Anthony Zaccaria, eloquent preacher and tireless catechist, pray for us!

ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL



She was a Spanish queen who would rather pray, go to Mass, and serve the poor than live lavishly. On July 4th the Church honors her – St. Elizabeth of Portugal (1271-1336). She was the namesake of her great aunt, St. Elizabeth of Hungary. Both had hearts of gold, when it came to their love of Christ and living to serve others before self.

She was known for ending a heated battle between her husband and son. For that she earned the title, "Angel of Peace." The king was unfaithful to her several times. Despite his infidelity, she remained a respectful not resentful woman, accepting her stepchildren as her own. She is the patron saint for victims of adultery, widows, falsely accused and brides.

Her body was found incorrupt in 1912, appearing as if she were just sleeping.

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

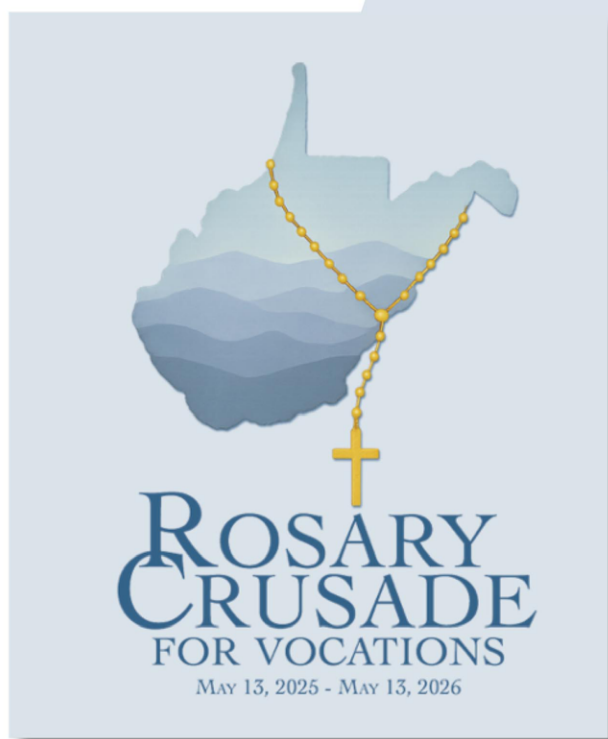
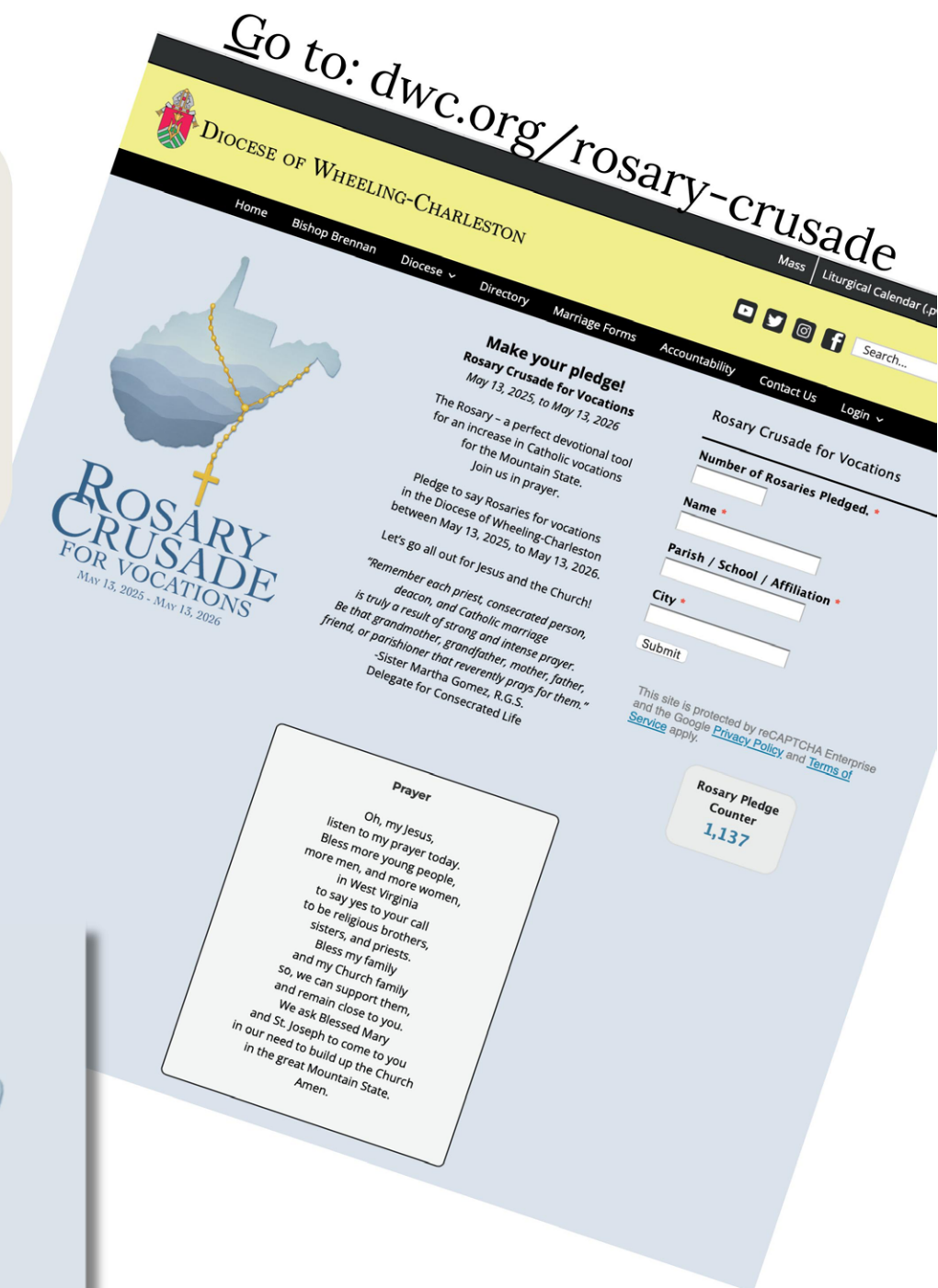
Through December 28, 2025, Catholics are invited to visit any and all of these locations to obtain a Plenary Indulgence by completing:

