Faith IN WV
JUNE 7, 2026
DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

Behold Him

Christ Truly Present in the Eucharist

Be in the presence of Christ.

See Him with your own eyes in the tabernacle, the monstrance, or elevated host in the hands of a holy priest.

"Christ is truly present in the Eucharist.
It is not merely a symbol.
It is a reality of Jesus coming to us
under the appearance of bread and wine.
The Eucharist is nothing less than
Jesus Christ in person!"
-Bishop Mark Brennan

This weekend we the Church celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi - Latin for "the Body of Christ".

Let us renew our hearts. Don't take the Mass for granted. Don't miss out on what is happening before us or let it become so routine we lose our focus on the awesome, miraculous mystery.

St. John gives us the Bread of Life Discourse in John 6:22-71. Reread it in a quiet space to deepen our understanding as Bishop Brennan describes it as "the intense love that moves the Son of God to give himself to us as food for our journey of faith."

MAY 30, 2026

Ordination Highlights

FATHER CLIFTON MASTRAN & DEACON MICHAEL AIELLO

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston continues to celebrate the ordinations of Fr. Clifton Mastran and Deacon Michael Aiello.

FATHER CLIFTON MASTRAN

Vesting Fr. Clifton Mastran was Fr. Andy Gonzalo (Archdiocese of Washington, who encouraged his discernment), Msgr. William Fay (Pope St. John XXIII Seminary), and Fr. Sebastian Devasya our Co-Vicar of Clergy and pastor of St. Margaret Mary, Parkersburg.

Father Clifton was assigned to the Cathedral of St. Joseph and St. Alphonsus parishes.

DEACON MICHAEL AIELLO

Deacon Michael Aiello was vested with a stole and dalmatic worn by deacons at liturgies by his uncle and godfather, Deacon Michael Kawash. His summer assignment is at St. Michael Parish in Wheeling.

The Memorial of St. Barnabas - June 11.

Saint Barnabas is mentioned repeatedly with Saint Paul which indicates his importance and gives us a reference point of what his character may have been like.

A dedicated missionary enthusiastically sharing the Good News to evangelize the nations. His original name was Joseph (Acts 4:36), but he became known as Barnabas, which means "son of encouragement" further illuminating his personality.

What we know about him we learn by reading the Acts of the Apostles.

He sold his land and gave the money to the apostles for the Church (Acts 4:37)

The Apostles sent Barnabas as a disciple to share the Good News of Christ to the people in Antioch, because Barnabas was "a good man, filled with the Holy Spirit and faith". He continued to bring many people into the Church. It was here and during this time that the faithful were first called Christians (Acts 11:24-26).

He was commissioned to be a missionary by the Apostles (Acts 13).

He was considered as one who was most forgiving. When it was time to further the mission with Paul, Barnabas wanted to take Mark, a disciple who had deserted them before, but returned. Paul refused, but Barnabas gave the man the benefit of the doubt, and with Paul's confidence in Barnabas's missionary call, let the two take a separate path from his own (Acts 15:36-40).

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

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Sacred Heart of Jesus
Reveals His Love for Us All

"My Divine Heart is so passionately in love with humanity. . .." - Jesus to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in 1673.

Christ appeared before St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, a French nun, several times between 1673-1675. Each time he appeared he shared his love for us – a love that is not just words, but real and obvious, pouring out from His pierced Heart on the Cross.

These visions lead to the Feast Day of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which we celebrate on Friday, June 12th. It is always the Friday after Corpus Christi Sunday - the second Sunday after Pentecost.

The Church records references as early as the second century through St. Justin Martyr and in the 7th century by Pope Gregory the Great.

Both preached that John 19:34-35 is a metaphor for the divine graces that will forever flow from the heart of the crucified Jesus: "But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth—that you also may believe."

It was in 1765, when Pope Clement XIII named the feast day in France. However, it wasn't until 1856, when Pope Pius IX declared the feast day should be extended to the universal Church.

Pope Pius IX wrote, "(Jesus) showed His Heart to us bearing about it the symbols of the passion and displaying the flames of love, that from the one we might know the infinite malice of sin, and in the other we might admire the infinite charity of Our Redeemer, and so might have a more vehement hatred of sin, and make a more ardent return of love for His love."

Imagery of the Sacred Heart of Jesus:

- **Flames** - represent the infinite fire of love that Christ has for each soul.
- **Crown of Thorns** - "And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe". (John 19:2). Although Christ suffered the crown of thorns on His head, all that He suffered in the crucifixion He suffered in the depths of His Heart.
- **Wounded Heart** - the wound of the guard's sword is visible – the wound in which blood and water flowed. "Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out." (John 19:34). Both the water and blood are very symbolic to our Church - our faith – with the water of Baptism and the Blood of the Eucharist.
- **The Cross** - The cross at the top of the Heart seems dwarfed by the Heart and almost implanted at the top. St. Margaret Mary said, "The entire reality of the crucifixion derives its meaning from and cannot be understood apart from the Heart of Jesus." It is His Heart that supports the weight of the cross!"

Last year, Pope Leo XIV shared his prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus:

Lord, I come to your tender heart today,
to you who have words that set my heart ablaze,
to you who pour out compassion on the little ones and the poor,
on those who suffer, and on all human miseries.

I desire to know you more, to contemplate you in the Gospel,
to be with you and learn from you
and from the charity with which you allowed yourself
to be touched by all forms of poverty.

You showed us the Father's love by loving us without measure
with your divine and human heart.

Grant all your children the grace of encountering you.
Change, shape, and transform our plans,
so that we seek only you in every circumstance:
in prayer, in work, in encounters, and in our daily routine.

From this encounter, send us out on mission,
a mission of compassion for the world
in which you are the source from which all consolation flows.

Amen.

One Nation Under God

On the Eve of the Sacred Heart, June 11, the U.S. bishops will consecrate the United States of America to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, so we are truly One Nation Under God. The Consecration of our Nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus also proceeds the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. This formal act places our nation, our families, and our selves under the protection of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the fountain of mercy, love, and hope.

With the bishops around the country and with the Church in the US:

Let us pray,
For our Holy Father, Pope Leo.
That our American brother may have confidence
in our filial piety and support
as he shepherds the universal Church.
R. Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.

Let us pray for the people of other nations.
That our brothers and sisters throughout the world,
may come to know Christ's love and salvation
through our works of charity and evangelization.
R. Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.

Let us pray for the leaders of our country.
That the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness
may cause them to enshrine in law
the dignity of all human life,
protect the liberty of religious conscience,
and acknowledge that true happiness is found in God alone.
R. Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.

Let us pray for the people of our own nation.
That we may give justice to the orphan and widow, and befriend the immigrant,
so that by keeping the Lord's command to love one another,
we may overcome the vices of the wicked.
R. Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.

Let us pray for forgiveness and healing for the sins of our past.
That our nation, blessed by God, and espousing noble ideals,
may find justice, peace, and an end to strife,
caused by our nation's original sins of slavery and racism,
so that we may no longer be slaves to sin but friends of God.
R. Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.

Let us pray for the needs of our own community.
(insert your needs here)
R. Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.

Let us pray for those who have died.
May the witness of our forefathers' faith
inspire the citizens of this earthly domain
to seek God's eternal kingdom.
R. Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.

**Prayer intentions presented by the USCCB for the celebration of the bishops' Consecration of the United States to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 11 at the plenary assembly of the bishops.*

Immaculate Heart of Mary

The Immaculate Heart of Mary represents the most genuine, pure love the Blessed Mother has for God. Hers is the heart that felt both the greatest joys and harshest sorrows, but through it all she remained steadfast in faith.

The Church celebrates this memorial each year on the Saturday after the Solemnity of the Sacred Hart of Jesus.

Images of the Immaculate Heart of Mary are interpreted slightly different depending on the artist, but are based Luke 2:35, "(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed," and Luke 2:19, "But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart."

Some artists have the Blessed Mother's finger pointing to her heart, others have her holding her heart as if she is willing to give her heart to us, so we too fall in love with Jesus, as she helps bring our soul to him in heaven.

Flames coming from the heart reveal her heart is on fire for the love of God and all His creation, including each one of us!

White roses adorn the heart signifying purity, which can reference her Immaculate Conception and her being "Full of Grace" and ever-virgin.

The sword(s) through her heart reminds us of the piercing sadness she endured.

The rays of light around her heart bring glory to her heart just as was described in Revelation 12:1, "clothed with the sun" and the great light that came down from heaven at the Assumption of Mary.

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the heart is "the depths of one's being, where the person decides for or against God" (CCC 368).

O Immaculate Heart of Mary,

full of goodness, show your love towards us. Let the flame of your heart, O Mary, descend on all people. We love you immensely. Impress true love in our hearts so that we have a continuous desire for you. O Mary, gentle and humble of heart, remember us when we are in sin. You know that all men sin. Give us, by means of your Immaculate Heart, spiritual health. Let us always see the goodness of your motherly heart and may we be converted by means of the flame of your heart. Amen.

Actions Speak Louder than Words Find a Treasure in St. Anthony of Padua

June 13 is the Feast Day of St. Anthony of Padua, a great day to heed his advice, "Actions speak louder than words; let your words teach and actions speak."

Commonly known as the saint we turn to when something is lost, he was born Fernando Martins de Bulhoe and became a humble, but very influential priest.

You're blessed if you grew up in a household with so much love of Jesus and respect for the saints that the first thing you do when you need help is call upon the saints. Having that childlike trust and faith is not only priceless, but a good example of St. Anthony's.