- **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

ROSARY CRUSADE FOR VOCATIONS IN WV

SCAN ME!



From May 13, 2025, to May 13, 2026, faithful around the world can join our Rosary Crusade for Vocations in WV.

PRAYER WORKS!

Step up for Jesus and His Church!

Pledge. Share. Pray.

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3. SELECT ST. JAMES THE GREATER

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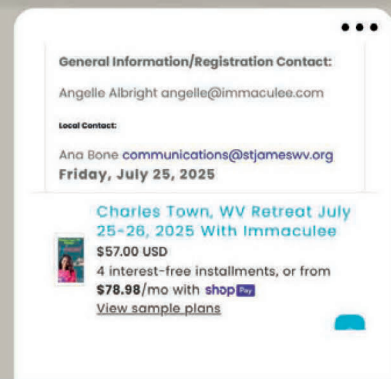
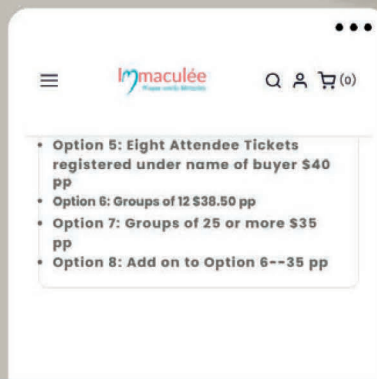
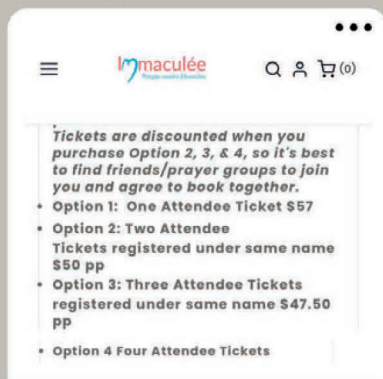
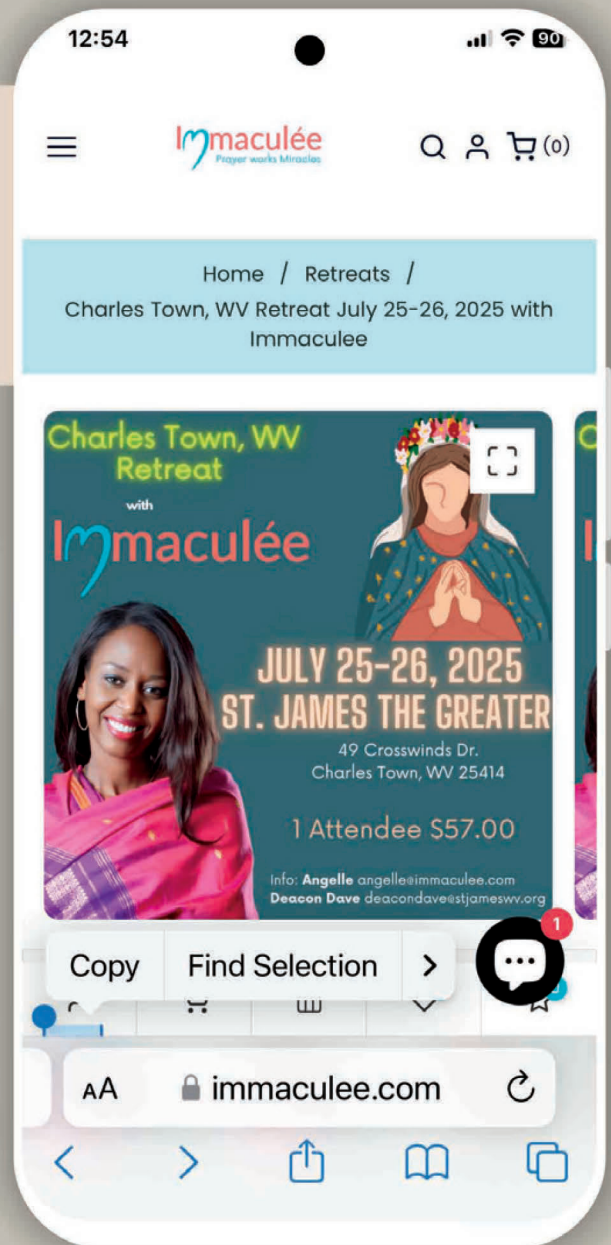
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THE SOLEMNITY OF
SAINTS PETER & PAUL

First Reading: Acts 12:1-11

The angel of the Lord rescues Peter from prison.

Responsorial: Psalm 34

"The angel of the Lord will rescue those who fear him."

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18

I have finished the race, Paul wrote to Timothy, has Paul awaited his execution.

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-19

Peter declares, Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that by acknowledging the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist we gain the strength and confidence to make sacrifices for others, giving of ourselves for those in need, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For elected leaders, that they may hear and respond to the cries of the hurting, lost, and hungry, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all who suffered on any and all levels from the flash flooding that recently tore through Ohio, Marion, and Monongalia counties, may they be comforted and feel the endless love of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For the Church family, that our participation in the Eucharist may steadily transform us into the body of Christ and the voice of His love, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

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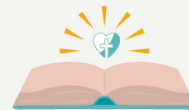
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Liturgy of the Hours
LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!

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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.