But why do we call out to him to help us find our lost things?

As a beloved Franciscan preacher and teacher of the 1200s, he had always carried around with him the book of Psalms, a psalter. In it he had countless notes written in the margins of the text emphasizing a thought he would use to teach about the glory of God.

A novice, a young man discerning to be a friar, became frustrated and disgruntled. He ran away and left the community, taking with him St. Anthony's prized possession.

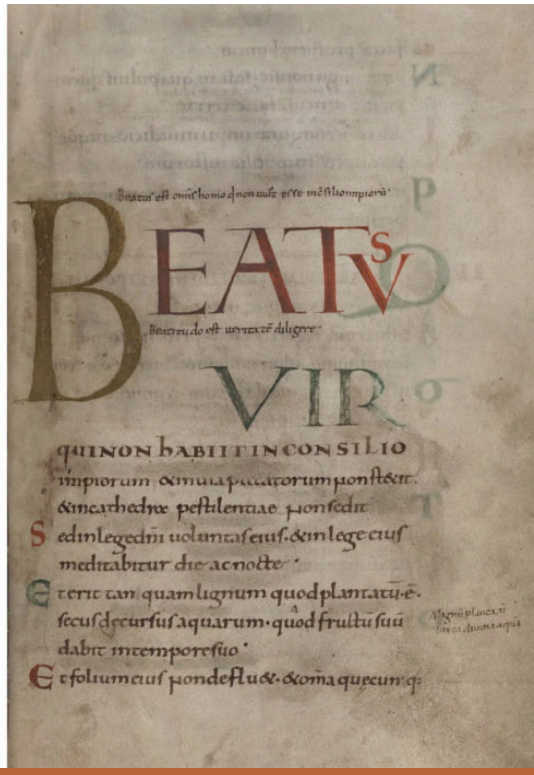
As you might expect, St. Anthony was completely distraught but confidently prayed to God and entrusted Christ to find the missing treasure. Not long after the novice returned the psalter to St. Anthony with great remorse and upon powerful preacher and teacher's forgiveness returned the Order.

His disposition

Saint Anthony had the gift of connection. He knew it wasn't how loud or intelligent he spoke, but how relatable he was. Even more so, he humbled himself when he conversed or evangelized. He wasn't arrogant. He wasn't untouchable. He did not make others feel less then he. He didn't set out to prove people wrong but use his actions and words to share love and positivity.

Saint Anthony is quoted as saying, "The creator of the heavens obeys a carpenter; the God of eternal glory listens to a poor virgin. Has anyone ever witnessed anything comparable to this? Let the philosopher no longer disdain from listening to the common laborer; the wise, to the simple; the educated, to the illiterate; a child of a prince, to a peasant."

Editor's note: the pages photographed are from a Canterbury psalter from just before the time of St Anthony. This one is housed at the Master and Fellows of Corpus Christi College in Cambridge. St. Anthony's psalter is preserved in the Franciscan Friary in Bologna, Italy.



BEYOND Sunday

Sunday Mass can't be our only touchpoint with God. Beyond Sunday is a guide to living the Catholic faith more fully each day through Catholic media, podcasts, art, gifts, and trusted voices from the Church to help nourish our own prayer, reflection, and mission.

Headline Rewind - from **Church Pop** – In case you missed it or overlooked its significance – **Pope Leo XIV Appoints First Laywoman (not a sister or nun) to lead a Vatican office!** Maria Montse Alvarado, the female face of EWTN News, was announced as the head of the Vatican communications office for the next five years. Don't miss short trending headlines from Church Pop on social media and at:

WWW.CHURCHPOP.COM

Podcast – Catholic Stuff You Should Know – Hosted by priests and seminarians, this podcast blends humor and education as they explore and share Catholic theology and culture. **CATHOLICSTUFFPODCAST.COM**

Home Accents – Retro Catholic Art – Forgotten art rediscovered for your home and office. Andrea Leal of Retro Catholic Art brings vintage art for modern Catholics to her shop on Etsy.

WWW.ETSY.COM/SHOP/RETROCATHOLICART

CORPUS CHRISTI SUNDAY

First Reading: Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14b-16a

We live on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Responsorial: Psalm 147

"Praise the Lord, Jerusalem"

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

The cup we bless and the bread we break are a participation in the body of Christ.

Gospel: John 6:51-58

Jesus is the living bread come down from heaven.

CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we may truly be the Body of Christ for a world that hungers for love, mercy, and hope, making sacrifices to continue the mission of extending God's grace to the entire world, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our national, state, and civic leaders, that they may lead by example, respecting all creation, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all who feed the children of God, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all who are physically unable to be in the presence of God in the Eucharist at Mass and for our ministers of Communion who bring the Eucharist to our shut ins, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

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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.